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A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...	At no point in recent human history have we faced such a serious global threat to our prosperity and security. As a relatively wealthy nation, NZ needs to lead by example. If we don't act decisively, our kids will have good reason to despise us for leaving them in economic chaos.
Q1. What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?	The Government should set a carbon-neutral target for 2050 in legislation now.
Q2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?	Reducing our total NET GHG emissions to zero by 2050.
Q3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?	By using domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting). Buying carbon credits from other countries is irresponsible and lazy.
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 and is too prone to short-term political interference.</p> <p>However, the ability to revise the 2050 target in light of major changes in scientific understanding or international agreements could be permitted. It should however require a 2/3 parliamentary vote.</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?	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 - but only with a 2/3 yes vote in parliament.
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?	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>	<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>
<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>	<p>Yes - the Commission should not be a decision-making body.</p>
<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>	<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>
<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>Yes. The following areas of expertise must be represented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> climate and environmental science. 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 risk management engineering and/or infrastructure community engagement social policy knowledge of the public and private innovation and technology development system.
<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>Yes. We need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a national climate change risk assessment • a national adaptation plan • annual public reporting on progress against the plan
<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>It will be vital to carry public opinion with us as we move to a low-carbon economy. The risk of backlash, fuelled by widespread misinformation and fear, is a serious concern. Linked to the above, the less-well-off must not suffer disproportionately from the consequences of pricing and restructuring decisions.</p>