

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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Reference no: 9693

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

both short and long lived greenhouse gases affect climate and both need to be considered

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

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

If climate evidence or modelling confirms that we need to reduce emissions faster then targets may need to be revised. Otherwise there will always be an excuse or reason why action on emissions reduction could be delayed and so targets should be essentially binding.

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

Budgets should be set according to the objective data and not be politicised. there needs to be as much future certainty as possible for business to adjust, adapt and thrive. if there is a perception that budgets and targets can be revised at any time there will be less certainty and less incentive for businesses and individuals to embrace new behaviours and technologies

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

see above

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**

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

Makes decisions itself in respect of the number of units available in the NZ ETS

Notes

if the commission has bipartisan support from the outset it may be easier for future governments to accept the direction from the commission regarding ETS units available. it may give the government a degree of separation from this decision making function and make it easier for governments to enact policies that may be perceived as "unpopular" by their supporters

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

Essentially yes. But, overall there needs to be a strong scientific evidence base to the advice and decision making. scientific experts should not be outnumbered by well meaning "lay-persons"

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 represents significant risks to the future well-being, prosperity and even survival of mankind. The government has clear moral imperative to lead on transitioning us to a net zero emissions future. Some of the economic costs of action are outlined in the discussion document but the economic costs of inaction in time will be far greater. Furthermore, there will be many economic opportunities arising from transitioning to a net zero emission economy.