

Name	Stephen Withers
Email	
A climate law like the Zero Carbon Act is important because...	<p>We need a legal requirement to reach zero net carbon emissions because we have been really bad about actually doing anything to address climate change. It's a problem we have known about for literally decades now and not done anywhere near enough to effectively address it. There's always some short term excuse why it's "too soon" to do anything.....yet the most recent science indicates our emissions to date are causing climate change to accelerate. This isn't a linear thing, it seems. It's compounding.</p> <p>It's critical we do our part. We are now seeing changes in real-time, year on year....which is extremely alarming on a planetary scale. The forces at play are now huge....and changing rapidly.</p> <p>It has to stop. We need this legislation to make it clear it MUST stop in NZ.</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, provided such a plan isn't used as an excuse to do nothing and assume we'll just adapt. Zero net carbon must always be the overriding goal.
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	Please get this done. It's already very late.....