

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



Copy of your submission

Contact information

Name Dr Scott Metcalfe

Organisation (if applicable) MBChB, DComH, FAFPHM(NZ), FNZCPHM, public health physician

Address [REDACTED]

Telephone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? No

1b. What is most important to you?

The wording for this question is incorrect. Please re-word and prioritise the proposed objectives for the INDC as follows:

1. It must guide New Zealand's timely transition to a zero emission economy and society
The top priority is for carbon emissions to reduce urgently. This need=s to be fair.technology.
2. It is a fair and ambitious contribution that meets our globally assessed responsibilities
Secondly, NZ's contribution must be fair, ambitious, credible and sufficient – not just window-dressing.
3. Costs and benefits need to be distributed fairly within New Zealand and between countries.

Make sure the INDC:

- (i) includes health and fairness in the assessment of costs and benefits
- (ii) commits to a global and NZ zero 2050 carbon target with annual steps to get there
- (iii) pledges at least 40% cuts by 2030 in our gross domestic greenhouse gas emissions compared with 1990, towards at least 95% by 2050
- (iv) places an immediate moratorium on fossil fuel exploration, and pledges to phase out existing extraction in the next decade
- (v) includes credible cross-party plans in the INDC, with a legislated independent Climate Commission.

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?

at least 40% reduction by 2030, probably more. The NZ College of Public Health Medicine's rationale at http://www.nzcphm.org.nz/media/85324/2013_11_22_2._nzcphm_climate_change_supplement_1__final2_.pdf should be compulsory reading. I wrote it. It is the world's poor who suffer from our historical excesses.

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 costs of climate inaction far exceed the costs of taking action and we need to account for this in climate

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calculations. The sooner we act, the more likely we will see overall gains not costs

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?

This question is moot; we already have the technology and policy ideas to reduce these emissions – we need the cross-party political will to put them in place.

Summary

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

This is completely the wrong question. We must act now. Risks of further delay are very high, while we have good certainty about potential short to medium term gains of well-designed emissions reductions policies. We need government to give clear, strong, consistent signals to spur both behaviour change and technological development. Anything less is derelict and incompetent.

Other comments

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

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And please have Health at the heart of the government's climate action - i want:

- a Parliamentary climate change and health summit;
- health sector leadership on mitigation and adapting to locked-in climate impacts on health;
- involvement of public health expertise;
- Health (including equity) Impact Assessment (HIA) routinely used to inform key climate-relevant policies; and
- climate commitments that protect and promote health in the climate-vulnerable Pacific regions.