

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Reference no: 153

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 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

Notes

It is important to set a well-informed target as soon as possible, as informed by climate experts.

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

Ideally, net zero emissions. The best target is the most potentially impactful and influential goal that we could set. It is ambitious, so we should also consider social and economic implications, and assist vulnerable communities and high-emissions organisations to adapt, while investing in new sector opportunities for sustainable innovation and employment. (Just realized this is included in page 39. I agree with page 39.)

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

Mainly using domestic emissions reductions would help ensure that strong, long-term measures are being taken to reduce emissions in New Zealand. Considering that net zero is an ambitious goal, carbon credits (sourced according to a robust criteria as on page 33) could be a minor supplement.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

If circumstances change, the Bill should only be able to be revised under exceptional circumstances. The Zero Carbon Bill needs to be substantial and not easily changed to the point where it doesn't hold .

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

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

Yes

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**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

It will be important to specify a timeline and update on progress made.

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

Agriculture (sustainable agriculture), ensuring that the dairy industry is reducing emissions.

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

The Government should publicly respond to deviations from the Commission's advice, with rationale.

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**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**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

Mandatory for Crown entities, local and central government, and some major public services. This means there is a range of reports that would result in well-informed decision making. The reports should cover the risks identified, measures taken and any problems (including problems that the government could assist with), progress since the last report, and measures that the organisation is considering.

Clause

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

Notes

(In support of page 39) The government should implement policy that would assist vulnerable communities to adapt, since many of them will be more adversely affected. Businesses that generate high emissions should innovate and develop in an agile way. Ultimately, to succeed, stakeholders in all of society will need to do their part. It will be important for the Bill to start with well-informed and meaningful policies.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.