

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

there is real urgency to move aggressively to abate emissions

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

there is real urgency to move aggressively to abate emissions - all gases!

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions (including from new forest planting) and using some emissions reductions from overseas (international carbon units) that have strong environmental safeguards

Notes

good to take a global approach, may be cheaper to offset some overseas emissions than to scrub the last few emissions out of our own patch

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

only to bring it closer; i.e. not to delay it.

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

yep, and needs to apply to local government as well.

Clause

6. Should the Government be able to alter the last emissions budget (i.e. furthest into the future)?

Position

Yes - the third emissions budget should be able to be changed but only when the subsequent budget is set

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

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

must include local governments as well, and DHBs

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

actually achieving emissions reductions, putting a strong requirement on local govt to set carbon budgets at local level; i.e. to pattern the central govt approach at a local authority level.

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

gets this essential function somewhat removed from the political realm, therefore much greater assurance of success.

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

No

Notes

this should be dealt with in separate legislation. adaptation is a response to global emissions and complex biophysical feedbacks. abatement is focused on about domestic emissions, so should be in a stand alone statute. while it should be separate legislation for adaptation, it needs to be a nationally coordinated approach, and have a compulsion on local govt and sector level planning for adaptation.

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

essential, especially for local government and private sector.

Clause

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

Notes

I wish to speak in support of my submission at any hearings or select committee process that arises in this consultation process. I believe this is the most important legislation considered in the 52nd Parliament. Need to take an exponential decay approach, i.e. biggest decreases in emissions in early years, moderate in mid years, and slower in last years. There needs to be a strong compulsion on all local govts in NZ to set and deliver on these budgets as well; otherwise you'll get all sorts of cross boundary failures to set appropriate strategy and planning in place at local level. Many Councils are in denial. For instance Horizons Regional Council was presented with numerous submissions during the 2018 Long Term Plan consultation that lay out the rationale for setting a GHG emissions abatement target. A subsequent recommendation to establish such a target was only briefly considered, and lost 10-2. Without compulsion on local govt, there will be a major and dangerous lag in delivery on the NZ budgets.