

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?

That New Zealand is part of an international effort determined to take decisive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and rapidly transition New Zealand to a low carbon economy.

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?

Every country will have a reason why it is difficult or expensive to reduce emissions. We know that the cost of not acting will be far greater than early action. The economic opportunities of being part of a low carbon economy will be significant.

New Zealand cannot continue a "business as usual" approach and not diversify and transition to low carbon technologies if we are serious about contributing to the solution. For example, we know that a majority of known fossil fuel reserves cannot be combusted if we are to stay within a 2 degree global temperature rise target, therefore, off-shore prospecting for oil makes absolutely no sense. NZ should look and expanding geothermal, wind and hydro technologies in order to produce power and electricity. It would be possible for NZ to "decarbonise" transport and the electricity grid.

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?

The use of existing technologies can reduce and offset these costs for households. For example, Photovoltaic panels are increasingly efficient and effective and can reduce power costs and well as providing a potentially "new industry" in fitting and installing them. All new builds could be carbon neutral or close to it with existing technology.

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?

They are all important. Government leadership, with clear policies to promote low carbon industry, is essential to achieve decarbonisation of transport and the grid. Reforestation and the economic opportunities from this industry (as well as the potential uses of byproduct) will need to be encouraged.

Individuals and households businesses will need education and encouragement to become more efficient and cost effective.

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Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao

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Summary

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

New Zealand cannot rely on future technologies to solve our climate problems, the evidence suggests without rapid action the results will be dire. Our recent history shows increasing rates of greenhouse gas production across many western economies and the world population is growing exponentially. Neither is it reasonable to rely on offsetting costs by buying carbon credits. These approaches are in denial of reality and will delay real action and economic transformation

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
New Zealand can, and should be at the forefront, of efforts to combat climate change in order to avoid catastrophic climate change for future generations. There is a moral imperative to do so as well as significant economic opportunity. A bold move by New Zealand will galvanise many other countries into action and fully justify and endorse our clean green brand.