Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this important issue. We attended the Wellington Climate meetings and appreciated the opportunity to be heard and listen to other people talk so passionately about climate change and the New Zealand response. We are disappointed at the limited submission timeframe, inadequate economic analysis, lack of publicity and limited engagement with the general public.

As a parent, I am deeply concerned about how climate change will shape my son’s future and I want New Zealand to take a leadership position and move to a low-carbon economy. It’s simply not good enough to buy our way out of our commitments. We have a moral imperative to put in place strong governance to manage our response to Climate Change and reduce its impact on future generations.

In summary, I want the seriousness of this issue recognised and a minimum target of 40% emissions reduction by 2030 to protect our way of life, our economy and the environment.

This reduction will need to be supported by:

1. Better analysis that includes information on the impacts of doing nothing on the New Zealand economy and its reputation and information on the economic benefits of taking action.
2. Introduction of a Carbon Tax so that the polluter pays and subsidies removed from the fossil fuel industry.
3. Removal of fossil fuels from both KiwiSaver and the NZ Superannuation Fund investment portfolios.
4. Subsidies to lessen the impact on low income households and to drive behavior change through our community.
5. Better transport choices throughout the country.

And above all, I want a coherent, cross political party, cross government agency, cross policy approach to this problem. I understand that this will be a serious challenge for Government but the risks posed by unmitigated Climate Change are serious and simply untenable. In the words of our Prime Minister ‘get some guts’ as this is surely a situation that requires leadership and courage.

**Question 1b. What is most important to you?**

As a parent, I am deeply concerned about how climate change will shape my son’s future and I want New Zealand to take a leadership position (for both New Zealand and the Pacific) and move as soon as possible to a low-carbon economy based around sustainable solutions. It’s simply not good enough to buy our way out of our commitments. We have a moral imperative to put in place strong governance to manage our response to Climate Change and reduce its impact on future generations.

I want to see not only a cross party approach but a coordinated cross Government agency approach modelled on the Better Public Services model being used to drive the update of, and improvements to public services.
I want to see the establishment of a responsible body that operates beyond electoral cycles and is led by a Climate Change functional leader with real authority to ensure that current and new policy is reviewed for impact on climate change and revised or declined as necessary.

I want to see a moratorium – a cup of tea, if you will – on further spending on any initiative that does not contribute to a sustainable world; roads of national significance and subsidies to Solid Energy are examples that come to mind.

I understand that this will be a serious challenge for Government but the risks posed by unmitigated Climate Change are serious and simply untenable. In the words of our Prime Minister ’get some guts’ as this is surely a situation that requires leadership and courage.

**Question 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 needs to make a fair contribution that reinforces its international reputation. The paper makes a great deal about how hard it is but the reality is that New Zealand started from a position of strength with 80% renewable energy in place and has since squandered its opportunities to improve and our emissions have increased from our 1990 levels. This is not a surprise, given that there is no credible Government policy to reduce our emissions and we are overly reliant on the flawed Emission Trading Scheme to buy our way out.

I want to see New Zealand as a nation powered by 100% renewable energy within five years and a credible plan to support this. Simply, as noted by members of the Climate meeting audience; a minimum of 40% emissions reduction by 2030 is necessary to protect our way of life, our economy and the environment.

**Question 3: What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?**

As Nike said some years back - *just do it.* The longer we leave it, the higher the cost. The World Bank report on Decarbonising Development said: “Waiting just 15 more years and taking no action until 2030 would increase costs by an average of 50 per cent through 2050”. As explained by the officials in the Climate meetings the reason the cost is so high is that we have not done anything to date and the biggest cost is to get from current levels to 1990 levels.

It will be disruptive but there will be advantages, something the discussion paper analysis misses. Increased costs of consumables will be offset by a reduction in annual household consumption through efficiency. For instance, my family has a modest, well insulated home and our monthly power bills in winter are seldom above $300 for both gas and electricity.

To offset the impact on households I would like to see:

1. Households receive financial help through targeted grants for full insulation (under floor, ceiling, walls and windows) and a rental WOF is put in place to ensure rental properties standards.
2. Low income households are provided some further tax relief – they will consume less but still need financial support.
To fund this we use our projected surplus or increase the tax take through increased taxes for high income earners or the introduction of a Carbon Tax so that the polluters pay and not merely the consumers.

**Question 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?**

The discussion paper doesn’t consider the cost of not addressing climate change; what this will do to health, our ability to grow crops (and wine) and the costs of supporting millions of international climate refugees.

The New Climate Economy Report says: “*Once the multiple benefits of measures to reduce GHG emissions are taken into consideration, such as the potential health gains from better local air quality, many of the perceived net costs can be reduced or eliminated*”.

That aside, there are two areas: energy generation and transport.

1. The transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrid cars will be very slow, given the cost and the current stock of vehicles on the road unless it is encouraged by significant subsidies to reduce the cost of buying new cars - not just the paltry exemption from road user charges. In the next year or two we will buy a new car but the current price of an electric car is far too high.
2. A much greater focus on public transport and active modes of transport, such as cycling and walking. We need safe cycle lanes in our towns and cities not just through the country side for tourists and improvements to public transport systems nation-wide. I use the bus most days to travel to and from work because the Wellington no 30 express bus is as quick as driving.
3. Move to retire the non-renewable generation sources and subsidise household PV systems. We are installing PV at our off the grid bach and would consider doing the same at our home if the price was right and we had access to smart storage systems like the Tesla Powerwall.

I understand that methane has a short half life but please can we stop the intensification of dairy and reverse the destruction of our waterways. An economy based on one industry is too vulnerable and there is the risk of the re-emergence of the ‘food miles’ back lash.

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

I read that new technologies are coming at a pace and scale which make accounting for their impacts impossible. Scenarios with varying timescales might be useful but will most likely be wrong. We can assume technologies will come faster and most likely better than we expect but have little place in this analysis.’

I have limited experience in this area but as an individual I will be willing to invest and purchase such technologies as they become available and will watch the development of technologies such as PV, electric cars and power storage devices with interest.
Question 6: Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.

I would like to have access to better information about the wider impacts around this issue. For instance further analysis that includes information on the impacts of doing nothing on the New Zealand economy and its reputation, information on the economic benefits of taking action and information about how a credible Carbon Tax may work.

I also note that the issue of climate refugees is not discussed, something that is of direct relevance to the pacific states. Of course the elephant in the room is our rampant consumerism and throw away culture and this is another area that needs some considered analysis and discussion.