

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

Target needs to be included in legislation so it is not subject to the winds of politics.

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

We need a bold vision, and work to achieve this through research and innovation, particularly in the agricultural sector.

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

With the bold plan we may need initially to meet targets use international credits. But these must be above board and verifiable. This also provides a way for small countries to assist each other to achieve their climate goals.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

Though perhaps the 5-year targets could be adjusted to allow for progress to be slowed due to earthquakes or other natural disasters.

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

Required for planning by business, farmers and the transportation sector.

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

But I qualify by saying if they were going to be more ambitious and leading to faster emissions reduction I would be OK with that, but not if they were to go to be less ambitious, slowing down progress.

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

As long as the exceptional circumstances were exceptional - natural disaster or similar unforeseen event when setting target (e.g. war, financial crisis).

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

Clear short-term targets are needed to hit the long-term goal.

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 fishing and aquaculture industry must also be part of the consultation as high CO2 also results in ocean acidification which affects them.

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**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

But with the awareness that climate change is also an issue for the oceans so have that expertise covered by one of the members.

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**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

We should all be helping each other to achieve the bold targets that the bill sets. We are all in this together.

Clause

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

Notes

The Government is to be commended for taking this much needed step to address the importance of climate change. Be bold in the target goal and work towards that through innovation - e.g. blue carbon, growing seaweeds etc. Win-win as provide economic benefits at the same time and as a country we can produce "premium" agricultural, horticultural and aquaculture products using the "Zero Carbon" approach in branding.