

# 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?

I disagree with the objectives as currently stated. We must make a fair and ambitious contribution not just be seen to have done so. The costs and impacts of mitigation must be weighed against the costs and impacts of adapting to the effects of climate change if the global temperature increase is not kept below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels. We don't have time to make the transition to a low emissions world over the long term - the target must guide a transition to a low emissions world over the short to medium-term. We must also have the objective of putting a plan in place to meet our target.

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?

New Zealand's economy means that we could all enjoy lifestyles that the majority of the world's population would envy. That means we have the ability (and moral obligation) to take on a greater cost than other developing nations. But we must ensure that the costs of mitigating and adapting to climate change fall do not make our own inequality issues worse. We should set out our

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?

'Consumption' of greenhouse gases should reduce to a net zero. National policies should ensure that the cost of emissions falls on those who are responsible for those emissions and that low-carbon alternatives exist to ensure that costs can be avoided by those who choose to avoid emissions.

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?

An action plan must be put in place to help New Zealand meet our target and this must take into account co-benefits - economic, social and environmental (e.g. health benefits of low-carbon, active transport systems). An ambitious and science-based international agreement will create the demand for low-carbon technologies and knowledge. This provides opportunities for export in areas where we excel e.g. geothermal energy. We should also maximise opportunities by investing in other areas e.g. low-carbon agriculture.

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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?

Recognise that technology moves fast - and if it doesn't, pre-industrial technologies were low-carbon!!

## Other comments

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

The government must set New Zealand a target that is ambitious and inspires other countries to set ambitious targets that collectively can keep the global temperature increase below 2 degrees. An action plan must also be put in place. There's no point in setting a target if effective policies aren't put in place (i.e. current ETS is too pathetic to help make the difference required - a carbon tax would be better here).