

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



Copy of your submission

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?

We are virtually on the verge of making our planet uninhabitable. It is essential that the Government understands that short term economic gains are not viable anymore. If, we manage to drastically reduce our carbon input, stop population growth (which helps stabilise emissions) and preserve and expand our forests, then there will be some hope for a brighter (and healthier) future. A drastic reduction of emissions is most important to me.

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?

Based on the information available a reduction of emissions by at least 40% is vital. Stopping population growth and aiming to a gradual reduction of the population to a more sustainable model (please refer to the Norwegian target), would check the emissions by our dairy industries and allow us to maintain our edge in the agriculture industry. The world can go without everything except food and water. We reduce our population, continue and even increase the production of food; maintain our water resources and we'll be better off than any other country in the world because of our unique geographical location, low population (if we halt unrestricted immigration now) and relative large land size.

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?

With the advances in technology, household consumption can reduce substantially without affecting our standard of living. A conservative approach to 'consumerism' can achieve a lot. A focus on durable goods as against expendable cheap ones will in fact reduce household consumption whilst increasing our quality of life (less rubbish and pollution).

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?

All of the opportunities outlined on page 15 are important. None is achievable if population growth isn't curtailed.

Summary

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

By definition what is uncertain cannot be predicted. We can predict the consequences of our current economic and social policies. Technology is going to keep evolving and efficiency improving. There is no threat to New Zealand, or to any other country coming from the so called uncertainties of technologies.

Other comments

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

As I put above, the major threat to the global environmental system is overpopulation. While the Government document acknowledges there is an impact coming from population growth, it neglects to address it. Target to lowering the population. Technology is helping address labour shortage. Humans are big animals that demand a lot of space and resources. Reduce the population by curbing immigration (a long term goal) and all will be well. Don't and there won't be a future.