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A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...	<p>A zero carbon act is important because the more time passes, the clearer the science is on climate change.</p> <p>There has been rhetoric here that NZ does not need to lead on the matter of climate change. I think this needs to be addressed where the rhetoric instead states that NZ can't afford to be left behind when dealing with climate change. The opportunities are vast and I would like our future economy to realise them.</p>
Q1. What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?	<p>The Government should set a target for 2050 in legislation now. The government needs as much cross party support as possible, and the government needs a huge focussed PR campaign on why they are doing this. There are some good global warming slogans from prominent scientists, and the government should use these. Now is the time that if a government resounds climate science, the public will listen.</p>
Q2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?	<p>The planet is out of energy balance by 0.7 watts per/m². It is now impossible to avoid serious consequences of climate change. This is loss of property through sea level rise and weather related events, species extinction and decreased food production.</p> <p>But losing 10% of our species this century is better than 40% or more. A one metre sea level rise this century is better than multiple metre sea level rise *James Hansen.</p> <p>Restoring the Earths energy balance this century was an option several years ago, but but it is very unlikely now. But to give future generations the opportunity to restore energy balance somewhere not far out from a century, we would need to aim for carbon neutrality by 2050. Being on a path where we won't be carbon neutral by 2050, means we hand our children and preceding generations a changing climate that they can't take action on, it is out of their control.</p>
Q3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?	<p>By using domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting).</p> <p>The National party makes welfare dependency an issue, yet set NZ up for international dependency by carbon offsets, buying offshore carbon credits. This should not be allowed as we should not be a nation caught in carbon dependency.</p>
Q4. Should the Zero Carbon Bill allow the 2050 target to be revised if circumstances change?	<p>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 should be permitted. The trend on scientific understanding is going in one direction, the effects of climate change are happening sooner than previously modelled. So there should be room for the Bill to be revised.</p>
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?	<p>yes - I agree with 5-year budgets set 10-15 years in advance, so that 3 are in effect at all times.</p>

Q6 - Q7. Should the Government be able to alter emissions budgets?	<p>No - emissions budgets should not be altered in response to “economic changes” as this undermines their long-term certainty. NZ businesses need that certainty.</p> <p>However, the ability to revise budgets in light of major changes in scientific understanding or international agreements should be permitted.</p>
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?	<p>I agree that the Government and the Climate Commission should take the following factors into consideration when advising on and setting budgets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Q9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?	<p>Yes - we must learn from the mistakes of the UK's Climate Change Act and specify a strict time frame for producing a plan.</p>
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?	<p>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.</p>
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?	<p>Yes - the Commission should not be a decision-making body.</p>
Q12. What role do you think the Climate Change Commission should have in relation to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)?	<p>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>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.</p>
Q14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change?	<p>Yes. This may require a separate adaptation sub-committee within the Climate Commission.</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?

I agree with the proposed functions below, but recognise that nuance is required in terms of how local councils are involved:

- a national climate change risk assessment
- a national adaptation plan
- regular review of progress towards implementing the national adaptation plan
- an adaptation reporting power

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?

Yes

Further comments