

# Consultation on setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target



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## 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?

I agree with 1a but it does need a little more explanation about clearer commitments

Fair and ambitious need some quantifying

What does cost and impacts on society are "managed appropriately" entail? Needs more explanation.

Realistically guide NZ over the long term in a global transition to a low emissions world is most important.

## 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?

Agriculture produces 50% of New Zealand's emissions therefore this industry must look closely at how it operates. This is the key place NZ must look to for reducing its GHGs. The full costs to society of industrial agriculture must be counted. If agriculture cannot afford to address its negative externalities then it needs to take a long look at its business model. In reality the NZ agricultural sectors is no longer the grass fed, quaint image of animals in the open air producing lovely healthy food, the image it relies upon for international marketing purposes. It is large scale industrial farming. Despite the so called economic benefits it provides for NZ, industrial farming has come at a significant cost to New Zealand's environment and society. The true costs are rarely considered and cannot be mitigated by token offsetting. Carbon taxes and a new best operating model for industrial farming (scaled back, go indoors, contain waste, ban coal fired factories, reduce the use of fertiliser) will help reduce NZ's emissions toward a low emissions world. New Zealand must encourage more organic farmers and incentivise them for doing the right thing.

Transport - the second largest producer of emissions. Convince the current government to change its focus on roads of national significance to more use of alternative modes. More roads simply equates with more cars. Increase spending on active and public transport facilities and target the freight industry to contribute more to pay for the roads it needs and fund alternative modes of transport. Healthy liveable cities with good active and public transport makes people happy and healthy, reduces emissions and increases productivity. Today our cities are destined to become congested and unproductive.

## 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 would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?

Aim for a steady state economy. Try to think about the next generations and ask will they afford the quality of life that we have today? More information about the cost to the environment and society of consumption would be

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helpful. New Zealand is in the unique position of being able to enjoy a good quality of life as well as a thriving green economy.

Encourage a new way of thinking about how and what people need versus want. Lead by example with changing industry and government ideals first, people cannot be expected to change their consumption patterns unless it is carried out from the top down. There is already a lot of grass roots action occurring around New Zealand communities. Many people are well aware what they need to do.

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? Reductions in the agricultural and transport sector. These are the places that provide the greatest opportunities to make any significant reductions to emissions in New Zealand. More use of green energy technology and alternative sources of electricity (wind, solar) and better building codes for housing.

## Summary

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

Embrace new technology. We are small country and there are many opportunities to trial new technologies. Take Christchurch for example, the earthquakes have provided an ideal opportunity to install electric vehicle facilities and realign active transport routes. Has this opportunity been siezed?

## Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.  
New Zealand is in an ideal position (strong economy, educated people, high level of natural capital, adaptability, culture, and space) to be leading the world toward low emissions. We can do this.