



Submission: **NZ Productivity Commission**

Low-emissions- economy report

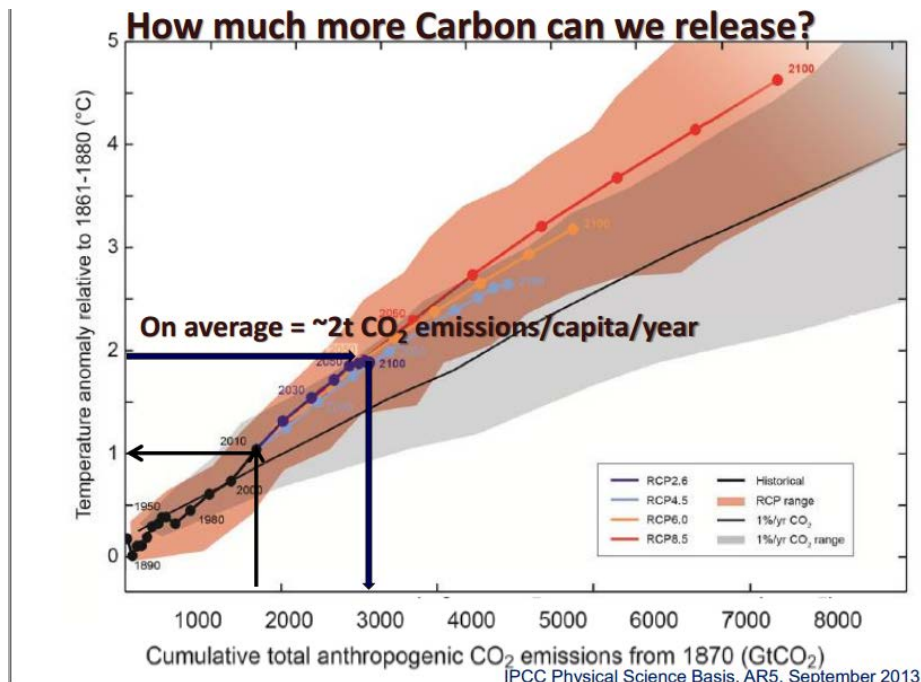
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This is a well-balanced report that provides a good initial assessment of the state of climate change issues in New Zealand. The relative lack of action compared with other countries is apparent.

Unfortunately due to international commitments I have been unable to find time to respond to each of the 40 questions posed, so just briefly make the following key points.

- 1) There appears to be moves towards a consensus in NZ that a body similar to the UK CCC should be established to provide advice to the Minister on domestic policy actions.
- 2) A cross-party approach, already in place under GLOBE, needs to be formalised and expanded.
- 3) The two baskets approach has some merit given NZ's mix of gases and high shares of methane.
- 4) What I'm missing from the report is any real sense of urgency.

The remaining global budget for future emissions, if we are to stay below 2°C, is around only 1000 GtCO₂ (see figure below). Given the projected 9.5 billion global population by 2050, to stay within this budget therefore entails reducing emissions to around 2t CO₂ per capita per year well before mid-century. The current per capita emissions for a New Zealander at around 16t CO₂-eq (Fig. 4 in the report) is one of the highest in the world. So further delaying mitigation actions is not an option if we are to "do our fair share".



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