

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Mary Blackwood Innes

Reference no: 9656

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

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

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

I am concerned a future government will weaken the legislation.

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

No - emissions budgets should not be able to be changed

Notes

I can see the reasoning behind this but again I'm wary of future governments weakening the budgets.

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

Even natural disasters in NZ should not be prioritised ahead of global disaster.

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

Advice of scientific and engineering experts, then iwi, councils, communities - but not too much consultation lest valuable time is lost with in-fighting.

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

Agree that it should be advisory only and the Government keeps hold of the power.

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

I'd like to see emphasis on holistic approaches - broadening the issues to include health and well-being in discussion of changing

agricultural practices. NZ can reduce obesity and cut healthcare costs by promoting vegan and vegetarian diets and helping farmers switch to organic practices. I'm concerned that increasing forestry, while absolutely necessary, will mean vast tracts of low diversity monoculture, such as *Pinus radiata*. NZ needs mixed native forest too. I completely agree with the need to help low income families cope with the extra costs. NZ must become a more equal society to be able to work together on the most urgent and important problem it faces. I have read the arguments for flexibility in emission budget setting, but I feel this current government is the most likely to take climate change seriously and I am very afraid a future government will bow to pressure to weaken legislation. Look what has happened in the US!