

Submissions form

We seek your feedback on the specific proposals in the Zero Carbon Bill.

2050 target

1. What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?

Pick one:

- the Government sets a 2050 target in legislation now
- 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.

Optional comment

2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?

Pick one:

- net zero carbon dioxide:** Reducing net carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2050
- net zero long-lived gases and stabilised short-lived gases:** Long-lived gases to net zero by 2050, while also stabilising short-lived gases
- net zero emissions:** Net zero emissions across all greenhouse gases by 2050.

Optional comment

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Pick one:

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

Optional comment

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

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

It would obviously depend on which circumstances change, but if the circumstances were only economic factors rather than environmental ones (i.e climate change miraculously stops) then I believe New Zealand must commit to the 2050 target. Otherwise it would be too easy for future governments to claim that the bill should be revised for small economic gains.

Emissions budgets

5. The Government proposes that three emissions budgets of five years each (ie, covering the next 15 years) be in place at any given time. Do you agree with this proposal?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

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

Pick one:

- yes, each incoming Government should have the option to review the third budget in the sequence
- yes, the third emissions budget should be able to be changed, but only when the subsequent budget is set
- no, emissions budgets should not be able to be changed.

Optional comment

7. Should the Government have the ability to review and adjust the second emissions budget within a specific range under **exceptional circumstances**?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

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?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

Government response

9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

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?

Comment

The government must always consider the effect on communities and jobs when implementing new environmental policy. Consulting with iwi and local government is essential to keep public opinion in favour of the bill, and the government needs to find a balance between extremely tough environmental regulation and maintaining local economies.

Climate Change Commission

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?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

This commission must be given actual power, as opposed to a body such as the Waitangi Tribunal, which only advises and never actually makes any legislative change (and is generally ignored by every government). Such a commission must be imbued with the ability to directly influence legislation, rather than a purely advisory role. Giving the commission a veto quota on bills it finds to be against the tenets of the Zero Carbon Bill could be a way to achieve this.

12. What role do you think the Climate Change Commission should have in relation to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)?

Pick one:

- advising the Government on policy settings in the NZ ETS
- makes decisions itself, in respect of the number of units available in the NZ ETS.

Optional comment

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?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

Adapting to the impacts of climate change

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

Pick one:

- yes
- no

Optional comment

15. The Government has proposed a number of new [functions](#) to help us adapt to climate change. Do you agree with the proposed functions?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

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?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment