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<b>Email</b>	
<b>A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...</b>	Climate change is the nexus of many challenges across both space and time. It is not just an environmental problem, but also a social, economic, health, security problem that requires nothing short of both top-down, ambitious targets and stringent regulations, as well as bottom-up advocacy, businesses and initiatives to solve. I have been studying and working on ways to tackle climate change globally since 2009. Ambitious political will, laws and stringent regulations have been proven to send strong signals to the market - triggering innovations and encouraging communities to accelerate transition to a post-carbon world. I have recently become a NZ resident and I feel strongly about this country I now call home to take the lead. A Zero Carbon Act is a way to do so but only if it is one that is ambitious, fair and with a strong implementation and enforcement mechanism. The whole world is watching.
<b>Q1. What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?</b>	The Government should set a target for 2050 in legislation now. One way of doing so is to combine scenario modelling with a backcasting approach and stakeholders engagement. This is the process done by South Africa through the Long Term Mitigation Scenario (LTMS) exercise and adopted by various countries through the Mitigation Action Plans and Scenarios (MAPS) programme and in a simpler version, the Deep Decarbonisation Pathway Project (DDPP). It is important however to not drag on and on about what the process should be but to start right away - time is running out.
<b>Q2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?</b>	Reducing total greenhouse gases to net zero by 2050. It is the only target that aligns with what the science tells us we need to do. 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.
<b>Q3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?</b>	Reduce emissions from the largest emitting sectors locally as much as possible and as quickly as possible without exporting emissions abroad i.e. importing highly carbon intensive products made elsewhere. Then, create carbon sinks locally that are regeneratively designed.
<b>Q4. Should the Zero Carbon Bill allow the 2050 target to be revised if circumstances change?</b>	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.
<b>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?</b>	Yes - I agree with 5-year budgets set 10-15 years in advance, so that 3 are in effect at all times.
<b>Q6 - Q7. Should the Government be able to alter emissions budgets?</b>	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><b>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?</b></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"> <li>• scientific knowledge regarding climate change</li> <li>• technology relevant to climate change</li> <li>• economic circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on the economy, as well as the competitiveness of particular sectors of the economy</li> <li>• fiscal circumstances and the likely impact of the decision on taxation, public spending and public borrowing</li> <li>• social circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on fuel poverty</li> <li>• energy policy and the likely impact of a decision on energy supplies and the carbon and energy intensity of the economy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Q9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?</b></p>	<p>Yes - we must learn from the mistakes of the UK's Climate Change Act and specify a strict time frame for producing and updating a plan. The plan must be implementable and enforceable.</p>
<p><b>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?</b></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. The Government needs to work with all sectors and all levels of the country as the Act concerns everybody. This includes local councils, community groups, schools, businesses etc.</p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>Yes - the Commission should not be a decision-making body.</p>
<p><b>Q12. What role do you think the Climate Change Commission should have in relation to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)?</b></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><b>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?</b></p>	<p>I agree with the following collective expertise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• climate change and energy policy (including emissions trading)</li> <li>• resource economics and impacts (including social impacts, labour markets and distribution)</li> <li>• te Tiriti o Waitangi, te reo me ona tikanga Māori and Māori interests</li> <li>• climate and environmental science including mātauranga Māori</li> <li>• experience with addressing adaptation challenges like planning, insurance and local government</li> <li>• risk management</li> <li>• engineering and/or infrastructure</li> <li>• community engagement, communications and negotiation</li> <li>• business competitiveness</li> <li>• knowledge of the public and private innovation and technology development system.</li> </ul> <p>I think expertise in public health is also important. In addition to this list of expertise, it is necessary for Climate Change Commissioners to have integrity and empathy.</p>
<p><b>Q14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change?</b></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?**

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

**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

**Further comments**