

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 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

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

Dubious about the integrity of overseas units and "strong environmental safeguards". NZ, moreover, should do its share.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

If more information about the damaging effect of short-lived gases indicates that a stricter requirement is necessary. i.e. stabilization is not sufficient

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

Option chosen is realistic.

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

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

Reporting on objectives. The successive plans of the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) have had laudable objectives, but few tertiary education institutions have used mechanisms such as their annual reports to report on progress towards many of these objectives. Those institutions which have been most scrupulous in reporting on the TEC objectives also appear to have performed better with respect to those objectives. The TEC plans are mentioned here as the process of successive revisions has some similarities with the proposal for five-year plans for emissions.

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

Going beyond an advisory role - yes. Necessary because of the utterly feeble history of NZ's ETS

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

Not just because of the importance of adaptation, but because any publicity about adaptation helps to sharpen awareness of the necessity of action on climate change.

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

Particularly local government organizations.

Clause

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

Notes

While the discussion paper recognizes the many elements in a moves towards lower emissions from transport (such as urban design and public transport), there should be a strong recognition that our transport system is far too dependent on private vehicles. A technical fix like EVs should be treated with caution (especially in the light of the embodied energy in EVs). If not, the promise of such solutions will suggest that we can carry on as usual, just with better gadgetry.