

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? No

1b. What is most important to you?

New Zealand is well placed to be one of the few 100% renewable energy countries and yet we continue to dance with coal and gas exploration. New Zealand can and should be a global leader on the topic of climate change and yet we have a Government that seem to have no inclination to believe the science that is presented or willing to take that leadership role. This is obviously demonstrated by the fact that our CO2 emissions are rising not falling - http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11357572.

As a nation we need to have a really good conversation about the future of dairy farming and it's actual impact to our emissions also.

Finally just offsetting the emissions is not going to be good enough, we need to fundamentally change the way we all live and work and that infrastructure and leadership needs to be supported by central government as well as local.

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?

I think that we can easily achieve a target if we have the conversations around renewable energy, stop the export of carbon emissions by selling coal off shore and work on scaling back intensive dairy farming.

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 bigger question is how will our lack of contribution affect future New Zealanders. We cannot risk not acting on climate change. Yes it could have economic costs but as Noam Chomsky says that argument is accurate but it is irrelevant. We are on a race to a precipice where if we are focused on the short term financial costs vs the long term prosperity (not just financial) of potentially the entire human race.

<http://techtv.mit.edu/collections/techcultforum/videos/31775-science-at-mit-from-the-cold-war-to-climate-change>

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?

48% of emissions from agriculture - clearly playing at the fringes here and seeking small reductions here and there

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are not going to work. It is obvious that NZ agriculture is unsustainable in this model. We need to be supporting new industries and ideas to divest NZ from being an Agri economy.

22% From energy - we need more people off the grids and onto localised renewable power sources, alternatively we can stop funding Tiwai smelter and get most of the 22% in one hit.

17% transport - where is the investment in electric vehicle infrastructure, cycling and walking infrastructure. In deed within 10 years we probably wont even be driving cars ourselves and yet we build more and more motorways and rely heavily on AIr NZ to haul us around. How about a high speed rail network that went the length of the country powered by renewable energy?

Summary

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

How can you? They will only ever be a best guess. We should be defining the future that we want for NZ, not be constrained by what is currently on offer.

Other comments

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

The world as we know it is about to undergo a massive amount of change. Climate change is one, but globally the way we move, communicate and utilise the world is changing. I don't have confidence that the current Government has any insight on that - if they did we would be undertaking a whole lot of different strategies in my mind. I just hope that we have the mana here to lead the world into this new era. Let's channel our collective Sir Ed and Kate Shepherd rather than thinking this is too big for us. Let's knock the bastard off.