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
For more rapid and decisive action

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
I support the submission made by Jeanette Fitzsimmons: net zero long-long lived gases and stabilised short-lived gases, "but only if methane is first cut deeply and fast, to a level supported by science, and if fossil methane is put in the same basket as the other fossil fuels."

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
Important to balance NZ's relatively small global emissions share by supporting and investing in international efforts that may be more effective in reducing global emissions overall

Clause
4. Should the Zero Carbon Bill allow the 2050 target to be revised if circumstances change?
Position
Yes
Notes
Particularly if circumstances take a turn for the worse regarding the rate of global warming - in which case a more ambitious target may be required

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
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**
When economic growth factors are taken into account, these should be measured with regard to environmentally sustainable growth, as opposed to purely fiscal measures.

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9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?

**Position**
Yes

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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**
Fundamental changes to NZ’s approach to waste minimisation could also have significant impacts on GHG emissions. E.g. strong regulation of wasteful products (e.g. packaging, electronics, textiles) through emphasising circular designs to banning wasteful and energy/resource intensive products, while simultaneously promoting local/small-scale and efficient production and distribution, could provide significant cuts in emissions on top of reductions in pollution and waste.

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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

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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

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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

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

**Position**
Yes

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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

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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?
I would like to emphasise how strong action on waste minimisation could have the potential to produce significant GHG emission reductions. I believe this potential should be taken seriously in MfE's work, and there should be strong links between the Climate Change Commission and the waste team.