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A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...	The Zero Carbon Act is critically important to me, because its not actually FOR me. It's for the world that comes next. If the whole world stopped creating emissions today, the momentum of damage already done WILL take us into a future less hospitable than the one we know today. Each day of inaction now is paid with interest by our children and their children and generations to come.
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. Understandably this is more easily said than done- but the fact is that future generations will not thank us for our inaction.
Q2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?	Beyond a shadow of a doubt, the most ambitious target. New Zealand must reduce 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), and by considering new innovations across all sectors and industries that generate greenhouse gasses. Achieving net zero emissions is not about setting lower ceilings on growth, its about growing smarter and finding co-benefits with other strategies. For instance, a shift towards renewable energies and distributed energy storage lowers New Zealand's emissions, AND makes us more resilient to the storms and earthquakes that are a daily reality of life in these beautiful islands.
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?	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 - again, 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>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>	<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.
<p>Q9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?</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.</p>
<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>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>
<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, but again if Aotearoa is to be a place of prosperity in the decades ahead, there is no choice but to adapt. If all global greenhouse gas emissions ceased today- the momentum created by existing gasses will STILL carry us into a difficult future of stronger storms, higher seas, embattled ecosystems, and greater heat stress on infrastructure and human health alike. That is our reality. We cannot turn from it. We adapt, or we lose.</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?

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

Beyond this, let's recognise what's already happening. Local governments are beginning to take ownership of adaptation, because they'll be the first to pay the costs. Some cities and communities are moving faster than other, but that is part of how Central Government and the Zero Carbon Act can help by creating national direction and regulatory certainty as a means for coping with the harsher climate reality we face in our future.

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. Our society is increasingly data-rich, and that data can be used to great effect- but only if it is shared and understood by those who can take action. People and organisations can adapt, and adapt successfully, but they are most likely to be successful in adapting when they have good information.

Further comments

We all have a part to play in forging a brighter future in spite of a harsher climate. My own choices as an individual, though minutely measurable, are still part of the equation. Such is true of my neighbours, my friends, people I've never met, and of you, whoever is reading this. We should never underestimate the power of the small, each of us counts and each of us matters. This is true of each person, and it is true of this incredible nation. New Zealand may not lead the world in causing the problems of climate change, but we can lead in confronting those problems. The Zero Carbon Act will help pave the way.

To those with the power to make the Zero Carbon Act a reality, I ask you, not for me, not for you, but for those you love and for those you want to live happy, healthy, prosperous lives- Act now. Your children can't afford to wait.