

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

This needs be established urgently so that economic planning can go ahead with this goal in mind.

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

We need to reduce all gases swiftly, with long-lived CO2 going to zero and methane being stabilised at a lower, so far indeterminate lower level. We need to start NOW because the cumulative effect is where the danger lies. Methane and the associated land use change that is necessary needs to be addressed urgently because it also involves nitrous oxide which is a very potent gas.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

We can reduce emissions by making electricity 100% renewable, by planting permanent forests and managing commercial forests better. It is also urgent to upgrade our standards for vehicles which are far worse than in Europe and the USA.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

Not without recourse to parliament and ideally only to make the target higher.

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

The change should go through parliament.

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

No

Notes

Not without going through parliament.

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**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

In a transition period govt must ensure the most vulnerable are looked after. This may require heavier taxes on the wealthy. Govt also needs to ensure scientists, climate experts and economists work together towards the common goal of climate stability.

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

Transparency between govt and the commission is vital. Govt should be held to account if it fails to adhere to commissions advice, likewise experts who disagree with the commission should have a voice.

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

But there need to be more climate scientists who are tuned to expertise and can foresee effects in the long term.

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

This should be mandatory and part of annual budgets.

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 sharing of information is crucial in this new world we are facing.

Clause

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

Notes

I urge the govt to understand and publicise the urgency of what we need to undertake. The science is clear, the effects of this new world are already apparent. Economic losses will be short term and worse the longer we wait. Land use changes, especially from dairy to horticulture, are the key, along with transport, to lowering our emissions.