

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

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To the Ministry for the Environment

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the New Zealand's Climate Change Targets to be submitted for the Paris UNFCCC conference this year. We acknowledge the difficulty of presenting a complex issue in a way that can be understood by the public, but we think that this document misses out on many opportunities for taking a more constructive and beneficial approach to the challenge of climate change.

1. Climate change needs to be considered as a major issue of national well-being and security, and funded on an appropriate basis .
2. Looking after the Environment involves more than simply controlling global temperature increases. It includes the overall maintenance of the health of the environment which supports succeeding generations. It must encompass the way that agriculture and forestry affect the environment and biodiversity.
3. Global co-operation. The solution to this global challenge depends on a high level of co-operation amongst nations, to which NZ has a substantial contribution to make.- We need to take the same kind of moral leadership that we took on nuclear weapons issues in helping to create a nuclear free zone in the southern hemisphere!
4. Historic obligations. NZ is a relatively wealthy nation whose wealth has been based substantially on its long term consumption of fossil fuels. As such it has a responsibility to take leadership in advancing the reduction in emissions, particularly in terms of carbon generation. This is a moral ethical issue more than an economic issue!
5. We need real public ethical and moral engagement by our parliamentary leaders to make the changes required to reduce our carbon emissions.

We do not agree with your key objectives for our NZ contribution to climate change reduction.

- 1) There is no plan of action to lesson or curb carbon output and no legislatively embedded plan of action that the government is committed to, with New

Zealand's track record a target without legislation holding the government to account is completely useless.

- 2) We need to make a binding agreement that carries over subsequent governments.
- 3) The consultation documents focused too much on the potential economic costs of action on climate change and did not include the social, health and economic benefits.
- 4) "We are not facing an economic question, we are facing a moral and ethical question."
 - a. (b) What is most important to you?
 - b. Point 1 is most important – that we achieve the needed protection of our environment on which our long term survival depends. Climate Change needs to be treated as a serious risk to New Zealand's civilization's survival.
- 5) Q2 What do you think the nature of New Zealand's emissions and economy means for the level of target that we set?
- 6) The longer we take to make actual plans and take action on carbon emissions the more costly it will be, not only for the environment but also for the economy. It is ethically immoral to pass on the greater cost of climate change action to future generations; we need to act now.
- 7) Q3 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?
- 8) , 'fairness' requires that any costs falling on households would go preferentially on those that could best afford it.
- 9) Households are not the greatest consumers of energy in New Zealand. industry is the greatest consumer of energy. Industry including agriculture has big uses of carbon. The heaviest costs should be born by those who are the heaviest uses of carbon such as large corporations and wealthy people, The top 10% should pay the cost through graduated income tax and corporate tax. And instead of putting money into motorways we should be putting money into public transport. If this government was serious about climate change they would certainly not be allowing rail to switch from electric power to diesel power in the North Island where they already have electric Rai infrastructure.
- 10) The price of electricity needs to be Monitored so that those especially the elderly and young families can afford it for the well-being of their homes particularly heating. While we need to encourage micro generation to take the load off the grid at the same time we don't want a society where those who can afford to go off the grid and those who can't afford that pay optimum price. While overuse of energy has to be curtailed there needs to be a minimum of affordable energy for those at the bottom of society.

- 11) The purpose of power production should not be to produce a profit but to produce carbon free electricity to meet New Zealand's needs and enable lower-income people to be able to afford electricity to heat their homes adequately.

- 12) Cap and trade and the carbon market has become just that a market sham. If we are serious we will have to use taxation and subsidies on alternative energy and regulations to cut our carbon emissions.

- 13) We should stop building motorways, subsidising fossil fuels and oil exploration . We should deny the oil companies the right to explore and drill for oil & gas in our offshore 200 mile limit.

- 14) Our electric power should be totally carbon free by now. Denmark with many less power resources, no hydropower, no geothermal power, a similar population to us and an agricultural nation is well on it's way to carbon free power.

- 15) Targets- we need a 40% reduction of carbon outputs by 2030 and the goal of 0 carbon by 2050.

- 16) We need an action plan similar to the UK's climate change plan. We need legislation that holds the government accountable for reducing emissions and an independent climate commission,

- 17) We want the government to establish a cross party climate working group and an ongoing program to engage meaningfully with New Zealanders on climate change's solutions.

- 18) We cannot wait. Delaying action just makes it harder and more costly, This generation does not have the excuse that we do not know the seriousness of the situation.
- 19) Our commitment is to take buses instead of car or plane, as often as possible and to bike or walk as well.

- 20) This government must start cutting New Zealand emissions now we should cut emissions by 10% during this term of government, if we are to be responsible for future generations and to our own integrity.
- 21) We wish to protect our infant grandchildren's lives and well being from the threat of climate change, which is likely to be disastrous for them.
- 22) This government is utterly failing to protect our grandchildren and the next-generation.
- 23) We want the government to legislate a detailed plan of action for meeting a 40% reduction by 2030 and we personally commit to our own plan for reducing our carbon footprint and encourage others to do the same.

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