

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Reference no: 9980

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

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

This is the most realistic approach and much more likely to gain widespread acceptance because it provides a reasonable pathway for the agricultural sector. However, I believe that a reduction in the levels of short lived gas emission must still be a part of the target because we must aim for a scientifically acceptable stable climate at an acceptable temperature.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

I am not too well versed in the ETS, but in its current iteration it is not doing a particularly good job at reducing emissions because cheap credits can be imported (as well as other reasons). I also believe that New Zealand should achieve 'true' carbon neutrality, as opposed to having to rely on carbon credit imports.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Locking ourselves in to a target 30 years away is absurd. New information obtained, as well as the future effects of climate change, mean that the context we set the target in today is bound to be different when 2050 comes around. We may need to set a more or less ambitious target for any number of reasons.

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 - each incoming Government should have the option to review the third budget in the sequence

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

The budgets have the potential to have big social and economic impacts which can be hard to foresee, especially when the circumstances for New Zealand change. We need to be flexible so that we can work around issues that arise.

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

The socioeconomic impacts in particular should be a strong consideration, and I believe we must have a plan to mitigate the potential for fuel poverty.

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

Cant have a goal without a plan!

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

I believe that the Climate Change Commission should play a key role in advising the government. This is because it will be independent, ensuring that realistic and fair targets are set whilst being able to hold governments to account. The process should be transparent and justified. In particular, I believe there is huge potential for New Zealand to become a world innovator in emerging technologies which can help climate change. New Zealand has always been a technological innovator and fighting fighting climate change can be seen as an opportunity. As before, I also believe we must have a plan to mitigate the potential for emission budgets to cause fuel poverty.

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

I believe the ETS is flawed as it allocates far too many credits and does not provide a particularly meaningful incentive to reduce emissions. However, I also do not believe that an independent body should be able to decide how many credits are available or allocated because these bodies are harder to publicly hold to account. Public discussion needs to be had about how and where the ETS fits into the Carbon Zero goal, in particular concerning the agricultural sector.

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

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.