

Submission

Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill

PREPARED BY: Ashburton District Council
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SUBMITTED TO: Committee Secretariat
Environment Select Committee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

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Introduction

1. Ashburton District Council (“Council”) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill. This submission is being made on behalf of the Council, who approved the submission on the 27 June 2019 at its Council meeting.
2. Located between the Rakaia and Rangitata Rivers respectively, and an hour’s drive south of Christchurch, more than 34,500¹ residents live in the District, with the main town of Ashburton accounting for 19,280 or 56% of residents. The rest of our residents live rurally or in smaller towns or villages.
3. Ashburton District is one of New Zealand’s fastest-growing districts in New Zealand following the 2013 Census². Since 1996 the district has grown by 23%. The expansion of irrigation and dairy farming on the Canterbury Plains have been major factors in this growth.
4. Council notes and supports the submissions made on behalf of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).

2050 Targets

5. Council supports the introduction of a 2050 emissions reduction target as stated in 50 of the Bill on the basis that science is a major contributor to these targets and the result doesn’t impact on the economic wellbeing of the Ashburton District.
6. Council supports the view expressed in the Canterbury Mayoral Forum that New Zealand should aim to meet the targets by not only reducing domestic emissions, but also by using some emissions reductions from overseas through international carbon units, provided these international units have strong environmental safeguards.

¹ Source: Statistics New Zealand Population Estimates 30 June 2018

² Source: Statistics New Zealand 2013 Census

7. Council believes the Bill is consistent with the Productivity Commission's two-baskets approach that was recommended in the Inquiry into a Low-emissions Economy.

Emissions Budgets

8. Council supports the first three emissions budgets, set in 2020, to be five-year budgets so that the initial set of three emissions budgets of five years each provide certainty to 2035.
9. Council considers that once these budgets have been initially set, that they should not be altered unless the monitoring of the forecast reductions indicates a failure to meet the long term goal of net-zero carbon by 2050.
10. Council supports the Bill's requirements for a National Climate Change Risk Assessment every six years and a National Adaptation Plan every three years.

Climate Change Commission

11. Council supports the role of the Climate Change Commission as an independent Crown Entity as set out in the Bill, and supports the Commission's stated advisory and monitoring role to assess risk and monitor New Zealand's progress towards its goals. The method of appointing members of the Commission, as set out in the Bill, is supported

Adapting to the Impacts of Climate Change

12. Council considers the development of a National Adaptation Plan will assist local government in planning for, and dealing with, natural hazard risks that arise from Climate Change.

Council thanks Environment Select Committee for the opportunity to submit on the *Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill*.



HAMISH RIACH
Chief Executive



DONNA FAVEL
Mayor