

New Zealand Government announce public consultation on Zero Carbon Bill

June 2018

On Thursday 7 June 2018 Climate Change Minister James Shaw announced a six-week public consultation on the Zero Carbon Bill.

The outcome of the consultation with industry and community will inform the implementation of the Bill and the operation of the independent Climate Change Commission. The consultation will canvass issues including:

- Treatment of specific emissions-emitting gases under the 2050 emissions reduction target.
- Ensuring certainty among business and community sectors throughout the implementation process.
- Managing the impacts of climate change and ensuring a just transition to a renewable energy future.
- The relationship between the independent Climate Change Commission and the government of the day.

Minister Shaw reaffirmed the intention of the Government to ensure a process of consultation that provides long-term certainty to plan for a just economic transition to a renewable energy future.

Details on consultation

A schedule of public meetings is available [here](#).

Information on submissions is available [here](#), and submissions can be made [here](#).

Timeframe

The consultation will occur between 7 June and 19 July.

An interim Climate Change Committee was established in April 2018, considering matters such as the inclusion of the agriculture sector into the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZETS), and planning for the 2050 emissions reduction target.

The Interim Committee will consult with stakeholders and provide its analysis to the Climate Change Commission.

The Government plans to introduce a Zero Carbon Bill by the end of October 2018, followed by a Select Committee process in late 2018 to 2019. The intention is to pass the Zero Carbon Act in 2019.

Background

On 18 December 2017 Minister for Climate Change James Shaw announced Cabinet had agreed to a process of consultation to formulate the Zero Carbon Act, which aims to reduce New Zealand's emissions to net zero by 2050.

The Act would establish an independent Climate Change Commission to provide long-term non-partisan advice to the government of the day, ensuring New Zealand stays on track to meet its climate change goals.



The Labour-Green Party confidence and supply agreement states the Government should “request the Climate Commission to plan the transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2035 (which includes geothermal) in a normal hydrological year.”

The Labour-NZ First coalition agreement states that “if the Climate Commission determines that agriculture is to be included in the ETS, then upon entry, the free allocation to agriculture will be 95% but with all revenues from this source recycled back into agriculture in order to encourage agricultural innovation, mitigation and additional planting of forestry.”

The Government intends to stimulate up to \$1b of new investment in low carbon industries by 2020, assisted by a Government-backed Green Investment Fund of \$100m.

Further information

Hawker Britton’s Occasional Paper on the New Zealand Government climate change policies is available [here](#).

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