**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* | *Lucy Hicks* |
| *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:*  *Nothing else I’ve personally submitted on* |

**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:*  *Having looked through the GHG inventory one way that emissions could be reduced in the short term are through improved housing stocks to minimise wastage/leakage from both the electric heating/cooling systems and to reduce the demand for these systems.*  *In addition decarbonisation of the road network is crucial and possibly a roll out of national charging points would assist with that. The movement of freight is obviously a significant contributor as well and the use of ‘transport hubs’ and more comprehensive (joined up) fleet and freight movement systems could minimise this element also.* |

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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:*  *Given the lack of population density in NZ an emissions saving technology that I was surprised hadn’t been taken up more is Combined Heat and Power. I worked in the UK for 10years (moved to NZ ~4 years ago) and CHP technology was rapidly advancing and being installed in many suitable buildings with a sufficient heat sink. These buildings include swimming pools, leisure centres, care homes and hospitals. This technology has significant potential to contribute to the emissions that are currently being generated from electricity and heat production.*  *When working in the UK the reductions in GHG that were realised were largely attributed to a decrease in the use of coal for electricity generation.* [*https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/776083/2017\_Final\_emissions\_statistics\_one\_page\_summary.pdf*](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/776083/2017_Final_emissions_statistics_one_page_summary.pdf)  *A similar Govt. intervention here in NZ might contribute to some of the targets in the ZCB. From the data I’ve found on line I’ve not been able to discern how much of NZ electricity comes from coal but it is obviously a big emitter of GHG and also has negative health implications as well.*  *The building standards in the UK both for residential and commercial are significantly stronger than here in NZ with regards to efficiency, and sustainable construction – this was also done by Govt. led interventions which was introduced over time, but set long term targets that the sector then had certainty that they’d need to work towards.*  *There was also an increased required for localised monitoring of consumption and emissions – both domestically and in business that was again very successful to assist both the goal of reduced emissions but saving organisations and households money.* |
| *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:  There is a huge amount of potential for changes to these elements to deliver reductions – and significant co-benefits for these improvements too. Increase public awareness about energy efficiency improvements for their homes that will both save them money (and the environment) has been a crucial workstream in the UK’s attempts to minimise emissions. Organisations (and websites) such as* [*https://www.thegreenage.co.uk/where-am-i-losing-heat-home/*](https://www.thegreenage.co.uk/where-am-i-losing-heat-home/) *and the Energy Saving Trust* [*https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/*](https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/) *were crucial for demonstrating to the public and providing practical solutions to assist them save money and emissions. Statistics like 35% of heat is lost through uninsulated walls resonated with a wide range of communities and assisted by Govt subsidies and schemes to retrofit houses, gains were made.* |

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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:*  *Not really my area of expertise* |

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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:* Not really my area of expertise – but cautionary tales from elsewhere is that if you ‘outsource’ the mitigations offshore you don’t have control over them and there is a broader reputational risk and monitoring requirements that might not actually make them more efficient. |

**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:*  I’ve covered some of this above. |

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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:*  RMA amendments to enable more practical and joined up policies to enable action. |

**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:*  A mixture is good – e.g. ground level i.e. emissions reports from local and regional government and business up to national level consolidated data. A LAWA-type publically available database would be very helpful and build on good practice and systems already existing here. |
| *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:*  Transitional pathway support for SME (small medium enterprises) would be very helpful – the use of very low interest loans for these entities to implement energy / emissions saving mechanisms. |

**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)