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Ministry for the Environment
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CLIMATE CHANGE CONTRIBUTION CONSULTATION
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The current trajectory shows emissions will rise up to 50% in the next decade!

Failure to take action by cutting NZ emissions will be extremely expensive to the New Zealand economy and to the wellbeing of the world. The government's response has been unbalanced and inaccurate on the target they will take to the global conference.

If this government is not to leave a legacy of misrepresenting and failing its people on climate change by destroying this beautiful country and this world, it must at least match the European Union's pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030.

Action on climate change is not a cost to this country. Failure to take significant action is actually the cost. The New Zealand Treasury found that if New Zealand continues on its current trajectory of increasing emissions, the cost to taxpayers of a mere 5% reduction target will be up to \$52 billion. That would be an appalling economic cost but, more to the point, it would be an ecological, societal and moral cost of immeasurable and disastrous proportions.

If the government wants to leave a worthwhile legacy and not be rebuked by future New Zealanders it must move now to make a low carbon economy. There are many ways of doing this and the government must show the resolution and wisdom of a former National Party minister, Simon Upton, and move in that direction. There is still an opportunity to take effective action, to change direction and avert disaster. We will only be victims of climate change if we choose not to recognize the realities of it and go on believing that "business as usual" will work. It won't!

Fronting up and taking informed and decisive action now is neither a left nor right wing stance; it is the wise and responsible position. If any people in the world have the flexibility and energy to provide an example, it is we New Zealanders. This is the best flag we could fly at this time to make us proud. This is how we can energize and use our latent strengths.

We are grateful for this opportunity to make a submission on this most serious issue, and we make it in good faith. You, the National government are New Zealanders. You have children and grandchildren who will hold you to account in the future for what you do—or don't do—now. *In this singularly most important matter, act now in our long term interests.* Trust in the wisdom of doing the right thing and this nation will reward you with love and appreciation. Leave the old ways behind. Show some guts. Act with a big heart and with courage for all the people of the world. There has never been a more important political decision. Never!

So, stand up! Show us how greatly you can lead us.
Take care of us in this matter and you will take care of yourselves.
Thank you.


Michael Harvey