

Climate Change Contribution Consultation

I agree that NZ should pull its weight in reducing emissions. It is shamefully behind at present.

From the information given in the video and discussion paper, these factors seem significant in determining the direction of our CCC:

- We have lots of renewable energy sources, much of it as yet untapped e.g. solar, Cook Strait underwater tidal currents (Project Neptune).
- Our economy is sensitive to fossil fuel prices.
- Our low population density means high per capita use of road transport.
- Transport accounts for 17% of our greenhouse gas emissions.
- Energy accounts for 22% “ “ “
- It is relatively difficult for us to cut our agricultural emissions.

From these facts, the obvious way to go is to an all-electric economy. Tesla in California provides free electric charging points for its customers and it is merely a private company! Our Government should similarly foster the electric car take-up – at the same time effectively slashing our fossil fuel dependence, costs and emissions. It should also encourage the spread of solar panels for households, businesses and schools to remove the need for coal or diesel power plants, allow people to charge their cars at home, and – importantly - reduce people’s dependence on fragile lines of energy supply in a climate-changing world where more storms, floods etc are predicted to wreak havoc.

The assumption that targeting emissions will reduce economic growth is a false one. (And so is the assumption that faster growth is actually a good thing.) By being fuel and energy efficient we reduce costs and limit our economic vulnerability.

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