

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



Copy of your submission

Contact information

Name Debbie Wilson

Organisation (if applicable)

Address [REDACTED]

Telephone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? Yes

1b. What is most important to you? climate action protects and can improve our health

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?

Current and future human wellbeing depends upon not exceeding our global carbon budget.

We need to commit to-

- a global and NZ zero 2050 carbon target - with annual steps to get there
- pledges at least 40% cuts by 2030 in our gross domestic greenhouse gas emissions (compared with 1990) - towards at least 95% by 2050
- places an immediate moratorium on fossil fuel exploration, and pledges to phase out existing extraction in the next decade

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 would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?

The costs of climate inaction far exceed the costs of taking action and we need to account for this in climate calculations. The sooner we act, the more likely we will see overall gains not costs. Encouragingly, we can significantly improve short- and medium-term health and equity ('mitigation co-benefits') – especially by shifting from cars to active and public transport; better housing energy efficiency; climate-friendly home heating; reducing red meat and dairy intake; phasing out coal and lignite mining. NZ must include these co-benefits when calculating costs and benefits of action. A fair transition means policy designed to especially support changes by vulnerable households

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?

The document focuses heavily on agriculture, but half of our emissions are long-lived carbon dioxide from transport, housing and other energy use which have to rapidly reduce to zero. We already have the technology and policy ideas to reduce these emissions – we need the cross-party political will to put them in place. We will also need to reduce our economic reliance on ruminant livestock farming.

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



Copy of your submission

Summary

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

Health and wellbeing needs to be at the heart of the government's climate action. We urge:

- a Parliamentary climate change and health summit;
- health sector leadership on mitigation and adapting to locked-in climate impacts on health;
- involvement of public health expertise;
- Health (including equity) Impact Assessment (HIA) routinely used to inform key climate-relevant policies; and
- climate commitments that protect and promote health in the climate-vulnerable Pacific regions.

Other comments

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

Climate change is the most pressing health threat and issue for the human race, for the 21st Century. We could do so much better here in NZ- we not only have our clean and green image to uphold, we have to protect the rights of our future generations to health, equity and social justice. We may be small, yet our carbon footprint per capita is comparably large. There are many ways of tackling this and making our world a better place. Can you place your hand on your heart and say that global warming, at its current rate of increase, will not harm the future of our children, and our children's children? I think gambling with the welfare of our future generations is unacceptable, not to mention the damage we are causing to all of the other species that also live on this planet. Let us join forces with all of the other countries and stand proud in Paris. Allow us to look forward to our future as a human race. Are you prepared to ignore the warning signs any longer? You represent us all, please listen to us all and take the stance we all implore you to take.