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

Copy of your submission

Contact information

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Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?  No

1b. What is most important to you?
These objectives need to be reworded. The most important one is that must guide the INDC must guide New Zealand’s timely transition to a zero emission economy and society.
Health and fairness need to be central to our contribution - climate change matters for health and we can't ignore the future costs in terms of health and wellbeing in deciding about our contribution. We owe it to our children and their children to future-proof our economy and build on our clean energy strengths.
NZ’s contribution must be fair and ambitious, not just be seen as fair and ambitious.
Costs and benefits need to be distributed fairly within New Zealand and between countries and need to take account of the costs of climate inaction on health and its distribution and the co-benefits to health of climate action.
As a health professional, I see climate change as a key issue for the future health of our communities.

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?
We need to commit to a global and New Zealand zero 2050 carbon target – with annual steps to get there. We need to pledge at least 40% cuts by 2030 in our gross domestic greenhouse gas emissions (compared with 1990), heading towards at least 95% by 2050. We need to place an immediate moratorium on fossil fuel exploration, and pledge 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 it's greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?
The sooner we act, the more likely we will see overall gains not costs. A substantial proportion of our emissions are from transport, housing and other energy use. There will be cobenefits to health by the actions required to reduce these emissions to zero - for example 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

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?

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

There will always be uncertainties but the government is making decisions in situations of uncertainty all the time. We need to act now to mitigate future impacts; we cannot continue to be short sighted in our approach to climate change, for the sake of the health and well-being of our current and future generations.

Other comments

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