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?
The last bullet point. How we compare with others or are seen by others or costs and impacts on present society are irrelevant. We need to do now what it takes to get the job done.

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?
I defer to the experts who can advise citizens and the government what the targets need to be. Politicians across the political spectrum should agree to implement what the experts say needs to be done. Every country can put up an argument which justifies doing less than others. New Zealand needs to lead by not arguing and doing its share.

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?
Cost to the present generation is necessary and inevitable. We cannot use this as an excuse to do nothing, thereby handing the cost down to future generations. We must act decisively now, whatever the cost. Costs to households will drive household and corporate behaviour towards lower consumption and sustainable energy alternatives.

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?
Fuel and energy efficiency, renewable electricity, transition to low carbon economy.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
Don’t rely on a silver bullet being invented to save the world. We need to act now based on current knowledge and technologies.

Other comments
6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain. Climate change response goes hand in hand with sustainable use of fossil fuel resources. There needs to be a moratorium on new coal and oil exploration and development. Keep the stuff in the ground for future generations and for manufacturer of essential goods that cannot be made from alternatives. Stop using precious fossil fuel resources as fuel or a chance to make short term cash. Start seeing fossil fuels as a finite essential resource that needs to be wisely managed for future generations.