

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Reference no: 9370

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

We have delayed too long as it is; we cannot afford to delay further.

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

We must make a strong, clear, unambiguous commitment to concrete action now, both for our own sakes, and for the sake of all nations around the world that are looking to others for example.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

While it is critical that emissions reductions are conducted worldwide from all nations and peoples, we have sovereignty and certainty over only ourselves.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

Obviously yes in very exceptional circumstances, and if a new technology arises which allows the 2050 target to be moved forward and achieved earlier, I strongly support that. However, as a general matter of policy, no. We should set it and stick to it, even if it is difficult.

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

This seems sensible

Clause

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

Position

No - emissions budgets should not be able to be changed

Notes

It is always preferable that emissions budgets be stretched than the bill be abandoned entirely, but as a practical matter it should be obvious to everyone who has ever set a budget that allowing alterations to the budget will only ever shift things in one direction - and that direction is unacceptable.

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

No

Notes

It is difficult to conceive of circumstances sufficient to warrant this that would not also be of sufficient severity to destroy the 2050 goal entirely.

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

It is critical to keep forefront in our minds that we fight climate change because it may be absolutely required of us as a species if we are to survive; this is not a choice, it is an imperative. As such, it is especially important that the impacts and effects be spread equally between us all, without exemption for specific industries, companies, races, or individuals. If emissions targets do indeed disproportionately affect those at the lower end of the economic strata, we have a moral responsibility to offset this disproportion to the maximum extent that we are capable, without compromising the ambition or effectiveness of our emissions controls.

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**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

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

It is wonderful and a profound relief to see legislation such as the Zero Carbon Bill being proposed, and I wish it great success. This is a critically important issue, and we must face it head on with all the resources and knowledge we can bring to bear.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.