

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



Copy of your submission

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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?

Given that it is not clear that any of these objectives can be easily, if at all, measured, they are more goals than objectives.

The lack of specificity of the 'objectives'; and the fact that they are not measurable - except possibly the first make it challenging to answer the question.

The second objective is so poorly worded it would be hard to justify that as even a goal, let alone an objective. However, the priority is to prevent the catastrophes that we are already suffering as a result of the increasing energy going to the atmosphere. A new Carbon-free economy has huge potential for economic gain - if we are willing to invest. An investment is not a cost. Be warned: there may not be a 'long-term', as catastrophic phase-change is characteristic of systems that are being pushed out of balance.

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?

We have the potential to lead the world. Be more Nordic than the Europeans; we are small, nimble and technological enough to do it.

If we convert to more sustainable agriculture, we can increase eco-tourism exponentially, and build on brand NZ.

This sad lot of timid leaders we have who continue to vest the interests, and cannot see the future, if we invest. There is a whole global infrastructure to build (while Nero fiddles)

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?

Fools! An investment is not a cost. Expense is. Sadly, governments have lost the ability and interest to invest; the Savage government showed what can be done. Now we have amazing new tools for organization and coordination. But the infrastructure for the new economy is just starting to be build. Invest.

And economics 101 will tell you that investment in productive capacity generates wealth. Of course, we know that economics is mostly wrong - whatever happened to the supposed benefits of the 1980s neoliberal reforms? Simply to concentrate wealth and return capitalism to its less productive nature, when its natural cycles are not properly balanced by government investments.

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Why should there be any reduction in household consumption when the economy is being primed with infrastructure investments? It simply means that we have to either tax or borrow. That burden must be fairly shared; which means that 90% of it must fall on the 10% wealthiest. However, there is so much current wasted expenditure - that achieves neither safety nor structure that can be dispensed.

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?

Summary

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

Who cares about a target, until you have a government that is able to take the only kind of action that matters to the world.

Dramatic and effective.

But if we are serious about a target, we need to have a zero-carbon economy; setting the date for this is less important than investing in the green infrastructure, especially for energy, transport and ICT that we need to live the potential life that we have, and not to be washed away in the next Tsunami that erupts from the energy we continue to put into the environment,

Other comments

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

Be bold; be ambitious. Give up the tired, silly old ways of doing business.

The role of the government is critical for the benefit of all, including private sector. But by focusing on the benefits of the current private sector, you prevent the needed progress to the next stage of human development. Just as there was a quantum leap in the post-WW2, due in part to the benefits of the 'mixed economy'; A new model for government and commerce, building on new technologies is now available. It enables developing a more meritocratic and democratic system. The democratization of the means of production is an emerging property of the internet and related technologies. The key idea, is that for the first time in history, every human can be connected to any other. How are we going to behave?