

Vote for the Environment Survey 2008

Political Party: New Zealand First

Contact Person:

Phone:

Email:

IMPORTANT NOTES:

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

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| 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 | N | In New Zealand's case with 50% of our emissions being methane from animals, it is essential to have an all gases, all sectors policy. However, extensions have already been granted for transport and agriculture so we would honour those agreements. |
| Ban all new large scale thermal electricity generation | Y | New Zealand First has agreed to the moratorium on thermal generation in the Emissions Trading Scheme. |
| Spend \$4 billion over five years to 2013 on public and active transport, including rail | Y | We are in favour of more spending on rail and public transport. |
| Ban new coal mines and fully protect the upper Waimangaroa Valley including Happy Valley | N | New Zealand First believes it is premature to talk of banning new coal mines. However, we do believe the upper Waimangaroa Valley and Happy Valley situation deserve a reappraisal. |
| Retain the \$1 billion energy efficiency and conservation fund | Y | This is a really good scheme. |

| <i>Goal 2: Clean up all New Zealand streams and rivers by 2020</i> | | |
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| Introduce a significant charge on nitrogenous fertilisers by 2010 to reduce water pollution | N | The use of nitrogenous fertilizer will drop as fertilizer budgeting becomes widespread and the Emissions Trading Scheme is phased in. |
| 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 | Y | New Zealand First agrees that we must halt the decline in water purity. |
| Implement a moratorium on new water takes for irrigation, including Central Plains Water, until environmental flows are set | Y | All sectors need to be catered for in water plans and insisting on environmental flows is the only way to do that. |
| Protect all wild and scenic rivers from hydroelectric development by 2011 including the Mohikini River | Y | New Zealand First supports the objectives of renewable energy. The Mohikini River should be protected, but all wild and scenic rivers means everything, and that is a bit ambitious. |
| 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 | Y | New Zealand First favours a national environmental standard for our fresh water. |
| <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 | Y | New Zealand needs to ensure our oceans are sustainably managed. |
| Reform the Fisheries Act by January 2010 to better protect the marine | Y | To do this by 2010 would be a little ambitious given the history of this sector, but a start should be made. |

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| environment and maintain healthy fisheries. | | |
| Adopt measures by 2010 to reduce bycatch of seabirds, marine mammals and other fish to near zero levels. | Y | Bycatch is a troubling issue that is an unfortunate feature of modern fishing methods. |
| Protect 10% of each of New Zealand's marine ecological types in marine reserves by 2010 and at least 30% by 2020. | N | New Zealand First can live with 10% marine reserves, but we believe 30% to be too high. |
| Implement Population Management Plans to recover New Zealand sea lion and Hector's and Maui's dolphin populations. | Y | The declining population of Maui and Hector dolphins and our New Zealand sea lions is a major concern and has been noted internationally also. |
| <i>Goal 4: Save New Zealand's natural heritage</i> | | |
| Double regular pest control on public conservation estate by 2011 including the marine environment | Y | Pests are a real concern on our public estates. Doubling pest control could be a little ambitious however. Many people protest at the present level. |
| 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 | Y | If we are going to have a large public estate administered by DOC then it must be better funded. |
| Maintain DoC's conservation advocacy function and ensure that hunting groups do not get control over public conservation land | Y | DOC's conservation advocacy function must be retained but wider representation, including a hunting representative, is timely we believe. The public estate is big and growing and therefore must accommodate some diversity. |
| Increase funding for DOC and community group advocacy under the | Y | Yes to increasing DOC funding, as we have indicated in a previous question, but no to increased community group funding for RMA and other environmental decisions. |

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| Resource Management Act and other environmental decision making | | |
| Implement a National Policy Statement by 2011 that protects indigenous biodiversity. | Y | We do need to have a policy statement that protects indigenous diversity and further sets out how this policy fits with other goals and aspirations of our citizens. |
| <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 | Y | New Zealand First's endorsement of the ETS is a commitment to lower emissions. |
| Ban the import of products from illegally logged forests by January 2010 | Y | New Zealand First believes the importation of timber from illegally logged forests should be banned immediately in fact. It is simply unfair to demand that our foresters observe sustainable practises and then have them face illegal competition. |
| 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 | Y | Although we are not sure that MFE is the right agency to monitor the performance of this for the whole country and all sectors. |
| Keep GE in the lab | Y | New Zealand First believes that GE should be contained in the laboratories of research institutions. |
| Promote the protection of the Ross Sea as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area | Y | This is a delicate ecosystem that could have effects beyond our present knowledge and needs protecting. |