Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Chris Cameron

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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 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

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 (including from new forest planting) and using some emissions reductions from overseas (international carbon units) that have strong environmental safeguards
Notes

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

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

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

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
Should also include considerations regarding impact on the environment. This appears to be an important item missing from this set of considerations.

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

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
Important to work closely with industry, but also internationally as mitigation is a global challenge.

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
Advising the Government on policy settings 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

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
A key missing function is funding adaptation. Consideration and development of a funding mechanism(s) should be included in the Zero Carbon Bill. A risk assessment for climate change should not be developed in isolation from consideration of other risks or maladaptation may occur (for example, if the risk of sea level rise is high, then moving to higher ground may be seen as the correct solution - however, it may expose communities to more risk if that area is prone to landslides or earthquakes)

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
This should be mandatory, following the approach taken in the UK.
Clause
Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

Notes
The name of the Zero Carbon Bill/Act should be reconsidered. Given that it includes both adaptation and mitigation its name should reflect both these areas. Possibilities are: The Climate response act; the Climate Change Act.