

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill

Tuesday 21 May 2019

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***We have listened
to the views of
New Zealanders,
analysed
information and
looked at
successful
approaches to
climate change
legislation
around the
world.***

Jan–May 2018

Economic modelling and policy development

7 June–19 July 2018

Consultation with New Zealanders

More than 15,000 submissions received

July – December 2018

Submissions analysed

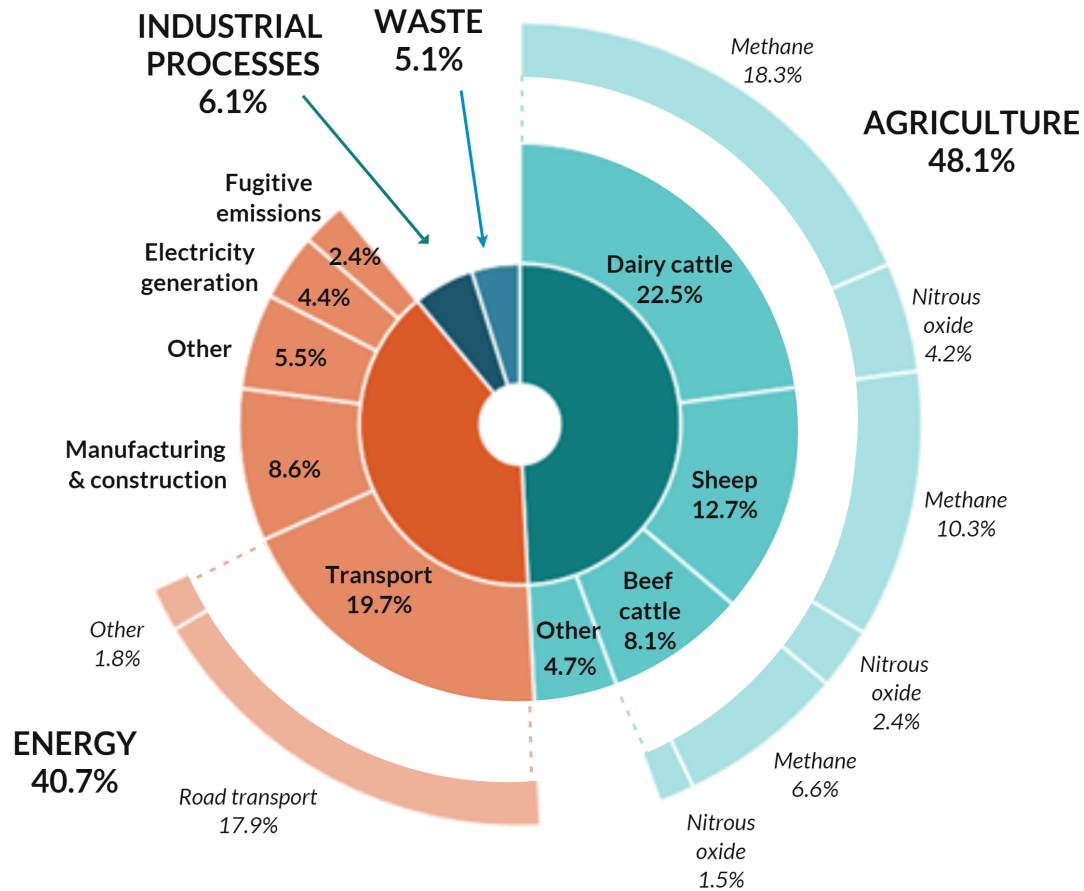
Policy development

December 2018–May 2019

Cabinet decisions on the content of the Zero Carbon Amendment Bill drafted

NEW ZEALAND'S Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Source: New Zealand's
Greenhouse Gas Inventory
1990-2017, published
April 2019

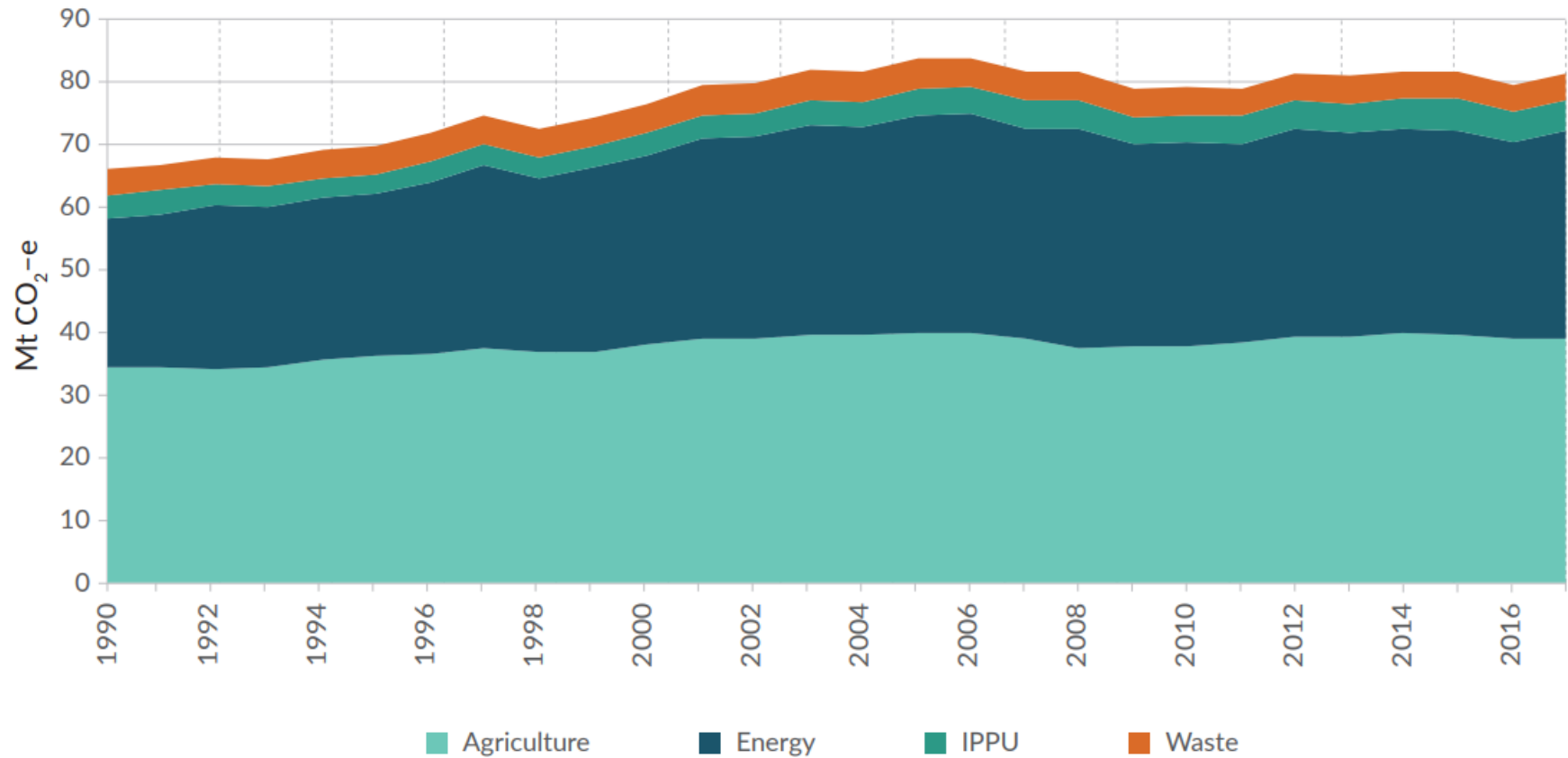


Note: Percentages in the graph may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Fugitive emissions are from the leakage, burning and controlled release of gases in oil and gas operations as well as escaping gases from coal mining and geothermal operations. Agricultural methane is mainly from livestock digestive systems and nitrous oxide is mainly from manure on soil.

Emissions trends by sector

Figure 3: Trends in New Zealand's gross greenhouse gas emissions by sector from 1990 to 2017



Note: The emissions contribution from Tokelau is too small to be visible on the figure.

Purpose of the Zero Carbon Amendment Bill

Sets up the laws and institutions to guide and support the transition, and to contribute towards the global goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees

1. Sets a new greenhouse gas emissions reduction target
2. Establishes the Climate Change Commission to provide expert advice and monitoring
3. Sets a series of emissions budgets to act as stepping stones
4. Requires the government to develop & implement policies for adaptation

1. Set a new greenhouse gas emissions reduction target

Will clearly articulate our ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a level consistent with the long-term temperature goal set out in the Paris Agreement. The Bill sets a target to:

- reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases, aside from biogenic methane, to net zero by 2050;
- reduce gross emissions of biogenic methane to 10 per cent below 2017 levels by 2030; and
- reduce gross emissions of biogenic methane to a provisional range of 24 to 47 per cent below 2017 levels by 2050.

2. Establish the Climate Change Commission to provide expert advice and monitoring

An independent Crown entity with advisory and monitoring functions

- give independent, expert advice to the government on emissions reduction and climate resilience
- monitor and review the government's progress

Will be governed by a board of seven members with relevant expertise.

Ongoing functions to advise the government on emissions budgets, plans and policies, NZ ETS settings and climate risks.

3. Set a series of emissions budgets to act as stepping stones

Draw up a series of five-year emissions budgets that specify the quantity of emissions permitted in each budget period, and help to meet the 2050 target.

Require three emissions budgets to be in place at any one time, meaning that they are set 10 to 15 years in advance.

Emissions budgets, and the plan for achieving them, will be set by the responsible Minister based on advice from the Climate Change Commission.

4. Require the government to develop & implement policies for adaptation

A National Climate Change Risk Assessment, will improve our understanding of the climate risks we face

A National Adaptation Plan, will outline the Government's approach to improving New Zealand's resilience to the effects of climate change

A reporting power will enable the responsible Minister to require central and local government organisations and 'lifeline utility providers' to report on adaptation.

What happens next?

May 2019

Zero Carbon Amendment Bill introduced to the House of Representatives

June 2019

Select Committee considers Zero Carbon Amendment Bill and calls for public submissions

Late 2019

Zero Carbon Amendment Bill passes into law

Climate Change Commission established



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



Making Aotearoa New Zealand
the most liveable place in the world
Aotearoa – he whenua mana kura mō te tangata