

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



Copy of your submission

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Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? Yes

1b. What is most important to you?

(a) Having the objectives isn't enough. There has to be a stated, phased, verifiable plan of commitment to implementing them.

(b) The objectives have to be reached in a transparent, consultative, non-partisan manner.

(c) The objective should have the minimum target of a 40% emissions reduction below NZ's 1990 levels by 2030.

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?

NZ's economy and society are strong enough to tackle and achieve an ambitious target provided it is set by multi-political party consensus agreement, preferably by an independent commission, is science-based and arrived at through full consultation.

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?

Wrong, and inappropriate, question. You can't put a "level of cost" against the IPCC forecasts of the result of taking no action, or insufficient action. In times of national emergency (natural disasters, war) a country takes action without concern for "level of cost." Climate change is such an emergency. Action based on consensus is accepted by the majority of the population. Annual household consumption is completely the wrong measure. GDP is a false scale to use. Many actions to reduce GHG emissions will be seen as improving health and quality of life regardless of dollar impact.

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 should aim for (1) Energy generation based on renewable sources (hydro, geothermal, wind, solar); (2) Increased use of public transport based on renewable energy; (3) Government-led support for cycling; (4) Changed agricultural practices; (5) Higher and supervised housing standards (particularly rental housing) for reduced energy consumption (and increased health); (6) Less wasteful road construction (Roads of National Stupidity); (7)

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Increased recycling in all its forms, reduced waste.

Summary

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

New technologies will always develop. We can't hang around for something newer and better and possibly cheaper. We must take action now based on existing technologies. For example, introduce stricter vehicle emission standards straight away, not wait for electric vehicles.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
NZ is already suffering from climate change fluctuations. The government has to be ambitious and act now, not wait until things get worse. Saying we are too small to make a difference is a cop-out. We have a moral duty to play our part, and will benefit from introducing changes now rather than wait until things get worse. Actions which are seen to be fair and have been openly arrived at by transparent consensus methods (see Land and Water Forum as an example) will be accepted by New Zealanders.