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A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...	<p>We have only this planet. Scientific consensus is that climate change is a serious threat to life on the planet. Too many species have already gone extinct, more are declining and likely to become extinct. Severe weather events have become common as predicted. We need a carbon tax now. Not an emissions trading scheme, not voluntary compliance.</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. This target needs to be supported by a carbon tax which fully internalizes the costs of the activity.</p> <p>Emissions trading schemes have already been cheated by those seeking profits. Note the fraudulent 'cheap' eastern European credits.</p> <p>Government should apply current scientific consensus as to what is required to reverse climate change. As more is known and as the results of our actions become clear the target will likely require revision.</p> <p>A carbon tax can be fairly and comprehensively applied. It can be adjusted to apply new knowledge. Some of the revenue generated can be returned to consumers to encourage better consumer choices.</p>
Q2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?	<p>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.</p>
Q3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?	<p>Include all sources of green house gasses in reducing our emissions. Apply carbon taxes to imports where those imported items have not been assessed tax at a level equal to or greater than the tax required from NZ producers. (If this runs afoul of 'trade' agreements NZ must cease signing such badly negotiated deals and seek to exit from those already signed.) Use domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting).</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 or international agreements should be permitted.</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. However, the ability to revise budgets in light of major changes in scientific understanding or international agreements should be permitted.</p> <p>All budgets must be open to increases only. Future governments beholden to special interest groups must not be permitted to decrease funding or the commitment required to reduce and eliminate our emissions.</p> <p>In the unlikely event of 'excess' funding that funding can be applied to NZ developing alternative energy technology and/or supporting less well off countries in their efforts to reduce emissions.</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 - so long as the impacts of decreasing our emissions reduction efforts in the instance are also factored in. • 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. The Zero Carbon Bill must apply compulsory requirements with penalties for non compliance far in excess of any profit or savings which might be achieved through non compliance. Under no circumstances should compliance efforts and actions be advisory only.</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 must be based on science not hobbled by compromise or a conservative approach to assessing the dangers. Plans must 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 provide the most robust and comprehensive advice possible. Its research, deliberations, personnel, stakeholders, political communications and advice must be publicly available in real time. All of our lives depend on this process. There is no reasonable excuse for withholding information or process from the public. While not be a decision-making body it should make clear recommendations with dates and KPI's. The political response to its advice should be equally well publicized to allow the public to hold politicians to account or to credit them for their good service.</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 to replace the ETS at once and to replace it with a carbon tax. If this consultation process does not allow for the public to ask for a tax it is not a true consultation. The ETS has already proven itself to be easily circumvented and is not a suitable method to effectively reduce emissions to the levels required to sustain life.</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>In addition to expertise in public health, urban planning, transportation planning, agriculture, marine biology 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>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. The threat is real and already emerging. By quantifying the adaption efforts required in the near, mid and long term along with the costs and impacts on society the importance of the work of the Commission will be illustrated and given the importance required.</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>Full public disclosure and access to all actions, deliberations, research, etc.</p>
<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 is clear that the many so called 'trade' agreements place too many hurdles and exact too much public money be applied to compensate some of the worst emitters.</p> <p>These 'agreements' and the ETS are a direct result of the morally bankrupt neo liberal ideology which has brought life on the planet to the brink, and beyond.</p> <p>If NZ is sincere in wishing to accomplish the goals implicit in the proposed act changes far greater than proposed here are required.</p>