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?
Although they make some degree of sense they do not go far enough to provide a framework for setting a target/contribution that will benefit NZ.
Yes, it should be fair and ambitious but it should also be viewed as leading in a manner fit for a country that trades on its clean and green image/reputation and should be something that NZers can be proud of.
When costs are weighed they must take into account the externalities and costs associated with NOT acting...these costs are already mounting in terms of storm and drought impacts to name but two.
They should not only guide but lead NZ down a path of clean energy and production methods to a low carbon and prosperous future.

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 currently profit from a depressingly high per capita emission rate (top 5 I believe) and we must recognise that although our overall emissions are fractional on the global stage our lifestyle relies on a very unsustainable level of individual emissions. The longer it takes for us to change that situation the more embedded the dependance on profits derived from unsustainable practices is.

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 reasonable level is that scientifically demonstrated as being necessary to ensure the significant effects of global warming are NOT imposed upon future generations in the name of us maintaining an unsustainable lifestyle and level of income based largely on unsustainable activities. WE should be driving towards 100% renewal/carbon neutral energy as a priority now and acting to keep existing fossil fuel reserves in the ground until such time as they can be used in a manner that does not contribute further to global warming issues.

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?
Transitioning to EVs, hybrids, public transport, rail and biofuels will reduce impacts and costs in the medium to long term.
Ensuring our grid energy is 100% renewable allows us to moderate the degree of energy use reductions required
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and is an important step in achieving a low carbon economy while optimising productivity in energy dependent areas.
Being ahead of the global change to low carbon economy positions us well as future innovators and adaptors

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
By setting bold targets, aligning economic mechanisms, encouraging and supporting innovation and appropriately pricing the impacts of high emission activities we will eliminate the 'uncertainty' by ensuring that advancements are only made in the necessary direction (i.e., towards low carbon future). Implies that uncertainty in technology justifies reducing targets is a blatant disregard of the complete lack of uncertainty over the direction we are headed in and the emergent global impacts that are already started to be felt and will only get more impactful, faster as time and inaction advance together. It is really important that we act with full might and all speed on this...the invaders are at our coast...the time left for dalliance now only will contribute to suffering.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
For the sake of everything that is New Zealand we have to stop hiding behind all this concern that reducing our emissions is going to have more of an impact on society through potential harm to the economy than the costs and harm that will be imposed on us and future generations by inadequate or tardy action. This is both incorrect, insane and irresponsible.
We must:
- remove all subsidies and investment from the fossil fuel industry
- make people aware of the potential impacts for us and the wider global community and the risk of not acting properly
- also focus on the benefits of creating a low carbon future
- be fully aware of the potential impacts on tourism and exports if we are not seen to have our best foot forward in this area...our markets will eventually chose to purchase from and visit places that are not ruining the planets future