

July 16, 2019

Committee Secretariat
Environment Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

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Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill

This submission is from the Architectural Centre. We are an incorporated society dating from 1946, which represents both professionals and non-professionals interested in the promotion of good design.

The Architectural Centre commends the government for aspiring toward a zero carbon economy and supports any action that moved toward this aspiration swiftly and surely.

The Centre is not qualified to assess absolute values and percentages of emission reduction targets but commends the expressed desire to distribute the burden of achieving feasible targets fairly across society and generations.

The Centre commends the act for:

- establishment of a strong, well supported, Climate Change Commission as an independent body to advise government.
 - establishing a requirement that successive governments set emission budgets that step consistently and firmly toward the ultimate goal of zero greenhouse gases by 2050.
 - require governments understand the risks associated with climate change and develop wholistic mitigation policies based on social, cultural, environmental and economic resilience.
 - incorporation of Te Tiriti o Waitangi into the act.
 - focusing off-setting and other forms of mitigation within New Zealand.
 - emphasis on shifting to nationally internalised waste processing.
 - all sectors of the community contributing fairly in accord with the aim of a future just and equal society.
- The Centre questions clause **5Q Recommendations to amend 2050 target, section 2**. Where change to targets may be "justified" because of "significant changes." These terms could be made clearer by provision of guidelines by the commission.
 - The response to climate change must be consistent across parties and successive governments. Education that makes clear the extent of change that can be expected needs to be supported. Slogans such as "Communities not Trees" are woefully ignorant, and all political leaders across the spectrum need to help the populace to a clearer understanding.
 - The focus of the Centre's expertise is in the built environment. As over half the population live in towns and cities, it is through the built environment that the most radical lifestyle changes can be made for the



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most people, supporting the reduced use of fossil fuels for personal transport and developing energy efficient housing.

Recent arguments have suggested that the most sustainable (and resilient) built environment will be one where:

- communities are housed in smaller, energy efficient homes.
- homes are much more densely arranged than a typical New Zealand suburb.
- clusters of dense housing are interspersed with agricultural and wilderness areas such that food production and recreational spaces are within easy distance.
- clusters of dense housing are integrated with necessary services (such as schools and clinics) and light industries.
- community clusters are connected by fast efficient electric rail networks.

It is not feasible to build such a utopia before 2050, especially if the aim is to reduce carbon emissions in the process. Good design, planning, aspirational imagery and ideas need to be developed that explore how the existing infrastructure of our towns and cities can be adapted toward the theoretical model.

Demolition of existing well designed, dense housing, such as the Gordon Wilson Flats and George Porter Tower, is counter productive to these goals.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to respond to this Act,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KML', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kate Linzey
President of the Architectural Centre Committee.