

Dear South Africa is a network of online platforms designed to facilitate government and encourage the public to participate in unbiased decision-making processes or policy formation at SOE, municipal, provincial and national levels.



Climate Change Bill 2022 31 March – 27 May 2022

The Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry and Fisheries invites you to submit written comments on the Climate Change Bill [B9 – 2022].

- The Bill seeks to: enable the development of an effective climate change response and a long-term, just transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy and society for South Africa in the context of sustainable development;
- The proposed Bill includes Personal Carbon budgets determined by the minister along with emissions regulations and limits on all persons. This is the next step in the introduction of Carbon Tax, applicable to all South Africans.

<https://dearsouthafrica.co.za/climate-2022/>

The above public participation campaign was released on 31 March 2022 where the closing date was set to 27 May 2022.

Written submissions and enquiries were prepared and directed to Ms Tyhileka Madubela at climatechangebill2022@parliament.gov.za.

DearSouthAfrica.co.za hosted a participation campaign through an online platform to facilitate, educate and encourage public participation and comment to shape this Bill.

Included on the web page was:

- 1 - the published related documents as downloadable PDFs
- 2 - a live view of public comments (with a counter and breakdown reflecting number of participants)
- 3 - video summaries
- 4 - links to relevant media articles
- 5 - policy-related questions (presented as multiple choice)
- 6 - a comment facility to for participants to have a say



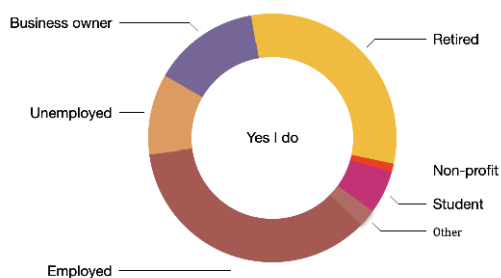
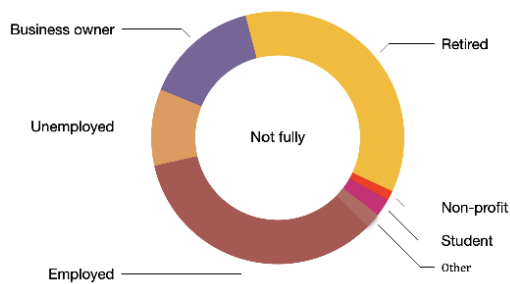
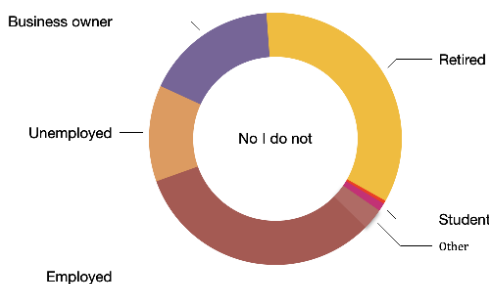
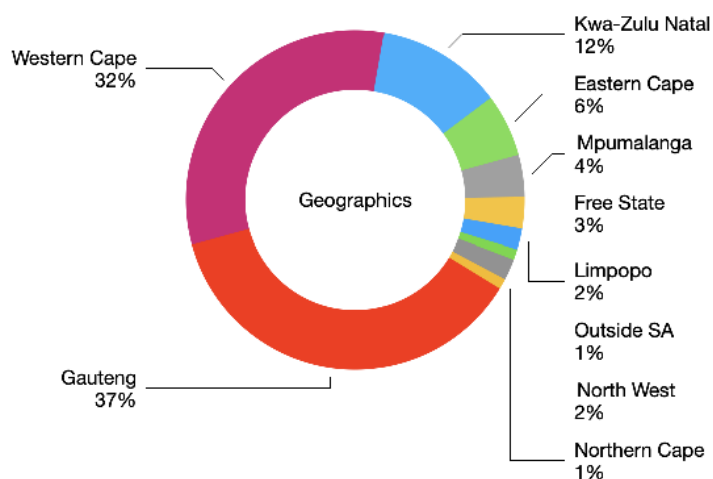
Each public entry was individually delivered to Ms Tyhileka Madubela at climatechangebill2022@parliament.gov.za. DearSouthAfrica also captured all public entries which have been used to produce this report.

Note: In order to accurately reflect public comment, all campaigns are unbiased and hold no partisan opinion or agenda. Raw captured data is attached as a PDF file.

A total of **13,473** comments were received by the set closing of 27 May 2022 (included in the PDF file). This report reflects the entries received by the closing date.

Demographics of Participants




Comments originated from all provinces with the greatest input arising from Gauteng, followed by Western Cape and KZN. Demographics can be further broken down into comment options (yes, no, not fully) and by top concern per region upon request, or view the Excel spreadsheet attached.

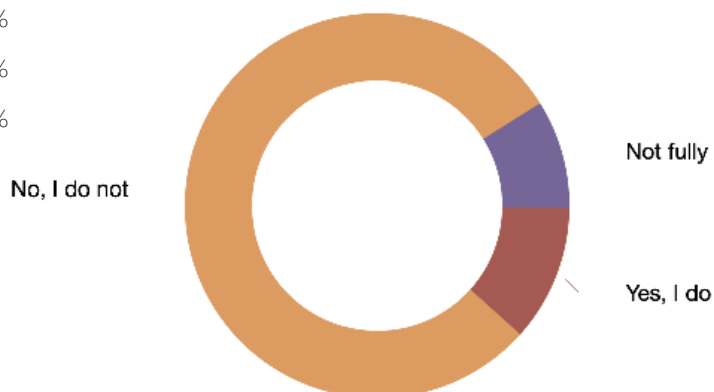












Two questions presented;

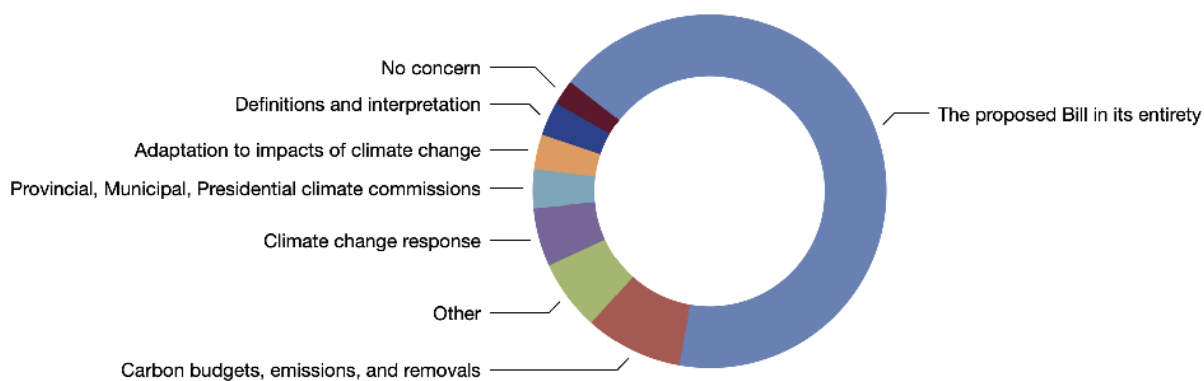
1. Do you support the proposed Climate Change Bill?

	Yes, I do	[1,547 selected]	11.48%
	No, I do not	[10,703 selected]	79.44%
	Not fully	[1,223 selected]	9.08%



2. What is your top concern?

	The proposed Bill in its entirety	[9,052 selected]	67.19%
	Carbon budgets, emissions, and removals	[1,197 selected]	8.88%
	Other	[871 selected]	6.47%
	Climate change response	[719 selected]	5.34%
	Provincial, Municipal, Presidential climate commissions	[475 selected]	3.53%
	Adaptation to impacts of climate change	[431 selected]	3.2%
	Definitions and interpretation	[420 selected]	3.12%
	No concern	[308 selected]	2.29%





Comments

The participants were encouraged to provide comment to justify their concerns in order to help shape the decision.

Of the “Yes, I do” comments, the participants in this category are in support of this proposed Bill but have significant concerns and questions regarding transparency and the implementation of the proposed structures. The public have inquired about how government will manage the measurement of carbon emissions. In addition, the respondents proposed that instead of taxing individuals/ business entities that are over the allowed carbon emission allowance, fines should rather be issued. As an already highly taxed working population, the public do not trust government to manage additional tax funds due to the already rife corruption.

It was also suggested that the government should align the provincial, municipal, and presidential committees and where any ministers don't comply, they should be offered removal from the cabinet. The public strongly feel that climate change is of great importance and South Africa needs to make less use of coal and invest in more green energy stations sooner rather than later.

Suggestions from the “Yes I do” comments, include;

Concern; The proposed Bill in its entirety

1. “I am concerned about the impact if our footprint in the earth and its animals. Living things are on the brink of extinction.”
2. “I support any solution, any intervention, any work done towards helping reduce and remove carbon emissions in a way that is sustainable for the long-term. And I believe work needs to be done to incorporate people at every level (municipals, provincial, presidential).”
3. “The City of Cape Town is promoting civilians to assist in having a positive impact on climate change but cannot offer the resource to make this possible. A lot of CPT areas does not even have recycling collection service, apparently due to not being budgeted for. If climate change is a priority to our government, then they should make resources available in order for the public to do their part.”
4. “The government should be forced to desist establishing crude oil refineries and instead. Finance green electricity generation I.e wind and solar farms.”
5. “This is a problem we need to tackle as a whole. It doesn't help we just focus on a small part otherwise the consequences will be catastrophic, just like the previous day 0 and recent floods in Kwa-Zulu Natal.”
6. “South Africans who make use of Solar power must NOT be taxed as this natural resource has been with the planet earth since its birth and how can governments determine taxes on what God provides to the Human race.”

Concern; Carbon budgets, emissions, and removals

1. “The previous version of the bill made it a criminal offence for an entity to exceed its carbon budget, and/ or that the entity would have to pay an increased carbon tax rate, this clause has now been removed. Why was it removed?”
2. “South Africa has a history of mismanagement of funds, how is the government going to manage the carbon budget when implementing the policy?”
3. “It is a progressive move, but I am worried about the carbon budgets given the propensity of the current government to be wasteful. Also, a concern is whether the funds will find their way to the intended purpose.”



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4. "I am highly concerned that there are no significant consequences or penalties for non-compliant entities. This most likely means the law will be ignored or there will be lip service in the form of policies which will be put in place and then shelved."
 5. "How will they limit our carbon budget per person or per household. And all how we can protect our environment is to also ensure it is always clean. No rubbish lying on sidewalks or parks."
 6. "I feel strongly that removal of emissions control will only lead to an increase in the greenhouse effect."

Concern; Other

1. "Industry is the biggest perpetrator of climate change and should be taxed accordingly. Public should be educated on how to save every and hefty fines (not taxes) should be issued for littering, animal cruelty, etc."
2. "I support any change except anywhere the public pay for instance plastic or carbon emissions from vehicles. This government do not have any constructive plans and the money disappear into the endless dark pit called the ANC."
3. "As with every other facet of life in South Africa my concern is with FAIR law enforcement. One that does not favour ANC cadres. One without the scourge of nepotism. Can this law be enforced without CORRUPTION, and will the experts be chosen on MERIT or for political expediency? Climate change is too serious a threat to be mired in political maladministration."
4. "Tourism should be in schedule 2."
5. "We will need transparency from government. It must not provide any loopholes for corruption. The public must be informed and involved in all aspects."

Concern; Climate change response

1. "I would expect all stakeholders including civil society to be involved in documentation of policies. Fighting climate change is a priority. Financing this fight should come from existing funds spent differently within all sectors, and not from further funds. Developing countries can lead the way in this area."
2. "The response will be inadequate. Insufficient transition to green energy."
3. "We need to move on this matter with urgency and replace coal fired power stations with cleaner energy."
4. "The timelines and targets are not in line with the urgency of required climate change actions, or the 2030 targets. The targets should be much tighter. There is no timeline by which the minister must publish the emissions trajectory."
5. "Government needs to wake up to the climate change impact on our planet and environment."
6. "Include the best of what other responsible countries propose to do or are doing."

Concern; Provincial, Municipal, Presidential climate commissions

1. "Corruption is a concern; the bill can provide more opportunity to divert tax Rands to government officials. (Which in SA is "justified" by many as "wealth correction" in our twisted society...)"
2. "Incompetent and bribe-able officials as well as an unwillingness to seriously and committedly drive change."
3. "We need to promote climate change as a matter of urgency. Ignore Gwede Mantashe who promotes use of coal. The are other sources of electrical supply which need to be implemented."
4. "Conflict between these 3 levels of politically and self-interest motivated committees will inevitably lead to watering down and delays in the implementation of scientifically proven achievable CHG measures. However, and hopefully, these committees will consult with genuine climate change scientists, evaluate climate change measures being taken by other countries, and finally put the well-being of South Africa (and the rest of the world) above their own self-interest. Additionally, the president of South African should remove/replace department ministers who are opposed or attempt to delay climate change proposals acceptable to the majority of these 3 committees."



Concern; Adaptation to impacts of climate change

1. "My concern is focused on government's ability to implement legislation. No use having grandiose legislation if industry, people continue to break laws."
2. "SA needs to use less coal for electricity and the public MUST stop polluting, especially plastic waste."
3. "People are taking advantage of the situation to their own benefit. This is becoming a serious matter as the general public can do nothing to stop or change the corruption."
4. "We are currently experiencing unusual weather patterns, and this is going to get worse. All governments must take this evidence seriously and do everything in their power to ensure that the situation is brought under control, by adopting the advice given by the environmental experts."

Concern; Definitions and interpretation

1. "Can the government run awareness workshops throughout the country, by empowering the ambassadors that are already driving green environment?"
2. "I support the bill but am afraid that it will be misused or not well enacted."
3. "Climate change is a real problem not a conspiracy - no more coal mines."
4. "I support the inclusion of policies that consider the factual and serious implications of our ecological impact. The loss of biodiversity and the changing climate are issues that will impact all citizens of all countries. South Africa should start adjusting public behaviour accordingly."
5. "This is, to my mind, an important bill, but I have reservations on how the law behind it will be enforced."

Concern; No concern

1. "I think it is very important for the country, and world as a whole, to move away from a carbon-intensive economy."
2. "South Africa is in the upper half of contributors to greenhouse gases globally, and the biggest in Africa, we all have to do our part."

Of the "Not Fully" comments, the respondents share a common concern over taxation and burdening the average South African citizen without seeing the benefit. As the current economic climate of South Africa shows, our employment rates are at an all time low which is increasing pressure, more so when government introduces a new tax or increases existing taxes. The public feel that South Africa has far more important issues that we need to resolve as a developing country before making financial decisions regarding the carbon footprint of the country. Our carbon results have shown poorly for over 10 years and with the growing corruption rates, we are no nearer as a nation to solving the current climate change problems.

Suggestions from the "Not fully" comments, include;

Concern; The proposed Bill in its entirety

1. "The government via Eskom is the worst offender. Sort out your stupid belief that the state has to control everything and get rid of the corruption ridden coal fired power stations which contribute most of the problem. Why should private individuals pay carbon tax in the electricity price? Actively encourage wind and solar energy facilitation."
2. "Don't get me wrong I am ALL in for Natural Resource energy and moving off fossil fuels but this whole Bill doesn't feel right, you have failed to announce what exactly you are doing and WHEN. Not to mention it's been 14 years since you were supposed to lower your pollution levels. Just seems like another move to control us due to the fact that we must submit a Carbon Report or face being prosecuted. Dodgy stuff as always."
3. "Carbon is what tree need to live. This carbon bill is a money laundering tool."



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4. "This is just another way for government to bleed taxpayers dry. We are already overtaxed and bearing the brunt of ineffective government. I do not see where my tax money is going and do not trust the government."
 5. "This is just another excuse for governments to take more taxes from us (carbon tax) so they can waste more millions."
 6. "While the concept is important, and in keeping with global trends, I'm afraid I have no faith in the present government to use the money appropriately."
 7. "If the Bill does not improve the lives of each and every South African citizen socially, financially or any other way the Bill must not go forward. It is long overdue that most of South African suffer more with these new institutions. We must see every citizen prospering!!!"
 8. "It seems to be a lot of red tape and reports to be completed by municipalities who at present barely carry out the most basic services. Is this not going to be just another way to employ cadres and actually never tackle the problem of climate change."

Concern; Carbon budgets, emissions, and removals

1. "This will lead to more tax charges from already burdened public."
2. "Tax should be placed not on individuals but on national and international companies and corporations that are working in South Africa which have a much higher carbon footprint."
3. "We don't need another tax. Large industries are mostly responsible for their own carbon footprints and should adapt to a lower carbon footprint or find ways to offset their footprint. Leave individual taxpayers out of this bill."
4. "South Africa must definitely do much more in order to prevent and lessen the effects of climate change, but the main place where government should focus its efforts are the massive corporations such as Eskom and the mines that produce much more carbon and pollution than the general public."
5. "The challenge of climate change is real. However, the cost to individuals, households, and communities to embrace technologies and practices that allow for responsible behaviour is too prohibitive. The proposed bill will do well to address this question of climate awareness is not to be reduced to a privileged domain for a privileged minority."
6. "If you are going to force personalize carbon tax, then you need to introduce personalise carbon credits. Solar on homes is still limited. Electric cars are taxed to the point that the cars are almost double the cost they should be. You cannot just use the stick; you need the carrot. If we allow individuals and companies to benefit from reducing their carbon footprint, then there will be mass adoption."
7. "Domestic waste has 60 million people of this country who contribute to it every single day. It's effective removal and recycling is of paramount importance for the healthy quality of life we all aspire to have. This is at the most basic level and most important mass level of involvement, education and effectiveness to bigger issues."

Concern; Other

1. "Timeframe for implementing too slow. South Africa needs committed urgent climate action with national commitments and mainstreaming it to all departments. The bill mustn't rely on SA's outdated 2015 climate action plan. Is there political will for compliance and enforcement?"
2. "Please consider the uneducated youth. There are incredible education programs on farming and carbon sequestration through farming. Profit and skills can be created as well as a healthy farming industry if government would dedicate a portion of the program to the education and settling of permaculture farms and algae-based sequestration farms. Please use this bill as a chance to develop our youth and our country."



3. "I do support the fact that we need to engage fully in changes to the ways in which we affect our climate, but we need to be mindful of the endemic culture of corruption in this country and I do not trust this government to be able to move swiftly enough to implement what needs to be done nor do I trust them to ensure that monies get to where they are needed."
4. "The South African people cannot afford to pay more taxes. Please use wisdom."

Concern; Climate change response

1. "The various authorities keep passing over responsibility. secondly the time delay to take action is too long."
2. "Ensure we protect the future by planning for it now. Limit imports, invest in wind and solar. Ban non-recyclable products. Invest in Recycling stations in each town."
3. "I think that government must put the necessary actions in place without taxing individuals even more."
4. "Handling climate change is crucial and should be a top priority worldwide. However, can the SA government be trusted?"
5. "Something needs to be done going for windmills and water to generate electricity and more electric cars coming into South Africa at a affordable rate."
6. "Continued reliance on fossil fuels. Not enough movement to renewable energy."
7. "As it stands, far too much discretion is left in the hands of the minister. There needs to be accountability, oversight, and substantial change! This is so desperately urgent, there isn't time for corruption and lengthy investigation, it must be established in a robust and transparent fashion. The changes implemented cannot be discretionary according to the minister, they need to be advised by a panel of experts who are scientists, not politicians."

Concern; Provincial, Municipal, Presidential climate commissions

1. "It is necessary for us to be aware of the devastation that climate change can cause. However closer to home I think the government must start with the fundamental problems experienced in SA. Pollution of our rivers and dams, electricity supply, maintained water supplies. So many failures in this country already of basic living requirements."
2. "There should be one response serving the whole country. The punitive measures associated with this bill are a worry. There is no move toward providing those reward who are working towards alternative sources of energy to positive reduce greenhouse gasses."
3. "The idea is good, essential, but the management is vague and potentially likely to dissipate into failure, with much expenditure while achieving little. Also, it looks to be another opportunity for corruption. If many municipalities are incompetent and wasting finances and resources without action taken to make them well-run, then climate change procedures are likely to come to nothing. Will there be enough determination to overcome, for example, trade union resistance to change in bodies such as Eskom?"
4. "Anything which will assist in mitigation of climate change is to be encouraged. Unfortunately, nothing our government does can be trusted. So, in principle anything like this must be supported. But in practice it's a waste of time and money."

Concern; Adaptation to impacts of climate change

1. "I support any method for climate change. But I don't trust the present government. The proposed taxes will probably be used incorrectly or even worse stolen."
2. "How will this impact the regular person. will it reduce jobs, are there better alternatives? We need to have a balance on nature and human lives."
3. "Is it not too little too late for creating sustainable impact. Government knew about the effects of climate change on our habitat but preferred to ignore the tell-tale signs."



Concern; Definitions and interpretation

1. "I fully support any effort to reduce climate change but have a real concern over how the minister will set individual targets. Each household, each area, is different."
2. "The government MUST do the most to source renewable energy we are surrounded by sun, wind, and a long coastline. THIS is where climate change can HELP change RSA's economy..."
3. "The definition of response is very loosely termed. There is already a lot of corruption in this country, there needs to be more clear and concise guidelines to follow so as not to let people take advantage of its vagueness."
4. "I agree that we must take responsibility to work together to save our planet by going greener. But so does the government as well but not to the extent to extort more money from its population. To do what with it? Nothing but steal and plunder as usual. I have no confidence in our governors for they do absolutely nothing to make life easier for us people."
5. "We should ask actual scientists what to do and listen to them not just make poorly thought-out decisions."

Concern; No concern

1. "I am not concerned, and I believe south Africa has bigger/real problems to worry about."

Of the "No I do not" comments, a large number of the participants feel that man-made climate change is as a hoax and there is no viable solution so government should not engage further on this proposed Bill. In addition, they have asked for clarification regarding scientific findings to prove the degeneration because of climate changes.

Another group of participants believe that climate change is a natural occurrence but do not trust government in its entirety to introduce another form of tax. The mass corruption and mismanagement of funds makes this bill appear to be another form of revenue collection for government where citizens won't see any benefit.

The public have also asked about government driving green energy projects before reaching out to the nation in the form taxation. Further to this, the public strongly feel that government should be applying its focus to real issues experienced in our country such as a shrinking employment opportunity, damaged or degrading infrastructure (roads, dams etc), rectifying our current energy sources so that citizens can spend the winter without being left in the dark, and so on.

Suggestions from the "No I do not" comments, include;

Concern; The proposed Bill in its entirety

1. "Trying to implement a WEF pipe dream in a country where most people do not even have access to basic sanitation, running water or even housing reeks of skewed priorities and blind pandering to a world-wide movement towards social credit. Totally unrealistic and wrong."
2. "We as citizens cannot keep affording these exorbitant taxes. I unequivocally condemn this attempt by the delinquent ruling party to further drive our people into crippling poverty!"
3. "Our planet needs CO2 to grow vegetation/food etc. So no to climate change bills."
4. "We can't afford to be burdened with more tax. More especially households. South Africa should take on resolutions mandated by countries and global institutions that have been industrialised for the past century and made riches from that."
5. "There are more pressing matters in SA than this. First world countries and big industrial companies outside of SA can deal with this, they are the bigger polluters."
6. "Citizenry is already taking strain from taxation in place. Any new tax will cripple the remaining strength left. Government should move with speed to implement nuclear (within budget) and provide better grid."
7. "It is not a bill that will support the ability to keep the employment of people and will add no real value to the economy."



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8. "The Citizens impact in climate change, (if it exists since there are conflicting studies in this matter) is minor compared to big Corporations and Industry. A thorough investigation by professionals in our own country should surely be done before passing any such bills, and full consultation is necessary especially since SA prides itself on being a full and fair Democracy. This looks like another opportunity for the powers that be to monopolize and corrupt!"
 9. "This is not a priority for the majority of the citizens who are poor and marginalized and poor. First things first, these things mean different to different sections of the society."

Concern; Carbon budgets, emissions, and removals

1. "Climate change is of the utmost importance but to take more money from already struggling south Africa's is a very big no no. The tax we pay already will cover this as billions of taxpayers' money is wasted."
2. "Government should first sort Eskom out and all the dumpsites before they tax individuals. What is the use of charcoal and diesel to provide electricity when you are the culprit spreading the biggest carbon emissions?"
3. "The main contributor of carbon emissions is not the everyday person, but rather corporations. And putting the bulk of the work on the average person will accomplish nothing in the fight against climate change. It is a lazy and shallow attempt to appear concerned with the state of the environment."
4. "We pay tax towards everything. Where is the benefits for all the taxes that we pay towards?"
5. "The entire premise that CO2 needs to be reduced for a developing country is nothing short of morally reprehensible."
6. "South Africans are already carrying a heavy burden tax. South Africans cannot afford more tax. The government need to reduce costs by other means stopping corruption, the least is long."

Concern; Other

1. "There is no such thing as climate change. All the chem trails and stuff the government's all over the world are busy with are causing the natural disasters."
2. "Climate change is a hoax. Rather fix the economy to create jobs."
3. "We are moving into a carbon credit system that will enslave us all for eternity."
4. "We need carbon, plants need carbon. It's just a means to control us like i.e., the social credit score, smart water and electricity meters, computer in your car. If you don't do what you are told, we disconnect you..."
5. "I believe in natural adaptation and cannot find ourselves in another financial stretching whilst struggling with issues not yet resolved of matters like Eskom."
6. "The Bill introduces more bureaucracy and red tape, to further slowdown economic growth in this country, when the opposite is needed. It will also lead to new forms of corruption as people will just pay others for getting the necessary certificates instead of actually complying. What is needed now in the Republic is to get the economy growing, then we can be concerned with secondary measures."

Concern; Climate change response

1. "You cannot get rid of the coal our country depends on this coal mines to boost our economy."
2. "Each person creates carbon emissions, so until this is part of the program it lacks credibility. Part of the program, as well as being more mindful of creation of waste and unnecessary consumerism, should involve persuading people to have smaller families."
3. "The government should focus on the big ones not the local household at this stage."
4. "The same carbon that has been on earth is still here, no more and no less, carbon is absorbed by trees and shrubs, the way to help earth is to stop coal mining, stop robbing the forests, stop using coal for electricity generation, and stop over populating planet earth, if you need money tax the people making money out of carbon."



Concern; Provincial, Municipal, Presidential climate commissions

1. "Just another gravy train? Remove the beurocracy to let the private sector build wind solar farms and remove our reliance on filthy Eskom with their ancient and non-maintained and non-completed coal fired stations. That's a start!"
2. "Just another revenue stream that will be abused. When does one have enough money?"
3. "The government is the biggest polluter in ZA, because of their failure to maintain and build new facilities and industry, therefore they should pay to fix the problem. One way of getting the funds would be to reduce the number of so-called ministers. Another would be to reduce the exorbitant salaries these parasites 'earn' or to tax them. The ANC has proven to be incompetent, corrupt, and utterly useless. This is just another ploy for the current government to rob the public blind!!"
4. "Why must it always be the people that sort out change what is the government doing to stop loadshedding, water dams economical housing?"

Concern; Adaptation to impacts of climate change

1. "This bill is going to be used just to get more money out of the taxpayers and in the long run the money will be distributed among the outsource companies that are being used to do this."
2. "Stop cutting down trees (even though its deemed alien or invasive) which leads to soil erosion."
3. "South Africa needs a huge economic boost. Placing additional restrictions will jeopardise small businesses even more."
4. "If ANC can't even keep the lights on and maintain basic services, how are they going to manage Climate change."

Concern; Definitions and interpretation

1. "I do not agree with the climate change bill as it is used to once again tax the citizens of SA for carbon emissions that won't change anything. Change needs to be implemented by those polluting the atmosphere with diesel emissions such as ESKOM."
2. "This legislation must be drafted in consultation with public and private sectors. Current government can't even manage municipalities currently and I don't think they are in a position to manage this responsibility on their own."
3. "The Government has as more important issues that need urgent attention. Security and safety of its citizens, creating jobs and increase the tax paying citizens and not increase taxes of a minority."
4. "Climate change is a natural phenomenon therefore as for us as human beings there is very little, we can do to change that or avoid it, we should believe that the world we are living in is aging every day and no one can stop it. If people are not careful, they are going to spend the billions they have only to achieve very little. We must just accept that the world is going to end one day, no one can stop it and no amount of money can stop that. The method which is to be used is very expensive and very few countries can afford it, so please stop wasting your time."

Concern; No concern

1. "All this will do is create more tax for the poor, look at the first world countries, UK pay a 16% green tax."
2. "Scientific data is not conclusive. Book by Rick Joyner indicates all scientific studies done by biased towards climate change. Data used not accurate."
3. "Nature has it's cycles, there is no need to waste money where it gets defrauded."
4. "In my opinion climate change does not exist."

Thank you

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