

# Zero Carbon Act Submission

This is a submission from Church Leaders of Anglican, Methodist and Catholic Churches.

It is prepared in reference to the more detailed Churches Climate Network submission.

Closing date 19 July.

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# Churches, Climate Justice and the Zero Carbon Act

Churches bring values of care and responsibility for our common home and affirm policies for climate justice in the Zero Carbon Act to address economic changes, respond to opportunities of a low emissions economy and manage risks to homes, land, livelihoods, and people.

## 1. Just Transition

We support principles of climate justice and fairness being embedded within a Zero Carbon Act, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a framework for the Act. We affirm equity and intergenerational justice, and ensuring that vulnerable communities are supported through plans for just transitions. Planning includes provisions for regions, support for workers in industries where job losses will occur, education and training opportunities in a low emissions economy. Just transition includes mitigation and adaptation strategies.

## 2. A 2020-2050 target with Just Transitions and Adaptation

We prefer working with a 2020 to 2050 period to strengthen focus on policy and public understanding for reducing carbon emissions in the short and longer terms.

We support Parliament setting out plans and a time-frame of 5-6 years to achieve emissions budgets under the Zero Carbon Act in a Te Tiriti o Waitangi framework. A participatory forum for involving stakeholders and the public in the work of the Climate Commission will support pathways of change.

We support a stronger ambition and a 'two baskets' approach to targets for long lived and short lived greenhouse gases to take account of New Zealand's particular emissions profile of nearly 50% of our GHG's from agriculture and methane. We support urgent action to reduce long lived cumulative emissions to net zero in the period 2020-2050 in support of the Paris Agreement to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius, striving to keep to 1.5 degrees.

We emphasize the importance of plans to reduce gross emissions with care to avoid over-reliance on offsets to meet net zero emissions targets. Options for offsets include Differential Abatement Obligations for short and long term emissions and use of the polluter-pays principle.

It is appropriate that adaptation (i.e. addressing the impacts of climate change, such as droughts, floods, extreme weather events and sea level rise) and Just Transition plans are included in the Zero Carbon Act.

## 3. Climate Change Commission

We support the functions of the proposed Climate Commission of providing expert advice; monitoring our progress; reporting and accountability. The Commission needs to include Māori representation, scientific, technical and policy experts. We recommend that plans for budgets, targets and reducing both long lived and short-lived GHG emissions, be prepared by the Commission, along with adaptation strategies.

## 4. Cross-party Agreement

We appreciate all efforts to achieve a Cross-party agreement, without compromising planning for budgets and transitions to meet net zero carbon between 2020-2050.

## 5. Conclusion

We affirm the proposed Zero Carbon Bill to support progress in meeting New Zealand's responsibilities of stewardship and our care for succeeding generations.

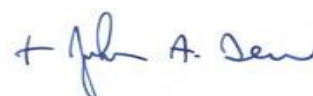
Signed:



Archbishop Philip Richardson  
Anglican Church of Aotearoa  
New Zealand and Polynesia



Prince Devanandan  
President, Methodist Church  
Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa



+ John A. Cardinal Dew  
Archbishop of Wellington