

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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Submitter Type: Individual

Clause

1. What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?

Position

The Government sets a 2050 target in legislation now

Notes

It is important to have a strong goal. Urgent action is required.

Clause

2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?

Position

Net Zero Long-Lived Gases and Stabilised Short-Lived Gases - Long-lived gases to net zero by 2050 while also stabilising short-lived gases

Notes

Stabilising short lived gases is achievable - new technology may make it possible to go beyond this to net zero emissions in the future. Agriculture has not had strong goals set for change and while making progress it is important to maintain its role as an employer and contributor to the NZ economy as a whole

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions (including from new forest planting) and using some emissions reductions from overseas (international carbon units) that have strong environmental safeguards

Notes

The firewall concept whereby meets its goals for domestic reductions of emissions but may also contribute globally is well thought through for a small country dependent on international relationships

Clause

4. Should the Zero Carbon Bill allow the 2050 target to be revised if circumstances change?

Position

Yes

Notes

If zero net emissions could be achieved earlier than anticipated this should be strongly supported. Targets should not be delayed beyond 2050 or the amount of reduction reduced.

Clause

5. The Government proposes that three emissions budgets of five years each (i.e. covering the next 15 years) be in place at any given time. Do you agree with this proposal?

Position

Yes

Notes

It is important to have clear steps for each year with the aim of measured achievement for the short term (5 year) plans. But long term goals must also be planned for - so that subsequent governments have a clear tack to follow and the plans are not subject to political expediency and erratic changes by new governments

Clause

6. Should the Government be able to alter the last emissions budget (i.e. furthest into the future)?

Position

No - emissions budgets should not be able to be changed

Notes

15 years is actually a very short period in terms of the extent of change required. If new technology or other favourable circumstances allowed the goals to be achieved early the subsequent plan (4th) could include further reductions

Clause

7. Should the Government have the ability to review and adjust the second emissions budget within a specific range under exceptional circumstances? See p36 Our Climate Your Say

Position

No

Notes

As above, the shorter the time frame the less likely lower emissions than planned for can be achieved.

Clause

8. Do you agree with the considerations we propose that the Government and the Climate Change Commission take into account when advising on and setting budgets? See p44 Our Climate Your Say

Position

Yes

Notes

The social aspects is crucial and far more needs to be considered than fuel poverty. The social presumably includes cultural change and the understanding that information and technology etc are intimately connected with people's understanding of what is important in life, how life should be lived, and how everybody can come to see themselves as having an important contribution to change and see it as creating opportunities rather than to be resisted

Clause

9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?

Position

Yes

Notes**Clause**

10. What are the most important issues for the Government to consider in setting plans to meet budgets? For example, who do we need to work with, what else needs to be considered?

Notes

Climate change will be experienced locally and local government is crucial in all plans and needs to be adequately resourced

Clause

11. The Government has proposed that the Climate Change Commission advises on and monitors New Zealand's progress towards its goals. Do you agree with these functions? See p42 Our Climate Your Say

Position

Yes

Notes

These are important functions. It will also be necessary for the advice and reporting to be available and able to be acted on by all sections of society, not just central/regional/local government. Attention to process and progress will be required across all sections to ensure government action doesn't lag. Open government will be more important than ever

Clause

12. What role do you think the Climate Change Commission should have in relation to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)?

Position

Advising the Government on policy settings in the NZ ETS

Notes**Clause**

13. The Government has proposed that Climate Change Commissioners need to have a range of essential and desirable expertise. Do you agree with the proposed expertise? See p45 Our Climate Your Say

Position

No

Notes

Needs more emphasis on social science expertise to assist conversion of knowledge into action and identify vulnerable groups within society and their needs. Communication and 'community engagement' sounds top down and so not able to engage in the ways required

Clause

14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change?

Position

Yes

Notes

it should be wholistic in approach

Clause

15. The Government has proposed a number of new functions to help us adapt to climate change. Do you agree with the proposed functions? See p47 Our Climate Your Say

Position

Yes

Notes

Clause

16. Should we explore setting up a targeted adaptation reporting power that could see some organisations share information on their exposure to climate change risks?

Position

Yes

Notes

Sharing information and acting jointly will be essential to making the degree of change required in a short time frame

Clause

Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

Notes

Urgency should not lead to overlooking social justice issues