

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



Copy of your submission

Contact information

Name Patricia Harty Vanderburg

Organisation (if applicable)

Address [REDACTED]

Telephone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? Yes

1b. What is most important to you?

That the response reflect New Zealand values of respect for human rights and fairness. It should also strengthen our lead on use of renewable energy and tap New Zealand skills for developing visionary, positive and ambitious commitment to "making things right". We should be a leader in reducing our emissions and turning things around. With strong leadership from central government and participation in existing and new initiatives at the community and household level we should match or exceed the EU pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030.

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?

We do have challenges, especially as our greenhouse gases have sharply risen over the last decade and our participation and commitment to international cooperation have fallen short leaving us in the position of, if nothing is done, our current practices will not only not reduce our emissions but increase them up to 50% over the next 10 years! Because of this we have a need for urgent and major moves to correct our practices as a nation. Our targets need to address both the international responsibility as a respected global participant and a need to redress our practices in recent years.

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?

When determining "costs" (financial, health, environmental, social) there is a need to first determine the real costs of doing nothing. Then it is important to determine the real costs of each sector of the economy and of each sector of the community doing nothing and alternatively making changes. Questions like: What's the real cost/benefit of the growing dairy industry (for the world and for NZ)? What's the real cost of producing and selling electricity? What value is there in subsidizing establishment of renewable energy sources? Could subsidised renewable energy systems at the household level deliver real benefits to individual families in terms of health benefits, increased discretionary income, etc. What is the real cost of exporting? In fact, might we be smarter and more responsible if we prioritised looking after ourselves and our Pacific neighbours while reducing our emissions?

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?

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



Copy of your submission

In any consideration of setting targets for reducing emissions the new opportunities should be stated before the challenges. All of opportunities listed are important.

Summary

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

By ending our unrestrained growth in damaging agriculture practices UNTIL those technologies are developed and tested. We should support the scaling back of the worst practices in order to put the brakes on our increasing emissions. Our science, our long term values of looking after our environment and being a good and just global neighbour are completely contradicted by our current practices.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.

1. Investment in subsidising small community and household renewable power generation.
2. Investment in improved public transport including rail.
3. Continue this conversation/consultation with the public.
4. Consider native habitat restoration as well as commercial forestation initiatives.
5. Develop and support positive alternatives for farmers to covert from high emissions agriculture to lower emissions crop based agribusiness with more leverage in ensuring local and global food security.
6. Develop non-governmental advisory group to consider the challenges and make recommendations and reduce politically influenced decision making on this critical subject.