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?   No

1b. What is most important to you?
I want Aotearoa’s aim to be to get to zero carbon emissions as soon as possible, and strict policies to ensure it happens.

I want us to do everything we can to be sustainable, not because other countries are, or expecting us to have a target, but because we have to...

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 have the 5th highest greenhouse gas emissions per person in OECD countries. Therefore it is only fair that we have at least the 5th highest reduction target. Otherwise, how many other countries will have to work even harder to make up for us?

It is our responsibility to have a very ambitious target like 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 at the least.

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?
However much it costs to fix the problem!

The costs of not reducing emissions enough is so much larger than any cost towards a more sustainable future. The sooner we cut our emissions now, the more money we will save in the future and the less cost there will be on us and the planet.

In 2011, the international energy agency said “Delaying action is a false economy. For every $1 of investment in cleaner technology that is avoided in the power sector before 2020, an additional $4.30 would need to be spent after 2020 to compensate for the increased emissions.”

Lets invest in cleaner technology now and stop letting companies drill for oil here.
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? With the current emissions trading scheme I don't think any of them are likely to occur. A quote from the document is "If New Zealanders respond to the opportunities from new technologies (where technologies are available) we may see significant reductions in our emissions."

Technology alone will not save us! The government needs to make a low-carbon economy its top priority or its not going to happen! We need many changes and laws to reduce carbon.

The most important for New Zealand: agriculture.

It is our sector that emits the most greenhouse gases. There is a lot of pride in New Zealand for the dairy industry but we need to be brave and move away from that. There are other advantageous in moving away from agriculture as well as reducing emissions. There will be less pollution in streams and more land available.

In the near future there will be more droughts on the east side of New Zealand. The farming industry is going to suffer from climate change and be more expensive to run. We make money from growing berries and fruit and forestry etc. These sectors should be expanded and agriculture phased out by having penalties on high polluting farms. Its not just farms that should have penalties for high emissions but all businesses. The emissions trading scheme needs a cap because right now there is no incentive for companies to reduce their emissions. This will lower our emissions, pollution, and more plants reduce the impacts of drought.

Summary

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

Other comments

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

The actions the government is currently taking is on the path to a high emissions future. For example putting 6 billion dollars into building new roads. It has already been proven internationally that building more roads actually encourages people to drive more.

Instead we need more cycle lanes to encourage sustainable transport. We should be moving away from private vehicles to better, more efficient public transport. To achieve this, funding should move from central government go to local body governments so they can make better sustainability plans in each region.

I want New Zealand to divest from fossil fuels as well. We can't afford to continue to rely on fossil fuels. There is no future in that investment and it is unethical to invest in it, especially at a time like this.

Even though NZ divesting won't bankrupt multi-billion dollar oil industries, it is the strongest political statement we can make against the fossil fuel industry. To have more effect on them and get a less risky, better long term investment, the government should plan with other countries and invest together in something has a future and isn't killing the planet.

To everyone in government:

Every time you make a decision, think: is this on the track to a more sustainable future?
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Thank you.