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

Copy of your submission

Contact information

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Organisation (if applicable)

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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?
The current dominant food system involves a lot of waste while also negatively impacting our environment. By changing our approach to food waste and using better farm planning, agriculture could be improved in efficiency and also reduce its impact. Urban planning could also be reprioritised to encourage pedestrians and cycling over cars, this could also reduce the prevalence of heart disease in our amazing country. A third important point is that offsetting carbon emissions is not a long term answer.

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 has a unique carbon footprint with their own difficulties so no excuses should be pandered to. We need to be ambitious and realistic so that the goals we make require change without being dismissed as too difficult and pushed back. We can view this as an excellent opportunity to improve our country, not a negative necessity. Re-prioritising the crops grown to those more suited to our environment could reduce carbon emissions by requiring less pesticides and fertilisers and also make us more resilient.

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?
I am not the best to comment on this as I have studied a BAppSci in Environmental Management meaning I do not have the best understanding of economics. However I support carbon taxes, by taxing goods with larger carbon footprints more than others, we could encourage more responsible consumption. Also as an island nation we could take advantage of the fish available rather than eating so much farmed meat which has so much carbon required.

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
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Other comments

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