Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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 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
It is essential to differentiate long-lived and short-lived gases (a two basket approach) in developing policies and strategies for implementation. In addition, distinguish between fossil methane and biological methane in policies.

 Clause 3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?
Position
Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

 Clause 4. Should the Zero Carbon Bill allow the 2050 target to be revised if circumstances change?
Position
No
Notes
Emissions targets could be brought forward if there is new scientific evidence of what is required for a safe climate.

 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 - the third emissions budget should be able to be changed but only when the subsequent budget is set
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
Yes, but only to increase the speed of emissions reductions.

 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
Yes – together with the following: to reduce cumulative emissions sufficiently to avoid dangerous climate change, the steepest emissions cuts to carbon dioxide must occur in the first 10 years, with possibly less steep cuts thereafter.

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
1. Important to mitigate the potential impact on poorer and low income people e.g. no older car imports equals no inexpensive cars which would be difficult for this income group. 2. Important to cut steeply in the beginning to reduce the overall emissions between now and 2050.

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
Climate change and thus emission reduction is the most crucial issue we are facing and MUST be attended to seriously and strongly. The consequences, in particular for the next few generations, are of a magnitude few of us can imagine. We MUST behave responsibly for the future human (and non human) inhabitants of our planet and country.