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8 June 2018

Low-emissions Economy
New Zealand Productivity Commission
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Dear Sirs/Mesdames

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Low-emissions economy: Draft report, April 2018.

There are a number of points I wish to raise as set out below:

1. At a glance – Pathways to a low-emissions economy – three key drivers
 - a. "replacing combustion of fossil fuels with electricity where feasible": this undermines the seriousness of the situation. We are now over 400 ppm CO₂ and have already locked in 2 deg C climate change as well as severe ocean acidification changes. It is, therefore, not "where feasible". We need to make it happen.
 - b. "reductions in emissions intensity in agriculture": agree.
 - c. "changes in land use": agree. See Project Drawdown solutions relating to silvopasture, agroforestry, intercropping and afforestation.
2. Emissions Trading Scheme:
 - a. I don't understand the ETS; it is a distant object that has no relevance to me; it has no influence on my consumer choices
 - b. I would understand a carbon tax made directly on me or, more effectively, on products which use oil in production or ongoing use, which I then have a choice whether to purchase or not. This would also directly affect companies' spending choices. Maybe use a higher GST rate on specific products, including cement, petrol, diesel, oil-based products
 - c. More efficiently charge the fossil fuel companies at source and redistribute the money as subsidies for electric vehicles
3. At a glance – Policy change is needed:
 - a. very much agree with these statements.
 - b. Need a publicity drive and a push for the media to get the message of climate change out - what it is; what it means; and what people can do. There is currently a widespread lack of interest and concern, which is very depressing as it will only mean more severe consequences for the current young generation.
 - c. Global agreement was reached and action take on the control of CFCs and I do not see why we cannot do the same for CO₂ and other greenhouse gases.

4. Terms of reference – Context – "balance the need to reduce ... emissions with preserving and enhancing economic wellbeing"
 - a. This misses the fact that we are beyond that point as per 1.a. above. The choice is now between severe and catastrophic climate change. Trying to "balance" means catastrophic climate change.
 - b. There will be no preserving and enhancing economic wellbeing. Instead there will be declining economic wellbeing due to the amount of warming we are already locked into. The amount of decline depends on whether we do enough to mitigate any further changes.
 - c. We need to urgently pull back our quest for growth and increased economic wellbeing; need to use other measures for wellbeing
5. Summary of Questions
 - a. Q6.1: Yes; additionally all Government-related investments should divest of fossil-fuel related investments and encourage all other organisations and institutions to do the same
 - b. Q10.1: No idea since I don't understand the system and for businesses/farms to do so just adds another layer of paperwork to take them away from the work of trying to develop fossil-free processes. Hit their bottom-lines where it relates to fossil fuels-related costs and they will find alternatives. Any processes which emit needlessly should be banned or taxed; eg burning off stubble; feeding cattle on feed which causes higher emissions, leaving soils bare for periods of time, etc;
 - c. Q11.1: Tax the fossil fuel companies and tax petrol; that money to be used for subsidising EVs and alternative transport options; Government must stop all form of subsidies to fossil fuel companies – this is entirely the wrong message and is hypocritical
 - d. Q12.1: Micro electricity production from renewables by households, businesses and councils must be encouraged and incentivised to reduce dependency on the main grid and thereby increase resilience on a local level
 - e. Q13.2, 3, 4: Tax cement at source to encourage alternatives
 - f. Q16.1: Yes. Use water meter charges nationwide to encourage less use of water.

Kind regards,

Jacqui Barnes