

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



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## 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 target must be seen to be fair and NZ has NOT been pulling its weight internationally as a leader and honouring its obligations.

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 MUST take responsibility for our own emissions. Despite our unique majority of GHGs coming from agricultural emissions - which are problematic to control - NZ has not been addressing conventional GHGs eg from transport so there are no excuses. Other countries have reduced their per capita energy GHGs - we have not - in fact ours have increased which is appalling.

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?

The current ETS is patently unfair to average New Zealanders and subsidises industry. Most people are completely unaware of this. The fairest and most transparent way would be a carbon tax and then EVERYONE would be encouraged/rewarded to reduce the emissions over which they have control.

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?

All of the opportunities and probably some as yet to be identified have potential. NZ certainly can improve its efficiency of energy use. Increasing our renewables significantly beyond our already high fraction is probably unlikely. Given the volatility in dairy prices and the overall environmental impact of dairying, increasing forest sinks and encouraging positive land use change also have the potential to improve things. However the signals to date - eg through the ETS pricing and the lack of externality costs factored into dairying - have encouraged unhelpful behaviours. NZ needs to send the appropriate and equitable economic signals to encourage the outcomes it wants.

Summary

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

Look to past trends and trends associated with "disruptive" technologies as a guide. The future should not hinder us from acting now. The target we set should reflect WHAT we want to achieve and then the market or individuals can work out HOW to make that happen.

Other comments

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

We need to send a strong signal that we take our responsibilities as a developed country seriously by setting an appropriate target then actually making an effort to DELIVER on that. Our performance to date has been abysmal and embarrassing - especially relative to the achievements of other countries we look up to. Using agricultural emissions as an excuse for inaction is disingenuous given we haven't managed to truly address our energy GHGs which are deemed much easier! I want to be proud of my government's commitment AND action on climate change. Currently I am not.