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A climate law like the Zero Carbon Act is important because...	I grew up in one of the countries where "winter" meant the season where snow lay permanently on the ground. Snow that fell after Halloween did not melt again until Easter. In 1980 the spring came and I said to myself "My that was a really warm winter!" But the next winter was even warmer. And winter kept arriving later and leaving earlier. In 1985 I first heard the term "global warming", and I said to myself "That's what's going on!". I still couldn't be sure if it was a climate fluctuation or something caused by humans, but I knew that the science had been around since the 1930s indicating that humans should be warming the planet. By the 1990s I was sure it was us causing it. But the climate deniers just got louder and more influential. They have delayed us from taking action for 30 years now. The winters I talked about have shortened to the point that freeze-up on my river averages multiple weeks later than it did when I was a kid, and break up of the ice happens weeks earlier, and snow can disappear from the ground in any month of the winter. I am old enough that even if we fix the problem now, I will never see "winter" again. It is permanently gone from my life. That is an emotional thing for me, but for other species it is life. If the climate changes, they die, and leave a permanent hole in the web of life. That means all of us lose not just seasons, but ecosystems. Some of which we may depend upon more than we think. We need to act now because we have already missed several boats. The longer we wait, the more boats we miss.
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	