

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 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

Notes

It is critical to enshrine a meaningful target in legislation but there is additional work to be done to make this practical and achievable. Therefore the target and timing should be determined by the Climate Change Commission.

Clause

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

Notes

Can't answer this on the basis of the previous answer

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

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

Notes

This answer is VERY dependent on the quality of vetting of the international units.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

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

With the caveat that there is no point making emissions budgets if they are unachievable. There must be very strong market signals in combination with the necessary regulatory frame works to achieve results.

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

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

Clear economic signals, practicality of solutions, funding challenges, economic welfare of the affected

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

Makes decisions itself in respect of the number of units available in the NZ ETS

Notes

The issue is so important that it needs to be de-politicized, hence the need to take decision making out of government hands. We have to avoid the situation where the policy settings change with every election cycle.

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

I would add the "desirable" attributes into the "essential" list

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

The cost of adaptation is intrinsically tied into the justifications for mitigation. You can't look at them independently

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

The climate change situation we face is existential. We need to be bold and address it aggressively, but with practicality in mind. Most of the technical solutions we require are now already in place (with the exception of practical livestock methane solutions). What is missing is political will and clear economic signals where the true externalized costs of climate change are included. We also need to change our mindset and understand that change is coming so we should embrace it and reap the rewards of the many benefits it will

