

Setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations.

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our [Consultation on New Zealand's post-2020 international climate change contribution web page](#)
- Read our discussion document: [New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement](#)

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

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

Name	Kate Malcolm
Organisation (if applicable)	
Address	████████████████████
Telephone	
Email	████████████████████

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 - it should be “It is a fair” rather than “is seen as”, and the word “costs” should be deleted as that is included under “impacts”.

1b. What is most important to you?

Most important me is to have already done something concrete before the Paris meeting aiming to actually stop our increase in greenhouse gas emissions before we talk about targets for reduction. Otherwise the meeting will be, and will be seen as, nothing more than a “talkfest”.

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?

The nature of our emissions and economy should not be used as an excuse to do little or nothing, as it has been up to now.

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?

Households would pay more for fuel and less for seawalls, flood protection and insurance. Impossible to quantify the overall 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?

A - transport costs, particularly reliance on one person car travel and holiday travel, including international air travel

B - oil and gas exploration should cease and the concept accepted that fossil fuels should be left where they are for the benefit of humanity

C - halt to dairy conversions

D - tree planting especially along streams and rivers and on marginal land.

E. Monitor monthly or quarterly our total emissions, including international air travel, and publicise the figure so the general public can see the trend.

Summary

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

The only way to take into account future uncertainties is to look at the past and when we look back we see nothing deliberate has been done by the government but that businesses, particularly in the IT industry, have been making it easier to communicate without physical travel. Assuming this will continue, it should be easier in the future to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. However, while this progress has occurred our carbon emissions have climbed. This implies that

only government action can achieve a levelling off or a reduction. The government's constant mention of "costs" is only harming the cause.

Other comments

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

I wish the government would act under urgency to put a tax on fossil fuels and use the proceeds for public transport. Put a moratorium on any further permits for oil and gas exploration and refuse further consents for dairy conversions. Subsidise tree planting more heavily and do not "go" to the Paris meeting but simply provide our European diplomats with the information of what we have already done and let them negotiate on our behalf, realising that the physical "going" is itself damaging to the climate.

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.

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