

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Peter William Ireland

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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

The target should be brought forward. The planet is in a precarious situation and we should be on a "war" footing to ensure that all measures necessary are put in place to reduce / eliminate emissions to a safe level to ensure a sustainable future.

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

The most rapid cuts must occur immediately. The farming sector must be included. Methane reductions must be immediate, significant and not some token gesture relative to past emissions. Nitrous oxide must be included due to the rapid increase of nitrogenous fertiliser, which is also effecting our water quality.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

There must not be any creative accounting using Forest credits or overseas carbon credits. Emission reductions must be real. Fronterra or anyone else must not be allowed to start any new coal powered facilities and must be required to immediately phase out existing coal use as there are clear alternatives available. It is also bizarre that Kiwi rail is switching from electric to diesel locomotives.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

Reduction targets could be brought forward if there is new scientific evidence.

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

Only to speed up the rate of emission reductions.

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

There must be strict time frames of 6 months after emission budget 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

Plans must be comprehensive, environmentally sustainable, cost effective and fair. For example the current growth in tourism numbers has significant effects on emissions / climate change and is not environmentally sustainable

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

The changing climate and possible reduction measures could potentially effect public health. Therefore there would be merit in a member of the commission having expertise in these effects on public health.

Clause

14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change?

Position

Yes

Notes

Central Government desperately needs to provide leadership for local and regional government. District and Regional Plans and new infrastructure must take into consideration the effects of climate change. These local authorities must have clear guidelines set by central government. Requires a National Climate Risk Assessment and Adaptation Programme.

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

The Government desperately needs to take leadership on this issue. The recent Ipsos poll shows an overwhelming number of New Zealanders believe in climate change and that immediate action is required. Unfortunately they also didn't think that adequate action will be taken. Action cannot be left to individuals, companies or the market. The Government must act.