

# Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Oxfam New Zealand (Artur Francisco)

## Reference no: 8527

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

To give us the best possibility of achieving no more than 1.5 degrees warming by the end of the century, there must be rapid cuts in all greenhouse gases beginning now. I support a net-zero target of 2040 with the majority of cuts occurring over the next decade.

### Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

### Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

### Notes

I strongly support the 'firewall' principle - that New Zealand's targets must be achieved by actual cuts in our own emissions, and not through the purchase of overseas carbon credits or an over-reliance on forests as carbon sinks.

### Clause

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

### Notes

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### Clause

6. Should the Government be able to alter the last emissions budget (i.e. furthest into the future)?

### Position

No - emissions budgets should not be able to be changed

### 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

No

### Notes

### 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

The legislation should establish the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees. We should not settle for 2 degrees warming, that would lock in devastating impacts on Pacific Island states and cause significant extinctions. That is not acceptable. To give us the best possibility of achieving no more than 1.5 degrees warming by the end of the century, there must be rapid cuts in all greenhouse gases beginning now. I support a net-zero target of 2040 with the majority of cuts occurring over the next decade. I support all greenhouse gases being included in the law, consistent with international climate frameworks. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change makes it clear that methane reduction is critical to success in tackling climate change. It is politically and scientifically untenable for New Zealand's climate law to exclude any gases from our biggest emitting sector - the agricultural sector. I support the establishment of a Climate Commission, whose role should be to devise binding budgets. The Climate Commission should have statutory teeth, otherwise, it is merely an advisory group that governments could ignore. Climate budgets should be legally binding and set a bare-minimum ambition, which must be achieved or bettered by government within the prescribed timeframes. Finally, while budgets should be binding, policy recommendations from the Commission should be just that - recommendations. I strongly support the 'firewall' principle - that New Zealand's targets must be achieved by actual cuts in our own emissions, and not through the purchase of overseas carbon credits or an over-reliance on forests as carbon sinks. Regarding our international commitments, the Bill must include a requirement that governments produce annual reports about New Zealand's international climate change contributions. As a Pacific nation, we must ensure that the Pacific countries get the support they need to adapt to the devastating effects of climate change and their changing environment - a problem they contributed very little to. Access to climate finance is a matter of justice: those who have contributed least to the causes of the problem are typically the most vulnerable to its impacts and have the least resources to respond. New Zealand must demonstrate global leadership and match its bold vision for lower carbon emissions at home by having an equally ambitious climate change strategy abroad.

**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)?

**Notes**

I strongly support the 'firewall' principle - that New Zealand's targets must be achieved by actual cuts in our own emissions, and not through the purchase of overseas carbon credits or an over-reliance on forests as carbon sinks.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Yes

**Notes****Clause**

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

**Notes**

Dear Minister, I support the passing of legally binding climate law and maintain that Climate Change is a global problem - it cannot be tackled by countries in isolation. The law must be fair, ambitious and consistent with the climate science and international frameworks by including all gases and all sectors. The legislation should establish the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees. We should not settle for 2 degrees warming, that would lock in devastating impacts on Pacific Island states and cause significant extinctions. That is not acceptable. To give us the best possibility of achieving no more than 1.5 degrees warming by the end of the century, there must be rapid cuts in all greenhouse gases beginning now. I support a net-zero target of 2040 with the majority of cuts occurring over the next decade. I support all greenhouse gases being included in the law, consistent with international climate frameworks. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change makes it clear that methane reduction is critical to success in tackling climate change. It is politically and scientifically untenable for New Zealand's climate law to exclude any gases from our biggest emitting sector - the agricultural sector. I support the establishment of a Climate Commission, whose role should be to devise binding budgets. The Climate Commission should have statutory teeth, otherwise, it is merely an advisory group that governments could ignore. Climate budgets should be legally binding and set a bare-minimum ambition, which must be achieved or bettered by government within the prescribed timeframes. Finally, while budgets should be binding, policy recommendations from the Commission should be just that - recommendations. I strongly support the 'firewall' principle - that New Zealand's targets must be achieved by actual cuts in our own emissions, and not through the purchase of overseas carbon credits or an over-reliance on forests as carbon sinks. Regarding our international commitments, the Bill must include a requirement that governments produce annual reports about New Zealand's international climate change contributions. As a Pacific nation, we must ensure that the Pacific countries get the support they need to adapt to the devastating effects of climate change and their changing environment - a problem they contributed very little to. Access to climate finance is a matter of justice: those who have contributed least to the causes of the problem are typically the most vulnerable to its impacts and have the least resources to respond. New Zealand must demonstrate global leadership and match its bold vision for lower carbon emissions at home by having an equally ambitious climate change strategy abroad. While consensus across political parties is preferred, any cross-party agreement should not be achieved at the cost of strong climate law. Climate change is the greatest challenge facing humanity. It would be wrong to have broad agreement on weak law, when what is urgently needed to address the problem is strong law. The world needs pathways to transformational change if we are to avoid catastrophic

warming. This is the scale of the challenge. The science is clear: the only way we can succeed is with big ambition. New Zealand must be bold and pass strong law for the sake of our precious earth and future generations. Nga Mihi Artur Francisco

#### Supporting documents from your Submission

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Artur Francisco

**Zero Carbon Bill Consultation  
Submission to the Ministry for the Environment**

Dear Minister,

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The legislation should establish the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees. We should not settle for 2 degrees warming, that would lock in devastating impacts on Pacific Island states and cause significant extinctions. That is not acceptable.

To give us the best possibility of achieving no more than 1.5 degrees warming by the end of the century, there must be rapid cuts in all greenhouse gases beginning now. I support a net-zero target of 2040 with the majority of cuts occurring over the next decade.

I support all greenhouse gases being included in the law, consistent with international climate frameworks. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change makes it clear that methane reduction is critical to success in tackling climate change. It is politically and scientifically untenable for New Zealand's climate law to exclude any gases from our biggest emitting sector - the agricultural sector.

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I strongly support the 'firewall' principle – that New Zealand's targets must be achieved by actual cuts in our own emissions, and not through the purchase of overseas carbon credits or an over-reliance on forests as carbon sinks.

Regarding our international commitments, the Bill must include a requirement that governments produce annual reports about New Zealand's international climate change contributions. As a Pacific nation, we must ensure that the Pacific countries get the support they need to adapt to the devastating effects of climate change and their changing environment – a problem they contributed very little to. Access to climate finance is a matter of justice: those who have contributed least to the causes of the problem are

typically the most vulnerable to its impacts and have the least resources to respond. New Zealand must demonstrate global leadership and match its bold vision for lower carbon emissions at home by having an equally ambitious climate change strategy abroad.

While consensus across political parties is preferred, any cross-party agreement should not be achieved at the cost of strong climate law. Climate change is the greatest challenge facing humanity. It would be wrong to have broad agreement on weak law, when what is urgently needed to address the problem is strong law.

The world needs pathways to transformational change if we are to avoid catastrophic warming. This is the scale of the challenge. The science is clear: the only way we can succeed is with big ambition. New Zealand must be bold and pass strong law for the sake of our precious earth and future generations.

Nga Mihi  
Artur Francisco