

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



Copy of your submission

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?

I want to see an ambitious contribution by New Zealand. We are a wealthy enough country that we can afford to set an example, rather than be a laggard.

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's emissions are high, when compared with most countries on a per person basis. We are morally obliged to make an extra effort to reduce our emissions. This means actually reducing emissions, not buying carbon credits. We need to "do the right thing". With encouragement, I think the majority of new Zealanders would get behind this idea.

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 would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?

Taking the annual average consumption per household figure of \$73000, all the targets for consumption reduction, even up to a 40% level, have a trivial, easily afforded impact.

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?

The most important change is probably in transport. We need to change the way products are moved around the country, with fewer trucks and more use of rail. The policy of closing branch lines should be reversed. Particularly within cities, a maximum effort needs to be made to improve public transport, but this should apply inter-city as well.

We obviously have to reduce fossil fuel use quickly. Coupled with this, there should be no more exploration for fossil fuels, and no subsidies for fossil fuel companies. Anything less than this sends the wrong message. No vague dates such as "by 2030/2050" please. This is not going to achieve what has to be done soon enough.

With about 80% of electricity presently generated from renewable sources, we are well placed to change to electric and hybrid vehicles.

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Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?

Future uncertainties, by their nature, should not be used to guide target setting. Doing that would be a recipe/excuse for doing less than we should.

We need to be bold about reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, not timid.

It is high time that governments and the people realised that the economy can not continue to grow at x% every year. We have to move to something more like a steady state economy

Other comments

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

I understand that livestock greenhouse gas emissions are a big factor in New Zealand. We need to move away from this type of farming. Recent conversions of farms to dairying have been a disaster in this regard. It would be good to see discussion at a government /producer level which would acknowledge this. As well, a reduction of meat consumption would be of benefit in many ways, to the environment and to our health.