Submissions form

We seek your feedback on the specific proposals in the Zero Carbon Bill.

Either email this submission to ZCB.Submissions@mfe.govt.nz (Microsoft Word document (2003 or later) or PDF) or post to Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington, 6143.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters) may be published on the Ministry for the Environment’s website, www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, the Ministry will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

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Personal / organisation details

You must provide either a company name or given name(s)

Company name ________________________________

Given names __ Jenny ________________________________

Surname __ Kelso ________________________________

Contact person ________________________________

Address ________________________________

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Our Climate Your Say: Submissions Form 1
Submitter type:

- Individual

**2050 target**

1. What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?
   - the Government sets a 2050 target in legislation now

   # I strongly support the Zero Carbon Act and would like the Government to set an ambitious goal of Zero Carbon Emissions by 2040 rather than 2050. I would like to see New Zealand set an example for the rest of the World.

2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?
   Pick one:
   - Net zero emissions across all greenhouse gases by 2050.

   # This goal should include all greenhouse gases including Methane and Carbon Dioxide.

   # I feel that Climate Change is one of the most important issues facing New Zealand and the whole World today. We have been procrastinating for far too long and we need to take immediate and strong action to minimise further problems and disruption in the future.

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?
   - domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

   # I am not convinced about the wisdom of using emissions trading schemes even if they do have strong environmental safeguards. This scheme has been fraught with problems and downright skulduggery in the past and perhaps each country should take responsibility for their own emissions.

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

   # I feel that the target could be made more ambitious if scientific research shows that we need to take a stronger stance to mitigate climate change. I would not like to see the target being weakened unless there was simply no alternative.

   # The target may also need to be revised to co-operate with revised international agreements supported by science such as the IPCC, Paris Treaty, etc.
Emissions budgets

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?

☐ yes

# I agree that such stepping stones would be helpful in achieving our emissions reduction targets. I think a long-term plan independent of political influence is absolutely crucial. However, I would also like to see some flexibility built in to this process so that we can strengthen our stance if necessary in response to new scientific findings.

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

☐ yes, each incoming Government should have the option to review the third budget in the sequence

# .... but ONLY if the changes are fully endorsed by the Climate Commission.

7. Should the Government have the ability to review and adjust the second emissions budget within a specific range under exceptional circumstances?

☐ yes

# .... But as above, only if the changes are fully endorsed by the Climate Commission.

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?

☐ yes

# but it is important to legislate to ensure that the Climate Commission is properly funded and emissions targets cannot be weakened unnecessarily.

Government response

9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?

☐ yes

# I would like to see the Government establish plans as quickly as possible and ideally within six months. Perhaps an interim plan could be established to get the process underway with the possibility of revising the plan as and when needed.
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?

# The plan needs to contain SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-lined. It needs to clearly specify who will do what, by when, how, and with what resources or budget. Those employed to implement the plan should be completely accountable for achieving results and an appropriate system set in place to make sure the goals are achieved.

Climate Change Commission

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?

☐ yes

# I strongly support the establishment of a Climate Commission employing experts from a range of relevant fields. They should be independent of the Government so they can hold future governments to account for implementing the Act and meeting targets. They should have an advisory role, a watchdog role, and I would also like to see them have an educational role to inform the NZ public on how everyone can make a difference. They should write and publish regular progress reports and highlight any issues or problems arising. They should be adequately funded so that they can carry out this essential role. The Act should ensure that all Governments continue to provide sufficient funding and resources.

12. What role do you think the Climate Change Commission should have in relation to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)?

# I do not have a strong opinion on this issue but as mentioned earlier I am sceptical about the integrity of the whole ETS system. Perhaps it should have a monitoring role over the ETS.

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?

☐ yes

# With the addition of expertise from the fields of Biosecurity, Biodiversity, and strong links with the IPCC. We may well be able to learn and gather information from other countries who are further ahead in this process than we are. Most importantly, the Commission needs to have teeth or it will be totally ineffective as a watchdog.
Adapting to the impacts of climate change

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

☐ yes

# I think this is essential. We are already seeing problems arising from extreme weather events most probably linked to Climate Change issues. The Climate Commission should advise future Governments on how best to minimise and mitigate problems that arise. I support the idea to establish a National Adaptation Plan setting a clear direction on how to deal with the consequences of Climate Change. This would assist Local Government and community groups in tackling these issues.

15. The Government has proposed a number of new functions to help us adapt to climate change. Do you agree with the proposed functions?

Pick one:

☐ yes

☐ no.

# It is difficult to give a yes/no answer. Local Government bodies will be at the coal-face of dealing with the consequences of Climate Change. They should be seriously questioning support for future developments on low-lying coastal land. They will need support and direction from the Climate Commission.

One crucial task is to develop and regularly review comprehensive nationwide Civil Defence plans to deal with emergencies. Apart from this, there is the significant issue of WHO PAYS FOR WHAT if businesses or private properties are damaged following extreme weather events. Already, the costs are proving to be significant. Is it reasonable to expect taxpayers to foot the bill for such damage? More and more properties will become uninsurable. Perhaps the Climate Commission will need input from Ethical Philosophers to decide the appropriate course of action.

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?

☐ yes

# Yes but it should come under the auspices of the Climate Commission. I am not sure it needs to be a separate organisation. Information sharing and co-operation is a good idea.