

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Ian Baxter, **Ian Kenneth Baxter**

Reference no: 11604

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

As an agricultural nation, and with 55% of our emissions being Methane and Nitrous oxide it is not credible to have a target that only focuses on CO2 reductions. From the economic modelling presented in the discussion document there is only minor economic penalty in adopting net zero emissions target, compared to net zero long lived gases.

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

International carbon units should only be used to offset agricultural emissions and only where it can be shown that producing food in New Zealand produces lower emissions than producing food in the country where the international credits are coming from. For example grass fed beef generally produces lower emissions than corn fed beef. The emissions from any additional transport should be taken into account.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Only under two circumstances. If the climate science indicates different targets would be more appropriate Unforeseen and significant event occur. The threshold for the government being able to adjust the target needs to clearly set out.

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

No

Notes

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**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

That poorer people are not disproportionately impacted. Plans are seen as fair and equitable.

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 should advise the government on targets and policy planning. The Government should have to publicly respond to, and provide rationale when it deviates from the Commission's advice. The Climate Commission should also act as an independent watchdog, publishing progress reports and highlighting problems.

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**Clause**

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

Position

Yes

Notes**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

The act needs to make it easy for local governments to publish hazard maps so that it is easy for people to see high risk areas. Need to avoid the situation that happened in Kapiti recently where the council was forced to withdraw a hazard map because home owners seemed to think a line on a map caused their properties to be devalued not the fact that the sea level is rising. What is needed is national standards/best practise for risk assessment.

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

In setting out adaptation plans/responses there needs to be a balance between building a collective community response and not rewarding people who have ignored the risks of climate change. E.g. purchased a property near the high tide mark in the last eighteen years.