

Contact information

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Objectives for the contribution

- Our group asks you to adopt a minimum target of a 40% emissions reduction in net emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 – the minimum contribution required to keep us under two degrees global warming.
- The Government consultation document treats action on climate change as a cost, whereas failure to take action is actually the greater cost. Our response to climate change needs to include the cost of not acting.
- One of the main issues on the West Coast is that the three main towns are all very vulnerable to flooding, and both greater intensity of rain fall events and sea level rise will increase the cost and disruption of this problem. Hokitika has recently spent, for the population size, large amounts of money on a sea wall. When this fails, the entire town centre will likely need to be moved.
- More extreme weather events also means greater intensity of dry spells. These already significantly effect the West Coast. Recent droughts caused issues for both farmers and town water supplies, with water having to be trucked into Franz Josef village at the height of the tourism season.
- Climate change is already impacting negatively on the viability of the West Coast's main tourism attraction, Franz Josef Glacier. Foot access has not been possible for both Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers, so tourists can only walk on the ice after a helicopter ride.
- Economic costs from climate change will become much larger in the long term. The Government needs to consider the long term as well as short term impacts of not acting on climate change.
- Protecting our native plants and animals will also come at a higher cost with rising temperatures, as some species lose their habitat and others – including kiwi – face greater pest incursions in areas now reasonably predator free.