

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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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 2050 target in legislation now

Notes

We do have some time to make the required adjustments. Setting the target now will allow certainty to these targets and there will be less likelihood of the goal posts moving over time. It is important that there are mechanisms for this to be altered if required as circumstances and science will change over time.

Clause

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

Position

Net Zero Long-Lived Gases and Stabilised Short-Lived Gases - Long-lived gases to net zero by 2050 while also stabilising short-lived gases

Notes

All sectors of NZ must contribute to the task ahead. However it is important that we continue to drive economic growth and I feel that a total net zero emission target would be crippling to the economy. Science has suggested that global temperatures can be stabilised without reducing short lived gases to zero, therefore agriculture can play its part and maintain itself as such a sustainable and important part of the economy going forward.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

As a nation we have committed to do our part in reducing global gas emissions. If we are committed to this then we must send the signal now so that we have the best chance of achieving it. Why would we want to commit future generation to the burden of having to buy credits to achieve our targets that we were not courageous enough to aim for. The set targets are ambitious, many countries are going to battle to achieve them so the supply of surplus credits is going to be minimal, the cost, especially as we head towards 2050 will be high.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

2050 is a long way out. Circumstance and science will change and provide opportunity. There must be flexibility to allow for this to be assessed along the journey.

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

An incoming government should not be allowed to much flexibility for change as that will provide less certainty. Long term planning that flows through changes in government is important, however, option 2 provides some flexibility over time.

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

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

Just like any business, the nation must remain viable and continue to grow. Industry must be given time to make the required adjustments, there must be long term plans set out and there must be regular monitoring of progress so assessment can be made in a timely manor of any required adjustments

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

Clause

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

Notes

While it is important that we act now, it is also very important that we look after the viability of the nation for future generations. Many of the conversations that have been had have come from the heart where emotion can take control with the talk being about the need for large quick change. Many do not appreciate the implications that this will bring to many businesses and communities. We must go through this process using our heads so that we have a carefully planned approach, giving time for adjustment and remain with sustainable communities into the future. It must be remembered that the overall goal here is for reduced total global emissions. We are one of the most efficient producers of agriculture product in the world. Any drastic actions which reduced our abilities to provide this food to the world would likely result in extra production being picked up by a less efficient producing nation and therefore negatively impact on total global emissions. While agriculture must play it part, science has indicated that we do not need to get to zero short lived gas emissions to stabilise global temperatures, therefore don't over burden our economy.