



Relationship Accord and Confidence and Supply Agreement with the Māori Party

The Māori Party agrees to provide positive votes of support for all matters subject to Confidence and Supply votes for the term of this Parliament to a National-led Government in return for National's agreement to the policy programme and other matters set out in this document.

The National Party and the Māori Party recognise the importance of mana maintenance and enhancement for both parties to this agreement.

The agreement between the Māori Party and the Government builds on the stable and constructive relationship developed between the two parties over the past three years and will continue to be based on good faith and no surprises.

The National Party and the Māori Party will act in accordance with Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Treaty of Waitangi. The Treaty is our country's founding document. It created a nation based on diversity and shared aspirations for future success and prosperity. Both National and the Māori Party are committed to working together to ensure Māori and all New Zealanders can enjoy a successful and more prosperous future.

The policy programme outlined in this agreement upholds and advances these aspirations.

Consultation arrangements

The Government will consult with the Māori Party including on:

- the broad outline of the legislative programme
- key legislative measures
- major policy issues
- broad budget parameters
- policy issues and legislative measures to which the Māori Party is likely to be particularly sensitive, and
- government appointments, with the Government considering in good faith recommendations by the Māori Party.

Consultation will occur in a timely fashion to ensure the Māori Party views can be incorporated into final decision-making.

Formal consultation will be managed between the Prime Minister's Office and the Office of the Co-leaders of the Māori Party.

Other co-operation will include:

- timely access to relevant Ministers and officials by designated Māori Party Members of Parliament
- regular monthly meetings between the Prime Minister and the Māori Party Co-leaders, and as required on significant unscheduled matters to which the Māori Party is particularly sensitive
- advance notification to the other party of significant announcements by either the Government or the Māori Party, and
- briefings by Ministers and officials on significant issues, and issues that are likely to be politically sensitive before any public announcement.

Policy programme

The National Party and the Māori Party both acknowledge there are areas of commonality and other areas of difference in their respective policy priorities.

The Māori Party is driven by a set of kaupapa and tikanga, which are consistent with Māori worldviews. This is attached in Schedule A of this agreement.

The Government has identified the initiatives of National's *Post-Election Action Plan* as priorities. These are attached in Schedule B of this agreement.

National has agreed to adopt and implement during this term of Parliament the following policies advanced by the Māori Party:

1. Whānau Ora

National and the Māori Party agree to support the evolving focus and ongoing implementation of Whānau Ora.

Work to provide a specific Whānau Ora annual appropriation will be progressed in order to improve the reach, capability and effectiveness of Whānau Ora. The Government and the Māori Party agree to actively work towards the establishment of a stand-alone commissioning agency over the next 12 months.

Whānau Ora will increasingly bring a greater focus to address the issues of employment, housing, educational achievement, and the wellbeing of the most vulnerable members of society, including those on low incomes.

2. Ministerial Committee on Poverty

The National Party and the Māori Party agree poverty is a significant and long-standing issue, impacting on too many New Zealanders, both Māori and non-Māori. National and the Māori Party agree to establish a Ministerial Committee on Poverty to bring a greater focus to, and improve co-ordination of, government activity aimed at alleviating the effects of poverty in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

The Ministerial Committee will be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Bill English, with Hon Tariana Turia acting as Deputy Chair. The membership of the Committee will be determined by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon John Key, but will include the Vote Ministers of Education, Health, Housing, Māori Affairs and Social Development and Employment.

The Committee will publicly release update reports no later than every six months, with the first update report being released mid-2012.

3. Initial initiatives to urgently address the effects of poverty

To support efforts to urgently address the effects of poverty in Aotearoa/New Zealand, the Government and the Māori Party agree to implement the following initiatives:

Health

- Double the funding of the Government's rheumatic fever programme to \$24m, to be spread over four years.

Healthy Homes

- Within the Warm Up NZ: Heat Smart programme, and together with other government grants, target 20,000 low-income homes for home insulation.
- Ensure every State house built before 1978 which can be practically insulated, will be insulated.

4. Education

- Increase Māori participation in early childhood education in regions where participation is low.
- Raise Māori achievement in primary, secondary and tertiary education.
- The Government agrees to consider recognising the unique status of kōhanga reo, kura kaupapa Māori, kura-a-iwi, wānanga and Māori medium initiatives through their own statutory legislation.

5. Employment and training

- Ensure job and skills training places, and trade training apprenticeships, will be allocated proportionate to the needs of groups over-represented in unemployment statistics, such as Māori and Pasifika youth.
- The Government will work with the Māori Party to progress establishment of skills- and trades-based academies.

6. Housing

- Progress options for iwi housing providers through the Social Housing Unit, including opportunities for grants and loans, land and surplus State house purchase or transfers.

- Require Housing New Zealand new-builds and leased new-builds to meet lifetime design principles and include acceptable disability access standards where practical and appropriate, and to include insulation instalment for energy efficiency assurance.

7. Environment

The Government and the Māori Party agree to work together on the recommendations of the Land and Water Forum, with a particular focus on improving the quality of water in rivers, lakes, seas, and rural water supplies, for example, the Manawatu River and Lake Taupo.

The Government agrees to give due consideration to the issue of effective engagement with iwi, hapu and whānau in its review of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, which is currently in progress.

Reinstate government funding to Enviro schools and Kura Taiao.

The Māori Party will work with the Government to introduce offsetting of pre-1990 forests.

8. Review of New Zealand's constitutional arrangements

National and the Māori Party agree to continue to progress the review of New Zealand's constitutional arrangements and the advisory panel established to lead public discussion on relevant issues. The advisory panel is to deliver its recommendations to the Government in September 2013.

The National Party agrees it will not seek to remove the Māori seats without the consent of the Māori people. Accordingly the Māori Party and the National Party will not pursue the entrenchment of the Māori seats in the current Parliamentary term.

9. Refocus Te Puni Kōkiri

The immediate focus of Te Puni Kōkiri will be shifted to give urgent priority to improving Māori employment and training, housing, and education outcomes.

A high-level policy unit will also be created within the refocused Te Puni Kōkiri, responsible for providing strategic policy advice to the Minister of Māori Affairs.

10. Māori Economic Strategy

The Government agrees that the Minister of Māori Affairs will continue to lead the Māori Economic Strategy together with the Minister of Economic Development.

11. Māori Language Strategy

The Government agrees the Minister of Māori Affairs will continue to lead the revitalisation strategy for te reo rangatira.

12. Tobacco reform

The Government and the Māori Party agree to do further work on the introduction of plain packaging and other anti-smoking initiatives.

13. Spectrum

The Government and the Māori Party acknowledge discussions between the Minister of Māori Affairs and the Minister for Communications and Information Technology on 4G spectrum (700MHzBand) and future allocation for Māori are continuing.

The Government and the Māori Party agree these discussions will be brought to a conclusion by not later than May 2012.

14. Private Members Bills and Government Bills

The National Party agrees to support the following Māori Party-sponsored Private Members Bills through to select committee:

- The Gambling (Gambling Harm Reduction) Amendment Bill,
- A cultural heritage bill to recognise Matariki/Puanga, and to honour the peace-making heritage established at Parihaka.

15. Partial asset sales

The Māori Party does not support partial asset sales. The Government agrees it will not put partial asset sales in confidence and supply measures.

Managing the relationship

Both parties undertake to work constructively to ensure relationships between Ministers, their Associate Ministers and relevant departmental Chief Executives develop in a positive manner.

Ministerial positions

Hon Dr Pita Sharples will be appointed to the positions of Minister of Māori Affairs, Associate Minister of Education and Associate Minister of Corrections. These Ministerial positions will be outside Cabinet.

Hon Dr Pita Sharples will be on Cabinet Committees, including Economic Growth and Infrastructure, Social Policy and Treaty of Waitangi.

Hon Tariana Turia will be appointed to the positions of Minister responsible for Whānau Ora, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister of Health, and Associate Minister of Housing. She will continue to have Associate Ministerial responsibilities in the areas of Social Development and Employment. These Ministerial positions will be outside Cabinet.

Hon Tariana Turia will be on Cabinet Committees, including Social Policy, Appointments and Honours and Treaty of Waitangi.

Confidentiality

It is agreed that where briefings are provided to the Māori Party, or where the Māori Party is involved in consultative arrangements with regard to legislation, policy or budgetary matters, all such discussions shall be confidential unless otherwise agreed.

In the event that government papers are provided to the Māori Party in the course of consultation or briefings they shall be treated as confidential and shall not be released or the information used for any public purpose without the express agreement of the relevant Minister.

In the event that Cabinet or Cabinet committee papers are provided to the Māori Party for the purposes of consultation, they shall be provided to a designated person within the Office of the Co-leaders of the Māori Party, who will take responsibility for ensuring they are accorded the appropriate degree of confidentiality.

Collective responsibility

Hon Dr Pita Sharples and Hon Tariana Turia agree to be bound by collective responsibility in relation to their respective Ministerial portfolios. In the cases of their Associate Ministerial responsibilities, they agree to be bound by collective responsibility in relation to their respective delegations. When they speak about issues within their portfolio responsibilities and delegations they will speak for the Government, representing the Government's position in relation to those responsibilities. When they speak about matters outside their portfolio responsibilities or Associate Minister delegations, however, they may speak as a Māori Party MP or Co-leader, or as a Member of Parliament. In this latter capacity, they may disagree with the Government. They will support the Government's position in all matters that are the subject of confidence and supply votes.

Where there has been full participation in the development of a policy initiative outside of any portfolio responsibility held by Hon Dr Pita Sharples or Hon Tariana Turia, and that participation has led to an agreed position, it is expected that all parties to this agreement will publicly support the process and the outcome.

Cabinet Manual

Māori Party Ministers agree to be bound by the Cabinet Manual in the exercise of their Ministerial responsibilities, and, in particular, agree to be bound by the provisions in the Cabinet Manual on the conduct, public duty, and personal interests of Ministers.

Procedural motions

The Māori Party agrees it will support the Government on procedural motions in the House and in the Select Committees unless the Māori Party has previously advised that such support is not forthcoming. The Government agrees that it will operate a no surprises policy in terms of procedural motions it intends to put before the House or a Select Committee.

Select Committees

The Māori Party will work with the Government to determine the person to be appointed as Chair of the Māori Affairs Select Committee.

The Māori Party and the Government will consult, where appropriate, with a view to reaching agreed majority positions on Select Committees.

Legislative programme

Support for particular measures, which do not relate to confidence or supply, will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Confidence and Supply

The Māori Party agrees to provide positive votes of support for all matters subject to Confidence and Supply votes for the term of this Parliament to a National-led Government in return for National's agreement to the policy programme and other matters set out in this document.

Dated 11 December 2011

Rt Hon John Key
Leader, National Party

Hon Dr Pita Sharples
Co-Leader, Māori Party

Hon Tariana Turia
Co-Leader, Māori Party