Reference no: 12555
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 goal to reach net zero emissions by the second half of the century and the Climate Change Commission advises on the specific target for the Government to set later.

Notes
It appears to me there are serious flaws in the classification of 'emitters', and therefore in the calculation of emissions, and the proposed methods for mitigating those emissions.

Clause 2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?

Position
Net Zero Carbon Dioxide - Reducing net carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2050

Notes
A large portion of the 'short-lived' gases are the result of cycling of atmospheric carbon via photosynthesis in plants, that are then eaten by animals, some of which is respired back into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide and methane.

Clause 3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Notes
Forestry is a flawed mitigation as sequestration of carbon only occurs up till harvest, or till tree death equates new growth. The ETS is also flawed as there is no scientific basis for the current system of treating approx. 90% of carbon lost on harvest, regardless of most of the underground carbon being incorporated into the soil biota, and a large portion of the above ground carbon remains in the timber and logs that we sell overseas, or are we 'ripping off' the buyers by selling them timber without any carbon in it.

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

Position
Yes

Notes
If the worlds big emitters end up not doing their part our sacrifices and 'leadership' will be futile and our grandchildren will pay a heavy price for our stupidity.

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
No

Notes
Similar reasons to 4 above.

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

Notes
If the 'science' that the current 'Climate change' scenario is based on proves to be wrong there will be no escape options, and we'll be stuck with the current 'Emperor's New Clothes' situation.

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
If future science shows that 'Climate Change' is not going to respond to the targetted carbon reductions, that option is critical.

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

Clause 9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?

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?

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

Clause 12. What role do you think the Climate Change Commission should have in relation to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)?

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

Clause 14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change?

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
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**

The uncertainty I feel over the proposed Carbon Zero policy is further increased when Judy Lawrence, Victoria University Senior Researcher, recently noted that even if the world stopped all greenhouse gas emissions today, the climate would still change for centuries.