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

Copy of your submission

Contact information

Name   Kay Trayling

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

Telephone

Email

Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?

1b. What is most important to you?

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 am concerned with leaving the environment intact from here on rather than emission levels. Existing coal mines and oil and gas wells could be phased out as production gets too low. By which time big power guzzling industries could be hugely more power efficient eg Comalco.

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? Industrial consumption should be tackled rather household.

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?
All of them are important, and one must just hope that they occur (not a fortune teller!) sooner rather than later. I am very keen on the phasing in of a transition to a low-carbon economy based on based on Organics, Renewable Energy, Small Business, and Tourism.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
By sticking to the proven, age old technologies based on people and environment centred objectives. R and D into Organics, Renewable Energy, Small Business, and Tourism.

Other comments
6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
I do not agree with the Government argument that climate action will be too expensive, because it must consider the economic and environmental costs of doing nothing. Most of us want our grandchildren and great grandchildren to have a good life in a clean environment. And it needs to look at the enormous financial and job creation benefits of moving towards a cleaner, safer future.

So instead of talking about meaningless targets, the Government should talk about real climate action that shows that the Government will take climate change seriously. Here are the main points of a climate action plan I would like to see the Government enact, if it’s serious about taking pollution out of our economy:

- Commit to have 100% renewable electricity within 10 years
- Remove subsidies for fossil fuels like coal and deep sea oil drilling
- Ban fracking for oil and gas in New Zealand.
- Shift the unnecessary $12 billion road building programme to investment in smart rail, cycleways, and public transport infrastructure such as the Auckland City Rail Link.
- Implement policies to incentify ‘low input’ farming methods that are proven to reduce pollution and increase farming profits. Support and encouragement for proven organic methods.