

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Richard Sidney Hovey

Reference no: 2591

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

It's critical we put in place a firm target now to start working towards if we want any chance of managing the transition process - the longer we leave planning, investing etc the steeper the cuts need to be and the harder to make them.

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

Zero needs to be zero, and even then the zero by 2050 target is based on only giving us a reasonable chance of avoiding truly catastrophic climate change impacts which we'll be inflicting on future generations.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

We should know by now that we can't buy our way out of our obligations. We need to be real and honest about our efforts.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

If there is a global effort to move faster, spurred by the impacts of climate change appearing faster than is currently projected then we should definitely be able to speed up our reduction process and if by some incredibly slim chance there is something like massive volcanic activity which reduces solar radiation and we are just focused on staying fed we could adjust the target timing.

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

Five years seems like a reasonable amount of time to be planning and implementing.

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 should be no way for an opposition party to campaign on reducing any budget amount unless they will at least make that up in the subsequent five year block.

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

Yes

Notes

If there is something like massive volcanic emission of material such as sulphur dioxide into the upper atmosphere such that there is significant climate impact then we should be able to adapt to that.

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 no opposition party should be able to campaign without firm plans on how they would achieve the emission budgets if they are proposing different action to the current government.

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 actual hard reality of meeting those budget and how to be able to not just pick off the easier 'low hanging fruit' initially then stall.

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

Actual engineering/infrastructure construction/implementation experience not just political and management.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

Adaptation is a separate issue.

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

No

Notes

I think adaptation to climate change should be in a whole separate area as adaptation to the changing environment will need to cover other areas of degradation/change that stress our ability to maintain civilisation as we know it.

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

While the 2050 date and the idea of staged five year emission budgets might convey a calm, considered process we need to keep in mind that right now in almost any given week in New Zealand we have housing, infrastructure and agricultural output being destroyed by weather related cold, drought, flooding and wind with invasive species being enabled and diseases spreading. What we might plan at our pace within our considerations of GDP and 'political reality' actually has no relation to the speed at which the climate is changing and the impacts are appearing. To do anything less than put into legislation the most ambitious emissions reductions we can is to lose any chance of getting ahead of the pace of the changes we've already started. We throw not only caution to the wind, but the basis of our civilisation.