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Submission on the Zero Carbon Bill

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Background statement: Bronwyn Hayward

I am an Associate Professor in Political Science and International Relations, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, a Lead Author for the IPCC special report 1.5 Degrees, and Coordinating lead author on Cities and infrastructure for the IPCC Assessment 6. I also lead a 7 nation study of children and young people's life styles in cities with CUSP: Centre for Understanding Sustainable Prosperity, a UK ESRC funded research group. I am also the Director UC Sustainable Citizenship and Civic imagination research group: Hei Puāwaitanga *I make this submission based on my expertise and in my personal capacity.*

The following are brief comments and I am happy to speak to these orally.

- 1) In the first instance the Government of the day, Support parties and Opposition should be congratulated for taking this initiative, and for their collaborative efforts to ensure this bill offers a path to address both the climate mitigation and closely related adaptation issues, that confront our small trading economy and our diverse society.
- 2) The name of the act should be changed to be both more accurate (the actions taken must be beyond cutting carbon) and more inclusive (we need to consider social and economic transformations for a new climate and these transformations should begin with recognition of Māori as the indigenous community immediately affected by our changing climate, as are the Pacific and coastal communities in the wider Realm. A name in Māori and English that captures the wider values that all parties share in supporting this act would be inspiring.
- 3) The Government should set the overall emissions reductions targets for 2050 but these discussions should include both gross and net targets.
- 4) If New Zealand is to make a meaningful contribution to the long term and far reaching social and economic transformations required to achieve the vision of Paris (of holding temperatures to well under 2 degrees, preferably 1.5 degree warmer and advance sustainable development and eradicate poverty) we must move to Net Zero Emissions across all greenhouse gases by 2050. But this will need careful management and monitoring for a just and sustainable transition. We cannot simply argue that our economy contributes little to overall greenhouse gas emissions at a national level and that significant cuts are unsustainable for example for agriculture, because some New Zealand firms and individuals, rank amongst some of the highest emitters globally and their/our actions matter. Moreover we need the incentives to make far reaching change and it is not clear that we will be able to effectively monitor onshore and offshore methane production by NZ firms for example
- 5) Domestic emissions reductions are important (including from new forest planting) and overall climate targets should be revised if necessary in the light of science and international agreements. This is important given the science around understanding the impacts of short lived gases, particularly methane, is changing so rapidly.

- 6) The Government should set 5 yearly climate budgets and take into consideration international climate agreements, established science, and robust assessments of New Zealand's sustainable development.
- 7) I support the general principle of a UK styled Climate Change Commission but recommend two significant actions
 - a) That the Commissioners be appointed and answerable to the Speaker and Parliament in the same way that the PCE and Ombudsman are.
 - b) That the expertise and representation on the Climate Commission is urgently widened to include understanding of *social science and community impact*. At present the expertise is around communication, agriculture, economics and climate science, and representation from Maori. With due respect to these backgrounds, the type of far reaching transformations that are required to be considered by the Commission also need socially informed expertise, not simply in understanding behaviour change but in understanding deep systemic social change for sustainable development.
- 8) I am concerned by the emphasis on enshrining an New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) into the climate legislation. While an ETS is possibly largely inevitable, given past policy investment and the challenges of transition, it should be only one tool and not the primary focus of policy. Moreover it will be politically very difficult to implement an ETS effectively when far reaching cuts have to be made. Governments must be free to consider a range of tools to achieve just and fair transitions
- 9) The new climate legislation must cover adapting to climate change, all new thinking in public policy sees mitigation and adaption as entwined actions- effective mitigation has significant adaptation impacts and vice versa, and they must be considered together. Local and National governments should be enabled, resourced and required to monitor and report on both mitigation and adaptation.

I am happy to speak to these brief points in more detail,



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