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**A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...**

I think of nothing else but the climate emergency. I believe we may already be too late to prevent effects such as sea level rise of 20 - 70 metres, food supplies becoming unreliable, refugees from the pacific and Asia, and many other things. we need to act as quickly as possible. any delay will also be massively expensive. I believe we should declare a state of emergency, such as America did in the second world war, and pull together all our resources very fast.

**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. I think we will later need to adjust our target to act faster than this, this is a good start.

**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?**
By using domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting).

As to methane from cows and sheep - i don't like the idea of injecting cows with something. that means whatever that is will be in the milk and meat. we should use farming methods of the sort used in Permaculture methods; that would regenerate pasture, slow erosion, provide healthier feed and help clear waterways. it would help methane emissions from the animals too. also feeding them seaweed seems to be a good solution.

**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. the new information I hear very often says climate effects are happening ‘faster than expected.’ so I would like us to be prepared to speed up our processes in response to information like that.

**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.

We also need to bear in mind that delays will only make dealing with climate change more expensive, so when we consider economic impacts we should look at the long term consequences of our decisions as well as short term effects. For example, taxes and costs that look high in the short term will look mild later on.

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.

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. I have to say I don’t think an ETS is effective enough. We need a carbon tax instead. I’d like to see us moving away from relying on ETS.
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?

I agree with the following collective expertise:
- 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.

I think expertise in public health is also important.

One area not covered enough is the psychological and social effects of climate change. We will be dealing with high levels of emotional distress, suicide, PTSD, domestic violence and other difficulties that come with stress. We need people with expertise in this area too.

Q14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change?

Yes. This may require a separate adaptation sub-committee within the Climate Commission.

I think adaptation plans need to take a long term view rather than short term. E.g. building sea walls is a temporary measure. A longer term approach would be to start moving homes and infrastructure to higher ground away from the coast - in good time so everyone can make the adjustments slowly and thoroughly. Also to move toward producing our food supplies in NZ rather than relying on importing food.

We should also do long term planning for water shortages, involving infrastructure and local communities.

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

I'd like to see local councils and govt working together.

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

I think informing the public about climate change and effects should be done right now as a priority. People are generally not aware of much of that. If we know what's coming, we can prepare, mentally and emotionally, as well as things like getting a water tank. Otherwise people will be in shock when something unexpected happens, and find things much harder to deal with.

I'm proud and delighted that NZ is acting on this. I hope we inspire the rest of the world to act too.