

Forest & Bird Youth Environmental Scorecards



How We Got our Scores

Getting Information

We asked political parties to complete the table below by answering the questions in the blank column. They knew that their answers would be scored in accordance with criteria that we have developed using input from experienced youth and the relevant science around each issue. Some questions included hyperlinks which allowed the parties to view the broader basis for why this question is important.

We told the parties that we would convene a panel from our membership to rate their answers in accordance with the criteria we have developed for each question (see below). We told them we would be releasing the criteria publicly.

The parties knew their answers would be released publicly at the same time as we release our scorecards and marking criteria. This allows the process to be transparent so that voters can be informed not only by our position and expertise as an organisation, but by the processes which we used to formulate our scores.

We asked that parties completed and returned the table with their answers to the questions by 15/09/2020. We asked to know the role of person included in answers.

Table we sent to political parties

Green COVID-19 Recovery	
Q1. How does your plan for New Zealand's economic recovery to COVID-19 take into account the need for an ecologically sustainable recovery in line with Forest & Bird Youth's Nature at the Heart principles ?	

Q2. Do you acknowledge that nature protection has a role in preventing future pandemics ? If so, will you make restoring nature a top priority in your COVID-19 recovery plan?	
Biodiversity & Restoration	
Q1. What are the 5 main threats to New Zealand's biodiversity, and which one do you think is the most significant?	
Q2. New Zealand has the highest proportion of threatened species in the world . What policies do you have to stop their decline?	
Q3. Much of New Zealand's biodiversity loss has been historical , what policies do you have to restore our native taonga once you have stopped their decline? Further, do you support the use of some retired land for restoration purposes instead of redeveloping it?	
Climate Change	
Q1. What plan/policies do you have to rapidly reduce NZ's emissions in line with the IPCC's 1.5 degree report now that we have committed to doing so under the Climate Change Response Amendment?	
Q2. How will you ensure that our native taonga can adapt/will be protected from the impacts of climate change?	
Marine & Coastal	
Q1. Do you support implementing a pathway to zero bycatch , including having cameras on all fishing boats?	
Q2. Do you support the phasing out of plastics (and other single-use waste) that are	

so pervasive in our environment and replacing them with new and innovative schemes for reusable infrastructure? If so, what policies do you have to develop such schemes?	
Q3. What is your plan to increase no-take/customary take marine protected area coverage, in partnership with iwi?	
Freshwater	
Q1. Will your party implement the DIN (dissolved inorganic nitrogen) and DRP (dissolved reactive phosphorus) recommendations made in the STAG report to the Minister for the Environment in 2019, and will you do this in your first 100 days?	
Q2. What is your party's policy regarding water allocation and rights, in light of WAI 2358 ?	
Te Tiriti	
Q1. Will you work meaningfully with Māori to protect nature in line with te ao Māori?	
Q2. Will you honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi and uphold Māori rights and interests in relation to their taonga, in particular by implementing the recommendations from WAI 262? If so, when can we expect a response to WAI 262 if your party forms the next Government?	

Nature + Wellbeing	
Q1. How will you increase disadvantaged communities' accessibility to nature , reduce the inequities caused by polluted environments , and address other environmental inequalities which burden vulnerable communities (e.g. Māori)?	
Q2. What plan/policies do you have to address the physical and mental health impacts of declining nature?	
Economic Transformation	
Q1. Does your party acknowledge there are biophysical limits to economic growth and that existing resources must be shared more equitably in order to achieve a balance between a " social foundation " and " ecological ceiling "?	
Q2. What is your plan to ensure environmental bottom lines so that nature is not overexploited for economic gain?	

Here's our marking criteria

Green COVID Recovery - 20%	
Q1. How does your plan for New Zealand's economic recovery to COVID-19 take into account the need for an ecologically sustainable recovery in line with Forest & Bird Youth's Nature at the Heart principles ?	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses the principles outlined in our petition - 6 marks • Plan takes into account the need to swiftly transition and invest money ASAP to avert increasing environmental damage - 2 marks • Provides clear and concise amounts/budgets for different aspects - 2 marks <p>10 marks available, worth 15%</p>

<p>Q2. Do you acknowledge that nature protection has a role in preventing future pandemics? If so, will you make restoring nature a top priority in your COVID-19 recovery plan?</p>	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicit yes answer - 2 marks • Acknowledges the link between the destruction of nature and infectious diseases - 1 marks • Will include restoring nature in recovery plan - 2 marks <p>5 marks available, worth 5%</p>
<p>Biodiversity & Restoration - 20%</p>	
<p>Q1. What are the 5 main threats to New Zealand's biodiversity, and which one do you think is the most significant?</p>	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies the threats consistent with EA2019: Habitat loss, pollution from urban areas/farming, introduced species/diseases, overexploitation of marine species/water, climate change - 5 marks • Identifies habitat loss as the most significant issue (many of our ecosystems have less than 10% of habitat remaining - the percentage at which species begin to decline due to lack of suitable habitat). - 2 marks <p>7 marks available, worth 5%</p>
<p>Q2. New Zealand has the highest proportion of threatened species in the world. What policies do you have to stop their decline?</p>	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has plan/policies which address the 5 threats outlined above - 2.5 marks • Policies are based on evidence/will have a measurable impact on biodiversity loss - 4 marks <p>6.5 marks available, worth 10%</p>
<p>Q3. Much of New Zealand's biodiversity loss has been historical, what policies do you have to restore our native taonga once you have stopped their decline? Further, do you support the use of some retired land for restoration purposes instead of redeveloping it?</p>	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has policies for restoring large areas with native habitat and managing species at an ecosystem-scale - 3 marks • Supports using retired land (e.g. from grazing) for restoration purposes - and that the default isn't just more development - 2 marks <p>5 marks available, worth 5%</p>
<p>Climate Change - 10%</p>	
<p>Q1. What plan/policies do you have to rapidly reduce NZ's emissions in line with the IPCC's 1.5 degree report now that we have committed to doing so under the Climate Change Response Amendment?</p>	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has policies for rapidly reducing emissions in the transport and agriculture sectors (our two largest sources of emissions) - 2 marks • Policies are justifiable with evidence - 3 marks

	5 marks available, worth 5%
Q2. How will you ensure that our native taonga can adapt/will be protected from the impacts of climate change?	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrees that vulnerable species will need direct intervention in order to survive - 1 mark • Acknowledges importance of mitigation to ensure less adaptation is needed - 1 mark • Has policies similar to DoC's adaptation framework - 3 marks <p>5 marks available, worth 5%</p>
Marine & Coastal - 10%	
Q1. Do you support implementing a pathway to zero bycatch , including having cameras on all fishing boats?	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the Zero Bycatch pathway in full and identifies policies similar to the plan - 5 marks • Supports the inclusion of camera on all fishing boats - 2 marks <p>7 marks available, worth 5%</p>
Q2. Do you support the phasing out of plastics (and other single-use waste) that are so pervasive in our environment and replacing them with new and innovative schemes for reusable infrastructure? If so, what policies do you have to develop such schemes?	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicit yes to phasing out single-use plastics/waste - 2 marks • Commits to exploring reusable infrastructure - 1 mark • Has a plan/policies to develop reusable infrastructure - 2 marks <p>5 marks available, worth 3%</p>
Q3. What is your plan to increase no-take/customary take marine protected area coverage?	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrees with increasing no-take/customary take MPA coverage - 1 mark • Recognises the need for partnership with iwi - 1 mark • Provides specific and/or detailed policy to increase coverage (e.g. 30% by 2030) - 2 marks <p>5 marks available, worth 2%</p>
Freshwater - 10%	
Q1. Will your party implement the DIN (dissolved inorganic nitrogen) and DRP (dissolved reactive phosphorus) recommendations made in the STAG report to the Minister for the Environment in 2019, and will you do this in your first 100 days?	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicit yes answer to implementing - 2 marks • Explicit mention of doing so in the first 100 days of government - 1 mark <p>3 marks available, worth 5%</p>

<p>Q2. What is your party's policy regarding water allocation and rights, in light of WAI 2358?</p>	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrees to exploring Māori rights and interests in freshwater - 1 mark • Applies the concept of tino rangatiratanga, accepting that Māori have rights over water as a taonga - 2 marks <p>3 marks available, worth 5%</p>
<p>Te Tiriti - 10%</p>	
<p>Q1. Will you work meaningfully with iwi to protect nature in line with te ao Māori?</p>	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicit yes answer - 2 marks • Recognises the importance of te ao Māori in NZ conservation - 2 marks <p>4 marks available, worth 3%</p>
<p>Q2. Will you honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi and uphold Māori rights and interests in relation to their taonga, in particular by implementing the recommendations from WAI 262? If so, when can we expect a response to WAI 262 if your party forms the next Government?</p>	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadly agrees with honouring Te Tiriti by upholding Māori rights and interests in relation to their taonga - 2 marks • Agrees with the recommendations from WAI 262 - 3 marks • Provides a deadline for a response - 1 mark <p>6 marks available, worth 7%</p>
<p>Nature + Wellbeing - 10%</p>	
<p>Q1. How will you increase disadvantaged communities' accessibility to nature, reduce the inequities caused by polluted environments, and address other environmental inequalities which burden vulnerable communities (e.g. Māori)?</p>	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to protect and restore remaining urban nature, especially in vulnerable communities, or has similar policies to improve access - 2 marks • Has policies to reduce inequities caused by polluted environments that are justifiable with evidence - 2 marks <p>4 marks available, worth 5%</p>
<p>Q2. What plan/policies do you have to address the physical and mental health impacts of declining nature?</p>	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has policies to address physical and mental health impacts related to declining nature - 2 marks • Policies are justifiable with evidence - 3 marks <p>5 marks available, worth 5%</p>
<p>Economic Transformation - 10%</p>	
<p>Q1. Does your party acknowledge there are biophysical limits to economic growth and that existing resources must be shared more equitably in order to achieve a balance</p>	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicit yes - 2 marks

<p>between a “social foundation” and “ecological ceiling”?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggests integrating doughnut economics or similar into future policy - 1 mark <p>3 marks available, worth 5%</p>
<p>Q2. What is your plan to ensure environmental bottom lines so that nature is not overexploited for economic gain?</p>	<p>Answer Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cites the need to not trade-off the environment for the economy - 1 mark • Plan justifiable with evidence - 2 marks • Focus on the economic benefit of stopping degradation at its source before cleaning it up - 2 marks <p>5 marks available, worth 5%</p>

Here’s how we got grades

Grades were calculated individually for each category using the percentage scale below, and then averaged (taking into account the individual category weightings) and compared again to this scale to give an overall grade. Percentages were rounded up to prevent any decimal placings, and final grades for each category were scaled up by 5% to ensure an even distribution.

A+ 90-100

A 85-89

A- 80-84

B+ 75-79

B 70-74

B- 65-69

C+ 60-64

C 55-59

C- 50-54

D+ 45-49

D 40-44

D- 35-39

F 0-34