

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



Copy of your submission

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?

To commit to action within New Zealand that will have meaningful and lasting effects and also signal to the world that we are serious and prepared to commit ourselves - this means a significant target which in my view must be a minimum of 40% below 1990 levels within the next 15 years.

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?

Your consultation document makes the point about green energy but I think we can do much more in this area. BECAUSE we already have a good track record, we can and should put the investment into continually increasing the share of green energy, particularly through solar in parts of the country where this is practical (eg solar water heating almost everywhere, PV panels in places like Hawkes Bay where I am); and this would give us the chance to convert a lot of our vehicles to electric. As the technology develops rapidly we could become the world leading in EV take up. (I have solar panels and an electric car!) Obviously this is not much good in rural areas where people travel a lot - promotion of plug in hybrids could help there. For public transport, taxis and personal vehicles in the city we could really impact the transport and energy contributions to our emissions. I applaud other efforts in agriculture - but we need to move away and become much less reliant on dairy which will help as well.

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?

I'm not sure I really understand this question. I am already seeing some interesting initiatives eg installation of PV panels at the cost of an electricity company with the homeowner tied in to purchasing electricity from them. The government should be influencing these areas strongly - similar to the requirement to install double glazing in new housing. We could have solar built in to design and build right at the beginning if there was the political will.

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?

They are all important. Changes to electricity generation and increased uptake of EVs could have a transformative effect. I love my Mitsubishi iMiEV!

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Summary

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

I think the issue is that we cannot afford not to - we see the impact of climate change throughout the world, with massive drought, extreme heat, regular events which are described as once in 100 years (storms, floods); these will impact New Zealanders who live on the coast, farm in drought-prone areas or where it is starting to snow more, and so on. At the moment climate change is a certainty; so we need to plan a range of approaches to mitigate the effects and begin to reverse the impact. All the studies show that green technology and innovation is highly profitable so it is worth our while to become a world leader. This could be the way to bring high paid sustainable employment to the more deprived areas of NZ eg Hawkes Bay.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
I believe climate change is a major threat to our industries such as tourism, farming, fishing so bold action is needed.

I also firmly believe that it is time for NZ to stand up and put the large countries who are polluting and avoiding responsibility to shame. We know the poorer parts of the world suffer disproportionately (eg hundreds in India dying because of extreme temperature, African farmlands becoming desert, Bangladesh experiencing more and more flooding, as well as cyclones in the Pacific) - this nation should be standing up for our Pacific neighbours and neighbours throughout the world to bring about binding agreement on change - which has to include significant targets including the 40% reduction.