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

Copy of your submission

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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?
Proactive responsibility and guidance in the transition - it can't be left to governments completely - too changeable - it requires a long term body of EXPERTS without vested interests sitting over the top of it. Looking to say all buildings and renovations to follow Living Building Challenge and/or Circular Economy principles will go a long way towards helping - if every building was net positive in energy and water with local non-toxic materials, we would be a long way towards achieving the objectives.

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?
We are looking good, if we can replace some of the farming with forestry and don't create more hydro dams, but invest in smart PV, solar, wind technology as the first choice for renewables. Getting trucks off the roads and investing in an energy efficient train network would help. More timber and more uses nationally for timber eg using for multi-story buildings up to 6 floors, using CLT and other innovative NZ timber structural solutions would be positive ways to reach our targets and develop our timber industry.

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?
Before talking about how much more costs to pile on households, I would start by working nationally to reduce inflated house prices - reduced mortgage repayments means more money in the household bank account to be able to handle any GGE costs, in the first place. For a sustainable approach to how households manage GGE, going forward, some pre-work needs doing to correct over-inflated mortgage costs.

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?
Forestry sinks are the most important - not only for the reasons outlined in pg 15 but I would hope, because form farmland would be used for forestry, and therefore less dairy products available for export so hopefully forestry would fill that void. Promoting timber-framed building nationally is also a way of keeping the carbon energy sequestered here in NZ.
5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
By reducing household debt (mortgage reduction) so people can absorb the impact, by working on building up a never-out-of-fashion primary industry - forestry, streamlining our current primary industry of agriculture (weaning ourselves off meat but being clever with a reducing emissions from the remaining farms, which have to be of high quality) and freeing up innovation in both forestry, agriculture and in renewable energy to occur. In other words, do what we are doing now, better and flipping the priority towards forestry.

Other comments
6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
Electric cars and fuel labelling is good. NO more searching for fossil fuels - no offshore drilling - enough is enough. Perhaps think seriously about our population figures - what is too much - 65 mill like the UK? Set a maximum and cap/curb immigration, not in a drastic way, but with thought to the balance of everything require to support it.