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

Copy of your submission

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?
Establishing a Carbon Tax along with NOT subsidising the fossil fuel industry to prospect and drill in NZ, thus allowing the free market to work as it should by factoring in the TRUE costs of fossil fuels. We need a very clear plan on how we are going to move to alternatives, at the moment people are confused and feel powerless to do anything - as a colleague said to me when I asked him if he would attend the consultation meeting, 'why should I, they [the government] won't listened so we're buggered!'.

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?
Fair, would be my grandchildren having a world in which they can inhabit. Fair, is doing absolutely everything we can to keep the temperature rise to under 2 degrees. New Zealand is in an enviable position, we can and should go 100% renewable electricity. New Zealand is a courageous country that can and does punch above its weight. We should do so again to reduce our contribution because we can, and because we pride ourselves on being clean and green.

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?
A carbon tax will allow us to put the true price on a pollutant (CO2) that will destroy us if left unchecked. The tax can be used to incentivise a move to alternative energy sources and electric cars and public transport etc as well as ease the burden on households as we transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. This will SAVE money in the long run because we won't have to import petrol and diesel nor be faced with the huge clean up costs of an oil spill if it occurred. It's a win,win.

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 must close down its thermal power generation and move to alternatives, using a carbon tax to incentivise and ease the burden on households. Fast charge stations must be fast tracked throughout the country so electric cars become more viable (a carbon tax will make electric cars far more appealing as the price of petrol/diesel increases to reflect its true cost on the environment). Also, the aluminium smelter needs to go and the electricity generated at Lake Manapouri put to better use, e.g. to dry milk powder rather than using low grade coal.
Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target? It can't - this is a moral not economic problem.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
Yes. When New Zealand’s great son, Sir Edmund Hillary, summited the highest mountain in the world in 1953 he planted a flag that fluttered triumphantly over earth. New Zealand was revered around the world for being its ability to produce people who could go the extra mile with enormous courage and conviction and a number-8-wire ability to enable success.
What will be the present government’s legacy? A shiny new flag that droops over a country that has lost its way with climate change and settled for the lowest common denominator.