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A climate law like the Zero Carbon Act is important because...	<p>Climate change is the most important issue facing the world's population as it impacts on every facet of human life and wellbeing, through ecological, economical, and social systems. Climate change will make pastoral farming more difficult in New Zealand, for example farmers in North Canterbury have already experienced prolonged droughts, leading to increased supplementary feed costs. Internationally crop yields are projected to decrease and malnutrition to increase. Availability of food and water will have economic implications not only for farm communities who could lose their livelihoods, but also for low-income populations ability to feed themselves, avoid infection and other indirect health impacts of climate change that flow on from agricultural effects.</p> <p>Māori already experience a health equity gap compared to non-Māori. This inequity will not only be compounded by climate change, but added to, given the strong cultural, social and economic links Māori have with the natural environment, including the high proportion of Māori working in the primary sector.</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	New Zealand must take immediate action to reduce emissions to ease transition to a low emission economy and avoid negative health impacts. Particularly impacts on the most vulnerable communities including Māori, for whom lack of action will compound the equity gap of socio-economic and health outcomes.