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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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Margaret Lovell-Smith</th>
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<td>Organisation (if applicable)</td>
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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?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Some commentary is needed on these questions in order to answer them.

1b. What is most important to you?

Because so little action has been taken so far by the New Zealand Government it is likely that many New Zealanders have been lulled into thinking climate change is not a huge problem. I am horrified to learn that instead of keeping to our very low target of a 5% reduction from 1990 levels by 2020, our emissions have instead been allowed to grow by about 21 percent. Equally horrifying is the fact that our per capita emissions are very high compared to the rest of the world.

There is a great need for strong leadership from the Government and education about the risks and dangers associated with not acting on climate change. Until this is done domestic audiences might react against even very modest ambitions.

When speaking of fairness, who are we trying to be fair to? I suggest we focus our thinking on future generations with the aim of leaving the world in as good a condition as it was 50 years go.
At present we are on track to leave a very frightening world for our descendants: a world of increasing droughts, rising sea levels, increasingly frequent major weather events with their associated costs and damage, and increased numbers of climate change refugees.

An ambitious contribution by international standards would be a more than 40 per cent reduction below 1990 levels – the standard set by the EU countries. We could achieve this by 2030. Ultimately we must aim for carbon neutrality.

The costs and impacts on society have to be continually weighed up against the costs and impacts on society of failing to act.

The benefits of moving to a low carbon economy (for example those mentioned on p.15 of the discussion document) also need to be emphasised.

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 is uniquely well placed to be a world leader and beacon of hope to the rest of the world. Our target should be at least a 40% emissions reduction below 1990 levels by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

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

We need to pay whatever it takes to ensure that our descendants continue to live in a safe environment. The much more important question, which is not asked or answered in the discussion document is, what will be the cost to the country of NOT acting on climate change. The research done by Treasury on this question needs to be widely disseminated and discussed. One factor to consider is the increased costs of health problems that could come with climate change, including dehydration, heat stroke, bronchitis, and more infectious disease.

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 we should take the following actions:
Put a brake on dairying: reduce the number of cows instead of allowing the dairy sector to grow unchecked.
Plant many more trees: an achieveable target is 100,000 hectares per year until 2030.
Stop building more roads and instead put funding into public transport, and effective rail and cycle networks.
Provide incentives for fuel and energy efficiency for homes and businesses.
Provide the infrastructure and incentives needed to increase the usage of electric vehicles.
Increase renewable electricity generation to 100 per cent of all electricity generated.
Invest in educating the public and make sure that each community, and every individual has steps that they personally can take. Introduce regulations to ensure that local council and community boards, schools, hospitals, and businesses all have a part to play.
Summary
5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
   The costs are irrelevant when setting targets.

Other comments
6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
   Please act now for the sake of all our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

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.