



BUILDING A NATURE-POSITIVE AOTEAROA FOR A PROSPEROUS RESILIENT FUTURE

Tūkeke, South Island Saddleback, Chalky Island Fiordland © Jake Osborne



Forest & Bird
TE REO O TE TAIĀO | *Giving Nature a Voice*



GREENPEACE



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INTRODUCTION

As the largest environmental non-government organisations in Aotearoa, we have become increasingly alarmed at the direction of environmental policy being taken forward in New Zealand.

These policies are making a bad environmental situation worse, which ultimately impacts New Zealand's bottom line. The next Government, regardless of its political party makeup, needs to adopt a different approach if we are to protect the natural assets that provide such an important foundation for our economy and society and which are fundamental to our national identity.

This policy paper offers measures that are essential to safeguard Aotearoa from climate disaster and the escalating loss of our precious ecosystems. They are the foundation for restoring the natural systems that sustain our health, economy, and way of life. Some policy measures are put forward as alternatives to current government policy direction - we believe strongly that there is a need to correct course in a number of areas.

We highlight immediate priorities for the first 100 days after the election, along with bold, future-focused ideas to inspire transformational change. We also draw out policies that can address the cost of living pressures New Zealanders are right now experiencing.




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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1. Evidence-based action** - policy grounded in science and the precautionary principle
- 2. Te Tiriti o Waitangi** - honouring Te Tiriti and upholding tino rangatiratanga
- 3. Valuing nature** - recognising ecosystems as taonga that are central to our prosperity and wellbeing
- 4. Fairness and equity** - ensuring responsibility and benefits are shared justly, including with future generations
- 5. Public participation** - ensuring community voices are heard and trusted in decision-making

PRIORITY POLICY CHANGES FOR NATURE

INCREASE OUR WEALTH BY PROTECTING NATURE

Transitioning to ecological practices in the food and fibre sector maintains and opens up premium export markets while protecting soil health, restoring rivers, cleaning up drinking water, rebuilding fish stocks, and enhancing biodiversity.

Prohibit bottom trawling on marine ecosystems like seamounts, both within NZ waters and by NZ vessels in international waters.



Introduce cameras and/or observers on all commercial fishing vessels, including the deepwater fleet.



End all public funding of irrigation schemes.



End seafloor-damaging fishing methods in the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana.



End new dairy conversions, and take action to reduce livestock numbers.



Strengthen the cap on synthetic nitrogen fertiliser with a full phase out over a decade.

PRIORITY POLICY CHANGES CONTINUED

ADDRESS SOCIETAL CHALLENGES WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Aotearoa's natural environment is the foundation of our health, wellbeing, and economy, supporting livelihoods from tourism to small businesses all of which rely on clean water, healthy oceans, and thriving wildlife.

Introduce a long-term and large-scale fund to support projects that deliver climate adaptation or mitigation outcomes whilst supporting the recovery of our indigenous biodiversity (i.e. nature-based solutions).



Protect all remaining natural wetlands and implement a plan to restore at least 30% of degraded wetland area.



Limit the Permanent Forest Category in the Emissions Trading Scheme to indigenous forests only, and complement this with a biodiversity incentives scheme.



Protect at least 30% of New Zealand's ocean territory by 2030.



Support the advancement of regional marine protection proposals in the High Seas, Southern Ocean and throughout the Pacific.



Prohibit all seabed mining in New Zealand's EEZ.



Increase overall public conservation funding to at least \$2 billion annually within five years, and invest in systems improvement to ensure it is deployed as effectively and efficiently as possible.



SECURE OUR ENERGY FUTURE & GROW GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

By shifting from fossil fuels to renewables and modern transport, New Zealand can reduce emissions, lower household bills, strengthen energy security, boost productivity, create thousands of jobs and build healthier, more resilient communities.

Reinstate the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration.



Reform the electricity market, starting by removing fossil fuel generation from the wholesale market and ring-fencing it as a strategic reserve.



End new coal mining and revoke unused coal, oil and gas permits immediately.



Incentivise distributed solar power and large-scale renewable energy projects designed with nature in mind.



Phase out all coal, gas and diesel infrastructure.



Redirect motorway expansion funding towards a large-scale programme of investment in transport mode shift.



PRIORITY POLICY CHANGES CONTINUED

BUILD A STRONGER, FAIRER, GREENER DEMOCRACY

By making polluters pay their share, restoring transparency and participation, and upholding Te Tiriti, New Zealand can build a fairer system that supports people, nature, and the climate

Repeal the Fast-Track Approvals Act.



Repeal and/or amend the current government's resource management laws and remove any corporate compensation clauses.



Amend aspects of the Conservation Act 1987 and Wildlife Act 1953 to ensure the conservation management system prioritises halting and reversing nature loss in New Zealand.



Re-instate Te Tiriti o Waitangi clauses into all environment laws.



Introduce polluter pays schemes across sectors.



Implement the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity and Te Mana o te Taiao.



Reform the Emissions Trading Scheme.



MAKING LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE, NOW

Clean energy and transport investment can deliver quick relief in the cost of living crisis by cutting power bills, reducing fuel costs, and making everyday travel more affordable - while also cutting emissions and making communities healthier and more resilient.

- Provide grants, zero-interest loans and other financial incentives for household solar and batteries to cut power bills and boost the supply of clean, distributed energy generation in Aotearoa.
- Install solar on all suitable government buildings and schools.
- Reform the electricity market so that it delivers affordable, clean energy - starting by removing fossil fuel generation from the wholesale market and managing it as strategic reserve.
- Extend finance and support for home insulation and heat pumps so that all under-insulated homes are insulated in the next 10 years.
- Introduce free public transport fares for Community Service Card holders, under-25s, and Total Mobility Card holders and their support people.
- Redirect motorway expansion funding towards a large-scale programme of investment in public and active transport, prioritising under-served communities.

FIRST 100 DAYS: AN ENVIRONMENTAL RESET

The actions we propose for the first one hundred days after government formation will help show voters that the country is moving in the fresh direction they have chosen, one that puts people and nature first. Making these bold moves early is important to ensure positive change is achievable, and create momentum for the deeper changes that people and nature need.

- Restore environmental protections and signal a strong commitment to Te Tiriti by **repealing the Fast-Track Approvals Act, restoring Te Tiriti clauses in legislation and repealing any future Regulatory Standards Act.**
- Suspend the processing of applications and any new applications under the **Fast-Track Approvals Act and review any granted consents.**
- Demonstrate that Aotearoa is once again a leader in the global fight against climate change by **reinstating the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration and cancelling subsidies for fossil fuel development appropriated in Budget 2025.**
- Signal that environmental bottom lines and Te Tiriti are at the heart of environmental governance by **repealing recent anti-environment changes to resource management laws.**
- Underscore the importance of restoring New Zealand's unique ecosystems by **ending bottom trawling in Tikapa Moana/the Hauraki Gulf** and removing the exemption for commercial ring-net fishing in two High Protection Areas.
- Announce plans to advance reform of the Marine Reserves Act 1971** to enable high-quality and Tiriti-consistent marine protection tools and approaches.
- Signal that democracy and public participation sits at the heart of governance by **canceling fast-tracked environmentally destructive projects including the controversial seabed mining proposal for Taranaki.**
- Signal early that you are committed to making rivers swimmable and restoring clean drinking water to rural New Zealand by immediately **ending new dairy conversions.**
- Restore evidence-based bottom lines** to resource management
- Entrench the expectation that we all must play our part in the fight against climate change by **bringing agriculture into the Emissions Trading Scheme.**
- Stimulate active transport quickly and affordably by **re-allocating some existing vehicle lanes to cycling where appropriate.**
- Ensure nature on conservation land is protected by **rescinding any parts of the National Conservation Policy Statement that diminish the protection of nature**, the public voice and the role of the New Zealand Conservation Authority and Conservation Boards in decision-making and oversight.

BIG IDEAS FOR A THRIVING FUTURE

As well as putting a stake in the ground in the first 100 days, we encourage the Government to embark on a number of big-ticket transformational policies that will restore nature, cut pollution, generate jobs, ease the cost of living, and improve health and wellbeing across communities in Aotearoa.

Advance an integrated Oceans Strategy that enables clear ecosystem outcomes, marine spatial planning and new ocean governance arrangements.

Make our cities safer and healthier, while bringing down travel costs by **embarking on a large-scale programme of investment in public and active transport**, funded by canceling the roads of national significance.

Boost conservation investment to at least \$2 billion annually within five years, expand Jobs for Nature, and commit \$300 million each year to wetland, forest, and coastal restoration - protecting biodiversity, preventing species loss, strengthening communities, and creating thousands of regional jobs.

Enable the transition of New Zealand's food and fibre sector to premium, high value, ecologically-farmed produce by **establishing a \$1 billion ecological farming fund**.

Unlock the potential of Recloaking Papatūānuku and other nature-based solutions by creating a national resilience plan, phasing out forestry offsets through ETS reform, transparently accounting for climate liabilities, and directing ETS revenue into native restoration.

Develop a national decarbonisation strategy that drives innovation in renewable energy distribution, generation and storage, and sets out the steps needed to shift New Zealand to renewable energy and tackle dry-year risks.

Make power bills affordable for New Zealanders, create thousands of jobs and improve resilience to fuel shocks by **introducing grants, zero-interest loans and other financial incentives for household solar and batteries**.

Lay the foundations for a thriving future by **introducing polluter pays schemes across sectors** to provide the necessary finance for new infrastructure and nature restoration, while encouraging private sector innovation.

Reform conservation laws to increase legal protection of nature, give better effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and enable more effective control of pests on conservation land.



A VISION FOR A FAIRER, GREENER AOTEAROA

Aotearoa has always been at its best when we've acted on our shared values of fairness and collective responsibility. We were the first nation to grant women the vote. We stood up to global superpowers to go nuclear-free. We have a tradition of being brave and confident in setting our own course as a society. Our brightest transformative moments have come when leaders were ***bold, principled, and unafraid to lead with courage***, even when it challenged powerful vested interests.

Today, we stand at another turning point as a nation. In times like these, excessive caution and incrementalism from political leaders do not inspire hope. Across the world, people are losing faith in politics, precisely because leaders have failed to adequately confront what feels like a worsening day-to-day reality for everyday people.

Yet a different vision of the future is possible: one where rivers and drinking water are clean, oceans teem with life, forests are regenerated, and Indigenous knowledge and tino rangatiratanga guide how we protect and relate to te taiao. In this vision, everyone has access to local, affordable kai, clean energy, and a warm, dry home. Communities are resilient, with restored wetlands, coastlines, and forests shielding us from climate extremes. People across the country are enjoying decent jobs and are seeing their living standards improve on the back of future-proofed and forward-looking businesses. This is not just a dream - it is within our reach. Votes for women, universal healthcare, the conservation estate, and our social welfare system were once seen as pipedreams until ***leaders chose courage over caution***.

To achieve this, a reset in how we value our environment is needed. Our wellbeing depends on restoring the natural systems that support life: clean water, fertile and stable soils, a hospitable climate, and healthy oceans. The Government must shift away from policies and approaches that use our environment as something to be exploited without limits. The choice political leaders must make is between supporting people and nature or siding with polluters and profiteers. Whether it's foreign-owned forestry slash devastating communities, the large energy generators blocking renewables, or the dairy monopoly polluting rivers, the pattern is clear: a handful of corporations and individuals profit while New Zealanders shoulder the costs. This is the result of deliberate political choices that have left nature degraded, communities struggling, and the climate in chaos.

Now is the moment to reset our course as a nation - not just to restore what's been lost, but to build something better: a country where people and nature flourish together, and where the Government acts in service of the public, not polluters and profiteers.



Whakahao, male New Zealand sea lion © Ross Mastrovich

NATURE IS DECLINING IN AN INCREASINGLY UNSTABLE WORLD

Every aspect of our lives depends on the health of the natural world. Clean rivers and aquifers provide the water we drink. Healthy soils and pollinators make food production possible.

Forests and wetlands filter our air, store carbon, and protect communities from floods and erosion. Oceans regulate our climate and sustain fisheries that feed millions. When these systems are degraded, our health, economy, and future security are put at risk. Protecting and restoring nature is not a luxury - it is the foundation of our shared human wellbeing and prosperity. But, right now, our natural world is in crisis.

INDIGENOUS WILDLIFE ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

New Zealand has the highest species extinction rate in the world, with 4,000 of our native species either at risk or threatened with extinction. This includes:

- 91% of seabirds, with 27% of populations in decline.¹
- 78% of terrestrial native birds, with 22% of populations in decline.²
- 68% of indigenous freshwater-dependent birds, with 25% of populations in decline.³
- 76% of freshwater fish, with 63% of populations in decline.⁴
- 94% of reptiles, with 72% of populations in decline.⁵
- 93% or 13 out of 14 indigenous frog species, 12 of these populations are in decline.⁶

Deforestation of native forest and clearance of other native ecosystems continues to occur. As much as 88,000 hectares of native ecosystems were lost between 1996 and 2018. This is larger than the area of Lake Taupō.⁷

¹ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 46

² Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 23

³ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 37

⁴ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 37

⁵ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 23

⁶ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 37

⁷ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 25

RIVERS, LAKES, WETLANDS & DRINKING WATER UNDER IMMENSE STRESS

- Around half of the entire river length is considered unsafe for swimming.⁸
- Half of all lakes are in poor health, contaminated by excess nutrients from intensive agriculture. Only a third of lakes are in good or very good health.⁹
- Nitrate contamination in groundwater is increasing in nearly half of monitored sites.¹⁰
- 12.4% of monitored sites exceed the MAV (11.3 mg/L) for nitrate in 2019 - 2024.¹¹
- Only 10% of our wetlands remain. They continue to be drained and degraded for livestock farming.¹²
- At 84 percent of monitored river sites the median concentrations of at least one form of nitrogen exceeded the ANZG guideline values.¹³
- Total nitrogen pollution is worsening at 51 percent of monitored rivers.¹⁴
- Without changes to land-use, erosion rates are predicted to worsen with climate change. Sediment loads to waterways are expected to increase by up to 233% by 2090.¹⁵
- Most of our clean water comes from public lands, reinforcing the fact that looking after nature is also good for us.

⁸ Environment Aotearoa 2025.

⁹ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 31

¹⁰ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 31

¹¹ StatsNZ 2025

¹² Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 34

^{13 & 14} <https://www.stats.govt.nz/indicators/river-water-quality-nitrogen/>

¹⁵ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 18



Garbage dumped in river near Dunedin © Lorette Doreboom / Greenpeace

OCEANS IN CRISIS

- In 2023, 12% of assessed fish stocks were either overfished or depleted and five fish populations had collapsed.¹⁶
- In 2025, new data showed that the orange roughy population is on the verge of collapse in the main orange roughy fishery area, with just 8-18% left of its original population. 10% is generally considered the collapse of a fishery.¹⁷
- In just one year (2020/21) at least, 3,613 seabirds and 476 fur seals were caught in trawling and longline fisheries.¹⁸
- At least 2,073 kilograms of protected coral were reported as bycaught in one year.¹⁹
- Industrial fishing killed 15 Hector's dolphins in 2023-24 (up from usual 0-5 per year).²⁰
- Few biogenic habitats (like kelp forests, seagrass meadows and sponge gardens) are monitored in New Zealand, but most that have experienced loss or damage.²¹
- Marine heatwaves made worse by climate change have become more frequent, intense and longer-lasting.²²
- These heatwaves have caused unusual fish migrations, severe bleaching and necrosis of sponges, large losses of farmed salmon and southern bull kelp (rimurapa), and likely contributed to the mass mortality of blue penguins (kororā) in the Bay of Plenty.²³

¹⁶ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 43

¹⁷ <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/70159-Fisheries-Assessment-Plenary-May-2025-Volume-2-Orange-roughy-ORH-3B/>

¹⁸ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 43

¹⁹ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 43

²⁰ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 43

²¹ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 48

²² Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 44

²³ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 65



CLIMATE FURTHER DESTABILISING

- 2024 was the **hottest year on record**. It was also the first year where global temperatures were more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level.²⁴
- **Extreme rainfall and cyclones:** the amount of extreme rainfall coming out of ex-tropical cyclones, like Gabrielle and Bola will increase. Under a 2°C warming scenario these cyclones are predicted to dump 20% more rain by the end of the century and that number only increases with additional warming.²⁵
- **Flooding:** In 2021, it is estimated that the intensity of extreme rainfall events that caused flooding in Canterbury was made 10-15% more intense as a result of climate change and on the West Coast by nearly 10 percent.²⁶
- It is predicted that in the next 35 years, 14,500 homes worth \$12.9 billion will experience at least one damaging flood.²⁷
- **Sea level rise:** In some areas of NZ sea level is expected to rise 20 to 30 centimetres by 2050 compared with 2005 levels. For many parts of the country, a 30-centimetre rise is a threshold for extreme flooding. If it is breached what was once considered a 100-year coastal storm will happen every year.²⁸
- New Zealand's gross emissions-per-GDP ratio is the third-highest of all advanced economies, behind only Australia and Canada.²⁹
- The Government's current emissions targets are nowhere near ambitious enough but even then the Climate Commission has warned that currently the Government's climate plans are not sufficient to meet New Zealand's long-term emissions budgets.³⁰

24 <https://climate.copernicus.eu/global-climate-highlights-2024>

25 <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2025JD043833>

26 Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 62

27 Estimated number and valuation of residential properties within inundation/flood zones impacted by climate change. Report prepared for MFE.

28 Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 45

29 & **30** Climate Change Commission: At a glance: Monitoring emissions reduction (2024)



HUMAN ILLNESS INCREASING FROM ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

- **Air pollution:** Social costs resulting from the health impacts associated with air pollution were estimated at **\$15.3 billion for the year 2019**, with 69 percent of these costs associated with air pollution from motor vehicles.³¹
- In 2019, air pollution was a factor in 3,239 premature deaths, 12,653 cases of childhood asthma and 13,237 hospitalisations.³²
- **Water pollution:** In 2023 there were 388 notifiable illness cases of campylobacteriosis, 135 of giardiasis, 106 of cryptosporidiosis, 102 of salmonellosis and 138 of Escherichia coli infection, for cases where people reported contact with rivers, lakes or the sea.³³
- Rural communities face a higher risk of waterborne disease than the urban population.³⁴
- Scientists warn that around 800,000 (15%) New Zealanders have water supplies with **potentially hazardous nitrate levels**. They estimate nitrate could be attributable to an additional 100 colorectal cancer cases and 40 deaths per year.³⁵
- With an increasing number of extreme events, a rise in injuries and deaths, displacement, and significant damage to community infrastructure is expected. Existing **health and social system inequities will be exacerbated** by climate change.³⁵
- Cyclone Gabrielle alone, the effects of which were made worse by climate change and an under-regulated primary sector, killed 11 people, displaced more than 10,500, and caused a range of acute and long-term health effects.³⁷

³¹ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 68

³² Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 68

³³ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 67

³⁴ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 67

³⁵ Richards J, Chambers T, Hales S, Joy M, Radu T, Woodward A, Humphrey A, Randal E, Baker MG. Nitrate contamination in

drinking water and colorectal cancer: Exposure assessment and estimated health burden in New Zealand. Environ Res. 2022 Mar.

³⁶ Environment Aotearoa 2025. Pg 70

³⁷ Public Health Communication Centre: The long shadow of Cyclone Gabrielle: Brief review at 12 months

AOTEAROA: A LEADING SUSTAINABLE FOOD & FIBRE PRODUCER

Aotearoa New Zealand has the potential to be a global leader in producing high-quality, affordable food and fibre in ways that restore rivers and oceans, tackle climate change, and ensure food security. But this change will not come through market forces alone. The Government must make a strategic choice to shift our primary sector towards sustainability and resilience.

Currently, policies incentivise farming, fishing, and forestry practices that degrade soil and water, deplete fish stocks, and destroy ecosystems. Chronic under-regulation and a lack of investment in ecological methods have created a race to the bottom. This is holding New Zealand back, as businesses seeking to truly innovate and reduce their environmental footprint are forced to compete with the worst environmental performers. Families meanwhile face rising food prices, often paying more for local produce than consumers overseas.

This under-regulation threatens our economy. As global markets demand food with lower climate and environmental footprints, our exports are at risk. Feed additive breakthroughs, precision fermentation, and lab-grown proteins will challenge New Zealand's pasture-based, low-value model. Without change, our milk powder and meat could be displaced by cheaper, lower-emission alternatives. The "clean-green" brand will only hold if it remains grounded in reality.

Harmful practices must be regulated, while farmers and fishers are supported to transition to ecological production. Government policy settings and investment in local, diversified, higher value food, timber, and fibre processing would retain more value in regional economies and reduce household costs. Transitioning to ecological practices can secure premium export markets, restore rivers, rebuild fish stocks, enhance biodiversity, and improve soil and water health. It also creates resilient jobs in farming, fishing, food processing, and rural communities - jobs rooted in producing healthy food without sacrificing the land, water, and oceans future generations depend on.

But this turnaround requires political leadership. Without infrastructure for new products or support for farmers to change, New Zealand risks being left behind as technology and consumer preferences shift.

The Government must carry the torch for a long-term vision - one that serves nature, farmers, fishers, the economy, and future generations. That means having the courage to stand up to lobby groups defending the short-term interests of the few, and instead ensuring the prosperity of people, communities, and nature.

PRIORITY POLICY MEASURES

Enable the transition to ecological farming by **strengthening the cap on synthetic nitrogen fertiliser** with a full phase out over a decade.



Ensure fully transparent and traceable fisheries management by **introducing cameras and/or observers on all commercial fishing vessels, including the deepwater fleet.**



Safeguard the critical biodiversity hotspots that will allow marine wildlife and fish stocks to recover by **prohibiting bottom trawling on marine ecosystems, like seamounts**, both within NZ waters and by NZ vessels in international waters.



Restore the ecological integrity of Tikapa Moana/the Hauraki Gulf by **ending seafloor-damaging fishing methods, including bottom trawling, Danish seining and scallop dredging.**



Protect rivers and drinking water by **ending all public funding of irrigation schemes.**



Halt further freshwater degradation and runaway greenhouse gas emissions by **ending new dairy conversions** and reducing livestock numbers.



COMPLEMENTARY POLICY MEASURES

1. **Establish a \$1 billion ecological farming fund** to help farmers transition to more plant-based, ecological farming practices, including infrastructure and support to get new, high-value ecological products to market.
2. **Ban imported feeds like palm kernel expeller**, which maintain unsustainable herd sizes in Aotearoa while decimating precious ecosystems overseas.
3. **Bring agriculture fully into the Emissions Trading Scheme**, creating a financial incentive for farmers to transition to low emissions farming methods.
4. **Ban intensive winter grazing (mud farming)**, to protect waterways, biodiversity and animal health.
5. **Reform the Fisheries Act, Wildlife Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act to deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management**, including a total allowable catch that maintains fish stocks at or above a minimum biomass level of 50% and a pathway to zero bycatch.
6. **Restore the integrity of the Climate Change Response Act** and move to fully implement the Climate Change Commission's recommendations on methane reduction.



Sheep, Rangitoto Station © Atkins Ranch

AOTEAROA'S UNIQUE NATURE: OUR GREATEST ASSET - OUR GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY

The unique landscapes, forests, rivers, and coasts of Aotearoa are central to our health and wellbeing, and shape who we are as a nation. They also sustain jobs and livelihoods - from tourism and recreation to businesses that depend on clean water, healthy oceans, and thriving native wildlife.

But this priceless asset is under mounting pressure exacerbated by poorly regulated industries and chronic underfunding of conservation. Habitat loss, overfishing, pollution, and invasive species are eroding the natural systems that underpin both our economy and our way of life.

Protecting nature is not only about values - it makes economic sense. Globally, over half of the world's GDP (USD \$58 trillion a year) depends directly on nature.³⁸ In Aotearoa, land-based ecosystems provide benefits worth around 27% of our GDP, and indirectly, all economic activity relies on healthy natural systems.³⁹ If we fail to act, global GDP could shrink by USD \$2.7 trillion by 2030.⁴⁰

Analysis from WWF and EY's Nature Positive Aotearoa report shows that protecting and restoring 30% of our land, waters, and seas - targets set under the Global Biodiversity Framework - would deliver major economic returns. Expanding marine reserves, restoring wetlands, and converting degraded land into native forests could generate a net benefit of NZD \$272 billion for New Zealand between 2025 and 2080.

While upfront investment is required, from 2035 onwards the benefits would outweigh the costs every year, creating significant long-term economic growth. Delaying action, by contrast, will only make solutions more expensive and risk irreversible damage.

Nature-based solutions to climate change - such as forest restoration and wetland planting - could capture and store an additional 13.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually by 2030. This sequestration could deliver NZD \$56.4 billion in economic benefits, shared between government and landowners. Alongside the urgent need to cut emissions at source, these investments would help Aotearoa meet its international climate commitments while saving the government up to NZD \$2.3 billion a year and boosting income for landowners.

The choice is clear: protecting and restoring nature safeguards our identity, wellbeing and economy. With the right investment and regulation, Aotearoa can secure both thriving ecosystems and a stronger, more resilient future.

³⁸ World Economic Forum, 2023. It's time to recognise the economic value of an ecosystem.

³⁹ Some of these benefits (53%) are included in current GDP calculations and others are not. 'Total economic value' of New Zealand's Economic Case for Naturelandbased ecosystems and their services - Nature Positive Aotearoa report.

⁴⁰ World Bank Group, 2021.

PRIORITY POLICY MEASURES

Protect at least 30 percent of New Zealand's ocean territory by 2030 through a network of Tiriti-consistent and tikanga-led tools and approaches and new marine protected areas legislation.



Replace the Wildlife Act 1953 with a new Nature Act and amend other conservation laws as required to ensure the conservation management system prioritises halting and reversing nature loss in New Zealand.



Enhance biodiversity and climate benefits of native afforestation by **limiting the Permanent Forest Category in the Emissions Trading Scheme to indigenous forests only**.



Equip the Department of Conservation with the resources needed to protect biodiversity and prevent species loss by **increasing overall public conservation funding to at least \$2 billion annually within five years**, including splitting International Visitor Levy revenue 50:50 between biodiversity and tourism.



Support marine protection proposals in the High Seas, Southern Ocean and throughout the Pacific.



Preserve our unique marine wildlife and the habitats they depend on by **prohibiting all seabed mining in New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**.



Protect all remaining natural wetlands and implement a plan to restore at least 30% of degraded wetland area, prioritising areas most important for biodiversity recovery and community resilience.



Protect nature from mining on conservation land by placing an immediate moratorium on new mines on public conservation land and by substantively amending the Crown Minerals Act to prohibit new mines on all public conservation land.



Strengthen the health of rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater by reinstating Te Mana o te Wai and strengthening the National Policy Statement on Fresh Water.



COMPLEMENTARY POLICY MEASURES

1. ***Unlock the potential to Recloak Papatūānuku (restoring and reforesting 2.1 million hectares over 10 years)*** and other for nature-based solutions to address climate change and biodiversity loss by developing a national climate and landscape infrastructure resilience plan, transparently account for climate liabilities, reform the ETS to phase out forestry offsets, and scale investment by redirecting ETS revenue to better support native restoration.
2. ***Encourage, resource and support the use of rāhui, mataitai and taiapure*** by whānau, iwi and hapū to protect and manage the marine environment.
3. Scale up a ***native afforestation*** sector using biodiversity incentives.
4. Impose a ***wilding pines control*** levy on exotic foresters.
5. ***Reclassify all stewardship land*** to permanently protect its conservation and cultural values.
6. ***Establish a nationally-led, cross sectoral, coordinated approach that strengthens wild animal control*** (deer and goat species and feral pigs) to restore and protect nature, protect carbon stocks and protect agricultural and forest productivity.
7. ***Amend the Bill of Rights Act*** to reflect that everyone has a right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.



GREEN ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE DRIVING JOBS, CLIMATE RESILIENCE & WELLBEING

Clean, affordable energy and major Government investment in green infrastructure are central to dealing with both the cost of living and climate crises. Embarking on a plan to make New Zealand's transport system safer, healthier and more accessible is a particularly transformational opportunity.

Our engineered reliance on fossil fuels, an electricity market that locks in fossil fuel use, and chronic underinvestment in new renewables, energy efficiency, transport and infrastructure are holding New Zealand back. Imported fuels, rising costs, and increased exposure to climate-related disasters are eroding the security of our economy and the wellbeing of our communities.

The cost of living crisis is made worse by high energy bills, poorly insulated homes, and dependence on imported oil and coal. Businesses too face higher costs, limiting productivity and international competitiveness. Clean, efficient energy, transport and infrastructure can ease those pressures, making day-to-day life more affordable while attracting new industries, maintaining talented workers in New Zealand and boosting long-term growth.

Large-scale investment in renewable power, transport infrastructure and modern housing will create tens of thousands of skilled jobs in every region of the country. From solar installation and home retrofits to rail construction and wetland restoration, this is work that strengthens communities, stimulates regional economies, and lays down the foundations for sustainable growth.

At the same time, investing in energy efficiency and renewable supply strengthens resilience. By reducing our dependence on volatile global fossil fuel markets, New Zealand can build energy security and shield households and businesses from price shocks. Clean energy and electrified and active transport also make communities safer and healthier - lowering air pollution, reducing climate emissions, and improving resilience during natural disasters.

PRIORITY POLICY MEASURES

Signal a clear commitment to the green energy transition by reinstating the ***ban on offshore oil & gas exploration***.



Reform the electricity market

so that it prioritises affordability, climate change and resilience.



Introduce a long-term and large-scale Jobs for Nature programme with the goal of restoring indigenous ecosystems including wetlands, forests, and coastal ecosystems - to protect biodiversity, increase resilience to natural hazards, and create thousands of regional jobs.



Improve transport access, boost health outcomes and cut emissions by ***redirecting motorway expansion funding towards a large-scale programme of investment in public and active transport, prioritising under-served communities.***



Protect biodiversity hotspots and mitigate unnecessary climate pollution by ***ending new coal mining***, revoking unused coal, oil and gas permits and phasing out all coal and gas infrastructure.



Decarbonise inter-city travel by immediately ***introducing an Auckland-Wellington night train, while embarking on a programme of rail electrification*** and regional passenger rail expansion.



COMPLEMENTARY POLICY MEASURES

1. **Develop a national decarbonisation strategy** that drives innovation in renewable energy distribution, generation and storage, and sets out the steps needed to shift New Zealand to renewable energy and tackle dry-year risks.
2. Improve air quality, fuel security and climate impacts by **putting an end date on the importation of fossil fuel vehicles**, re-introducing fuel efficiency standards, and building a nationwide EV charging network.
3. Stimulate active transport quickly and affordably by **re-allocating some existing vehicle lanes to cycling, starting with a lane on the Auckland Harbour Bridge**.
4. **Provide grants and zero-interest loans for household solar and batteries** to boost the supply of clean, distributed energy generation in Aotearoa.
5. **Prioritise the funding and implementation of nature-based solutions to climate change and community resilience**, including wetland and coastal restoration, making room for rivers, building spongier cities, and native reforestation.
6. **Put in place a Future Homes Standard for New Zealand that ensures building and construction get to net zero**.
7. Lead the development of **high quality affordable housing** by requiring Kāinga Ora to meet passive house standards.
8. **Install solar on all suitable government buildings, schools, and social housing**.
9. **Consider establishing a Ministry of Green Works** to drive green infrastructure investment and regional economic development.
10. Substantially reduce the cost, emissions and environmental impact of new transport infrastructure by **combatting urban sprawl, specifically by committing to planning limits on roads or houses on greenfields**.
11. **End new airport expansions** and curb demand for private jets and helicopter pads.

A STRONGER, FAIRER, GREENER DEMOCRACY

A strong democracy and fair economy are the foundations of a healthy society. When the government is transparent, polluters are held accountable, and revenue is raised fairly, we can fund the services people rely on and invest in solutions that ease the cost of living, create jobs, and protect the environment.

But at present, fast-track approvals, weak rules, under-enforcement, and a chronically underfunded environmental public service are eroding the country's natural wealth. The true costs of harmful environmental practices continue to be externalised - with the costs ultimately paid for by taxpayers and local communities. We see this from forestry slash and climate-driven floods destroying homes, to drinking water so polluted it's unsafe. The true costs of polluting activities need to be carried by polluters.

At the same time, communities - including Māori as Treaty partners - have become sidelined in decision-making through the Fast Track Approvals Act and the RMA reforms. The result is a system that delivers short-term profits for a few, while driving up costs, fuelling inequality, and degrading nature.

With the right reforms, New Zealand can build a fairer, greener democracy. Transparency and participation can be restored by repealing and reforming harmful laws, strengthening the Environmental Protection Authority, and giving the Climate Commission real power. Te Tiriti can be upheld by ensuring the government engages properly with Māori. By making polluters pay and restoring democratic safeguards, we can fund essential services, drive innovation, and protect the environment - creating a system where everyone truly gets a fair-go and a fair say and creating a democracy that works for people, nature, and the climate.



Ensure the whole of Government, including its various ministries, engage with Māori rights holders and their representative organisations by *re-instating te Tiriti o Waitangi clauses into all environment laws.*



Elevate environmental protection and Te Tiriti o Waitangi over private property rights by *repealing any future Regulatory Standards Act.*



Lay the foundations for a thriving future by *introducing polluter pays schemes across sectors* that will provide the necessary finance for new infrastructure and nature restoration, while encouraging private sector innovation.



Value biodiversity and Te Tiriti in consenting decisions by *repealing and/or amending the current Government's resource management laws* and removing any corporate compensation clauses.



Repeal the Fast-Track Approvals Act such that environmentally harmful projects are ruled out, including enabling a review of applications already approved.



Implement the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity, including through further reform of the Resource Management Act.



Drive gross emissions reductions at pace and avoid a projected emissions price crash by *reforming the Emissions Trading Scheme.*



Replace the Wildlife Act 1953 with a new Nature Act and amend other conservation laws as required to ensure the conservation management system prioritises halting and reversing nature loss in New Zealand.



COMPLEMENTARY POLICY MEASURES

1. Ensure that the ***Environment, Climate, Oceans & Fisheries and Conservation portfolios are held by Cabinet Ministers*** to elevate their importance in Government decision-making and avoid perpetuating the false economy vs. environment binary.
2. Require that the ***Prime Minister be a joint portfolio holder for climate change***.
3. Give the ***Climate Commission independent powers*** to influence the price of emissions.
4. Conduct a ***comprehensive review of the Official Information Act*** to ensure it acts in the interests of transparency and democracy.
5. Review and ***strengthen the Environmental Protection Authority*** to ensure effective enforcement of environmental laws.





Rainbow Warrior in the Hauraki Gulf © Geoff Reid / Greenpeace

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AGRICULTURE

1. End new dairy conversions, and take action to reduce livestock numbers.
2. Strengthen the cap on synthetic nitrogen fertiliser with a full phase out over a decade.
3. Bring agriculture fully into the Emissions Trading Scheme.
4. End public funding of irrigation schemes.
5. Set a national environmental bottom line for nitrate-nitrogen of 1mg/L.
6. Drop the Maximum Allowable Value for nitrate-nitrogen in drinking water from 11.3 mg/L to 1 mg/L.
7. Ban intensive winter grazing (mud farming).
8. Ban imported feeds like palm kernel expeller.
9. Establish a \$1 billion ecological farming fund.
10. Re-centre the precautionary approach in all hazardous chemical regulation.

CLIMATE CHANGE

LAND-USE

1. End new dairy conversions and take action to reduce livestock numbers.
2. Strengthen the cap on synthetic nitrogen fertiliser with a full phase out over a decade.
3. End all public funding of irrigation schemes.
4. Ban imported feeds like palm kernel expeller.
5. Establish a \$1 billion ecological farming fund.
6. Scale up a native afforestation sector using biodiversity incentives.
7. Prioritise the implementation and funding of nature-based solutions to climate mitigation and community resilience, such as wetland and coastal restoration, making room for rivers, building spongier cities, and native reforestation.
8. Limit the Permanent Forest Category in the ETS to indigenous forests only, in order to support native afforestation.
9. Restore and reforest 2.1 million hectares of land in Aotearoa over 10 years.
10. Provide incentives, funding and regulation to protect existing native forests, carbon stocks and forest productivity, from introduced browsers.
11. Establish a nationally led, cross sectoral, co-ordinated approach to wild animal control (deer, goat and feral pigs).
12. Fund scientific research to improve how we measure carbon sequestration and emissions in pre-1990s native forests.

ENERGY

Please see detailed list in Energy and Resources portfolio below

EMISSIONS PRICING

1. Bring agriculture fully into the Emissions Trading Scheme.
2. Reform the Emissions Trading Scheme to drive gross emissions reductions and avoid a projected price crash due to over-supply of exotic forestry units.
3. Give the Climate Commission independent powers to influence the price of emissions.

CONSERVATION

1. Increase overall public conservation funding to at least \$2 billion annually within five years, and invest in systems improvement to ensure it is deployed as effectively and efficiently as possible.
2. Introduce a long-term and large-scale Jobs for Nature programme to protect biodiversity and create thousands of regional jobs.
3. Reclassify all stewardship land to permanently protect its conservation and cultural values.
4. Ensure that at least half of the revenue gained through International Visitor Levy directly contributes to the protection and recovery of threatened native species and ecosystems. This should be additional funding, above and beyond core Crown funding.
5. Expand marine protection and replace the Marine Reserves Act with fit-for-purpose marine protected areas legislation that enables, resources and supports Tiriti-consistent and tikanga-led tools and approaches to improve ocean health outcomes.
6. Propose or support a large scale Marine Protected Area in the Tasman Sea under the UN Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty (High Seas Treaty).
7. Invest \$300M annually in nature-based solutions. This contestable fund, modelled on the successful Jobs for Nature programme, would be available to iwi, councils, community groups and private landowners.
8. Ensure conservation values on all publicly owned land, including land managed by LINZ, are protected.
9. Establish a nationally-led, cross sectoral, co-ordinated approach to wild animal control (deer and goat species and feral pigs) to restore and protect nature, protect carbon stocks and protect agricultural and forest productivity.
10. Continue to fund wallaby control in NZ to work towards containment in the short-term and eradication in the long-term.
11. Expand the work of Predator Free 2050, including adding the full suite of invasive predators.

12. Repeal the Game Animal Council Act and any Herds of Special Interest designations.
13. Increase aerial 1080 predator control by 100,000 hectares each year.
14. Introduce new (bipartisan) cat management legislation to protect native wildlife by ensuring mandatory chipping, desexing, registration, limit on cats per household (unless breeding license is obtained) and support strong advocacy for indoor cats.
15. Replace the Wildlife Act 1953 with a new Nature Act and amend other conservation laws as required to ensure the conservation management system prioritises halting and reversing nature loss in New Zealand.

ENERGY & RESOURCES

MINING AND FOSSIL FUELS

1. Reinstate the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration.
2. Prohibit all seabed mining in New Zealand's EEZ.
3. Re-instate trailing liability rules for oil and gas.
4. Ban all new mining on and under public conservation land.
5. Prohibit new coal mines and the expansion of existing coal mines nationally and rescind unused coal permits.
6. Ban any new on-land permits for prospecting, exploration or mining of petroleum (including gas), and rescind unused petroleum permits.
7. End all subsidies to fossil fuels, including the \$200m gas fund and the 20% tax cut on new assets appropriated in Budget 2025.

SUPPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

1. Reform the electricity market so that it prioritises emissions reductions, affordability, and resilience.
2. Remove fossil fuel generation from the wholesale market and ring-fence it as strategic reserve.
3. Provide grants, zero-interest loans and other financial incentives for household solar and batteries
4. Provide grant funding for community energy schemes.
5. Install solar panels on government buildings, schools and social housing.
6. Extend finance and support for home insulation and heat pumps so that all under-insulated homes are insulated in the next 10 years.
7. Boost support for large-scale clean energy (solar, wind and geothermal) generation where it can be done in ways and locations that do not cause adverse effects on the natural environment.

ENVIRONMENT & RMA REFORM

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. Repeal the Fast-Track Approvals Act.
2. Cancel all the FTAA applications not yet decided and review applications already approved.
3. Repeal or amend new resource management laws to: remove centering of private property rights, reinstate Tiriti o Waitangi clauses, remove any corporate compensation clauses and provide for appropriate public participation.
4. Ensure that Resource Management legislation delivers strong environmental protections such as Significant Natural Areas, environmental bottom lines, mechanisms to meaningfully address cumulative effects, and direction to restore where nature is degraded.
5. Ensure that spatial planning directs development away from areas with important natural values.
6. Re-instate Tiriti o Waitangi clauses into all environment laws, and ensure that the whole of government, including its various ministries, engage with Māori rights holders and their representative organisations.

FRESHWATER SPECIFIC RM REFORM

1. Reinstate Te Mana o Te Wai and strengthen the National Policy Statement on Fresh Water.
2. Protect all remaining natural wetlands and implement an Aotearoa Wetland Protection & Restoration plan, with measurable and enforceable regional targets, for carbon sequestration, the mitigation of climate change effects and resilience to natural hazards.
3. End new dairy conversions, and take action to reduce livestock numbers.
4. Strengthen the cap on synthetic nitrogen fertiliser with a full phase out over a decade.
5. Set a national environmental bottom line for nitrate-nitrogen of 1mg/L.
6. Drop the Maximum Allowable Value for nitrate-nitrogen in drinking water from 11.3 mg/L to 1 mg/L.
7. Ban intensive winter grazing (mud farming).

INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY

1. Implement recommendations of 2024 Ministerial Inquiry into land use through amendments to NES-Commercial Forestry.
2. Implement the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity, including through further reform of the Resource Management Act.
3. Implement and undo changes to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

WASTE AND PLASTICS

1. Prohibit the manufacture or sale of plastic beverage bottles under §23 of the Waste Minimisation Act.
2. Develop reusable and refillable beverage container systems.
3. Introduce a plastic pollution levy.
4. Introduce national targets to phase out single-use plastics.

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

1. Re-centre the precautionary approach in all hazardous chemical regulation.
2. Increase the levy on companies wanting hazardous chemical or new organism approvals that EPA can charge (for cost recovery).
3. Decrease the use of group standards and reliance on international regulators in the HSNO and ACVM act.

FINANCE & REVENUE

1. End public funding of irrigation schemes.
2. End all subsidies to fossil fuels, including the \$200m gas fund and the 20% tax cut on new assets appropriated in Budget 2025.
3. Introduce a long-term and large-scale Jobs for Nature programme to protect biodiversity and create thousands of regional jobs.
4. Increase overall public conservation funding to at least \$2 billion annually within five years, and invest in systems improvement to ensure it is deployed as effectively and efficiently as possible.
5. Invest \$300M annually in nature-based solutions. This contestable fund, modelled on the successful Jobs for Nature programme, would be available to iwi, councils, community groups and private landowners.
6. Ensure that revenue gained through International Visitor Levy directly contributes to the protection and recovery of threatened native species and ecosystems. Reinstate the 50:50 split between biodiversity and tourism investment. This should be additional funding, above and beyond core Crown funding.
7. Provide grants, zero-interest loans and other financial incentives for household solar and batteries.
8. Extend finance and support for home insulation and heat pumps so that all under-insulated homes are insulated in the next 10 years.
9. Reform the electricity market so that it prioritises affordability, climate change and resilience.
10. Boost support for large-scale clean energy (solar, wind and geothermal) generation where it can be done in ways and locations that do not cause adverse effects on the natural environment.

11. Pre-emptively invest in Aotearoa's native habitat carbon sinks instead of sending public money overseas for low quality carbon credits to meet future NDC liabilities under the Paris Agreement.
12. Bring agriculture fully into the Emissions Trading Scheme.
13. Establish a \$1 billion ecological farming fund to help farmers transition to more plant-based, ecological agriculture.
14. Implement polluter pays schemes across sectors to fund a more sustainable future.

OCEANS & FISHERIES

BOTTOM TRAWLING AND SEABED MINING

1. Prohibit bottom trawling on marine ecosystems, like seamounts, both within New Zealand's waters and by New Zealand vessels in international waters.
2. Stop issuing High Seas Permits to New Zealand bottom trawlers.
3. End seafloor-damaging fishing methods in the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana.
4. Prohibit all seabed mining in New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

MARINE PROTECTION

1. Propose or support a large scale Marine Protected Area in the Tasman Sea under the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty (UN High Seas Treaty).
2. Protect at least 30% of New Zealand's ocean territory by 2030 through a network of Tiriti-consistent and tikanga-led tools and approaches and new marine protected areas legislation.

FISHERIES REFORM

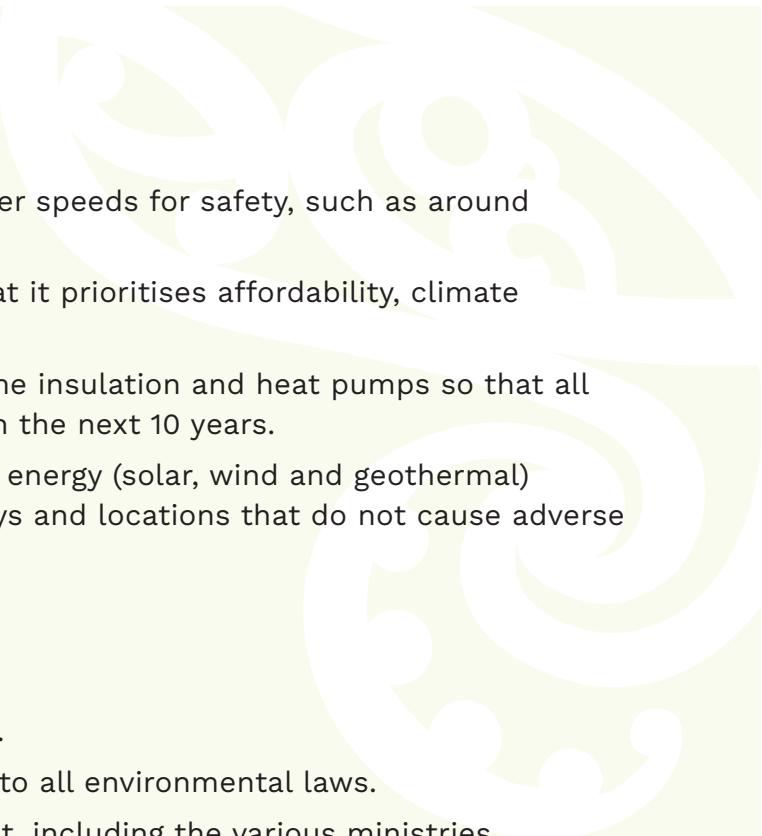
1. Introduce cameras and/or observers on all commercial fishing vessels.
2. Review and reform the Quota Management System (QMS) and the Fisheries Act to deliver ecosystem-based fisheries management, including a total allowable catch that maintains fish stocks at or above a minimum biomass level of 50% and a pathway to zero bycatch.
3. Encourage, resource and support the use of rāhui, mataitai and taiapure by whānau, iwi and hapū to protect and manage the marine environment.
4. Place management of the QMS data under direct public control, by ending Seafood New Zealand's control via the Fishserve contract.

FORESTRY

1. Implement recommendations of 2024 Ministerial Inquiry into land use through amendments to NES-Commercial Forestry.
2. Impose a wilding pines control levy on exotic foresters.
3. Scale up a native afforestation sector using biodiversity incentives.
4. Limit the Permanent Forest Category of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to indigenous forests only, in order to support native afforestation for its biodiversity and climate benefits.
5. Restore and reforest 2.1 million hectares of land in Aotearoa over 10 years.
6. Reinstate the special forestry test in the Overseas Investment Act.
7. Provide incentives, funding and regulation to protect existing native forests, carbon stocks and forest productivity, from introduced browsers.
8. Fund scientific research to improve how we measure carbon sequestration and emissions in pre-1990s native forests.
9. Reform the ETS to drive emissions reductions and avoid mid 2030s projected price crash due to over-supply of exotic forestry units.
10. Implement a ‘levy’ at point of emitter surrender of carbon credits units to fund native afforestation and maintenance of plantings including browsing pest animal control.

INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Repurpose motorway expansion funding for a programme of investment in public transport, including electric rail, busways, cycleways, and regional rail links such as an overnight Auckland-Wellington service.
2. Put in place a Future Homes Standard for New Zealand that ensures building and construction get to net zero.
3. Lead the development of high quality affordable housing by requiring Kāinga Ora to meet passive house standards.
4. Provide grants, zero-interest loans and other financial incentives for household solar and batteries
5. Provide grant funding for community energy schemes.
6. Install solar on all suitable government buildings, schools, and social housing.
7. Consider establishing a Ministry of Green Works to drive green infrastructure investment and regional economic development.
8. Set a timeframe for the end to importation of fossil fuel vehicles, re-introduce fuel efficiency standards, and build a nationwide EV charging network.
9. Prioritise nature-based solutions to climate mitigation and climate resilient infrastructure, such as wetland restoration, making room for rivers, sponge-cities, coastal plantations and native reforestation.



10. Restore communities' ability to lower speeds for safety, such as around schools and on dangerous roads.
11. Reform the electricity market so that it prioritises affordability, climate change and resilience.
12. Extend finance and support for home insulation and heat pumps so that all under-insulated homes are insulated in the next 10 years.
13. Boost support for large-scale clean energy (solar, wind and geothermal) generation where it can be done in ways and locations that do not cause adverse effects on the natural environment.

JUSTICE

1. Repeal the Regulatory Standards Act.
2. Reinstate Tiriti o Waitangi clauses into all environmental laws.
3. Ensure that the whole of government, including the various ministries, engage with Māori rights holders and their representative organisations.
4. Disestablish the Minister, and Ministry for Regulation.
5. Conduct a comprehensive review of the Official Information Act to ensure it acts in the interests of transparency and democracy.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

1. End new gas connections on new builds.
2. Put in place a Future Homes Standard for New Zealand that ensures building and construction get to net zero.
3. Install solar on all suitable government buildings, schools, and social housing.
4. Extend finance and support for home insulation and heat pumps so that all under-insulated homes are insulated in the next 10 years.

FOOD SAFETY

1. Re-centre the precautionary approach in all hazardous chemical regulation.
2. Increase the levy on companies wanting hazardous chemical or new organism approvals that EPA can charge (for cost recovery).
3. Decrease the use of group standards and reliance on international regulators in the HSNO and ACVM act.
4. Increase evidence requirements of risks before approval of all hazardous chemicals.

LAND INFORMATION

1. Amend the Overseas Investment Act, so that all land in Schedule 1 is required to undergo an investor test and benefit to New Zealand test and reinstate the special forestry test.
2. Ensure conservation values on all publicly owned land, including land management by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) are protected.

MĀORI CROWN RELATIONS

1. Reinstate Tiriti o Waitangi clauses into all environmental laws.
2. Ensure that the whole of government, including the various ministries, engage with Māori rights holders and their representative organisations.

HEALTH

1. Drop the Maximum Allowable Value for nitrate–nitrogen in drinking water from 11.3 mg/L to 1 mg/L.
2. Move New Zealand Food safety out of the Ministry for Primary Industries and into the Ministry for Health.
3. Extend finance and support for home insulation and heat pumps so that all under-insulated homes are insulated in the next 10 years.

PUBLIC SERVICE

1. Require that the Prime Minister is a joint portfolio holder for climate change.
2. Ensure that the Environment, Climate, Oceans & Fisheries and Conservation portfolios are held by Cabinet Ministers to elevate their importance in Government decision-making and avoid perpetuating the false economy vs. environment binary.
3. Give the Climate Commission independent powers to influence the price of emissions.
4. Conduct a comprehensive review of the Official Information Act to ensure it acts in the interests of transparency and democracy.
5. Put in place a new role for the Climate Change Commission to provide independent advice on the likely climate impacts of new government policies and legislation - with greater weighting given to climate impacts when considering policy options.
6. Disestablish Minister of Hunting and Fishing role.
7. Disestablish the Regulation portfolio, and the Ministry for Regulation.

RAIL & TRANSPORT

1. Repurpose motorway expansion funding for a programme of investment in public transport, including electric rail, busways, cycleways, and regional rail links such as an overnight Auckland-Wellington service.
2. Stimulate active transport quickly and affordably by re-allocating some existing vehicle lanes to cycling where appropriate.
3. Introduce free public transport fares for Community Service Card holders, under-25s, and Total Mobility Card holders and their support people.
4. End new airport expansions and curb demand for private jets and helicopter pads.
5. Set a timeframe to end the import of fossil fuel vehicles, re-introduce fuel efficiency standards, and build a nationwide EV charging network.

HOUSING

1. Put in place a Future Homes Standard for New Zealand that ensures building and construction get to net zero.
2. Build all new Kāinga Ora homes according to passive house standards, including clean energy generation, rainwater collection and greywater recycling.
3. Extend finance and support for home insulation and heat pumps so that all under-insulated homes are insulated in the next 10 years.

HUNTING & FISHING

1. Disestablish the Hunting and Fishing portfolio.
2. Disestablish the Game Animal Council.

REGULATION

1. Disestablish the Regulation portfolio and the Ministry for Regulation.



Forest & Bird
TE REO O TE TAIĀO | *Giving Nature a Voice*



GREENPEACE