

# 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?

1b. What is most important to you?

Solutions to climate change will need to be global, radical and realistic. Market solutions alone will not achieve carbon emissions reductions. New Zealand might not be able to save the world, but it is also New Zealand's responsibility to show how the world can be saved.

I want the Government to act on climate change as an investment in our future.?

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?

I want New Zealand to call for a global zero carbon target, and walk the talk by committing to a pathway towards zero CO2 emissions by 2050 or earlier (alongside reductions in other greenhouse gases).

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?

This is about investing in a safe and prosperous future where we're all better off. Failing to act will cost us and the World Bank warns that the longer action is delayed, the more costs will rise for the next generation. Taking action to cut carbon pollution in New Zealand creates benefits like cleaner air, less dependence on foreign oil, better human health and more liveable cities. Our existing renewable electricity portfolio is an opportunity, not an excuse for inaction. By building on this we can be a positive example to other countries, pioneer solutions the rest of the world needs, and capture new economic opportunities.

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?

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. Our international reputation can't survive that much longer - we need real results.

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

I want to see a real action plan that adds up.

I want a New Zealand climate law that holds the government accountable for reducing emissions, and an

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independent Climate Commission.

I want to see meaningful policy changes that will start cutting New Zealand's emissions, during this term of government.

## Summary

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

Increase funding for science, research and development; the government needs to listen to the best advice available from New Zealanders based on their local research.

## Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.  
What has been missing in New Zealand in the lead up to the Paris Summit on climate change is public involvement in the debate and the mobilisation of greater public influence in setting a 'number' and writing a 'narrative' as to how the New Zealand economy will be restructured to achieve this number.

Solutions to climate change will need to be global, radical and realistic. Market solutions alone will not achieve carbon emissions reductions. New Zealand might not be able to save the world, but it is also New Zealand's responsibility to show how the world can be saved.

Sustainable development – ecological forces driving the shape of the economy – with a balance struck in the long run between humanity, the resources it consumes and the effect of its activity on the environment, including the atmosphere, is an organising principle for human life on a finite planet. Sustainable development ties together concern for the carrying capacity of natural systems with the social and economic challenges faced by humanity such as climate change.

The problem of establishing such a balance is not one of science and technology, but political and social. One thing, however, is undeniable; such a balance would be incompatible with a world economy based on unlimited growth. From the environment's point of view, if humanity is to have a future the current economic paradigm cannot. If we are to prevent catastrophic climate change we cannot prolong the past or present.

Sustainability and sustainable development are about collective values and related choices, and almost certainly incorporate the most important political issues of the 21st century. New Zealand needs an inclusive, bi-partisan public debate if we are to provide leadership and set targets to ensure the world meets the 2°C target.