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Email	
A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...	<p>I am very concerned about the future of my children, their children and all future generations in New Zealand and globally. We need to make sure we adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change to ensure the survival of our species and all living creatures on our planet. Over the past 20 years I have noticed the changes in our climate globally and especially in NZ. The "once in 100 years" weather events occur more frequent now. At the start of this year we had two main weather events in my area (Tasman district), a major flood and a cyclone that had devastating, long lasting effects. People lost homes and biodiversity got lost, changing the environment drastically. Here in Ruby Bay it doesn't look the same anymore. The uncertainty and anxiety if and when such an event might happen again are very real and people here feel less safe. Tourists used to come to this area for its beauty but roads, cycle ways, beach fronts, campsites have been badly damaged, leaving councils (and ratepayers) with high costs of repair. Still, it will take a long time for nature to restore if at all possible. The community is confronted with its effects daily. Also, local orchards and produce growers were badly affected with crop damage and losses, which caused price inflation to the consumers.</p> <p>We need strong, brave leadership, from our Government to reduce our overall fossil fuel emissions. Significant price increases for fossil fuel emissions for all private and commercial users are needed to start making the transition towards renewable energy.</p> <p>My biggest concern is that the big commercial companies, like aviation and shipping industries but also tourism and agriculture, get exempt of these measures. Just single contributions from the people are not enough to create the urgent change that's needed. We can't keep growing our economy at the expense of nature. Without nature there is no economy at all. It needs a change of mindset for all of us and only Government can lead. Don't wait for more disasters to happen.</p>
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.
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?	<p>I agree that the Government and the Climate Commission should take the following factors into consideration when advising on and setting budgets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Q9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?	Yes - we must learn from the mistakes of the UK's Climate Change Act and specify a strict time frame for producing a plan.
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?	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.
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?	No - the Commission should be a decision-making body and should have more power than just giving advice, given the experience with other commissioners where advice has been ignored.
Q12. What role do you think the Climate Change Commission should have in relation to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)?	The Commission should make decisions on the Government on policy settings in the NZ ETS. It should make decisions itself with respect to the number of units available in the NZ ETS, or its implementation.
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?	<p>I agree with the following collective expertise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • biodiversity • biosecurity • social science • expertise in public health
Q14. Do you think the Zero Carbon Bill should cover adapting to climate change?	Yes. This should be part of the Climate Change Commission.

<p>Q15. The Government has proposed a number of new functions to help us adapt to climate change. Do you agree with the proposed functions?</p>	<p>I agree with the proposed functions below, but recognise that nuance is required in terms of how local councils are involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a national climate change risk assessment • a national adaptation plan • regular review of progress towards implementing the national adaptation plan • an adaptation reporting power
<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes, under responsibility of the Climate Change Commission.</p>
<p>Further comments</p>	<p>Changing our mindset to using less fossil fuels won't be easy for anybody, but we'll have to do it and it has to happen urgently. We're all in this together. There is no planet B !</p>