

3. Greenhouse Gas Reduction—2020 Target

[Uncorrected transcript—subject to correction and further editing.]

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Jeanette Fitzsimons: Exactly what conditions would need to be met by other countries in order for New Zealand to commit to a target in the 25 to 40 percent range, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says is essential?

Hon JOHN KEY: Well, I am not focused on that. What I am focused on is going to Copenhagen—

Hon Annette King: What! What do you mean, you're not focused?

Hon JOHN KEY: I am not focused on increasing New Zealand's target. What I am focused on is going to Copenhagen and making sure that New Zealand can successfully negotiate the conditions that we think are important in order for us to achieve a target of 10 to 20 percent. If we do not negotiate those conditions, we will not be able to achieve a target of 10 to 20 percent and we would have to have a lower target.

Jeanette Fitzsimons: Is the Prime Minister confirming that he is going to Copenhagen with a recipe for failure for the world's climate, rather than success?

Hon JOHN KEY: Far from it! We are going to Copenhagen with a comprehensive plan. We have an emissions trading scheme that is now in legislation. We have a credible target relative to that of other countries. We have a global alliance that we are promoting around the world. That member is quite aware that from New Zealand's perspective, actually achieving large reductions on the 1990 base level is quite challenging. We have had some of the fastest population growth per capita of any annex 1 country. We started with one of the highest levels of renewable energy of any developed country. Also 50 percent of all emissions come from agriculture, and we have no solution at this point to methane and nitrate emissions. If New Zealand were to achieve a target of 10 percent less, that would be a significant milestone. *[Interruption]*

Mr SPEAKER: I call question No. 4. *[Interruption]* The Speaker is on his feet, and the Prime Minister will respect that. I have called the Hon Jim Anderton, and I would ask members on both sides of the House to show him respect.