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?
It is most important to me that our contribution is ambitious. I think that NZ has a unique opportunity to lead the world in this because we are known for our leadership (nuclear free), and for being clean and green. Even if the debate about the causes, seriousness, and imminence of climate change is taken into account, it seems that steps to reduce fossil fuel reliance, pollution, and waste quite simply make sense and are to the benefit of NZ economically (because of our tourism image and because this will enable us to be more independent by not relying on oil).

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?
I understand that most of our emissions are from farming and therefore the argument is that there is less scope to reduce these emissions.
1. Is this true?
2. We could set an ambitious target for reducing emissions we can control eg; car/transport and for increasing carbon credits (forestry)
3. We could set ambitious targets for waste reduction and minimising consumption of pollutants such as single-use plastics, foams etc.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce it's greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?
This is very difficult to answer because I don't know how to quantify it. However I think that we need to shift our focus from "consumption" to recognising the true cost of products, services so that consumption of high-carbon products or high polluting products either reduces or pays more what that is costing us all. I don't want to pay more to fly, or to drive in the CBD, but if other consumers and polluters paid fairly (industry, farmers, trucks) then I would accept this is important.

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?
Assume that cleaner technology will get cheaper and review regularly. Assume and take into account the "real" costs of current "dirty" technology.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
I do think that the relative benefits to NZ of being ambitious and a world-leader in this area could well be more than the relative costs. Can this be forecast?
We have lost opportunities to be truly clean and green because we really are just like everywhere else. Some relatively small steps could have a large impact on our international reputation, our sense of identity, our tourism industry, and may also encourage diversity in our industry.
- ban single use plastic - this is so unnecessary and we are behind the world in this
- convert public transport to clean energy as a priority (we need to improve this in Auckland especially)
- incentivise trees, IT, science research, and clean tourism so that dairy does not dominate so much
- incentivise alternative fuel cars, solar, wind, water energy eg; registration could be half for these cars.