

**From:** Francisco MacArthur [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 May 2015 7:06 a.m.  
**To:** Climate Contribution  
**Subject:** Submission 10183

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a doctor currently on scholarship to the University of Edinburgh, and I will be returning to NZ in December after a year of study. I have a strong interest in climate change and how our government plan to deal with it as it has the potential to have an enormous impact on the health of New Zealanders. On a more personal level, it will affect me and my children. I am writing to ask the government to expand the scope and timeframe of the public consultation process on emissions targets, in order to put together a strong national plan before the Paris climate talks later this year.

I am disappointed the government seems to be trying to sweep this issue under the rug through a combination of denial and fatalism. It seems to me they are following in the footsteps of their respected friends Steven Harper and Tony Abbott by trying to downplay the issue in order to milk a few more bucks out of an outdated economic model – the extraction of fossil fuels. The excitement about possibly striking oil in our southern waters seems to confirm this, despite the gradual shift in international opinion on the oil industry. Indeed, some economists now argue fossil fuels are an increasingly poor investment, as the likelihood of legislation to cap their extraction may lead (hopefully) to vast amounts of fossil fuels being trapped in the ground, with a subsequent plunge in the share price of these companies. Such a view has led to groups such as the Rockefeller family to divest in fossil fuels. I'm sure you're conversant with the science, so I won't go into detail on the need to keep the majority of these deposits in the ground in order to avert catastrophic climate change.

It's far too easy to be fatalistic about the environment and our ability as a small country to have any meaningful impact on the direction humanity is taking. Quite frankly, that's a coward's approach to absolve yourself of blame – it's the smoker saying the damage is done, so why quit? I'm tired of that attitude. I'd like to see some strong leadership on this issue from our elected leaders. Whilst I appreciate the gesture of asking NZ about our emissions targets, I'd much rather have a debate about what our action plan should be to achieve emissions reductions. Let's try and get out in front of the pack when it comes to developing a green economy, instead of perennially shuffling along at the back with our old chums on the route to stagnation.

In essence, let's as a nation come up with an action plan before Paris. Give us a much larger scope and timeframe to make submissions on this important issue. I'm sure there will be some excellent ideas out there, and it's not like there's a torrent of innovation pouring out of Parliament on this.

Thanks for taking the time to read this,

Yours sincerely

Dr Francisco MacArthur