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 YES
- [  ] No

1b. What is most important to you?

New Zealand’s contribution should be fair and ambitious.

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?

Emissions have to be reduced by a substantial amount if we are to reduce the effects of adverse climate change on the economy of New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

New Zealand’s future economic wellbeing will benefit greatly from policies which encourage us all to respect the natural environment in its entirety.

Unless well defined policies on emissions and the natural environment are introduced, New Zealand’s international reputation will suffer. The consequence will be future loss of value for goods and services.

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?

This question is unbalanced and incomplete, since the future cost of not taking action is left out of the equation.

Of the choices offered, my preference is: “40% below 1990 levels at a cost of $1800 p.a.”

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?

Increasing forest sink capacity is important. Add to this “Encouraging the processing of timber for construction and export.”

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

It is Government’s responsibility to fund education programs on the cause, effect and mitigation of climate change. Inform all of the population.

Government is encouraged to take action without further delay on the issues which can be addressed with simpler solutions.

Employ proven technologies and methodology. Three examples:

a) Provide a long term policy for the forestry industry which encourages downstream manufacturing and utilisation of timber products.

b) Develop tax structures that include an up-front charge to the consumer for consequential costs to the environment, including eventual disposal costs.

c) Have a tax structure on vehicle imports which achieves a significantly greater proportion of fuel efficient vehicles.

The Government is currently set on a course of “serious procrastination”.

The risk to our future economic well-being is rapidly increasing while inaction continues to be the norm.

Government must take lead role in developing a plan of action. Then get on with it. The risk of getting a few things sub-optimal is recognised.

Learn from other countries. California’s government appears to be much more successful in reducing emissions than does New Zealand.

Other comments

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

Yes.
Set up an independent panel of experts (scientists/engineers/economists) to recommend options for reducing emissions. Keep the public informed and involved.

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission on such an important subject.

I hope this process of involving the public is repeated in the future.

**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.**