

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?

That the costs and impacts on society are viewed with long term thinking for the benefit of future generation, not only the imminent few years.

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?

New Zealand is already leading high Renewable energy, and should not let this be used as a cop-out to delay progress in other areas, such as moving transport, urban/rural living and agriculture to low emissions.

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?

The reduction in annual household income to reach 40% reduction (or higher) is a better option than leaving emissions higher and the cost of mitigation rising in the future. Money spent on reducing emissions now will mean New Zealand Saves money in the future, as the cost of global warming due to increased flooding/severe storms/agricultural drought and damage and international instability (migration, war and foreign aid) will be far far higher costs to New Zealand in the future if money is not spent now to reduce emissions as far as possible. I fully support spending to bring New Zealand's emissions down to 40% lower than 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?

It is most important to support developments through new technologies (Renewable energy development, electrification of transport and fuel and energy efficiency) in New Zealand. Development of these technologies can then be exported to other countries and secures our ability to meet our own secure energy supply. Reducing Greenhouse gasses via forest sinks and other means is also of great importance to the ongoing development of New Zealand for future generations.

Summary

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

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target?

Use a precautionary principle to take into account future uncertainties. New Zealand research funding should support emerging technologies which will reduce greenhouse gasses. Long term support, (by policy, funding and international targets) should be accounted for and maintained for mitigation and adaptations both in New Zealand and the wider pacific.

Other comments

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

The cost and benefit calculations which the Government use in their planning for climate change should consider long term costs and inter-generational planning. These should also be viewed in the wider context to acknowledge the secondary effects climate change will have around the globe, such as sea level rise, migration, food shortages, and political instability. All these costs should be considered when thinking about the "Cost" of emissions reduction on the New Zealand budget, short term and long term. Mitigating these effects will cost the government and people of New Zealand far less in the imminent future than the cost of adaption to these global factors if they are sever in future.