

Name	Gerald Parsonson
Email	
A climate law like the Zero Carbon Act is important because...	Climate change is arguably one of the most difficult challenges humanity will face. The use of fossil fuels has been interwoven into the industrialisation and economic success of developed nations for years. It fuels us and provides wealth, but now sadly our addiction is starting to kill us and other life on the planet. The signs are all over, the Arctic is melting, Antarctica is melting faster than expected, billions of hectares of forest have been destroyed, 50 and 100 year storms are now regular occurrences all over the world. Atmospheric carbon levels are on a parabolic curve upwards following human population numbers. The sea levels are rising, and this is only the beginning. Most scientists are incredibly concerned and there is starting to be real concern out there in the public, although in many cases the public and businesses are still apathetic. Legislation is essential, and there are growing examples of how this works well in other responsible countries, e.g. with the UK Climate Act. Legislation will provide an even structure for all citizens, businesses etc to connect into and do what is necessary and essential to start turning the ship around. Westpac bank has published a report recently, which concluded that it will never be easy to introduce strategies to reduce carbon emissions, but more importantly it is easier, and more economical to start now than wait until we are much further down the track. Legislation like a Zero Carbon Act is a no brainer and essential.
Long-term target	I support the target of reducing total greenhouse gases to net zero by 2050. I also support taking a science-based approach to ensure our efforts to reduce emissions are as impactful as possible: we should aim for negative levels of long-lived gases, while reducing short-lived gases to sustainable levels. This target should be reached by reducing our own emissions and not by using international carbon credits, which are smoke and mirrors and achieve very little.
Climate Commission	I support the establishment of an independent Climate Commission that is made up of experts and provides advice, but does not make final decisions.
Adaptation	I support a plan for adaptation being included in the Zero Carbon Act.
Climate justice	A Zero Carbon Act must be just and fair in that it honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi; ensures a just transition for workers and communities; and avoids passing on the costs to future generations.
Further comments	People and businesses, left to their own devices are known to act slowly over threats of a distant nature, and it is easy to feel 'overwhelmed'. 'Not owning it' is an easy way out for most people who are just worried about day to day issues directly affecting them. Well considered legislation like a Zero Carbon Act is an even, fair and sensible way to introduce a structure for all to measure guide their contribution to reducing carbon emissions.