

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



Copy of your submission

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?

I would prefer that NZ leads rather than follows, but what I think is most important is that we hear directly and clearly from ministers that anthropogenic climate change is real and must be taken seriously. The government must give the public the science, while acknowledging the areas of uncertainty. We need serious public debate and soon, to help convince people that we must all work towards emission reductions. There are still many climate change doubters out there.

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?

As the video explained, the nature of much of our emissions means that we cannot just shut them off. We need to intensify our research into reducing animal methane emissions, while significantly increasing our use of forests as a carbon sink.

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? I am not qualified to answer that.

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?

As I said above, much greater use of forestry, agricultural emissions research and far greater use of public transport.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target? Again, I don't feel qualified to answer that.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
I simply need to hear senior government figures say that they unequivocally accept the science as set out by the Chief Science Advisor, Sir Peter Gluckman, in his 2013 report.

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Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Climate Contribution](#)
Subject: Submission 3792
Date: Saturday, 16 May 2015 9:42:51 a.m.

Submission on Climate Change Contribution Consultation

I ask you to adopt a minimum target of a 40% reduction in net emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 – the minimum contribution required to keep us under 2 degrees global warming.

The Government consultation document treats action on climate change as a cost, whereas failure to take action is actually the cost. Treasury found that if New Zealand continues on its current trajectory of increasing emissions, the cost to taxpayers of even a modest 5% reduction target will be up to \$52 billion. The more we lower our emissions the more we will reduce this cost.

Climate change is a threat to our economy and the things it most depends on, like tourism and farming. Our agricultural nation depends on a stable climate. Our farmers will suffer increased droughts and damaging storms and profits will suffer.

Responding to climate change is worth our while. The New Climate Economy Report released in 2014 by a team of internationally renowned economists, led by Lord Nicholas Stern, found that countries can improve their economic performance while cutting emissions. The Chair of the Bank of America, the head of the OECD, the World Bank, the Vice Chair of Deutsche Bank, and many others, endorsed this finding.

I request that you stop downplaying our responsibility for climate change saying New Zealand is too small to make a difference. It's not in our national character to sit on the fence and watch others get the job done.

It's time for us to do the right thing again. We were the first to give women the vote. We stood behind our Pacific neighbours in rejecting nuclear testing. Now's our chance to create a climate plan that New Zealanders can be proud to stand behind, and that starts with a target of reducing emissions by at least 40% by 2030.

Other Comments:

"There is unequivocal evidence that the earth's climate is changing, and there is strong scientific agreement that this is predominantly as a result of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions."

The rantings of some bearded greenie? No, just the considered view of Sir Peter Gluckman, the government's Chief Scientific Advisor in his 2013 report.

Our government needs to stop prevaricating and take a much more proactive role, or face the harsh judgement of future generations.

keith muir
[REDACTED]

Referrer: action.greens.org.nz/climate-target