

Daniel Dacey

From: Frances O'Connor [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2015 7:39 p.m.
To: Climate Contribution
Subject: Submission 4252

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.

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased there is a public consultation process on climate change and how to set goals to mitigate it.

I am however disappointed with the short opportunity given to be consulted on NZ's climate target as contribution to global reduction of emissions. Issue of such importance to me, my children and their future children.

From the documents released by MFE it seems the government thinks the status quo is adequate. To present costs to households without also presenting the far greater cost of externalities is misleading. We cannot do the bare minimum on this - it will be far more costly to continue with business-as-usual.

I want our Government to talk about real and effective climate action that demonstrates that the Government takes climate change seriously. As a guide here is the outline of a real climate action plan I want to see the Government enact, if it's serious about taking pollution out of our economy.

A real climate action plan would:

- commit to a minimum 40% reduction of GHG emissions from 1990 or 1995 levels by 2030, as most other country's INDCs are committing
- Commit to have 100% renewable electricity within 10 years
- Shut Huntly coal and gas fired power station by 2020
- Phase out all subsidies for fossil fuels like coal and deep sea oil drilling
- Ban deep sea drilling and fracking for oil and gas in New Zealand.
- Develop a low carbon action plan to ensure that by 2050 all areas of energy (electricity, heating, transport and industrial use) come from clean energy sources instead of fossil fuels.
- Reform the electricity markets by guaranteeing priority access to the grid for renewable power generators.
- Shift the unnecessary \$12 billion road building programme to investment in smart rail and public transport infrastructure such as the Auckland City Rail Link.
- Prioritise the import and infrastructure needs (e.g fast charging points) for hybrid and electric vehicles.
- Make the Emissions Trading Scheme more stringent so that it works, enabling industry to move away from polluting energies.
- Implement policies to incentivise 'low input' farming methods that are proven to reduce pollution and increase farming profits.
- Prioritise geothermal projects to realise enormous export opportunities in our geothermal industry, which could be worth up over \$4 billion a year to the economy.
- Promote New Zealand as an international centre of excellence for developing and trialling ocean energy technologies.

Other Comments:

Frances O'Connor


Referrer: action.greens.org.nz/climate-target?utm_campaign=cc_target_b&utm_medium=email