

### **Contact Energy Says 40 Per Cent Emissions Cut Possible**

Contact Energy chief executive David Baldwin says greenhouse gas emissions from New Zealand's electricity system can be cut by 40 per cent within seven years. The claim follows development of Contact's submission on the government's New Zealand Energy Strategy, which has shown that a cut of this magnitude is achievable. "The electricity generation sector can cut emissions of greenhouse gases quite quickly, and Contact's submission on the draft strategy shows how," says Baldwin. "Achieving this goal will require the right policy settings, including on carbon pricing, the ability of new gas-fired generation to displace coal and the ability to consent significant renewable projects without unnecessary delay." Baldwin says that if the government's energy strategy delivers these policy outcomes, the country's energy generation sector can lead the world in significantly reducing its carbon dioxide emissions and building on what is already a clean, renewable base. Contact would "lead the way" through its climate change action plan which Baldwin says could deliver a reduction of about 2.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually, well over half of the 3.2 million tonnes making up the 40 per cent target. The action plan includes new generation initiatives and a program to help customers reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by one million tonnes by 2014.

[Source esaa news]