

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Trevor Denis Nugent

Reference no: 9344

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

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

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

Using international credits doesn't necessarily provide a net benefit in a global sense.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

Parliament can always amend legislation. That is the process that should be used rather than some administrative option provided in the legislation. It is a matter that concerns all New Zealanders, not just the government of the day.

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 - 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

but the type of exceptional circumstance should be spelt out.

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

The success or otherwise of policies and methods used to date; The social impact of policies proposed versus the social impact of the effects of climate change; The probable effectiveness of policies and methods proposed.

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

However, the Government should be required to publish reasons for any divergence from the Commission's advice.

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

The Commission is the appropriate body to undertake risk assessment and recommend policy responses that the Government could initiate. Having central government undertake the first risk assessment while the Commission is established is practical, but the Commission should have the opportunity to review and comment on it once established.

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

Mandatory reporting by infrastructure providers, local and central government, Crown-entities/SOEs to the Commission would be necessary to provide the factual basis of any risk assessment.

Clause

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

Notes

The Climate Change Commission should be established under a legislative framework that ensured it was not disbanded at the whim of any future government. Given that political circumstances in New Zealand where, in almost all situations, the government of the day controls Parliament, and the constitutional ability of Parliament to amend or repeal any statutes, some legislative security needs to be provided for the Commission.