

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Reference no: 11866

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

Waiting for the commission will take too long I fear, even though they may have good advice. It is best that deadlines are set now and we are then under pressure to reach them rather than forever delaying until we find the 'perfect' solution everyone agrees on. This should never mean of course, that corners are cut or that marginalised sectors of society are made to carry the weight.

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

The so-called 'short-lived' gases have a far greater effect despite being shorter-lived, especially given we are looking at a short time-frame to be able to turn back runaway climate chaos. Fugitive gas is particularly bad because we are wasting a really precious resource. Nitrous oxide from methane-based urea is poisoning and polluting soils, waterways and reefs which are crucial for sustainable economies and carbon capture. So reducing these products would have multiple benefits.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

One of the failures of the ETS was allowing international carbon markets that achieved very little other than driving the carbon price down and aiding corrupt business. If we focus on domestic markets it will be much more sustainable and increase a local carbon economy that creates much needed jobs, especially in rural areas.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

But only if to make it sooner rather than later. We need to expect that there will be many emergencies in the near future because of climate change and demands on global resources and therefore plan emergencies into the strategy not use them as excuses to exit the strategy.

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

Again this should only be to make it better not worse as in speed up the process not slow it down

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

As said previously, there are enough predictions already about the increasing number of emergencies we will face. This needs to be worked into strategies at the beginning

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

But there is too much focus on business and fuel supply. There needs to be a really strong focus on sustainable economies as in local, decentralised infrastructure for transport, trade, education, health, recreation. There needs to be an understanding of ecological sustainability for new or old technologies such as regenerative agriculture, rongoā, biological farming, freshwater indigenous fisheries and textile industries... Access for support must be fair

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

Of course or how else will we achieve these goals.

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

Those most affected must have more say, especially the young, the poor, women and tāngata whenua. They should also have more input into solutions as typically their solutions are more economically and socially sustainable since they focus on need, using what they have be it low or no budgets or humble experts with generations of local knowledge. It would be wrong and stupid to look for solutions from the same capitalist models and fossil fuel industries who got us into this mess.

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

However I don't see why we should be using international emissions reductions to fulfill our targets. This should be removed from the list.

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

I would prefer experts over politicians but it depends of course on what experts on what subjects and under what process eg. does the chair get veto rights? And who chooses the experts? Whoever is chosen needs to be unconflicted by financial, political or social prejudice.

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

I would add knowledge of sustainable development techniques and planning in particular energy, agriculture, housing, trade and transport

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

But this should not override the focus of preventing climate change. Some adaption is needed urgently such as plant resilience and reducing flood and drought effects.

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

It would be good to see this extended to the private sector as well such as large industries like Fonterra and power companies that, if they topple, will have major effects on our people

Clause

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

Notes

I am happy to see a bill like this finally being drafted and I really hope it comes out strong. It would be foolhardy if decision-makers on this bill were swayed by the interests of the rich and powerful. We have looked after the interests of a few over the interests of the 99% for far too long. Please do the right thing.

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