

Sandra Turner



3 June 2015

**Re: Climate Change Contribution Consultation**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this globally important topic.

This is a brief submission in response to the discussion document prepared by the Ministry for the Environment and based on scientific and social literature I have read in regard to climate change, its potential effects and the measures required urgently to minimise the global impacts.

**Objectives**

We need ambitious targets and associated resources that:

- Considers the cost of inaction,
- Reflects the national and global importance of this issue,
- Educates New Zealanders about the science, importance and effects of climate change and the great potential NZ has to adapt,
- Empowers and resources New Zealand to adapt to new technology,
- Recognise the needs to have a pathway for the whole of government and society to bring effect to the targets, and
- Considers our unique and diverse biodiversity.

**Fair contribution**

I consider the targets we need to set, in order to have some chance of managing the effects of climate changes, should be in the order of at least:

- 40% reduction of greenhouse gases (compared to 1990 figures) by 2030
- 95% reduction of greenhouse gases (compared to 1990 figures) by 2050

It may be with NZ ingenuity (and global advances) we could be more aggressive with these targets, so it is important to have monitoring and a mechanism to allow for larger reductions sooner. Even with these reductions the impacts of climate change are likely to be serious for my children and grandchildren's generations so we need to ensure we reduce our emissions by as much, and as quickly, as possible.

**Costs**

Cost analysis needs to consider the wide ranging costs associated with the effects of climate change nationally and internationally. The focus to date has been on the costs of reducing emissions alone, not on the potential costs of climate change effects and the burden to future business and society of a lack of strategic action.

## **New opportunities**

All the opportunities outlined in the document are important and there are, and will be, many more opportunities and benefits in taking wise early action.

I think NZ has good opportunities to make our electrical energy supply 100% renewable, to transform our transport to being largely electric based, to increase the comfort, safety and ease of public transport, cycling and walking and to minimise our involvement and investment in coal or fossil fuel production. I agree that of course there are economic and social challenges in addressing this issue but the most important thing is to set the targets and to develop a robust framework to ensure these targets are met and that New Zealanders understand their part in that.

## **Uncertainty**

The impacts of climate change are indeed uncertain and we need to do as much as possible to minimise the chances of catastrophic effects, through early and well managed processes and frameworks to reduce emissions. This will provide more certainty to business, communities and individuals.

I wish the MfE and Government courage in this extraordinarily challenging task, in setting bold targets, in strong, fair and wise leadership prior to and in Paris and in allowing the possibility of a safe and thriving future for children and grandchildren in all nations.