

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

Whatever goal is set it has to be able to survive changes of government over the next 32 years, and it had better be started fast.

Clause

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

Position

Net Zero Long-Lived Gases and Stabilised Short-Lived Gases - Long-lived gases to net zero by 2050 while also stabilising short-lived gases

Notes

It isn't just cows making methane, but rubbish dumps etc. At least if we stabilise these we might actually achieve our goal.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

Our reputation collapsed over the last lot of cheating with worthless bought emissions reductions.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

Climate change may well get quicker, but leaving a door open for changing the target would be daft. If we reach it earlier, then hooray!

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

There probably has to be some flexibility, but no escape clauses!

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

No escape clauses! The naysayers would have a field day.

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

However, I would also recommend that the Commission take a broad view and include factors where Nature could assist, rather than more chemicals, and technology isn't the answer to everything!

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

We need the plans written up large if we are to achieve anything.

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

In trying to reduce agricultural emissions they should stop believing everything that the big fertiliser companies claim, and look more widely at more natural products and systems. One of these has already been brought to the notice of Ministers (Functional Fertiliser). Chemicals and vaccines won't achieve it, or give us cleaner water.

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

But its advisory role must be able to hold Government to account, as in the second option of Table 6.

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

See my answer to question 11.

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

Need to also include knowledge of the private innovation system, to provide a wider view than what seems to pertain at present.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Otherwise it would be a waste of time if we (individuals and businesses) don't have guidance on what to do.

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

As long as those involved in the various tasks actually work together, on all issues.

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

The more sharing, the better.

Clause

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

Notes

Please note my answer to question 10. At present a lot (most) of the funding for agricultural mitigation and adaptation is coming from the two big fertiliser companies, whose profit is being made from selling products which are ruining our soils, growing less pasture than in the 1980s, and leaching hugely into our waters. Until someone is prepared to think outside this system, and fund testing for what may well be natural alternatives, progress in agriculture will be painfully slow.