

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? Yes

1b. What is most important to you?

It must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.

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?

NZ's emissions profile is heavily affected by its high production of methane from rural sources. The biggest problem is dairy intensification which also have serious effect on our waterways. Less intensive production should be encouraged through taxation or the ETS.

On the plus side, NZ has very high percentage of renewable electricity and potentially declining demand. There are real opportunities for increased personal transpotation using renewable electricity.

We should aim for (at a bare minimum) no increase beyond the 1990 base level.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

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

This question seems to assume that there will be solely costs in transitioning to a lower fossil fuel economy. That is not necessarily so, new technologies spur new investment and the result could be a reduction in household costs. Any decrease in household consumption could be due to higher efficiencies, which is a good thing.

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?

Electrification of the personal transport fleet.

Planting more trees or CO2 absorbing crops.

Improved efficiencies in greenhouse gas emitting industry and vehicles.

Increased renewable energy opportunitis such as solar and wind as costs decrease.

Battery storage technology also looks promising.

Summary

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

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target?

Talk to the experts. It is clear that there are very real and rapid costs decreases occurring in solar panels, battery storage, and wind generation.

These gains should be built into the target.

Other comments

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

I see this survey as a cynical attempt to manipulate the debate in favour of a minimal contribution. The discussion document is very cost focussed without fully considering the potential benefits from rapid technology change and the benefits from being an early adopter, both in terms of getting a jump in technology and the positive PR it will have for New Zealand overseas for tourism and export industries.

The ETS in its current design actually creates perverse incentives which has accelerated deforestation and delayed investment to the detriment of our emissions target. A ETS would work, if the subsidies and allowance of dodgy overseas credits were removed. Agriculture should be brought into the ETS but there is an argument for using a lower methane / CO2 equivalent figure than that recommended by the IPCC.