

# Setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

## Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at [www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations).

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our [Consultation on New Zealand's post-2020 international climate change contribution web page](#)
- Read our discussion document: [New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement](#)

**Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.**

## Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz). Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

## Questions to guide your feedback

Your submission may address any aspect of the discussion document, but we would appreciate you paying particular attention to the questions posed throughout and listed in this form. You may answer some or all of the questions. To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, you should explain your rationale and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

### Contact information

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### Objectives for the contribution

**1a. We have set the following three objectives for our contribution:**

- **it is seen as a fair and ambitious contribution – both by international and domestic audiences**
- **costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately**
- **it must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.**

**Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?**

Yes

**1b. What is most important to you?**

The most important aim for the New Zealand contribution **MUST BE** to reduce its net production of greenhouse gases (especially CO<sub>2</sub> and methane). This requires real changes in the short-term, not just setting impressive targets well beyond the use-by dates of the current politicians. The atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration has passed 400 ppm, and we are already seeing unpleasant changes in terms of overly-dynamic weather patterns that will continue and intensify.

The costs and impacts need to be managed, but the current ETS is practically a text-book example of how reducing the impacts on major polluters has meant that it is practically useless for actually

reducing carbon emissions. Such an inadequate ETS also severely impacts the likelihood that our long-term target setting will be seen internationally as a “fair and ambitious contribution”. Currently, most of our claims to be contributing to actual greenhouse reduction are completely spurious.

## 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 comparatively well-off country with a high greenhouse gas production, so can afford a target of significant reduction. Considering the fraction of allowable greenhouse gas for 2 °C warming that has already been emitted, New Zealand should be offering a target of cutting emissions by at least 10% below 1990 levels for the post-2020 period. This is in line with what other well-off countries need to offer to make any meaningful progress.

## 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 do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?**

The 10% below 1990 levels target is said to reduce household expenditure by about 2% in the discussion document, which is actually not much of a sacrifice. What is required is to pressure the various parts of the economy to make savings, once they are under pressure, ways may emerge to make the savings with even less impact.

### **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?**

Scrap the Roads of National Significance for a start. Electric vehicles can make a contribution, but it is wildly optimistic to think that a large fraction of the NZ vehicle fleet will be plug-in electric soon after 2020. P15 of the discussion document seems to be overly concerned with electric vehicles, there are lots of good reasons why the whole idea that we just replace petrol cars with electric is not helpful in regard to our lifestyle, e.g. obesity.

I cannot see why reducing animal methane emissions is not listed, surely this should be a priority?

## Summary

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

New Zealand must not sit around waiting for a technological fix, but it is reasonable to expect that with every country trying to adapt to a lower carbon/greenhouse gas future, there are likely to be developments that will make these technologies more useful and economical.

## Other comments

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

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/plan-launched-to-prevent-critical-climate-change-by-making-green-energy-cheaper-than-coal-10290467.html>

## When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to [climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz) or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

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