

Consultation on setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target



Copy of your submission

Contact information

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Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? Yes

1b. What is most important to you?

Reducing emissions. The transition is significant and may not be granted a 'long term', overriding concerns about audience views and appropriate management of impacts.

What would be a fair contribution for New Zealand?

2. What do you think the nature of New Zealand's emissions and economy means for the level of target that we set?

In a world a few decades away from exceeding its carbon budget, we should not be setting targets to be met by purchasing offsets, especially overseas. Instead we should work towards reducing emissions from major sources like agriculture and transport and wherever else it may be more easily achieved, and stop encouraging risky modes of fossil fuel extraction and intensive or industrial-scale dairying.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?

This question assumes too much to be answered directly, particularly that consumption, emissions, economic growth and wages are directly related so that reducing emissions must reduce all the other factors, while not reducing emissions will have no such effects. Increased efficiency might reduce emissions without reducing effective consumption, while there's no necessary relationship between economic growth that increases emissions and rising wages.

4. Of the opportunities for New Zealand to reduce its emissions (as outlined on page 15 of the discussion document), which do you think are the most likely to occur, or be most important for New Zealand?

Electric vehicles, solar technology and agroecology (more localized and 'organic' agriculture).

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target? Do what is feasible instead of setting 'targets'.

Other comments

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6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.

As citizens of a trading nation with an economy based on a stable environment, New Zealanders should be concerned about the effects of climate change. Yet on the evidence of this hasty consultation the country is still not taking the issue as seriously as the national flag design. High and rising per capita emissions and attempts to buy credit instead of taking action will be noticed at the Paris Climate Conference. The costs of that action should be weighed against the costs of inaction and the opportunities. New Zealand can and should control its own emissions and contribute to global solutions.