

# Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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## Reference no: 2433

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

It is important to be as ambitious as possible. There is mounting evidence that the upper temperature goal of the Paris Agreement ("2°C above pre-industrial levels") would be a dangerous step for humanity. Climate legislation should reflect the need to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.

### Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

### Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

### Notes

### Clause

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

### Position

No

### Notes

Allowing the 2050 target to be revised is potentially dangerous and undermines the concept of long-term planning certainty. The only exceptional justification for altering it would be a significant disruption e.g. in the scientific understanding of climate change.

### 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

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

One additional factor that should be considered is the effects of climate change in developing countries, especially in our Pacific neighbourhood, and the likely impact of the decision on New Zealand's relations with Pacific partner governments as well as reputation and credibility in international fora.

### 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

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**

It is important not to overlook the fact that climate change is a global phenomenon that disproportionately affects developing countries, including in our own Pacific neighbourhood. Our plans for ambitious domestic-facing action should be matched by equally ambitious plans to provide international climate change assistance. To that end, New Zealand should be working closely with Pacific governments, regional bodies, civil society and international NGOs helping local communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.

**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**

The Climate Change Commission should also include expertise to monitor and report on New Zealand's international climate change contributions under the Paris agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. It would be valuable to see the Commission draw attention to the issue of how New Zealand provides climate-related support to developing countries e.g. via climate finance for adaptation and mitigation, particularly in the Pacific. As such, the Zero Carbon Bill should include a requirement for Government to produce regular reports on New Zealand's international climate finance and climate-related Official Development Assistance.

**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**

As above: At least two Commissioners should be able to monitor and provide expert advice on New Zealand's climate action in support of developing countries. This would require them to have in-depth understanding of international climate and development frameworks as well as climate policy priorities in developing countries, especially in the Pacific.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Yes

**Notes**

For enhanced policy coherence and coordination, the Zero Carbon Bill should also outline / reference New Zealand's efforts to assist developing countries, including in the Pacific, adapt to climate change. It would be valuable to use insights from and decisions for the National Adaptation Plan to inform New Zealand's international assistance to vulnerable people and countries, and vice-versa.

**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 above, developing a National Adaptation Plan and Reporting Power is a key opportunity to review, improve and align New Zealand's adaptation support to developing countries in the Pacific (and beyond).

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. As outlined above, I would again like to highlight that the Zero Carbon Bill is a unique opportunity to ensure that we contribute to a positive future in developing countries who are among the most vulnerable to impacts such as changing weather patterns and sea level rise. As such, the Bill should include strong references to New Zealand's international commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, notably Articles 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 on developed country support to developing countries, particularly in the area of adaptation. The Climate Commission could play a key role in monitoring and strengthening our contributions in the global fight against climate change. A national adaptation plan could include policy guidance on our adaptation support overseas. In short, please ensure the Zero Carbon Bill will not only drive meaningful climate action at home but also across the developing world.