Setting New Zealand’s post-2020 climate change target

Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand’s post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations.

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our Consultation on New Zealand’s post-2020 international climate change contribution web page
- Read our discussion document: New Zealand’s Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment’s website www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.
Questions to guide your feedback

Your submission may address any aspect of the discussion document, but we would appreciate you paying particular attention to the questions posed throughout and listed in this form. You may answer some or all of the questions. To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, you should explain your rationale and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

Contact information

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Objectives for the contribution

1a. We have set the following three objectives for our contribution:

- it is seen as a fair and ambitious contribution – both by international and domestic audiences
- costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately
- it must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?

☐ Yes
☒ No

1b. What is most important to you?

- costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately

However, there is not a compelling scientific case to transition to a low emission scenario despite repeated politically-motivated attempts by the IPCC to alarm the world into this.

Whether New Zealand is seen to be fair and ambitious in response to climate change or not should be tempered by the domestic economic and social consequences of any action.
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?

Given New Zealand’s circumstances we are ahead of most developed countries in that our energy is mostly already renewable and our agriculture is efficient. In this regard a negative target would be arguable.

The emission of greenhouse gases by livestock should be placed in the same category as the exhalations of the population. We are unlikely to cull the numbers of population to ‘contribute’ and neither should we reduce livestock numbers to do so. We may consider limits on land use for other reasons, but that would not be a response to climate change.

If New Zealand entrepreneurs can develop technology that can mitigate livestock emissions as an exportable product all the better. We should exploit such export opportunities no matter how gullible the buyers might be towards the purpose of reducing carbon dioxide.

Buyers of New Zealand’s products are more concerned with price and quality than carbon intensity. In any case, the scale of our economy and our emissions is so miniscule in global terms that other countries are unlikely to have any concern about what New Zealand decides other than the small number of political activists who wish to promote the climate change scam.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce it greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?

No level of cost is justifiable. At a relatively low level, voters will sanction political parties that cause them to be impoverished for this non-problem at the ballot box.

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?

Efficiency in use of energy is a natural response to energy costs. Artificially elevating these costs by taxes, emission trading schemes and other means of placing a ‘cost on carbon’, is unnecessary interference that simply creates bureaucracy, with its own, unproductive costs.

Gambling on ‘winning’ technologies such as electric cars is not appropriate for governments. Governments have been consistently poor in picking winners. Forecasting what might be a viable opportunity and encouraging and discouraging particular products or solutions is usually circumvented or taken advantage of by market participants. Transferring public money to private hands in this way is a vote loser and economic recklessness.
Government does not have the wherewithall to predict what opportunites will arise or how New Zealanders will respond to them. Therefore guesstimating what ‘contribution’ exploiting imagined opportunities will make to emissions reduction is even less certain than the guesses about what temperature the globe will experience in 2100.

Summary

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

The entire question of New Zealand’s target reductions for the Paris summit is political posturing for an international audience. We could simply go along with the fabricated consensus and play the game with a ‘target’ number plucked out of the air. The headline number, will, of course, be the focus of the press and the activists.

New Zealand may not wish to ‘rock the boat’ and indicate too low a number for fear of being shunned as a climate pariah (denier?), despite New Zealand making a miniscule contribution to greenhouse gases globally. However, any target should be subject to conditions that apply the reality that unfolds rather than the dogma which we are subjected to by the IPCC.

New Zealand’s INDC should be invoked, firstly, only when the observed global surface temperatures, as recorded by unmanipulated satellite datasets, show that the trend will result in a 2 degree Celsius temperature rise by 2100. Such a trend is extremely unlikely given that global surface temperatures have risen by approximately 0.8 degrees Celsius since 1880, and in the last 18 years the trend has been statistically equal to zero. Emission reduction is intended to mitigate this ‘threat’. If the threat does not eventuate, acting as if it had, would be illogical.

Secondly, New Zealand’s INDC should only apply to the extent that other countries have fulfilled their own INDCs. Otherwise an international competitive disadvantage might apply to New Zealand as a result.

Other comments

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

I have been following the climate change ‘debate’ for some time. It is obvious to me that one side misinforms, misrepresents and otherwise manipulates information in order to create the most alarming perspective. This side is also funded hugely more generously than the other, mostly through public funds. This side also engages in bullying, hate speech, censorship, vilification and personal attacks on individuals and outright fraud in its noble cause.

The science is very far from ‘settled’. Even a cursory review of the science demonstrates that there is no conclusive evidence that the anthropogenic causes of climate change are more than negligible. The IPCC’s case that anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions causes most of the warming is based
on general circulation models which have been unable to demonstrate any skill in forecasting global temperatures. All of them have run hot compared to observations.

The underlying basis for the IPCC’s argument is that, using these models, they are unable to accurately simulate actual temperatures without giving carbon dioxide a dominant role in determining temparture. The absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. That the IPCC claims it cannot conceive any other alternative cause to global warming is not ‘evidence’ nor is it even credible given the many factors not even included in the models.

I have been asked why I bother to fight this ‘concensus’ and have come to the conclusion that it is because all that is required for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing. I therefore submit my views.

**When your submission is complete**

Email your completed submission to climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

**Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.**