

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?

The most important thing to me is the protection of the environment and biodiversity within our planet. We must aim for its protection in order to secure the sustainability of life and our economies. It is no longer viable to carry out with a business as usual mentality and need to make decisions based on the environment and ecosystems were on to support civilization.

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?

New Zealand's economy is dependent on the "clean and pure (green)" label we place on this country. That is why our dairy, meat and other exports are demanded in such large amounts overseas as well as being the reason why a lot of tourists come to this country to vacation. This means that we need to be the first to make ambitious targets that set the precedent for other countries to set their targets by. If we manage to do this, it would only serve to strengthen the clean and green branding of New Zealand and secure future demand of our exports. The fact that most of our emissions come from the agricultural sector means that it is reasonable and possible for us to set high targets as the institutions holding us back are not very strong. Furthermore, within the agricultural sector, we have space to drastically reduce emissions due to the size of the emissions produced in this industry, along with the fact that it is this industry that will be most affected when major floods and droughts become frequent occurrences due to climate change.

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?

Reducing emissions and decreasing GDP are not necessarily related with on another (See Environmental Kuznets Curve where environmental degradation decreases as GDP increases). Reducing emissions is about shifting our spending away from unsustainable, high emissions industries/products to ones that are actually sustainable. Therefore, any tax imposed on carbon equivalents or high emissions industries should subsidise the movement to sustainable products. No more than 10% is necessary.

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?

I believe that all of the points listed are relevant and are likely to occur for New Zealand and the future of its people.

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All of the points are extremely important and portray the underlying need for us to move towards an emission free economy.

Summary

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

We need to create contingency plans when implementing these new technologies. However, the risk of using carbon heavy equipment and processes far out-way any risk of becoming sustainable.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
This is something that cannot be taken lightly and shouldn't serve as a political tool to gain more voters. We need to open our eyes and step up to the plate. Your duty is to the people of this county, not the top 1%. Take change seriously and we will all be better off for it.