

Submission to *Climate Change Contribution Consultation*

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My submission:

The fundamental point of the government approach to climate change should be to keep global warming below the 2-degree threshold.

This will require, I understand, us adopting the most stringent of the measures indicated your consultation document:

Reduction of emissions by 40% lower than 1990 levels.

Your document lays out the cost of this to new Zealanders of \$1800 per year per household. This is not actually a great deal more than the figure required for a 5% reduction.

I strongly feel that Governments and its Ministers need to get real on this issue. Countering climate change will of course involve costs and inconvenience to people in general but the risk of doing nothing or too little are terrible.

We risk the failure of crops and so the level of stock raising we are use too. We risk the world in general falling into anarchy which, even if it doesn't happen here, will end our tourism industry and much of our export base. We risk export capability itself if seas become too stormy. We risk invasion by desperate people and states.

What I would like to see is cross-party acknowledgement of these risks and commitment to real, effective action. That way political parties cannot present themselves as havens for voters who cannot face the reality of climate change and who will perpetuate the state of climate action in this country for so long: the appearance of doing something while our emissions soar. This is a moral issue and must transcend political ambition. There is no more time for inaction.

To this end I want the government to take to Paris a commitment to reduce emissions to 40% below 1990 levels and to make a start right away.

It will do this by phasing our extraction of coal for export, power generation and industrial use. Not easy but with sufficient warning and commitment it is possible.

Encouraging the use of non-fossil fuel transport or at least efficient fuel vehicles. For example all vehicle costs – road tax, insurance -could be added to fuel costs making leaving the car at home more attractive.

The adoption of emerging technology to reduce the emissions by livestock of methane. There is funding for this but the technology must be implemented as soon as it is proved effective.

Planting of new forests for timber production (a carbon sink) and also firewood for fuel for industry.

It could be argued that NZ is a small country whose influence on climate is negligible. But we are superbly placed by our natural resources, our sunlight hours and rivers; our great spaces for planting forests and the low population itself to make bold changes in the way we live. Our example would encourage other states of much greater size to step up their game and really start saving the planet.