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?
Hard to disagree with such generalised and broad objectives. However there is little sign in this document of any appreciation of the fundamental mismatch between the measures required to actually deal with the activities driving climate change and the type of measures available to a democratically elected faction based government on a 3 year election cycle. All of the measures proposed in this document will be too little too late and too compromised by special interests to be effective.
If anything in our history called for a multipartisan approach it is this one. The only type of mobilisation our society has experienced that approaches the intensity needed may have been that for the World Wars. Alternatively, we can bumble along with the rest of the world trying to maintain economic advantage in a slow race to disastrous outcomes. That is probably how it is going to go.

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?
The nature of NZ’s emissions and economy means we will not doubt do our best to weasel out of dealing with the critical issues while trying to be seen to take effective action.

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?
Probably not enough. Policies based on politics and globalised capitalism may achieve their aims but are unlikely to significantly slow climate change.

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?
6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
Run as far and as fast as possible from the corporate colonisation of the TPPA.

One further issue, action or not, in terms of being a pleasant place to live in a Climate Change ravaged world, New Zealand appears to be in a relatively good position vis a vis the rest. Alienation of productive and amenity land to foreign ownership is likely to gather pace unless the Government is proactive in regulating such sales. Policies in this area will certainly be on my checklist at the next election.