

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Reference no: 2193

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

Most other countries are setting emissions targets addressing all greenhouse gas emissions, why should New Zealand get a special option. Ultimately we need to reduce to net zero emissions! Not just CO2

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

Purchasing international credits to buy yourself out is not a long term strategy to address climate change. My preference would be for only allowing national offsetting through forest planting.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

But the level of change needs to be fixed in legislation and shouldn't be more than 5-10% of the overall target. Otherwise the risk is too great for future governments to reduce their targets just because it is politically difficult to achieve.

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

But the level of change allowed should be prescribed in the legislation. Knowing the maximum level of change will also give businesses more certainty about their investments to reduce emissions.

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

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**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

And these plans should be reviewed by the climate change commission which should be allowed to comment on these and ask the government to do more if they deem the plans to be insufficient.

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

scientists, NGOs, economists, industry leaders, representatives of the wider population

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**

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

But I would also add experiences with climate change mitigation related to the key emissions sectors

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

The proposed mitigation targets and action plans from the government should also have to reflect the likely impacts and or changes to the level of adaptation required.

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

Yes

Notes

Clause

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

Notes

It is important that the zero carbon target is firmly embedded in our legislations. The biggest risk would be that a new incoming government can water down the act in the future. The experience we have had with the Emissions Trading Scheme should be a reminder to us all that future governments may not agree with the bill or targets. The level to which these can be changed should therefore be well defined within the legislation.

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