

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



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Contact information

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Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? No

1b. What is most important to you?

The 3rd, guiding NZ to transition to a low emissions economy, but with a strong caveat: it is not a long term transition, it needs to be faster than that.

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?

I think they should not be given too much weight: we benefit from the nature of our economy, and because it is largely agriculture, we should pay the full cost of all externalities related to that industry. These climate negotiations will not work if every state starts claiming it deserves special treatment. We should base it on plain greenhouse gas emissions per person. If we reduce agriculture emissions through scientific innovation: great. Otherwise, as an economy we should be diversifying to lower emissions industries.

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?

An \$1800 reduction in consumption is reasonable - but it should not be spread evenly over every household. This will hit the poorest households proportionately hardest, and that effect should be smoothed by government so it is proportionate to level of income. Also, I don't think this asks the right question, it presumes that our current consumption level is acceptable, and a reduction is controversial: it should be the other way around. We should be asking ourselves what is a reasonable amount of greenhouse gas emissions for NZ to emit, and calculate our consumption from that.

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?

Remaining aligned with the global transition to a lower-carbon economy will be a baseline - that is the minimum we should be aiming for, not an 'opportunity'. The likely opportunities will be benefits from fuel efficiency, renewables and biofuel. It is important to note there will be other opportunities which don't purely relate to the economy: reducing vehicle emissions by increasing use of alternative transports like walking and cycling, as well as the improved air quality, will reduce our health costs.

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Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao

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Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?

Proceed with an ambitious target. A lot of innovation comes when there is a real need and people, businesses, or government are willing to pay for it. If we set ourselves a high goal, and invest in the education we need to get talented scientists and engineers, we will be in a position to create the technologies we will need to still be competitive.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
By being a laggard now, we would risk losing our good international reputation as a global citizen which holds our environment as a priority - that reputation is hard to value and harder to retain. We need to be ambitious.