

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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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

We need to take action on climate change now, a clear target will provide certainty to local government and the private sector.

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

Carbon dioxide is the most damaging greenhouse gas, so we should place a significant focus on it. Stabilising short lived gases will give the rural sector more time to adapt and lessen the shock to the economy that a net zero target for all emissions.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

Notes

We have the opportunity to be a world leader in this field - using international carbon credits to achieve our targets would undermine this.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

There should be a mechanism to change the target within certain parameters under clearly defined circumstances (e.g. an delay to when the target must be achieved if a major earthquake occurs in one of our key cities) - not a wholesale opportunity to change or reduce the ambition of the target.

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

Ideally the emissions budgets would look further out than 15 years - infrastructure and asset planning is often based on 30 year time horizons.

Clause

6. Should the Government be able to alter the last emissions budget (i.e. furthest into the future)?

Position

Yes - each incoming Government should have the option to review the third budget in the sequence

Notes

But there should be clear parameters for what changes would be permitted.

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

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

The targets and emissions budgets need to be supported b clear action plans - otherwise we have no ope of achieving them.

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

Local Government needs to play a key role in the planning process as they make critical decisions about land use, infrastructure, housing and transport which have significant impacts. It is also important to engage with utility providers and the private sector, but these groups shouldn't be allowed to capture the process.

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

Adaption is critical. Even if we reached net zero emissions tomorrow we would still be faced with the need to adapt to climate change triggered by historic emissions.

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

Targets are useless without a clear consistent framework to monitor progress. This should be lead centrally, currently there is duplication of effort with different organisations monitoring against different indicators