

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Reference no: 7989

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

Clarity is important to allow the public, industry and local authorities to prepare for the transition, to positively influence the planning of major infrastructure and to secure investment for new technologies and industries.

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

However, there needs to be a safeguard to avoid change driven by lobbyists rather than science based findings supporting the best outcome for us and future generations.

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

However such a change should only be informed by science based evidence not lobbyists with alternative motives. The threshold for change should require a better outcome for NZ and the world.

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

No

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

The considerations should be based on a longer-term view to the benefit of all of New Zealand, not a short-term impact on a particular group.

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

Decisions should be based on the long-term impacts not short term costs, should provide a clear signal to industry to encourage and able investment into the transition, and should consider climate thresholds (dangerous limits) and thresholds for future commitments (such as the onset of irreversible ice sheet loss and thus sea level rise but many such thresholds exist).

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

Yes, but I could see also the Commission to have decision making rights to be highly effective and perhaps superior to the suggested model.

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

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

I think this is particularly important because it also highlights the cost of non-action, the cost benefits of mitigation and critical thresholds of dangerous changes for communities, industry and infrastructure across NZ.

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

Clause

Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

Notes

It is excellent and useful to have this discussion. Now, we need to move fast to allow for a viable mitigation pathway, to avoid the most

severe of climate change consequences, to gain from the benefits of our transition to a carbon neutral world and to position New Zealand as a leader, role model and good citizen of the world.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.