

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

Reference no: 12445

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

I support most ambitious, clearest, science-based target. We need to reduce all greenhouse gases, including methane. Applying two baskets thinking to our 2050 target, the most ambitious and impactful approach would be to achieve negative long-lived gas emissions, while reducing short-lived gas emissions to sustainable levels. Getting to this point would mean that New Zealand is contributing to global cooling.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

The clearest approach is a "firewall" which separates international contributions from our domestic Zero Carbon Act targets. This would not stop New Zealand from purchasing international carbon credits as an additional contribution to global mitigation efforts.

Clause

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

Notes

The 2050 target should only be revised in exceptional circumstances. The purpose of the Zero Carbon Act is to provide accountability, certainty and flexibility. It will provide accountability and certainty by setting clear, legally-binding emission reduction targets. It will retain flexibility by permitting different governments to use different policies to meet these targets, in response to changing circumstances and new technology.

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

No - emissions budgets should not be able to be changed

Notes

No. Budgets should only be revised in exceptional circumstances. It is not appropriate for a new government to "have a say" on an upcoming budget which has already been set. This would create too much uncertainty and instability. What a new government can do is introduce different policies to meet the upcoming target

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

Under exceptional circumstances, yes. For example, it might be appropriate to change an upcoming budget after an extreme natural disaster (such as a major earthquake). Revising a budget in this situation would not mean changing the long-term 2050 target. To provide maximum certainty and accountability, budgets should not be revised unless the circumstances are exceptional

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

Notes

I generally agree with the proposed list of considerations to take into account when setting emission budgets: scientific knowledge about climate change technology relevant to climate change economic circumstances and, in particular, the likely impact of the decision on the economy and the competitiveness of particular sectors of the economy fiscal circumstances and, in particular, the likely impact of the decision on taxation, public spending and public borrowing social circumstances and, in particular, the likely impact of the decision on fuel poverty energy policy and, in particular, the likely impact of the decision on energy supplies and the carbon and energy intensity of the economy the government's obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi the three government objectives for climate change policy: sustainable economy, global and local leadership and creating a just and inclusive society

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

This time frame should be 6 months after an emission budget has been set.

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 Government's policy plans to meet emission budgets should be comprehensive, fair, cost-effective, environmentally sustainable, and reflect a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

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 should not be a decision-making body

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

The commission should not make final decisions. Otherwise it risks being a compromised watchdog.

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

Notes

I generally agree with the proposed list of expertise which should be collectively held by the Climate Commission: climate change policy (including emissions trading) resource economics and impacts (including social impacts, labour markets and distribution) te Tiriti o Waitangi, te reo me ona tikanga Māori and Māori interests climate and environmental science including mātauranga Māori experience with addressing adaptation challenges like planning, insurance and local government risk management engineering and/or infrastructure community engagement and communications. public health

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

I would not like my name to appear in the summary of submissions that the ministry may publish

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.