

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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Reference no: 1830

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

Physics doesn't negotiate with different gas types. They all cause warming, they must all come down to net zero.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

Overseas carbon credit schemes have long proven to be not good enough.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Yes, but only revising the target to below net zero, or bringing the net zero date forward to sooner than 2050.

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

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

Notes

Yes, but the budget should ONLY be able to be altered down, to be more ambitious in emissions reductions. This has to be a race to the top in ambition, not a race to the bottom. No government should be able to weaken the ambition of a previous government.

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

Yes, but the budget should ONLY be able to be altered down, to be more ambitious in emissions reductions. This has to be a race to the top in ambition, not a race to the bottom. No government should be able to weaken the ambition of a previous government.

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**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**Clause**

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

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**Clause**

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

Notes

Climate Change is a global problem - it cannot be tackled by countries in isolation. New Zealand must demonstrate global leadership and match its bold domestic emissions reduction agenda: by having an equally ambitious climate change strategy abroad. Access to climate finance is a matter of climate justice - those who have contributed least to the causes of climate change are typically the most vulnerable to its impacts and have the least resources to respond. We must take responsibility for our global emissions and the climate impacts that we have contributed to. It's very important that all New Zealanders have their say on how we make the shift to a zero carbon future here in New Zealand but we must also help the world's most vulnerable communities across the Pacific adjust to the impacts on climate change. We must ensure that the Zero Carbon Bill is transparent. This means the bill must include a requirement to produce annual reports about New Zealand's international climate change contributions in order to ensure that the Pacific countries get the support they need and can plan to adapt to their changing environment. Transparency in the Bill will promote public engagement and political accountability. New Zealanders will be able to understand the international contributions we are making and as a nation, we will be able to stand tall that we are supporting our Pacific neighbours adapt to their climate change reality. New Zealand has demonstrated global leadership with our commitment to stopping oil and gas exploration - now let us continue that moral leadership and include transparency in what and how we support climate change efforts abroad, particularly in the Pacific.