Dear Ministry for the Environment Zero Carbon Bill team

A healthy Zero Carbon Act is fast, fair, firm, and founded on Te Tiriti

As a Public health physician, I want a Zero Carbon Act that's fast, fair, firm and founded on Te Tiriti – with health at its heart.

1. Fast means our Zero Carbon Act fixes our NZ net zero target by 2040 in law (all sectors, all domestic emissions, plants and soil), to play our part in confidently limiting average global warming to 1.5°C.

New Zealand’s domestic emissions must:

- drop in 2019 and 2020, - towards global emissions peaking no later than 2020
- rapidly reduce over the 2020s (and making up for projected forestry harvesting).

Please enact this Bill as high priority legislation, to drive urgent climate action.

2. Fair means New Zealand’s Climate Change Commission considers global fairness, and creates a fairer, just and sustainable Aotearoa-NZ.

“Fair” means:

- NZ does our fair share as a well-resourced, currently (and historically) high-emitting nation, to rapidly reduce our domestic emissions.
- NZ recognises that our Pacific neighbours are in the frontline of climate change, and that Pacific island countries and others have been strongly calling for urgent action to keep global warming below 1.5°C.
- NZ’s Climate Change Commission advises the government of the day on the best policies for effectively reducing emissions while multi-solving for health and fairness.

3. Firm means New Zealanders have science-based, long-term legal certainty to act.

- NZ’s Climate Change Commission decides emissions budgets, from up-to-date climate science, global leadership and international fairness.
- Any government can choose more ambitious targets and policies for NZ to emit less - but all other changes can only be made by changing the Act through NZ’s Parliament.

4. Tiriti-founded means the Zero Emissions Act is founded on Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership and values.

- NZ’s Climate Change Commissioner appointments and staffing reflect a partnership founded on Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- The Commission has a well-resourced, influential Tiriti work unit.
- Funding of iwi and hapū advocacy capacity for Tiriti-founded climate action.

Because the Zero Carbon Act is an essential prescription for New Zealand’s health and wellbeing, I call for a Zero Carbon Act that's fast, fair, firm and founded on Te Tiriti with health at its heart.
As a Public health physician, I want:

- the Zero Carbon Act to grow great health co-benefits and health equity in NZ,
- the Climate Change Commission to include Commissioners and staff who understand climate change health impacts and opportunities now, and in future, from well-designed healthy climate action.

I want to work with health colleagues to:

- help our health sector quickly reach net zero emissions,

and I expect:

- savings from reduced health sector emissions devoted to better health-care.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Graeme Lindsay