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?
These objectives are so subjective as to be meaningless. Climate change is the world's biggest problem, and it is almost too late to act. The most important thing is to start reducing our emissions immediately!

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?
We need to set a mandatory (not a wooly target) emissions reduction figure, with penalties if we don't achieve it. The future of the planet is more important than making it harder for businesses to make a profit.

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 is wrong. How about "What level of cost is appropriate for the environment if we don't reduce greenhouse gas emissions?" Destruction of the planet? But to answer your first question, I would say that the emitters should pay for their emissions. Farmers pay for methane emission, factories and businesses pay for their output, etc. If individuals pay, say 2% of their income.

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?
We need to stop coal-fired power stations, stop oil and gas drilling, stop coal mining, plant more trees, spend more research to limit methane output (and probably reduce the scale of our agricultural industry), encourage investment in green technologies through subsidies and penalize fossil fuel use.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
We need to make a commitment (say 30% reduction from 1990 levels) and stick to it.
6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain. All these survey questions are couched in the language of "do as much as we can, unless it starts to negatively change our quality of life". That approach is no longer an option. The cost of not achieving emissions reductions is our planet going into a spiral of negative environmental feedback loops and ultimately the destruction of the planet. This is what the scientists have been trying to tell us for 30 years. Please, for the sake of your and our children, make some bold hard decisions and stick to them!