

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? No

1b. What is most important to you?

The objectives must have the ambition of transitioning us to a zero carbon economy by 2050. Our commitments must be ambitious and fair and meet our globally assessed responsibilities. Our contribution must recognise that the economic, human and planetary cost of inaction on reducing greenhouse gas emissions far outweighs any economic cost in the short to medium term.

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?

reduction in emissions compared to 1990 of 30% by 2030 and greater than 95% by 2050 with yearly reduction targets. Importantly a ban on exploration and phasing out of extraction of existing reserves (we can only burn a fifth of known fossil fuel reserves to stay within our carbon budget). There needs to be cross party agreement on these targets.

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?

The cost of inaction far out weighs the cost of taking action. The cost of climate change is unfairly placed on the poor (particularly the adverse health effects associated with climate change) It is therefore fairest the wealthiest (those who can most afford it and who generate the most emissions) in New zealand (and globally as a developed country) shoulder the cost of transitioning to a zero carbon economy.

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?

New zealand should aim for one hundred per cent renewable electricity generation, transition to a low carbon transport fleet, encourage train/cycling/public transport/walking and target a move away from economic dependance on ruminant livestock to reduce agricultural emissions.

Summary

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

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target?

We should act now on the knowledge we have now and the technologies that exist today. Emissions reduction and transition to a zero carbon existence is possible with today's technology. Waiting and hoping for a magic bullet is not an option

Other comments

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