**Call for evidence**

We are calling for evidence on options available to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the period 2022 to 2035.

**Why are we doing this?**

The Interim Climate Change Committee is the precursor to the proposed Climate Change Commission, expected to be established in late 2019 under the Zero Carbon Bill[[1]](#footnote-1). The Bill provides a framework to help New Zealand deliver on the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

A key part of the proposed Commission’s work will be to advise the Government on emissions budgets.

Emissions budgets set the total emissions of all greenhouse gases permitted in the relevant budget period. The Government will set emissions budgets based on the proposed Commission’s advice.

**Why are we doing this now?**

We are running this call for evidence now as foundation work for the proposed Climate Change Commission to enable it to start work immediately as soon as it is set up.

It will help identify relevant information for developing these emissions budgets, and to maintain a broad, robust and transparent approach in developing the proposed Commission’s evidence base.

We have been asked to do this through our [Terms of Reference](https://www.iccc.mfe.govt.nz/assets/PDF_Library/57c3716753/AMENDED-Terms-of-Reference-for-the-Interim-Climate-Change-Committee-May-Dec-2019.pdf). This work is also outlined in our letter to the Minister for Climate Change on 7 May 2019 [here](https://www.iccc.mfe.govt.nz/our-news/updates-from-the-chair/iccc-work-programme-from-1-may-2019/).

**What are we looking for?**

We are looking for high-quality, credible, evidence that will support the proposed Commission’s work on emissions budgets. This is likely to include knowledge and evidence of technologies and options to reduce emissions, and the economic, environmental, cultural and social impacts of them. We are not looking for personal views or opinions.

**What if I have already made submissions on similar topics?**

If you have already submitted evidence as part of consultation run by Government agencies, such as the Zero Carbon Bill or the Ministry of Transport’s Clean Car Standard and Discount, then we are happy for you to point us to those submissions, noting the key information or material that relates to our call for evidence.

**What will we do with the evidence we gather?**

We will use this information to inform our initial work on emissions budgets and add to the evidence base the proposed Commission will draw upon.

**Confidentiality and data protection**

All or part of any written response (including the names of respondents) may be published on our website [www.iccc.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.iccc.mfe.govt.nz). Unless you clearly specify otherwise, we will consider that you have consented to both your name and response being published.

Please be aware that any responses may be captured by the Official Information Act 1982. Please advise us if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in your response, including commercially sensitive information, and in particular which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, responses to this document under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Interim Climate Change Committee. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Committee in the course of making a response will be used by the Committee only in relation to the matters covered by this document. Please clearly indicate in your response if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of responses that the Committee may publish.

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**Call for evidence: response form**

We are looking for responses that are evidence-based, with data and references included where possible. Please limit your response to each question to a maximum of 400 words, plus links to supporting evidence, using the template provided. Please answer only those questions where you have particular expertise or experience.

We recommend that you refer to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill when considering your answers, which can be found [here](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2019/0136/latest/LMS183736.html).

If you have any questions about completing the call for evidence, please contact us via [feedback@ICCC.mfe.govt.nz](mailto:feedback@ICCC.mfe.govt.nz). Please include a contact number in case we need to talk to you about your query.

Please email your completed form by **12 noon, Friday 15 November 2019** to [feedback@ICCC.mfe.govt.nz](mailto:feedback@ICCC.mfe.govt.nz).We may follow up for more detail where appropriate.

**Contact details**

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| --- | --- |
| *Name and/or organisation* | Deirdre Kent |
| *Postal Address* |  |
| *Telephone number* |  |
| *Email address* |  |

**Submissions on similar topics**

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| *Please indicate any other submissions you have made on relevant topics, noting the particular material or information you think we should be aware of.* |
| *Answer: I have made no submissions to date* |

**Commercially sensitive information**

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| *Do you have any objection to the release of any information contained in your response, including commercially sensitive information?*  *If yes, which part(s) do you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding this information.* |
| *Answer: No* |

**Questions for consideration:**

**Section A The first three emissions budgets**

Under the proposed Zero Carbon Bill, the proposed Commission will have to provide advice to government on the levels of emissions budgets over the coming decades.

Currently, the Zero Carbon Bill requires budgets to be set from 2022-2035 (three separate budgets covering 2022-2025, 2026-2030, and 2031-2035). When preparing this advice the proposed Commission will have to consider the implications of those budgets for meeting the 2050 target. The Commission will also need to consider the likely economic effects (positive and negative) of its advice.

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| *Question 1:*  *In your area of expertise or experience, what are the specific proven and emerging options to reduce emissions to 2035? What are the likely costs, benefits and wider impacts of these options? Please provide evidence and/or data to support your assessment.* |
| *Answer: Wrt Section 50 (1) (b) (i) and (ii) I submit that, Dr Joseph Poore has studied emissions from 38,700 commercially viable farms in 119 countries covering about 90% of global protein and calorie consumption and found huge variation in emissions.* <https://josephpoore.com/Science%20360%206392%20987%20-%20Accepted%20Manuscript.pdf>. He recommends food labelling to inform consumers of emissions associated with food products. This would be cheap and, since farmers are already monitoring emissions, it makes sense to hand this information down to consumers. It uses the power of consumer knowledge and their growing concern about climate change to affect the market for food products in favour of those with lower emissions. This in turn would stimulate farmers to change how they are using their land, not just by changing their practices, but by changing what foods they produce. He says beef farms are hugely variable. One may be 11 times as emissions intensive as another and use 51 times as much land. However he says even the lowest emissions beef is six times higher than growing beans or lentils. |

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| *Question 2:*  *In your areas of expertise or experience, what actions or interventions may be required by 2035 to prepare for meeting the 2050 target set out in the Bill? Please provide evidence and/or data to support your assessment.* |
| *Answer: I am opposed to taxing food products because of wide variability between farms. I favour some study on how a food labelling system could be implemented eg. With labels on food prices when they are not wrapped. A sign could be designed showing magnitude of emissions. I suggest getting some of the larger and more enthusiastic food companies to do this voluntarily for a start. It is critical to reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions as well as carbon dioxide emissions and the whole population needs to be involved, not just farmers.*  *However since we export so much of our food, it would be responsible to label all our exports, dairy and meat and fruit and veges, with information about the emissions associated with growing that food. That would in turn inform consumers in USA, China and Australia.* |
| *Question 3:*  *In your areas of expertise or experience, what potential is there for changes in consumer, individual or household behaviour to deliver emissions reductions to 2035? Please provide evidence and/or data to support your assessment.* |
| *Answer: It would be gradual with a few farmers taking the lead for a start. But it would accelerate. I do not know of any studies as this has not yet been done to my knowledge in any country. But Dr Joseph Poore's remarkably important study should be examined. That is my plea.* |

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| *Question 4:*  *When advising on the first three emissions budgets and how to achieve the 2050 target, what do you think the proposed Commission should take into account when considering the balance between reducing greenhouse gas emissions and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (including via forestry)?* |
| *Answer:* |

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| *Question 5:*  *What circumstances and/or reasons do you think would justify permitting the use of offshore mitigation for meeting each of the first three emissions budgets? And if so, how could the proposed Commission determine an appropriate limit on their use?* |
| *Answer:* |

**Section B Emissions reduction policies and interventions**

The proposed Commission will also need to consider the types of policies required to achieve the budgets it proposes. This consideration should include:

* sector-specific policies (for example in transport or industrial heat) to reduce emissions and increase removals, and
* the interactions between sectors and the capability of those sectors to adapt to the effects of climate change.

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| *Question 6:*  *What sector-specific policies do you think the proposed Commission should consider to help meet the first emissions budgets from 2022-35? What evidence is there to suggest they would be effective?* |
| *Answer:* |

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| *Question 7:*  *What cross-sector policies do you think the proposed Commission should consider to help meet the first emissions budgets from 2022-35? What evidence is there to suggest they would be effective?* |
| *Answer:* |

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| *Question 8:*  *What policies (sector-specific or cross-sector) do you think are needed now to prepare for meeting budgets beyond 2035? What evidence supports your answer?* |
| *Answer:* |

**Section C Impacts of emissions budgets**

The proposed Commission will need to consider the potential social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of emission budgets on New Zealanders, including how any impacts may fall across regions and communities, and from generation to generation. Potential impacts may be either positive or negative.

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| *Question 9:*  *What evidence do you think the proposed Commission should draw upon to assess the impacts of emissions budgets?* |
| *Answer: The Dept of Stats would provide evidence of the consumption per capita of each food group and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries would provide evidence of production. Easy to monitor.* |
| *Question 10:*  *What policies do you think the proposed Commission should consider to manage any impacts of meeting emissions budgets? Please provide evidence and/or data to support your assessment.* |
| *Answer:* |

**Section D Other considerations, evidence or experience**

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| *Question 11:*  *Do you have any further evidence which you believe would support the future Commission’s work on emissions budgets and emissions reduction policies and interventions?* |
| *Answer:* |

Please email your completed form to [feedback@ICCC.mfe.govt.nz](mailto:feedback@ICCC.mfe.govt.nz) by **12 noon, Friday 15 November 2019.**

If you have any questions about completing the call for evidence, please contact us via [feedback@ICCC.mfe.govt.nz](mailto:feedback@ICCC.mfe.govt.nz).

1. Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2019/0136/latest/LMS183736.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)