



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

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Wahine O Aotearoa

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Submission to the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 46 Nationally Organised Societies and National Members. It has 28 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies and some 150 other societies. The Council's functions are to serve women, the family and the community at local, national and international levels through research, study, discussion and action.

Introduction

NCWNZ has had an interest in the subject of climate change since 1988. NCWNZ has a long history of supporting legislation for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and many submissions have been made on different facets of Climate Change.

The Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill covers methods of implementing the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and lists who will be liable.

(I)

Part 2

Amendments to Electricity Act 1992

67 New Part 6A inserted

"Part 6A

"Limitations on new fossil-fuelled thermal electricity generating capacity

"62A Purpose of this part

The purpose of this Part is to reduce the impact of fossil-fuelled thermal electricity generation on climate change by creating a preference for renewable electricity generation through the implementation of a 10 year moratorium on new fossil-fuelled thermal electricity generation capacity, except where an exemption is appropriate (for example, to ensure security of supply)."

This excerpt from the Bill supports the present moratorium on the use of fossil-fuelled electricity, except in an emergency situation or for isolated communities.

Members universally approved this, with some suggesting that it should be for longer than ten years. One member thought it should be reviewed in ten years, in case both significant developments in creating greater efficiency in coal-fired power plants, and major advances have been made in the underground sequestration of carbon from the burning of coal. The majority of members also thought that New Zealand should not be using coal at present, and should not be exporting it for use overseas, as both would have the effect of increasing global warming.

The Bill gives preference to renewable energy as it should, and which is vital to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



**(II)***Schedule**New Schedules 3 and 4 added**Schedule 3**Activities with respect to which persons must be participants**Part 1**Forestry**Regarding deforesting pre-1990 forest land, if more than 2 ha...*

and

*Schedule 4**Activities with respect to which persons may be participants**Holding a registered forestry right or being the leaseholder under a registered lease of post -1989 forest land...*

The majority of members thought that surely all forestry owners must be part of the NZ ETS, and there should be incentives in the charging mechanisms so that it is an advantage to the owner to replace the forest if it is cut.

Members also thought that taxpayers should not be subsidising polluters, which will happen if not all sectors come into the scheme on 1 January 2009. Any action taken by the Government must result in the reduction of greenhouse gases. There is now publicity on Climate Change almost every day, and the public is very aware of the seriousness of the problems. If some sectors can continue to pollute until 2024 without cost, there will be considerable resistance to the ETS scheme. Publicity over the last few years has featured new releases from Climate Scientists, indicating faster changes than any predictions, and emphasizing need for firmer action. **(see reference (b)).**

(III)*Explanatory note**General Policy Statement:**Macroeconomic modelling**Potential impact over longer term*

Information in the Explanatory note (p31) implies that economic growth is expected to continue, but to perhaps be slowed by 1 to 2 years.

The Association for the Study of Peak Oil (ASPO) has stressed that economic growth, with increases in use of energy and consumption, cannot continue with the depletion of oil. **(see reference (a))** ASPO predictions have been acknowledged to be correct by international authorities in areas such as price and oil depletion. (Government predictions in 2003, based on International Energy Agency, for price of oil to 2010 were US\$30 a barrel for a short time, followed by \$25. Recently, as predicted by ASPO, it has been stable in the range of US\$90 - \$100 a barrel.)

Although NCWNZ has no Resolution on the subject of Peak Oil, members can see that oil depletion will add to the effects of climate change. **One comment was that education is needed to change the “throwaway – because I deserve it – because I’m worth it – satisfy your cravings” culture.** New Zealand and the world have to look for a sustainable future. Many of the resources used to create products are finite, with a number already meeting their maximum potential. Any country the size of New Zealand must realise that it can only sustain a certain population.



Conclusion

NCWNZ would like to urge the Government to increase remedial efforts for climate change, and also to take steps to ready the population for a change in lifestyle away from private cars.

There are already many groups who are working towards this end, with Sustainable and Transition Town groups around New Zealand. The Sustainable Households project being run by the Ministry for the Environment is also commended.

As always, NCWNZ is glad to exercise its right to comment on a piece of legislation before the House.

Christine Low
National President

Sara Dickon,
Convener, Environment Standing Committee

Reference (a) Colin Campbell, retired British petroleum geologist, founder of ASPO, author;

Matt Simmons, CEO of Simmons International Bank, Houston, which funded most global oil exploration for many years, author of *"Twilight in the Desert"*, *"Another Nail in the Coffin of the Case Against Peak Oil"* 16/11/07, www.simmonsco.intl.com/research.aspx?Type=msspeeches;

Professor Richard Heinberg, New College of California, USA, lecturer and author of *"The Party's Over"*, *"Powerdown"* and *"Peak Everything"*.

Reference (b) David Spratt, Philip Sutton, Carbon Equity, Greenleap Strategic Institute, Australia: *Climate Code Red*, www.climatecodedred.net.