

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



Copy of your submission

Contact information

Name M Wallace

Organisation (if applicable) NA

Address [REDACTED]

Telephone

Email [REDACTED]

Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? No

1b. What is most important to you?

New Zealand should be a leader in developing post carbon technologies and therefore industries. The companies and countries that do well in the next 30 years will not be those that continue to rely on outdated and unsustainable industries such as dairy that will become increasingly unprofitable in the wake of climate change and their environmental toll on water resources. We have a chance to rethink our regulatory environment to create partnerships with technology leaders around the world to promote the adoption of these technologies in New Zealand. Companies like Tesla and Solar City and countries like Germany are currently those that are experiencing the most growth and we should be developing partnerships and using subsidies, grants and legislation to ensure that we are at the forefront of the climate mitigation revolution that will leave us behind with the current inept policies.

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 need to be bold and decisive and act to be leaders in creating a new economy that is one that greentech companies are attracted to. The role of the New Zealand government in the 21st century needs to be the of facilitator of this change. We aren't going to meet any target level without a rethink about how we structure our economy. Climate Change is real, more intense weather events are already costing billions of dollars to the economies of nations around the world. Setting a meager and unenforceable target is meaningless we need a total rethink on what we invest in and how we can make the economy work for this future. It is the only pragmatic option.

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?

We need systemic change not asking cold families to cut their power bills. We can generate all of our energy from green sources. We can ban the mining of carbon intense minerals, we can impose real legislation to create a carbon free transport system but we shouldn't be putting the brunt of this change on those that are struggling to heat their homes. The example in this question is pure fear mongering and was designed for that purpose alone. As well as climate change we have a related freshwater crisis occurring right now. Why now enact legislation that demand that farmer fence and revegetate their streams? Not only would this offset some of the bovine created methane but it would preserve the resource that the agricultural industry relies on; fresh water. The most common response to this from those arguing from the current governments political standpoint would be that this would endanger the dairy industry because of the high costs to farmers. My response to that concern would be that the

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



Copy of your submission

dairy industry is already in peril; in the near term countries around the world are already starting to figure out how to do it for cheaper than we can, in the medium term if we don't protect our water and climate then milk solid exports will be nothing more than an embarrassing memory. The dairy industry is making all the profits while outsourcing the costs to the future. This must stop.

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?

Let's offset dairy with mandatory tree planting around streams. Negotiate with tech leaders from around the world to use New Zealand as a petri-dish for their green technologies. Subsidize solar and electric vehicles. Invest in public transport and cycling infrastructure. Stop building road. Stop offshore drilling plans. There are plenty of things that we could be doing to create whole new industries before any of our rivals in the Pacific Rim. We should be leaders rather than desperately trying to catch up with the belated efforts of countries like China. Frankly, it's embarrassing.

Summary

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

As I have said above we should plan carefully and create a regulatory and business framework that puts New Zealand at the forefront of the green revolution. If we start now then we will again become leaders in the creation of a new era of prosperous development.

Other comments

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

The questions asked in this consultation are clearly designed to create fear of any meaningful climate legislation. I would ask you to consider the long term consequences of the course of inaction that the government are intent upon. Without a serious effort to change how we structure our economy then the losers won't just be from the lower and middle classes but from big business too.