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A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...	I love our planet and it needs to be nurtured rather than abused. We in the developed world, especially including New Zealand, live way beyond our means, including overreaching our sustainable carbon footprint by a huge margin. This needs to be adjusted so that our planet is not groaning under our burden but is allowing us to prosper sustainably, in harmony with nature rather than antagonistically to it. A Zero Carbon Act will hopefully address this gross imbalance between us and our planet. I have very real concerns at the rise in sea level, noting in particular a river close to me, both physically and my heart, the Mokihinui River, where a few years ago whitebaiters up the river had a 5cm tidal influence where they fished at Scott's Beach up the river, now the tidal influence comes near to 20 metres up a bank with a slope of about 8 degrees. It is alarming. Easy fords of former times are now metres deep at high tide up to 1 kilometre above the estuary. According to geological theory a river has a base level where it meets the ocean (for ocean-confluent rivers). With rising sea levels that base level is being overtopped which means that the ocean will be reclaiming land up to a point where the geological base level is regained, which is now kilometres up many NZ rivers.
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?	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).
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 (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.

<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, paleogeology, 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.</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>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?	<p>Yes</p>
Further comments	<p>Its great that NZ wants to set up a Climate Commission. However we must not lose sight of the fact that we in privileged nations use far more energy than our planet has to offer, we all need to limit our energy consumption in all ways; we cannot expect to have the same bouyant, sumptuous lifestyle yet reduce emissions to zero. We must reduce human population, learn to live in harmony instead of invest in the arms race. We have to learn to live simpler lifestyles - technology is not intelligence, we need to learn to live in symbiotic synergism rather than parasitism on our planet. According to some information, electricty usage is set to double in the near future. This is not acceptable; electricity is not renewable, no matter which way it is produced, our eletricity consumption has to lower, along with consumption of other forms of energy. Too many wild rivers have been crippled with hydro, we must start caring for our planet rather than abuse it.</p>