



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.

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Personal / organisation details

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

Company name n/a

Given names Shona

Surname McCahon

Contact person _____

Address _____

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

The sooner a target is set the better because New Zealand has procrastinated far too long already on addressing this issue and because the urgency to start some real action is increasingly obvious. Setting the target now also means that there will be more certainty so, even if it means some tough changes, we can start making them with some time in hand to try to ease the impact of those changes.

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

We need to target all emissions because they all have an impact and we should be aiming for a more sustainable situation overall. I few don't target all emissions now there will be little incentive to tackle the land use change probably needed to reduce short-term gas emissions or to invest in potential technologies that could help do so.

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

Ideally, New Zealand should be responsible for its own emissions and 'balance its own books'. Another option here, though, could be to allow us to use some overseas offsets during the first target period (10 – 15 years) to allow a bit of time for planning and starting the transition to a low-carbon economy and for useful technology to be developed more.

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

Pick one:

- ✓ yes (conditionally)
- no.

Optional comment

Only allow revision if it *either* brings forward the target date to achieve the target sooner, *and/or*, increases any target level set below 'net zero emissions'.

Do *not* allow revisions to lower or slow down the target

- Even if we suffer a major disaster or some other major change like a world-wide financial crisis that might make things difficult, climate change will continue regardless, bringing with it continued/intensifying adverse effects , including the increased risk or more major natural disasters. So, we'd be shooting ourselves in the foot with revisions of any sort other than to speed up or raise the target.

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

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

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

There should be a limit to the amount of tinkering allowed - giving certainty over chunks of time is important if we're to make progress.

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

I do have some misgivings about the 'economic circumstances' consideration: it has been used so often as an excuse not to do anything. I would not want short-term economic impacts to outweigh the longer term economic impacts that doing nothing would have.

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

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

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

I think it's important to have an independent body keeping an eye on things and holding governments to account – i.e. there should be some kind of requirement in the legislation to require any government that does not heed

the Commission's advice or that is failing to show proactive leadership in trying to achieve the targets, have to explain itself in the public forum.

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

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

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

We are already experiencing the impacts of climate change so it's only realistic to expect that those impacts will continue for some time to come, even if the world manages to bring global emissions down to acceptable levels. It might also be one aspect of moving towards a low-carbon economy – some adaptations to climate change could also reduce energy-consuming activities, for instance.

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

I like the idea of being more proactive, provided that the focus isn't all on adaptation at the expense of seriously aiming to bring down emissions.

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

I don't understand enough about this to have a view.