

# 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

The government should start by embedding some fundamental principles which should be followed setting up and operating the Act. These should include Fairness and equity - a just transition for all people and sectors of society Comprehensiveness - it should apply to all people, groups and activities in the system Sustainable - the effect should be to provide desirable and stable future for our grandchildren. Honor the Tiriti o Waitangi by working in partnership with Maori to include tikanga Māori and Māori worldviews. The government should set the target in legislation now. It should try to build an all-party consensus if possible to give more long-term certainty. It should also seek input from experts particularly the Climate Change commission.

### 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

The government should prioritise the targets according to the period and time of their effect. GHGs emitted early in the period will use up more of the permissible capacity available before 2050 requiring drastic cuts to later emissions.

### Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

### Position

Domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting)

### Notes

This should include other carbon sinks such as developing or restoring wetlands or any other way of reducing net GHG emissions. Experience shows that NZ has no control over the integrity or actual effectiveness of foreign or even internationally accredited schemes..

### Clause

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

### Position

No

### Notes

Only in exceptional circumstances such as a major natural disaster or game-changing new evidence backed by solid scientific research.

### 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

This is necessary to provide as much certainty as possible

### Clause

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

### Position

Yes - the third emissions budget should be able to be changed but only when the subsequent budget is set

### Notes

**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**

Only in exceptional circumstances such as a major natural disaster or game-changing new evidence backed by solid scientific research.

**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.

**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**

It is no use having a target without any plan to achieve it as happened previously. Emissions continued to increase despite the target. The government should have a reasonable time to develop a plan - say 6 months . Definitely not more than 8 months.

**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 most important issues are Comprehensiveness. fairness and equity, sustainability and honoring the Tiriti o Waitangi (as mentioned in Qestion 1) Consultation as widely as possible with priority given to the Climate Change Commission and those with relevant scientific knowlege and community links.

**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**

Monitoring the progress towards achieving climate change goals and advising Government are to fuctions for an expert body. Policy decisions are for governments (politicians). The Commissions would have a conflict of interest with their role of monitor.

**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**

Th Commission making decisions would have a conflict of interest with their role of monitor.

**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**

I generally agree with the list. I would like to see expertise in sustainability and wise use of resources. Also the effect on general wellbeing.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Yes

**Notes**

The Commission needs to understand and advise what can be adapted to. what needs to be adapted to, and the limits of adaptation.

**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**

I generally agree with the proposed functions.

**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**

The government needs the most comprehensive information it can get.

**Clause**

Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

**Notes**

To be really effective you need to take a holistic systems approach. There needs to be more emphasis on eliminating greenhouse gas generation at source everywhere in the system. Nearly everything that is produced causes GHG generation in its production. There need to be the right incentives reduce net GHG emissions everywhere in the system, for producers goods and services more efficiently with fewer GHG emissions.. Then there is the exponential growth in production, much of it producing ephemeral goods which are used briefly and then thrown away, depleting resources and generating waste, including GHGs and toxins. Universal product stewardship and a price on all net GHG emissions - at a price equal to the damage they cause is the only way to really deal with climate change. If they cannot afford the price, then they should change their production so that they can. Otherwise the goods should not be produced. Of course this would cause massive disruption if it was introduced immediately, so it would need to be phased in. This brings me to the third point. Change is urgent because more than half the GHG emissions emitted before global temperature rises above 2°C have already been emitted, and emissions are still increasing for the reasons above. All emissions now use up what is available before 2050, requiring more extreme and disruption if we are to meet the target and prevent unacceptable temperature rise and potentially a positive feedback loop with irreversible effects. The Government needs to work with everybody both here and worldwide to achieve the fundamental changes needed. The climate Change Bill begins to address the problem, but more comprehensive action is needed if we are to meet the target and avoid catastrophic change.