Reference no: 1703

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
This should have been done 15 years ago when it became clear that global warming was accelerating.

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
This should have been done 15 years ago when it became clear that global warming was accelerating. And the goal should be 2030, not 2050. Ask your children what the goal should be.

Clause 3.
How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position
Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes
No trading should be permitted under any circumstance. Trading just gets used to postpone essential emission reductions.

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

Notes
The question is ambiguous and therefore unanswerable. Circumstances are already changing and at an accelerating rate.

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

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

Notes
The question is ambiguous and therefore unanswerable. Reviews which bring budgets forward in time are acceptable. Reviews which result in a postponement of targets (and the action required) simply increase the chances of economic (and social) collapse.

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
Our circumstances are already exceptional and will become increasingly so.

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
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 Of course. And sector by sector penalties for not meeting them.

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 most important issue is the need to transition from an economic system which depends on unsustainable growth to an economic system which can provide for everyone's needs without unsustainable growth.

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 Yes of course. But the most important one is adaptation and this is nowhere spelled out. For example, there will be huge costs involved in rebuilding after fires and storms, moving people and housing from low lying areas to less flood prone areas, in coping with reduced agricultural productivity, in meeting the needs of increasing numbers of unemployed and so on.

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 An emissions trading scheme is ridiculous. It just postpones the inevitable. We need to get our emissions down to zero, and we need to make an immediate start on the adaptations which will be required now we know that global heating is going to continue for many generations.

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 All members must have expertise in (a) understanding ongoing research into the rate at which global heating is occurring, (b) identifying the adaptations which will be required in order to reduce the economic and social impacts of the global heating which is already built in, and (c) the town planning and infrastructure planning which will be required for this.

Clause 14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change?
Position Yes
Notes Of course. Much global heating is now built in and will continue even after every country in the world reduces its emissions to zero. So massive adaptations are now going to be required in order to reduce the death rate to acceptable levels and to avoid economic collapse.

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 to all of the items listed. Note that many things are missing such as adapting to the increased risk of disease, adapting to greatly reduced agricultural productivity, adapting to large scale population movements, adapting to unaffordable insurance premiums, adapting to a zero growth economy, etc, etc.

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
Yes, of course. And there will need to be a Government Department charged with identifying and coordinating adaptation planning and implementation.

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

Notes
It is good to see New Zealand making a start on future proofing the New Zealand economy and the welfare of future generations. However, we are starting on this journey very late and it is going to be a much more painful and expensive journey than it would have been had we started 15 years ago when the accelerating rate of global heating had been clearly identified by our scientists.