ZERO CARBON BILL

SUBMISSION

Society of Friends (Quakers)
Tauranga Worship Group
19th July 2018

Contact
Bill Robinson, Correspondent
Tauranga Quakers
Quakers, Climate Justice and the Zero Carbon Bill

Quakers: The Religious Society of Friends, Te Haahi Tuuhauwiri stands by values of care and responsibility for our common home and affirms policies for climate justice in the Zero Carbon Bill in addressing risks to homes, land, livelihoods and people.

We recognize the planet as our common home with its capacity for healing and renewal, and know that we share a destiny with all forms of life and creation.

Tauranga Quakers offer this submission in support of our concern.

1. A Just Transition

We support principles of climate justice and fairness being embedded within a Zero Carbon Bill, including community engagement and the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We affirm the need for equity and intergenerational justice to ensure that vulnerable communities are supported and that just transitions are planned for regions and workers in industries where job losses will occur.

2. A 2020 - 2050 target with Just Transitions and Adaptation

We prefer working with a 2020 to 2050 period to strengthen focus on policy and public understanding for reducing carbon emissions in the short and longer terms.

We support government setting out plans and a timeframe of 5-6 years to achieve emissions budgets under the Zero Carbon Bill. We support plans and budgets within a Te Tiriti o Waitangi framework and with principles of Just Transitions: fairness, equity and ecological integrity.

We support a stronger ambition and a ‘two baskets’ approach to targets for long lived and short-lived greenhouse gases. This enables us to take account of New Zealand's particular emissions profile of nearly 50% of our GHG’s from agriculture and methane. We emphasise the urgency of reducing long lived cumulative emissions to net zero in the period 2020-2050 in support of the Paris Agreement to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius, striving to 1.5 degrees.

It is appropriate that adaptation (i.e. addressing the impacts of climate change, such as droughts and sea level rise) be included in the Zero Carbon Bill.

3. Climate Change Commission

We support the functions of the proposed Climate Commission, namely, providing expert advice; monitoring our progress; and holding the government to account. There needs to be a framework to include scientific, technical and policy experts, with Tiriti o Waitangi framework to provide for Māori perspectives.

We recommend proposed plans for budgets and targets reducing methane emissions, along with adaptation measures being prepared by the Climate Change Commission.

4. Cross Party Agreement

Cross party agreement to the Zero Carbon Bill is the key to durability of the Bill and continuity of policy. We appreciate all efforts to achieve a cross party agreement, without compromising planning for budgets and transitions to meet net zero carbon between 2020-2050.

4. Conclusion

We affirm the proposed Zero Carbon Bill to support progress in meeting New Zealand's responsibilities and our care for succeeding generations.