

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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Reference no: 12096

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

Everyone needs certainty in planning for the future. Whether it is businesses deciding which energy source to use, or households saving for an electric car or solar pv.

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

Methane & Nitrous oxide, while not lasting as long in the atmosphere as CO₂, are powerful greenhouse gases and they would have a significant effect on global warming in the coming decades if not reduced, preferably to net zero.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

Soil and plant carbon sequestration will have a role to play, but it is critical that there are genuine reductions in all New Zealand's emissions of greenhouse gases. Purchasing overseas credits could defer action to actually reduce emissions here and could become a huge expense to the NZ taxpayer.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Only in exceptional circumstances if a change in the international consensus on the science of climate change occurs. For example, if a new agreement (similar to the Paris agreement) is ratified. Economic changes should not be permitted as a means to weaken the target.

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

Everyone needs certainty as to what is required.

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

Other than in exceptional circumstances- see Q4

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

In exceptional circumstances, as long as it did not change the long term goal of net zero emissions in all gases by 2050

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

Also need to add expertise in health effects. Climate change is a direct threat to human health, so knowledge in that area is required.

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

Actual plans are urgently needed so that everyone can start to make the changes that are required to rapidly reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases. 12 months should be enough time given the years of background work that has already been done.

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

Fairness and equity to all New Zealanders. Fairness and equity at an international level. New Zealanders are high per capita emitters of greenhouse gases and we must share the burden of reducing them fairly with our fellow international citizens.

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

The commission would be appointed, not democratically elected, so should not have actual decision making powers. All reports and communications from the Climate Change Commission to the Government should be publically available at the time they are made.

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

Adding health expertise

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

But adaption planning should be done by a separate body other than the Climate change commission, so that a very strong focus remains on actual reduction of greenhouse gases

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