

Setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations.

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our [Consultation on New Zealand's post-2020 international climate change contribution web page](#)
- Read our discussion document: [New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement](#)

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

Questions to guide your feedback

Your submission may address any aspect of the discussion document, but we would appreciate you paying particular attention to the questions posed throughout and listed in this form. You may answer some or all of the questions. To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, you should explain your rationale and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

Contact information

Name	David White
Organisation (if applicable)	
Address	████████████████████
Telephone	████████
Email	████████████████

Objectives for the contribution

1a. We have set the following three objectives for our contribution:

- **it is seen as a fair and ambitious contribution – both by international and domestic audiences**
- **costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately**
- **it must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.**

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?

Yes

No

1b. What is most important to you?

The most important thing is to respond *appropriately* to the measured temperature data. Not the CO2 level or the climate model predictions (which are vastly over-estimating the global warming effects compared with measured data).

Also, we should not promise greenhouse gas reductions if rigorous analysis indicates that *adaptation* is a simpler and cheaper response than attempts to alter climate.

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?

Our contribution is best made via our agricultural research. As a world leader in efficient food production, it would be foolhardy to reduce our food output, only for it to be replaced by inefficient producers in "dirtier" countries. By exporting our research to other countries, to improve their efficiency with minimal methane output, New Zealand would do more "good" in the eyes of the world, than shooting cows to reduce herd size.

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 do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?

\$0.

While global temperatures are relatively stable (ie the upward slope from 1970 stopped before 2000, and has flattened out), there is no need to burden household with redistributive measures. Technology and education are aiding in energy reduction anyway (eg LEDs are gradually replacing filament bulbs without government coercion; newer vehicles and appliances are more energy efficient; houses are better insulated).

Those who think all NZers should be burdened with the costs of an unproven theory should be given opportunity to voluntarily donate money to their cause. It should not become a compulsory cost via any means (tax, energy cost, rates, etc).

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?

Agriculture has the greatest scope for emission reduction, and current research is promising. It would be foolhardy to make promises beyond "best efforts" and a willingness to share findings with partner countries.

Electricity generation has some room for further advances, provided the remedies are plentiful, reliable and cheap. Eg hydro or nuclear. Solar and wind energy is neither plentiful, nor continuous, nor cheap. Wind farms are eyesores.

Transport continues to improve in efficiency. Driverless vehicles are approaching, enabling less congestion, smoother driving, and close convoys - all of which improve transport efficiency. They will also reduce the need for public bodies to spend billions on train sets.

Summary

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

The problem statement is unsupported by the hard evidence - the temperature record does not show an alarming hockey stick. Sea level rise is continuing at the same rate as it has since the end of the mini Ice Age, and will not cause catastrophic flooding or inundation.

The solution to accounting for future uncertainties is to hold off any action until a real problem materialises. Until then, research and market forces will suffice. After all, it was only 40 years ago that the "experts" were predicting we were heading for planetary disaster via another Ice Age.

Other comments

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

"Token gestures" are pointless. We are ahead of other nations already, by building an electricity generation system that has such a high proportion of renewable energy, and by initiating research into more efficient agricultural production options.

We can justifiably point to our leadership in these areas as grounds for no further reductions until temperature measurement data indicates that dangerous warming linked to human behaviour is actually indisputable.

When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.