Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Leslie Wilson Jones

Reference no: 8920
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
second half of the century is too vague, could be 2090 and we haven't got that much time to stop warming

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
The option Net zero long-lived gases and stabilised short-lived gases is a trick because it counts the short-livedness of methane twice. The first time is when methane is brought into the inventory at GWP100 (28 times CO2) which gives methane as 33.8 Mtns CO2e or 43% of our gross emissions (2016 ghg inventory). GWP100 adjusts the warming potential of methane taking into account the fact that it breaks down over around 10 years. Then when we look at how much to reduce CO2 and methane under option b, we say reduce CO2 to zero but only stabilise methane “because it is a short-lived gas”. Surely because we have already accounted for methane’s shortlivedness we can give it special treatment again. Methane’s 33.8 mtn CO2e has to be cancelled out by minus 33.8 Mtns of CO2, a virtually hopeless task unless we actually reduce methane emitted hugely

Clause
3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position
Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

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

Position
Yes

Notes
It might need to be stronger if global warming accelerates

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
No

Notes
Need annual budget for every year from now to 2050 immediately

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
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
But many of these things give vested interests a loophole to oppose what we really need to do if it affects them financially
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 fundamental principle must be that of fairness. That means the burden of emission reduction must be fairly shared across all sectors of the economy, agriculture, energy, waste and IPPS, in proportion to their current emissions. i.e. agriculture emits 49% of NZ gross emissions, therefore it should make 49% of the reductions.

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
Assume you are referring to the bottom half of p 42. The top half is more critical. I strongly oppose delegating decisions to an independent authority. In a democracy the parliament makes policy and decisions, not a reserve bank type technocratic group.

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
No

Notes
I feel strongly that by adding matauranga Maori to “climate and environmental science” it dilutes the primacy of this expertise which should be placed first and foremost. What has business competitiveness got to do with this?

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

Position
No

Notes
It is a separate area completely. Has nothing to do with the words ‘zero carbon’