

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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Reference no: 9583

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

With a problem as important and complex as climate change, a good evidence-based approach is crucial

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

As the earth's population increases, food production will become more important. New Zealand agriculture is the most carbon-efficient in the world and if we reduce production in New Zealand it will have to be increased somewhere else in the world, resulting in a net gain in global emissions. That said, we do need to stabilise short lived-gasses ideally without reducing production.

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

A global problem needs global solutions. There is limited scope for forest planting in New Zealand but may be opportunities to fund carbon reduction elsewhere in the world

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

With such a complex problem, the initial target is almost certain to be wrong. We need flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances

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

See comment on section 4

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
See above

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
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
Some climate change is inevitable and it is essential that we begin adapting to it.

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
The more the different organisations work together the better

Clause
Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?
Notes
It is important that New Zealand play its part in reducing climate change, but this is a global problem and requires a global approach. There is no point in reducing local emissions by reducing agriculture if this leads to an increase in global emissions through shifting food production to less-carbon efficient countries.