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

Copy of your submission

Contact information

Name   Anne Thomson

Organisation (if applicable)

Address  

Telephone  

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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?
That we are part of a concerted global movement to reduce carbon emissions as soon as possible, because the costs of not doing so will be enormous

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?
The opportunities to take advantage of clean technology and sustainable energy will more than compensate for the costs of moving away from our current disastrous increase in emissions. We cannot afford to ignore the costs of continuing on the path we are on, increasing emissions at the rate we have done since 1990.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce it's greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?
I believe 5% per annum reduction in emissions leaves us with a chance of keeping the increase in global temperature below 2 degrees. If we do not do this, the cost will be prohibitive and injurious to human health and flourishing in my children's and grand children's lifetimes

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? Developing new energy technologies like sustainable biofuels, electric cars and solar water systems, and moving as quickly as possible away from our dependence on fossil fuels.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
In the light of the certainty that the rise in temperature over 2 degrees will occur unless we leave 75% of known fossil fuel reserves in the ground, we need to abandon our illogical and uneconomic (long term) pursuit of fossil fuel exploration and be very very aware of inter generational fairness when setting our target. Any future uncertainty
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around technologies and costs is nothing compared with the certain cost of continuing on our current course.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
I want to see the government supporting research and development into reduction of emissions in agriculture and looking very seriously at the rampant expansion of dairying. Reward environmentally responsible farmers and come down very heavily on those who fail to take precautions to limit their methane and nitrogen outputs.