

# Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Johanna Bennett, **Johanna Bennett**

## Reference no: 12319

**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

This submission supports the Zero Carbon Bill as the bare minimum we need.

### 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

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

### Notes

This could result in foot-dragging...

### 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?

### Notes

Not sure - this is not very clear.

### 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

### Notes

... depends exactly what the exceptional circumstances are - again, could be used a foot-dragging tactic.

### 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

An actual plan always helps in keeping people focused.

### 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 stakeholders affected in the forestry and agricultural sectors, plus the energy companies, and Māori, because we are a bicultural country.

### 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**

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****Supporting documents from your Submission**

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Uploaded on 07/19/2018 at 01:31PM

## **It's about our children's children**

**Why we need the Zero Carbon Bill or the world will be one big slum**



It's about the children – the tamariki of the future. It's about our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren; those future generations who we can see and hold now, or else easily imagine.

I came to New Zealand decades ago now, and remember walking on wild, windy, pristine Waikanae beach and being stunned at how clean and beautiful it was. And, before that, how perfectly clean the air was when I first stepped off the plane at Wellington Airport.

This is how the whole world should be. Not a world of filthy shirt-cuffs after a journey on the London tube, or wading through dirt and thrown-away plastics in the Mediterranean when you go on holiday, hoping to escape city dirt for a couple of weeks.

The stories we are hearing now are so quiet, but already so close to home: how in Kiribati they are thinking about the day when the seas will be high all the time and there will be no more fresh water. Then they will all have to leave their island home forever. Many of them are already here in New Zealand. They would rather be at home.

*In Kiribati they are thinking about the day when the seas will be high all the time and there will be no more fresh water*

We only have only one home – the Earth. And if we heat it up too much, which is what carbon gases are doing very quickly now – we will very soon have no home, or such a desperate, filthy, over-crowded one we will be living one big worldwide slum.

I have seen slums, and I have lived in dirty places. I don't want the whole world to be like this. I don't want my children and my children's children's home to be like this. My tamariki and mokopuna – all our tamariki and mokopuna – deserve better.

This is why I think the Zero Carbon Bill is so important – we may be small, so we don't emit as much dangerous carbon gas as bigger nations, but small nations like ours are nevertheless responsible for 30 per cent of all the greenhouse gases that are heating up the world, threatening to make it uninhabitable. So, what we do – and don't do – does make a difference. A zero carbon law will help a lot here.

### **Consumers can't do it all**

We can stop using plastic bags. We can stop consuming mountains of polluting fast fashion. We can do this and much more on a personal level. And personal choices do make a difference. **But the problem and the solution is bigger than this, which is why we need governments to step in**, and why we need the Zero Carbon Bill – so we can become carbon neutral by 2050. The Bill – and then law – will provide the necessary government push to achieve this.



*[Penzance](#) – Britain's first plastic-free town*

We are so lucky in that our hydro-electricity supply already provides 65 per cent of our power already, but we need to *push* to use other renewable energy sources more if we are to get to 100 per cent renewables, and so make real progress in becoming carbon neutral. If Norway can do it, we can. We could, for example, increase our use of wind power.

And we could plant more trees. They are a highly cost-effective way of reducing carbon emissions. We already use **our new forests to offset 30 per cent of our greenhouse gas emissions**. So, as we have already got a good start in this area, doing more won't be so hard. And, once again, **the Zero Carbon Bill being made law would help give the necessary push**.

## **The biggie – farming**

Our Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, has already said we can't keep breeding more cows to make more milk products for export. Farmers are currently exempt from our Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), which requires emitters to pay for the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases they emit. To achieve net zero we will have to change this, as farming activity creates than half of our carbon emissions. Of course, the change will have to be gradual, but we can't ignore the big cow in the room.

*Farming... we can't ignore the big cow in the room*

Well, as I said at the beginning of my submission: we need to think about the world we leave our tamariki. New Zealand has made a good start, but we need a push – all people need a push, it's our nature – and that's what I think passing the Zero Carbon Bill into law will do.

We can use baskets rather than plastic bags; we can think about our use of disposable nappies; we can choose not to have a lovely open fire in our sitting room belching nasty gases into the atmosphere, but, as individuals, we can only do so much. We need to join forces to effect real change and that is what the Zero Carbon Bill is all about – helping us join our energies together, so we become one big voice demanding that New Zealand *really* be clean and green – and helping make the whole world as safe and beautiful too.