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<th><strong>Name</strong></th>
<th>Jill Whitmore</th>
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**A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...**

Our planet is too precious to fry!! Global warming is the biggest challenge and threat humanity has ever faced, and it is caused by our own actions, specifically by our carbon-burning economy and lifestyle.

**Q1. What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?**

The Government should set a target for 2050 in legislation now. Actually, I am not convinced that this target is sufficiently ambitious. The planetary climate system is displaying such wild reactions and hyper-sensitivity to the carbon that we have already pumped into its atmosphere, that I think to be prudent, we should be aiming for zero carbon by 2040. New Zealand, with its relatively low-population density and excellent possibilities for renewable energy, should be better able to achieve this goal than most other nations, and it would be good for the international effort to have at least one country modelling this goal.

**Q2. If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?**

The most ambitious target: 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.

**Q3. How should New Zealand meet its targets?**

By using domestic emissions reductions only (including from new forest planting).

**Q4. Should the Zero Carbon Bill allow the 2050 target to be revised if circumstances change?**

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.

**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?**

yes - I agree with 5-year budgets set 10-15 years in advance, so that 3 are in effect at all times.

**Q6 - Q7. Should the Government be able to alter emissions budgets?**

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.

**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?**

I agree that the Government and the Climate Commission should take the following factors into consideration when advising on and setting budgets:
- scientific knowledge regarding climate change
- technology relevant to climate change
- economic circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on the economy, as well as the competitiveness of particular sectors of the economy
- fiscal circumstances and the likely impact of the decision on taxation, public spending and public borrowing
- social circumstances and the likely impact of a decision on fuel poverty
- energy policy and the likely impact of a decision on energy supplies and the carbon and energy intensity of the economy.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<td>Q9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?</td>
<td>Yes - we must learn from the mistakes of the UK's Climate Change Act and specify a strict time frame for producing a plan.</td>
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<td>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?</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>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?</td>
<td>Yes - the Commission should not be a decision-making body.</td>
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<td>Q12. What role do you think the Climate Change Commission should have in relation to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)?</td>
<td>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.</td>
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| 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? | I agree with the following collective expertise:  
- climate change policy (including emissions trading)  
- resource economics and impacts (including social impacts, labour markets and distribution)  
- te Tiriti o Waitangi, te reo me ona tikanga Māori and Māori interests  
- climate and environmental science including mātauranga Māori  
- experience with addressing adaptation challenges like planning, insurance and local government  
- risk management  
- engineering and/or infrastructure  
- community engagement and communications.  
- business competitiveness  
- knowledge of the public and private innovation and technology development system.  
I think expertise in public health is also important. |
| Q14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change? | Yes. This may require a separate adaptation sub-committee within the Climate Commission. |
| 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

I believe that the ETS would be better replaced by a significant carbon tax covering all fossil fuels according to the amount of carbon dioxide they can potentially release, and payable at the point where they enter the country, (e.g. at the port, mine-head, or wherever). This carbon tax should start low, e.g. $40 - $50 per tonne of carbon dioxide, and be increased at yearly intervals, with a schedule published in advance every 5 years. Such a carbon tax is far more transparent than an ETS which is difficult to understand, and prone to being negatively influenced by lobbying (as we have already seen). Moreover, the revenues collected from imposition of the carbon tax, should be returned to the citizens at large, with an equal share to all residents and a half-share to all children under the age of 18. There are two important reasons for this: one is to enable people to cope with the increase in the cost of living that would otherwise result from the carbon tax (and to enable them to make choices that will reduce their carbon footprints). The other reason is that if the carbon tax is not returned to the people, then its life may very likely soon be cut short by politicians who stand on a platform of "helping people" by removing the carbon tax. This same argument has been already powerfully made by James Hansen in consultation with economists (see "Storms of My Grandchildren"). I believe that the ETS is definitely an inferior solution to a carbon tax as above, or a "carbon tax with citizens' dividend" as it could be called. A "carbon tax with citizens' dividend" would be a simple tax to collect, and a progressive measure under which most citizens would be better off. What's to dislike about that??