

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? No

1b. What is most important to you?

The threat of climate change to the future of New Zealand being a pacific island, is great. Many of us live on the coastline where sea erosion is already a huge problem losing a meter a year just 10 minutes from me. The constant pressure to the environment of fossil fuels is life threatening to all species on earth. Economics of overproduction at all costs can no longer weigh heavily on our decisions. Cost of life is more important than costs to the bank balance. We need to be more ambitious in addressing the effects for future generations and less concerned with the bottom line because if we dont the impact on the people and environment will not be able to be 'managed' at all.

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?

I believe that we need a hefty target and strong approach. Looking at less than 35-40% by 2030 is suicide. We are a innovative country. If we cannot do as well as Demark, we are not even getting out of bed.

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?

You need to be targeting business not households. But getting as many people off the grid as possible would help. The affect on NZers will be huge. We have very little land to retreat onto with sea level rises. We are already experiencing the affects of weather events and earthquake. Situated where we are many more will be affected as Chch were. The cost to the economy of NOT heading towards substantial targets is unthinkable.

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?

NZ has a unique opportunity to put its efforts towards developing alternative energy, aside from the existing hydro, and become a world leader in that technology. We should be utilising our abilities to get completely of the grid as a nation and as a people. We should be converting cars to electricity, putting solar on our roofs and wind in our fields. We should me developing low emissions products, and penalising companies that don't convert to low emissions severely. We should be building an efficient electric rail network throughout our cities and the land to get as many large transport vehicles off the roads as possible and that instead of building more roads. We should be encouraged to use this light rail in preference to fossil fuel vehicles and eventually get them off the road altogether.

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Summary

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

There are no future uncertainties. The technology is already there. It is only the political will to encourage its production that is the problem. Governments need to stop being scared of multinational companies wedded to continuing as we are. This is THE most important issue and the greatest threat there is...hubris!

Other comments

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

Government priorities need to be completely overhauled. Instead of being concerned so much about GDP, they should be looking at the welfare of the people on all levels. Expenditure need to be revised towards needs, present and future, of maintaining and sustaining the people in a healthy way that they might be able to and WANT to contribute to the good of the whole not just struggle through every day as they currently are in NZ. Getting rid of fossil fuel cars and transport would clean up so much more than climate change. Many illnesses are the result of air pollution as they found in London in 1953. Getting us all unaddicted from petroleum will be our saviour. However, if we don't manage that transition with the utmost haste we will go down the tube economically as the post oil world bites further and further into 'business as usual'. We need to be getting off it yesterday, not only when the REAL crisis hits.