



16th July 2019

Submission on:

Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill

To: Committee Secretariat
Environment Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā Koutou

We wish to make the following comments:

The College of Nurses welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill. We support the intent of the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill however, the bill needs to be strengthened and to explicitly reference health, health equity and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The College is a professional organisation of New Zealand nurses. We aim for excellence in nursing practice and health care delivery by supporting nurses in their ongoing professional development. We develop strategic consumer alliances with the aim of creating 100% access and Zero disparities in NZ health care. We provide a leading voice for the nursing profession and professional commentary on issues which affect nurses, and also the health of the whole community. The College membership comprises registered nurses and nurse practitioners and is supported by a bi-cultural Board. All members were consulted in preparation for this submission.

We do not wish to appear before the committee to make an oral submission.

We wish to make the following recommendations which are entirely in support of and indeed replicate those recommendations made by OraTaiao: The NZ Climate and Health Council with whom we have conferred.

1. We support the intent of the bill but ask for its purpose to be clearer and stronger

Support the intent to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to set up the Climate Change Commission - an independent body that would advise and support the government to reach the targets.

2. Put health at the heart of the bill

Climate change poses a serious threat to health, wellbeing, and health equity and its impacts are not distributed equally, with Māori, Pacific, and low-income groups at greater risk of experiencing poor health outcomes due to climate change.

We therefore ask the government to:

Amend the bill to include specific references to health, wellbeing, and health equity in the purpose statement (s3) and in reference to the various functions, duties, and powers of the Climate Change Commission and Minister, and requirements to complete assessments and plans: 5H(1)(d)(i); 5L(d); 5ZD(3); 5ZM(1)(a); 5ZQ(4)

Mandate the inclusion of a commissioner(s) with expertise in health and climate change: 5H(1)(d)(i)

3. Stronger emissions targets

The bill's emissions targets need to be in line with the IPCC 1.5 degrees report. We recommend a stronger target for biogenic methane. This provides an opportunity to lower the burden of a number of diseases (e.g. cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, and diabetes) by reducing population-level intake of red and processed meat. It would also drive improvements in fresh and drinking water quality, while future-proofing our food production system to climate and economic shocks through diversification.

We ask the government to:

Change the net zero emissions target for greenhouse gases other than biogenic methane to 2040

Set stronger and less risky biogenic methane reduction targets, in line with IPCC scenarios that take early and concerted climate action which do not rely heavily on technologies that are as yet unproven:

24-48% by 2030 (relative to 2010), and

33-69% by 2050 (relative to 2010)

As nurses we strongly recognise the health benefits of shifting towards a more plant based diet

4. Improve reference to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and greater justice for Māori

While the bill currently emphasises the potential harm to Māori of climate change and climate action (3A(ad)), it also needs to articulate the benefits of action while upholding Māori tino rangatiratanga over

taonga. It also needs to identify opportunities for Māori leadership through the incorporation of Mātauranga Māori into innovation and successful climate change mitigation and adaptation. From a wellbeing perspective, we draw on the principles from the Māori translation of Te Tiriti o Waitangi to make specific recommendations that would strengthen the bill in this direction.

We ask the government to ensure the Climate Change Commission reflects a Te Tiriti-based partnership in its membership and standing advisory bodies. This must include permanent Maori representatives with expertise in hauora Māori, health equity and decolonisation: 5H(1)(d)(i)

5. Make the bill enforceable

Currently the bill is weak in its ability to be enforced, allowing the government and businesses to get away with not meeting the targets. It must be possible to hold the government and industries accountable for not taking required actions towards the targets.

We ask the government to:

Establish duties relevant to more organisations, specifically those companies in the private sector that contribute significantly to emissions: 5ZV

Set out more explicitly the roles and responsibilities of relevant Ministers and government agencies, in addition to those of the Climate Change Commission - see for example S24 of the Resource Management Act: 5ZJ; 5ZK

Require government ministers and public leaders to consider emissions budgets in the execution of their duties.

Allow for decision-making by government ministers and public leaders, as well as emissions reduction outcomes, to be subject to judicial review: 5ZJ; 5ZK

In summary:

- Set up a Climate Change Commission
- Put health at the heart of the bill
- Make stronger emissions targets
- Include stronger reference to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Make the bill enforceable

Nga mihi



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