

Matthew James Sole

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To whom it may concern

I am disappointed that we have been given an unacceptably short opportunity to be consulted on an issue of such importance to me, my children and their future children.

I ask the government to immediately commit to action of a scale commensurate with the risk that unabated climate change poses.

I request the Government sets up a permanent, standing consultative body to interact with the community on climate change based on the principle of continuous dialogue rather than a one-off collection of submissions. This problem is going to require concerted effort, sustained across many generations, and it needs proper resourcing.

It is telling and concerning the disparity between consultation and resource effort between Climate change and the flag referendum.

The discussion document outlines some of the costs of mitigation but fails to discuss the hugely greater costs of inaction.

A meaningful discussion should present the costs of inaction along with cost doing something now verses later.

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. For our longer term future - we need real results.

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

A zero carbon future is the direction. 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.

Ask that the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC):

(i) commits to a global and NZ zero carbon target by 2050 or sooner with annual steps to get there as quickly as possible

(ii) places an immediate moratorium on fossil fuel exploration, and pledges to phase out existing extraction in the next decade. All subsidies, tax-breaks and funding to fossil fuels are also phased out within the decade.

(iii) includes credible, transparent, cross-party plans, with a legislated independent Climate Commission to ensure NZ meets its targets and stays within the global carbon budget.

(iv) Abides by the articles laid out in Te Tiriti o Waitangi

(v) includes health and fairness and the true cost of inaction on climate change in the assessment of costs and benefits

(vi) follows transparent decision-making process after the consultation period ends

Thanks to various community bodies concerned about our future that I drew on in preparing this submission.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Sole

3 June 2015