

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? No

1b. What is most important to you?

The most important thing is that New Zealand makes real progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The objectives in the consultation document put too much weight on short term economics and on the interests of incumbent businesses. The objectives need to be more ambitious, guided by a long term perspective.

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 is a relatively small country, but well developed technically and socially. We are one of the countries best placed to show leadership on climate change. New Zealand has shown great global leadership in the past (for example, on women's suffrage in the 1890s and nuclear weapons in the 1980s). We should do this again with climate change. New Zealand should set targets that will define and frame our leadership in reducing greenhouse emissions.

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?

Short term cost is not the main consideration for such a long term and high impact issue. New Zealand should maximise the benefits of leading in the areas of reducing greenhouse gases and addressing the effects of climate change.

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?

All of those opportunities listed are likely to occur to some extent. These are new areas of development, and it is not possible to precisely predict how they will develop. New Zealand should avoid trying to pick winners and maximise opportunity from diversification.

Summary

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

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New Zealand should avoid putting all our eggs in one basket. Instead of picking winners, create an environment where diversity flourishes, maximising our chances of being able to benefit from future opportunities and to mitigate risks.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
This is an important global issue. New Zealand can and should be a leader, not a follower.