



SUBMISSION TO THE ZERO CARBON BILL DISCUSSION DOCUMENT (JULY 2018)

Engineering New Zealand (formerly IPENZ) is New Zealand's professional body for engineers, with more than 20,000 members - and New Zealand's strongest and most influential voice on engineering issues.

Minister for Climate Change James Shaw says in his introduction to the Zero Carbon Bill consultation document "a new industrial revolution is taking place". We agree. A clean energy powered economic transformation is an opportunity with great potential benefits that requires both government and engineering leadership.

We support the objective of net zero long-lived gases and stabilised (or reduced) short-lived gases by 2050. The reduction in long lived gases to net zero and stabilising short lived gases can meet our Paris agreement commitments. There is a higher risk of emissions leakage from agriculture where the technology to reduce methane is not readily available. But there are immediate opportunities to significantly reduce emissions in our transport sector whilst improving productivity and health.

Engineering New Zealand welcomes the proposal for a long term Climate Change Commission to advise the government on emissions budgets and emissions reduction. An independent Climate Change Commission accountable to Parliament is necessary to bring certainty and consistency to government direction. The Parliamentary Commission for the Environment and the Reserve Bank are relevant examples of independent advice and policy set within a clear statutory framework.

A Climate Change Commission is also well placed to advise on the transition to a low emissions economy. We are working with the Interim Climate Change Committee on how to power the shift to a lower-emissions economy. The Committee is already providing a hub for collaboration and a Commission can help to drive the required innovation.

A Climate Change Commission is best focused on mitigation. It is important that the proposed Commission focuses on the reduction of emissions and does not become subsumed by the considerable societal challenges of adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Transforming to a low-emissions economy requires our industries to innovate within a framework of consistent emissions prices and budgets. An effective and authoritative Climate Change Commission is a necessary condition for that transformation to be engineered.

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