

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Edward Fletcher

Reference no: 11333

Submitter Type:

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**Clause**

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

We should reduce opportunities as much possible for system gaming.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes**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

Otherwise we will keep talking instead of acting. I already see people delaying and working against and trying to delay the proposal. If we don't the first 5 years will be over and we'll still be talking.

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 should not be changed only the program to achieve them. It's a fail if the target is not met and the next target still needs to be met and there needs to be a monitoring system so the Advisory Committee can say that the present settings are not going to achieve the aim at any point in the cycle.

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

If the consensus is yes then to reduce targets only. Thus achieving an earlier zero state than 2050.

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

Time frames should not be too far away though.

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

Mitigating increased cost of living effects on low income sections of the community. (This is why I favour carbon tax not carbon trading)

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

There may be a problem if the Commission were captured/controlled by appointees with less than favourable ideas on the purpose of the scheme and I fear that may be happening with the loading of the commission with views counter to the goal. (eg the stacking of the appeal judges of the supreme court in the USA)

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 don't think either of those situations can hold the Government to account if it is obvious their plans will not meet the targets set previously. The ETS is a clumsy system and lends itself to gaming.

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

There needs to be a mechanism to ensure that the commission cannot be stacked in the way that the (US Supreme Court) incumbents are able to issue statements that will enable Govt to evade or fail to meet targets.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Mixed feelings here, Using the ETS should be sufficient to enable industries./business to adapt to the changed environment. However with so many of the business leaders now involved I think it will be difficult to now be effective in avoiding subsidizing some of these changes.

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

There is no mention of Grandfathering but some industries need to adapt markedly and go beyond the point of Zero as they were extremely dirty at the zero set point. These need to be made to change so that they can't just continue to purchase credits forever.

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

Make provision but not set it up initially as innovation will come from a diverse approach in a variety of ways. The best ones will emerge so it would be better if all using the one method from the outset would not be best.

Clause

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

Notes

The ETC will need to produce sufficient income for redistribution to those lower income citizens hurt by the changes being wrought. We need a better system of support for those in transition between jobs and while this may not be the responsibility of the commission it needs to be talking to the Support system to enable transition.