Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Reference no: 4993
Submitter Type: NGO

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
An earlier target of net zero emissions should be considered if new evidence indicates it is required to stay below 1.5 C with a 90 % confidence.

Clause 2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?
Position
Net Zero Emissions - Net zero emissions across all greenhouse gases by 2050
Notes
It is essential to differentiate long-lived and short-lived gases (a two basket approach) in developing policies and strategies for implementation. In addition, distinguish between fossil methane and biological methane in policies.

Clause 3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?
Position
Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)
Notes
If we rely on international reductions we will miss out on the innovations needed to ensure a resilient future for NZ

Clause 4. Should the Zero Carbon Bill allow the 2050 target to be revised if circumstances change?
Position
Yes
Notes
Emission targets could be brought forward if circumstances change (new scientific evidence required for a safe climate)

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
Making less stringent targets should not be allowed unless the scientific evidence is incontrovertible regarding attainment of the 1.5 C target.

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
Yes
Notes
but only to increase the speed of emissions reductions.
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
plus consideration of new scientific evidence of what is required to limit climate change to 1.5°C. A range of environmental and social indicators should be monitored to assess the likely impact of emissions budgets so the full range of impacts is considered. Economic impacts should not be the most important consideration.

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
Aggressive targets should start the process so that we have some leeway should initial efforts not be as successful as planned.

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
Priority should be given to keeping all GHG emissions to pre-industrial levels, even if it means a decline in economic growth. Social and environmental indicators should be monitored to consider the broadest impact on quality of life for New Zealanders.

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
in addition to monitoring progress, the consideration should be given to authorizing the Commission to set emissions budget targets based on scientific evidence

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
Yes

Notes
expertise in ecological services would be desirable

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

Position
Yes

Notes
consideration should be given to long term adaptation requirements if emission targets are not met

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
as the impact of climate change will be profound regardless of what we do it will be important to develop social and environmental
| 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 | Transparency and accountability are critical for all sectors |

| Clause | Do you have any other comments you'd like to make? |
| Notes | Setting emissions targets need to consider the probability of achieving the 1.5 C target or lower. A probability of 90% should be the criterion. Consideration should be given to establishing a nation wide resource that can support and facilitate communities' capacity to make the changes needed to achieve the emissions reductions goals. |