

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



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## 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?

Putting a price on carbon. Introduce an exception-free carbon tax to reflect the impact of emissions in the market and create incentives to come up with low-emission alternatives.

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?

- Emissions-heavy industries aren't an essential part of our economy but certain sectors such as further oil exploration would have to be de-prioritised.
- In agriculture such as Dairy, research would be needed to come up with low-emission alternatives. This research will be a valuable IP export as more countries introduce carbon pricing and take other steps to reduce emissions. It's worth noting that our agriculture industry survived subsidy removal in the 80s, and despite being painful came out stronger. Let's do that again.
- "Weightless economy" sectors such as software can more easily grow in low-emission ways and will continue to be a growth area for the economy.

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?

3%-5% reduction in household consumption, more heavily weighted towards top earners. Ideally, no reduction in consumption for the bottom 25% household income.

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?

- Low emission agriculture as a growth industry internationally is something we could lead.
- Moving to electric cars and reducing our dependence on imported oil would be very helpful even if the rest of the world doesn't follow our lead in reducing emissions. In particular, the global geopolitical situation could get very sticky if the world keeps heating and increased independence will help us!

Summary

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

- Put most emphasis on changes that have lower technical risk. Planting more forests doesn't require technological change. Shifting to electric cars will require that the general trajectory of reducing battery costs continues, which is not such a risky assumption. Don't wait for speculative technology changes.
- Provide R&D support for less certain technologies, particularly low-emission agriculture. Let's lead the world here, and in so doing help other countries reduce their agricultural emissions (as well as boosting the NZ economy!)

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.  
The cost of 3.5 degree warming could very well be catastrophic: the Christchurch earthquakes will be tiny in comparison. Boldness is necessary, waiting for others to go first will lead to inaction across the board.