

RAW RESPONSES FROM POLITICAL PARTIES

These are the responses we received to our questions from political parties by the deadline of 15/09/2020. We went out to all parties vying for Parliament in the 2020 election.

AOTEAROA LEGALISE CANNABIS PARTY

Green COVID Recovery
<p>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> <p>The Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party policies for R20 Recreational Cannabis will bring a \$2 billion dollar with \$495 million per annum in taxes will assist the economic recovery. The Medicinal will be bigger, but the Hemp Industry will be the biggest if given a chance. Hemp brings us all the necessities of life, buildings, textiles, bio -degradable paper, plastic, fuel and food. The seed is a super food high in proteins and omegas. It has the capacity to replace meat which will reduce pollution into the air and water. The ALCP brings the most environmentally and economically sound policies to the COVID 19 Recovery.</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>Yes.</p>
Biodiversity & Restoration
<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>Human activity, pollution, lack of recycling, reusing, repurposing, fixing is detrimental for the planet. Too much intensive farming using too many chemicals needs to stop.</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>The development of the three parts of the cannabis industry – recreational, medicinal, industrial will assist to reduce our dependence on the polluting industries reducing the need for chemicals will help reverse this negative trend. We would support any government policies to address these terrible statistics.</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>We do not have specific policies but we support initiatives for restoration.</p>
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?

As we explained above the development of all three parts of the hemp industry will help reduce emissions.

Q2. How will you ensure that our native taonga can adapt/will be protected from the impacts of climate change?

We need to keep the same conditions that are compatible for our fauna, animal, bird and fish life.

Marine & Coastal

Q1. Do you support implementing a [pathway to zero bycatch](#), including having cameras on all fishing boats?

Yes.

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?

Yes. The development of a hemp industry will create biodegradable products to reduce the killer plastic in our environment.

Q3. What is your plan to increase no-take/customary take marine protected area coverage, in partnership with iwi?

As in any partnership the issues need to be worked through together. The Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party acknowledges the principles of partnership of The Treaty in our foundation document.

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?

We agree with Forest and Bird's caring for the environment policies.

Q2. What is your party's policy regarding water allocation and rights, in light of [WAI 2358](#)?

We agree with what is environmentally sound and fair for distribution.

Te Tiriti

Q1. Will you work meaningfully with Māori to protect nature in line with te ao Māori?

Yes.

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?

Yes.

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)?

Our cannabis policies will bring billions of dollars and jobs for all our people assisting to restore social balance and sound environmental development.

Q2. What plan/policies do you have to address the [physical and mental health impacts](#) of declining nature?

The development of a cannabis industry will assist to restore 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"](#)?

Yes.

Q2. What is your plan to ensure environmental bottom lines so that nature is not overexploited for economic gain?

Full development of a hemp industry – low impact horticulture will assist our natural environment. Hemp grows to 15 feet in 6 months reducing our need to chop down forests or overplant with pine trees.

GREEN PARTY

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?

Nature sustains us and is the basis of all life. Everyone should be able to enjoy the dawn chorus in Aotearoa's forests, and see our oceans and rivers teeming with fish, whales, and other wildlife. As we reset the economy after COVID-19, investing in a just transition and in nature is crucial for New Zealand's long-term wellbeing. That's why the Green Party pushed for investment in nature-based jobs as part of the COVID-19 recovery. This resulted in \$1.3 billion in Budget 2020 for the Jobs for Nature programme which is creating jobs restoring wetlands, pest and weed control, and riparian planting. Investing in nature, and ensuring economic revitalisation does not come at the expense of our environment is at the heart of investing in our future.

The Green Party has also pushed for climate-friendly infrastructure investments, such as \$1.6 billion for low-emissions transport infrastructure in the NZ Upgrade package. Our Clean Energy Plan would create thousands of jobs installing solar panels on all suitable state homes, establish a Clean Energy Industry Training Plan for a just transition, and support community renewable energy projects with a \$250 million fund. And the Green Party's Farming for the Future policy package commits to working alongside farmers to transition to regenerative agriculture, reducing the impact on the climate and our waterways. This includes specific funding for Māori agriculture development.

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?

Yes, the Green Party acknowledges that humanity is pushing nature too far and as a planet, we are exceeding the boundaries of natural ecosystems. When the economy divorces itself from the natural environment, it ignores the limitations of ecosystems as a whole. Restoring and protecting nature to ensure our economy operates within planetary limits has always been a top priority for the Green Party.

Biodiversity & Restoration

Q1. What are the 5 main threats to New Zealand's biodiversity, and which one do you think is the most significant?

The top five threats to New Zealand's biodiversity are the climate crisis, overfishing, intensive agriculture, urban sprawl, and pests in our forests. These are all interlinked, but the climate crisis is the most significant. Climate change makes the other threats even worse.

Q2. New Zealand has the highest proportion of threatened species in the world. What policies do you have to stop their decline?

With the Green Party in Government, the Department of Conservation has seen its biggest ever funding increase to help protect our threatened species. We've changed the law to

protect endangered freshwater fish, doubled the size of protected areas for Maui and Hector's dolphins, ramped up pest control and released the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy to provide a clear set of goals and a pathway for protection of New Zealand's flora and fauna.

In the next parliamentary term we are committed to investing in and implementing a National Pest Management Plan to protect kauri from kauri dieback, delivering the Jobs for Nature programme, enhance Predator Free 2050 and DOC's predator control operations and establish more predator-free islands and sanctuaries, increase community conservation funding to work alongside landowners and iwi/hapū, and end mining on and under conservation land. We're working towards a zero bycatch goal in our marine environment to protect dolphins, seabirds, and sea lions. The Green Party will phase out harmful commercial fishing practices like set netting and bottom trawling. To protect our precious oceans, the Green Party will develop a comprehensive network of marine protected areas to protect 30% of our oceans by 2030.

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?

The Department of Conservation must be adequately funded to undertake its primary conservation and advocacy roles, including the protection of biodiversity. The Green Party will increase funding and support for iwi, hapū, landholders and community organisations to restore the health of forests, waterways and oceans through programmes such as the Community Conservation Fund and initiatives such as the Tū Te Rakiwhānoa Drylands project. The \$1.3 billion Jobs For Nature programme reflects how the Green Party wants to see biodiversity restored in New Zealand. Restoring native habitats and wetlands through planting, extending conservation covenants over both public and private land and working with landowners and leaseholders to clean up waterways and encourage native planting and pest management are how we can encourage nature to thrive. The Green Party supports the work towards a predator free New Zealand by 2050. This work to eradicate pests is to protect New Zealand's natural biodiversity now, prevent further degradation and to protect it for generations to come.

Yes, the Green Party supports restoring land instead of redeveloping it. We'd like to see more predator and pest-free sanctuaries, including in towns and cities. We support the review of stewardship land to ensure it enjoys the same long-lasting legal protections as conservation land and the extension of conservation land and national parks so long as there is meaningful engagement with mana whenua, to ensure protected spaces for New Zealand's native taonga.

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?

The Green Party wants future generations to know we did everything we could to prevent the climate crisis. During the last three years in Government the Green Party has done more for the climate than all governments for the past 30 years combined. We passed the Zero Carbon Act to set a legal framework to tackle the climate crisis, invested record amounts in public transport and cycleways, created new powers in the Resource

Management Act to stop big polluting developments, and required all default Kiwisaver funds to stop investing in fossil fuels. Just this week, we have announced that Aotearoa will be the first country globally to require large financial institutions to report on their climate risks, so they can be tracked and reduced. We know we need to do more. To reach our Paris Agreement commitment to stay within 1.5°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, we must halve our carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. This means Aotearoa must stop burning fossil fuels urgently.

The Green Party's Clean Energy Plan commits to ending industrial coal use by 2030 and industrial gas by 2035. We are proud of our longstanding 100% renewable electricity target, and will achieve this by supporting thousands of households to generate their own clean, affordable solar power. Our Farming for the Future plan will support farmers to reduce their emissions, including by banning PKE supplementary feed and reducing the use of harmful synthetic fertiliser. We will be announcing a policy plan to reduce transport emissions in the coming weeks.

Q2. How will you ensure that our native taonga can adapt/will be protected from the impacts of climate change?

To help our communities and natural taonga safely navigate climate change, the Government recently released the first National Climate Change Risk Assessment. The Assessment is a legislative requirement arising from the Zero Carbon Act, a key Green achievement this term. The report sets out priority areas for action, and highlights areas of particular sensitivity to warming, shifting weather patterns. The Assessment highlighted the specific risks to native ecosystems and species as one of the top ten climate risks facing New Zealand.

The Assessment will now be used to inform the National Adaptation Plan, another requirement under the Zero Carbon Act. The Plan, being prepared by officials at the Ministry for the Environment, will establish how government works with councils, businesses, iwi and communities to manage the impacts of climate change. If reelected, we commit to putting the interests of native taonga at the heart of this planning and seeing the Plan's recommendations enacted.

Marine & Coastal

Q1. Do you support implementing a pathway to zero bycatch, including having cameras on all fishing boats?

Yes. The Green Party has been the leading voice in Parliament for cameras on fishing boats and we're pleased the Government has finally taken action. We would accelerate the roll-out of cameras on fishing boats by incentivising the early adopters.

The Green Party will phase out harmful commercial fishing methods like set nets to ensure seabirds, dolphins and sea lions are protected from bycatch. We want to see increased funding to support Government agencies in effective and appropriate monitoring and enforcement to create robust data sets on the wellbeing of our marine life and fisheries and to reduce illegal fishing activities where and when they occur.

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?

As part of the current Government, the Green Party has done more to address waste than any other previous government. We have banned single use plastic bags, phased out micro-beads in cosmetics, and expanded the waste levy on landfills. We're working to design a container return scheme for beverage containers, have begun the phase out of problem plastics packaging such as expanded polystyrene and PVC and have implemented mandatory product stewardship schemes, as well as improving Aotearoa's kerbside recycling system.

In the next Parliament, our priorities will be phasing out low-value, hard to recycle plastics such as PVC 3, LDPE 4, PS 6 and 7 (other plastics) and certain single-use items such as drink stirrers, plates and cutlery, plastic produce bags and fruit stickers, continuing to improve and standardise kerbside recycling and developing more recycling capacity in Aotearoa so we don't send it overseas. By increasing grants available through the Waste Minimisation Fund we will support jobs and new industries focused on materials recovery and re-use. We will also Amend the Consumer Guarantees Act to introduce a Right to Repair, requiring manufacturers to design products that can be fixed, not thrown away.

Q3. What is your plan to increase no-take/customary take marine protected area coverage, in partnership with iwi?

The Green Party will prioritise the health and sustainability of fisheries by protecting areas rich in ocean life and biodiversity. Restoration of our marine environments will be a major focus of government policy. We will ensure te Tiriti o Waitangi is honoured, affirming iwi and hapū kaitiaki rights over the marine environment, and recognising the marine environment is home to many taonga.

We will be announcing a significant plan to protect the marine environment very soon.

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?

Yes. The Green Party is committed to a nationwide DIN bottom line of 1mg/litre. Our Farming for the Future plan also proposes a phase-down of nitrogen fertiliser limits, and a levy on synthetic nitrogen and phosphorus fertilisers to encourage farmers to use alternatives.

Q2. What is your party's policy regarding water allocation and rights, in light of WAI 2358?

Water is a shared resource, but the current ways of allocating water use rights do not adequately serve the interests of communities. For example, with Auckland facing a severe drought, large dairy farms are still applying to take almost a quarter of Auckland City's daily water use from the Waikato River.

As part of the next Government, we will ensure those who use water to profit, pay a fair charge for that water. As the climate changes, droughts are likely to get worse. Now more than ever, we need a fairer system for allocating and charging for commercial water use. In Government, the Green Party will create a fair system for water allocation, with commercial users like water bottling companies and significant irrigation users paying a resource rental fee, and allocation phased down to sustainable levels. This system will need to recognise the shared benefits of renewable electricity generation. Tangata whenua have kaitiaki, proprietary, and customary rights over water. Iwi and hapū will be

involved in designing the water pricing and allocation framework to ensure it recognises te mana o te wai and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, prioritises ecological integrity, and enables sustainable food production.

Te Tiriti

Q1. Will you work meaningfully with Māori to protect nature in line with te ao Māori?

Yes. The Green Party is committed to honouring te Tiriti o Waitangi. For example, we will:

- Improve implementation of te Tiriti by Te Papa Atawhai, including reviewing key conservation policy and legislation.
- Resource the active implementation of Treaty settlements and co-management/co-governance of public conservation land.
- Increase funding support for iwi and hapū, landholders, and community organisations to restore the health of forests and waterways, through programmes including the Community Conservation and Partnership Fund, Mātauranga Kura Taio, Ngā Whenua Rahui, Nature Heritage and QEII Trust Funds.

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?

Yes. We support the work begun by Minister Mahuta, and will prioritise this in the next Government. In particular, the Green Party will review the Reserves Act to embed kaitiakitanga and co-governance by iwi and hapū of reserve areas within their rohe.

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)?

The Green Party will develop a Kids in Nature programme where schools get operational funding to enable students to learn in outdoor classrooms, build their outdoor recreation skills, and go kayaking, bush walking, and snorkelling.

The Green Party will support thriving, sustainable cities, towns, and rural areas. We will restore waterways and create walking and cycling paths alongside them, creating jobs, improving water quality, and ensuring that all communities can access nature. This will include urban stormwater improvements to prevent polluted run-off entering streams; upgrading urban culverts to ensure safe passage of native aquatic species; and working with councils to identify opportunities for "daylighting" piped streams. We will restore dunelands, streams, wetlands, and bush, working with iwi and hapū, local government, community organisations, and neighbourhood groups.

Q2. What plan/policies do you have to address the physical and mental health impacts of declining nature?

Prevention is the best cure. The Greens are committed to arresting the decline of our natural systems, and the mental and physical health impacts of this decline. Acknowledging support for mental healthcare has long lagged physical healthcare, the Greens have fought for improved mental health services over the last three years,

securing a historic \$455 million dollar boost to improve access and choice of primary mental health and addiction services.

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”?

Yes. The Green Party supports this approach and the “doughnut economics” concept. In Government, we have established Indicators Aotearoa to collect better data on key ecological limits. Our party’s charter includes the principles of Ecological Wisdom (the basis of ecological wisdom is that human beings are part of the natural world. This world is finite, therefore unlimited material growth is impossible. Ecological sustainability is paramount) and Social Responsibility (unlimited material growth is impossible. Therefore the key to social responsibility is the just distribution of social and natural resources, both locally and globally.)

Q2. What is your plan to ensure environmental bottom lines so that nature is not overexploited for economic gain?

Many of our key achievements over the past five years have enshrined environmental bottom lines into legislation. The purpose of putting 1.5C into our climate change laws, or working with our coalition partners to establish hard limits on fertiliser use, is to acknowledge the limitations of natural systems and ensure they are reflected in law, and in action.

We’ve done some great work in this term of government, but we know there’s more to be done. Our Clean Energy Plan sets deadlines for coal and gas use in NZ, while our Farming for the Future Plan sets out a timeline for ending inorganic fertiliser use. Our upcoming major policy announcements will further build on these plans to recognise and respect the Earth’s carrying capacity.

LABOUR PARTY

TOPIC ONE: Green COVID-19 Recovery

1. 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?

a. Invest in nature-friendly, low carbon, and resilient assets and infrastructure:

(Marking criteria: Increase funding for DOC to increase its capacity to maintain our biodiversity; accelerate maintenance on DOC land, as well as habitat restoration and invasive species control across the country; reposition the trajectory of urban development from sprawling to compact cities and incorporate nature into urban development projects; prioritise waste minimisation, reducing the effects of toxic dumps and cleaning up legacy landfills and old mining sites.)

Before COVID, Labour had put the environment at the centre of our thinking. As we recover, we're investing further in nature to get thousands of people into jobs now, and to protect our environment for generations to come.

Labour supports a long-term transformational programme to protect, preserve, and restore our natural heritage and biodiversity. Even before COVID, we'd provided the largest funding boost for the Department of Conservation since 2002, allowing DOC to restore its core capability and capacity.

Our \$1.1 billion Jobs for Nature Fund will create 11,000 new jobs in regional New Zealand to restore our environment channelling workers affected by COVID into conservation projects, such as habitat restoration, invasive species control and improving infrastructure on public conservation land.

We've launched Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, providing a framework and specific goals for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity in New Zealand. We're also supporting councils to restore biodiversity, including through a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, which we expect to gazette in 2021.

And our Essential Freshwater programme will improve the health of rivers, lakes, wetlands and estuaries that many threatened species rely on.

We're committed to transitioning to a zero waste circular economy, focused on the waste hierarchy priorities of preventing and reducing waste and reusing resources, followed by recycling and safe disposal.

As part of our plan to reduce the amount of rubbish ending up in New Zealand's landfills, we're funding new recycling infrastructure and expanding the national waste levy scheme. We're accelerating work to achieve better and more consistent kerbside collection of recyclables. We're progressing work on regulated product stewardship schemes for tough waste issues, such as e-waste. And we've banned single-use plastic bags and committed to phasing out more single use plastics.

Through the Waste Minimisation Fund, we're creating jobs by investing in projects to help New Zealand reduce, reuse, and recycle. And, we're addressing food waste with a \$14.9 million investment to redirect food to people in need.

At the same time, we are helping councils address legacy contamination issues through the Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund. And we're working hard to resolve dross waste issues at the Bluff aluminium smelter.

We've adopted the Urban Growth Agenda, an ambitious programme which removes undue constraints to allow cities to grow both up and out. Our National Policy Statement on Urban Development enables intensification in city centres, by removing overly restrictive rules about height and density, improved housing affordability, community wellbeing, and cleaner transport options.

b. 'Clean up and protect our freshwater ecosystems':

(Marking criteria: Encourage a transition from volume to value in the primary sector, and support farmers to protect biodiversity on their property; Invest in freshwater restoration projects; Restore urban waterways and marginal habitat; Back up these programmes with regulations to protect biodiversity and freshwater.)

Cleaning up our waterways and protecting our freshwater ecosystems was one of the biggest issues Labour was elected in 2017 to deal with, and we're delivering.

The measures in our Action Plan for Healthy Waterways package will stop the state of our rivers, lakes and wetlands getting worse, make a significant improvement in five years, and return them to health in a generation. Including through requiring urban waterways to be cleaned up, and new protections for urban streams; setting stricter controls on nitrogen pollution and high-risk farm practices; and ensuring faster council freshwater plan-making through a new RMA process.

We're supporting these actions by investing significantly to create jobs in riparian and wetland planting, remove sediment from waterways, and to prevent run-off entering waterways. And we're supporting a range of initiatives to protect, preserve, and restore our natural heritage and biodiversity, and to reverse years of decline.

Earlier this year, we launched Fit for a Better World: Accelerating our economic potential. Its vision for the primary sector includes moving rapidly to a low carbon emissions society, restoring the health of our water, reversing the decline in biodiversity, and at the same time feeding our people.

This recognises that within a generation modern regenerative production systems will be the foundation of our prosperity and primary production. There is an expectation that regenerative farming systems will improve the profitability of farming while leaving behind a smaller environmental footprint.

We're also supporting farmer-led solutions through our Productive and Sustainable Land Use package, with a focus on promoting farm land-use practices that deliver more value and improve environmental outcomes.

c. 'Transition to ecosystem-based management of the marine environment':

(Marking criteria: Fund initiatives to achieve zero bycatch in the fishing industry; Identify, protect and restore depleted fish stocks; Place more of New Zealand's territorial seas under no-take Marine Reserve protection.)

Labour is committed to creating a sustainable fishing sector where a range of environmental, recreational, tangata whenua and commercial interests are upheld through an abundant fishery. We have already undertaken a major revision of the rules

governing dumping, discards and deemed values and seen the rollout of electronic position and catch reporting.

We've recently announced support to expand our on-board camera programme to around 345 inshore vessels by 2024, in two tranches. The first tranche will see cameras installed on around 165 fishing vessels in high risk areas. These include the habitats of Hector's dolphins, Antipodean and Gibson's Albatross, black petrels, and hoiho penguins. The second tranche proposes cameras on another 160 fishing vessels.

We've also overseen the introduction of a camera 'proof of concept' launch in the Maui dolphin habitat as well as a revised 'Maui and Hector Dolphin Threat Management Plan', a new seabird strategy, seen significant progress on the advancement of a Sea Change strategy with regards to the Hauraki Gulf and launched a national Aquaculture strategy.

Labour will continue to modernise our fisheries practises and our fishing fleet as we move towards an eco-system-based management approach.

We also want New Zealand to be known for its world-leading approach to marine management, including through a comprehensive network of marine reserves and other protected areas. Our work will include seeking protection of 30% of our marine area by 2030, consistent with the worldwide objective of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

d. Uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi & ensure Tangata Whenua engagement:

(Marking criteria: Ensure that the authority of mana whenua as kaitiaki is upheld, using Mātauranga to complement western science in restoring our natural places; Undertake more in-depth consultation with iwi and hapū; Prioritise projects led by tangata whenua; Empower tangata whenua to protect nature on their lands and in their rohe.)

Labour believes that coming together, sharing and using knowledge, especially mātauranga Māori, will benefit our work to protect and restore nature. We'll continue to empower tangata whenua as kaitiaki, for example, as we have with our Kiwi Recovery Plan. And, we'll continue to work alongside, and consult widely with, iwi and hapū to ensure that the authority of mana whenua as kaitiaki is upheld.

e. Focus on the connection between people and nature; empower local communities:

(Marking criteria: Recognise that nature has a distinct role in the wellbeing of people; mental, physical, and spiritual; Invest in community-based initiatives, e.g. trapping, composting, green spaces: Ensure accessibility is taken into account when connecting people with nature.)

Labour recognises that our natural environment underpins our wellbeing. From tackling climate change to cleaning up waterways, we understand that ensuring a clean, green future will positively impact the lives of New Zealanders. Without a healthy environment, there cannot be a healthy economy.

We also understand that access to nature is vital for New Zealander's wellbeing. We will continue to improve public access to the outdoors, waterways and coastline, including by investing in tracks, huts, and visitor infrastructure.

And we'll continue to back community-based initiatives, for example through the DOC Community Conservation Fund.

f. Give youth a voice:

(Marking criteria: The decisions made today will place economic, social, and environmental debt onto future generations. Decision-makers need to engage with youth so they have a say in the recovery effort.)

Labour knows that the decisions we make today will impact on all generations of New Zealanders. We are committed to meaningful engagement with youth, and we will continue to govern with their future in mind.

For example, while there was no playbook for how to respond to COVID, there were lessons that we could take from previous economic recoveries. New Zealand has seen downturns before: they don't have to leave people behind or burden the next generation. That's why our plan for recovery puts people first.

To rebuild, we're investing in our people, cushioning the blow with the wage subsidy and investing in extra mental health and wellbeing support. We're investing to get New Zealanders back to work and training by making apprenticeships free, creating thousands of nature-based jobs and launching projects across the country to clean up our waterways.

These environmental initiatives are not just part of our recovery, they are part of our rebuild – restoring or environmental reputation to what we know it should be, and they're helping pay down the environmental debt that would otherwise we paid by the next generation.

We're also preparing for the future by investing in clean energy, waste management, and housing.

2. 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?

Labour understands that our natural environment underpins our wellbeing, and we've made restoring nature a top priority in our COVID recovery plan.

Before COVID-19, Labour had significantly increased conservation funding. As we recover, we're investing a further \$1.1 billion in nature to get thousands of people into jobs now, restore and protect our environment for generations to come, and accelerate our economic recovery.

Our Jobs for Nature fund is providing people with work controlling predators, planting trees, and improving infrastructure on public conservation land. We're giving nature a helping hand by redeploying workers into biosecurity and conservation projects. Fast-track RMA consenting will help some environmentally beneficial projects, and their associated jobs, begin sooner.

To support our Action Plan for Healthy Waterways package – which will return our rivers, lakes and wetlands to health – we're investing significantly to create jobs in riparian and wetland planting, remove sediment from waterways, and to prevent run-off entering waterways.

We'll be replacing the RMA with new legislation that will protect our environment better by controlling outcomes rather than effects. We're also be preparing for the future by

promoting clean energy. And, we're moving New Zealand to a zero waste circular economy with much reduced waste, better recycling, and far less plastic pollution.

TOPIC TWO: Biodiversity & Restoration

1. What are the 5 main threats to New Zealand's biodiversity, and which one do you think is the most significant?

Earlier this year, we launched Te Mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy. This states that the five overarching pressures recognised as having the largest impact on biodiversity are: climate change; changes in land and sea use; direct exploitation; pollution; and introduced invasive species.

Labour leader Jacinda Ardern has said that climate change is the nuclear-free issue of our time, and there's no doubt that our changing climate is contributing to declining biodiversity in New Zealand.

We will continue to tackle climate change and these overarching pressures on New Zealand's biodiversity.

2. New Zealand has the highest proportion of threatened species in the world. What policies do you have to stop their decline?

Labour supports a long-term transformational programme to protect, preserve, and restore our natural heritage and biodiversity, and to reverse years of decline. Doing so will provide a range of benefits to not only essential and valuable ecosystems, but for all New Zealanders.

We've launched "Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy", providing a framework and specific goals for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity in New Zealand.

We've substantially increased DOC funding, and we're supporting councils to restore biodiversity, including through a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, which we expect to gazette in 2021.

Also our Essential Freshwater programme will improve the health of rivers, lakes, wetlands and estuaries that many threatened species rely on.

TOPIC THREE: Climate Change

1. 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?

Labour has worked hard to tackle climate change and provide New Zealanders with clean energy. We've passed the Zero Carbon Act (ZCA) with a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, and overhauled the ETS to make it an effective carbon price tool. We've stopped new offshore oil and gas exploration permits, started planting one billion trees, and invested in Ara Ake – Future Energy Development Centre.

We've aligned the RMA with the ZCA so that councils making RMA decisions will be required to consider ZCA emissions reduction and adaptation plans, and be allowed to

consider greenhouse gas emissions when granting consents. National direction will be provided to facilitate this.

We're progressing a world-first plan, alongside farming leaders, to develop practical and cost-effective ways to measure and price emissions at the farm level by 2025, this includes improving tools for estimating and benchmarking emissions on farms, increasing farm advisory capacity and capability, and providing recognition for on-farm mitigation.

We've also launched Fit for a Better World, which recognises that within a generation modern regenerative production systems will be the foundation of our prosperity and primary production. There is an expectation that regenerative farming systems will improve the profitability of farming while leaving behind a smaller environmental footprint.

And we're rolling out our plan to transform New Zealand's energy sector to one based on clean energy. This means transitioning to a carbon-neutral economy, with 100% renewable electricity generation by 2030, and decarbonisation of transport and industrial heat. This will include introducing fuel efficiency standards, promoting electric vehicles and green hydrogen fuel, and supporting the conversion of coal boilers to electricity.

2. How will you ensure that our native taonga can adapt/will be protected from the impacts of climate change?

Even with meaningful climate mitigation action, there are still unavoidable consequences of climate change that New Zealand needs to adapt to. Labour believes that good information and careful planning can lessen these impacts.

That's why we passed the Zero Carbon Act, to provide a framework by which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate policies that allow New Zealand to prepare for, and adapt to, the effects of a changing climate. And, using information from the recently released National Climate Change Risk Assessment, we're developing a national adaptation plan. Also, we think that legislation is needed on managed retreat and climate change adaptation.

Labour will continue to support initiatives to protect, preserve, and restore our natural heritage and biodiversity, and to reverse years of decline.

We've launched Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, providing a framework for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity in New Zealand, and setting specific goals for 2025, 2030, and 2050. We've also substantially boosted conservation funding, allowing DOC to restore its core capability and capacity.

And we're supporting councils to restore biodiversity, including through a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, which we expect to gazette in 2021.

TOPIC FOUR: Marine & Coastal

1. Do you support implementing a pathway to zero bycatch, including having cameras on all fishing boats?

Yes, Labour supports the implementation of a pathway to zero bycatch and will continue the rollout of cameras across the inshore and deep-water fleet.

Already, we've overseen the introduction of a camera 'proof of concept' launch in the Maui dolphin habitat as well as a revised 'Maui and Hector Dolphin Threat Management Plan', a new seabird strategy, and launched a national Aquaculture strategy.

In our second term we will continue to modernise our fisheries practises and our fishing fleet as we move towards an eco-system-based management approach.

2. 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?

Labour is committed to transitioning towards a zero waste circular economy, focusing on the waste hierarchy priorities of preventing and reducing waste and reusing resources, followed by recycling and safe disposal.

As part of our plan to reduce the amount of rubbish ending up in New Zealand's landfills, we're funding new recycling infrastructure and expanding the national waste levy scheme. We've banned single-use plastic bags and we've proposed phasing out more single-use plastics, including non-compostable fruit stickers, plastic straws, drink stirrers and produce bags.

We're accelerating work to achieve better and more consistent kerbside collection of recyclables. We're progressing work on regulated product stewardship schemes for tough waste issues, including agrichemicals and their containers. And through the Waste Minimisation Fund, we're creating jobs by investing in local projects to help New Zealand reduce, reuse and recycle.

3. What is your plan to increase no-take/customary take marine protected area coverage, in partnership with iwi?

Labour wants New Zealand to be known for its world-leading approach to marine management, including through a comprehensive network of marine reserves and other protected areas. Our work will include seeking protection of 30% of our marine area by 2030, consistent with the worldwide objective of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. And, we'll reform our marine protection legislation to ensure consistency, optimal delivery of protection objectives, and genuine sustainability. Labour values the Treaty partnership, we're committed to work in partnership to tackle the long term issues facing Maori.

TOPIC FIVE: Freshwater

1. 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?

Labour has introduced the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) to clean up our waterways and ensure that ecosystem health is maintained or improved. At this stage the NPS-FM does not include a national bottom line for DIN or DRP, although we have included a considerably strengthened nitrate toxicity bottom line. And the periphyton bottom line (relevant to hard bottomed rivers) requires a reduction in DIN and DRP to avoid excessive slim growth.

Nitrogen levels cannot degrade anywhere; and where they are worse than bottom lines for toxicity, periphyton, or total nitrogen in lakes, they must be improved. And DRP levels must be improved or at least maintained to ensure ecosystem health.

Labour will reconsider the possibility of a DIN bottom line of 1mg/l (most likely with exceptions) in 2021, with the benefit of a thorough review of the environmental and economic implications.

DRP has a high natural variation in our rivers, which makes a single national bottom line problematic. However, government officials are working on national bottom lines for DRP that account for natural variation, and will report back to the Government on this in 2021.

2. What is your party's policy regarding water allocation and rights, in light of WAI 2358?

Labour in government has pursued three broad freshwater objectives through its *Essential Freshwater* programme:

1. Stop further degradation of New Zealand's freshwater resources and start making immediate improvements so that water quality is materially improving within five years
2. Reverse past damage to bring New Zealand's freshwater resources, waterways and ecosystems to a healthy state within a generation, and
3. Address water allocation issues, by working to achieve efficient and fair allocation of freshwater resources, having regard to all interests including Māori, and existing and potential new users.

In our first term, we have focused on the first two objectives relating to freshwater quality, and have started implementing new standards and regulations to improve it.

In our next term, Labour will work to address objective 3, which includes both the use of freshwater and discharges into it. As part of this, we will be seeking to resolve the issue of Maori rights and interests in freshwater, including in light of WAI 2358.

TOPIC SIX: Te Tiriti

1. Will you work meaningfully with Māori to protect nature in line with te ao Māori?

Yes. Labour believes that coming together, sharing and using knowledge, especially mātauranga Māori, will benefit our work to protect and restore nature. We'll continue to work alongside, and consult widely with, iwi and hapū to ensure that the authority of mana whenua as kaitiaki is upheld.

2. 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?

Yes. And in relation to WAI 262, Labour is committed to making progress and wants to embark on a fresh approach to address these important issues for all New Zealanders. Labour also recognises the aspirations of Māori seeking to innovate and develop what is unique to Māori. This work has the potential to fuel innovation, strengthen national

identity, and enhance our international reputation, as well as deliver direct benefits to Māori.

Labour's first step on this in government was to hold an initial discussion with representatives of the original Wai 262 claimants. This was followed by targeted engagement with Māori technical experts, various Māori advisory boards, national Māori bodies and subject specialists in 2019. These conversations helped shape the Government's approach to this work and how we can engage with Māori and the wider public on this significant kaupapa.

The overall work programme is likely to involve a number of Government Ministers and agencies coming together to work alongside each other, Māori and the wider public over a number of years. The exact scope, phasing and timing of the work is still to be worked through.

TOPIC SEVEN: Nature + Wellbeing

1. 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)?

We acknowledge that climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately impact lower income communities. Labour will continue to work hard to tackle climate change, ensure communities are resilient, and support long-term transformational programme to protect, preserve, and restore our natural heritage and biodiversity.

We understand that access to nature is vital for New Zealander's wellbeing. Labour will continue to improve public access to the outdoors, waterways and coastline, including by investing in tracks, huts, and visitor infrastructure.

Also, achieving a just transition – one that is fair, equitable and inclusive – is a priority for Labour. We appreciate that a shift to a clean, green and carbon neutral economy will be an ongoing and evolving process, and we'll continue to work closely with iwi and hapū, communities and households, to support affected New Zealanders and improve the intergenerational wellbeing of our whānau.

We're already making significant investments to create new business and jobs while helping New Zealand move towards clean, affordable, renewable energy and away from fossil fuels. For example, we've launched Ara Ake – the National New Energy Development Centre in New Plymouth, which will lead the development of new clean energy technologies and work with businesses to commercialise their innovations creating high-paying local jobs.

2. What plan/policies do you have to address the physical and mental health impacts of declining nature?

Labour understands that a clean, green future will positively impact the lives of New Zealanders. We will continue to protect, restore, and enhance our environment.

Healthy freshwater is a taonga of great importance to all New Zealanders. Waterways must be swimmable, enable aquatic life to thrive, and be fishable and safe for food gathering – and freshwater resources must be fairly shared. We'll continue to improve the health of New Zealand's freshwater through our Essential Freshwater programme,

and work alongside local government on improving infrastructure for drinking water, stormwater and wastewater.

We'll continue to rebalance transport investment to tackle the long-term challenges of reducing emissions, easing congestion, incentivising exercise, and improving air quality. We've already made an unprecedented investment in public transport and walking and cycling improvements. Compared to the previous government, public transport investment is up 163 percent and investment in walking and cycling is up 277 percent. We're investing significantly in electric vehicles through our Low Emission Vehicles Contestable Fund, and we've co-funded over 1,000 electric vehicle chargers nationwide, with more than 600 already installed.

We also support a long-term transformational programme to protect, preserve, and restore our natural heritage and biodiversity, and to reverse years of decline. Doing so will provide a range of benefits to not only essential and valuable ecosystems, but for all New Zealanders. This includes the cultural and economic benefits of controlling the spread of kauri dieback disease, which is threatening this taonga species with extinction

And we'll continue to ensure that our local economy is sustainable, strong, and resilient from climate change and international shocks. This includes ensuring a just transition as we move towards renewable energy and away from fossil fuels, as well as a shift towards regenerative production systems as the foundation of primary production.

TOPIC EIGHT: Economic Transformation

1. 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"?

Labour believes that without a healthy environment, there can be no healthy society or sustainable economy. We are committed to economic activity being conducted within environmental limits, and to an all-of-government approach designed to ensure that all policy and regulation contributes to sustained environmental health.

We believe there are environmental lines that must not be crossed and that natural resources, such as freshwater, must be shared more fairly

2. What is your plan to ensure environmental bottom lines so that nature is not overexploited for economic gain?

We appreciate that healthy freshwater is a taonga of great importance to all New Zealanders. Waterways must be swimmable, enable aquatic life to thrive, and be fishable and safe for food gathering – and freshwater resources must be fairly shared.

We've delivered our Essential Freshwater package of policies to achieve improved freshwater quality and clean up our waterways. Underpinning this package are changes to the RMA, a new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, as well as National Environment Standards, and regulations to exclude stock from waterways.

To improve air quality and support better health and environmental outcomes, we're consulting on possible amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality, including around burning wood and coal for home heating.

We've repealed objectionable RMA changes made by the previous National government,

given the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) new enforcement functions, and provided for better and faster freshwater planning processes. And we've aligned the RMA with the Zero Carbon Act. Councils making RMA decisions will be required to consider ZCA emissions reduction and adaptation plans and be allowed to consider greenhouse gas emissions when granting consents.

We've passed the Zero Carbon Act with a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, restored the Emissions Trading Scheme to reward emissions reductions, and stopped issuing new permits for offshore oil and gas exploration.

We're modernising our fisheries practises and our fishing fleet as we move towards an eco-system-based management approach. For example, we've recently announced support to expand our on-board camera programme to around 345 inshore vessels by 2024, in two tranches. The first tranche will see cameras installed on around 165 fishing vessels in high risk areas. These include the habitats of Hector's dolphins, Antipodean and Gibson's Albatross, black petrels, and hoiho penguins. The second tranche proposes cameras on another 160 fishing vessels.

Also, as New Zealand recovers from COVID, we have the opportunity to restore our environment while supporting economic recovery in our regions. To do this we're investing a further \$1.1 billion in nature to support thousands of people into jobs now, and protect our environment for generations to come.

Our Jobs for Nature fund is providing people with work controlling predators, planting trees, and improving infrastructure on public conservation land. We're giving nature a helping hand by redeploying workers into biosecurity and conservation projects. Also, fast-track RMA consenting will help some environmentally beneficial projects, and their associated jobs, begin sooner.

To support our Action Plan for Healthy Waterways package – which will return our rivers, lakes and wetlands to health – we're investing significantly to create jobs in riparian and wetland planting, remove sediment from waterways, and to prevent run-off entering waterways.

We're also be preparing for the future by promoting clean energy. And, we're moving New Zealand to a zero waste circular economy with much reduced waste, better recycling, and far less plastic pollution.

Labour will continue to ensure that economic activity is conducted within environmental limits.

NATIONAL PARTY

Green COVID-19 Recovery	
<p>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>	<p>National agrees, that sustainability must be at the centre of everything we do. Infrastructure projects are at the heart of our plan for New Zealand's COVID-19 recovery. National will repeal and replace the RMA into two separate pieces of legislation, one of which will be specifically designated to protecting the environment. This will be constructed, with consideration to mana whenua and other local stakeholders.</p> <p>Our infrastructure plans includes significant investment into rapid bus transport and rail which will boost the use of public transport. We are committing \$15 million to the Department of Conservation to enable continued protection of our environment and native species through the disruption caused by COVID-19. National is committed to a sustainable recovery from COVID-19, and beyond.</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>The risk of the spread of Zoonotic diseases onto people can be increased by a number of human influences. This includes the increased use and exploitation of wildlife, and human encroachment on animal's native habitats.</p> <p>The conservation estate consists of over 8 million hectares of land and covers approximately one third of New Zealand. It contains some of the most distinctive plants and animals in the world.</p> <p>It makes sense to think about how the Government should invest in our conservation estate, whether to protect and improve our biodiversity, enhance and diversify our natural landscapes under protection, or celebrate New Zealanders' and our visitors' appreciation.</p>

	<p>National is also re-affirming our commitment to a Predator Free New Zealand by 2050, and we will fully resource efforts to keep us on track towards this goal. We will also be committing \$15 million to the Department of Conservation to ensure it remains an advocate for the best interests of the conservation estate and our iconic flora and fauna.</p>
<p>Biodiversity & Restoration</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>There are many threats to New Zealand's biodiversity including invasive weeds, pests, climate change, unsustainable practices and pollution. The most significant threat comes from when promises are made then not delivered. National is committed to improving biodiversity outcomes through the establishment of new national parks and marine sanctuaries.</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>National is committed to a Predator Free New Zealand by 2050, and will fully resource efforts to keep us on track towards this goal. National would also work with iwi to establish the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary to protect threatened seabird species.</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>National recognises the significance of New Zealand's unique biodiversity and is committed to protecting and preserving our world-class landscapes. As part of this, National will establish two new National Parks on existing conservation land – one on the Coromandel Peninsula and one in the Catlins. National will also provide \$15 million to DoC for predator-free ecological sanctuaries and breeding programmes.</p>
<p>Climate Change</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</p>	<p>National is committed to the emissions goals set out in the 1.5 degree IPCC report. National signed the landmark Paris agreement demonstrating our party's position to reduce carbon emissions. National is committed to the</p>

<p>under the Climate Change Response Amendment?</p>	<p>1.5 degree increase and is committed to make New Zealand carbon neutral by 2050.</p> <p>We have some principles to guide New Zealand in moving to a low carbon economy ensuring environmental protection and economic growth go hand in hand.</p> <p>New Zealand's response to meeting carbon reduction targets must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Science based o Technologically driven o Provide long term incentives for change o Be on pace with our global trading partners
<p>Q2. How will you ensure that our native taonga can adapt/will be protected from the impacts of climate change?</p>	<p>National is committed to the protection and conservation of our native species in response to a number of environmental concerns, including but not limited to climate change.</p> <p>National is open to a variety of approaches to do this, including a further \$15 million in funding to the Department of Conservation, encouraging investment into ex-situ biodiversity, and supporting technologies and biotechnologies that can assist us in protecting our taonga.</p>
<p>Marine & Coastal</p>	
<p>Q1. Do you support implementing a pathway to zero bycatch, including having cameras on all fishing boats?</p>	<p>National will implement cameras on commercial fishing vessels to monitor compliance, and reduce bycatch. This will be an important step to better protect our seabirds and marine mammals like dolphins.</p>
<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>	<p>Plastic waste in our oceans is a rapidly emerging environmental issue that is killing marine life and contaminating human food sources. It is deeply concerning that by 2050 it is projected there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish.</p> <p>National supports industry led responses and initiatives to combat the usage of single-use plastics. National encourages people and businesses and communities that promote reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering</p>

	<p>resources. Typically most cost effective efficient solutions are industry lead without the need for heavy-handed regulation.</p> <p>Moving to a circular economy would transform New Zealand from a 'take, make, waste' model to one where the lifecycles and use of materials is optimised. A circular economy is restorative by design and is underpinned by the use of renewable energy and resources.</p>
<p>Q3. What is your plan to increase no-take/customary take marine protected area coverage, in partnership with iwi?</p>	<p>National takes marine protection seriously. We will promote the widespread industry use of digital monitoring for tracking and reporting fish catches to manage the sustainability of our fish stocks into the future.</p> <p>National will work with iwi to establish a Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary and while exploring options for the establishment of new marine reserves</p>
<p>Freshwater</p>	
<p>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>	<p>National will not be implementing the proposed DIN and DRP bottom lines. It is important to note that there was never unanimous support for these bottom lines on the STAG. Five scientists on the group opposed these bottom lines, they included three NIWA scientists, a professor at the University of Waikato, and a water scientist at Horizons Regional Council (they were acting as individual experts, not as representatives of their employers).</p> <p>The five scientists argued that bottom lines for DIN and DRP did not have the impact on water quality that others were arguing. Other indicators such as macroinvertebrate indexes were more important.</p> <p>These two bottom lines will be far the most expensive to implement. Some catchments in Canterbury would require 80 percent reductions in nutrient loads to meet the bottom lines. This wouldn't be about going from dairy back the sheep and beef, it would be about going from dairy back to tussock grass.</p>

	<p>New Zealand is facing the largest economic challenge it has faced in 160 years. New Zealand has already lost about a quarter of our goods and service export earnings due to border restrictions shutting off our international tourism and education sectors. Now is not the time to be putting onerous bottom lines in that would undercut our largest remaining export sector.</p>
<p>Q2. What is your party's policy regarding water allocation and rights, in light of WAI 2358?</p>	<p>National will repeal or review the nine regulations announced on 5 August. Instead National will work with farmers, environmental stakeholders and iwi to put in place a more efficient allocation method for the resource. These alternatives will be practical, science-based, and achievable.</p> <p>WAI 2358 notes the failure of the RMA to include Maori participation in the RMA process, and specifically how this relates to the treatment of freshwater, has been poor. That is why National wishes to repeal and replace the RMA two pieces of legislation, one of which will be an Environment Standards Act. This will be constructed with consideration to mana whenua and Māori voices.</p>
<p>Te Tiriti</p>	
<p>Q1. Will you work meaningfully with Māori to protect nature in line with te ao Māori?</p>	<p>Yes. National is committed to working in partnership with Māori to uphold our environmental values. We recognise iwi concerns in this area and we will work with Māori on the implementation of nature sanctuaries, water policies, and future environmental initiatives.</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>National has a strong track record of addressing concerns raised at the Waitangi Tribunal and acknowledges the relevance of the WAI 262 claim and its recommendations. We will continue our work to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi should National form the next government. Future environmental policy and legislation, such as redesigning the RMA or implementation of various sanctuaries, will encompass and heed the principles of the Te</p>

	Tiriti, and incorporate perspectives and voices of mana whenua.
Nature + Wellbeing	
<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>New Zealand is a biological economy with much of our wealth being a result of our thriving environment, such as the success of our primary industries. We need a prosperous economy to pay for the choices we make in protecting our environment, and we need a healthy environment to support our economy. A strong economy is better for everyone. Therefore, we must focus our efforts on environmental outcomes in equal measure to our focus on economic outcomes. We cannot prioritise short-term economic gain at the expense of the environment. That is why National wants to transition to a circular economy, meaning one that is restorative and regenerative, designing waste out of our system.</p>
<p>Q2. What plan/policies do you have to address the physical and mental health impacts of declining nature?</p>	<p>New Zealand's environment is central to our quality of life, our national identity and our competitive advantage.</p> <p>National's Bluegreen approach takes a long-term view that by making smart, strategic decisions today we can leave our environment in a healthier state for future generations. Responsible stewardship of our environment is crucial in securing the type of future we want for our children and grandchildren.</p> <p>If we as New Zealanders are serious about the care and protection of our natural environment, we need to value it like we say we do. Natural capital is a concept which equates to the sum of our ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, soils, minerals, air, and maritime space. These are all elements of nature that either directly or indirectly bring value to us as people and the country as a whole.</p>

	<p>This approach would assign a value to our natural resources so they can be considered as an integral component of our overall economic framework. It would allow their value and the benefits they provide to be quantitatively analysed and accounted for. Valuing natural capital is not only about assigning a value. It's about acknowledging the things New Zealanders care about and giving them due consideration when making decisions.</p> <p>This will improve the quality, consistency and coverage of data on natural resources so that over time New Zealanders have access to the same quality of data on environmental issues as they do on social and economic issues. This will lead to more intelligent government decision making on how decisions that impact the environment will impact people, and subsequently their overall well-being.</p>
<p>Economic Transformation</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 between a “social foundation” and “ecological ceiling”?</p>	<p>New Zealand is a biological economy with much of our wealth being a result of our thriving environment, such as the success of our primary industries. We need a prosperous economy to pay for the choices we make in protecting our environment, and we need a healthy environment to support our economy. A strong economy is better for everyone. Therefore, we must focus our efforts on environmental outcomes in equal measure to our focus on economic outcomes. We cannot prioritise short-term economic gain at the expense of the environment. That is why National wants to transition to a circular economy, meaning one that is restorative and regenerative, designing waste out of our system.</p>
<p>Q2. What is your plan to ensure environmental bottom lines so that nature is not overexploited for economic gain?</p>	<p>We will replace the RMA with legislation that is efficient and predictable. The current RMA is often focussed on balancing development and environmental issues, but in its current form is failing on both fronts.</p>

	<p>We should decide what New Zealand's bottom lines are, with a central agency to enforce, educate and monitor. Environmental consents would then be a matter of complying with the rules. Non-compliance would mean no consent.</p>
--	--

SOCIAL CREDIT

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 ?	One of our key principles is to ensure that human well being and sound ecology, not the profit motive, governs all our decisions. In our economic plan 'Reclaim Our Future' https://www.socialcredit.nz/rof we've allocated \$4.6 billion every year over and above existing government spending for environmental initiatives, funded by newly created money through the Reserve Bank - at no cost to taxpayers.
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?	We don't believe science has established that, but as noted above sound ecology is a key principle. Restoration of our damaged environment is dealt with below.
Biodiversity & Restoration	
Q1. What are the 5 main threats to New Zealand's biodiversity, and which one do you think is the most significant?	The largest threat to biodiversity is the continued drive for growth - something promised by most other parties. That drive for growth is underwritten by the need to continually earn more to repay debt and interest to commercial banks. A Social Credit economic system would dramatically reduce that debt driver and take the pressure off pursuing growth. Our environment would breath a sigh of relief.
Q2. New Zealand has the highest proportion of threatened species in the world . What policies do you have to stop their decline?	Answered above.
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	Sadly, it is now too late for some species, but we would provide interest free loans and grants for the restoration of wetlands and replanting of native forest on appropriate land - again using the capacity of the government's own bank - the Reserve Bank - at no cost to taxpayers. Similar funding would be provided to local bodies for sewage treatment and options like waste to energy plants, processing plastic to replace combustion engine fuel and for use in roading, and other cutting edge technologies not currently being used because they are considered too expensive.

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?	We do not accept the flawed modelling of the IPCC, but we do accept that the climate is changing. Our full policy on climate change is here https://www.socialcredit.nz/climate-change-and-pollution
Q2. How will you ensure that our native taonga can adapt/will be protected from the impacts of climate change?	Answered in several places above.
Marine & Coastal	
Q1. Do you support implementing a pathway to zero bycatch , including having cameras on all fishing boats?	Absolutely.
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?	We certainly support positive initiatives to reduce the use of single use products but believe a goal of complete phasing out is presently unrealistic. The persistence of single use products is driven by our low wage economy. Reusable infrastructure is more expensive, so our economic policy will increase incomes and give people the means to consider more expensive options.
Q3. What is your plan to increase no-take/customary take marine protected area coverage, in partnership with iwi?	We favour the extension of marine reserves and the limiting of commercial catches in sensitive marine areas in a way that would benefit all New Zealanders.
Freshwater	

<p>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>	<p>Much of the drive for the use of inorganic fertiliser and overstocking is covered in our answers above. Substantial support for re-generative farming practices, restoration of wetlands, regional development programmes for flood control, soil conservation, energy conservation and water quality, will come from nil interest loans from the Reserve Bank</p>
<p>Q2. What is your party's policy regarding water allocation and rights, in light of WAI 2358?</p>	<p>In the same way that non Maori are being actively encouraged to learn Te Reo we believe non Maori should be encouraged to adopt Māori values when it comes to freshwater decision-making rather than the current attempts to establish separate decision making and ownership models. That encouragement should be supported by funding to enable education programmes on those values. We reiterate our first principle - which is to ensure that human well being and sound ecology, not the profit motive, should govern all our decisions.</p>
<p>Te Tiriti</p>	
<p>Q1. Will you work meaningfully with Māori to protect nature in line with te ao Māori?</p>	<p>There is a presumption here that all Maori act in a way that protects nature in line with te ao Māori and that non Maori do not. That is not a presumption we accept and our position is supported by everyday events. Many non Maori are passionate about protecting our environment - something we should be encouraging all New Zealanders to be. Again our economic policies would provide a positive environment in which to advance that aim.</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>WAI 262 is far too encompassing to deal with in a few sentences. We are at a loss to understand how the breadth of issues covered by WAI 262, many of which have nothing to do with flora, fauna, or ecology, come into the ambit of Forest & Bird.</p>
<p>Nature + Wellbeing</p>	
<p>Q1. How will you increase disadvantaged communities' accessibility to nature, reduce the inequities caused by</p>	<p>We have covered these issues with our responses in the early part of this questionnaire, although again we are puzzled how this comes into the ambit of Forest & Bird. We would point out that there are many disadvantaged and vulnerable people in New Zealand and that there are many Maori who do not fall into</p>

<p>polluted environments, and address other environmental inequalities which burden vulnerable communities (e.g. Māori)?</p>	<p>those categories. Our policies are designed to substantially reduce inequality, wherever it may be in New Zealand society. See https://www.socialcredit.nz/rof and https://www.socialcredit.nz/row</p>
<p>Q2. What plan/policies do you have to address the physical and mental health impacts of declining nature?</p>	<p>Our policies are designed to reverse declining nature. We aim to focus on dealing with the cause of problems rather than trying to ameliorate the symptoms.</p>
<p>Economic Transformation</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 between a “social foundation” and “ecological ceiling”?</p>	<p>We have covered these two questions with our responses in the early part of this questionnaire in particular and in other sections. We suggest you refer to our website policy sections - https://www.socialcredit.nz/climate-change-and-pollution https://www.socialcredit.nz/agriculture https://www.socialcredit.nz/forestry https://www.socialcredit.nz/environment and the 'You and Your Environment' booklet we produced in 1973 which is downloadable from that page. That will give you an understanding of the length of time we have been addressing these issues and the foresight of those who compiled it. It covers matters such as a land classification that are not mentioned in your survey.</p>
<p>Q2. What is your plan to ensure environmental bottom lines so that nature is not overexploited for economic gain?</p>	<p><u>No response</u></p>

THE OPPORTUNITIES PARTY (TOP)

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 ?	At the moment investments are being made on the basis of vote buying or being shovel ready. We absolutely need to ensure that the investments we make now allow us to reach our emissions reductions targets in 2050. TOP would ensure all investments are made on the basis of business cases, including the environmental impacts (including carbon emissions).
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?	Yes. We applaud the Green Jobs initiative from the Government. We would do more to encourage land owners to fence and plant erosion prone land, wetlands and riverways in natives as well as protecting existing stands of native bush.
Biodiversity & Restoration	
Q1. What are the 5 main threats to New Zealand's biodiversity, and which one do you think is the most significant?	Climate change, habitat loss/ land use change and introduced species would be the main threats. The most significant would depend on the species.
Q2. New Zealand has the highest proportion of threatened species in the world . What policies do you have to stop their decline?	Our policy is "no net loss of biodiversity". TOP wants to see better incentives for private land owners to restore and look after nature on their land. Conservation funding should also increase but the first preference should be given to community groups over DOC.
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?	Supporting Predator Free 2050 is crucial here. We would allow the use of gene editing to give them another tool in the pursuit of this goal. All erosion prone land and waterways should be restored to native trees. Wetlands should also be restored to improve water quality.
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?	Energy efficiency, process heat and transport are the priorities here. Firstly we have to double the carbon price to move process heat away from fossil fuels. We would invest the money to ensure homes and businesses are operating at peak energy efficiency, plant erosion prone land

	and take the Fringe Benefit Tax off low emission vehicles.
Q2. How will you ensure that our native taonga can adapt/will be protected from the impacts of climate change?	Firstly we need to limit the damage of climate change. Secondly we need to ensure that we have a network of pristine habitats for them to move to across the nation as they adapt.
Marine & Coastal	
Q1. Do you support implementing a pathway to zero bycatch , including having cameras on all fishing boats?	Yes. We are calling for an overhaul of the Quota Management System, working with iwi Maori.
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?	Yes. The Government is making some progress here on product stewardship but this needs to be accelerated. We need a higher Waste Levy, and we need to encourage businesses to work together locally to reduce waste.
Q3. What is your plan to increase no-take/customary take marine protected area coverage, in partnership with iwi?	As per Q1. above, there should be an overhaul of the QMS, and we would like to see greater use of spatial planning as part of that. That should include a comprehensive network of representative marine reserves of different kinds (no take, mataitai, benthic etc).
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?	Yes, and yes.
Q2. What is your party's policy regarding water allocation and rights, in light of WAI 2358 ?	Maori have rights over fresh water that must be resolved immediately. This is essential before we can have a rational approach to water allocation and pricing (e.g. charging water bottlers).
Te Tiriti	
Q1. Will you work meaningfully with Māori to protect nature in line with te ao Māori?	Yes. We are calling for a Constitution that honours the Treaty and enshrines rights of the environment.
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	Wai 262 is "the largest and most complex" case so it will take a while to work through! Our first priority is to resolve water ownership as that is holding up good management of water quantity

<p>from WAI 262? If so, when can we expect a response to WAI 262 if your party forms the next Government?</p>	<p>and quality. Meanwhile there needs to be an all of Government review to work out how best to implement the recommendations of Wai 262.</p>
<p>Nature + Wellbeing</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>Most of these issues can be dealt with by ensuring that nature is restored, particularly around our cities. We would fund Local Authorities properly so they can offer decent public and active transport and invest in water infrastructure to clean up urban waterways. Meanwhile our tax and welfare reform will create a Universal Basic Income of \$250 per week for everyone. A UBI encourages people to retrain, start businesses, and rewards them for unpaid work like nature volunteering or parenting. A UBI benefits the working poor because they keep the UBI when they work, and makes sure nobody falls through the cracks.</p>
<p>Q2. What plan/policies do you have to address the physical and mental health impacts of declining nature?</p>	<p>We applaud the Government's investment in the mental health system. However for TOP mental health is about belonging and identity, and that happens in the community. We would invest in community groups (including nature based ones) so people have something to belong to.</p>
<p>Economic Transformation</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 between a "social foundation" and "ecological ceiling"?</p>	<p>Yes. Resources are ultimately limited and our economy needs to recognise that. However, ingenuity isn't limited and so we can continue to progress and improve things even with limited resources. Just look at the digital world for example.</p>
<p>Q2. What is your plan to ensure environmental bottom lines so that nature is not overexploited for economic gain?</p>	<p>New Zealand has one of the lowest levels of environmental taxation in the Western World. We need strong bottom lines and better incentives for businesses to act sustainably. TOP will accelerate emissions reductions, improve the bottom lines on freshwater, and ensure there is no net loss of biodiversity.</p>