

CORANZ – National response

1. Government must value outdoor recreation as a legitimate right of all New Zealanders - adequate, credible, non-political, recreational representation in the decision-making of resource use and improve recreational opportunities and freedom of access for all.

National is making the most of our great outdoors so New Zealanders and visitors can enjoy our natural environment. We recognise that public conservation land and oceans provide New Zealanders with economic, environmental, and recreational opportunities. Access to them underpins our way of life.

We've established the Game Animal Council Act, which has been described by hunters as the most important step for recreational hunting in a generation. By establishing an independent statutory body, greater representation is given to the interests of recreational hunters. It enables the tens of thousands of hunters to join mountaineers, trampers, game bird hunters, and trout and salmon fishers in having a statutory voice in the management of their recreation on public conservation land.

The new Game Animal Council is consistent with National's Bluegreen approach of having recreationalists more directly involved in getting sector groups like recreational and commercial hunters around the table to resolve competing interests – enhancing recreation and conservation values for the enjoyment of generations to come.

We want to encourage all New Zealanders to get out and enjoy our magnificent country. That's why recreation is now a key consideration of Conservation Boards – the link between the community and the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Conservation is about preserving and protecting our natural resources now, and for the future, so that we can all appreciate and enjoy the benefits and beauty the great outdoors has to offer.

2. Support the concept of “Clean, Green New Zealand” - clean rivers and lakes, no indiscriminate toxins and an efficient bio-security system to prevent undesirable imports entering NZ. [clean rivers a must]

The primary sector is the powerhouse of New Zealand's economy, accounting for over 70 percent of our export earnings.

The Government has an ambitious goal of doubling primary sector exports by 2025. We're not going to achieve that if we don't protect our producers, our resources and our international reputation for food safety, animal welfare, and sustainability.

Around 175,000 items come across our border each day, and we receive around 10 million travellers a year. A serious biosecurity incursion can do crippling damage, and undo years of hard work.

MPI is beefing up border protection with 125 new quarantine inspectors trained over the last 18 months, and 12 new x-ray machines at our international airports. We also have five new dog detector teams.

This year the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Budget has increased by over \$17 million with a focus on strengthening biosecurity and food safety system and a total of \$26.5 million will be invested by MPI and DOC over four years to tackle kauri dieback disease.

New Zealand is a global leader in biosecurity and scientific knowledge is the basis of our biosecurity system.

In Budget 2014 we confirmed the Government will fund three additional Centres of Research Excellence (CoREs). CoREs are cross-institutional research networks that support production of the absolute best research and researchers in tertiary education institutions across New Zealand. Budget 2014 boosts CoREs operating funding by \$53 million over four years. Also, the B3 research programme is concerned with long term improvement in our ability to prevent new plant-related pests and diseases from establishing in New Zealand. They are helping develop a generation of scientists who are thinking beyond the management of current pest problems.

At a wider level, the Government is providing \$133.5 million in new funding over the next 4 years for the 10 National Science Challenges. In recognition of the crucial role of biosecurity, Challenge 5: New Zealand's Biological Heritage is being established and includes biosecurity outcomes which focus on preserving our unique biological resources.

Another important step for biosecurity was the signing of the first Government Industry Agreement for Biosecurity Readiness and Response (GIA) Deed signed with Kiwifruit Vine Health. Biosecurity is a shared responsibility for all New Zealanders. We are pleased that industry is keen to step up and contribute their time, expertise, and resources

3. A meaningful, mandatory and scientifically valid National Environmental and Recreational Standard for Water and reversing the current degradation of fresh water.

New Zealand's freshwater resource is at the core of our national identity and our competitive advantage.

National has an unwavering commitment to improving the quality of our fresh water, and developing a package of cohesive reform and clean-ups that will lead to more productive and sustainable use of our freshwater resource within a generation.

We introduced the first ever National Policy Statement on Freshwater and have spent \$101 million on water clean-up in our first four years of government compared to \$17 million in Labour's last four years – a five-fold increase, as well as committing over \$350 million to clean-up historical contamination of our iconic waterways.

Budget 2014 commits \$20 million over four years to strengthen our existing environmental initiatives. This includes reforms to strengthen the Resource Management Act (RMA), improve water quality, and the way fresh water is managed.

4. Full legal recognition sporting freshwater fish such as trout, salmon and perch are valued recreational assets, an established part of and compatible with the 21st century ecosystem, e.g. National Parks Act.

National recognises the recreational value of sporting freshwater fish in New Zealand. The Conservation Act 1987 has extensive provisions for sports fish management and recognises sporting freshwater fish as a recreational asset. In addition to this, the Resource Management Act 1991 provides specific protection for trout and salmon habitats in New Zealand.

Sports fishing is allowed, and provided for, in national parks by General Policy. In addition, the major sports fish (salmon and trout species) are well established in all freshwater ecosystems that are capable of providing good sports fishing.

5. Full legal recognition that game animal species (e.g. deer, wapiti, tahr, chamois etc) are valued recreational assets, an established part of and compatible with the 21st century ecosystem. e.g. National Parks Act. [deer are a valued recreational resource]

In 2013 National passed the Game Animal Council Act, and established the Game Animal Council – described by hunters as the most important step for recreational hunting in a generation.

Key functions of the council include advising and making recommendations to the Minister of Conservation on hunting issues, providing information and education to the sector, promoting safety initiatives, conducting game animal research, and undertaking management functions for designated herds of special interest.

The new Game Animal Council is consistent with National's collaborative Bluegreen approach of having recreational groups and commercial hunters more involved in the Department of Conservation's decision-making processes.

6. Recognition of freshwater and saltwater fish, game and game animal resources as publicly owned with full, equal and proper public access to them. The principles of Section 23, Wildlife Act, that no purchase or selling of rights to recreation be allowed, shall apply to all and be clearly written into all relevant law.

National is committed to public access on our conservation estate.

7. Damming or diversions through private canals of river systems for hydro or storage be avoided in all situations and where necessary alternative storage/energy options be established. Residual river flows must be adequate for wildlife and fish and recreation such as fishing, jet boating canoeing etc. Alternative energy options be implemented.

New Zealand's freshwater resources are precious. National has an unwavering commitment to improving the quality of our freshwater, and developing a package of cohesive reform and clean-ups that will lead to more productive and sustainable use of our freshwater resource within a generation.

In our first four years of government we publically consulted, committed, and introduced the first ever National Policy Statement (NPS) on Freshwater; spent \$101 million on water clean-up; and have also committed over \$350 million to water clean-ups of iconic New Zealand waterways to future-proof our most important natural resource.

The freshwater NPS establishes the legal and policy framework for building a national limits-based approach to water management. The NPS requires that overall water quality must be maintained or improved within a region, and also requires that councils safeguard the life-supporting capacity, ecosystem processes, and indigenous species of fresh water.

The NPS drives national consistency in local RMA planning and decision-making while allowing an appropriate level of regional flexibility. While details for individual resource consents will be case by case specific, regional / local councils are required to consider the specific provisions of the freshwater NPS when making decisions on a resource consent application.

The intent is that any more than minor potential adverse effects of activities, in relation to water takes, use, damming and diverting, as well as discharges, are thoroughly considered

and actively managed pending the inclusion of limits in plans. However, the NPS ensures that minimal environmental protection for freshwater and ecosystem health is always there.

National takes a mixed and balanced approach to our energy future. We have an ambitious but achievable target of 90% of electricity generation from renewables by 2025, building on our strengths in hydro, geothermal, and wind. Our results speak for themselves as we are already delivering electricity generation that is 75 percent based on renewables, making us fourth for renewable generation in the OECD. We have 30 years of consented renewable generation waiting to be built; with all generation currently being built is renewable.

We have continued to work hard in the renewable space, and have recently announced three energy efficiency projects to reduce New Zealand's carbon emissions from energy use and help businesses and households save money on energy costs. Additionally, the Government (through EECA) will provide \$1.5 million over three years for the Southland renewable heat hub, and we expect that industry and businesses will more than match that contribution.

Freshwater is essential to New Zealand's economic, environmental, cultural, and social well-being –and the Government's mixed and balanced approach is making the most of all of New Zealand's energy opportunities. National's "Bluegreen" approach balances economic growth with improved environmental management – supporting improved freshwater management.

8. The law recognises the public's right to catch saltwater fish and gather shellfish for sport and/or sustenance. The rights of the non-commercial sea fishing public should be paramount or at least equal to other sectors and written clearly into law and clearly implemented in all fisheries management decisions. Sea fisheries management and implementation of policies must be based on the principle of "more fish in the water". But successive recent governments have ignored these obligations. Sustainability and equitable sector management must be restored.

National is committed to carefully managing our fisheries sustainably for all sectors – recreational, commercial and customary. We're cracking down on illegal practices with increased monitoring and new rules for the commercial sector, creating new marine reserves and investing in science and research.

We have a comprehensive system of monitoring commercial fishing across the country, and last year we announced a major package of reform for the Snapper 1 area (Northland East, Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty). This includes:

- Commercial fishers are now required to report all catch under the commercial legal size.
- Trialling the use of cameras to record and measure fish returned to the sea.
- Introducing a "move on rule", where commercial fishers will move from fishing spots where a significant portion of catch is small juvenile fish.
- Established a Management Strategy Group to develop long term plans for this fishery, with Sir Ian Barker as Chair.
- Implement a scientific tagging survey by 1 October 2014 to provide up to date and reliable information on the Snapper 1 stock. This will come with a cost of \$7 million and will be split 50/50 between the government and the commercial sector.
- Introducing a maximum size limit for commercial long line fishers.
- Mandatory Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) on all commercial vessels by 1 October 2014.
- Camera or observer coverage on all trawl vessels by 1 October 2015.

- As the stock increases in size I intend to increase the recreational share from the current 64:36 share to 50:50.

We also have the \$52 million Precision Seafood Harvesting Programme which is a project funded from both industry and government. This is developing new technology that will allow fish to be landed on fishing boats alive, and in perfect condition, while safely releasing small fish and other species. The potential economic and environmental benefits of this are huge.

We will also establish a record number and area of marine reserves this year. By the end of 2014 we will have created 11 marine reserves since 2011 (the last three are still in the process of being established but this will be completed sometime this year). These include Tawharanui; the Subantarctics (3 reserves); Akaroa; West Coast (5 reserves); Kaikōura.

9. The aerial poison regime with 1080 and brodifacoum be immediately stopped. Possums are not a conservation pest (Landcare Research) but are a valuable resource for fibre and meat. [stop aerial spreading of poisons]

Possums were introduced to New Zealand in the 1800s to start a viable skin and fur trade and, 150 years on, we are still waiting for that industry to emerge. Listed on the 5th schedule of the Wildlife Act 1953, possums have long been officially acknowledged as a threat to conservation, farm animal health, and the economy of New Zealand.

Using current technology, the aerial application of 1080 is by far the most cost effective tool for the population control of possums over large areas of difficult terrain. To date, the eradication of pests from our off shore islands, using brodifacoum, has enhanced the chances of survival for many rare species that would otherwise be struggling to avoid extinction.

National is committed to ensure the survival of our iconic native species, and the reality is that tools such as 1080 are crucial in the battle against introduced pests. As the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment states, “we do not have the luxury of time.”

10. Establish an Independent Environmental Protection Council independent of government or industry (akin to the Nature Conservation Council of the 1970s) as a public watchdog. Appointments must be non-political.

You can't manage what you don't measure. That's why National has introduced the Environmental Reporting Bill that will, for the first time, provide New Zealanders with credible, robust, and independent environmental information in a way that is easy to understand, independent and relevant.

The Environmental Reporting Bill represents National's commitment to a step change in the way we monitor and report on the condition of our natural environment – a key commitment made in our 2011 Environment Manifesto.

The Bill sets out what information must be reported and when, and ensures the reports are independent and have scientific integrity. The reports will be produced by the Government Statistician and the Secretary for the Environment and be at arm's length from the Government of the day – meaning we can have more productive discussions on the environmental issues that are important to New Zealanders.

The environmental reporting system will provide New Zealanders with comprehensive information on the state of our environment, allowing us to fully understand both natural occurrences and the impact human activities are having.

11. (a) Reorder priorities of the Department of Conservation to make first priorities conservation, the environment and recreation.

The Department of Conservation's (DOC) stated priorities are a reasonable synopsis of the purposes of existing conservation legislation (principally the Conservation, Reserves and National Parks Acts).

DOC also has operational responsibilities that include fire control, wild animal control, and biosecurity management, which integrate with the management of the environment more broadly.

(b) Commercial undertakings, e.g. so-called partnerships with ethnic groups (via Section 4 Conservation Act) or corporate partnerships be rejected.

Section 4 of the Conservation Act is a legislative obligation upon the Department of Conservation to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. As this is legislation enacted by the New Zealand Parliament, it can only be rescinded or revoked by the New Zealand Parliament.

Since its inception, the Department of Conservation has worked with individuals, community groups, and businesses to help strengthen its conservation efforts. The business community includes large corporate entities, and the department believes that through partnerships the opportunity exists to successfully grow conservation; this is proving to be the case.

(c) DOC's statutory obligation to outdoor recreation and access be fully and properly recognised by adopting the name Department of Conservation and Outdoor Recreation(DOCOR).

Under the newly established Game Animal Council and revised focus of Conservation Boards, outdoor recreation is a key consideration in the functioning of DOC when consulting with stakeholders and recreationalists.

(d) First and foremost DOC must protect and maintain the public lands conservation estate embracing the 21st century ecosystem and not trying to recreate and preserve a hypothetical pre-European world. [review and reform doc]

DOC works to protect the values for which lands and waters have been reserved, as it is required to do by relevant legislation. Most protected ecosystems are already altered (for example, remote islands) and opportunities to protect pre-human ecosystems are, in fact, rare.

On private land, many native ecosystems are managed for their natural resources (e.g. fisheries), replaced by artificial ecosystems (e.g. pasture), or otherwise modified by humans. This mixture represents a balance from fully protected and pristine, through to fully modified.

12. Impose stricter controls on foreign ownership of New Zealand land, including accurate statistics about the extent of foreign ownership of properties and businesses. Foreigners can lease land long-term with the mandatory proviso that any lessee purchaser must become a registered New Zealand citizen and reside in New Zealand for nine months of every year. Public access be not undermined by foreign leases. [enforce stricter controls on foreign ownership of land]

A level of foreign investment – with the right checks and balances – is vital to the New Zealand economy and to our own ability to access foreign markets.

The National-led Government have already restricted overseas investment in sensitive land and residential land. Our 2010 changes enabled the Overseas Investment Office (OIO) to consider a wider range of criteria before approving land investment in New Zealand – including large scale ownership of farmland.

In order for a sale to be legal, a foreign buyer must demonstrate that a sale delivers a benefit to New Zealand over and above what would be produced if the land stayed with a New Zealander. In almost all cases, the land must be offered for sale to New Zealanders before it can be sold to a foreign buyer. Leasehold's of more than five hectares of rural land still have to go through the OIO process.

We believe the new rules strike an appropriate balance between those criteria and ensuring access for our primary producers to international markets continues to grow.

At the moment, half a billion people in Asia earn middle incomes. By 2030, that figure is expected to exceed three billion people. New Zealand is ideally positioned to make major gains from our trading relationships with this growing region. Free and open trade relationships are the way to achieve that.

In the primary sector alone, we're already seeing strong results as exports have hit record highs, and there's more to come with exports expected to grow 22 percent for the five years to 2018. There are also 50,000 new jobs in primary industries expected by 2025.

In the last five years, Chinese purchasers have received fewer purchasing consents than buyers from the US, Australia, the UK, Germany, Switzerland, and Canada. Under this Government, Chinese applicants make up only 4 percent of all approved applications for rural land purchases by foreigners.

It is important to note that our overseas investment regime has recently been assessed by the OECD as still one of the more restrictive in the developed world.

13. Full recognition by government of the public right to public resources of value for outdoor recreation with greater impetus and support to the Walking Access Commission.

Maintenance, enhancement and development of public access rights to public lands. Education of Local Authorities and other State institutions, on their respective roles in protecting the public interest, are needed.

National recognises that recreational access to public conservation land underpins our way of life. We're committed to public access of our great outdoors, and it is a priority under all conservation legislation.

Access to public conservation land may only be restricted with very good reason. For example, access to very few accessible areas is restricted and, even then, is often available by permit to those with reason to go there. Furthermore, the Department of Conservation invests heavily in improving access for New Zealanders to public conservation land.

The Walking Access Commission is actively involved in negotiating access arrangements with private landowners, and works with other public agencies to resolve access disputes and educate stakeholders about rights and obligations.

14. (a) Recognise that the Treaty of Waitangi was about bringing two cultures together into one integrated society and work towards establishing New Zealand into a harmonious, egalitarian society in line with Article 3.

(b) Treaty claim settlements are diluting the integrity of national parks e.g Urewera, Tongariro and other protected land tenures. Settlements should involve the Crown on behalf of the public, as the manager. [Treaty about one integrated society]

National believes the Crown has a responsibility to put right real injustices committed in the past. However, it is wrong to suggest Treaty settlements have interfered with public access to or enjoyment of national parks. National believes the historical interests of iwi in specific places of cultural significance are not in conflict with the values all New Zealanders share, and that settlements can recognize those interests while preserving the rights and interests of all New Zealanders.

For example, the land in the current Te Urewera National Park will be vested in a new legal identity created by legislation. Te Urewera will be represented by a Governance Board with equal numbers of Crown and Tuhoe appointees at establishment. Board members will be required to act in the interests of Te Urewera itself, as set out in legislation. The Board will be required to make unanimous decisions on certain key issues and otherwise by consensus.

The legislation includes key provisions from the National Parks Act such as protection of biodiversity, natural and historic heritage, public input into management and public access into the future.

The Board will have the responsibility of approving a management plan for Te Urewera with advice from the New Zealand Conservation Authority.

Both parties will seek higher international recognition for Te Urewera such as a UNESCO biosphere reserve to promote the area's unique values. Throughout the negotiations process with Tuhoe, the iwi worked extremely closely and constructively with stakeholders in Te Urewera, including hunting, fishing and conservation groups.

15. Response to environmental needs. Governments should not use a free market trading ethos to solve environmental threats. For example trade-able carbon credits serve no purpose to "global warming" and are detrimental with a monoculture of pines and economically.

National has a sound record of better environmental management. Successful economic and environmental policy can, and must, go hand in hand to provide a cleaner, greener, brighter future for all New Zealanders.

We know the important decisions we make today are vital to New Zealand's economic and environmental performance, now, and for the future. That's why we're focused on balancing our environmental responsibilities with economic opportunities ensuring we preserve and protect our natural environment.

This Government is committed to act on climate change. That's why we're continuing with the ETS as the most economically effective climate change action. Our objective is to have New Zealand make a fair and affordable contribution to global emission mitigation efforts. While we are a small country, contributing just 0.15 percent of global emissions, we are actively involved in international climate change efforts and we have a range of domestic climate change policies.

16. Establish a population policy for New Zealand - relative to national, regional, cultural conflicts and immigration aspects. People put demands on resources, both land, water, fishery and other resources. [Population policy vital]

New Zealand currently has a three-year residence programme that plans for between 45,000 – 50,000 new residents per year. The majority of these places are for skilled migrants, but this also includes family and partner visas, as well as humanitarian streams.

Resident visa numbers have been relatively stable over the past decade – although 2013 saw the lowest number of new visas in a decade, at around 39,000.

It's also important to note any environmental pressure from tourism and visitor numbers (ie fishing tourism etc) would be unrelated to a population policy.

17. The index for national prosperity, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) based on solely economic indicators, be replaced by a Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) based on three values - social, environmental and economic to thus fully measure the quality of life.

It's not correct to describe GDP as "the index for national prosperity". GDP is an internationally-comparable index providing the broadest measure of economic growth.

GDP is an important measure to enable us to know how the economy is growing. A growing economy supports employment and higher wages. It provides opportunities for families. And it pays for public services that New Zealanders rely on.

That said, we know there's much more to New Zealand than just the economy. This is why Statistics New Zealand prepares a whole range of measures on the environment, public service, the population and a wide range of other things, as well as GDP.

It is also why the Government has set 10 specific Better Public Services targets that we expect our public service to achieve over the next four to five years. These range from reduced crime rates and welfare dependency to increased educational achievement and ease of interaction with Government. You can see the latest report on how we're tracking against these measures at <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/bps-snapshot>