



19 July 2018

Ministry for the Environment
PO Box 10362
WELLINGTON 6143

Via email to: zcb.submissions@mfe.govt.nz

SUBMISSION ON ZERO CARBON BILL CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

1. Hawke's Bay Regional Council provides the following feedback on the Zero Carbon Bill Consultation Document. Our region spans over 1.42 million hectares of land area and 350kms of coastline on the North Island's East Coast. We are at the frontline of local community efforts to adapt to the challenges as well as opportunities that our changing climate presents.
2. Because we are at the frontline of climate change in Hawke's Bay, we are keen to continue doing our bit that contributes to aspirational, yet realistic emissions reductions. We note that our recently adopted 2018-28 Long-Term Plan framework has a primary focus on HBRC's own assets, services and operations, with a secondary focus on the wider Hawke's Bay community. One of HBRC's 23 community outcome measures is for Hawke's Bay to be carbon neutral by 2040. Our aspirational aim is to show leadership in climate change innovation at the local government level, but HBRC cannot do that alone.
3. HBRC is a member of Local Government New Zealand. HBRC fully supports the comprehensive submission by LGNZ on the Consultation Document.
4. The following are additional points that supplement LGNZ's submission.
 - a) HBRC **supports** development of the Zero Carbon Bill as an important start and step in the right direction for immediate action on climate change mitigation and adaptation.
 - b) HBRC **supports** the Government's proposals insofar as they would introduce clear coherent and coordinated national policy on climate change mitigation and adaptation. It is vital that adaptation IS incorporated into the Government's leadership on climate change. Central Government needs to lead this, but HBRC is prepared to do its bit with the necessary support from the Government of climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives in the Hawke's Bay region.
 - c) HBRC **supports** the establishment of a Climate Change Commission having an advisory role. The Commission should not have regulatory powers, at least initially.
 - d) HBRC **does not support** the Climate Change Commission being established with regulatory powers from its formation. The Government needs to show leadership and not simply devolve crucial responsibilities to another entity.
 - e) HBRC **supports LGNZ's position** that a target does need to be set in legislation now, and that the 2050 target should be for net zero long-lived gases and stabilised short-lived gases. A target in law

- f) now will provide much needed clarity and direction for business, local councils, and local communities.
 - g) Primary production underpins much of our region's socio-economic wellbeing. Nevertheless, HBRC **agrees** that agriculture must be incorporated into the ETS. All sectors in NZ's economy need to play their role –exempting some requires others to pick up the extra load. We accept that agricultural emissions targets might indeed be more gradual than others, given that the impacts of such a significant change on rural communities must be carefully analysed and managed. Gradual transition will mean rural communities (and other vulnerable groups) can more readily adapt with support from technology, innovation and Government support. With that in mind, HBRC is aiming for Hawke's Bay to be carbon neutral by 2040 – a decade sooner than the 2050 timeframe outlined in the Consultation Document.
 - h) HBRC **agrees** that a transition to a low-emissions economy and achieving the national target must be a priority area of focus for innovation, research and development in New Zealand.
5. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Government's proposals for a Zero Carbon Bill intended to be released later this year. Setting a clear target in law will provide much needed certainty and clarity of direction, but care needs to be taken in setting the emissions reduction target to ensure our rural and vulnerable communities are capable of meeting the challenge with support from Government.

Yours sincerely



REX GRAHAM

CHAIR

Phone: (06) 835 9207

Email: rex.graham@hbrc.govt.nz