

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



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## Contact information

Name Grant Young

Organisation (if applicable)

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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?

The most important consideration for me is to establish an emissions target of zero within the next twenty to thirty years, enshrine this in legislation, and establish a policy framework which gets to this point. There are many significant and cost effective policies which could immediately reduce emissions, particularly in transport, which will have little or no impact on the productive sector.

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?

It is essential for the economy that a target of zero greenhouse gas emissions is set.

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?

I do not accept that there is a cost associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Indeed, international experience suggests that production and consumption continue to grow where greenhouse gas emissions are subject to control or pricing. I therefore do not consider that cost is a consideration in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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?

I consider there are significant opportunities for New Zealand to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in agricultural activities (pasture and livestock management together with processing), energy production and transportation. I also think electric cars will only provide a small part of the solution. Transportation in Auckland, in particular, could contribute quickly to major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

## Summary

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

The target for greenhouse gas emissions should be zero. That is, the key concern is to set a target of zero

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emissions and establish a policy framework to get to that point. Technologies to support that target, many of which are simply unknown at present, will rapidly emerge when the cost of greenhouse gas emissions are added to the cost of production and consumer prices. At present, those who produce greenhouse gas emissions are being subsidised and this must stop immediately. The cost of doing nothing or very little in the next ten to twenty years and deferring emission reductions for the foreseeable future is considerably higher than the cost of taking action now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero.

Other comments

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