

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Change for Good Consulting (Philip James McKenzie)

Reference no: 12148

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

Enshrining a target in legislation ensures we all have something to aim for and can begin innovation, system change and adaption. The alternative of waiting for some later target is that we all vacillate until something is firmed up, or political change waters down our targets.

Clause

2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?

Position

Net Zero Long-Lived Gases and Stabilised Short-Lived Gases - Long-lived gases to net zero by 2050 while also stabilising short-lived gases

Notes

Clearly there are differences in the way short and long lived gases are generated and behave. By splitting them it means certain sectors like agriculture have an incentive to innovate to counteract the short lived gases like methane, but, are not penalised in the longer term.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions (including from new forest planting) and using some emissions reductions from overseas (international carbon units) that have strong environmental safeguards

Notes

I believe there will need to be a mix at the end of the day, and not constraining ourselves to domestic only reduction allows some flexibility and innovation to be part of that reduction. This won't absolve our need to move strongly and quickly domestically, particularly as the price of units is likely to grow

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

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

Yes, this will help keep us all on target and avoid procrastination as businesses

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**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, this seems to be an appropriate mix of advice and monitoring

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

Yes, strongly agree, without targets we won't progress strongly and consistently enough.

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

Wide consultation will be required, particularly to set plans allowing for innovations that have or are occurring and also to allow for previously unforeseen or market reactions and consequences, that mean our targets and now too high or too low.

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

Yes, they seem appropriate

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

Yes, I agree that they have sector group expertise rather than be stakeholder representatives. Stakeholder voices are important, but can be catered for in consultative groups that the Commissioners interact with on a periodic basis. This avoids 'captured interest' by any particular sector.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Yes, in the sense that adaptation will be a key part of meeting reduction targets and will greatly help alignment across all agencies

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

Yes, agree with all of those

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

Yes, this will help transparency and our understanding of the risks and opportunities