

ZERO CARBON ACT – MY SAY

FROM: Jenny Campbell, QSM for the Environment

To Whom it May Concern.

He iti, He pounamu

It may be small but it is very precious

Ko Oreti taku awa
Ko Takitimu taku maunga,
Ko Takitimu taku waka
Ko Ngaitahu taku iwi
Ko Te Rau Aroha taku marae

No Mossburn taku kainga

Ko Jenny Campbell ahau

A long term plan and Law like the Zero Carbon Act is important to me and all other living organisms on our planet Earth because :- Climate change is a global problem – it cannot be tackled by countries in isolation.

I welcome the Zero Carbon Bill and encourage New Zealand to match its bold vision for lower carbon emissions at home with global and moral leadership – by having an equally ambitious climate change strategy to show the world we mean business and are taking this issue very seriously.

It's important that we all, as New Zealanders, have clear guidelines and laws on how to make the shift to a zero carbon future in our country.

New Zealand has a history of being the world's first – we were the first country to give women the vote and become nuclear-free. It's time to do that once again, on the world stage, and make sure we leave our children, grandchildren and future generations, not just of humans but of every other living thing, the world they deserve.

We need to take responsibility for the irresponsible way we have been acting and continue to act, with little regard for the sanctity of life and all the intricate cycles of substances and living things, which make this world ecosystem function to benefit all living things, not just people. Our attitudes have been arrogant, amoral and unethical in the extreme. The ZCA is one serious step we can take along with every other country to avert ecosystem collapse across the earth.

I live in the beautiful province of Murihiku/ Southland and see the beauty of our world everyday- from the smallest creature, to the bush, to larger organisms.

I have been a secondary teacher of Biology, taking my senior students to many different ecosystems to help them appreciate the indigenous environment especially, the beauty, intricacies, interdependence and miracles of our environments.

As an older person I have seen the abuse of our environment increase markedly and now we are teetering on the brink of catastrophe. I fear for future generations who have to remedy the mess my generation has made. I have had more than my share of the earth's resources so I am making a lot of effort through various environmental organisations to raise awareness, talk about the issues, the urgency and the actions we can all take to make a huge difference.

17 years ago I set up and became the Convenor of Invercargill Environment Centre, Te Whenua Awhi, undertaking many activities along with colleagues and staff, to raise awareness in those early days. We made a huge difference.

Other commitments I continue to support with action:-

I have been a member of Southland Forest & Bird Exec for about 45 years, Southland Water Forum- 2 years, Coal Action Network Aotearoa 6 years, for about 10 years organising and carrying out recycling waste at children's holiday programme, Kidzone, in July school holidays in Invercargill over 6 days with about 12000 people attending, running an Enviro room there, organising a Spring Eco fest one day event in Invercargill annually....

I belong to various environmental groups and support them financially as I am able eg Greenpeace, WWF, Generation Zero, 350.org, KASM – Kiwis Against Sea bed Mining,... and participate in their events in Southland eg visiting speakers.

All of these have awoken my awareness of what we are doing to our environment and how the actions now are urgent, to turn our abuse on our world around.

On a personal level I now have a precious great grand- daughter and I am concerned about the world I am leaving her.

One of my deepest concerns is our continuing use of fossil fuels especially coal, oil and gas, when these are the biggest destroyers and polluters of our atmosphere. I am seeking the Government to change this situation as we do have other options.

We need to change our total focus on economic values as opposed to bringing in other values eg environmental and social. We cannot eat money and we cannot grow healthy food using polluted water and depleted soils. I see the impacts of rising sea levels around the Southland coastline, affecting food sources, homes being damaged, infra structure and community facilities being lost. This is just the start.

Building up community resilience is another essential need and the *Climate Declaration* is one way we can do this in conjunction with ZCA.

For all of the above reasons, and more I am convinced we need to take urgent action and I see the ZERO CARBON ACT is a first step and so I am having my say!

Nau to rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora te iwi.

From your food basket and my food basket, there is sufficient for everyone

Long Term Target

I support the Government's proposal for there to be emissions' budgets that set out the pathway over a 5-year period.

I support the most ambitious target of reducing total greenhouse gases to net zero by 2050. I also support taking a science-based approach to ensure our efforts to reduce emissions are as impactful as possible: we should aim for negative levels of long-lived gases, while reducing short-lived gases to sustainable levels. This target should be reached by reducing our own emissions and not by using international carbon credits.

The ZCA sets out an ambitious vision for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 which is essential.

The real issue is the cumulative emissions of long lived gases generated from all countries including New Zealand. Working with the 2020 to 2050 period emphasises the need for the urgency of reducing carbon emissions and reducing the possibility of deferring action. The sooner the better is what is needed and ZCA needs to set strong ambitions on all fronts.

I have looked at both the second and the third options for a net zero carbon target in the period 2020-2050 however neither of them on their own is enough.

I support an approach which targets both long lived and short lived Green House Gases (GHG) . This enables us to take account of New Zealand's particular emissions profile that 49% of our GHG's come from agriculture, of which 43% are from Methane. I emphasise the urgency of reducing long lived cumulative emissions to net zero by 2050.

Our Climate Your Say options are not helpful as they force people to choose between the scientific approach of recognising the difference between long-lived greenhouse gases (GHG) such as CO₂ versus short-lived gases such as methane, and a seemingly more ambitious target of net zero emissions across all gases by 2050.

One of my deepest concerns is our continuing use of **fossil fuels especially coal, oil and gas**, when these are the biggest destroyers and polluters of our atmosphere, affecting levels of GHG in our atmosphere. I am seeking changes in this situation as we do have other options.

I strongly support a target of reducing *overall* greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, but doing so in a way that treats the different gases appropriately. This means achieving *negative* long-lived gas emissions, while reducing short-lived gas emissions. . This would balance out to net zero across all gases, but in the most impactful way possible. This is the strongest option for New Zealand's contribution to meeting the Paris Agreement goal to keep global warming well below 2 degrees C, striving for 1.5 degrees C.

I believe livestock agriculture should not be allowed to settle for stabilizing methane at current levels by making little or no changes in numbers of stock. These levels of reduction should be set with scientific advice through the Climate Change Commission.

A proposal for Differential Abatement Obligations (DAO), proposed by Guy Salmond, Ecologic, could be a good model to follow for policy setting.

The different treatment of gases should lead to Different Abatement Obligations, so that those who emit short-lived gases would be obliged to offset them with short-term offsets such as plantation forests (not just pine trees) which have about the same life-time as methane, and those who emit long-lived gases would be obliged to offset them with permanent offsets, such as native forests. This means the emissions of each gas should either be reduced, or be offset in accordance with its inherent characteristics.

DAO works with the 'polluter pays' principle. New Zealand needs to regulate fully for polluter pays. DAOs gives fairness to future generations because the offsets proposed will have benefits relative to each of the short and long term gases. It works with a principle of shared responsibility by all sectors and avoids some bearing the burden such as CO₂ from transport and industry sectors while others evade obligations by going on producing eg methane as part of agricultural business.

The ZCA can focus on net zero emissions in the period 2020-2050, with the different types of gases being addressed through differential abatement obligations and costs.

I recommend that the ZCA sets an explicit gross emissions-reduction target for domestic long-lived gases for the period 2020- 2050. There are risks involved in relying too much on planting trees to act as carbon sinks. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the

Environment, Simon Upton has highlighted this in his submission to the Productivity Commission in its draft report on a 'Low-Emissions Economy'. An 80-90% reduction against 1990 levels is my recommendation, but the government needs to seek advice from the Climate Change Commission on the appropriate balance between gross emissions-reductions and the use of carbon sinks.

New Zealand should be required to meet its 2020-2050 targets through domestic emissions reductions only. Relying on international carbon credits, even if the credits have integrity, creates uncertainty about what reductions need to be achieved here in NZ. We need to be investing in our own rather than other countries' low emission transitions.

This does prevent NZ from purchasing international carbon credits as an **additional** contribution to global mitigation efforts. Purchasing credits helps other countries finance their transition to a zero carbon economy, and is a way for New Zealand, as a developed nation, to look after our global neighbours.

Climate Commission

I support the establishment of an independent Climate Commission that is made up of experts and provides advice, but does not make final decisions. Its role is to be effective as a watchdog, rather than holding itself to account over its own policy decisions which is a conflict of interest. It is important that our transition to a net zero emissions economy is comprehensive and coordinated across all sectors with overall responsibility for these plans lying with the government.

The Commission should advise the government on targets and policy planning. The Government should have to publicly respond to, and provide rationale when it deviates from the Commission's advice. The Climate Commission should also act as an independent watchdog, publishing progress reports and highlighting problems

Transparency is essential for its operation, enabling the public to have easy access to its monitoring activities.

A Te Tiriti o Waitangi framework means Māori representation on the Commission along with technical and policy experts. Policy actions must be in line with the latest science and with sound policy principles.

Stakeholders should not be members of the Commission as they have vested interests which may stand in the way of setting the most ambitious targets and the transition process. Some businesses may gain from target setting and others face high costs so having independent people are essential in order to make the difficult decisions so needed for the future of our planet. A strong voice is needed for those who are vulnerable to the most negative climate impacts.

It is important that elected officials be responsible for making plans and meeting Zero Carbon Act targets. The Commission is neither democratically elected nor accountable to the public,

which means there would be a lack of democratic accountability if they were to hold decision-making power.

Government response

The Bill should require Governments to set out how it will achieve the emissions budgets, including transition pathways

Adapting to the impacts of climate change

I support a framework/ plan for adaptation such as addressing the impacts of climate change, eg droughts and sea level rise, being included in the Zero Carbon Act, and that the Climate Commission should contribute its expertise to our adaptation response. A separate expert working group might be needed.

A national climate risk assessment, and a national policy plan to address these risks, set by the Government. A monitoring and reporting framework is also important.

A targeted adaptation reporting power needs to be set up so some organisations can share information on their exposure to climate change risks.

Climate Justice

A 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.

Recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the Zero Carbon Act requires governance agreements and meaningful partnership between iwi and the Crown. Te Tiriti o Waitangi includes the Crown duties to actively protect Māori rights and Māori authority (rangatiratanga) over their own interests. Therefore, it is imperative that the Government works in partnership with iwi and hapū to develop the Zero Carbon Bill along with setting targets and policies together.

There has to be a fair and just transition. The ZCA must ensure a just transition is planned for regions and workers in industries where job losses will occur.

In view of the major challenge of climate change to public health, government should also consult with the health sector, including the Ministry of Health, District Health Boards, professional health societies and *Ora Taioa*, which comprises over 600 health professionals.

However, I believe that the need for consultation must be balanced by the need for urgency in starting down the path towards a carbon neutral society.

But climate change is also one of the biggest challenges facing people in poverty – and we can't ignore the impact it is having on our neighbours in the Pacific and across the developing world – right now! The Zero Carbon Bill must include transparency around how we support the most vulnerable in the Pacific and how we help our Pacific neighbours adapt to the devastating effects of climate change.

We must take responsibility for our part in global emissions and the climate change impacts that we've contributed to and not taken seriously enough to date. This is a chance to change that now!

Cross Party Agreement

Cross party agreement to the ZCA is the key to durability of the Act and continuity of policy. Cross party agreement provides long term policy certainty. It is very encouraging that the National Party supports a Climate Change Commission at present and I trust this will continue as this is essential for the future of the planet and for us as Aotearoa / NZ to do its utmost to help at the highest level on a continuing basis- independent of changes in party politics/ Government.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment has suggested, in the interests of achieving a cross party agreement, that the Act set up a Commission and be empowered to set targets, carbon budgets, recommend policies for a Just Transition and for adaptation plans.

I support all efforts to achieve a cross party agreement, without compromising planning for budgets and transitions to meet net zero carbon between 2020-2050.

Conclusion

It is essential that our transition to a net zero emissions economy is comprehensive and coordinated across all sectors, with overall responsibility for these plans lying with the government.

This Zero Carbon Bill represents a major step forward in Aotearoa/ New Zealand's progress in addressing climate change and all the ramifications involved. It needs to be established in so it engages the whole country in a sustained effort for a future which honours our commitment to succeeding generations of not only people, but also every other living organism.

New Zealand has a history of being the world's first – we were the first country to give women the vote and become nuclear-free. It's time to do that once again, on the world stage, and make sure we leave our future generations of all living things the world they deserve.

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