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<b>Email</b>	
<b>A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...</b>	I am deeply concerned that our government and the country as a whole does not have a detailed plan for how to progress a drop in our carbon emissions. Our climate is changing now and we really have no idea what changes are to come. By not working hard to get carbon out of our atmosphere we are putting a great deal at risk. In my view this bill needs to go beyond zero carbon into negative carbon territory. It is clear that we must find ways to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere - and not just to stop putting them in, in the light of current changes and the projected changes that look to be well on the way.
<b>Q1. What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?</b>	Set a target for 2045 in legislation now and ensure there is a detailed, well thought out plan to meet that target and 5 yearly interim targets along the way. The plan should be revised at least every 5 years to ensure we are able to take advantage of or manage new developments.
<b>Q2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?</b>	We need the most ambitious target possible for reducing greenhouse gases beyond net zero by 2050. We must use an evidence based approach to ensure that our efforts are effective. We should aim to remove long-lived gases from the atmosphere, while also reducing short-lived gases to sustainable levels.
<b>Q3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?</b>	We must reduce our domestic carbon emissions. This might include planting new forests and increasing soil carbon. We must also be making significant efforts to decrease emissions from activities such as transport, agriculture and our use of energy in general. It must NOT include the purchasing of overseas carbon credits which seem unethical at best, and fraudulent at worst .
<b>Q4. Should the Zero Carbon Bill allow the 2050 target to be revised if circumstances change?</b>	I believe that the only way the 2050 target should be modified is to increase the net amount of carbon that we will be taking out of the atmosphere by that time. It would be ideal to change the zero carbon target to an earlier date particularly as our scientific understanding increases. Changing targets in the in the opposite direction, particularly because of economic changes undermines the point of this bill and misses the point that not aiming hard for zero carbon and helping other nations to reach the same will have huge economic costs.
<b>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?</b>	yes. These budgets should be evaluated and revised regularly perhaps every year or two to ensure that we actually meet the targets that are set in them.
<b>Q6 - Q7. Should the Government be able to alter emissions budgets?</b>	Yes the ability to revise budgets in light of major changes in scientific understanding or international agreements should be permitted if that means we will meet our overall target earlier. The budgets should not be changed to allow slippage in meeting targets.

<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>Yes, we must consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scientific knowledge regarding climate change</li> <li>• technology relevant to climate change</li> <li>• economic circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on the long term wellbeing of New Zealanders, as well as the competitiveness of particular sectors of the economy</li> <li>• fiscal circumstances and the likely impact of the decision on taxation, public spending and public borrowing</li> <li>• social circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on fuel poverty</li> <li>• energy policy and the likely impact of a decision on energy supplies and the carbon and energy intensity of the economy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Q9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?</b></p>	<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. plans need to be evaluated regularly and adjusted as necessary in order to ensure that we do meet our targets and that the impacts of doing that do not fall on the least resilient members of our society</p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>The Government's policy plans to meet emission budgets should be comprehensive, cost-effective, environmentally sustainable, reflect a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and ensure that The impacts are spread fairly across the NZ population and the businesses that operate here.</p> <p>We also need to consider how we reward and encourage more of the good things that are already happening and don't disadvantage those who are already taking action to mitigate emissions as could happen depending on how carbon credits might be allocated (if a ETS is used rather than a tax) Likewise any tax must be progressive and not regressive. it should not impact more on the poor who already by definition use fewer resources and emit less carbon than more wealthy members of society.</p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>Yes - we must have an independent body to hold the Government to account - the Commission should not be a decision-making body. "Independence" means that the commission should not be funded at the whim of any particular government. Funding for the commission much continue regardless of which party or parties are in power.</p>
<p><b>Q12. What role do you think the Climate Change Commission should have in relation to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)?</b></p>	<p>In my view the Commission should provide advice 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>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>Yes I agree with the proposed expertise as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• climate change policy (including emissions trading)</li> <li>• resource economics and impacts (including social impacts, labour markets and distribution)</li> <li>• te Tiriti o Waitangi, te reo me ona tikanga Māori and Māori interests</li> <li>• climate and environmental science including mātauranga Māori</li> <li>• experience with addressing adaptation challenges like planning, insurance and local government</li> <li>• risk management</li> <li>• engineering and/or infrastructure</li> <li>• community engagement and communications.</li> <li>• business competitiveness</li> <li>• knowledge of the public and private innovation and technology development system.</li> </ul> <p>Because of likely social and health impacts of policies and plans to mitigate and adapt to climate change, we also need expertise in social science, social policy and public health.</p>

<b>Q14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change?</b>	Yes, absolutely. This may require a separate adaptation sub-committee within the Climate Commission.
<b>Q15. The Government has proposed a number of new functions to help us adapt to climate change. Do you agree with the proposed functions?</b>	I agree with the proposed functions below, but recognise that nuance is required in terms of how local councils are involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a national climate change risk assessment</li> <li>• a national adaptation plan</li> <li>• regular review of progress towards implementing the national adaptation plan</li> <li>• an adaptation reporting power</li> </ul>
<b>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?</b>	Yes!
<b>Further comments</b>	This is a really important bill that needs to be as strong as possible AND get cross party support. The Act needs to be effective in the long term and not just for the term of any particular government.