Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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Submitter Type: Business / Industry

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

Clause 3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?
Position Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)
Notes

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

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

Clause 6. Should the Government be able to alter the last emissions budget (i.e. furthest into the future)?
Position Yes - the third emissions budget should be able to be changed but only when the subsequent budget is set
Notes

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

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

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

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

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
Yes

Clause
14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change?
Position
Yes
Notes
Yes, if 'adapting' means changing out practices, behaviours and habits to reduce our impact on the climate, certainly.

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

Clause
Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?
Notes
With Agriculture being a major player in NZ GHG emissions I feel that consideration should be given for the ability to sequester carbon on farm through other means than just tree plantations. Farms that manage their pasture wisely are able to sequester significant quantities of carbon within their soil through photosynthesis and also the production of soil organic matter. On our property we focus on soil performance as much as animal performance and have managed to increase our Soil Organic Matter (SOM) significantly (to 9.4%). With SOM containing around 60% carbon this is a large amount taken from the atmosphere which is often overlooked as it is not as conspicuous as a plantation. Many farms also have shelterbelts, native pockets etc which if given recognition for their ecosystem services would be less likely to be cleared to make way for profitable land use.