

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

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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?

Our contribution should BE a fair and ambitious target rather than just be 'seen' as one! Many scientists now say we are currently on track for a warming of between 4°C and 6°C by the end of the century. This will have severe effects on both humans and many other species, and may not even leave a planet that is inhabitable by mankind. Therefore what is most important for me (and the rest of the planet) is that our emissions are reduced to as little as possible as fast as is possible-despite the costs.

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?

New Zealand (NZ) is fully capable of reaching at least a 40% reduction target by 2030, within its environmental, technological and socio-economic parameters. I ask for this to be NZ's contribution – a commitment based on science and ethical grounds. We should also commit to an 80% reduction by 2050. Our efforts at reducing emissions so far have been a complete failure. I have no hope that this government will do anything other than continue this farcical attempt at pretending to address the issue. As a developed first world nation we have grown rich off the back of fossil fuels and exploitation. The remaining fossil fuels which can (possibly) be burnt are not ours to burn; instead developing nations should use these to improve their levels of infrastructure and the quality of life of their citizens. We have a long history of being responsible for high levels of emissions and our current emissions are one of the highest per capita in the world, therefore a fair target for us is a high target.

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?

Firstly we need to reduce our emissions no matter what the cost, so really why aren't you asking what the costs are going to be of us not doing enough to stop climate change. Secondly these questions and the discussion document are biased, they insinuate that there are few benefits, financial or otherwise of New Zealand lowering its emissions.

As stated in the discussion document we can expect more drought, flooding, wildfires and of course sea level rise. These weather extremes are going to affect the health of people and our environment. Also climate refugees whose homeland has been made unlivable will need to be resettled and we are going to see mass extinctions of our native animals and plants. These are going to have massive costs for us at household, business and government level.

And what about all the financial and job creation benefits of moving towards a cleaner, safer future. Renewable energy will provide many stable ongoing jobs which will benefit the economy rather than investing into boom and bust jobs offered by oil drilling which inevitably are not sustainable. Extra costs to households and lower income brackets can be offset by redistribution of revenue earned through carbon charges and taxes.

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?

We need firstly to stop giving out any new petroleum exploration or mining permits. Ban fracking and put funding into sustainable energy. Given the fantastic natural resources we have here (geothermal, solar, wind) we should be aiming to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030.

Shift the unnecessary \$12 billion road building programme to investment in smart rail and public transport infrastructure such as the Auckland City Rail Link.

Implement policies to incentivise 'low input' farming methods that are proven to reduce pollution and increase farming profits.

We need to take steps to start reaching the target immediately. Waiting until 2020 is far too late. Any delay increases the damage from global warming and the cost of addressing it. I think it is also essential that the government is held legally responsible for meeting reductions which may help to ensure it doesn't continue its dismal pretences at action. Also reductions in emissions should be actual reductions in our emissions, not just purchases of some carbon credits from another country.

Summary

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

The future is always going to hold uncertainties, the best thing to do is to set ambitious targets so that in the case that new emission reducing technologies do not become available we will be on track anyway. Also actions needed to meet the 2°C target may become more demanding as time passes. Many scientists already believe this 2°C limit is too high. Hence for now we need ambitious targets which can be expected to, at a minimum, at least meet the need to hold global warming below 2°C based on currently available information.

Other comments

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

This is the biggest issue of our times, we need strong, courageous leadership which truly seeks to do right by the people and the planet rather than pandering to corporate interests. Long term, serious targets need to be set and achieved. If the government cannot or will not act effectively on this issue then eventually government must expect that people will no longer entrust it with governing them and a new system will be needed.

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.

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