

GREENPEACE: Vote for the Environment Survey 2008

Political Party: LABOUR

These responses reflect the policies and actions of Labour in government. The Labour Party's detailed policy for the next parliamentary term and beyond will be released closer to the election.

Contact Person:

Phone:

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IMPORTANT NOTES:

1: Please indicate whether you support the policies below with a yes or no. Space is provided for comments, if required.

Note: For each of the policies below, please indicate yes/no. Space is provided for comments.		
WILL YOUR PARTY...?		
POLICY	Y/N	COMMENT
<i>Goal 1: Tackle climate change by reducing GHG emissions by 30% on 1990 levels by 2020</i>		
Bring all sectors and gases into the emissions trading scheme by January 2011		Bringing all sectors and gases into the ETS is the cornerstone principle of Labour's scheme. Different industries and sectors will move into the ETS at different times over the next five years. A staged entry – forestry in 2008, agriculture in 2013 - allows different sectors to prepare for entry. The delay for agriculture recognises the complexities of reducing emissions in the sector, but New Zealand's ETS will still be the first in the world to include agriculture.
Ban all new large scale thermal electricity generation		Labour has introduced a 10-year restriction on building new fossil-fuelled power stations to provide baseload electricity. It's a very practical step towards our goal of having 90% of our electricity generated from renewable sources by 2025. We're

		committed to meaningful policies to meet the climate change challenge. John Key has so far refused to support any of them.
Spend \$4 billion over five years to 2013 on public and active transport, including rail		Under Labour public transport funding has increased by 15 times since we became government. We're committed to strong investment in public transport, as well as the rest of our transport network. Budget 2007 committed over \$600m to rail improvements in Auckland and Wellington, and in 2008 we bought back KiwiRail
Ban new coal mines and fully protect the upper Waimangaroa Valley including Happy Valley		Labour is committed to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, which is why we introduced a 10-year ban on new baseload thermal generation. And Labour fully supports the RMA which ensures people have a say about what happens in their own communities. Unlike National, we're going to make sure all new mining projects go through community consultation.
Retain the \$1 billion energy efficiency and conservation fund		Labour is committed to move to more sustainable and healthier homes. The fund constitutes the biggest ever investment in household energy efficiency in New Zealand's history. The investment will mean more New Zealanders than ever before can enjoy the benefits of a well-insulated home and efficient heating. It will help New Zealanders improve the environment and reduce their energy costs. National wants to scrap this fund.
<i>Goal 2: Clean up all New Zealand streams and rivers by 2020</i>		
Introduce a significant charge on nitrogenous fertilisers by 2010 to reduce water pollution		Labour is working with the agricultural sector to investigate and apply measures which can significantly reduce nitrous oxide emissions from the dairy sector over the next five years. The Government is encouraging research on, and experimentation with, a range of alternative technologies and farming practices, including low intensity farming.
Implement a National Policy Statement by 2010 to clean up New Zealand's rivers, lakes and small waterways and reverse the decline of our freshwater		A proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management is currently undergoing public consultation. The proposed policy statement will lead to improvements in the management of land use effects on water by tying together policies on water quality, water quantity, and land use and development.

biodiversity by 2020		
Implement a moratorium on new water takes for irrigation, including Central Plains Water, until environmental flows are set		Labour will allow projects to go through the Resource Management Act processes in the normal way. A proposed national environmental standard on ecological flows and water takes has finished its consultation period. The standard will ensure there is a sufficient amount of water flowing in water bodies.
Protect all wild and scenic rivers from hydroelectric development by 2011 including the Mohikini River		Labour will allow projects to go through the Resource Management Act processes in the normal way. The Resource Management Act already protects at-risk catchments and New Zealand's streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands. The proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and associated National Environmental Standards will further enhance this protection.
Establish national environmental standards by 2010 to clean up all freshwater to swimmable water standard by 2020 and drinking water and food collecting standard by 2030		A proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management is currently undergoing public consultation. The proposed policy statement will lead to improvements in the management of land use effects on water by tying together policies on water quality, water quantity, and land use and development. The national environmental standard for sources of human drinking water came into effect in June. It requires councils to consider the effects of activities on drinking water sources.
<i>Goal 3: Reform oceans management by 2010 to preserve and protect the marine environment</i>		
Create a new oceans agency by January 2011 charged with implementing New Zealand's international obligation to preserve and protect the EEZ and continental shelf		To help safeguard New Zealand's ocean ecosystems, Labour in government has been drafting legislation to manage the environmental effects of currently unregulated activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (such as disturbance of the seafloor through mining and petroleum activities) and the effects of new activities in the EEZ in future (such as marine farming, energy generation, carbon capture and storage). An 'EEZ Commissioner' will head a new unit, housed within the Ministry for the Environment, which will process applications for consents, and manage monitoring and enforcement of the new regime.
Reform the Fisheries Act by January 2010 to better protect the marine		Under Labour, the government introduced a world-leading quota management system to provide for sustainable fishing. We support a precautionary approach to

environment and maintain healthy fisheries.		setting catch limits for those quota. Our intention is to review the Fisheries Act 1996 to comprehensively consider amendments to the Act to ensure the sustainability of our fisheries.
Adopt measures by 2010 to reduce bycatch of seabirds, marine mammals and other fish to near zero levels.		Labour has already introduced measures to limit the numbers of seabirds in by-catch. The measures will require longliners and trawlers to take steps to help avoid catching seabirds. All longliners will be required to use streamer lines that scare birds away from the baited hooks. They will also have to either weight their lines so they sink quickly, or set lines only at night so there is less chance of birds diving for the bait and becoming hooked. Labour aims to continue to reduce fisheries by-catch, and will implement reduction measures as appropriate.
Protect 10% of each of New Zealand's marine ecological types in marine reserves by 2010 and at least 30% by 2020.		Labour remains committed to implementing the Marine Protected Areas policy. This initiative aims to protect a representative range of marine ecosystems and habitats, right around our country. Our goal, through this process, is to protect 10 per cent of New Zealand's marine environment.
Implement Population Management Plans to recover New Zealand sea lion and Hector's and Maui's dolphin populations.		Labour is implementing a Threat Management Plan for Hector's and Maui's dolphins. This includes the strongest ever set of fisheries-related protection measures alongside four new marine mammal sanctuaries. This Plan will greatly help populations of Hector's and Maui's dolphins to recover and re-populate areas of New Zealand's waters where they previously lived.
<i>Goal 4: Save New Zealand's natural heritage</i>		
Double regular pest control on public conservation estate by 2011 including the marine environment		Each year the government spends nearly \$160 million specifically for DOC to manage our natural heritage. This includes pest control against goats, possums, other animals and aquatic pests over literally millions of hectares. We acknowledge there is always more we could do.. Labour remains committed to funding DOC to do this core work and, with targeted contestable Funds, to supporting the increasing groundswell in community-led conservation initiatives.

Keep DOC as a core Government department doing integrated conservation management, including coastal and marine conservation and increase baseline funding by at least \$100 million per annum		Labour is committed to the Department of Conservation and recognises the work it does for New Zealand's unique landscape as being crucial to our national identity. Since 1999, total funding for conservation has more than doubled to over \$400 million. We will continue to fund DOC as our frontline conservation agency.
Maintain DoC's conservation advocacy function and ensure that hunting groups do not get control over public conservation land		Yes, Labour will retain and support DoC's conservation advocacy function. While there is a role for hunters in assisting in the control of wild animal numbers, the protection and restoration of New Zealand's unique wildlife – the plants and animals that are only found here – must come first.
Increase funding for DOC and community group advocacy under the Resource Management Act and other environmental decision making		Labour is committed to the Environmental Legal Assistance Fund which provides not-for-profit groups with financial assistance to participate in resource management cases.
Implement a National Policy Statement by 2011 that protects indigenous biodiversity.		Labour has committed to developing a proposed National Policy Statement on Biodiversity by 2011
<i>Goal 5: Show leadership for the Environment</i>		
Commit to 30% emission reductions by 2020 at the international climate change negotiations and encourage all other developed countries to do the same		New Zealand supports an indicative range for Annex 1 Parties as a group of 25 to 40 per cent below 1990 by 2020 (as the lowest greenhouse gas stabilisation band currently assessed by the IPCC), in the context of a global goal and agreement that has comparable effort from all developed countries and nationally appropriate mitigation action from developing countries.
Ban the import of products from illegally logged forests by January 2010		Imposing a ban on illegal timber would be impractical and ineffective if it is not supported by traceability and verification systems. Therefore, Labour is working to develop cooperative mechanisms with our trading partners to prevent illegally-logged wood being exported to New Zealand. Including supporting efforts to have the threatened timber, kwila, listed under the Convention on International Trade in

		Endangered Species.
Require MFE to lead the development of a Sustainable Development Strategy for New Zealand and to monitor performance through a 'Genuine Progress Indicator', environmental indicators and regular reporting		This year, the Labour government released the State of the Environment Report, the first in a decade, which contained useful information on all aspects of our environment. We intend to continue with this kind of comprehensive reporting and will produce a full report every five years. Environmental indicators will measure our performance, improvements and areas for enhancement in an ongoing body of work that is administered by MFE.. The indicators will enable central and local government, communities and business to work together to target policies, and work programmes towards the emerging areas of concern while ensuring we continue to gain rather than lose ground on areas where things are tracking well.
Keep GE in the lab		Labour supports a precautionary approach which preserves options for the future as recommended by the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification. We have worked to enhance rules, regulations and policy around genetically modified organisms to ensure that New Zealand consumers and producers will be able to maintain the right to grow and/or choose to consume products free from genetically modified organisms.
Promote the protection of the Ross Sea as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area		Labour, in government, will continue to strongly promote and advocate for the creation of marine protected areas for the Ross Sea through the Antarctic Treaty System, and through the international Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.