

**Maori Party
Vote for the Environment Survey 2008
October 2008**

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	Yes	<p>Although the Maori Party opposed the Government's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) Bill because at a fundamental level the Bill was more about the trading of carbon credit allocations than it was about reducing carbon emissions. Analysts confirmed that the scheme will only achieve a 2% reduction in emissions in 10 years, which falls well short of our Kyoto obligations.</p> <p>We also opposed the Bill due to its inequities. Liability for emissions should be shared fairly across all contributing sectors at each stage, all starting at the same time, with free carbon credits allocated to sectors, or groups within sectors, on the basis of need. We are very concerned that the biggest polluters will receive the greatest subsidies – leaving householders and small-medium businesses to cover the costs of 90% of the liability.</p>
Ban all new large scale thermal electricity generation	Yes	Our priority is to invest in small scale energy generation, from sustainable sources such as wind, solar and 'blue' wave technologies.
Spend \$4 billion over five years to 2013 on public and active transport, including rail	Yes	The Maori Party supports greater investment in and further development of low cost, regular and reliable public transport, including rail and fully connected and integrated cycle tracks and walkways. As a nation we need to respond to the dual challenges of peak oil and climate change by significantly reducing both our dependency on oil and our level of carbon

		<p>emissions.</p> <p>In the 48th term of Parliament the Maori Party supported the Public Transport Management Bill, to better regulate and integrate public transport services, and the Land Transport Management Amendment Bill, which introduced a regional fuel tax to, in part, fund new public transport initiatives – such as the electrification of rail in Auckland. This is a priority development.</p>
Ban new coal mines and fully protect the upper Waimangaroa Valley including Happy Valley	Yes	Coal is neither a renewable energy source, nor an environmentally clean one.
Retain the \$1 billion energy efficiency and conservation fund	Yes	All homes in New Zealand need to be dry and well insulated, not just to facilitate ease of heating, but also to improve the general health of the population. Energy efficiency needs to be included in building regulatory standards.
<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	Yes	<p>The Maori Party is committed to maintaining environmental integrity in all industries and sectors, including farming, in line with the value of kaitiakitanga. This is critical for the long-term sustainability of such activities, for the health and well-being of communities, and to be able to protect our nation’s economic future given its dependence on Aotearoa as ‘clean and green’.</p> <p>Specifically, we promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the adoption of sustainable farming systems to protect the natural environment and reduce agricultural pollution of rivers, streams and lakes; • Elimination of sewerage and foreign matter pollution of waterways; • Research through Crown agencies or in the private sector to make these points practicable.

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 biodiversity by 2020	Yes	<p>In conjunction with tangata whenua.</p> <p>It will be critical that local and regional councils are prepared to change their behaviours and refrain from, for instance, issuing consents to enable the discharge of pollutants into rivers.</p>
Implement a moratorium on new water takes for irrigation, including Central Plains Water, until environmental flows are set	Yes	<p>In conjunction with tangata whenua.</p> <p>The Maori Party will investigate all schemes and initiatives which have a negative impact on the environment, and is, in principle, supportive of moratoriums ahead of the completion of research and analysis of the findings.</p> <p>We do not support amendment of the Resource Management Act to better facilitate the trading of water consents (or excess water) as a way to manage availability issues. Not only does this set up quasi private schemes where big business is able to buy up consents and control access to water, allocating consents to maximise land-based activity inevitably leads to greater water quality issues. As with the ETS, such schemes allow big businesses to amass large profits through the use of water, while leaving tax and rate payers to cover the environmental costs of polluted water.</p> <p>As a nation we need to strategically consider how much activity is sustainable in each region. Local hapū and iwi need to be full participants in decisions on water management in their areas, and water ownership issues need to be allowed to come onto the national agenda.</p>
Protect all wild and scenic rivers from hydroelectric development by 2011 including the Mohikini River	Yes	<p>The Maori Party does not support the proposal to dam the Mokihinui River. Local communities need to pressure the government, and any of its coalition partners, if they wish to have areas protected or excluded from industrialisation and development which will damage the landscape.</p>
Establish national environmental	Yes	<p>In conjunction with tangata whenua.</p>

standards by 2010 to clean up all freshwater to swimmable water standard by 2020 and drinking water and food collecting standard by 2030		
<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	Yes	In conjunction with tangata whenua. Repeal of the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 would be needed to ensure protection of the total marine environment.
Reform the Fisheries Act by January 2010 to better protect the marine environment and maintain healthy fisheries.	Yes	Any decisions made to reform the Ministry of Fisheries need to begin with at least two precepts: that Maori interests in fisheries not be eroded or expropriated without prior consent and compensation; and that decisions are reached through a consultative process which includes Maori. An abundant fisheries and a healthy marine environment could also be supported by finding better ways to measure the current take of each sector, and by prohibiting harmful activities such as seabed mining for petroleum and minerals.
Adopt measures by 2010 to reduce bycatch of seabirds, marine mammals and other fish to near zero levels.	Yes	The Maori Party supports the establishment of mātaihai reserves which would allow for local bylaws and catch, as opposed to a no-take policy. A no-take policy can result in some species multiplying at the expense of others e.g. kina take over pāua beds. Marine management needs to be in line with tikanga Maori.
Protect 10% of each of New Zealand's marine ecological types in marine reserves by 2010 and at least 30% by 2020.	No	A host of factors affect the survival of marine species which could be addressed without establishing marine reserves. For example, local and regional councils should be refusing all consent applications which discharge pollutants into the sea, and should recall all of the mineral and petroleum exploration licenses that have been issued along the West coast of the North Island since the passage of the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004. Decisions over the establishment of marine reserves need to be made in conjunction with

		mana whenua. Rather than marine reserves, the Maori Party supports the establishment of mātaihai reserves, where customary fishing practices can continue under the management of local hapū.
Implement Population Management Plans to recover New Zealand sea lion and Hector's and Maui's dolphin populations.	Yes	A recall of all the mineral and petroleum exploration licenses that have been issued throughout the habitat of the Maui dolphin, since the passage of the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004, will need to be part of any such plans.
<i>Goal 4: Save New Zealand's natural heritage</i>		
Double regular pest control on public conservation estate by 2011 including the marine environment	Yes	Provided that alternative methods to 1080 poison are used.
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	Yes	Alongside adequately resourcing hapū and local community initiatives for conservation management.
Maintain DoC's conservation advocacy function and ensure that hunting groups do not get control over public conservation land	Yes	The Maori Party supports the existing legislation and policy that prioritises conservation of indigenous flora and fauna, while also allowing hunters to have continued access to kai.
Increase funding for DOC and community group advocacy under the Resource Management Act and other environmental decision making	Yes	While DOC is responsible for nearly 30% of land, Maori retain only 6% of New Zealand's land mass. The Maori Party would be interested in exploring the possibility of DOC transferring the kaitiakitanga role back to tangata whenua, with DOC working with local hapu and iwi to build the capacity to do so.
Implement a National Policy Statement by 2011 that protects indigenous	Yes	In conjunction with tangata whenua

biodiversity.		
<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	Yes	This level of emission reductions will not occur under the Emissions Trading Scheme. The Maori Party remains supportive of a carbon tax regime as a necessary mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Ban the import of products from illegally logged forests by January 2010	Yes	We must support the protection of the biodiversity of other nations, alongside our own.
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	Yes	The Maori Party are strong advocates for the adoption of a Genuine Progress Index to ensure full-cost calculations, including environmental damage and resource depletion, are made of all activities.
Keep GE in the lab	Yes	The Maori Party supports a GE-free Aotearoa.
Promote the protection of the Ross Sea as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area	Yes	