

Setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations.

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our [Consultation on New Zealand's post-2020 international climate change contribution web page](#)
- Read our discussion document: [New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement](#)

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

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
- No

1b. What is most important to you?

Most important is that our “emissions target” should have no costs or impacts on society i.e. we should have no specific target. Over the long term we will move naturally towards lower emissions as our businesses, industries and consumers strive to be more efficient and reduce costs as they have always done. For example, cars have got more and more efficient over the years and will continue to do so. I have just replaced most of the light bulbs in my house with LED’s but only because they last longer and cost me less to run – not because they reduce CO2 emissions.

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?

China has "pledged" to continue increasing emissions up to 2030. The US has said it will "reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases 26 percent to 28 percent below the levels recorded in 2005, by 2025" which it was on to track to do anyway as its coal fired power stations get converted to cheap natural gas. India can't afford to make any emission reductions and Russia certainly won't be. The Middle East basket cases are too busy generating CO2 by destroying their infrastructure and blowing up their cities so they won't be doing anything. Africa needs more power stations to stop their people from cutting down trees for firewood so they won't be setting any "targets". Canada is busy extracting oil from tar sands and selling it to China and South America won't be coming to the party either. So, a "fair contribution for New Zealand" would be exactly nothing. On the other hand, one positive contribution we could make is **not** to burn a heap of jet fuel sending bureaucrats to the 21st Conference of Partygoers in Paris.

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?

There should be no cost to New Zealand because there is no need to reduce our CO2 emissions which are miniscule compared to the rest of the world. We already have one of the lowest emitting electricity generation systems in the world and our transport and industry emissions are on a par with, or better than, most other countries. We should not include farm animal emissions as nothing can be done about them apart from killing off the stock. However this would be counterproductive as less efficient countries will simply take up the slack and produce the same amount of food with even more emissions.

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?

Item 1 *Fuel and energy efficiency*: Will happen anyway regardless of an emissions target because it reduces costs.

Item 2 *New technology to make use of renewable electricity*: Will happen anyway regardless of an emissions target if it is cost effective. Overall CO2 emissions for electric cars, considering what goes into manufacturing them and making and disposing of the batteries, is questionable.

Item 3 *Transition to a low-carbon economy leads to greater energy security*: The best way to have energy security would be to find more oil and gas reserves in and around New Zealand (i.e. drill for oil wherever it may be) and extend our one refinery so that we can process it ourselves.

Item 4 *Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing forest sinks can lead to improved health, environmental and social well-being* : Considering that CO2 is not a toxic or poisonous gas (we breathe it out) and it is vital for plant growth, it is hard to see how spending a huge amount of money trying to reduce it could possibly “lead to improved health”. It is far more likely that wasting money that could otherwise be spent on things that actually improve people’s lives, will decrease social well-being and health.

Item 5 *Remaining aligned with the global transition to a lower-carbon economy....*: This is the most ridiculous statement in the whole document. Does anyone really think the rest of the world will stop buying food from us if we don’t have an emission reduction target? The whole idea is laughable.

Summary

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

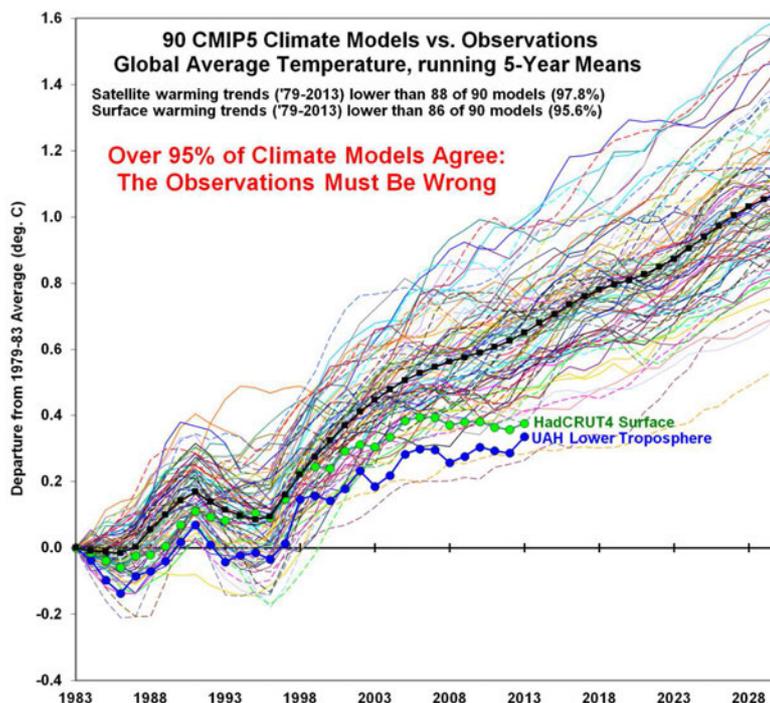
That’s the whole point! Future technologies and costs are unknown so we shouldn’t set any target at all. For all we know suitcase sized fusion reactors may be available in 10 years time that will revolutionise the transport and energy sectors.

Other comments

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

The science is not at all settled that CO2 is the control knob for global warming.

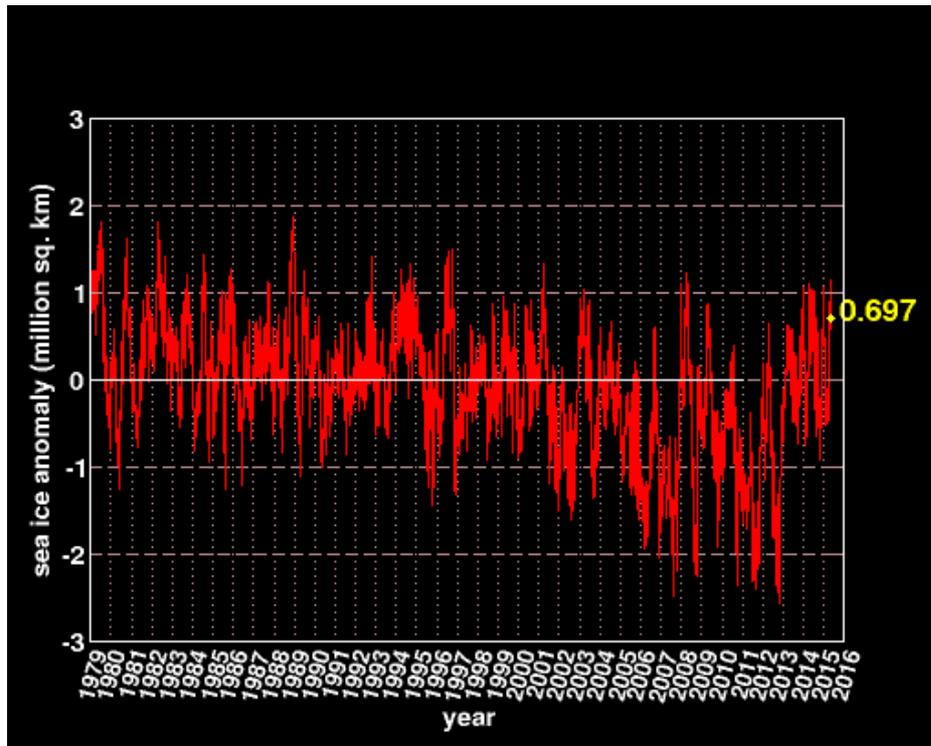
This is borne out by the failure of the CMIP5 models to match observations.



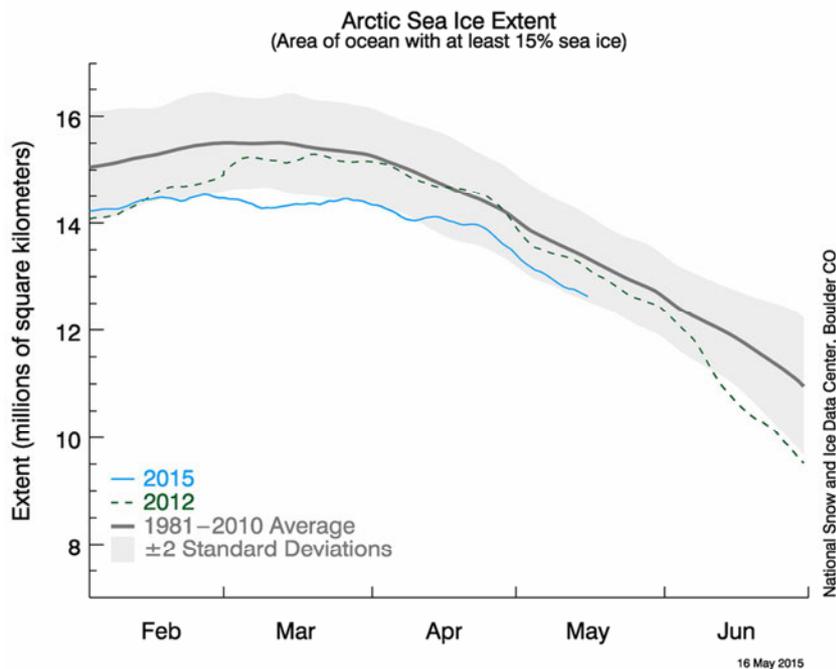
The RSS and UAH satellite data sets show there has been little or no global warming for around 18 years while CO2 levels have continued to rise.



Global sea ice areas are above normal.



Antarctic sea ice area has been increasing since satellite observations began and Arctic sea ice is within two standard deviations of the 30 year average.



There has also been no acceleration in sea level rise.

Carbon dioxide is a colourless odourless gas that makes up only 0.04% of the atmosphere and is vital to all life on earth. The climate sensitivity assumed by the IPCC climate scientists and plugged into climate models is clearly way too high, and the various feedbacks are not accurately accounted for.

The little warming that may be caused by CO₂ is certainly not “catastrophic” and will most likely be beneficial to life on earth and New Zealand in particular.

It makes no sense to damage our economy by agreeing to an emissions reduction target that will have no measurable effect on the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

I attended the public consultation meeting in Auckland and was amazed at the naivety of most of those in the audience. Do the ones calling for a 40% reduction on 1990 emissions really understand what it would mean to halve our current CO₂ output? Half our farm animals would need to be killed off, we would have to have carless days every second day, industry output would need to halve, construction work would be limited by a shortage of cement, and prices for everything would rise significantly. Overseas trips and holiday journeys would need to be severely curtailed and of course we would need to limit the tourists coming in. In fact New Zealand would become a sad and depressing place to live.

To summarise: The best thing for New Zealand is to have no emission reduction target at all and do everyone a favour by just not turning up in Paris.

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.