

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Reference no: 9871

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

Rapid action is needed so a clear goal now would be good, but having the Climate Change Commission make specific targets based on further research/investigation seems like a good idea to ensure the best path for NZ

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

Net Zero Emissions would be ideal, but due to NZ's dependency on agriculture in the economy this would be difficult to achieve and would garner more opposition, so having a more achievable goal with room for further improvement may lead to wider support and more progress.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

By managing this issue domestically, New Zealand would be a role-model for the rest of the world, and due to NZ's opportunities for renewable or green energy production we are in a unique position where this could be achievable.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Yes, but only if heavy safeguards are in place and only in exceptional circumstances, this would need careful planning.

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

Stepping stones are needed to present smaller achievable steps and to measure progress

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

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

Potentially, but only with very heavy safeguards.

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

A wide approach is necessary, looking overseas and finding experts in many fields, along with driving and subsidising domestic innovation in sustainable and renewable technologies. The transition will lead to a reduction of jobs in certain sectors, but if managed correctly there is potential for growth in other sectors and new sectors entirely, and New Zealand has always been a land of innovators.

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

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

New Zealand is in a unique position to be a role-model for the rest of the world, due to our progress already in using renewable energy sources for most of our power grid. Major improvements will need to be made in the agricultural industries to be able to transition NZ towards Net Zero emissions, and these will only happen with clear policy and targets from the Government. Alongside this the government needs to help drive innovation in the domestic technological sector, which in return may make up for a decrease of the agricultural sector.

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