

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

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 think we should aim for an ambitious target. That way if we don't make it to achieve the target exactly we will still have achieved a great deal.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions (including from new forest planting) and using some emissions reductions from overseas (international carbon units) that have strong environmental safeguards

Notes

This is a pragmatic approach and potentially rewards organisations in other countries where their greenhouse gas reduction targets have been exceeded.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

But only in very extreme circumstances. It should not be possible for Governments to change the target for political expediency reasons.

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

Yes - each incoming Government should have the option to review the third budget in the sequence

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

But again only in very exceptional circumstances. The legislation needs to have sufficient measures to stop a future government making changes when the circumstances are not exceptional.

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

This sort of measure is required to avoid governments ignoring the Commission's advice if they do not agree with it.

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

The Commission needs to provide advice on both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

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

It is important to have commissioners with expertise in climate change adaptation. Commissioners who have good local government experience will also be important as often local government will be at the sharp end of adaptation decisions at a local level.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Very much. Government needs to take a lead in climate change adaptation and work with local communities to help them bring adaptation about.

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 believe the national climate change risk assessment and the requirement to develop a National Adaptation Plan are very important parts of this proposed legislation. It is important that Government sets the overall direction for the National Adaptation Plan but work closely with local government, local communities and organisations to both create and implement the Plan.

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

However, the costs and administrative burden of doing so should be minimised. It is important that the Commission and the Government have a good picture of what is happening in the adaptation space across a range of organisations. The reporting requirement should be integrated with existing reporting requirements e.g. Annual Reports rather than creating an additional reporting process.