

# 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? Yes

1b. What is most important to you?

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What is most important to us is that we do our utmost to reign in soaring carbon emissions and attain a way of life that is sustainable and will ensure a future for the planet. We look at our grandchildren and know that we must act to ensure that they will not suffer from our lack of action. We want the action New Zealand takes to make us proud - we can lead rather than follow, we can go the extra mile. With education and understanding the population will be prepared to contribute. We cannot buy our way out of taking responsibility, we must be prepared for a degree of sacrifice that is fair for all.

The longer we delay taking real action on climate change, the higher the cost New Zealand families will pay. Treasury figures, released by the Sustainability Council, show that failing to take action to cut greenhouse gas emissions will cost between \$2,000 and \$34,000 per household.

The Sustainability Council has obtained figures previously redacted from a Treasury climate briefing which shows that the cost of failing to take action to cut New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions is between \$3 billion and \$52 billion from 2021 to 2030. The Treasury report identifies the cost of buying credits to cover a target of a 5 percent reduction below 1990 levels for the 2021-2030 period at a price of between \$10 and \$165 a tonne. These figures show continuing to rely on buying offsets for New Zealand's increasing emissions is not an option and is really an unethical stance because paying for our own failure to reduce enough emissions doesn't reduce emissions globally.

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?

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The nature of New Zealand's emissions and economy, problematic because of our reliance on agriculture and tourism which do not create great wealth per capita and in the case of agriculture produces a great deal of carbon into the atmosphere plus the fact that we are largely self-sufficient already in power, should not provide excuses that allow us to shrink from our accepting our fair share of responsibility.

The global agreement sets the world on a pathway to limit temperature rise to not more than 2°C. New Zealand should not make the setting of its targets conditional on what other developed countries do. New Zealand has an economy that contributes far more than its share of carbon to the environment because of its heavy reliance on agriculture and forestry. Sir Paul Callaghan in his book 'Wool to Weta, transforming New Zealand's culture and

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economy' says that New Zealand should stop relying on agriculture and tourism to investing on a new economy based on science, technology and intellectual property, exemplified by Weta Workshop, Fisher & Paykel Healthcare and Tait Electronics.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

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

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Treasury figures, released by the Sustainability Council, show failing to take action to cut greenhouse gas emissions will cost between \$2,000 and \$34,000 per household. Our contribution must affect household budgets if it is to be real. However if the government 'got real' and began to talk truthfully about the real situation people would understand the level of effort required. There are things individual households can do that will make a difference like attending to proper recycling, buying less junk, using public transport and in essence downsizing in every part of our lives. It must be expected that there will be a monetary cost too though it must impact least on those who can least afford it.

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?

4. Of the opportunities for New Zealand climate change impacts in 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?

Can't find page 15 but it probably refers to climate change impacts in New Zealand and how we will respond to them. All of the suggested impacts are likely to occur in some shape or form and there will even be some changes that may be seen as beneficial for a time, eg higher temperatures meaning heating costs may be lower and a wider variety of plants will be able to be grown. Higher seawater levels are likely to affect New Zealand coastlines but will also displace people across the globe who live in lowlying areas - what will New Zealand's response be to this when we are so reluctant to accept boatpeople now?

Summary

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

Future technologies are of course uncertain along with their costs. There could be developments that will be enormously economically beneficial but we must not rely on vague hopes, we must put funding and resources into science and research to allow such such developments to happen.

Other comments

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

This government is not being honest in its dealings with climate change. Tim Groser tells us that we are on target but Treasury tells a very different story - Treasury predicts that failure to reach targets that we commit to after 2020 will cost New Zealand up to \$52 billion. We have to take action in a serious way right now.

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Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mo Te Taiao*