Name | Diane Sutherland
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**A climate law like the Zero Carbon Act is important because...**
The repercussions of climate change are occurring here, and globally, now. We have already failed as a country, and as a global community to act fast enough when science has been telling us for decades that changes needed to be urgently made - there is no more time to delay! I want my children and grandchildren to have a future where their very survival is not under threat. It is time for strong leadership and ambitious commitment to move forward in a way that ensures the well being of all people and the planet. Anything less is to seal the fate of generations to come! I am a teacher and I do not want look future generations in the eye any more with a sense of shame about the world we are passing on to them.

**Long-term target**
I support the most ambitious target of reducing total greenhouse gases to net zero by 2050. This target should be reached by reducing our own emissions and not by using international carbon credits. I also support taking a science-based approach to ensure our efforts to reduce emissions are as impactful as possible. Net zero emissions goal should be across all greenhouse gases (including CO2 and methane).

**Climate Commission**
I support the establishment of an independent Climate Commission that is made up of experts and provides advice but also has "some teeth" in ensuring it's advice is followed through with successive governments. It must be transparent, with annual published reports on progress, promoting public engagement and political accountability.

**Adaptation**
I support a plan for adaptation being included in the Zero Carbon Act that sets a clear direction to local government and helps co-ordinate the response across different sectors and including iwi and hapu. This must also include adaptation for our neighbors in the Pacific who are so very vulnerable. They have contributed least to the causes of climate change, are the most vulnerable, and have the least resources to respond.

**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**
It is time for N.Z. to lead again!! It is time for the country to come together and say -YES- we can do this - we can assure future generations that we are doing all we can to mitigate further humanitarian and environmental disaster. This will take inspired, ambitious, knowledgeable and moral commitment by leaders and the community - and ensuring strong and appropriate bills are passed - please make this one of them!!