

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



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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?

Not sure that, if left to this government, that we will get fair and ambitious contribution.

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? See below

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?

If this nation makes a meaningful contribution we will all benefit, especially in the longer term. Our prosperity will increase. Instead, right now, we are heading towards a huge crash in the vital ecosystem services provided us and which we are abusing. Without ecosystem services there is no life.

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? See below

Summary

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

Innovation is important, it is all part of evolution. Sticking with the status quo means no future at all.

Other comments

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

To whom it may concern,

I am disappointed that I have been given an unacceptably short opportunity to be consulted on an issue of such importance to me, my children, their future children, our natural Gondwana heritage, and Gaia..

It is clear from the documents released that the Government is not serious about acting on climate change. It

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intends to do the bare minimum it believes it can get away with. The Government continues to argue its totally discredited point of view that climate action will be too expensive, yet it does not consider the economic and environmental costs of doing nothing. And most importantly, it completely overlooks the enormous financial and job creation benefits of moving towards a cleaner, safer future.

So instead of talking about weak and meaningless targets, I want the Government to talk about real climate action. Tangible action within New Zealand that demonstrates that the Government will take climate change seriously. As a guide here is the outline of a real climate action plan I want to see the Government enact, if it's serious about the viability of this nation's future and prosperity..

A real climate action plan would:

- Commit to have 100% renewable electricity within 10 years
- Shut Huntly coal and gas fired power station by 2020
- Phase out all subsidies for fossil fuels like coal and deep sea oil drilling
- Ban deep sea drilling and fracking for oil and gas in New Zealand.
- Develop a low carbon action plan to ensure that by 2050 all areas of energy (electricity, heating, transport and industrial use) come from clean energy sources instead of fossil fuels, keeping in mind that wild rivers attenuate climate change, and that the carbon footprint of dam construction can outweigh any future benefits.
- Reform the electricity markets by guaranteeing priority access to the grid for renewable power generators.
- Encourage the uptake of home and business self-sufficiency in power, and encourage any excess power to be transferred to the national grid.
- Prioritise geothermal projects to realise enormous export opportunities in our geothermal industry, which could be worth up over \$4 billion a year to the economy.
- Promote New Zealand as an international centre of excellence for developing and trialling even better ocean energy technologies, but certainly introduce existing ocean energy technologies to our vast ocean energy resource.
- Encourage tree-planting, nurturing, protecting. There needs to be policy to push for large plantations of our native species; beech takes little longer than pine to mature but is so much more valuable, especially because young, uniformly recruited trees will lack the pinhole borer. Along with closure of crown forests to logging and the cancelling of the West Coast Accord, there should have been a stipulation to create a lot of native plantations - they would be halfway to maturing by now but instead the only thing maturing is the interest on the pay-out to the West Coast for closure of the logging - how short-sighted is that, both for jobs for west coasters and business development?
- As a nation we need to value our natural Gondwana heritage so much, much more and enhance instead of destroy it via death by a million cuts, and when rehabilitation is the order of the day, the actual act of it can increase carbon emissions. Instead we should look after what we still have, enhance it, and treasure the ecosystem services provided to us.
- Shift the unnecessary \$12 billion road building programme to investment in smart rail and public transport infrastructure such as the Auckland City Rail Link.
- Support and encourage hybrid vehicles.
- Forget about destroying our Gondwana heritage in the rush to attract overseas visitors to even more novelty tracks through our forests that attract even more vermin and weeds, whilst the older novelty tracks get overgrown. Put bike tracks in the places that are needed such as convenience routes away from heavy traffic; this will encourage more people to get out and on to bikes.
- Make the Emissions Trading Scheme more stringent so that it works, enabling industry to move away from polluting energies.
- Implement policies to incentivise 'low input' farming methods that are proven to reduce pollution and increase farming profits.
- Encourage, "Buy local", as that will reduce our carbon footprint.
- Abandon the TPPA as participation will unarguably uncontrollably increase the carbon footprint of our nation

It is disgraceful that in the face of the Kyoto protocol NZ has continued to near to exponentially increase greenhouse gas emissions. We have failed miserably with our binding commitment to the protocol, and instead of

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Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao

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reducing emissions, as we had committed to, we increased them like there was no tomorrow, which there wont be if it is all business as usual.

Without a real action plan to reduce climate pollution, our economy and we, will not have a future. We want a healthy, prosperous future but the policies of this government will deny us that, it is therefore vital that a strong emissions target is set and adhered to right now. We need zero carbon dioxide, and other GHG emissions, by 2050 or earlier, where the government is held to account by an independent climate commission. A political cross-party climate working group needs to be established which engages meaningfully with the public on climate change solutions. This all needs to happen right now.

This nation needs to develop compassion rather than the extant nurturing of profit, greed, competition, because through compassion comes healing, and when communities heal the planet will also.

Sincerely,