Consultation on setting New Zealand’s post-2020 climate change target

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Contact information

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Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?   Yes

1b. What is most important to you?
That it is seen as an ambitious contribution by international and domestic audiences. Not only is it our responsibility to step up to the challenges of climate change, but we owe it to future generations to embrace and create new technologies and smarter thinking. This is an opportunity for NZ to have a strong voice on a critical issue.

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?
Our mixture of emissions gives us a unique challenge, but I believe that we have the ability to farm smarter and produce top quality products. Investment in research is a positive step, we can and should be leaders in this field. Carbon dioxide emissions should be targeted through more ambitious goals in power generation, we can achieve 100% renewable generation. We have the technology and it’s getting better and better. We also need a bigger push in public transport/walking/biking as well as biofuel and electric vehicle technologies. Research in these areas is encouraging but goals and policy can be more ambitious.

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?
Looking at your figures, I would go for 40% reduction. It is constant growth that has got us in to the whole climate change mess, so it is only natural that slowing down is part of the solution. But I also believe that NZ needs to be looking at the opportunities and leading in technology, research and development. Economies are going to change and we should be at the forefront (and making money out of it), not dragging our heels complaining about costs that may not eventuate if we are smart about it.

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?
Great stuff here, I think all are important and should be embraced. These opportunities will go a long way reducing the "cost" to NZ.
- Fuel and energy efficiency can reduce costs to businesses and households and needs to be encouraged
- Renewable electricity generation should be maximized
- Low-carbon economy and greater energy security can only be good
- Reducing emissions and increasing forest sinks has so many benefits
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- Remaining competitive and productive through new technologies and opportunities is key

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
We need to tackle this with hope and ambition. Technology will only get better. The cost will be so much worse if we don’t do all that we can to be a key part of the solution.

Other comments

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