

Climate Change Contribution Consultation
Submission on New Zealand's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

Overview: In my view there are two overwhelming *urgent* problems threatening our planet earth and human world today: greed/corruption and climate change. This submission is about my hopes for New Zealand efforts to reduce climate change and to mitigate against the impacts of climate change, both as an individual country and as a member of the world community. As the resident European Union heads of mission Wellington recently stated in an article in the *Dominion Post*, climate change not only threatens our very existence as an island state (along with all our fellow Pacific Island nations) but it also will burden our economy. **We must act now and act effectively.**

Summary of my views

- It is frequently argued that significant action to address climate change will slow down our economy and consequently reduce our standard of living. I strongly believe that avoiding constructive action will have enormous impact on our national and world economies.
- Many scientists assert that a transition to a low carbon economy will have a positive economic impact: new jobs, cleaner air, reduced health costs, less poverty, increased innovation and greater energy security.
- If the European Union can make the strides it has already made toward reducing its carbon footprint, and planning for ambitious future reduction targets, I believe "clean, green" New Zealand can do the same.
- I am not a scientist and have not studied the detail but I think we must set a zero carbon target for ourselves, say by 2045 or earlier and set annual targets for getting there as quickly as possible.
- We must phase out our use of fossil fuel. Therefore we must not grant any more licenses for fossil fuel exploration and we must phase out any tax breaks to the fossil fuel industry, say within 10 years.
- We must invest seriously in research into renewable energy, particularly solar energy.
- We must invest seriously in relevant new technology such as electrically powered vehicles, solar powered domestic and industrial heating, recycling and the many promising new technologies which will reduce carbon emissions, pollution and waste.
- Within New Zealand and in the world community we must commit to genuinely inclusive exploration of the options, our goals and the compulsory steps to reach those goals, involving all political parties, NGOs, civil society, industry and unions.
- We must make a commitment to our Pacific neighbours to work with them in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

