

Questions to guide your feedback

Your submission may address any aspect of the discussion document, but we would appreciate you paying particular attention to the questions posed throughout and listed in this form. You may answer some or all of the questions. To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, you should explain your rationale and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

Contact information

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Objectives for the contribution

1a. We have set the following three objectives for our contribution:

- **it is seen as a fair and ambitious contribution – both by international and domestic audiences**
- **costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately**
- **it must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.**

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?

Yes

We conditionally support the objectives with the following conditions:

- That the terminology :”fair and ambitiou”s be used to apply not only to society now, but to future generations and to the whole global community, not just the New Zealand community

- That the impact on individual families is given more importance than the impact on company/business profits
- That the third objective be amended to state that it must guide New Zealand NOW and over the long term and across the whole economy and all of government policy (agriculture, tourism, industry and business initiatives etc)

1b. What is most important to you?

- It is most important to us we act NOW in a proactive, ambitious and inspiring way to set an example to the world of what can be achieved. In the past New Zealand has done this with women’s suffrage and the nuclear-free movement, and we can do it again.
- It is also important to me that we have a cross party response which is committed and ambitious that we as a nation can get behind and feel proud of in the years ahead. We need to follow the UK example and get national emissions targets into domestic law to ensure we reach our targets, regardless of which political party is in power.

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 believe that New Zealand should set a very high target, for zero CO2 emissions by 2050 or earlier, with strong targets to take us there (as per the European Union target) as well as addressing other greenhouse gas emissions during that time. Having such a target will create a strong incentive and drive to bring out our creative and innovative “number 8 wire” mentality. Supporting innovative responses will lead to business and science solutions that have the potential to support and grow our economy. We have an amazing level of science innovation in this country and we need to resource this and grow this, focussing attention on this global issue of climate change. A strong action strategy and implementation plan needs to be developed to ensure we reach our targets.

We do not believe that New Zealand’s relative low level of contribution to the greenhouse gas problem should influence the effort we make. We are a first world nation, and have the resourcefulness to contribute significantly to addressing climate change which impacts all of us on this planet, no matter how much we contribute to the problem or not. Being a coastal nation, we will feel the impact significantly. First world countries in particular need to step up and provide strong leadership in resolving the problems we are facing, noting that we are the nations that have caused most of the greenhouse gas emissions.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?

As noted above, there is potential for an economic benefit to accrue to New Zealand if we set an ambitious target. We consider that polluters should pay, in particular, corporate companies pay the full cost of their pollution. This will help drive innovation within business to support and resource ‘greener’ products. There should not be an impact on annual household consumption at the family level for those that are not causing greenhouse gas emissions. Costs should be met by companies

producing goods that rely on fossil fuels, through a reduction in their profit margins. There is a need for economic incentives to drive change and innovation within business itself. The full cost of production should be reflected in consumer goods to drive change towards carbon zero purchasing decisions.

Essentially however, this is not the question we need to be asking. The question should be, what is the cost to all of us now and in the future of not acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Reports show the trillions of dollars that will need to be spent to address extreme weather events, droughts, floods etc, the loss of agricultural crops, loss of coastal cities etc etc if we do not manage to keep climate change to a 2 degree change. Any cost now, however high, will be small to what will be needed if we do not reduce greenhouse emissions. While New Zealand in itself does not contribute much, why should we be exempt from doing our part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions? Our children will be impacted as much as anyone else.

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 strongly believe that New Zealand agricultural sector needs to diversify and look to producing more sustainable agricultural products, that can be produced with lower greenhouse gas emissions. In particular, moving away from dairying and into more sustainable cropping and dry land agriculture. This will also have positive impacts on our water resources in terms of addressing water quality issues. Having a strong carbon zero based economy would also support growing tree crops, which could lead to higher business growth in tree based consumer items, for house building, furniture etc.

We believe we need to have a much stronger focus on reducing transport emissions. Our emissions through transport have increased significantly since 1990 and this is not acceptable in light of climate change predictions. We need to focus on behaviour change, and significantly increase resourcing of public transport which is currently woeful. If there was a well resourced and planned public transport system, people would use it more. It is a catch-22 situation. The time to act is now. Similarly, proactively incentivising train transport over trucks to move goods around the country would reduce our emissions.

Providing high levels of government support to high tech innovative business is also a great currently untapped way for New Zealand to reduce its emissions. It also has so many spin-off benefits for our economy.

Summary

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

We strongly believe we need to set an ambitious and inspiring target regardless of uncertainties. Uncertainties can be addressed as they arise and should not distract us from the incredibly frightening scenarios of not acting to address climate change. Undertaking a commitment to a carbon zero future has so many benefits across society into the future in terms of health and

wellbeing that we need to focus on that goal and use all our kiwi ingenuity and resourcefulness to that end. Given what the scientific research shows us will occur if we do not act, there is no sensible or wise alternative but to focus on a carbon zero future. Let's embrace that challenge, not be scared of it.

Other comments

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

We recognise the size and complexity of the climate change issues. Because of that, and because of what is at stake, we cannot afford to not work together as one country, as one people to address climate change in a proactive and positive way. We need a whole of government approach and all political parties to work together to enable policy that facilitates communities, businesses and government taking action together.

When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.