

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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Clause

1. What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?

Position

The Government sets a goal to reach net zero emissions by the second half of the century and the Climate Change Commission advises on the specific target for the Government to set later

Notes

New Zealand many renewable energy options available and should aim to go net negative emissions by or before 2050. This renewable energy could give us a global competitive advantage allowing NZ to attract industry that requires energy as resource the resulting products sold as low/zero carbon products. NZ could be a leader in green products and develop a unique brand around this.

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

We have a small time window of opportunity to curb the very costly damaging effects of carbon emissions caused by the resulting climate change, If action is not taken now it may be too late, or less effective. We urgently need to set an ambitious target as this sends a strong message to the world and encourages other countries to follow. Our previous government allowed the status quo to continue for the past ten years and our emissions have continued to increase due to this. We must act now and we need an ambitious target to help make up for this lost time. We can't continue to be like 'Trump babies' and put our economy before the survival of the planet. Science has proven unequivocally that climate change is undeniable. We have a moral obligation as an educated and civilized nation to follow the UK's example and show we are responsible members of the global community. I am very grateful that the current government is acting so quickly on this all important issue. The discussion document quite rightly points out that it actually costs us more the longer we leave this, due to very costly damage control. The economic models show there is probably little economic impact if we adopt net zero emissions, as opposed to lesser targets, or even doing nothing.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

New Zealand is a renewable energy rich nation and should be taking responsibility for reducing its own emissions by domestic reductions (including farming). We should aim to be the ones selling international carbon units to other nations that are not as well placed as us.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

No, unless a more ambitious target is set as a result of any review. We collectively need to make a firm commitment to net zero or net negative emissions.

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

Yes, this is a good long term time frame to have in place and goes further out than the term of any one government.

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

Yes, but only if the previous budget is set and second and third budgets follow the advice of the Climate Commission. The government should not be allowed to deviate substantially from the Climate Commission's advice and if they do deviate to provide written public statements of its reasons for doing so and be clear in their campaign what they intend to do with regard to emission targets. The Commission is a good mechanism for keeping governments on track and accountable.

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

Yes, but only if it follows the Climate Commission's advice and NZ will still meet its net zero emissions target 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

Yes, All possible means of control of greenhouse gas control should be considered. I am unsure whether the NZ ETS can be made effective, as it has been manipulated by the share market, making the price of carbon units so low that it is meaningless.

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

Yes, the government does need to set out longer term plans and put policies in place to ensure emission targets are met

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 needs to put policies/strategies in place to support marginalized people and especially Maori, as their traditional communities tend to be coastal and more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It needs to go even further than that and address how NZ will respond to climate change refugees. Adopting the Maori world view of looking after the land and water first, then the people prosper is absolutely right. They also have it right, that we need to work together as a community and help each other out. Can this sort of thing be made into the core statement of intent of what this bill is about? We need something simple like this that we can all feel good about - and we need to work together for the common good. New Zealand culture has become increasingly, narcissistic. I have heard one response to the Zero C Act that some was that 'some people are worthless' and 'the reasonably well off should not be expected to help those who are suffering.' In response to this attitude I believe we need to move beyond ourselves and return to community values. Distribution of wealth through income needs to be more equitable. Part of this could be a 10X ceiling on high incomes. That is the highest income earner in NZ cannot exceed 10X the lowest. There seems to be a lot of apathy, ignorance, or fear in New Zealand about climate change and of our need to act quickly. Art and culture/religion are important in developing eco literacy and helping to get 'buy-in' from the public. Education about climate change needs to happen in schools, in workplaces, churches, in media and other groups. This issue is far bigger than Health & Safety, so workplaces need to be putting these things into our performance reviews as compulsory objectives, as they are now doing with Health & Safety. Workplaces should be rewarded for their contribution for meeting emissions targets. Workers effected by the transition away from fossil fuel industries should be supported into other jobs. Local government should be making plans around resiliency, including financial resilience, as climate change will put more pressure on limited resources. Local governments tend to be taking on increasing debt, which is leaving communities vulnerable in many ways. Science and technology is our main hope for mitigating climate change and helping us to adapt. The recent commercialising science has resulted in less than half of the funding for science being utilized for doing science and the rest goes on administration. This also forces the focus to be commercially driven, rather than research driven. Science is now seen as a commodity, to make money from, rather than an important long term investment in NZ's future development. It would be an advantage to form cooperative properly funded groups from our existing science sector to research greenhouse mitigation techniques.

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

This works in the UK and an independent advisory body helps keep governments accountable and on track

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 sharemarket manipulates any scheme like the NZ ETS to meet its own ends and the price of carbon units has been made so low, that they are meaningless. A better system maybe to introduce a global carbon tax on every product that uses fossil fuels in its production. Also import duties on products which have high carbon use in manufacture or use.

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

Yes, the Climate Commission must be made up of independent, unbiased experts as proposed. The arts and culture should be specified under community engagement and communications. Scientific expertise should be well represented in the Climate Commission.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Yes, this is a very important issue and we definitely need plans and policies in place to help us to adapt to climate change.

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

Yes, but also include how we will respond to climate refugees and provide mechanisms to educate/engage New Zealanders, to help them transition away from fossil fuels. Change to a sustainable model for the economy, such as a sufficiency economy? Corporate structures in organisations are taking a disproportionate amount of the wealth and this is contributing to the income gap in NZ, which is having negative impacts on New Zealand, such as child poverty and creating the working poor, who don't receive a living wage.

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

Yes, the more information we have the better we can respond to risks/impacts and track how well we are doing.