

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Richard Wayne Cartwright

Reference no: 9615

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

A specific target is needed immediately because the need for reduction is urgent

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

Mitigation of gas emissions from combusting fossil fuels and emissions from modifications to the carbon cycle - principally methane from ruminant animals - require totally different policies. Hence, targets for them must be separated. The targets are very different: 1. Reduce combustion of fossil fuels to zero, including offsets by forest sequestration. 2. Reduce methane emissions through incentives for alternative uses of land. Methane degrades to carbon dioxide over about 10 years, so the term 'short lived gases' is misleading.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

NZ must play its part without relying on offsets from elsewhere.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Circumstances can only become worse. Hence, revise targets only by making them more urgent.

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 approach is more strategic and requires more detailed analysis, which is needed.

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

Budgets can be changed only by tightening them.

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
As for (6)

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

Targets without strategic plans have little meaning or effect.

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

Plans for meeting budgets must recognise that they will be implemented while adaptation is also taking place.

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

Adaptation to already 'locked in' climate change and mitigation of further climate change are part of the same global and local systems. Hence, the Climate Change Commission should have oversight of the NZ response to both. In the medium term, adaptation to climate change will require more attention than mitigation. All mitigation strategies will be implemented in while adaptation is also taking place.

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

I agree with them but much stronger approaches will actually be required.

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

Adaptation will require future insight to anticipate what will need to be done, then preparing for these actions in advance. All relevant information that contributes to this should be readily available.

Clause

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

Notes

Ensure that this legislation creates a sound and resilient base for further developments as the need for them are anticipated. Add a provision that requires establishment and continual refinement of Climate Change Future Insight, the scope of which is determined by the needs of NZ decision-makers, both public and private.