

# 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](http://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](http://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

Name	Derek Shaw
Organisation (if applicable)	
Address	████████████████████
Telephone	████████
Email	██████████

### 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 but only partially
- No

**1b. What is most important to you?**

Setting a target that is science-led and is needed to try and keep the average global temperature increase to below 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels. Also setting a target that is ambitious and optimistic, which will also help provide some global leadership – given our current position on UN Security Council. We also need a target that drives our transition to a low emissions –post Carbon society in the short and medium term as part of this global leadership on emissions reductions.

### 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?**

## 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?**

Not very concerned about this aspect as the cost and impacts of not limiting the average global temperature increase are likely to be much more severe and substantial than any short term cost – as illustrated by the Stern report.

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?**

## Summary

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

We should utilise current technologies that will assist with the transition to low emissions-post carbon future and not rely on waiting for better technologies that may or may not eventuate. We should largely ignore financial uncertainties as the cost of not changing is quite likely to cost more in the medium to long term terms in terms of environmental, social and financial costs. We should definitely not rely on future technologies to achieve our reductions as there is no certainty of them eventuating, if they do happen then that should be regarded as a bonus and could also be used to help create an over-achievement culture.

## Other comments

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

It would have been good to have seen some information on the cost to households of not achieving emission targets to help put Table 1 figures into perspective.

It will be very important that the Government works with the other political parties to try and get as ambitious target as possible that has broad political support to help ensure that the most important issue facing the world today transcends party politics and provides some basis for our children to be genuinely optimistic about the future.

There needs to be some comprehensive and immediate policy and regulation changes that dramatically reduces our use of fossil carbons such as coal, oil and gas and increases our proportion of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biofuels (excluding large scale hydro) and also increases our use of electric public transport, cycling and walking. For example Government should require the power companies to provide long term pricing that encourages investment in photo – voltaic solar energy rather than allowing them to dramatically reduce the price they now provide to those who have invested in PV panels. We should also look to producing food for our domestic and overseas markets that results in a significant reduction in greenhouse emissions, as well as reducing the number of agricultural animals in the country as part of a policy to reduce the emissions of methane gases from this sector.

We should endeavour to initially achieve as much as of our emissions reduction target as possible within the country before using offshore carbon credits. If we then have to use carbon credits from overseas then we should use those with ethical environmental and social considerations that will improve the planet’s biophysical health and functioning, such as targetting those that help retain or restore tropical forest ecosystems.

## When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to [climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz](mailto: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.**