

## CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT POLICIES – ELECTION 2020

Under the Zero Carbon Act passed last term, the next term of Parliament will see the first five-year Carbon Budget laid down by the Climate Change Commission. Key issues include responsibility of the agriculture sector for its emissions, the future of oil and gas extraction, decarbonising the transport sector, and water regulations and storage.

### NEW ZEALAND LABOUR PARTY

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

- Bring forward the target for achieving [100 percent renewable energy](#) by five years from 2035 to 2030.
- Continue the [one billion trees](#) programme.
- [Ban](#) construction of new thermal baseload electricity generation.
- Provide funding to continue implementation of the [green hydrogen strategy](#) developed by the current government. The next step in the strategy would be a roadmap focused on green hydrogen exports, use in the heavy transport fleet, and other potential uses, such as to support remote communities.
- Require that only [zero-emissions buses](#) be purchased by 2025, with the goal of completely decarbonising the public transport bus fleet by 2035.
- Support agricultural climate change research programmes through increased funding across agricultural climate change research programmes by \$6 million a year, to boost research happening in New Zealand and build on our international leadership in this area.
- Promote the [Agreement](#) on Climate Change, Trade, and Sustainability, which looks at using trade measures to address sustainability and climate change goals and will consider eliminating tariffs on environmental goods and services, measures to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and developing guidelines for voluntary eco-labelling programmes.
- Introduce a vehicle [fuel efficiency standard](#) for new and used light vehicles entering NZ. The standard would be 105gCO<sub>2</sub> /km and would be gradually phased in from 2021 to 2025.
- Provide funding for the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority's](#) low emission vehicles contestable fund and widen the scheme to include both demonstration projects and wider diffusion of low emissions technologies in the transport sector. This would allow the fund to make contributions to the capital cost of low emissions vehicles, including buses.
- Continue the low emission vehicle contestable [fund](#).
- Continue to support businesses to [replace coal and gas](#) with electrification.
- Continue to replace coal heaters with [clean energy](#) in schools and hospitals.
- Continue to [work with farmers](#) to reduce primary sector climate emissions at the farm level. This involves improving tools for estimating and benchmarking emissions on farms, increasing farm advisory capacity and capability, and providing recognition for on-farm mitigation.
- Continue funding to help farmers transition to sustainable land use practices. First announced in Budget 2019 and involves an investment of \$229 million up to 2023, directed at improving the health of freshwater, adapting to climate change, and reducing waste to landfill.
- Continue programme to reduce carbon emissions from [construction and operation](#) and prepare buildings to withstand changes in the climate.

- Lease and build more energy efficient buildings and continue building on Kainga Ora’s commitment to meet build to HomeStar 6, by working towards requiring Government-funded construction projects to meet GreenStar 5 or 6 or equivalent.

## ENVIRONMENT

- Provide funding for detailed design and engineering work on the [Lake Onslow project](#), which was identified by experts as the renewable project most likely to address NZ’s dry year needs. If viable, Labour estimates the project would employ up to 4,500 skilled and semi-skilled workers.
- Investigate regulatory or market barriers to the uptake [of solar micro-generation](#) for residential and commercial buildings.
- Increase funding for the EECA’s Business funding and [Support and Energy Transition Accelerator programmes](#).
- Revise the National Environment Standards for Plantation Forestry, which would mean [resource consents would be required](#) for plantation or carbon forests over 50 hectares on land classified as Land Use Capability Classes 1–5. This would give farmers the flexibility to make a small plantation to support environmental goals, while allowing councils to decide how land should be used within their local government area.
- Create a new National [Policy Statement](#) For Renewable Electricity Generation.
- Encourage Kainga Ora, the Ministry of Education and other state agencies to investigate how best to reduce energy costs through energy efficiency measures and the installation of solar power generation, particularly in new buildings.
- Continue to implement [protections for waterways](#).

## CONSERVATION

- Continue the \$1.3 billion [Jobs for Nature programme](#) for four years. The purpose of the programme is to provide up to 11,000 jobs improving freshwater and biosecurity, and planting native species.

## NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL PARTY

### CLIMATE CHANGE

- Exempt electric vehicles from fringe benefit tax until 2025. [The fringe benefit tax](#) is the tax on non-cash benefits employees receive as part of their salary package.
- Extend exemption of electric vehicles from road user charges.
- Allow electric vehicles to use bus lanes and high occupancy vehicle lanes. A new licence plate would be introduced to make [electric vehicles](#) easy to identify.
- Aim for one third of government light vehicles to be electric vehicles by 2023 and require the government to [purchase](#) electric vehicles where practicable.
- Review the inclusion of forestry in the [emissions trading scheme](#).
- End the [streamlined process](#) for overseas investment in forestry that the Government introduced in 2018. National says this streamlined process for overseas investment distorts the market.
- Ensure agriculture remains exempt from the [emissions trading scheme](#) until at least 2025 by removing the review process around introducing agriculture into the emissions trading scheme in 2022.

## ENVIRONMENT

- [Review or repeal](#) nine new water regulations that includes cover standards for new intensive winter grazing, slope and fencing rules, capping nitrogen fertiliser use on dairy farms, land use rules, certified and audited freshwater farm plans, winter pads and standoff pads, removal of stock from natural wetlands, and electronic measuring and reporting on water usage.

## CONSERVATION

- Support case-by-case assessments for mining proposals on lower-quality [conservation land](#), so long as the proposal can prove a 'net conservation benefit.' The details of what constitutes a net conservation benefit have not yet been defined.
- End most of the recent [environmental jobs](#) programmes.
- Make NZ predator free by 2050 and provide \$15 million in DOC funding to predator-free sanctuaries that have been impacted by a reduction in international visitors and public donations due to Covid-19.
- Explore options for establishing new marine reserves.
- Update the 1993 [Tahr Management](#) Plan.
- Consult hunters about policies for control of game animals.
- Amend the [National Park](#) management plans to allow for more recreational and commercial activities.
- Establish two new [national parks](#) including one on the Coromandel Peninsula and one in the Catlins, and two new Great Walks, including one along the Kaimai Range from Mt Te Aroha to SH29.
- Guarantee freedom of entry to all public [conservation](#) land and ensure that DOC huts, walking tracks and camping grounds are maintained to a high standard.
- Ensure DOC remains focused on its [core conservation](#) functions of land management, pest and predator control, and the promotion of biodiversity.
- Enforce stronger [penalties](#) for biosecurity offences including ensuring importers are held liable for knowingly signing false documents and increasing the potential infringement fines for people that bring in items that pose a biosecurity risk from \$400 to \$1000.
- Work to develop new [biotechnology](#) tools and techniques to help reduce the impact of pests and predators on our native species.
- Increase funding for controlling Kauri dieback disease.

## GREEN PARTY OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

- [Protect](#) and rehabilitate wetlands, riverbanks and estuaries.
- Work with local government, iwi, hapū and communities to increase resilience and plan for the changing [climate](#), especially in coastal areas.
- [Research](#) and plan for the impacts of climate change on health and disease.
- Support [local councils](#) to fund rainwater tanks to ensure they are prepared for droughts and to increase climate resilience.
- Price agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. The independent Climate Change Commission will review the progress that has been made developing a bespoke agricultural emissions pricing mechanism.
- Let emissions prices rise to incentivise polluters to switch to clean alternatives, and would [recycle the revenue back](#) to households and businesses.
- Push for NZ to play a leading role internationally to [reduce](#) global emissions and uphold the Paris Agreement.

- Implement [emissions budgets](#), which would involve a cap on emissions under the emissions trading scheme.
- Aim to align [trade agreements](#) with climate change commitments.
- Expand electric vehicle [charging stations](#).
- Set fuel efficiency standards for cars and [subsidise clean ones](#) and create incentives for heavy vehicles to use zero emissions fuels.
- Work towards ending fossil fuel [subsidies](#).
- Stop issuing permits for onshore [fossil](#) fuel extraction.
- Encourage low-emissions industries with export potential, such as software, gaming and precision agriculture. A [Digital Export Office](#) at NZ Trade and Enterprise would be established to support low-carbon exports.
- Encourage low impact recreation and [ecotourism](#) over high-carbon tourism.
- Commit to sufficient climate action to [limit warming](#) to 1.5C.
- Ban new industrial coal boilers require any new industrial equipment, such as boilers and heating systems, to be powered by [renewable energy](#) or electricity rather than fossil fuels. Consider [establishing](#) a Ministry of Energy and Decarbonisation.
- Bring forward the target for [100 percent renewable](#) electricity from 2035 to 2030.
- Provide homeowners grants for half the cost of installing [solar panels](#)
- Install [solar panels](#) on every suitable state house, along with a battery pack to store power. The panels would be connected to the local lines network to share power with neighbours.
- Work with [electricity companies](#) and iwi who have interests in developing geothermal generation and wind farms to develop these interests.
- Establish a clean energy [industry training plan](#) to support people to train for new clean energy jobs. The plan would be developed with working people, energy companies, unions, and local government.
- Establish a \$250 million community energy fund to empower communities, iwi, hapū, and local councils to build small-scale clean electricity generation and smart grids.
- Make it easier to use individual power meters by making the [regulations](#) more flexible.
- [Work with Transpower](#) — the company which owns the national electricity grid — to solve the problem of those who change to clean energy first being disadvantaged. This would speed up grid upgrades and ensure costs are shared fairly.
- Give every household five free energy efficient LED light bulbs. This would be an expansion of the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority's](#) trial of LED lighting in low income households.
- Continue upgrading government buildings to be more [energy efficient](#).

## ENVIRONMENT

- Provide funding for infrastructure to [improve urban water](#) quality and supply, including green infrastructure generally and home water storage as well as funding for soft infrastructure such as rain gardens and green roofs to absorb rainwater before it runs into the sea.
- Require commercial waters users to pay a [resource rental fee](#). Water would be allocated to users with allocations reduced over time to sustainable levels.
- [Phase out](#) the use of environmentally degrading agricultural inputs, such as synthetic fertilisers and harmful pesticides. Importing palm kernel expeller (PKE) would be banned.
- Impose a [levy the sale of nitrogen and phosphorous](#) fertiliser at 2 cents per kg and would be collected at the point of sale. The levy would apply to all forms of agriculture and horticulture, but would not apply to a compost, soil treatment or fertiliser that is derived

from plant or animal waste or residue, and is minimally processed.

- Oppose [large-scale irrigation](#) projects that encourage intensive farming.

## CONSERVATION

- Update the Bill of Rights Act to include the right to a [sustainable environment](#) that is protected for the benefit of present and future generations.
- Create a national pest management strategy to protect kauri from [kauri dieback](#) disease.
- Allocate \$50 million from the current Jobs for Nature package, which funds employment programmes with environmental benefits, towards [kauri conservation](#) and support conservation volunteer groups.
- Increase funding for [research](#), innovation, and landscape predator control as part of the Predator Free 2050 programme.
- Increase funding for iwi and hapū, landholders, and community organisations to restore the health of forests and waterways, including programmes such as the Community Conservation and Partnership Fund, Mātauranga Kura Taio, Ngā Whenua Rahui, Nature Heritage and QEII Trust Funds.
- Limit [visitor](#) numbers at popular tourism sites.
- Review the [Reserves Act](#) to embed kaitiakitanga and co governance by iwi and hapū of reserve areas within their rohe.
- Establish more protected and pest-free islands and sanctuaries, including in towns and cities.
- Conduct a review of key conservation policy and legislation to improve the implementation of te Tiriti by the Department of Conservation.
- Stop new mining on and under conservation land. Exceptions would be made for pounamu mining, and some small-scale, river-based gold mining.
- Eradicate pigs, cats, and mice from Makauhuka/Auckland Islands in partnership with Ngāi Tahu.
- Review the NZ Tourism Strategy in light of Covid-19, and strengthen its commitment to sustainability and protecting areas for local communities to enjoy.
- Provide resources for the active implementation of Treaty settlements and co-management and co-governance of public conservation land.

## ACT NEW ZEALAND

### CLIMATE CHANGE

- Replace the Zero Carbon Act and emissions trading scheme with [a carbon price](#). The carbon price would be equivalent to the average effective carbon price in NZ's five largest trading partners, plus five percent.
- Provide carbon credits for NZ [wood products](#) that store carbon for at least fifty years.
- Set up a framework for [primary sector partnerships](#) between farmers, regional councils, and primary sector businesses for farm environmental plans.
- Abolish the one billion trees fund and remove all subsidies for commercial [forestry investment](#).
- Abolish the agricultural methane and freshwater [regulations](#) introduced by the current government.
- Change the parliamentary calendar so that MPs sit for four days a week for 23 weeks a year, instead of three days a week for [30 weeks](#).
- [Repeal](#) the ban on genetically engineered technology and allow farmers to use new technologies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and improve productivity.
- Repeal the ban on offshore oil and [gas exploration](#).

## ENVIRONMENT

- Develop a nationally-coordinated [environmental reporting system](#) and implement the recommendations of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment to establish a standing science advisory panel and develop core environmental indicators.
- Require councils to commit to short and long-term [water quality objectives](#). Councils would also be required to plan and budget to renew and upgrade aging water and wastewater infrastructure.

## CONSERVATION

- Mandate [DoC](#) to encourage private sector tourism on conservation land.
- Ensure the [Game Animal Council](#) is empowered and resourced to achieve its statutory objectives and functions.
- Establish a ring-fenced, contestable fund for scientific research and development into viable alternatives to 1080.
- Require DoC to use all measures and resources at its disposal to minimise the by-kill of game animals and other non-target species during 1080 operations.

## NEW ZEALAND FIRST

### CLIMATE CHANGE

- [Advocate](#) for the government and industry work together to achieve better environmental outcomes.
- Support the necessity for a transition to a zero carbon future.
- Seek higher crown levies on minerals extracted and return 25 percent of royalties to the regions of source.
- Support the 1 billion trees strategy while ensuring that native species plays an important part in the planting strategy.
- Northland's indigenous tree canopy will receive \$2 million in the [One Billion Trees](#) funding. The Te Komanga Marae Trust will also work with the Northland Region Corrections Facility and its horticulture programme for propagation of seedlings for to restore and enhance the native flora on the Kōwhairoa Peninsula Historic Reserve at the entrance of Whangaroa Harbour.
- Assist with setting public emissions reduction targets and encourage a platform where businesses feel safe to measure, report on and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and work with their sectors.
- Support business to build the resilience to adapt to a changing climate.

### ENVIRONMENT

- [Develop](#) a nationwide Waste-to-Energy strategy.
- Address pollution of streams, rivers and beaches.
- Halt creation of any new landfills and urgently advance work on the development of rubbish disposal alternatives through conducting a nationwide recycling and recovery strategy.
- Develop an easy to use, uncomplicated recycling labelling regime for food and drink packaging.
- Work towards ensuring the right to take and use water is available only to New Zealander citizens, permanent residents and NZ owned companies.
- Ensure developers are responsible for the community when avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse environmental effects.

## CONSERVATION

- [Investigate](#) the feasibility of a 'New Zealand Native Tree Seed Bank' and the greater use of 'Native Tree Sanctuaries'
- Fund the Kauri dieback response to include more monitoring, research, compliance staff, and disease control.
- Support threatened species recovery programmes while also protecting and restoring their natural habitat
- Continue on our 2017 commitment to support scientific research into 1080 alternatives through the likes of National Science Challenges
- Expand the poison free pest trapping zones and ensure pest control on Crown land is effectively implemented
- Support coordinated development of the possum fur industry and continue to support pest eradication and the trapping industry
- Support new initiatives for community groups, iwi, and conservation groups to participate in conservation projects
- Protect our waterways through supporting riparian planting, creating wetlands, and fencing off waterways to improve river quality
- Enhance and protect the rights of all New Zealanders to access their cultural heritage sites through clarifying and amending legislation associated with protecting these heritage sites, buildings and objects
- Require effective coordination between relevant government agencies to ensure appropriate deterrents exist to the poaching and trafficking of threatened species
- Rationalise pastoral leases, where grazing of value exists, to promote ecologically sustainable land use with strong attention to special natural areas
- Provide financial support and aid the development of water harvesting schemes such as storage dams where appropriate
- Give the West Coast access to the Department of Conservation held stewardship land for sustainable and environmentally approved mining
- Ensure the Department of Conservation survey all stewardship land within 10 years and remove those parts of it from the Conservation Estate that should not be so designated.