

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

This will decrease the likelihood of policy flip flops with future changes in government and reduce the risk of the Climate Change Commission being ignored.

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

Short lived gases have a much larger radiative forcing effect than carbon dioxide. If their production is allowed to continue unchecked then the possibility of a threshold being crossed that results in runaway climate change (due to positive feedback processes such as melting of ice and methane clathrates) will be greatly increased. Leaving these problems for 'future us' to deal with is grossly irresponsible.

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

Domestic reductions should be made where possible, but realistically these may need to be supplemented by overseas emissions reductions with impeccable environmental safeguards.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

But only under situations where not changing it would result in: 1. Complete financial ruin of the country 2. Loss of life Additionally, provisions should be made so that the target can be made more stringent (i.e. net carbon sequestration). In other words, an exceptionally drastic change of circumstances should be required for targets to be allowed to change, not just because the government of the time wants to curry favour with a certain group.

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

Seems reasonable. Allows for revision of short term goals while giving an indication of long term goals.

Clause

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

Position

Yes - each incoming Government should have the option to review the third budget in the sequence

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**

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

No

Notes

It's likely the commission will be more effective if it can make decisions in its own right, rather than just advising the government, and then the government ignoring it. If it is to remain advisory, then it must be able to hold the government to account, and the government should require a good reason for not following advice.

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**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

It's happening to some extent no matter what we do, might as well be ready for it.

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**

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?

Position

Yes

Notes

Clause

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

Notes

Substantial action on climate change is well overdue, it's time to start catching up.