

# 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 2050 target in legislation now

### Notes

Storms, floods, heat-waves, landslides, sea-level rise. Climate change is already happening and is going to get worse. Our children and grandchildren face a frightening future and the sooner we begin working as a nation, and in our local communities, towards a clear target, the better. But bring the date forward to 2040.

### 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

The situation is urgent. Let's bring forward the target date to 2040 and let's make it a gross emission target rather than a net one. Let's also strengthen our 2030 Paris Agreement target and set robust five and ten year targets. Not only is this crucial for our future well-being but also sends a clear message that we are a responsible nation, serious about addressing the greatest threat humankind has faced.

### Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

### Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

### Notes

I would rule out the words 'including from new forest planting'. It is important that we reduce our domestic emissions without relying on other countries to do it for us. I suggest we also monitor and set limits on cumulative emissions. International carbon units could also be bought if it helps less affluent countries meet their targets.

### Clause

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

### Position

Yes

### Notes

But only if new scientific evidence shows the target to be outdated; or if the international community demands a more ambitious target.

### 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

### 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**

Possibly under exceptional circumstances, for example a major natural 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**

But new economic models and ways of doing things are also necessary. Competitiveness in the past has led to scant consideration for environmental impacts. All human activity in future needs to be sustainable, and those who create environmental degradation need to be accountable.

**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**

Yes there should be a strict timeframe of six months after an emissions budget has been set.

**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 agree with Generation Zero that the Government's policy plans must be "comprehensive, fair, cost effective, environmentally sustainable and reflect a commitment to the Tiriti o Waitangi". A holistic approach that considers future generations and the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable members of society is needed.

**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**

Expertise in public health should be added to the list. A separate committee focussing on adaptation issues, and providing help and advice to local bodies would be a good idea.

**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 am in full support of the Zero Carbon Act and appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.