**A Zero Carbon Act is important to me because...**

Climate change is a global problem. Climate has no borders, no politics, no opinions, no budget - yet it is powerful beyond measure. The Zero Carbon Act provides Aotearoa with an opportunity to demonstrate global leadership on one of the biggest challenges facing the world right now. We need to do this right. I am submitting on this bill because I want to see that this legislation is robust and ensures a positive, bright future for our grandchildren our those of our Pacific neighbours and our planet.

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

The Government should set a target for 2030 in legislation now. Climate scientists are saying to us clearly that a target of zero carbon by 2050 is far too late to avert expected global warming.

**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 2030. 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). I do not support any scheme that aims to reach “zero carbon” by off-setting NZ’s domestic emissions through the purchase of carbon credits from other countries.

**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. There also needs to be a requirement on Government to meet the yearly targets within these longer budget 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.

**Q9. Should the Zero Carbon Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?**

Yes - we must 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. They should include consideration the urgency of the current climate crisis and the growing need to move away from the ‘endless growth’ model for the economy and to support economic and social structures that are environmentally sustainable, fair and equitable for future generations.

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?

Yes - the Commission should not be a decision-making body. However, the Government should be legally required to consider and formally respond to the Commission’s advice, and to provide an explanation if they do not act on it.

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 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.

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 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 feel it is important that local authorities and community and sector groups have a say in how this is done:
- 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 this would be a good idea.
Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing people in poverty here and in developing countries. We can’t ignore the impact climate change is having on our neighbours in the Pacific and across the developing world. Those who have contributed least to the causes of climate change are typically the most vulnerable to its impacts and have the least resources to respond. In setting climate emissions budgets we need also to make consideration of our more vulnerable Pacific neighbours, many of them already feeling the severe impacts of climate change through flooding, cyclones and seasonal disruptions. Under the Paris Agreement, New Zealand is required to communicate to the United Nations about its international contributions. This reporting needs to be transparent. The Zero Carbon Bill must include a requirement to produce annual reports about New Zealand’s international climate change contributions in order to ensure that the Pacific countries get the support they need and can plan to adapt to their changing environment.