

# Setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

## Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at [www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations).

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our [Consultation on New Zealand's post-2020 international climate change contribution web page](#)
- Read our discussion document: [New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement](#)

**Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.**

## Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz). Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

## Questions to guide your feedback

Your submission may address any aspect of the discussion document, but we would appreciate you paying particular attention to the questions posed throughout and listed in this form. You may answer some or all of the questions. To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, you should explain your rationale and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

### Contact information

Name	Simon Grove
Organisation (if applicable)	
Address	██████████
Telephone	██████
Email	████████████████████

### Objectives for the contribution

**1a. We have set the following three objectives for our contribution:**

- **it is seen as a fair and ambitious contribution – both by international and domestic audiences**
- **costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately**
- **it must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.**

**Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?**

- Yes  
 No

**1b. What is most important to you?**

they are all important, but these objectives seem quite open to interpretation.

I think we should be ambitious. If we can't reduce our per capita emissions to the GLOBAL average then we cannot be said to be making a fair contribution.

Ideally our per capita target should be calculated by dividing total acceptable global emissions by the total world population.

Some very rough calculations (base on figures in discussion document), to have good chance of maintainig global warming to below 2 degreesC, we can emit maybe 900 billion tonnes of CO2 – around 130 tonnes per person (that’s probably generous). Spread that over, say 65 years (though what happens after that I’m not sure) is 2 tonnes per person per year. New Zealand’s net emissions for 2013 were 55 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent which equates to 12 tonnes per person per year.

I think this indicates that we need to set very ambitious targets to have any hope of success.

What is “appropriate “ management of costs is also contentious. I think we need to accept significant costs and impacts if we are to have any chance of reducing emissions to effective levels.

I think that by avoiding these costs now, we are in effect just passing them on to the future. Even worse, by delaying action, these costs will become substantially higher

The sooner we make the transition to a low emissions economy, the better we will enjoy future benefits.

## 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?**

We should set an ambitious target- rather than casting about for excuses why it’s harder for us. I’m sure everyone can find ways to point the finger at others. What we need to do is look at our own circumstances and do our utmost to adapt to a low emission environment.

So we have a high proportion of renewable energy, however it seems that the energy sector has seen a rise in emissions from 1990 levels of over 30% while industrial processes have seen a rise of over 50%- why is this so and how can it be addressed?

So we have a high proportion of agricultural emissions. If tinkering with our agricultural processes show little prospect of gains in this sector, we must examine what and how we are producing. This does require a bit more of a radical change in mindset. We cannot, hope that some technology will appear that will mean we can continue to operate in the same manner.

## 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 do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?**

Looking at table ! of the discussion document, I think the maximum indicated there (\$1800 per annum) is a very reasonable impact.

We cannot expect to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions without reducing consumption

**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?**

It is great to identify these opportunities, and they are all important. The question here should not be which are most likely to occur, but 'how are we going to make them occur'

## Summary

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

We should not take these into account, as they are side issues.

We need to facilitate the application of current technologies. There are plenty of answers already around, but which are regarded as too costly or unpalatable. Any future developments would be a bonus, but we cannot afford to rely on them.

We need to accept the limitations of current global monetary systems, when applied to environmental systems (We are talking about the capacity of the environment to absorb our pollutions). Thus far, the costs of pollution and environmental degradation (of which greenhouse gas accumulation is part) have not been well accommodated in our economic systems. The only thing that is clear, is that failure to address these issues will entail severe real costs in the future

## Other comments

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

We cannot expect to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a meaningful level without profoundly changing the way we do things. The answers are there., but they are not going to be easy. This is where central government needs to provide direction and to facilitate this transition. It will be hard, but will only get harder the longer we fail to act .

I think that central government needs provide

## When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to [climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz) or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

**Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.**