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A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...	Because I want my children to have a great life, and I don't want them to pay the price of careless and greedy generations who went before them.
Q1. What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?	The Government should set a target for 2050 in legislation now.
Q2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?	The most ambitious target: 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.
Q3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?	<p>By using domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting).</p> <p>It is important to bring the agricultural emissions into the plan. In the long term humans need to move towards a plant based diet, this is going to be a necessary step as the population moves beyond 7 billion, so we need to start that process now. Animal based foods need to be expensive to encourage consumers to change their habits, the price needs to reflect the cost of environmental damage that they do.</p> <p>A plant based diet has the real potential for big positive impact on some pretty serious problems, not only on carbon, but on human health. There is such a huge base of evidence that supports this. The benefits of adopting a plant based diet for NZ are enormous, we must include agricultural emissions in our plan, to encourage farmers to look at other ways to use their land. We can continue to feed the world, but it can be food that is nourishing, healthful, environmentally kind and profitable.</p>
Q4. Should the Zero Carbon Bill allow the 2050 target to be revised if circumstances change?	The 2050 target should not be altered in response to "economic changes" as this undermines its long-term certainty. However, the ability to revise the 2050 target in light of major changes in scientific understanding or international agreements should be permitted.
Q5. The Government proposes that three emissions budgets of five years each (i.e. covering the next 15 years) be in place at any given time. Do you agree with this proposal?	yes - I agree with 5-year budgets set 10-15 years in advance, so that 3 are in effect at all times.
Q6 - Q7. Should the Government be able to alter emissions budgets?	No - emissions budgets should not be altered in response to "economic changes" as this undermines their long-term certainty. However, the ability to revise budgets in light of major changes in scientific understanding or international agreements should be permitted.

Q8. Do you agree with the proposed considerations that the Government and the Climate Commission will need to take into account when advising on and setting budgets?

I agree that the Government and the Climate Commission should take the following factors into consideration when advising on and setting budgets:

- scientific knowledge regarding climate change
- technology relevant to climate change
- economic circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on the economy, as well as the competitiveness of particular sectors of the economy
- fiscal circumstances and the likely impact of the decision on taxation, public spending and public borrowing
- social circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on fuel poverty
- energy policy and the likely impact of a decision on energy supplies and the carbon and energy intensity of the economy.

I also think that the ethics of using scientific technology, on other living beings (animals), to reduce their emissions needs to be closely scrutinised. Animal welfare needs to rank highly on our radar. Just because we can tinker with, for example, internal animal processes, doesn't mean we should.

Q9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?

Yes - we must learn from the mistakes of the UK's Climate Change Act and specify a strict time frame for producing a plan.

Q10. What are the most important issues for the Government to consider in setting plans to meet budgets? For example, who do we need to work with, what else needs to be considered?

The Government's policy plans to meet emission budgets should be comprehensive, fair, cost-effective, environmentally sustainable, and reflect a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

It is vital that all activities that result in large scale pollution are scrutinized, and that these industries are not allowed to use their size and power to diminish their responsibilities.

Government need to plan to assist these industries to change their habits, or move in a different direction entirely. Taxpayers money, for example, could be used to encourage highly indebted dairy farmers, to move to other sources of income from their land. They are trapped due to their debt, they will need help to move on.

Q11. The Government has proposed that the Climate Change Commission advises on and monitors New Zealand's progress towards its goals. Do you agree with these functions?

Yes - the Commission should not be a decision-making body.

Q12. What role do you think the Climate Change Commission should have in relation to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)?

The Commission should advise the Government on policy settings in the NZ ETS. It should not make decisions itself with respect to the number of units available in the NZ ETS, or its implementation.

<p>Q13. The Government has proposed that Climate Change Commissioners need to have a range of essential and desirable expertise. Do you agree with the proposed expertise?</p>	<p>I agree with the following collective expertise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate change policy (including emissions trading) • resource economics and impacts (including social impacts, labour markets and distribution) • te Tiriti o Waitangi, te reo me ona tikanga Māori and Māori interests • climate and environmental science including mātauranga Māori • experience with addressing adaptation challenges like planning, insurance and local government • risk management • engineering and/or infrastructure • community engagement and communications. • business competitiveness • knowledge of the public and private innovation and technology development system. <p>I think expertise in public health is also important. This is because various solutions to our carbon problems could well have spin off benefits (or cause demise) to public health. This should strengthen the resolve to implement those solutions that benefit public health, this should be a considered factor, and not be ignored.</p>
<p>Q14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change?</p>	<p>Yes. This may require a separate adaptation sub-committee within the Climate Commission.</p>
<p>Q15. The Government has proposed a number of new functions to help us adapt to climate change. Do you agree with the proposed functions?</p>	<p>I agree with the proposed functions below, but recognise that nuance is required in terms of how local councils are involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a national climate change risk assessment • a national adaptation plan • regular review of progress towards implementing the national adaptation plan • an adaptation reporting power
<p>Q16. Should the Government explore setting up a targeted adaptation reporting power that could see some organisations share information on their exposure to climate change risks?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Further comments</p>	<p>I want our government to look long term, not be strongly influenced by the status quo or the supporters of such, and to accept that policy needs to encourage real lasting change. People don't like change, but without it, nothing changes. Clearly doing nothing, is not an option anymore.</p>