Submissions form

We seek your feedback on the specific proposals in the Zero Carbon Bill.

Either email this submission to ZCB.Submissions@mfe.govt.nz (Microsoft Word document (2003 or later) or PDF) or post to Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington, 6143.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters) may be published on the Ministry for the Environment’s website, www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, the Ministry will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

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Personal / organisation details

You must provide either a company name or given name(s)

Company name  Heat Impact Research Group (representing a team of 8 scientists in Mapua/Ruby Bay)

Given names  Tord

Surname  Kjellstrom
Submitter type, pick one:

- Individual
- NGO
- Business / Industry
- Local Government
- Central Government
- Iwi / Māori
- University
- Research Institute (scientists working on climate change health impacts)
- School
- Community Group
- Unspecified / Other

2050 target

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

Pick one:

- the Government sets a 2050 target in legislation now
- the Government sets a goal to reach net zero emissions by the second half of the century, and the Climate Change Commission advises on the specific target for the Government to set later.

Optional comment: NZ needs to set an ambitious target as the current INDCs are not sufficient to protect the planet to the degree needed according to the agreed statement at the Paris COP meeting in 2015. NZ as one of the global leaders must show strong targets and innovative technology development.

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

Pick one:

- net zero carbon dioxide: Reducing net carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2050
- net zero long-lived gases and stabilised short-lived gases: Long-lived gases to net zero by 2050, while also stabilising short-lived gases
- net zero emissions: Net zero emissions across all greenhouse gases by 2050.

Optional comment: all GHGs need to be addressed and NZ can influence other countries to go beyond the INDCs
3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?
   Pick one:
   - domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)
   - domestic emissions reductions (including from new forest planting) and using some emissions reductions from overseas (international carbon units) that have strong environmental safeguards.
   
   Optional comment: Domestic reductions shows our commitment, but in addition, emissions in other countries can be influenced by research and analysis carried out by NZ scientists and economists.

4. Should the Zero Carbon Bill allow the 2050 target to be revised if circumstances change?
   Pick one:
   - yes
   - no.
   
   Optional comment: Should the accumulating research indicate that further reductions of the emissions are needed, a revision of the target should be made possible.

Emissions budgets

5. The Government proposes that three emissions budgets of five years each (ie, covering the next 15 years) be in place at any given time. Do you agree with this proposal?
   Pick one:
   - yes
   - no.
   
   Optional comment
6. Should the Government be able to alter the last emissions budget (ie, furthest into the future)?

Pick one:

X yes, each incoming Government should have the option to review the third budget in the sequence

☐ yes, the third emissions budget should be able to be changed, but only when the subsequent budget is set

☐ no, emissions budgets should not be able to be changed.

Optional comment

7. Should the Government have the ability to review and adjust the second emissions budget within a specific range under exceptional circumstances?

Pick one:

X yes

☐ no.

Optional comment: Yes, if scientific analysis shows that an adjustment of the budget is needed, then it should be possible to do that.

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?

Pick one:

X yes

☐ no.

Optional comment:

Government response

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

Pick one:
1. 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?

**Comment:** Inter-disciplinary research and analysis is essential, and in addition to the Climate Commissions described tasks, it should create a sub-committee with additional expertise on Human Health, Animal Health, Social impacts, Economic impacts, and that this sub-committee is proactively considering the climate change impacts in low and middle income countries, including all countries in the Pacific. Collaboration with scientists and economists from the large GHG emitting countries (e.g. India, China, Indonesia, Japan, USA, Brazil) should be supported by NZ government as the results of innovative analysis can influence the national mitigation decisions in those countries. Reductions of GHG emissions in those countries are essential for keeping global climate change close to the targets in the Paris COP21 report. Such reductions will benefit every country.

**Climate Change Commission**

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?

Pick one:

- [x] yes
- [ ] no

**Optional comment:**

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

Pick one:

- [x] advising the Government on policy settings in the NZ ETS
makes decisions itself, in respect of the number of units available in the NZ ETS.

Optional comment

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?

Pick one:
☐ yes
☒ no.

Optional comment: Expertise on Human Health impacts is missing, and expertise on health and social impacts in low and middle income countries should also be added as the Commission needs good knowledge on the links between mitigation actions here and the positive impacts in vulnerable parts of the world.

Adapting to the impacts of climate change

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

Pick one:
☒ yes
☐ no

Optional comment: Yes, but the importance of mitigation (globally) should not be given less attention. Adaptation in every vulnerable community in NZ is of course important, but one way to reduce the need for Adaptation is, of course, Mitigation.

15. The Government has proposed a number of new functions to help us adapt to climate change. Do you agree with the proposed functions?

Pick one:
☒ yes
☐ no.
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?

Pick one:

X yes

☐ no.

Optional comment: There are specific health risks linked to climate change that will affect selected parts of the community. Our research team carries out analysis of the effects of increasing heat on working people, which in certain industries in tropical countries is becoming a major problem. In New Zealand heat problems for working people are of importance in forestry and certain agricultural industries. Collecting information on the health and economic impacts and sharing results with the Commission and other stakeholders would be of great value.