

Greenpeace form submission on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target (4,958 received)¹

To whom it may concern,

I am disappointed that I have been given an unacceptably short opportunity to be consulted on an issue of such importance to me, my children and their future children.

It is clear from the documents released that the Government is not serious about acting on climate change. It intends to do the bare minimum it believes it can get away with. The Government continues to argue its totally discredited point of view that climate action will be too expensive, yet it does not consider the economic and environmental costs of doing nothing. And most importantly, it completely overlooks the enormous financial and job creation benefits of moving towards a cleaner, safer future.

So instead of talking about weak and meaningless targets, I want the Government to talk about real climate action. Tangible action within New Zealand that demonstrates that the Government will take climate change seriously. As a guide here is the outline of a real climate action plan I want to see the Government enact, if it's serious about taking pollution out of our economy.

A real climate action plan would:

- Commit to have 100% renewable electricity within 10 years
- Shut Huntly coal and gas fired power station by 2020
- Phase out all subsidies for fossil fuels like coal and deep sea oil drilling
- Ban deep sea drilling and fracking for oil and gas in New Zealand.
- Develop a low carbon action plan to ensure that by 2050 all areas of energy (electricity, heating, transport and industrial use) come from clean energy sources instead of fossil fuels.
- Reform the electricity markets by guaranteeing priority access to the grid for renewable power generators.
- Shift the unnecessary \$12 billion road building programme to investment in smart rail and public transport infrastructure such as the Auckland City Rail Link.
- Prioritise the import and infrastructure needs (e.g fast charging points) for hybrid and electric vehicles.
- Introduce incentives to harness the enormous potential in plantation wood waste to sustainable transport fuels. It has been estimated that this could create tens of thousands of jobs in the forestry sector and help reduce our oil imports bill by \$7billion each year.
- Make the Emissions Trading Scheme more stringent so that it works, enabling industry to move away from polluting energies.
- Implement policies to incentivise 'low input' farming methods that are proven to reduce pollution and increase farming profits.
- Prioritise geothermal projects to realise enormous export opportunities in our geothermal industry, which could be worth up over \$4 billion a year to the economy.
- Promote New Zealand as an international centre of excellence for developing and trialling ocean energy technologies.

Without a real action plan to reduce climate pollution, the Government risks damaging our global reputation and wrecking our economy. But most importantly, they are denying New Zealanders the cleaner, smarter and safer future that we all deserve.

Sincerely,

[first name] [last name]

¹ Some submitters made amendments to this template. These amendments and/or additional comments were analysed and incorporated into the [summary of public submissions on the target](#).