



Coalition Agreement: Labour and Progressive Parties in Parliament

Our objective is to continue to deliver ongoing stability in a coalition government that is implementing programmes for a sustainable and growing economy in a progressive, just and fair society. Our respective and joint policy priorities for this term will also take account of arrangements with supporting parties and be set out to the House in the Speech from the Throne.

The two parties will work together in good faith and with “no surprises”, reflecting appropriate notice and consultation on important matters including the ongoing development of policy.

Both parties recognise the need for parties to be able to maintain distinctive political identities in government and Parliament. This applies particularly to the smaller party and during this term of Parliament we will further develop processes for:

- ensuring appropriate credit for and recognition of the policy achievements of the smaller party; and
- the expression of different views publicly and in Parliament.

The Progressive Leader will be appointed to a Cabinet position and the Prime Minister will allocate portfolios after appropriate consultation, noting particularly the coalition priorities for this term. Decision-making processes will be by consensus and as set out in the Cabinet Manual and other Cabinet documents, noting that quorum rules relating to the need to have at least one member from each coalition party present in all Committee and Cabinet meetings will not necessarily apply.

Both parties will work with other parties in Parliament through appropriate support arrangements and consultation systems to form a stable government and to progress a positive legislative programme.

Dated the 17th October 2005

Rt Hon Helen Clark
Labour Leader

Hon Jim Anderton
Progressive Leader