

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Ben Mansfield

Reference no: 33

Submitter Type: Individual

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

Clause

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

Position

Net Zero Emissions - Net zero emissions across all greenhouse gases by 2050

Notes

Although net zero emission will be incredibly difficult given the large methane emission of farming, it is essential to our viability as a country to be ambitious and aim high.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

International carbon units fail to take domestic accountability and the system is prone to fraud.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Yes, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure the target revisions are due to credible reasons, not an ambiguous change in government perception. I am worried a change in government could derail the entire purpose of the law.

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

Clause

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

Position

Yes - the third emissions budget should be able to be changed but only when the subsequent budget is set

Notes

Yes the third budget should be able to be revised after budgeting as to allow business to plan and account for changes and to enable greater transparency

Clause

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

No

Notes

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

With special attention to the Treaty

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

Absolutely.

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

In particular the farming sectors which accounts for over half our GHG emissions need to be consulted to work out a pathway that will work for them while reducing our ecological harm.

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

I believe the commission needs to advise government but having some binding presence in their reports - otherwise the power of this law could be easily negated by a change in govt

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

And I agree sector experts are needed to be on the committee, perhaps hearing from panels of stakeholder groups as needed (but who would not be a part of the committee.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes**Clause**

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Yes, as an island nation we need a plan for the climate change that is coming.

Clause

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

More shared knowledge = better

Clause

Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

Notes

Although this bill has a lot of promise, I believe it imperative that we put safeguards in place to stop a change in government or progress to reverse the power it has. Also - the ETS is broken, why keep it?