

Setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations.

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our Consultation on New Zealand's post-2020 international climate change contribution web page
- Read our discussion document: New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

Questions to guide your feedback

Your submission may address any aspect of the discussion document, but we would appreciate you paying particular attention to the questions posed throughout and listed in this form. You may answer some or all of the questions. To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, you should explain your rationale and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

Contact information

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Objectives for the contribution

1a. We have set the following three objectives for our contribution:

- it is seen as a fair and ambitious contribution – both by international and domestic audiences
- costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately
- it must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?

No not entirely

1b. What is most important to you?

We need to think in the short term as well as the long term and start immediately to educate the NZ people, including MPs of the need to urgently begin to combat climate change.

*We have to discuss the costs of doing things **too slowly or not at all**, as well as the costs of putting some action in progress.*

Fairness is a concept which is hard to gauge internationally. At present we can say the nation's total contribution to world carbon emissions is small, but if we look at it on a per capita basis we have one of the highest carbon emission levels in the world. I think we need to work to a zero emission level by 2050 regardless of how it stacks up in comparison to the rest of the world. If it puts us in the forefront good.... we will be leaders.

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?

The short sightedness of NZ government and business interests has encouraged an economy largely based on dairying without looking at the long term effects of such a plan. Methane, from cows, is 44% of our emissions, while high water use in irrigation for dairy farms nitrous oxide from fertiliser getting into rivers, streams and aquifers as well as water shortage due to drought is all contributing to a serious deterioration of water quality. Any target set HAS to begin immediately to begin to repair the damage caused by this type of monoculture.

Climate change is a threat to our economy and the things it most depends on, like tourism and farming. Our agricultural nation depends on a stable climate. Our farmers will suffer increased droughts and damaging storms and profits will suffer.

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 do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?

As I said above the cost per household of taking some sort of positive action eg. reducing use of private cars, planting heaps more trees, paying some sort of tax; should be compared to the costs of doing nothing or not enough. eg. Rising insurance costs due to storm or tidal damage, dust storms causing respiratory illnesses increased temperature causing death through excessive heat, as is happening in India at present; new insect pests causing illnesses.

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 those mentioned on pages 15 and 16 should start to happen immediately as well as-

Immediate reduction in coal use; -provide incentives for developing alternative ways for drying milk powder and heating hospitals, schools etc.

Redesigning the transport system in NZ to use such things as electric trains on main routes, increase public transport for commuters,

Work on reducing waste. At present managing waste produces energy emission. If we ran a no waste economy we would cut emissions!

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target? Future planning always has a degree of uncertainty.

Work collaboratively rather than competitively with other countries on research and development

Higher funding for quality research and development in NZ on mitigating the effects of climate change and preventing further climate change. We need to take responsibility for the climate change caused by our actions and work on becoming a leader in creating a plan we can be proud of.

Other comments

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

I ask you to adopt a minimum target of a 40% emissions reduction in net emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 – the minimum contribution required to keep us under 2 degrees global warming.

Set in place now policies that give refugee status and/or citizenship to climate change refugees from the Pacific Islands and parts of Asia that are very low lying and will be affected by rising sea levels

How will we hear the results of the discussions and submissions? Will the results made public. ?

I think the level of publicity around the consultation process has been very inadequate. eg I first heard it mentioned on TV news on the 1st June, 2 days before the submissions close.

Climate change is not something we can ignore. Rather we need to have all political parties working together. We need to declare war on climate change.

When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.