

**New Zealand's Climate Change Target**  
Submission on the discussion document  
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1. Given New Zealand's vulnerability to climate change as outlined in Box 1, p 5, of the discussion document we must take the opportunity of acting decisively and boldly to significantly transition away from a carbon based energy system. We should have an '**intended nationally determined contribution**' to **reduce our net greenhouse gas emissions to 0 (zero) by 2030**. Given the IPCC's fifth assessment report scenario for 2035 if globally we continue with business as usual we will not be able to prevent the rise in global temperature to less than 2 degrees (Fig 1, p 6, Discussion Document). Faced with such a huge and destructive challenge to the people and environment of the globe, a more timid response just will not do.
2. In the 15 year interval until that date we should develop and set in place a program to safeguard the industries and jobs that currently are reliant on fossil fuels for revenue and energy, e.g. coal mining and exploration, oil and gas exploration. A 2015 report by the Coal Action Network Aotearoa (coalaction.org.nz) titled "Jobs after Coal" is an excellent beginning and as they emphasize, central government as well as local government and hapu & iwi must be involved from the start in planning a Just Transition for the affected communities. The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi must be applied to ensure that our indigenous people are part of the transition, indeed it would not be possible to achieve any sort of transition, just or otherwise, without their full contribution.
3. Such a transition needs leadership from the government (as well as cross party support) to provide policy development and legislation, not only to enable the transition to be made fairly and in the interests of the whole population, but also to expedite its application. This will require a change in attitude towards individual and national responsibility for climate change as well as legislation to encourage and enforce commitments made to rectify the damage done to the atmospheric 'global commons'. An independent Climate Commission should be set up and given the responsibility of moving this task forward, monitoring the effectiveness of the measures taken and reporting back to parliament and the people of New Zealand.
4. New Zealand has a unique opportunity to show the way forward globally and, given that if even a successful limitation of global warming to 2 degrees is achieved, all nations are going to have to change many things to adapt successfully to a hotter world. Even with the small rise in global temperature since 1900, we are currently witnessing the havoc that such a world will experience; that is, the directly attributable human deaths from heat in India let alone other environmental, human, and economic damage done in recent years by cyclones, hurricanes and torrential rain. We in New Zealand have the advantage of already having a significant amount of our power produced by renewable means and we can develop this even further to achieve 100% green power generation as well as further reducing our reliance on fossil fuels in other areas. What an example we could be and our opportunities for technological trade would be considerably enhanced.

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