

Meeting between Hawke's Bay Regional Council Joint Planning Committee and Ministry for the Environment

Wednesday 20 May 2015

Summary of Key Points made by the Joint Planning Committee

- Equity is important both internationally when setting the target and domestically when implementing it.
- New Zealand needs to make a commitment and reduce carbon emissions, but the commitment should be calibrated to what others are doing. It should recognise that we have been acting when some other countries have not. Action by China and the US is important.
- There is concern about the environmental integrity of international carbon markets. Care should be taken to ensure that dysfunctional international markets do not disrupt New Zealand's domestic actions. New Zealand should be careful about the commoditisation of carbon.
- There is a need for good international forestry rules, especially around carbon credits or recognition for native forests.
- Domestic implementation of any target should work positively for Maori and avoid negative effects and impacts, especially on poor and vulnerable sections of the community. In this respect there should be an equitable consideration of impacts, not just evenly distributed costs. It is also important that Maori are not penalised by domestic policy, especially in terms of NZU price, land use flexibility and economic costs to Maori households and businesses.
- A range of domestic policy concerns were also raised, including:
 - The NZ ETS has not delivered and should be fixed
 - Forestry rules are arbitrarily divided at 1990 and with regard to native forests.
 - There should be incentives to keep native forests in tact as there is a cost (eg rates) to non-use.
 - Transport policies should move away from road building and encouraging road use to more investment in sustainable modes of transport.
 - New Zealand should start to transition away from an agri-based economy to a more innovation based economy.
 - There is an apparent contradiction in some Government climate change policies, for example, in transport, emissions trading and forestry policies.
 - There is scope for more funding to implement native forest and water protection because there are links between climate change and other environmental issues.
- This wider consultation could, and should, have been done better.
- MfE should ensure that comments from the meeting are considered in developing advice to Ministers on the target and other climate change decisions.

Note: This is not a complete or formal record of the meeting. The content of this note reflects the points made by the Committee not those made by MfE representatives during the meeting.