

# Vote for the Environment



## ELECTIONS 2008

Vote for the Environment (VFE) is a regular, strictly non-partisan pre-election campaign by ECO (Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand) and Greenpeace New Zealand. The aim is to encourage political parties to adopt environment and conservation policies, and to inform and aid voters to consider the environment when they cast their vote.

This summary provides an independent assessment of political parties' commitment to New Zealand's environment.

Unlike other parties, Labour and National did not make firm commitments. This meant they scored poorly in many areas. New Zealand First, United Future and the Maori Party have scored better in this survey than would be expected given their Parliamentary track record.

We invited eight political parties to respond to a questionnaire asking where they stood on 25 environmental policies, under five broad environmental goals.

We rated each response with a score from 0 to 4 according to the degree of commitment each response had to each policy proposal. Zero = 0% level of commitment to policy. Four = 100% level of commitment to policy.

The table below summarises the results with a total score (out of 20) for each party under each of the goals. The overall rating represents the percentage of Vote for the Environment policies the parties commit to implement.

### Will the parties...

	Green	Labour	Maori	National	NZ First	Progressive	United Future
Tackle climate change by reducing GHG emissions by 30% on 1990 levels by 2020	20	10	18	4	14	8	4
Clean up all New Zealand streams and rivers by 2020	18	5	20	2	14	7	17
Reform oceans management by 2010 to preserve and protect the marine environment	19	12	13	6	17	14	14
Save New Zealand's natural heritage	20	12	16	10	14	17	3
Show leadership for the environment	20	5	20	5	19	14	15
<b>Overall rating</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>53%</b>

Note: ACT is not included in the results, as they did not respond to our survey



A VOTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IS A VOTE FOR THE FUTURE!

**GREENPEACE**

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### More information

See over page for a summary of results.

For more detailed results and analysis, including party responses and comments, visit our website at [www.environmentvote.org.nz](http://www.environmentvote.org.nz)

Vote on Saturday 8 November 2008

**[environmentvote.org.nz](http://environmentvote.org.nz)**

## Highlights of the results

### Climate Change

Agriculture's privileged status in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) blocks inclusion of all gases and all sectors in the ETS by 2011. The Greens suggest inclusion of both methane and nitrous oxides. The Maori Party opposes the ETS as inequitable.

The ban on new thermal power generation is supported by all parties, except Progressives, United Future and National. National would allow new gas fired generation but not coal. A ban on new coalmines and protection of the upper Waimangaroa Valley is supported by the Greens and Maori Party but not committed to by Labour, National, United Future or the Progressive Parties. NZ First opposes a ban on new coalmines but supports protection of the Upper Waimangaroa Valley.

### Freshwater

On cleaning up all NZ streams and rivers by 2020, NZ First, the Greens, and Maori Party give strong support. National, Labour and the Progressives are weak, while United seems equivocal.

The Mokihinui River will be protected by NZ First, the Greens and the Maori party but not by National, Labour, or United Future. Only the Greens and Maori Party will protect *all* wild and scenic rivers.

### Marine Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

Revision of the Fisheries Act 1996 and new rules to regulate activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone are widely supported, but several parties do not commit better protection of the marine environment. The Maori Party has adopted the fishing industry line that nothing should be allowed to impinge on fisheries quota.

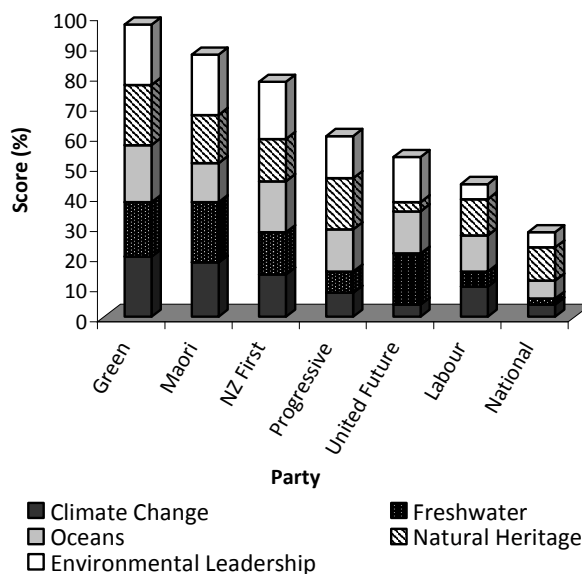
We sought commitment to 10% of each marine ecotype as marine reserves by 2010 and 30% by 2020, which accords with international recommendations. The Maori Party opposes this, and Progressive, United and National gave no commitment. The Greens have by far the strongest marine protection policies. NZ First supports the target of 10% by 2010 but not 30% by 2020. National wants marine reserves to be contingent upon fisher agreement.

Most parties acknowledge the need to address fisheries by-catch and the mortality of NZ Sealions and the Maui and Hector's dolphins. The Greens and NZ First are strongest. Labour favours weak voluntary 'Threat Management Plans' rather than the Population Management Plans with statutory force. National is very weak on non-dolphin by-catch but wants dolphin mortality halted.

### Save New Zealand's Heritage

Not all parties were prepared to commit to double pest control on the DOC estate, but most agree to some increase. United Future, on behalf of hunters, wants to divert pest control from destructive deer, chamois and tahr. United would split DOC into opposing recreation and conservation divisions. DOC's functions would also be cut, and a 'national interest' test would subjugate conservation to other objectives. DOC and community groups would be prevented from presenting experts at hearings.

## How did the parties rate?



The Greens, Labour, and NZ First clearly support DOC providing integrated conservation and conservation advocacy. National agrees conservation should have priority but would allow hunters to manage parts of the Conservation estate. Opposition to the use of 1080 concerns some parties. The Maori party oppose 1080 use - this would effectively reduce pest control severely.

A National Policy Statement on biodiversity under the Resource Management Act is now a consensus position.

Changes to the Resource Management Act proposed by National and United Future will endanger the environment, disenfranchise communities and will fast track large projects. United plans to introduce 'Friends of the Court' to provide expertise, and may intend objectors not to be allowed experts.

### Leadership for the Environment

Some parties were unfocused on emissions reductions targets for international climate change negotiations. National and Labour both make their reduction targets all-countries-or-nothing affairs. The Greens support strong reductions, United Future supports 'the IPCC targets', and NZ First thought they could rely on the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme. National refuses to commit to benchmarked reductions closer than its 50% reductions against 1990 levels by 2050.

Parties support environmental reporting but disagree upon which agency should do this. The Greens, Maori, Progressive and NZ First fully support a Sustainable Development Strategy and reporting within a Genuine Progress Indicator framework. Most parties want more independent reporting and more accountability for meeting environmental targets.

Genetically engineered materials will be let loose if Labour, National or United Future prevail, since they support 'case by case' approaches. The Greens, NZ Future and the Maori Party support retention of GE in the laboratory.

Antarctic environmental protection gained widespread support, but Labour only committed to some marine protected areas in the Ross Sea and some just managed areas, not to the whole. The others support the creation of the Ross Sea as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area.