

# Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Katharine Woolrych, **Katharine Woolrych**

## Reference no: 711

**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

It is essential that the government legislate a fixed and binding target immediately - we have no time to lose.

### 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

We cannot afford to ignore the 49% of our emissions profile that come from methane as a result of agriculture. While methane is short lived, it traps 34 times more heat over a 10 year period. Nitrous oxide is also long-lived and despite existing in small concentrations, trap 298 times more heat. Addressing the problems within our agriculture and dairy industry could not only help us avoid the most disastrous effects of climate change sooner but could also help us address other harm currently being done to our environment - for instance waterway pollution and soil over-nutrication. Furthermore, our knowledge about the dangers of these other gases is limited, considering CO2 gets something like 100 times the funding and number of published academic papers. We must accept that our emissions profile is different to other countries but see the challenges this poses as unique opportunities to become world-leaders.

### Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

### Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

### Notes

Relying on international carbon credits risks shifting responsibility away from our domestic emissions - like all countries, we need to do our bit to address the damage WE have created.

### Clause

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

### Position

No

### Notes

No - this act needs to ensure changes of government and shifts in political mood. No matter what the political 'circumstances' are, climate change will remain the biggest challenge we as a nation face today.

### 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

No - emissions budgets should not be able to be changed

### 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**

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**

No

**Notes**

Considerations of scientific knowledge (i.e. the risks posed by climate change) should take priority over 'economic circumstances', 'fiscal circumstances' and other short-term concerns. While fuel poverty for instance is a real concern, it must be considered in the context of the long-term threat a lack of substantive action on climate change poses.

**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**

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**

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**

**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**