

<b>Name</b>	Gareth Ward
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<b>A climate law like the Zero Carbon Act is important because...</b>	<p>shifting our society and economy to a zero carbon footing is not only mitigation of a significant threat we face but also a major positive opportunity to transition that economy to a more successful and more resilient model. Societies and human mindsets are not setup to naturally respond to long-term threats and opportunities, regardless of their potential impact, so our governing bodies and leadership need to provide the impetus, frameworks and momentum to address them.</p> <p>Our country has a tremendous culture (particularly informed by Te Ao Maori) of supporting the next generation of Kiwis, valuing our environment, and responding pragmatically to challenge. We are natural leaders on the world stage to showcase what a positive governance response to these opportunities can look like.</p>
<b>Long-term target</b>	I support the most ambitious target of 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. This target should be reached by reducing our own emissions and not by using international carbon credits.
<b>Climate Commission</b>	I support the establishment of an independent Climate Commission that is made up of experts and provides advice, but does not make final decisions.
<b>Adaptation</b>	I support a plan for adaptation being included in the Zero Carbon Act.
<b>Climate justice</b>	A Zero Carbon Act must be just and fair in that it honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi; ensures a just transition for workers and communities; and avoids passing on the costs to future generations.
<b>Further comments</b>	