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A climate law like the Zero Carbon Act is important because...	It is crucially important that we act now to drastically lower or greenhouse gas emissions in order to slow the pace of global warming - which is the greatest threat to our future, the future of the human race as a civilised species, and the future of life on this planet.
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

I believe that the schedule for reduction of greenhouse gases should cover ALL greenhouse gases. I know that methane - the main "agricultural" ghg - has been bypassed from the ETS so far because it is considered too difficult to deal with. I believe that this is certainly not the case. There are many promising approaches to reducing methane emissions from livestock:

1) An obvious one is to reduce the number of ruminant animals we are farming. We are currently stocking our land too intensively and causing massive degradation of our lands and waters as a consequence. From all points of view - aesthetic, water quality, landscape values, animal welfare and emissions reduction - we would be well advised to push farmers to adopt organic farming methods and reduce stocking levels. This would also have benefits for overall and long-term farm productivity, and would result in NZ produce earning a premium in international markets.

2) Research has shown that individual cows vary significantly in the quantities of methane which they emit. This variance is of the order of about 20%. Therefore breeding programmes should be begun immediately (if they have not already been started) to breed lower-emitting strains of cows and sheep.

3) Research has also shown that adding seaweed in small amounts to the diets of cows and sheep, can massively reduce their methane emissions. In the case of sheep, 5% seaweed added to their diet resulted in reductions in methane emissions of 70% to 80%. (See "Drawdown", edited by Paul Hawken.) We already have a small industry based in Paeroa, producing seaweed concentrates for agricultural use. The ability to reduce ruminants' methane emissions by feeding seaweed, offers opportunities for farmers and business alike.

4. As a member of the NZ Tree Crops Association, I remember reading articles in their newsletter dating back many years, with the author (a leading member of the association) saying that the Central Plateau region of the North Island is more suitable climatically as well as with its soils, of supporting profitable cropping of nut trees (chestnuts and walnuts) than of supporting profitable drystock farming as is currently attempted. Obviously, encouraging a switch in land use in this area from drystock to tree crops would have a significant positive effect on our emissions profile as well as fixing problems with water quality in the lakes of the area. The writer of this article said that there is a world-wide shortage of supply for the nut tree crops he mentioned.