

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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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

Gases emitted primarily from agriculture should not be exempt. Agricultural practices need to change, including away from animal based to plant based production. Exemptions for methane and/or nitric oxide will prevent the incentives and signals needed to encourage transition to more sustainable agricultural practices. The pace of change does need to be managed and the agricultural sector does need to be supported through the transition process. That can best be achieved by starting now and not deferring the process to a later date.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

Our past record on using reductions from overseas is poor. It allowed previous governments to fudge the numbers. New Zealand is in a relatively favourable position internationally with high levels of renewable energy generation, huge potential for sustainable agriculture, a growing technology sector, well established forestry industry and a relatively small population. We ought to be able to achieve target emissions reductions domestically.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

However there needs to be some way of preventing short term see-sawing of targets related to the 3-year electoral cycle. A long term and robust and unified strategy that provides certainty is required.

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 - each incoming Government should have the option to review the third budget in the sequence

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

The range of circumstances needs to be carefully specified and based on best available scientific evidence.

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

Yes, but how would these be weighted and how would the setting of budgets be protected from powerful vested interests?

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 is important to commit to a timeframe and not continue to defer action.

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

The government needs to set a clear policy (to date that has been lacking) and all sectors need to be engaged in responding. The government also needs to create incentives, invest in research and development (in partnership with the private sector), invest in transition projects, protect the most vulnerable, and also ensure essential mitigation work is planned and undertaken. Key sectors obviously include energy, agriculture, business and technology, transport, the tertiary sector, finance sector, construction and housing.

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

I think it is important that the Commission has the ability to provide stability in the process so that the longer term goals can be achieved and not be undermined by short term political expediency.

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

Makes decisions itself in respect of the number of units available 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

The need to mitigate the effects of climate change is already upon us. It makes more sense to integrate emissions reduction and mitigation than to have these two components separated.

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