

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Reference no: 2495

Submitter Type:

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

Having a set and immovable target is fundamental to the efficacy of this piece of legislation. Without a set target there are too many moving pieces and too much wiggle room between the Commission's recommendations and the governments actions. The point of the Act is to hold the government to account throughout a period of time, if the time period is movable so too is the accountability. The target should be zero net carbon, because it is ambitious but achievable.

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

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

While I don't think overseas credits should be used, if they are, the Commission needs to be able to hold the government to account for the quality of the credits.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Circumstances should be specific and tied to scientific evidence that a different approach is warranted.

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

This will allow planning over time. Additionally, the Commission should have the ability to comment on whether a previous government's actions have lead to increases or decreases in carbon emissions in the following terms.

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

Significant weight needs to be given to the Crown's duty under the Treaty of Waitangi and how climate change will impact the ability of Māori to perform their kaitiaki role. Both the Commission and the Crown need to have the expertise to be able to properly consider these matters fully.

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

If the Act is not mandatory with clear timeframes it will not be an effective tool for holding the government to account.

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

Iwi and hapu views. Scientific community.

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 Commission needs to play a strong and public role. It must have the ability to hold the government of the day to account and must be independent.

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

Also needs specific expertise in ensuring that changes do not disproportionately affect minorities or the poor.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

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

This Act needs to provide the Commission with a strong and central role and must have all powers necessary to hold government (and potentially commercial players, through reporting requirements) to account. It should be able to commission its own research and seek information from the government.

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