

From: Margy-Jean Malcolm [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 9:18 p.m.
To: Climate Contribution
Subject: Submission 10959

To whom it may concern,

I have attended meetings on NZ's Climate Change Target in Dunedin and was disappointed there were no government politicians present, nor any audio-recording taken of the very articulate views expressed by the large audience. Despite the real inadequacy of the timeframe and process for consultation on this issue of such central importance to me, my children and mokopuna, the meeting represented a strong and informed voice desperately urging the Government to listen. This is not just an environmental issue, but the most fundamental social, cultural, economic and environmental issue facing our future.

The Government does not seem at all serious about acting on climate change. I want to see real leadership, and be proud of NZ's stance, not ashamed of NZ doing the bare minimum we believe we can get away with. The Government continues to argue its totally biased point of view that climate action will be too expensive, yet the document does not consider the enormous economic, social, cultural and environmental costs of doing nothing. And most importantly, it completely overlooks the enormous financial, social, cultural and job creation benefits of moving towards a cleaner, safer future.

I want NZ to commit to a really ambitious target (e.g. at least 40% emission reduction as compared to 1990s levels by 2030) that will actually make an impact on climate change. But that will be to no effect unless the Government takes tangible action within New Zealand starting NOW that demonstrates serious climate change commitment.

I am not an expert on what that plan should include, but we have groups like Greenpeace, Wise Response Coalition, Generation Zero and many other experts whose expertise is not being listened to enough. As a guide here is an outline of some elements of a real climate action plan I want to see the Government enact, if it's serious about taking pollution out of our economy.

A real climate action plan would:

- Commit to have 100% renewable electricity within 10 years
- Shut Huntly coal and gas fired power station by 2020
- Phase out all subsidies for fossil fuels like coal and deep sea oil drilling
- Ban deep sea drilling and fracking for oil and gas in New Zealand.
- Develop a low carbon action plan to ensure that by 2050 all areas of energy (electricity, heating, transport and industrial use) come from clean energy sources instead of fossil fuels.
- Reform the electricity markets by guaranteeing priority access to the grid for renewable power generators.
- Shift the unnecessary \$12 billion road building programme to investment in smart rail and public transport infrastructure such as the Auckland City Rail Link.
- Prioritise the import and infrastructure needs (e.g fast charging points) for hybrid and electric vehicles.
- Introduce incentives to harness the enormous potential in plantation wood waste to sustainable transport fuels. It has been estimated that this could create tens of thousands of jobs in the forestry sector and help reduce our oil imports bill by \$7billion each year.
- Make the Emissions Trading Scheme more stringent so that it works, enabling industry to move away from polluting energies.
- Implement policies to incentivise 'low input' farming methods that are proven to reduce pollution and increase farming profits.
- Prioritise geothermal projects to realise enormous export opportunities in our geothermal industry, which could be worth up over \$4 billion a year to the economy.

- Promote New Zealand as an international centre of excellence for developing and trialling ocean energy and other new low carbon technologies.
- Look at the climate change from a public health perspective, the social and cultural impacts of doing nothing, and the benefits of public health interventions as part of a holistic mitigation strategy
- Look at climate change from a development perspective and our commitments to our Pacific neighbours, again from a mitigation perspective, not just accepting we will take climate refugees
- Look at climate change from a local community-led development perspective and consider ways to support enviro-schools, transition towns and other food, fuel and transport solutions emerging locally

NZ as a small nation has the potential to reclaim its identity as a world leader on this key global issue. Yes there will be costs that will impact household consumption. It is our consumer society that is fuelling climate change, and significant shifts in behaviour are necessary now. We have to take care those costs don't impact disproportionately on the poor. Investing in low carbon economy industries can open up opportunities for communities, the economy and jobs but we have to make sure that benefits from those opportunities are better distributed than they are now. Climate change offers us a huge opportunity to rethink what really matters as a country - our core values around the environment, our children, our sense of community and social justice - which are more important than the market messages that consumption of more and more consumer goods will bring us happiness.

We have the passion for our land, our neighbourhoods and children; we have the science and technology expertise; we just need a Government with the courage to take real leadership on this fundamental issue. We need a truly ambitious target and a real action plan, starting now, to reduce climate pollution. Otherwise Government risks damaging our global reputation, wrecking our economy, let alone our future in this stunning environment. Most importantly, I want Government to invest in a cleaner, smarter and safer future for me, my children and grandchildren and all that share my love of this land.

Yours sincerely,

Margy-Jean Malcolm