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DINZ urges CCC to lower methane emissions targets and consider the economic impacts

The [DINZ/B+LNZ submission to CCC](#) is the latest salvo in the campaign to make sure the deer industry's voice is heard around climate change. The submission calls for changes to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets and says there are significant concerns about the unfair impact on the red meat producing sector.



Feedback was invited in April and May on the CCC's draft advice on three pieces of its work: the fourth emissions budget (2036-2040); its review of the 2050 emissions reduction target; and whether emissions from international shipping and aviation should be included in the 2050 targets.

When the consultation opened, Commission chair Dr Rod Carr said it wanted to test its thinking to make sure the eventual recommendations to be made later this year – informing Cabinet decisions affecting the next two to three decades – are realistic and robust.

The CCC's initial findings indicate that current agricultural emissions should be adjusted to reduce emissions faster.

“Their recommendations threaten farmers' ability to continue to produce food and sustainably farm into the future,” Jansen notes.

She worked closely with the B+LNZ team on the submission, that was lodged by the 31 May deadline, and says it has provided strong evidence to the CCC that its initial modelling is significantly flawed and highlights issues of equity. The new targets need to be based on the principle of ‘no additional warming’, they argue.

“It is not fair that our sector, along with the sheep and beef industry, takes the hit – that comes with an associated cumulative \$30.8 billion loss in red meat export revenues,” Jansen says.

“The financial impact would likely be felt far and wide and impact other export revenue streams such as wool/fibre, velvet, petfood and skins.”

The New Zealand Deer Farmers Association (NZDFA) also submitted in support of DINZ, further emphasising “the negative impact on the industry and individual farmers far outweighs any GHG reduction we could achieve in order to reduce global warming,” she explains.

Changes in scientific understanding of the impacts from short- and long-lived GHG emissions, since the initial targets were set, the principal risks and uncertainties associated with emissions removals, questions of fairness and the economic impacts are other key reasons given for the need for CCC to reconsider their recommendations.

<<AS CAPTION>>*GHG emissions from deer are down by 11.5 percent on the 2017 base year – six years ahead of schedule. Photo: Lee Anne Murray.*



DINZ calls for “rigorous analysis of the emissions targets”, she says, and opposes rigid and impractical approaches that offer no economic opportunities or incentives for farmers.

The two organisations have also challenged the CCC modelling that informed the fourth emissions budget (2036-2050). That suggested targets could be “realistically met” by a 17 percent reduction in red meat production (relative to 2023 levels) by 2050, together with afforestation.

However, the actual impact could be double that, they say: “Our modelling of the CCC’s proposed afforestation and reductions in stocking rates [shows it] would lead to a 35 percent decline in red meat production (relative to 2023 levels) by 2050.”

The impact on provincial economies was assessed at an estimated total loss of \$30.5 billion at the farmgate and \$38.2 billion in export receipts between 2024 and 2050.

DINZ also highlighted that New Zealand should not include international shipping and aviation in the 2050 emissions targets. Doing so, would cause an unfair and unnecessary strain on the export economy and red meat products.

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Read the [DINZ/B+LNZ ‘Submission to the Climate Change Commission’](#), 31 May 2024>>