

# Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

University of Waikato (Robert Stratford)

## Reference no: 10950

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

### 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

Stabilised short lived could be okay if they are much lower than today's levels.

### Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

### Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

### Notes

Maybe use international carbon credits if they had any integrity, which is not the case currently.

### Clause

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

### Position

Yes

### Notes

Things change.

### 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?

### Notes

Not sure of the implications here.

### 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

Budgets (or at least targets) should be part of the work of any independent commission anyway.

### 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

No

### Notes

Well, if it had a good reason (revise it down, for example).

### 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**

Yes, it should be a central policy consideration.

**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**

The usual partners domestically. Our trade partners are important internationally... if we are able to say that our country is zero carbon then so is our wool, cheese, tourism etc...

**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**

No

**Notes**

I think that this is too narrow. I want to see an independent commission on New Zealand's progress with the Sustainable Development Goals. This organisation should have at its core the aspiration that New Zealand becomes an ecological democracy (as I have set out in my doctorate).

**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**

Bit of a technical question. An independent climate commission only has to ensure the integrity of the process, not do everything.

**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**

No

**Notes**

Pretty mainstream stuff. There needs to be a contribution from ecological economics (i.e. Clive Spash, Peter Brown, Peter Timmerman, Tim Jackson etc) to create some richer alternative thinking.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

No

**Notes**

That should be somewhere else.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Just to go back to the point about the need for the Independent Commission to cover the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (including climate change). There seems no point getting the Carbon budget right if New Zealand does not address the wider sustainability issues. Part of the issue in developing a policy approach at the time of the SDGs is the need to address the multi-dimensional aspects of sustainability... including such things as decoupling, (or lowering our resource intensity), poverty, life on land and below water etc. Sorry I have not been able to provide more details... I have to finish my thesis. :-)