



Submissions form

We seek your feedback on the specific proposals in the Zero Carbon Bill.

Either email this submission to ZCB.Submissions@mfe.govt.nz (Microsoft Word document (2003 or later) or PDF) or post to Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington, 6143.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters) may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website, www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, the Ministry will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission, including commercially sensitive information, and in particular which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this document under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this document. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

Personal / organisation details

You must provide either a company name or given name(s)

Company name _____

Given names Matt

Surname Taylor

Contact person _____

Submitter type, pick one:

- Individual
- NGO
- Business / Industry
- Local Government
- Central Government
- Iwi / Māori
- University
- Research Institute
- School
- Community Group
- Unspecified / Other

2050 target

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

Pick one:

- the Government sets a 2050 target in legislation now
- 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.

Optional comment

We should be ambitious and set a target in legislation now to provide certainty. 2050 might not be the right target. An earlier target is much more appropriate, probably 2030, considering the urgency of climate change.

2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?

Pick one:

- net zero carbon dioxide:** Reducing net carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2050
- net zero long-lived gases and stabilised short-lived gases:** Long-lived gases to net zero by 2050, while also stabilising short-lived gases
- net zero emissions:** Net zero emissions across all greenhouse gases by 2050.

Optional comment

If option two is taken, the level that short-lived gases is stabilised at needs to be set, at a low-level and should be reduced to that level quickly. How we get there/the plan is very important. We should be trying to cut emissions as early as possible instead of leaving it to the last minute.

We should strive to have negative long-lived gas emissions before 2050 so that we contribute to global cooling.

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Pick one:

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

Optional comment

Domestic emissions reductions only otherwise we are only funding other countries' reductions. The reality is that we as New Zealand need to get to a net zero emission economy.

It is very important that New Zealand takes a leading role in using international aid to finance transitions in developing countries, especially our neighbours in the Pacific. This should be publicly reported on.

A particular focus should be to reduce fossil fuel use and phase it out as soon as possible.

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

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

But it should only be revised to make it more ambitious, not less ambitious i.e. bringing the date forward in response to a change in scientific understanding, or to meet an international agreement. It should not be extended because of economic reasons. Granting extensions will undermine certainty.

Emissions budgets

5. The Government proposes that three emissions budgets of five years each (ie, covering the next 15 years) be in place at any given time. Do you agree with this proposal?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

It is important to plan over the long-term.

An advantage of five years is that it is not going to align with the election cycle and a possible change of government.

There should be timely and prompt mitigation within that five year cycle, with a continual reduction each year within the cycle, and with a goal to have roughly equal progress each year within the five years.

Progress should be publicly reported on annually.

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

Pick one:

- yes, each incoming Government should have the option to review the third budget in the sequence
- yes, the third emissions budget should be able to be changed, but only when the subsequent budget is set
- no, emissions budgets should not be able to be changed.

Optional comment

The emissions budgets should be able to be changed only if they are to be made more ambitious. This might be to respond to significant changes in scientific consensus or international agreements. They should not be made less ambitious in response to economic concerns or due to a change in government.

7. Should the Government have the ability to review and adjust the second emissions budget within a specific range under [exceptional circumstances](#)?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

The emissions budgets should change only if they are to be made more ambitious. This might be to respond to significant changes in scientific consensus or international agreements. They should not be made less ambitious in response to economic concerns.

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?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

Fairness, in particular intergenerational justice should be considered. Consider whether each consideration should be given equal weighting. Scientific knowledge of the realities of climate change is probably a key consideration.

Government response

9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

New Zealand should learn from the United Kingdom's experience and specify a strict deadline for a plan to be produced, for example 6 months after a budget has been set.

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?

Comment

The urgency of responding to climate change. Shifting from an endless growth/growth at all costs mindset to a sustainable development mindset - all aspects of society and the economy should be considered.

Consider the considerations referenced in number 8. Other things that should be considered include: working with local government, government should consider the relative consumption emissions of proposed mitigation policies/strategies (e.g. electric cars vs. public transport), impact of adaptation/mitigation strategies on other planetary boundaries, taking into account New Zealand's aviation/maritime emissions and tourism, fairness, a just transition, consulting young people, consulting communities who are facing the impacts of climate change, and consulting the people who will be economically affected.

Climate Change Commission

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?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

The Climate Change Commission should not be a decision-making body. It should have the function of providing expert independent advice, for example suggesting what budgets should be in place, monitoring progress, and holding Governments to account.

The government should have to respond to the Commission's advice, and if deviating from that advice they should have to explain why.

12. What role do you think the Climate Change Commission should have in relation to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)?

Pick one:

- advising the Government on policy settings in the NZ ETS
- makes decisions itself, in respect of the number of units available in the NZ ETS.

Optional comment

A carbon tax would be better than maintaining the current ETS.

If the Climate Change Commission made decisions in relation to the ETS they would be unable to provide independent and impartial advice. The Government should be the decision-maker.

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?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

Other expertise that would be useful includes: public health expertise; and non-experts - people from affected communities, respected lay people, young people, and representatives from minority groups.

Adapting to the impacts of climate change

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

Pick one:

- yes
- no

Optional comment

This could be a sub-committee within the Climate Commission.

15. The Government has proposed a number of new [functions](#) to help us adapt to climate change. Do you agree with the proposed functions?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

Optional comment

Local authorities, community groups, and sector groups should be able to provide input into how the functions are carried out.

Monitoring and reporting is very important.

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?

Pick one:

- ✓ yes
- no.

Optional comment

Sharing information will mean that the government and public knows the real risk to our infrastructure from climate change.