

Submission on the Zero Carbon Bill Consultation

7 July 2018

Dear Minister,

I support the passing of legally binding Climate Law.

As a resident of a small coastal South Island community (Karitane), an active member of a local river catchment conservation group River-Estuary Care:Waikouaiti-Karitane, a member of the East Otago Taipaure Management Committee, a retired education and health professional, mother and grandmother I have concerns that we need to move with urgency to commit to our responsibilities in regard to climate change. I welcome the decision of prioritising this issue by the government creating the Minister of Climate Change portfolio. I have attended several seminars in Dunedin over the last year on the subject and was heartened to learn that representatives from all parties had been meeting to develop an understanding of the reality and issues surrounding climate change. I recently attended the public consultation meeting on the Zero Carbon Bill in Dunedin. The current government has been able to take the issues to the next level – and by signing onto the Paris Agreement have committed all of us to be part of the global effort. I welcome this chance to be part of, not only the current consultation, but in ongoing active work on all levels. I appreciate the chance to help government decide the shape and form of the Zero Carbon Bill.

I strongly support the Zero Carbon Act.

2050 Target:

- The Government should set a 2050 target of net zero emissions in legislation now.
- Net zero emissions goal should be across all greenhouse gases (including Co2 and methane).
- New Zealand's targets must be achieved by actual cuts in our own emissions and not through the purchase of overseas carbon credits or over-reliance on forests as carbon sinks.

Emissions budgets:

- Support the Government's proposal for there to be emissions budgets that set out the pathway over a 5-year period with budgets set 10-15 years in advance, so that 3 are in effect at all times.

Government response:

- The Bill should require Government to set out how it will achieve the emissions budgets, including transition pathways.

Climate Commission:

- 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.

- The Commission should include participants representing the interests of human welfare and public health.
- I agree that the Government and the Climate Commission should take the following factors into consideration when advising on and setting budgets:
 - scientific knowledge regarding climate change
 - technology relevant to climate change
 - economic circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on the economy, as well as the competitiveness of particular sectors of the economy
 - fiscal circumstances and the likely impact of the decision on taxation, public spending and public borrowing
 - social circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on fuel poverty
 - energy policy and the likely impact of a decision on energy supplies and the carbon and energy intensity of the economy.

Adapting to the impacts of climate change:

- The Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- This should involve the Government setting a National Adaptation Plan that sets a clear direction to local government and helps coordinate the response across different sectors and including iwi and hapu.
- It must be fair and ensure just transitions for workers and communities and avoid passing the costs to future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say.

Patricia Harty Vanderburg