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Climate Change Contribution Consultation,
Ministry for the Environment,
PO Box 10362,
Wellington 6143

Submission on Climate Change Contribution

1. The government must take realistic efforts to promote and establish a low carbon economy if the effects of climate change and global warming are to be minimised.
2. It is clear that New Zealand's carbon emissions are rising rapidly. Emissions should be consistent with the European Union's target of a 40% reduction below 1990 levels by 2030.
3. New Zealand needs to adopt a zero carbon emissions target. Part of this process could include assisting with research into low carbon technology and providing other incentives for such as alternative power generation and land use methods.
4. The Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) must be abolished as it is clear that it does not work and merely allows large polluters to evade their obligations to cut emissions.
5. The ETS should be replaced by a carbon tax that applies to all carbon emitters, including the agriculture industry. If a realistic carbon tax causes some products to become more expensive I accept that this will be part of the process of moving towards a low carbon economy.
6. All income from a carbon tax should be used to help develop a low carbon economy.
7. The government needs to accept that for every year it fails to implement a low carbon regime causes a net loss to the economy. These will arise from losses to industry, eg lost opportunities to become a leading supplier of low carbon technology, or, from losses caused by the negative social costs of climate change eg, inundation of low lying areas due to rising sea level.

8. The discussion document emphasises the monetary costs of implementing a low carbon economy. However, the cost of not implementing a low carbon economy may be the extinction of a large percentage of the world's biodiversity, including human beings.

Yours faithfully,



Bruce Stuart-Menteath