

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

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

It is essential to differentiate long-lived and short-lived gases (a two basket approach) in developing policies and strategies for implementation. In addition, distinguish between fossil methane and biological methane in policies.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

Emissions targets could be brought forward if there is new scientific evidence of what is required for a safe climate.

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

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

Notes

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

Yes, but only to increase the speed of emissions reductions.

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

Yes - together with the following: to reduce cumulative emissions sufficiently to avoid dangerous climate change, the steepest emissions cuts to carbon dioxide must occur in the first 10 years, with possibly less steep cuts thereafter.

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**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

NZ needs to become a leader in reducing emissions and ultimately achieving a carbon neutral economy so we truly deserve our clean green NZ/ Pure NZ. This requires a major mindset change in all changes and our economy across the entire work and recreation sector. We cannot afford to ignore the 49% of our emissions profile that come from methane as a result of agriculture. While methane is short lived, it traps 34 times more heat over a 10 year period. Nitrous oxide is also long-lived and despite existing in small concentrations, trap 298 times more heat. Addressing the problems within our agriculture and dairy industry could not only help us avoid the most disastrous effects of climate change sooner but could also help us address other harm currently being done to our environment - for instance waterway pollution and soil over-nutrication. Furthermore, our knowledge about the dangers of these other gases is limited, considering CO2 gets something like 100 times the funding and number of published academic papers. We must accept that our emissions profile is unique amongst OECD countries but see the challenges this poses as unique opportunities to become world-leaders.

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**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

Clause

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

Notes

Tackling climate change is both an overdue necessity and an opportunity to make ourselves a better future. Our response will define our future