

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 goal to reach net zero emissions by the second half of the century and the Climate Change Commission advises on the specific target for the Government to set later

Notes

It is important that all goals are achievable and that there are intermediate goals within the overall framework

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

Zero carbon dioxide emissions are unachievable in my view. All animals for example expel carbon dioxide as part of their metabolism. Humans expelling 4% in each breath. It is important to focus on significant reductions based on the WHOLE energy and carbon cycle not just a part of it. So for example Auckland Council pressed ahead with a household composting idea despite it being higher in carbon emissions. In the UK they are going back to coal fired power stations as they have found that wood based stations result in higher carbon dioxide emissions.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

It is preferable to use our own resources. Also what of the effect of the oceans in our economic zone. Surely these should be included as part of the equation as if for example someone chooses to grow seaweed of particular types that are better at reducing carbon emissions. If forestry is to be used then the whole of life effects must be considered. Also as well as forestry- riparian planting has the double benefit of carbon emission control and also improvement in stream quality

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

There is still unfortunately too much doggy science (regrettably often from left wing or green groups) pushing certain solutions which after some time have been found to be flawed because the science is unsound. Landfill methane emissions being one. There is virtually NO methane emissions from well run landfills as the gas is collected and burnt and bacteria readily treat the methane in the capping areas (I have proven this in many field trials).

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

There needs to be some measure in place to track management of emissions

Clause

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

Notes

There needs to be some flexibility as events, economies change and science knowledge improves, However any change needs to be with a majority of say 75% of Parliament representative members.

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

See comment above

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

Any consideration that involves any significant expenditure as a result of changes in climate change effects needs to be independently verified by a group of scientists, pragmatists and accountants before adoption. There should be no political interference or addition of politically motivated topics as we cannot afford to waste time resolve the climate change issues.

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

One needs a plan and programme

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

Only work with reliable science and DO take the whole of life cost effects into account not just effects over the timeframe of various plans.

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

Makes decisions itself in respect of the number of units available in the NZ ETS

Notes

Any allocation must have an review by an independent body. Should there be a disagreement then the final decision would ride with the minister.

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

Imperative that one has practical minded scientists; and preferably NO politically or environmentally driven members. Namely it is all too important now to have highly competent people with the right unbiased approach to resolve climate change issues.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

And must require a whole of life provision so that the full carbon footprint can be determined.

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

Notes

The functions must include regular independent reviews to ratify all substantive decisions. The committee members should be as company directors and only have tenor on an elected basis but certain role "areas" (such as science advisors or industry advisory). Namely people will be elected to each role area.

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

Often there are unintended consequences which sometimes can only be assessed if anyone can make submissions to have inputs.

Clause

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

Notes

Effects of Climate Change are still not well understood. There needs to be a mandatory aspect that the Committee publishes regular easy to read progress reports and publicity on progress suitable for children through to adults as it are the next few generations that are likely to be most seriously affected by decisions