

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Maxine Mary Campbell

Reference no: 935

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

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

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

Yes

Notes

Yes, but only in a positive direction - if climate indicators worsen, we should increase the speed of our efforts.

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

Notes

Again, only for the purposes of increasing the rate of reduction of emissions.

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

See above.

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

Social, economic and fiscal considerations should be appraised from the point of view of how best to minimise harm, but should not take precedence over climate considerations, since over the long term, the impacts of inaction or lesser action on climate change will lead to significantly more misery for more people.

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

This is a whole of life/whole of community issue. Some impacts are obvious - job losses, fuel poverty, loss of economic competitiveness - but the considerations listed in the consultation document (p.44) indicate the broad range of stakeholders who should be involved.

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**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

Even if we achieved zero emissions tomorrow, there will still be effects that we must contend with.

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

Stephen Hawking thought we should find another planet to live on, such is the damage we have inflicted on our current one. To date, we don't know of another habitable planet (and if there is one, we are probably the worst thing that could happen to it), so our efforts need to be dedicated to making this one healthy again. Our children and grandchildren are destined to carry a greater climate burden than the baby boom generation has, though the burden has been fashioned largely by the boomers. Those in developing countries, who have benefited least from "modern conveniences", are paying the greatest price and will continue to do so. Changes in our behaviours now can begin to reduce the misery into the future. Our actions to date have taken scant account of the long term consequences; inaction now would be unforgivable.