

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? No

1b. What is most important to you?

As a developed country we need to be setting an example for developing countries with regards to setting ambitious targets for reducing CO2 emissions. The objectives, while on the surface, seem like commendable objectives, it concerns me that the discussion document seems to be making excuses why it is more difficult for us to reduce our emissions compared with other countries because of high proportions of agricultural emissions and renewable energy. The objectives seem to be focused on the negative consequences of reducing our emissions. This is a backwards way of looking at the problem, instead we should be focused on the negative consequences of not doing anything.

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?

We are a developed country and we need to be leading the way/setting an example for other countries, particularly developing countries. We should see our high level of renewable electricity generation as an asset rather than a problem.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?

Table 1 identifies the impact of different targets on annual household consumption. However the table fails to identify the cost of doing nothing - these include increased pressure on infrastructure from more frequent and severe flooding events, providing for climate refugees, health costs from increased spread of pathogens, and of particular pertinence to Christchurch and Canterbury, the loss of land and infrastructure from sea level rise, and the effect of increased drought events on farming. I support a target of at least 40% below the 1990 levels.

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?

We need to further decrease our production of non-renewable energy. Relying entirely on renewable sources of energy would cut our greenhouse gas emissions by 22%. We also need to focus on more sustainable forms of transport, investing money in public transport rather than roads of national significance.

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Summary

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

Other comments

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