

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



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## Contact information

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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?

An ambitious contribution with a plan to achieve it - not just a target.

Evaluation of "Costs and impacts" must include damage from climate change and not just costs of transition to low-carbon energy sources if their "management" is to be a meaningful objective.

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?

Our high proportion of agricultural emissions should not have any bearing on the degree to which we reduce emissions from transport etc. Likewise our high proportion of renewable electricity generation is no excuse for inaction on the fossil fuelled power stations and coal-powered milk drying plants which we have. We should attempt to match the leading reasonable OECD countries (i.e.: Europe) in effort, and the obvious way to do that is to match their carbon price, not their quantity targets.

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?

Whatever flows from setting a price on carbon sufficient (if it were applied internationally) to keep the maximum temperature rise to under 2C, My guess would be \$25/tonne CO2 immediately, rising by \$5/tonne every year.

The figures on p14 suggest that a 40% target is perfectly affordable (particularly given our given our expected economic growth over that time) even though the costs shown there do not include the damage arising from inaction.

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?

In the short term there are others which are more important: Insulation of homes, investment in public transport, and increased renewable electricity generation by wind turbines.

Summary

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Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mo Te Taiao*

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

By setting an effective price on carbon, not just a quantity target. Environment economists understand that if the marginal benefit curve is flat (as it is for cutting CO2 emissions) and there is uncertainty in the price-quantity relationship, then setting a price is preferable over setting a quantity [Weitzman, 1974; Nordhaus 2007].

Other comments

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

I am disappointed and angry with the domestic inaction of our government on this issue and their counterproductive attitude so far in international climate negotiations.