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A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...	<p>This epochal step is crucial in our work to stay engaged in the infinite yet crucial work of adaptive response and survival in the face of climate change. We as a nation have an opportunity to demonstrate active leadership in this area.</p> <p>As has been written by me and CA Cranston in A Cambridge Global History of Literature and the Environment,</p> <p>"New Zealand's second Governor, Robert Fitzroy, pioneered weather forecasting, which he first termed "foretelling." Climate change scientists now take that foretelling to an intricate level as they drill Antarctic ice core samples, isolating and assessing the tiny pockets of air - environmental history - frozen for millennia." (p 250)</p> <p>We have an opportunity now to adapt and to grow to respond to the necessities of environmental justice in the same ways as many New Zealanders have responded to and supported a move towards Treaty justice -- we have Te Awa Tupua as a responsive, genuinely bicultural and Aotearoan law here now (supported by all MPs in the House) and now should raft something powerfully alive to mātauranga Māori in this law. Taonga species and coastal livelihoods and economies will attune to it (given the pressures of ocean acidification on shellfish for example).</p>
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.
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> <p>R&D searches for alternatives and adaptations must be prioritized and well-funded.</p>
Q3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?	<p>By using domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting).</p> <p>I support the 1 billion trees programme of planting and wish or staged careful adaptive planting of plantation forest and Douglas Fir as well as substantial native forest planting programmes.</p>
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.
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> <p>The overlap is important.</p>

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?	<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.
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> <p>We can and must incorporate giving effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in this law to show a deeper response for environmental justice issues. We have as a nation demonstrated that</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> <p>Yet It is important the Commission, if not making decisions, can exert influence or be something stronger than an advisory role. Governments regularly ignore the stronger or harder recommendation of the Waitangi Tribunal for example.</p>
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.
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?	Yes. This may require a separate adaptation sub-committee within the Climate Commission.
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>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
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	<p>The next generations (and 'generation zero') are looking to the government to show genuine and bold leadership in this space against vested industrial interests that continue to pursue bottom lines and quarterly profits in favour of inter-generational justice, long term planning and the health and well-being of the next seven generations. We are only 7 generations from unjust land confiscations in this country and are beginning to heal in some ways form them as a nation. Tangata whenua have much to teach us and the Commission in this next phase so that the next seven generations may continue the work of healing this land, people and planet so desperately need.</p>