



## Submissions form

We seek your feedback on the specific proposals in the Zero Carbon Bill.

Either email this submission to [ZCB.Submissions@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ZCB.Submissions@mfe.govt.nz) (Microsoft Word document (2003 or later) or PDF) or post to Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington, 6143.

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### **Personal / organisation details**

*You must provide either a company name or given name(s)*

Company name \_\_\_\_\_

Given names Meg\_\_\_\_\_

Surname Gaddum\_\_\_\_\_

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Submitter type, pick one:

- Individual

- NGO
- Business / Industry
- Local Government
- Central Government
- Iwi / Māori
- University
- Research Institute
- School
- Community Group
- Unspecified / Other

## 2050 target

1. What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?

Pick one:

- the Government sets a 2050 target in legislation now
- 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.

### Optional comment

**Too much time wasted**

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

Pick one:

- net zero carbon dioxide:** Reducing net carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2050
- net zero long-lived gases and stabilised short-lived gases:** Long-lived gases to net zero by 2050, while also stabilising short-lived gases
- net zero emissions:** Net zero emissions across all greenhouse gases by 2050.

### Optional comment

**I have been farming in the Gisborne Steep hill country for 37 years. I hold degrees in Agricultural Science and Landscape Architecture. Almost 20% of our farm is now in forestry, planting blocks from 1984 to 2014. In 1980 when we bought it was almost bare of trees and vulnerable to erosion. It is now stable and is a mosaic of site specific forest blocks combined with the best grazing land. However we do take a hit in income compared to other farms which have**

not planted trees. We have NZ Farm Forestry and environmental awards for our activity. Recent plantings have been eucalyptus (gum) in cooperation with NZ Drylands Forests Initiative for research into better forest species.

I see our farm livestock (sheep and cattle) in terms of methane flow. They have for centuries harvested carbon in form of grass in farm paddocks, the carbon has been taken from the atmosphere and returns to the atmosphere by the animal (Carbon dioxide and methane) so it is a flow or cycle. I feel the real warming of the planet is the oil extraction to fuel our planet and provide us with so much plastic and nylon. (Including nylon carpets which has reduced sheep farm incomes greatly which could be linked to dairy conversion by sheepfarmers.)

The last Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment did a report Climate change and agriculture: Understanding the biological greenhouse gases October 2016

In Chapter 9 Table 9.1 pg 68 the number of hectares needed per hundred sheep and per hundred cattle was so great when I calculated the forest area for our farm (half as much more land as we own, and to plant more again in 20 years) that it would make it impossible to continue farming in any economic sense.

So does the rest of NZ expect to see livestock farming to disappear (it will if it has to join the ETS as a full member). What will happen to our beautiful landscapes? Sheep and cattle actually do a fine job controlling many weeds in NZ and contribute to fine wide open landscapes. Forestry does not unless you are at the top of a hill with no forest nearby.

3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?

Pick one:

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

**Optional comment**

**But not new forest planting. There's something wrong with this as it's only a 20 year stop gap measure until we can all have electric cars etc. The effect on rural communities with blanket forestry is huge. The Gisborne East Coast has been severely affected. Not only by such as the recent Tolaga Bay situation but by the loss of farming communities which provided stable workplaces, populated landscapes, people with business skills or educational skills to serve on local boards, children for schools and social balance. Many of the planted areas are lonely dangerous places on the coast.**

**Many farmers hate forestry because of the non-cooperative nature of the forestry companies at planting time as well, and the lost of community life. Pine**

forests become natural breeding grounds for pigs and deer which come out onto farms and devour lambs (pigs) or eat the best grass (deer).

I worked as the Gisborne East Coast field rep for QEII National Trust for nearly four years. I drove these roads and viewed the first pine forest harvest areas (of Cyclone Bola planted forests). The steepness of the plant is horrifying to see and the subsequent soil loss in harvesting is disturbing.

Also forests become rife with blackberry or pampas choking the understorey.

Therefore I do not see the “good” in planting forests.

Overseas ownership of forestry is not a great idea as the owners are hidden from view, fiercely defended by the forestry management companies (as in Gisborne East Coast storm damage of several events). They really are the elephant in the room never offering help to locals cleaning up, whereas if it was our forest slash which caused damage and we ignored cries of help, we would be in deep trouble with our community.

Although I know we cannot change the international agreement it seems to me the forestry industry has captured most of the benefit. There’s been no thought that permanent grasslands also captures carbon.

Lastly I like to say that asking farmers such as ourselves to plant forests and to suggest that we could sell the credits as a great income alternative is a little disingenuous. Apart from the first few years of a new forest all the carbon credits have to be handed back in at harvest. So if sold they have to be bought back. For a large forestry corporate this is called an added cost to harvest but a corporate has scale, chosen easy land cheaper to harvest, and is probably planting more new forests so can keep pushing the carbon credit payback into the future (maybe a bit like pyramid selling).

For a farmer to do this is risk on top of the risks of drought or flood, the risk of the dollar and international markets and the costs of new diseases. Ourselves we have 90 ha in the ETS. Our forests were already too old to catch the Carbon credits that we could keep, so we have not sold any of our credits as we know our forests will already be very expensive to harvest. We don’t feel we can afford to if the value of Carbon credits rises.

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

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

**Optional comment**

Science is continually bringing new knowledge to the table. We should be open.  
Also if NZ is brought to its knees economically we must be fleet of foot.

## Emissions budgets

5. The Government proposes that three emissions budgets of five years each (ie, covering the next 15 years) be in place at any given time. Do you agree with this proposal?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

**Optional comment**

Best to have a long term plan to measure progress and make smaller plans based on this

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

Pick one:

- yes, each incoming Government should have the option to review the third budget in the sequence
- yes, the third emissions budget should be able to be changed, but only when the subsequent budget is set
- no, emissions budgets should not be able to be changed.

**Optional comment**

All budgets need to be reviewed and revised

7. Should the Government have the ability to review and adjust the second emissions budget within a specific range under [exceptional circumstances](#)?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

**Optional comment**

Yes if we are in a third world war for example, the carbon thing goes out the

window I'd think

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?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

**Optional comment**

## Government response

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

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

**Optional comment**

Yes otherwise it will get put off

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?

**Comment**

That there is fairness to rural people and rural communities. They seem to always be the worse off. After all it seems the country people are being asked to move over for 1 billion more trees for a short term fix.

We could also look at the energy lost in our waste management

1. Bring back deposits for cans, glass and certain plastic bottles. This would mean less rubbish thrown out windows or on beaches and collectors especially young people would learn the some economic values as well
2. Tax non-repairable toasters and electric jugs so the price of throwing them out by every NZ household to landfill every two years is

factored in

## Climate Change Commission

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?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

### Optional comment

Government needs to be the rule maker

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

Pick one:

- advising the Government on policy settings in the NZ ETS
- makes decisions itself, in respect of the number of units available in the NZ ETS.

### Optional comment

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?

Pick one:

- Yes
- no.

### Optional comment

No I think you should add people who have practical experience outside of cities. eg rural doctor or service contractor. A person who has seen the practical side of life, from workers point of view. There is great intellect out there.

The risk with your list it that it will all be university professors (not always the greatest bet)

## Adapting to the impacts of climate change

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

Pick one:

- yes
- no

### Optional comment

Yes, if there isn't a plan and someone watching, how can we all keep on track?

The risk to low lying areas will still exist in the near future or if we can't reverse the change.

New land availability will have to be managed and perhaps legislatively forced on landowners to give up higher land to accommodate new towns for example. This could be contradictory to requiring new forested areas on less steep land as well.

A plan would be essential. It would need to be nationally based as at regional level there could be a risk of local argument, dilution and manipulation.

15. The Government has proposed a number of new [functions](#) to help us adapt to climate change. Do you agree with the proposed functions?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

### Optional comment

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?

Pick one:

- yes
- no.

### Optional comment

