

# Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Mark Stoop

## Reference no: 12163

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

Ignoring methane is a cop out, because it makes up so much of our emissions profile. To leave it out of the bill, just as agriculture was left out of the ETS, would be to turn a blind eye to the pollution which the industry can cause. Bringing farmers to account will achieve more than just dealing with our GHG emissions; it will also help to protect our environment on the more immediate scale of a comprehensive approach is taken. The farming sector is in dire need of reform, and while much of that goes beyond the scope of this bill, this is a good place to start.

### 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

Ideally the fewer overseas credits we need, the better, but I appreciate that meeting our obligations may be difficult to do in the short term. It's a necessary evil.

### Clause

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

### Position

Yes

### Notes

Yes, but it depends what you mean by "circumstances change". This is a very broad statement which leaves the door open to abuse and undermining of the bill.

### 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

No

### 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****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**

I could talk for hours about this, but submissions close today so I'll have to ignore it.

**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**

Yes, but they could go a lot farther.

**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**

I try to stay away from a cynical view of things, but it does seem unavoidable. Thus, considering the scope of the problem, the current literature and the size and geopolitical power of New Zealand, I believe more emphasis should be put on adaption to climate change than mitigation and prevention of it. Sustainability should be our focus; things are going to get very difficult over the next 100 years, and there is only so much we can do to slow this. We are a small nation, and callous as it may seem, we need to be pragmatic. Hope for the best (do work to improve our environmental policy and set an example for the rest of the world), prepare for the worst (realise that it's already too late, and things are just going to get worse).