

National Party

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		National supports an all-sector, all-gases approach to an ETS but would not support all sectors entering the scheme on 1 January 2011. There are huge technical challenges in phasing in agricultural emissions such as measuring them (this is only currently possible to plus or minus 50%). We are broadly committed to the existing timetable.
Ban all new large scale thermal electricity generation		The past nine years have seen the proportion of our electricity produced from renewables decline from 73% to 66%. National's plan to reverse this negative trend is to place a price penalty on thermal generation through the ETS and reform the RMA to facilitate the consenting of new renewable generation. A ban on new generation would prevent the substitution of less emitting and more efficient technologies, and will see us using only old stations like Huntly for longer. We will not build any new coal stations.
Spend \$4 billion over five years to 2013 on public and active transport, including rail		Our transport policy recognises the importance of offering New Zealanders choice about their method of transport. National is supportive of making active transport options easier to access, and we will continue to support improvements such as integrated ticketing, cycleways, and making our cities pedestrian-friendly. National is supportive of growing investment in transport infrastructure, which is why we've pledged to increase infrastructure spending by an additional \$3.7 billion in the next 5 years above existing investment plans. This increased expenditure will include a range of transport modes, including measures supporting pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport. National will ensure that our transport investment is made on a sound, effective and fair basis.
Ban new coal mines and fully protect the upper Waimangaroa Valley including		The final decision on consenting any new coal mines will be left to the Environment Court.

Happy Valley		
Retain the \$1 billion energy efficiency and conservation fund		<p>National is not committed to the Labour/Greens household insulation policy because it is unfunded and impractical, and we have a better approach. It is reckless in the middle of a global financial crisis for Labour and the Greens to be promising \$1 billion without knowing where the money is coming from. The explanation that it is being funded by the extra profits that SOEs will be making from emissions trading is not credible when this money is fully committed to meeting Labour's 90% renewable energy target.</p> <p>National is committed to and has budgeted funding for home insulation and energy conservation. We will spend an additional \$15 million per year on home insulation for state houses, \$10 million in assisting low-income households in air polluted communities to insulate, and fund new clean-home heating solutions, as well as \$35 million for our solar water heating initiative.</p>
<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		National wants greater use of price signals, markets, and better recognition of property rights. That is why in areas like greenhouse gas emissions and nitrogen discharges we favour cap-and-trade systems over bureaucratic systems of allocation.
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		<p>National has made a commitment to invite stakeholders to work with us to reach agreement on up to 20 national environment goals to be achieved by specific dates, at the latest by 2030.</p> <p>We are also committed to initiating a collaborative governance process that will engage key stakeholders – water users, recreational users, iwi, and environmentalists – to develop a better framework. We will put on hold the widely condemned draft National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management, and give the collaborative governance process the opportunity to come up with a better approach.</p>
Implement a moratorium on new water takes for irrigation, including Central Plains Water, until environmental flows are set		See above answer.

<p>Protect all wild and scenic rivers from hydroelectric development by 2011 including the Mohikini River</p>		<p>National firmly believes that New Zealand should invest in renewable energy, however we should not dam the last river. Hydroelectric development is necessary to ensure security supply but there will also be wind and gas generation development.</p> <p>National will leave decisions on individual projects such as the Meridian's Mihikini River proposal to the Environment Court.</p>
<p>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</p>		<p>National will work with stakeholders to agree on up to 20 national environmental goals to be achieved by specific dates, at the latest by 2030. These are likely to include deadlines for water quality.</p> <p>We will also pass a new Environment Reporting Act that will require independent State of the Environment Reports so as to ensure progress towards these targets.</p>
<p><i>Goal 3: Reform oceans management by 2010 to preserve and protect the marine environment</i></p>		
<p>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</p>		<p>Management of our marine environment is a balance between environmental and economic concerns as fishing, ecotourism and conservation all call on this resource.</p> <p>We will pass a new Marine Reserves Act (the current bill has been left stagnating by the Government for eight years) and we will pass new legislation to provide for a proper system of environmental management in the EEZ.</p>
<p>Reform the Fisheries Act by January 2010 to better protect the marine environment and maintain healthy fisheries.</p>		<p>National is committed to better management of New Zealand's fisheries and marine environment. This will require on-going improvements in the Fisheries Act as well as new legislation concerning Marine Reserves and the EEZ.</p>
<p>Adopt measures by 2010 to reduce bycatch of seabirds, marine mammals and other fish to near zero levels.</p>		<p>National has opposed the Government's decision to scrap the Marine Conservation Unit at DOC and establish a new Marketing and Communications Group. To achieve reduced by-catch of seabirds and marine mammals we need an effective marine science unit in DOC, which we will re-establish.</p>
<p>Protect 10% of each of New Zealand's marine ecological types in marine</p>		<p>We strongly support the use of marine reserves for biodiversity protection. However, we want a balanced approach that sees the creation of protected marine areas that enjoy public</p>

reserves by 2010 and at least 30% by 2020.		support, both locally and nationally. Consultation is also vital to get both community buy-in and ensure fishers are motivated to help police such areas. National is also committed to facilitating recreational, customary, and commercial agreement on the location of recreation-only fishing reserves.
Implement Population Management Plans to recover New Zealand sea lion and Hector's and Maui's dolphin populations.		Hectors and Maui dolphins and sea lions are among New Zealand's most precious and iconic species. Further deterioration in their populations must be halted. New Zealanders can be assured that National will rely on the science to determine what is causing the mammals' decline and act on that science.
<i>Goal 4: Save New Zealand's natural heritage</i>		
Double regular pest control on public conservation estate by 2011 including the marine environment		National is concerned that real spending on pest control by DOC has dropped under Labour. We will increase spending on pest control and invest more in developing new technologies to find more efficient and safer pest control methods.
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		We support the Department of Conservation as the lead agency for conserving New Zealand's unique native plants and animals, and we recognise its world leadership in species recovery and island restoration. The current global financial crisis and the projection of 10 years of deficits ahead does not make it possible to commit additional funds.
Maintain DoC's conservation advocacy function and ensure that hunting groups do not get control over public conservation land		National is committed to DOC being the conservation advocate for New Zealand. National will recognise the status of hunters as important stakeholders in the outdoor environment. We will establish recreation areas managed by hunters on conservation land using a framework that protects conservation values, and include hunters in the decision-making process for the management of game animals. None of these measures will be prioritised over conservation values but public land should be openly used by all and not solely for conservation.
Increase funding for DOC and community group advocacy under the Resource Management Act and other environmental decision making		New Zealand is not in a position to commit to additional overall funding for DOC given the global financial crisis. We will retain the legal aid advocacy fund.
Implement a National Policy Statement		Yes. Labour promised this in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, but in 2007 announced it

by 2011 that protects indigenous biodiversity.		was abandoning such a NPS. National is committed to developing a NPS under the RMA on biodiversity. It is likely the 2011 deadline will be met.
<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		National is committed to reducing New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions with respect to 1990 figures, 50% by 2050. A figure of 30% reduction by 2020 is not achievable, noting that emissions are up 20% under Labour, despite their promise to reduce emissions by 20% by 2005. National wants a comprehensive successor agreement to Kyoto including binding targets for all major emitting countries.
Ban the import of products from illegally logged forests by January 2010		National will work with the timber industry and importers to ensure independent audit processes certify that all imported and exported timber comes from sustainable forests. Such processes should be sufficiently flexible to support a choice of certification for domestic timber producers, and retailer-led initiatives that promote sustainable timber products, and ensure New Zealand demonstrates a commitment to sustainable forest management.
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		National is committed to a new Environment Reporting Act that will have the independent Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment produce five-yearly State of the Environment reports in the same way the Auditor-General produces independent financial reports. National's concern is that we have robust, independent long-term environmental indicators to compare against agreed targets and to improve accountability for environmental policy.
Keep GE in the lab		Our approach to genetic modification follows that recommended by the Royal Commission on Genetic Engineering, best summarised as "proceed with caution". We believe that each case should be assessed on an individual basis and judged on its particular merits by ERMA, but taking a cautious and conservative approach to such technologies.
Promote the protection of the Ross Sea as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area		National will work with other Antarctica Treaty partners to protect this ice continent, its unique species, and its surrounding seas.