

16 July 2019

**Life Cycle Association of New Zealand:
Submission on the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill**

The primary objective of the Life Cycle Association of New Zealand (LCANZ) is to provide a focal point in New Zealand for work that is undertaken to measure the environmental impact of products and services throughout the course of their lifetime using Life Cycle Assessment (“LCA”) methodology, and to manage the process of reducing these impacts using Life Cycle Management (LCM) techniques.

LCANZ strongly supports the intention of the Bill and congratulates the Minister for Climate Change for presenting the Bill to the House. The Bill aligns strongly with the LCANZ objective to work to reduce environmental impacts causing Climate Change.

LCANZ offers the following comments and recommendations for consideration:

1. **General; strength of wording;**

Section 3 Purpose

Many members of our association have been using LCA methodology with their businesses to reduce the environmental, and specifically climate change, impacts associated with manufacture and use of products and services for many years. We have been awaiting a forceful act of Parliament to support this work with respect to avoiding the worst expectations of Climate Change. We feel the Bill does not carry sufficient force in its wording and this is noted as early as Section 3 (aa) the Purpose, which states “... provide a framework by which New Zealand can develop and implement”.

Recommendation: We respectfully suggest the word “can” does not carry the strength required of an Act of Parliament and should be replaced by “will”. This will be an Act of Parliament and we must achieve its purpose.

Section 5ZJ Effect of failure to meet the 2050 target and emissions budgets

There appears to be no accountability to achieving the target or budgets and this clause basically says that if we miss the target we will declare that we missed the target. It must be an unusual law that states that there is no consequence to failure.

Recommendation: Delete this clause.

Section 5ZK 2050 target and emissions budget are permissive considerations

This clause states that a person or body may, if they think fit, take the 2050 target or an emissions budget into account in the exercise or performance of a public function, power or duty conferred on that person or body by or under law. Making the consideration of the Bill optional is in direct conflict with the objective of the Bill and allows public bodies to ignore the target, budgets, and by implication, emission reduction strategies yet to be identified. At the very least, public bodies must be required to take into consideration the target and budgets in exercising their public function.

Recommendation: change the clause to “Every person or body shall take the 2050 target or an emissions budget into account in the exercise or performance of a public function, power or duty conferred on that person or body by or under law”. Delete subclause 5ZK(2).

2. **Life Cycle Assessment as a tool to provide scientific data to inform the Commission.**

LCANZ welcomes the establishment of the Climate Change Commission. In particular, the association recognises that LCA methodology may be called on to provide “current available scientific knowledge” which the commission is required to consider (Section 5L). Carbon Footprinting is a subset of an LCA, as “Global Warming Potential” is one of the impact categories of LCA. ISO standard 14067 for carbon footprinting in fact is based on the ISO standards for Life Cycle Assessment. LCA studies of major products therefore provide valuable scientific measure of the embedded Carbon of these products, including their full supply chain. The Productivity Commission in their *Low-emissions economy* report clearly references the need to consider embodied emissions in goods and services for a low carbon economy. This information is also key for the consideration of any Scope 3 emissions.

Similarly, in providing advice to the Minister on setting emission budgets (5Z(2)(b)(ii)), LCANZ recognises the importance of science based LCA assessment of Emission Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) products such that these LCA reports can inform advice of any changes to the NZ ETS allocation settings as part of the emission reduction plans. LCA assessments of imported products in these gazetted industry sectors would provide valuable comparable information and fall into the “broad range of domestic and international scientific advice” to be considered.

Recommendation: That under section 5H(1)(d)(i), “matters the Minister must have regard to before recommending appointment of a member of the Commission”, LCANZ recommends that the technical and professional skills, experience and expertise should be extended to include “life cycle assessment (LCA)”, “Carbon Footprinting” or similar terminology. This may be assumed to be covered in the words “environmental” and “ecological” but the scientific measure of LCA will be important in informing the Commission’s advice to the Minister.

The Life Cycle Association of New Zealand welcomes this opportunity to contribute to an effective Act of Parliament designed to decarbonise the New Zealand economy and meet our international commitments regarding Climate Change. We offer the commentary and recommendations above in good faith.

Sincerely

The LCANZ Board