

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

It is time to get serious about this, be ambitious as a country and get started on the necessary changes.

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

My understanding is that this option is what is necessary to reduce projected climate disruption. A strong science-based approach should be taken to ensure that targets are both appropriate and visionary. The agricultural sector should not be exempted from the process but should not be penalised in ways that are not contributing to the overall goal.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

Aotearoa New Zealand should take responsibility for its own emissions. We can see the effects of assuming that other countries will deal with our solid waste with the piles of recycling plastic now sitting around. We should acknowledge and deal with our own emissions.

Clause

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

Notes

Only under exceptional circumstances, for example the best science available indicating that alternative strategies may differ from what is currently understood. Financial considerations are not enough to change the target.

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)?

Notes

Only under exceptional circumstances, such as a significant natural disaster.

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

Notes

Only under exceptional circumstances, such as a significant natural disaster. Perhaps in this circumstance the banking/borrowing from the following budget concept could come into play.

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

Notes

Financial concerns should not be allowed to take priority over the environment.

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 Government's policy plans to meet emission budgets should be comprehensive, fair, cost-effective, environmentally sustainable, and reflect a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

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

I support the CCC being an independent body of experts advising and monitoring progress towards the goal.

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

Independence is a valuable attribute to maintain, thereby making decision making more appropriately undertaken by government, who are directly accountable to the public.

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

Notes

Adding public health expertise to the list would be beneficial.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

This is a reality we need to face and it seems this is an appropriate body to deal with it.

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

This is an exciting piece of proposed legislation. We know there are significant and severe implications of anthropogenic climate disruption. It would be fantastic to see New Zealand leading the way with an ambitious target with detailed and sensible plans to aid us to meet that target. I am truly looking forward to this being passed - something for our country to be proud of as we take steps to acknowledge what has happened and change the current trajectory.