

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

I support a 2050 target, but believe the majority of the emission cuts should be achieved in a shorter period - aiming for 2040. New Zealand has a poor, historical record with regards to emissions and needs to make every effort to achieve this goal.

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 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. However, the period should be shortened - cuts should be achieved in a shorter period - aiming for 2040.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

I support the 'firewall' principle, that New Zealand's emission reduction targets must be achieved by actual cuts in our own emissions, and not through the purchase of overseas carbon credits or an over-reliance on forests as carbon sinks.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Only in a more ambitious direction and under stated provisions, such as scientific advances, changes in international law or unforeseen climate changes (tipping points reached). Any revision should require input from the Climate Commission.

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 3 are in effect at all times. However, New Zealand should adopt the most progressive budget regime possible. There is no time to waste.

Clause

6. Should the Government be able to alter the last emissions budget (i.e. furthest into the future)?

Position

Yes - the third emissions budget should be able to be changed but only when the subsequent budget is set

Notes

The third emissions budget should only be able to be changed if required to achieve the goal of Zero Carbon by 2050, or, preferably 2040.

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

Emissions budgets should not be altered in response to “economic changes” as this undermines their long-term certainty. However, the ability to revise budgets 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 include the following factors when advising on and setting budgets:

- scientific knowledge regarding climate change
- technology relevant to climate change
- global leadership, including international equity

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

The Zero Carbon Act must require the Government to set and public plans to stay within budget as rapidly as feasible, within a set time limit that is certainly less than 12 months.

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

Time is of the essence. The Government’s policy plans to meet emission budgets should be comprehensive, fair and just, cost-effective, environmentally sustainable and reflect a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

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 not be a decision-making body. However, the Government should be legally required to consider and formally respond to the Commission’s advice, and to provide an explanation if they do not act on it.

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

It should not be the role of the CCC to make decisions on the number of units available.

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 environmental, social, 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 such as 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 systems.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

The Government needs to prepare a national climate risk assessment and produce an adaptation programme to address any identified risks.

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, but recognise that nuance is required in terms of how local councils are involved: • a national climate change risk assessment • a national adaptation plan • regular review of progress towards implementing the national adaptation 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

A targeted adaptation reporting power could start with voluntary reporting in the first year, that could be shared, and require compulsory reporting in subsequent years.

Clause

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

Notes

There needs to be more emphasis on the effects on the natural environment and biodiversity, and how any further adverse effects can be avoided.