

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Andy Barratt

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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

NZ has delayed for far too long. We need to set the boldest deadlines now.

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

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

Choosing this option sends a strong message that we need to make changes ourselves and not expect others to do it for us. There would still be the possibility of drawing on overseas emissions reductions if there was a significant emergency.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

This is simple pragmatism. But the circumstances need to be clearly and carefully described so that this does not provide a government with "carte blanche" to revise targets downwards.

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

Pragmatism again. But (again) definition of "exceptional circumstances" is absolutely essential. Rather than define natural disasters as an exceptional circumstance, it would be necessary to define how a particular circumstance makes it IMPOSSIBLE for us to meet our

budgets.

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

The most important issues are: (1) transport and (2) land use. With regard to land use, it is essential that the government consult very widely (not just the standard, "business-as-usual" interests) but "fringe" groups, eg. organics; farm forestry; Tane's Tree Trust; small farmers; Biological Husbandry Unit at Lincoln, etc. This is where the real potential for innovation will come from.

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 CCC should also be required (in collaboration with other agencies, where appropriate) to disseminate information in a concise and readable form so that the general public can keep up to date with action in NZ and around the world. The CCC should be required to provide specific advice on investment in research into alternatives to conventional land use practices (e.g. hemp).

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

Must also consider whether ETS is the appropriate long-term mechanism, rather than others (especially a Carbon Tax).

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 specify that someone with wide-ranging expertise in land use is essential. This could need more than one person (eg. someone with agricultural background and someone with forestry background). Most important of all, they should be INDEPENDENT OF EXISTING INDUSTRY GROUPS.

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

The CCC must take very seriously the second challenge (p.19): "significant changes to our energy, transport and agricultural sectors". While holding fast to targets and budgets, the CCC's advisory function must include practical alternatives for industry and agricultural interest groups to pursue.