

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 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 Carbon Dioxide - Reducing net carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2050

Notes

The government should not set a target yet. The science is not well enough understood

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

Committing to trading carbon internationally is fraught with issues and we should wait until that market is mature before pledging public money to that end

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

No

Notes

No to this one. Unless each of the 5 year periods can be stopped or changed during the period

Clause

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

Position

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

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

Yes

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

I suggest a heavy weighting on scientific outcome and testing. An independent scientific body ought to be established to maintain scientific integrity around climate change

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

Forcing a scientifically based plan on an uncertain time period will cause future issues

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

Independent non government related science advice must be taken on this issue to maintain scientific integrity

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

This body should never make independent decisions on policy

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

I suggest weighting the various areas of expertise. For example independent scientific expertise should be sourced and include BOTH sides of the carbon argument. AND the science advice should be paramount over all other considerations.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

Far too many variables for the scope of this bill to cover with any sensibility. The potential to lock into legislation something that may be wrong is high and goes against the idea of adapting.

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

No

Notes

I would be hesitant to force "sharing" into legislation. This may end up breaching privacy and creating conflict

Clause

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

Notes

Even though it seems clear that the UN and the IPCC believe they have an understanding of the future of the planets climate the science is not settled. As an MSc in Earth Science and now 28 years of reading and understanding of the sciences behind how our planet works I am deeply troubled that we are rushing into policy without a reasonable certainty of the science. The precautionary principle is usually used when there is no real risk of negative affect and in this legislation there is massive risk to our most vulnerable population. There is no harm in waiting for a year or two to at least have a better understanding of what the future holds. There are many examples in the literature and in the data, for instance, that show no risk of sealevel reaching even the range of heights mentioned in the report within 100 years (NZ data used). Nor is there any evidence that substantiates the increase in extreme weather events beyond normal background events. I note there is no obvious way to verbally submit on this bill but I am happy to present to the Ministry at any time required post submission date data that shows the hypothesis "Increasing Human caused CO2 in the atmosphere will cause accelerated sea level rise, increased severity and frequency of extreme weather, acidification of the worlds oceans or catastrophic melting of the polar ice caps" has already failed and that we may well be embarking on a fools errand. There are areas of pollution that we do need to remedy but this bill will go no way towards any of that and is likely to cost us as New Zealanders dearly. How do I make a verbal submission?

Supporting documents from your Submission

Submission_on_Zero_Carbon_Bill.pdf

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