

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

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

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

The target should only be revised in exceptional circumstances. Any changes should be based on solid science or changes to international law.

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.

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

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.

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

Yes, but I am concerned about the lack of consideration to the intrinsic value of the environment and biodiversity and ecosystem services. I recommend that there is clear consideration to the intrinsic value of the environment, as well as ecosystem services that it provides.

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

I believe that the Government needs to consider the following: A much stronger focus on education about climate change, its causes and impacts. Many New Zealanders are concerned about climate change but lack the knowledge and skills to mitigate and adapt. There needs to be an emphasis on education for mitigation, but also education for adaptation will be important. How ecosystems will be impacted by climate change and work towards setting carbon budgets that minimise impacts on those systems needs to be considered. The people in society who are most vulnerable to climate change already, and those who may become vulnerable to policies and plans set to meet carbon budgets. There is little doubt that behaviour change is required, and this will have social, cultural and economic ramifications. How just transitions can be put in place to enable these vulnerable groups to succeed in a low carbon world. The role of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and tangata whenua in determining carbon budgets, using a blend of mātauranga Māori and other knowledges to find the best solutions.

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

However, community engagement and communication must include education both informally, through mechanisms such as local government as well as across all sectors of formal and further education. It is immoral not to be climate change education to the younger generations who will inherit the problems to deal with in future. They must be aware and have a say in determining their future on this crucial issue.

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

Any adaptation plan must include an element of education across informal and formal sectors.

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