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A climate law like the Zero Carbon Act is important because...	<p>...it is finally a step in the right direction in terms of putting action to our country's support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Biodiversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and others which our government has been talking the talk about for the last 26 or so years. Surely we are beyond disputing the extremely conservative findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The worlds leading experts in their respective scientific fields are warning us of the dangers posed by living a lifestyle based upon an economic philosophy that perceives the environment as an infinite resource to be exploited for financial gain. The reality is we live in a finite environment and I fear the human race as a whole has done too little, too late to bring balance back to the environment which we all must live in. With the assent of a Zero Carbon Act at least we can tell our children and our grandchildren that we tried to turn back the tide of unsustainable industrialism. I would venture to take it further by entrenching many of the objectives and policies of the Zero Carbon Act into our constitution because how else can the rest of the world trust a country that would sign their support of the UNFCCC (or any United Nations Convention for that matter) if we refuse to enact policy that brings action to our words. The Resource Management Act 1992 is a prime example of how environmental legislation in this country has been repealed by successive governments to the point that there are now so many loop holes and complexities that it fails to achieve its main objectives. The objectives of the RMA were largely in response to the 1987 Brundtland Report that recommended a more sustainable approach towards development. It is this generations responsibility to ensure a sustainable environment for future generations. This mantra accords with the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in that it supports the tangata whenua concept of Kaitiakitanga. The Waitangi Tribunal interpret the principle of equity as "where Māori have been disadvantaged, the principle of equity - in conjunction with the principles of active protection and redress - requires that active measures be taken to restore the balance" (Waitangi Tribunal, 2016). The environmental imbalance and the resulting disadvantage of Māori cannot be dismissed, neither can the responsibility that requires the Crown to take active measures to restore the balance be dismissed. For this reason alone the Crown should have no hesitation in assenting this bill. If for no other reason, the government should assent the Zero Carbon Bill because it is the right thing to do to help ensure the well being of the human race.</p>
Long-term target	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.
Climate Commission	I support the establishment of an independent Climate Commission that is made up of experts and provides advice, but does not make final decisions.
Adaptation	I support a plan for adaptation being included in the Zero Carbon Act.
Climate justice	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.

Further comments

Waitangi Tribunal, (2016). Waitangi Tribunal - The Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi - Principles of the Treaty. Retrieved 2 July, 2018, from www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz/treaty-of-waitangi/principles-of-the-treaty/