

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? Yes

1b. What is most important to you? That the 'long term' of objective 3 not be 100 years

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 think it sends a clear signal that this government is not at all serious by suggesting 5% reduction and excluding the agricultural sector - it tells me they are afraid more than anything

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?

\$\$ is NOT the only 'cost' to consider. This is one of those aspect of this flimsy so-called consultation document that is amongst it's many flaws.

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?

The document gave two opportunities for NZ to reduce it's emissions. How ill - informed / pre-determined either of those outcomes is !! I was staggered at the number of good ideas that came from the floor in Rotorua- eg. including wood in buildings, stopping conversion of non agricultural into agricultural land, this list goes on. I think they are both outmoded and difficult to implememnt.

Summary

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

NZ should proceed on the basis that it is the right thing to do, for NZers as well as for the rest of the world and proceed bravely, determinedly, and with the public onside because it has been educated to buy-in and play THEIR part.

Other comments

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

Yes. Since this government is determined to sell NZ down the road with the TPPA agreement, hot on the heels of the Korean agreement fiasco, that attention be paid to the consequences for our emissions policy and action under TPPA

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Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Acting on climate change is an investment in our future.

The Government's narrow fixation on the short-term costs of taking action is flawed and damaging. This is about investing in a safe and prosperous future where we're all better off. Failing to act will cost us and the World Bank warns that the longer action is delayed, the more costs will rise for the next generation. Taking action to cut carbon pollution in New Zealand creates benefits like cleaner air, less dependence on foreign oil, better human health and more liveable cities. Our existing renewable electricity portfolio is an opportunity, not an excuse for inaction. By building on this we can be a positive example to other countries, pioneer solutions the rest of the world needs, and capture new economic opportunities.

I want the Government to act on climate change as an investment in our future.

New Zealand needs a target of zero carbon dioxide emissions.

Carbon dioxide is the main driver of long-term climate change. The discussion document highlights that for a good chance of limiting warming to less than 2°C, the world can emit less than one trillion tonnes of CO₂ from now on. At current rates of emissions, the world will blow this carbon budget by 2035. Regardless of what we do about other emissions from agriculture, every country ultimately needs to reduce CO₂ emissions to zero to stop climate change and avoid blowing the global carbon budget. That means shifting from fossil fuels to clean energy and planting forests to absorb carbon.

I want New Zealand to call for a global zero carbon target, and walk the talk by committing to a pathway towards zero CO2 emissions by 2050 or earlier (alongside reductions in other greenhouse gases).

Targets need to be backed up with a credible plan.

In order to meet our targets we need a credible national strategy for how we can achieve them. Without a clear pathway, targets are just empty numbers. Despite existing targets for 2020 and 2050, New Zealand's emissions have continued to rise. Official projections say they will continue rising under current policies. Our international reputation can't survive that much longer - we need real results.

I want to see a real action plan that adds up.

We need a climate change law to keep government on track.

The UK Climate Change Act provides a model for government commitment and accountability that New Zealand should adopt. This Act puts national emissions targets in domestic law (which is not the case in New Zealand) and requires every government to produce credible plans to meet these. This will show other countries we are serious. The Act also sets up an independent Climate Commission to advise government on its policies and hold whoever is in power accountable. This makes the issue of climate change less politicised by having an authoritative independent voice in the debate.

I want a New Zealand climate law that holds the government accountable for reducing emissions, and an independent Climate Commission.

We need political parties to work together.

This issue needs cooperation across the political spectrum and efforts to engage all New Zealanders in the solutions. Climate policy can't go on being a political football with major policy flip-flops every time there's a change in government. We need stable climate policy that

steers us clearly towards a zero carbon society. This will allow businesses to make good long-term decisions and New Zealand will benefit by attracting investment in low carbon industries and innovation.

I want the Government to establish a cross-party climate working group and an ongoing programme to engage meaningfully with New Zealanders on climate change solutions.

We can't wait.

An exciting zero carbon future is waiting for us if we choose it. We need to start building it today. Previous generations didn't understand the gravity of the problem and didn't have the technologies to solve it, but the current generation in charge has neither excuse. Delaying action makes it harder to meet our targets and lumps more costs onto young people to deal with in the future. There are many beneficial actions the Government could take now together with businesses and communities to kick-start the transition.

I want to see meaningful policy changes that will start cutting New Zealand's emissions, during this term of government.

In particular:

Yes. Include the agricultural sector in the discussion and calculations, and STOP completely any further land into agricultural farming.

Further comments:

I attended Rotohuru's "consultation" - and was appalled at the flimsy, biased document we had to retrace ourselves if we wanted to read it. It was unimaginative, and in parts incorrect. The govt depts responsible could learn a lot from the many speakers who had sound ideas and up-to-date information.