

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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Reference no: 11449

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

However I support a more ambitious target of net zero by 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

I support the most ambitious target: reducing greenhouse gases to net zero by 2050, but would prefer a 2040 target if possible. I also support taking a science-based approach to ensure our efforts to reduce emissions are as impactful as possible: we should aim for negative levels of long-lived gases, while reducing short-lived gases to sustainable levels.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

The New Zealand net zero carbon target should be met by domestic reductions only. However New Zealand has international responsibilities and should be supporting and assisting in mitigation and adaptation in developing countries through mechanisms such as additional aid or perhaps purchasing carbon credits. Emphasis should be placed on reducing fossil fuel based emissions as soon as possible. The Zero Carbon Act should also provide a framework for transparency and accountability around New Zealand's international climate finance

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

The 2050 target should not be altered in response to "economic changes" as this undermines its long-term certainty. However, the ability to revise the 2050 target to be more ambitious, in light of major changes in scientific understanding or international agreements should be permitted.

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

I agree with 5-year budgets set 10-15 years in advance, so that three are in effect at all times.

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

Emissions budgets should not be altered in response to "economic changes" as this undermines their long-term certainty. However, the ability to revise the 2050 target to be more ambitious, in light of major changes in scientific understanding or international agreements should be permitted.

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

this undermines their long-term certainty. However, the ability to revise the 2050 target to be more ambitious, in light of major changes in scientific understanding or international agreements should be permitted.

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

I agree that the Government and the Climate Commission should take the following factors into consideration when advising on and setting budgets: • scientific knowledge regarding climate change • technology relevant to climate change • economic circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on the economy, as well as the competitiveness of particular sectors of the economy • fiscal circumstances and the likely impact of the decision on taxation, public spending and public borrowing • social circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on fuel poverty • energy policy and the likely impact of a decision on energy supplies and the carbon and energy intensity of the economy. We also need to consider our obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi as well as Fairness (intergenerational justice and a just transition), cost-effectiveness, comprehensiveness and environmental sustainability.

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

We must learn from the mistakes of the UK's Climate Change Act and specify a strict time frame for producing a plan.

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 Government's policy plans to meet emission budgets should be comprehensive, fair, cost-effective, environmentally sustainable, and reflect a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. In setting plans to meet the emissions budgets, the government should be: • consulting and working with Local Government to encourage them to mitigate and adapt to climate change • considering the relative consumption emissions and other environmental impacts when weighing up mitigation and adaptation measures e.g. the emissions cost of producing electric cars overseas • considering the impact of its adaption and mitigation measures on other planetary boundaries i.e. biodiversity, nutrient pollution. • taking into account New Zealand's contribution to international aviation and maritime emissions. • making sure they're based on the best science available • ensuring that they deliver fair outcomes for Kiwis • reflecting the principle of a Just Transition for workers • honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi • being environmentally sustainable, especially for New Zealand's unique native plants and animals • maximising the impact of money spent and being cost-effective • encouraging innovation • unlocking economic opportunities for New Zealanders, such as in renewable energy • honouring our international commitments, including under the Paris Agreement • consulting people who may be economically affected, like farmers or businesses • consulting tangata whenua • consulting young people, who'll live to see more of the impact of climate change • consulting communities already facing the physical impacts of climate change

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

I believe that the Commission should not be a decision-making body. I support the Climate Commission having two functions 1. Providing expert advice and 2. Monitoring our progress and holding the government account. It should not be a decision-making body as it would lead to a lack of democratic accountability, it becoming a comprised watch dog and that it would not have the ability to implement comprehensive policy plans.

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

The Commission should advise the Government on policy settings in the NZ ETS. It should not make decisions itself with respect to the number of units available in the NZ ETS, or its implementation.

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

I agree with the following collective expertise: • climate change policy (including emissions trading) • resource economics and impacts (including social impacts, labour markets and distribution) • te Tiriti o Waitangi, te reo me ona tikanga Māori and Māori interests • climate and environmental science including mātauranga Māori • experience with addressing adaptation challenges like planning, insurance and local government • risk management • engineering and/or infrastructure • community engagement and communications. • business competitiveness • knowledge of the public and private innovation and technology development system. I also think expertise in public health is also important. Consideration should be given to representation by young people, minority groups and respected non-experts.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

This may require a separate adaptation sub-committee within the Climate Commission.

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

I agree with the proposed functions below: • a national climate change risk assessment • a national adaptation plan • regular review of progress towards implementing the national adaptation plan • an adaptation reporting power Care will need to be taken in managing the interaction between national and local government roles.

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

Yes. This would let the government and the public know about the risks to public and other infrastructure, and make these organisations better informed about the risks they face.

Clause

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

Notes

I am concerned about climate change and am very supportive of action to mitigate and adapt. As a Christian, I believe that we, as people, have a call to care for God's creation and to care for all peoples. This means supporting maximum ambition including meeting net zero by 2040 domestically as well as supporting mitigation and adaption overseas especially with our Pacific neighbours. I am supportive of taking action to limit warming to 1.5° C, since it has been those with privilege and opportunities who have made the most out of fossil fuels, but it is those who have the least who will be the most disadvantaged by climate change. I believe that we need to leave the world in a better place than it is now, and I think that this bill will help with that. We have a responsibility to the generations ahead, to do our utmost to turn this situation around. Although there will be pain involved, and no-one likes having to change, there could be so many benefits in changing our current life styles... stronger communities, less meaningless consumption, more mindful learning in general. New Zealand has this opportunity to showcase to the world what can be done if we pull together and if the government is brave enough and can display the leadership to make the necessary changes to our economy.