

Your submission to Zero Carbon Bill

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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

Today's government, with cross-party support, needs to set a minimum reduction target and date to achieve that. It must be a target based on scientific analysis, that cannot be tampered with for short-term political gain or economic reprieve. We have submitted as a 3-generation family group to emphasise the generational impact and action that will need to be taken urgently for the generations to come.

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 effort to reverse, offset or sequester a century of human-induced greenhouse gases needs to be effective. Although methane has a short-life when compared to the other greenhouse gases, the heat it transfers to the atmosphere takes a long time to remove. Therefore the government must not shy away from a robust methane target for the agricultural sector. If farmers require subsidies for offsetting programmes or investment in research to make the transition, we believe that cost must be shared by all to stabilise the climate for us all.

Clause

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Position

Domestic emissions reductions (including from new forest planting) and using some emissions reductions from overseas (international carbon units) that have strong environmental safeguards

Notes

Authentic carbon offsetting in less developed countries could be mutually beneficial, especially if it helps those countries side-step the high-carbon economy of our country. We would prefer projects that include a cultural, life-style or biodiversity gain for the receiving country.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

The target should be set so it can only be lowered, should the science reviews indicate that a stricter target is required.

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 a proven model. The UK has set 3 emission budgets and met the targets.

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

Emission budgets may only be able to be revised to meet the target earlier.

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

No

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

We support the Government and the Climate Commission taking the following factors into consideration when advising on and setting budgets: Scientific knowledge regarding climate change (this is the most important factor) Technology relevant to climate change Economic circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on the economy considered in its broadest sense, not just the current free-market or financial system, Social justice and the need for a fair and just transition to a low carbon economy, so that people on low incomes are not disadvantaged by the changes. Fiscal circumstances and the likely impact of the decision on taxation, public spending and public borrowing, with consideration of the long-term goal of moving to an economy that is sustainable within resource and environmental constraints and that is not based on the assumption of continual and destructive 'economic growth'. Energy policy and the likely impact of a decision on energy supplies and the carbon and energy intensity of the economy.

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

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

Yes, the advice from a stable, scientifically - informed, non-partisan body has been crucial to the progress the UK has made to date.

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

This is the proven and transparent model used by the UK.

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

The Commission need to have a range of New Zealanders to make sure the science and the implications of the targets are well - understood by all parts of our society. There needs to be an ecologist on the panel to advocate for the impact of policies on NZ indigenous biodiversity.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

Adaptation is separate issue to the process of directing governments to lower greenhouse emissions. Adaptation is a costly equity issue that will consume much of New Zealand's GNP in the decades to The social cost of dislocation and money for rebuilding 5000 households in the Christchurch Red Zone is going to be repeated in Dunedin, Wellington, Napier, Westport etc as sea levels and associated storm surges increase. Local Councils and Regional Councils need to be fully involved in the implementation and adaptation for the climate disruption from the increasing levels of greenhouse gasses. it is going to be decades before the levels will

stabilise at a higher level than the pre-industrial natural level.

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

The bill needs to include all aspects of society and the economy and to ensure that any proposed changes are fair and just and do not fall disproportionately on the least advantaged. The urgent need to move away from the current 'endless growth' model for the economy and to foster an economic and social structure that is environmentally sustainable for future generations, as well as fair and equitable so that all citizens will support it. The Zero Carbon Act must be just and fair in that it honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi; ensures a just transition for workers and communities; and avoids passing on the costs to future generations.