Submission on Climate Change Contribution Consultation

I ask you to adopt a minimum target of a 40% reduction in net emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 – the minimum contribution required to keep us under 2 degrees global warming.

The Government consultation document treats action on climate change as a cost, whereas failure to take action is actually the cost. Treasury found that if New Zealand continues on its current trajectory of increasing emissions, the cost to taxpayers of even a modest 5% reduction target will be up to $52 billion. The more we lower our emissions the more we will reduce this cost.

Climate change is a threat to our economy and the things it most depends on, like tourism and farming. Our agricultural nation depends on a stable climate. Our farmers will suffer increased droughts and damaging storms and profits will suffer.

Responding to climate change is worth our while. The New Climate Economy Report released in 2014 by a team of internationally renowned economists, led by Lord Nicholas Stern, found that countries can improve their economic performance while cutting emissions. The Chair of the Bank of America, the head of the OECD, the World Bank, the Vice Chair of Deutsche Bank, and many others, endorsed this finding.

I request that you stop downplaying our responsibility for climate change saying New Zealand is too small to make a difference. It’s not in our national character to sit on the fence and watch others get the job done.

It’s time for us to do the right thing again. We were the first to give women the vote. We stood behind our Pacific neighbours in rejecting nuclear testing. Now’s our chance to create a climate plan that New Zealanders can be proud to stand behind, and that starts with a target of reducing emissions by at least 40% by 2030.

Other Comments:

It’s time for us to do the right thing again. We were the first to give women the vote. We stood behind our Pacific neighbours in rejecting nuclear testing. Now’s our chance to create a climate plan that New Zealanders can be proud to stand behind. PLEASE CONSIDER CLIMATE CHANGE AS AN ITEM OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE. We only have one chance to reverse the damage we have done.

Bernadette Staal

To whom it may concern within the NZ Government and other decision makers,

I am disappointed New Zealand is falling behind the 'times' in relation to promoting a drop in the use of fossil fuels to assist us in reducing the pollution that has detrimental effects on climate change.

Some people like myself have taken action and installed Solar Panels etc but the cost to us the consumer is high. I would love to take the matter further by having government assistance to install batteries to store power, having
the cost of installing wind turbines reduced to allow suburban homes to be able to afford this as another form of power generation.

There are so many other things that New Zealand can be doing to make sure we are as 'Clean' and 'Green' as we promote ourselves to be to the wider world.

Please come on board and make this issue a priority.

I want the Government to talk about real climate action. Tangible action within New Zealand that demonstrates that the Government will take climate change seriously. Without a real action plan to reduce climate pollution, the Government risks damaging our global reputation and wrecking our economy. But most importantly, they are denying New Zealanders the cleaner, smarter and safer future that we all deserve.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Staal