

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

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

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

It should not take into account economic considerations in setting/advising on budgets as the economy is ephemeral whilst the environment is for ever. Of course, we need to then set strategies on how to cope with the economic impacts but they should not have a major role in setting the budgets.

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

ASAP

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 obvious issue is how to meet the target, through the budgets.

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

No

Notes

It depends on how the commission is set up. It needs to operate independent of government but be accountable to the people. However, there needs to be cross party support for the commissions's operating parameters so that it can then operate to meet the stated goal and set policy, in consultation with, but independent of, government.

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

No

Notes

I don't think expertise is needed in the supposed needs of certain sectors of the population, since climate change is something that affects the population, as a whole. Other than that, it needs expertise in the science of climate change and some expertise in the methods of addressing it.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

The climate will change markedly, regardless of what we do so we need an adaptation strategy.

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

Yes but don't include phrases like "sustainably growing the economy"; it is not possible to sustainably grow an economy, so it should not be a consideration.

Clause

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

Notes

Just to reiterate that climate change is probably the most (but not only) environmental crisis that we face, and there is a risk of its turning into an existential crisis. We should concentrate on removing our contribution to climate change forcing. We should also note that the impacts of climate change may not change because of our actions in this country alone, so adaptation strategies should, initially, assume that climate change will continue to track on the worst case scenario.