Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill
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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
This would provide certainty and a clear direction for New Zealand to work towards climate change.

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
Of the three options, this option offers the best mix of credible science, practical abatement interventions, lowest transaction costs as well as global climate change outcomes. The agricultural sector has limited means with current knowledge to further mitigate greenhouse gas emissions - this option would ensure the agricultural sector is not unfairly penalised, whilst technology is able to advance with options and solutions. Currently agriculture in New Zealand is leading international best practice in greenhouse gas mitigation, thus measures that impact our global competitiveness, will ultimately increase the risk that greater levels of product from countries with higher emissions will gain market share. The above target could be reviewed again in the future, subject to technological and scientific advancements.

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
This would provide appropriate levels of flexibility and options.

Clause
4. Should the Zero Carbon Bill allow the 2050 target to be revised if circumstances change?
Position
Yes
Notes
Flexibility in the face of change and new information is appropriate.

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
15 years with sub targets as above provides certainty but flexibility.

Clause
6. Should the Government be able to alter the last emissions budget (i.e. furthest into the future)?
Position
Yes - each incoming Government should have the option to review the third budget in the sequence
Notes
Flexibility in the face of change and new information is appropriate.
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**
Circumstances must be genuinely exceptional.

**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 and economic impacts of regions should also be taken into account. This recognises that some regions may be more severely impacted than others and support measures may be needed for those regions.

**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**
The Government should drive the development of emission reduction plans in consultation with the parties that make up the key sectors that currently emit large quantities of greenhouse gases.

**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**
Effectiveness of proposals; Impacts on the New Zealand economy and New Zealand society; practicality of plans; impacts on regions and communities. Involvement of local Government/Councils, regional development agencies, iwi, Chambers of Commerce and business groups, rural groups and associations (e.g. Federated Farmers, Beef+Lamb, Dairy NZ etc), community groups.

**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**

**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**
The two components of expertise that were listed as “desirable but non-essential” should also be essential i.e “business competitiveness” and “knowledge of the public and private innovation and technology development system”.

**Clause**

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

**Position**
Yes

**Notes**
A national adaptation plan is essential and would be appropriate to connect to this Bill.
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**
It would be appropriate for this to apply to Crown entities or SOEs, local and central government and private companies that provide public services such as energy and transport.