

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

There have been too many delays already - lets get going - we only have 32 years from now and that's not long for making major changes in how we live on and view this land.

Clause

2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?

Position

Net Zero Long-Lived Gases and Stabilised Short-Lived Gases - Long-lived gases to net zero by 2050 while also stabilising short-lived gases

Notes

My personal preference is actually net zero emissions but with 44% of greenhouse emissions coming from agriculture, which is also still our primary industry, our target needs to be manageable and possible. This target could be adjusted to say reduced short-lived gases rather than stabilised.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

We need to meet this target for our own sake. My concerns are - 1. will government work with us to achieve this - e.g. could the GST be waived on electric cars on the proviso to make them available to more people and 2. how forestry is interpreted. Currently we seem to plant pine on any type of land without regard to terrain, soil retention or impact on waterways and downstream flooding after harvesting. I would like to see steep, highly erodible land returned to native forest with some areas on private land able to be selectively logged for fine timber but no clear felling. Waterways should always have WIDE buffer zones of permanent planting. We are the one's who need stronger environmental safeguards.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

It is important to have a strong target, Hopefully this will give both business and government the incentive to invest in innovative research.

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

No - emissions budgets should not be able to be changed

Notes

A little bit of policy stability would be nice!

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 must be exceptional such as a major volcanic eruption!

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

People need to feel supported by their government so must create clear and unambiguous guidelines and clear statements about what the government can do or not and what will be required of businesses and individuals.

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

What areas will be targeted in each budget and who will be most affected? Some sector groups may already have ideas for emission reduction - is new research needed - Can the Commission facilitate this? New technology - any available overseas? Are there low tech solutions? Need government, business leaders and environmental experts working together so our solutions don't create new problems

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

And must have mechanisms to hold the government to account. NZ governments have often ignored or just paid lip service to environmental concerns.

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

Makes decisions itself in respect of the number of units available 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

Lot of words - sounds good but where's the action on the things we already know? e.g. Why are we still building on low-level coastal ground? What actions will be required - e.g. to preserve essential infrastructure? The proposed risk assessment is very broad and there doesn't seem to be any requirement for government bodies to have to take it into account in their planning?

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

We are all involved in this matter so community engagement is really important. Besides the cities, this must include rural and small towns as we are already being adversely affected by high fuel costs, a lack of public transport and high travel needs for services and amenities. We need to find better ways to talk about and to support our farmers while still holding them to account environmentally. Please build systems that help people stay in work and not on welfare.