

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 2050 target in legislation now

Notes

Without a definite commitment change will be too difficult.

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

Having already exceeded all previous targets and with continued high world population growth it is now necessary to set unilateral and ambitious targets.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

New Zealand should become a world leader with or without input from other countries.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

There will be significant pressure from industry and other interest groups which will make focussed determination essential.

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

Provided it is not possible to use this as a mechanism for not achieving the original targets. (Revisionist equivocation)

Clause

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

Position

No - emissions budgets should not be able to be changed

Notes

As has so far consistently been the case, this otherwise allows for subsequent governments to not meet previously agreed targets.

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

The most likely reason for wanting to do this would be to allow for economic imperatives at the expense of the environment. New thinking and policy must be developed.

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

Subject to new scientific understanding and international cooperation.

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

Successive government must be committed to continuity.

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

The overall and continued health of the ecosystem including a fully integrated human species.

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

It is vital to have a strong monitoring agency.

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

The NZ ETS must evolve as our understanding of environmental imperatives deepens.

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

With care taken to protect impartiality and avoid the influence of industrial or special interest groups. [Pharmaceutical and agricultural multinationals and other nations through trade agreements etc]

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Given the current starting point and likely levels of progress it is essential that it does.

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

Provided those organisations cannot influence policy.

Clause

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

Notes

Having spent my 20s living in Kenya where the average energy consumption was 0.5 barrels of oil per year (energy equivalent) and my 30s in California where people were 90 times as consumptive I am aware of just how far from a sustainable base line we are. As an Ocean Engineer and Marine Warranty Surveyor I spent the 90s overseeing the installation of very large offshore oil and gas facilities including Hibernia and those of the North Dome field offshore Qatar. I moved to New Zealand looking for a more balanced and sustainable lifestyle for myself and my family. But, apart from the low ratio of people to the environment have not found it here. New Zealand is in a unique position of being able to use its low population and isolated ecosystem to lead the world in alternative sustainable living. Whether it chooses to do so remains to be seen. However, I believe like the rest of the world it will soon have little choice.