

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

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

New Zealand should be held accountable for its emissions. New Zealand should do everything in its power to reduce emissions domestically first, leaving each national responsible for their own emissions.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

The steps taken to reach the target should be able to be revised due to unpredictable events (such a freak weather events) while the target of net zero emissions should remain fixed.

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 ensures overlap between terms of government, preventing successive governments from easily altering these budgets.

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

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

Only if all other budgets are adjusted accordingly to ensure that the target remains achievable (net zero emissions by 2050).

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

Especially taking into account our obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi.

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

A specific timeframe is needed to ensure that Governments uphold their commitments. The bill should require governments to set out how it will achieve the emissions budgets, including transition pathways.

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 Government should set budgets in such a way that keeps the target achievable but minimises impacts on minority groups. The transitions should be gradual to ensure that businesses and people group have time to adjust to the changes that are required.

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 should advise the government on targets and policy planning. The Government should have to publicly respond to, and provide rationale when it deviates from the Commission's advice. The Climate Commission should also act as an independent watchdog, publishing progress reports and highlighting problems.

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

New Zealand should not use the ETS.

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

No

Notes

The proposed expertise roles should also cover experts on relations with our pacific territories, including on the effects of rising sea levels on Niue, Tokelau and the Solomon Is.

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

Local government should be provided with clear directions and guidance. The Government should also help co-ordinate the response across different sectors including iwi and hapu.

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

For the adaptation plan to be successful all available knowledge must be integrated, including that which is currently withheld by organisations.