Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Offcut Ltd

Reference no: 8387

Submitter Type: Business / Industry

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
Global climate legislation is far behind where the science indicates it should be. New Zealand should help catalyze global climate action by setting ambitious targets that in the long term will make social and economic sense anyway.

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
Reducing Carbon Dioxide to net zero by 2050 must be adopted in this legislation. Addressing other GHGs particularly from the agricultural sector to net zero by 2050 will be more difficult. The approach here should be subject to change given future technological advancements and reviewed by expert scientific leadership teams across 5-year timeframes. The legislation and policy decisions on a wider basis should focus on investment and development of agritech solutions to agricultural emissions in New Zealand.

Clause 3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position
Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes
Without serious improvements in international carbon trading schemes to really change the game New Zealand should focus on truly making its economy clean. Domestic forest planting is acceptable for offsetting as this can be effectively monitored in the country.

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

Position
Yes

Notes
The Zero Carbon Bill should be adaptable, but it should have a solid foundation to prevent backtracking from future governments. Progress toward a 2050 net zero target should only be compromised if there are serious changes to our current understanding of the climate system sensitivity. The ZCB should also cater for acceleration of efforts to achieve net zero by an earlier date.

 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?

Notes
This statement is unclear and I need more detail to comment properly. In the simplest sense, a pathway to net zero by 2050 should be established which can be broken down into digestible chunks with short, medium and long-term targets for emissions reductions over that timeframe. Low hanging fruit can be targeted in the early phases while planning and legislation are put in place during the early stages to reduce emissions in more difficult sectors in the later stages. My concern with segmented 5-year budgets is that it may provide an avenue for excuses further down the line. Emissions reduction schemes will need to be aggressive and sustained. If things go well in the first 5-years of a given 15-year timeframe this might provide an excuse for a government to slacken off in the second and third 5-year budget period. This will only result in momentum being lost in the long run.

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

Notes
Again, a little more detail is needed here. Some context on exactly what these budgets would entail would be useful. I understand
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 Climate Change Commission must be informed well of the latest climate science. Sub-panels that inform an actual climate scientist on the panel would be very useful.

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
Yes, governments should identify all areas of emissions within the economy and come up with trans-governmental strategies to achieve emissions reductions within these sectors. After these emissions sectors are identified the government should build partnerships with Universities and businesses to develop technologies and improve knowledge to aggressively reduce emissions in each sector. Each sector should be overseen and headed by an appropriate leader in the field who reports to the Climate Commission.

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
The government, as it has already indicated it is capable of should continue to be a source of inspiration and leadership for the entire movement. It should present a call to arms for business and educational institutions to come together to tackle each emissions sectors most difficult obstacles. The government should essentially oversee a national response to this crisis and manage the interaction of universities and the private sector. It should be responsible for critically reviewing targets and ensuring budgets are maintained.

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
Notes
The list of proposed expertise is suitable. The commission should someone be designed that it is difficult to ignore the bottom line - the latest climate science, projections, and modeling. The chief climate scientist and their 'sub-panels' have a lot of responsibility here. "Knowledge of the public and private innovation and technology development system" should perhaps be given more influence. To reach a net zero target innovation must be rife as many solutions to certain emissions sectors are not yet available or practical. New Zealand should focus on becoming a leader in solutions to emissions reductions, it can particularly excel in agritech solutions and export these technologies/ideas/future companies to the world.

Clause 14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change?
Position
No
Notes

No, the bill should solely focus on reducing emissions. Perhaps another set of policy or government department should be established to focus on adaptation to climate change in New Zealand. If policy is combined with one bill no compromise should be made/resources diverted from effective emission reduction strategies/policy.

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<td>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</td>
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**Position**
Yes

**Notes**

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<td>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?</td>
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**Position**
Yes

**Notes**
A national review of threats to New Zealand due to a changing climate should be commissioned.

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**Notes**
I would like to thank this government for taking bold and important steps to begin implementing effective climate policy I would also like to acknowledge the work of Generation Zero for advocating for this policy over the last few years.

*You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.*