Zero Carbon Bill – Discussion Document Submission

Introduction

This submission is made on behalf of Minerals West Coast (MWC). MWC is a charitable trust that exists to promote the West Coast’s minerals industry for the benefit of the West Coast, its communities and people. MWC also acts for the West Coast Commercial Gold Miners Association. Membership is wide and varied and accounts for a large number of West Coast businesses within the extractives industry and associated service industries.

MWC is aware of submissions made on the Zero Carbon Bill Discussion Document that have been made by the West Coast Regional Council and Straterra. This submission generally supports these submissions, except where outlined below.

MWC consider that there is significant work required to appropriately inform the content of the Zero Carbon Bill prior to it progressing any further.

- **Key Points** There is considerable uncertainty within the proposed emissions targets and the forecast economic impacts from any of these targets being in set legislation which is deeply concerning to MWC members, such as the coal industry.

- We understand that the recent science progression around methane from livestock suggests that the total emissions from New Zealand could be reduced by almost half if these emissions are not included as proposed.

- It is likely that even if New Zealand achieved a Net Zero Carbon emission target, global emissions would not decrease.

- The economic impacts of any increase in the price of carbon as a result of either the Zero Carbon Bill or the signalled review of the Emissions Trading Scheme will have significant economic impacts on a wide range of industries that are reliant on coal for heat energy production.

- These economic impacts are likely to lead to loss of competitive edge in export markets, and loss of employment as energy becomes uneconomic.

- The level of understanding of the wider public in relation to the likely economic impacts needs to be improved to ensure that the wider implications of the proposed legislation are fully understood.

- MWC does not support the definition of any emissions targets given the above uncertainties.

Consultation

MWC would welcome the opportunity to discuss the above matters further with Ministry for the Environment Officials as part of the consultation process on the bill.
Contact Details

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