

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



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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 most important thing is that New Zealand takes action. No action would be unacceptable. Just buying time and committing to vague promises about the future is completely wrong. It would not reduce emissions. Despite promises in the past regarding the Government's previous commitments our emissions continue to rise. Evidence gathered at Baring Head shows that CO2 levels over New Zealand have continued to rise at the same level as the emissions measured on Hawaii. This level of inaction has to change.

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 capable of meeting a 40% reduction by 2030 within our environmental and technological settings. We can only benefit from such reductions in that our economy will become more flexible and innovative and we ourselves in our daily lives will learn to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. We need more efficiency in our use of fossil fuels, greater use of public transport, better use of urban and rural agriculture to grow the crops that we can use locally rather than depending on costly imports and above all we need to be smarter at recycling and replacing rather than constantly consuming new goods.

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?

The question regarding cost is wrongly worded. Doing nothing is getting increasingly costly. Inaction is not an option any more.

We can see this in the changes to our environment and the emergencies from flooding and drought that we are now facing.

Why not see that action taken is a chance to live more sustainably: a cleaner and greener future in every way cannot be a cost.

The government needs to rethink the idea of cost. We can reduce our high level of consumption of luxury goods in all spheres.

Creating the economic and political setting to enable all to have a fair share of economic activity would result in a just society

as well as a more sustainable one. It would also be good to see much more government support for small scale agriculture of

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a mixed permaculture format so as to reduce greenhouse emissions and increase carbon storage in the the soil. Strict control

of nitrogen levels in the water ways is only going to make our waterways safer to use. A polluter pays scheme is the way to go.

The ETS sytem needs a carbon cap and if it fails to show any change in emissions, New Zealand must introduce a carbon tax.

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?

Regarding opportunities for reducing emissions, New Zealand needs the government to dial back the use of fossil fuels.

We need to stop mining and exploring for fossil fuels. We also need the government to cancel its subsidies for fossil fuels and

to invest in renewable energy. There is huge potential for more trees both planting and harvesting of exotics and clever

management of existing forested areas - with no mining on DOC land an obvious area to be completely curtailed.

Further we

need to see smarter cities with continued growth in electric trains and trams both urban and inter-urban lines.

An obvious area of opportunity is to plan for there to be much more choice in the use of low carbon alternatives by urban users.

Cycle ways, walk ways and public transport that is networked provides plenty of opportunity for a new form of city scape.

Summary

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

We must become bolder in our use of technology to reduce carbon emissions, and stop being so concerned about the economic cost of stepping away from heavy polluters such as our dairy industry and sheep and meat industries. New technologies will emerge if the government sets the right targets for a substantially reduced carbon footprint.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.

Your discussion document has the wrong focus on concern about costs. For example you make much of the costs on households and yet lowering consumer demand is easy. The level of consumer products is overwhelming. We don't need so much choice. We had less in the past. We can do with less in future. Otherwise we will experience catastrophic levels of climate change and much increased hardship in all levels of society.