

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
- No

1b. What is most important to you?

Closest is the 3rd option, but none of these go far enough to make any real difference. These options are just hollow talk to get out of making any meaningful targets.

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?

As so proudly promoted by the current government, agriculture is a pillar of our economy. The reliance of agriculture on a stable environment, fairly intuitively, highlights the need for significant action to be taken towards dramatically reducing ghg emissions. Changes in our environment, specifically in precipitation amounts, will have an increasing impact on our agriculture sector. We should be using agriculture as a reason TO make meaningful targets, not a reason to look for the easy way.

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 clearly leading towards making people answer for minimal financial impact. Unfortunately, the reality is that households will have to start fronting cost of unmitigated climate change impacts whether they like it or not. As the impacts of climate change continue to increase in strength and frequency, the costs will simply always end up a household expense – for example; increases to insurance premiums. The evidence is mounting that delaying action now will only increase the costs of mitigation and adaptation in the near-future.

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 don't think any are likely to happen through any short or mid-term government initiative. However, reducing ghg emissions and increasing carbon sinks will be a good start to improve chances of limiting global temperatures to 2degrees.

Summary

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

It would be totally irresponsible to wait for future technologies to try and mitigate anthropogenic climate change impacts. We can not be certain they will be developed in time, or if at all. As for costs, we are becoming increasingly aware that delaying any mitigation efforts will only increase them for future generations. The attitude of not doing any mitigation efforts is increasingly becoming the more expensive option – we only have to look to reports of the NZ Treasury to see examples of this.

Other comments

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

We must get over this attitude of only 'doing our fair share'. It has radically hurt our reputation on the international stage – which is especially ironic when promoting our 'clean, green

image'. New Zealand has a unique set of resources and geological formations that will can give us a comparative advantage in carbon reduction efforts. We must start to utilise these advantages or risk being left behind internationally. The rhetoric of strictly economy-first governance is becoming outdated by the day as further postponement of climate change action will only disadvantage NZ's economy in the future. Even China, CHINA!, is doing more towards attempting to reduce its ghg emissions and air pollution than NZ. Making efforts to reduce NZ's impact on the climate will not only provide co-benefits to the economy, but will also help support cultural, social and ethical concerns. We **MUST** do more as country to combat climate change. Simply, there is no other option that will continue to give us a future that in some way resembles a world we live in today.

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.