

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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Submitter Type:

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

but target can be made more, but not less, stringent as advised by the Climate Change Commission (CCC)

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

Essential to take a precautionary approach as time is short

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

as a developed country, we must live within our means - less developed countries have less resources than we do to meet per capita targets, and our per capita emissions are high

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

but only to make targets more, not less, stringent, by recommendation of the CCC

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

follow the UK model despite different electoral cycle times

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 the CCC may advise changing the third budget, definitely not the Government

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

not government, but CCC could advise justified adjustments consistent with 2050 target still being achievable

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

No

Notes

I agree with the Wise Response Society submission here; the current economic (and social) models must adapt to climate change, not the other way around!

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

with all practicable speed, and not more than 6 months; failure to meet this requirement should be legally enforceable and penalties base on Health and Safety legislation applied to government individuals (ministers and civil servants) who (like company directors, CEOs etc) are found wanting in a judicial review based on the relevant CCC advice considered as from an 'expert witness'

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

I agree with the Wise Response Society's response here; government responses must be precautionary in nature (all practicable steps), target the "low hanging fruit" first, using only established technologies, and not relying on possible future breakthroughs for planning. As with Q9 above, this will require the CCC to provide very clear recommendations to facilitate their quick transformation into funded policy

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

I agree with the Wise Response Society's submission here

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

BUT for a 'Fee and Dividend' scheme, NOT an ETS, as per the Wise Response Society's submission here. We need greater control over carbon pricing to ensure the 2050 target is met, and all New Zealanders can benefit in the process

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 must add "values and ethics" as essential, and make 'business competitiveness' merely desirable; see Wise Response Society's submission here

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

but mitigation must be clearly stated as its principal aim

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

Clause

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

Notes

Enforcement of the Act needs serious consideration and is not covered by this form. The Productivity Commission's recent report "Examining the UK Climate Change Act 2008" signals clearly that the UK government is already in breach of the 4th and 5th budget targets (according to ClientEarth and others), but it is (critically) unclear what legal or other action can be taken to remedy this breach of the new law.