

# Responses from Political Parties to Charter

## Introduction

MPs and political parties in the first week of August received the charter and a covering letter asking for comments and policies. To date 16 September - almost 6 weeks later - no replies were received from Labour or National parties although Kate Wilkinson, Paula Bennett and Tim Groser acknowledged receipt.

Nor did ACT or Maori parties respond.

However other minor parties have responded and their replies are below.

-Tony Orman

## NZ First

Leader Winston Peters reply :-

- **NZ First has as a major policy the issue of ownership of NZ land.**

Most nations don't let foreigners buy their prime land. Only their citizens have the right to own the soil they stand on. New Zealand First's plan is to buy back land that is in foreign hands. This is our country and we should own it. It will be a great investment for our superannuation fund and give our young farmers a real start. We are world leaders at producing essential food. It's foolish to let other countries take over our prime fertile land. After all, we don't want to become peasants in our own country.

- **Power Stations Lakes and rivers**

National's plan to "partially" sell power stations is opposed by NZ First. Past leaders with great vision built our power stations to give us a cheap source of renewable energy. These power stations and importantly the rivers they are built on belong to the people. No Government had the right to sell these priceless public assets. They must never be allowed to fall into foreign hands. New Zealand First will keep our power stations, rivers and lakes.

- **Foreshore and Seabed**

New Zealand First recognises that all New Zealanders own our foreshore and seabed. It should be in Crown hands for all of us, regardless of ethnic background. We will do this and still recognise and respect traditional Maori rights. This has always been New Zealand First's policy. Politicians must be stopped from playing with this issue for political ends. Giving title to the beaches and seabed to some racially selected groups will mean endless legal battles. Often with Maori pitted against Maori. We need to move on from the things that divide us and we need to embrace the things that unite us.

- **Recreational Sea Fishing**

New Zealand First recognises recreational fishing and the right to catch or gather fish or shellfish etc as a traditional public right. Fisheries management must recognise and reflect this.

- **1080 poison**

New Zealand First notes growing public concern over toxins and wants a full, public examination totally independent of government influence and involvement. The 2007 ERMA review was run by government at the behest of two government funded organisations which aerielly spread 1080.

• **Trout and Deer** NZ First regards trout and deer as part of the New Zealand heritage. It is time for the "anti-introduced" dogma by DOC and others to be abandoned and valued recreational species such as trout and deer accepted as part of today's ecosystem - just as humans and farm animals are.

• **Water**

Water is a valuable public resource and is now "liquid gold". However as valuable as it is to farming and horticulture and other commercial uses, it is equally valuable for recreation, environmental and aesthetic needs. It is time for more meaningful action and less "lip service" of accords, strategies, committees etc. Both quantity and quality of water in rivers and lakes are vital.



Protecting the public status of New Zealand's waterways is a Green Party policy. Rivers and lakes are the last of our lowland wilderness and they belong to all New Zealanders. But at the moment, many of our waterways are suffering toxic algal blooms or are choking on sediment and faecal contamination, which prevent public access and enjoyment of these places.

That is why the Green Party has a plan to clean up our rivers. There are three elements to this plan. We will:

- 1) Set standards for water that protect environmental and recreational values;
- 2) Introduce a fair charge for irrigation water; and
- 3) Support water clean-up initiatives.

Our charge for irrigation simply puts a fair price on the private use of a public resource that irrigators currently get for free. It does not confer additional water user rights, or ownership of the resource. The intention of this charge is to decrease demand for water and to generate revenue to fund water clean-up initiatives so that all New Zealanders can enjoy clean rivers.

We will also protect our wild rivers. We believe our electricity needs can be met by efficiency measures and truly renewable generation – we don't need to dam our last remaining wild rivers. That is why we have, and will continue to, actively campaign to save the Mokihinui and other wild rivers from hydro development.

All New Zealanders have a birthright to enjoy our beaches, lakes, rivers, and mountains, and we will protect the public's right to access these places for recreation. To ensure this, the Green Party supports an expanded role for the Walking Access Commission. For example, we advocated for a dispute arbitration role for the commission at the time it was established, and we will continue to advocate for this role.

We support CORANZ's priority to ensure that the Department of Conservation is first and foremost concerned with conservation and the environment – not commercial undertakings, and we believe that New Zealand land should only be owned by New Zealand citizens and permanent residents. We love and want to protect our wild places and have worked with the Government to implement a \$4 million pilot project to test a new kind of trap for possums, stoats, and rats. If successful, it will reduce the costs of pest control and the reliance on poisons.

Like CORANZ, we honour Te Tiriti and believe that we should measure what matters – we would replace GDP with Genuine Progress Indicators and have developed legislation to achieve this. Green Party MP Kennedy Graham has written a Member's Bill called the Public Finance (Sustainable Development Indicators) Amendment Bill, which will change how we measure prosperity.

This year, the Green Party is promoting a clean, green economy that works for everyone. One way we are going to accomplish it is to clean up our rivers and lakes. Because our 100% Pure image underpins our tourism and agricultural sectors, looking after our environment is the best thing we can do to create a smart, green economy.

## Kiwi Party

The Kiwi Party congratulates CORANZ on its election charter. There is no doubt the heritage of the outdoors and access to recreation is being diminished.

The erosion must be stopped and turned around to be enhanced. Quality of life is important. NZ was founded on an outdoor ethos and equal opportunity for all to outdoors ie egalitarian. Key areas the Kiwi Party would focus on is:-

- \* Recreational sea fishing rights for public. The last two governments have not regarded recreational fishing as equal to commercial. A healthy fishery will give benefits to all sectors.

- \* Stopping 1080 and other toxins aerial poisoning. Kiwi thinks possums should be viewed as a resource with full encouragement to fur and meat industries with employment and export potential

- \* Revision of Department of Conservation's priorities and focus. In the last 12 months DOC seems trending to commercial/business policies rather than conservation and recreation.

- \* Trout and deer recognised as recreational resources. There still exists an unrealistic, unjust hatred of "introduced species."

- \* Stricter controls on foreign ownership. Other countries have strict controls, NZ should too.

- \* A positive strategy to rectify pollution of rivers (e.g. Tukituki) and lakes (e.g. Ellesmere, Waituna) and restore. Action not words are needed in order to give credibility to NZ's "clean, green 100% pure" branding image.

The other points in the Charter are all significant and worthy of adoption or close consideration before a decision.

**Larry Baldock**  
**Leader Kiwi Party**

## United Future

Thank you for sending me a copy of the CORANZ charter which I read with interest. With the exception of one or two points, UnitedFuture finds itself in total agreement with your aims and in fact agree with the introductory quote from J F Kennedy when he says about the issues we are facing at present, "The crisis may be quiet but it is urgent".

I also appreciate the farsighted comments by John Henderson when he stated way back in 1972 that "in a parliamentary democracy, the government has been charged with a solemn duty and given a mandate to fully protect the public's interests". This is especially true under the MMP system which is designed to give full weight to all sectors interests.

I would also like to pick up on one or two points in your charter. Under your aims in point (iv) you call for a "strong outdoor recreational user voice". To me and the UnitedFuture party this is vital for achieving the priority areas set out in your charter. And MMP offers the perfect way for this to be achieved.

In regard to the Key Priority Areas 2011 I believe that UnitedFuture is the only party that is truly set up to represent the interests and allow outdoor recreational users a chance to achieve these goals. As you will see from our policies outlined on our website regarding the outdoors we are fully in agreement with them and wish to ensure that the great heritage established for all New Zealanders, regardless of race or economic status, are preserved and where necessary enhanced for this and future generations.

It is our goal to ensure **access** to the outdoors remains a right and one that cannot be bought

nor sold. This is presently one of the great threats faced by the outdoor community. As more people become aware of the value of our wonderful hunting and fishing, the value of access to these resources becomes an issue. UnitedFuture is committed to ensuring all New Zealanders, regardless of ethnicity, wealth or location, can retain access to rivers, lakes, forests and beaches.

We believe that it is the right of all New Zealanders to **access fishing, whether it be fresh or saltwater, and that the rights of amateur fishers should be given priority over commercial interests**. This includes the setting of commercial quota for the marine sector.

We wish to see the **destruction of our wild rivers stopped and alternative energy sources researched and developed**. To this end we will seek a moratorium on all hydro development on our wild rivers whether that be for electricity production and / or irrigation purposes.

We also wish to see stronger regulations imposed on ensuring rivers remain pristine and protected from farming, industrial and residential pollution. We will be seeking to both educate and develop strong environmental policies to protect our waterways, wetland and other natural resources and ensure those that are guilty of deliberate or careless practices that endanger the health of the environment face stiff penalties.

We are the only party that will seek to **ban the use of 1080** and support other forms of pest control through the development of industry based around these animals. We believe that an industry that is both sustainable and environmentally sound can be developed that will ensure pests such as stoats, rats, wild cats, possums and other introduced pests can be managed in a way that has little impact on the environment or other species we wish to protect. It is also our intention to work with small local industries to develop the fur industry and so support small communities by providing work in often economically depressed areas. We will also seek the **banning of heli-hunting and continue to support the development of the Game Animal Council** along the lines of the Fish and Game model to protect the recreational hunter.

Where we may differ is in the interpretation of the **seabed and foreshore act**. We in UnitedFuture believe that the best way to ensure that the beaches and coastal areas remain freely available to all New Zealanders in perpetuity is to ensure that no-one owns them and that no-one can sell them. The fear that a large proportion of the marine area could become under Maori control we feel is grossly exaggerated. We acknowledge that a significant proportion of the coastline is already in private hands (and mostly pakeha hands at that) in the form of marinas, private riparian deals and other such historic arrangements. It is our concern to see that this does not happen further and will be keeping a close watch on developments.

May I again congratulate CORANZ on a well thought out and challenging document. New Zealand needs to wake up to what is happening to their outdoors and we look forward to working with CORANZ after the election as we begin the process of protecting and where necessary, regaining our rightful heritage that was granted to us by our far-sighted forefathers.

**Doug Stevens**  
**UnitedFuture Spokesperson on the Environment and Outdoor Recreation.**

**(Approved by Hon Peter Dunne MP, Leader, UnitedFuture, Parliament Buildings, Wellington)**

**Colin Craig**  
Party Leader



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## **Conservative Party Policy Document (Draft)**

### **Outdoor and Recreation Summary**

**Philosophy:** The Conservative Party considers that all New Zealanders should have right to enjoy the great outdoors. This enjoyment includes the right of free access both to regional parks and rivers and marine and coastal areas and includes the right to safely participate in non-commercial hunting and fishing.

#### **Policy Objectives:**

1. To protect and develop areas within regional parks, rivers, and marine areas as a national resource for recreational use by New Zealanders.
2. To allow safe hunting and fishing in these areas by any New Zealander provided such activity is not commercial.
3. Advocating for free, egalitarian access to fishing water where fishing is non-commercial.
4. To allow commercial activity only where there is clear benefit to New Zealanders by way of revenue to the crown and either a minimal environmental effect or there is full environmental reinstatement on completion of the activity.

**Policies: The conservative Party will support the following:**

- Renaming the "Department of Conservation" to be "Department of Conservation and Recreation" and develop and implement recreational objectives for the department.
- A review of pest control strategies to reduce costs and environmental contamination. This includes exploring and implementing alternatives to 1080 poison.
- Reclassification of deer, wild pigs, Tahr and Chamois as game animals and not pests and support initiatives to develop tourism around the "hunting experience".
- A return to sensible gun control laws that classify weapons by actual capability not by "look" or "style".
- Repealing the Marine and Coastal Area Act and returning to Crown Ownership of the Foreshore and Seabed for and on behalf of all New Zealanders.
- Strictly policing New Zealand waters to prevent foreign encroachments on our fisheries.
- Cost effective programs to decontaminate New Zealand waterways where polluted.