

8/6

3286

SUBMISSION TO: CLIMATE CHANGE CONTRIBUTION CONSULTATION,
MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

From: Prof Robin Gwynn, [REDACTED]

May 2015

1. The New Zealand 'contribution' at present is pathetic, the very opposite of 'ambitious'. Drastic change is needed to our current direction. We need to take positive action towards a low emissions world, not try to buy ourselves out of trouble in a manner that belittles the problem and does not meet the urgent need humanity faces.

2. What government "action" has done since 1990 is to INCREASE our emissions by over 20% - and the process is set to continue. The need is to ACTIVELY REDUCE our emissions to below the 1990 level. Buying international carbon offsets is not the required action.

3. Treasury estimates the cost of failing to take action as over \$50 billion. We cannot afford our current path, and for the sake of our clean green image (vital to the country economically) it is important that we be seen as world leaders in reducing our own emissions.

4. Steps we should be taking right now are

- * Legislating that all areas of energy must come from clean energy sources by mid-century;
- * Switching road building programmes towards rail and public transport wherever possible;
- * Stop fossil fuel exploration and remove all incentives encouraging the fossil fuel industry;
- * Planting more trees every year than we are felling;
- * Establishing a cross-party climate working group to ensure that (1) climate change is given high priority regardless of which political party or parties are in power, and (2) all legislation is subject to independent evaluation of its consequences for climate change;
- * Supporting those Pacific Islands already facing an increasingly dire reality.

I look forward to hearing of **major change to current government direction and real and positive action to reduce our emissions.**