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?
The future of the human race and, more or less, of the society we have developed. As well as the future of New Zealand's special and unique environment which is also likely to be badly affected by climate change. Oh yes, and a responsible government which actually demonstrates very clearly that it is concerned about the issue.

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?
Growth of GDP seems to be the only way we determine the country's welfare. This tiny world can't keep on producing more for forever. A sensible and achievable target would be zero growth in GDP. I reckon it could be done! It's going to be hard and possibly unachievable to reduce methane production by ruminant animals. A better public transport system would allow us to reduce our current use of private cars. And a public transport system that does not just mean buses. Even though we're a funny-shaped country, better train lines would help. Perhaps it's time to abandon the old narrow gauge standard and go for better, faster trains?

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?
Reducing annual household consumption wouldn't be too hard. Let's stop buying unnecessary goods. Get rid of plastic bags. Make sure all packaging can be returned to the store it came from. Let's have a graduated GST so that more expensive items carry a higher rate of GST. People who buy the most unnecessary items can probably afford to pay a bit more for them. If we add GST to the cost or houses that would also solve Auckland's housing problems.

Logically of course the cost of imported manufactured costs should include the environmental cost of their manufacture and transport, which it certainly doesn't at present. We ought to add an import tax to their cost. 'Unfair' would our trading partners cry, but is it really? It's helping save the world.

Oh yes, and there's an unwanted comma in the question.

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?
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Develop a strategy for the introduction of better electric vehicles as they become available and make sure there is a network that can support them cheaply and easily. Build more railways or tramways to move people more efficiently round the country and around our larger cities. This would also reduce our very inefficient use of private vehicle for shifting people around. And please, please, keep funding research of developing ways of reducing emissions from ruminant animals.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
It shouldn't matter to a responsible government - do it anyway and take responsibility for those decisions. I want this world and the human race to survive beyond the next 4 or 5 generations. We've had it good, very good, don't let's spoil it for our grand-kids..

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
We are constantly told that 'This country punches above its weight'. Let's do it and set an example to the world of how emissions can be reduced and, more importantly, how we can reduce our own unnecessary consumption of goods we don't really need. A government that took bold and imaginative steps in this direction could set an example that we would all be keen to follow: other nations would then be keen to follow in in our footsteps.