

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Reference no: 213

Submitter Type: University

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 Long-Lived Gases and Stabilised Short-Lived Gases - Long-lived gases to net zero by 2050 while also stabilising short-lived gases

Notes

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

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

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**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

Rapid transition to electric vehicles. How we achieve the final 5% in renewable energy. Disruption in agriculture from synthetic and plant grown products - I cannot stress this enough. NZ needs to prepare for this and not lose out to the market share.

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

We shouldn't rule out a Carbon Tax that starts small and is incrementally increased.

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

Yes this must include science (marine and terrestrial), health, industry, ag, tech, energy, youth, iwi

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

We are already committed to some degree of change this must be considered in law for future planning and building resilience. e.g. no new buildings below 2 m sea-level.

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**Clause**

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

Notes

Technological advances in gene editing and modification and improved significantly and need to be considered when looking at a 30 year pathway. Development of drought, flood and salt tolerant crops provides resilience and food security and if conducted effectively will not be harmful to the NZ 'clean' brand. Crops that require less irrigation will improve water quality too. Of course we must look at the risk vs opportunity in this space but I don't think it's wise for us to assume that depending on our clean image and brand is a sure thing. We had this debate when margarine came out against butter. Social license must be considered but the scientific breakthroughs in this field have huge potential and laws from 20 years ago today will be very old by 2050. This is something that shouldn't be ignored. We must also consider the role of the ocean in this discussion. The oceans' play a major role in climate change (as a carbon pump, and through heat storage). Focusing solely on carbon content in the atmosphere fails to integrate the whole earth system.

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