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A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...	Humans and many other species on the planet are at very real risk of extinction, if we cannot respond fast enough and trigger too many positive feedback mechanisms. A 4-degree rise in temperature by the end of this century would probably trigger a much larger rise in temperature by the end of the following century, and the momentum would be beyond humans' combined ability to stop.
Q1. What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?	The Government should set an ambitious 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, AND reducing mining and importation of fossil oil, gas and coal to zero by 2050.</p> <p>Distinguishing between long-term forms of carbon storage (fossil fuels) and carbon in the short-term carbon cycle (biomass, atmospheric carbon, etc) is very important, since any long-storage carbon that we transfer into the short-term cycle (by mining fossil fuels), makes atmospheric carbon targets harder to meet: effectively, every tonne of coal we burn requires more land to be converted to protected, long-term forestry to offset it. ("Long-term" means millions of years.)</p> <p>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 net levels of long-lived gases, while reducing short-lived gases to sustainable levels.</p> <p>Targets should be clearly stated, not misleading like NZ's previous target which specified gross emissions at start of period but net emissions at end of period.</p>
Q3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?	<p>By using domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting). I do not support international carbon trading as this has proven ineffective and allowed dangerous delays.</p> <p>I support imposing a carbon tax on fossil fuels at point of production or import, to be paid back to New Zealanders via a citizens dividend. This tax can be ratcheted up over time.</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 (covering the next 15 years) be in place at any given time. Do you agree with this proposal?	Yes.
Q6 - Q7. Should the Government be able to alter emissions budgets?	Budgets should be allowed to be tightened but not relaxed in response to "economic changes" as this would undermine 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>Yes.</p>
<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: plans should be produced at least 12 months before an emissions budget is set.</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>It is vital to distinguish between fossil fuels (long-storage carbon) and carbon in the short-term cycle. Fossil fuel use must urgently be reduced to zero, as this has a long-term impact (millions of years) rather than a short-term impact (centuries), and effectively requires land to be converted to forestry for millions of years in order to offset it.</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>Yes.</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>
<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>	<p>I agree with the proposed functions below, but would like to see some flexibility in how local councils meet their requirements.</p>
<p>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>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Further comments</p>	