



New Zealand Labour Party &  
New Zealand First,  
2017

## **COALITION AGREEMENT**

New Zealand  
Labour Party &  
New Zealand  
First

52<sup>nd</sup> Parliament





# Coalition agreement between the New Zealand Labour Party & New Zealand First Party.

## Preamble

The Labour and New Zealand First Parties have a range of shared values, and policy objectives.

The commitment of Labour and New Zealand First is to provide stable and effective coalition government. Labour wishes to progress action in accordance with the Labour Party's Policy Platform. New Zealand First wishes to progress action in accordance with its policy platform.

Together, we will work to provide New Zealand with a transformational government, committed to resolving the greatest long-term challenges for the country, including sustainable economic development increased exports and decent jobs paying higher wages, a healthy environment, a fair society and good government. We will reduce inequality and poverty and improve the well-being of all New Zealanders and the environment we live in.

Labour and New Zealand First are committed to building public confidence in, and engagement with Parliament, and Government and the electoral system as a whole. We are committed to an independent and robust public service.

We will do this while maintaining our independent political identities and working in the best interests of New Zealand and New Zealanders.

## Coalition commitments

Labour and New Zealand First agree to be coalition parties in government on the basis that:

- The Parties agree to support and promote the matters and issues which have been subject to agreement between them.
- The Parties will work collaboratively and in good faith to reach agreement on particular policy and legislative initiatives. The key directions for the first term will be set out in the speech from the throne.
- The Parties endorse and will operate in accordance with the Cabinet Manual.
- As provided for in the Cabinet Manual, the Parties will "agree to disagree" where negotiated between party leaders, and in such circumstances the Parties will be free to

express alternative views publicly, and in Parliament.

The Labour and New Zealand First Parties agree to identify policies and roles in a way that maintains and promotes the distinct identity of each party. This will include public attribution and acknowledgement of the Party responsible for policy.

## **Coalition management process**

The Labour and New Zealand First Parties will work together in coalition government in good faith and with no surprises, reflecting appropriate notice and consultation in important matters, including the ongoing development of policy. The parties will cooperate with each other in respect of executive and parliamentary activities, consult closely, and operate with mutual respect to achieve agreed outcomes.

This includes a commitment to agreed policies and programmes, and consensus decision-making. Protocols will be established for coalition management, policy consultation, select committee management and non-routine procedural motions.

Labour and New Zealand First also undertake to keep full voting numbers present whenever the House is sitting and in Select Committee.

## **Coalition Priorities**

In this parliamentary term, New Zealand First has a number of priorities to progress which Labour will support alongside its policy programme. These include the following goals:

### **Regional Economic Development and Primary Industries**

- A \$1b per annum Regional Development (Provincial Growth) Fund, including:
  - Significant investment in regional rail.
  - Planting 100 million trees per year in a Billion Trees Planting Programme.
  - Commissioning a feasibility study on the options for moving the Ports of Auckland, including giving Northport serious consideration.
  - Other large-scale capital projects.
- A commitment to relocate government functions into the regions.
- Re-establish the New Zealand Forestry Service, to be located in regional New Zealand.
- An increase to MPI BiosecurityNZ's resourcing and a Select Committee Inquiry into

Biosecurity.

- Honour existing Crown Irrigation investment commitments.
- Recognise the potential for aquaculture in promoting regional economic growth.
- Examination of agricultural debt mediation as well as receivership fees and charges.

## **Economy**

- Review and reform of the Reserve Bank Act.
- Reform government procurement rules to give New Zealand companies greater access.
- Review the official measures for unemployment to ensure they accurately reflect the workforce of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- Progressively increase the Minimum Wage to \$20 per hour by 2020, with the final increase to take effect in April 2021.
- Increase penalties for corporate fraud and tax evasion.
- Investigate growing KiwiBank's capital base and capabilities so that it is positioned to become the Government's Banker when that contract is next renewed.
- Strengthen the Overseas Investment Act and undertake a comprehensive register of foreign-owned land and housing.

## **Research & Development**

- Work to increase Research & Development spending to 2% of GDP over ten years.

## **Health**

- Re-establish the Mental Health Commission.
- Annual Free Health Check for Seniors including an eye check as part of the SuperGold Card.
- Teen Health Checks for all Year 9 students.
- Free doctors' visits for all under 14s.
- Progressively increase the age for free breast screening to 74.

## **Education**

- Develop a 30 year strategic plan for New Zealand education.
- Restore funding for gifted students.
- Pilot counsellors in primary schools.
- Offer free driver training to all secondary students.
- Restore funding for Computers in Homes.
- Restart the Te Kotahitanga teacher professional development initiative.

## **Defence**

- Re-examine the Defence procurement programme within the context of the 2016 Defence Capability Plan budget.

## **Housing**

- Establish a Housing Commission.

## **Law and Order**

- Strive towards adding 1800 new Police officers over three years and commit to a serious focus on combatting organised crime and drugs.
- Investigate a volunteer rural constabulary programme.
- Increase Community Law Centre funding.
- Establish a Criminal Cases Review Commission.

## **Social Development**

- Increase funding for family violence networks, including Women's Refuge and Shakti.
- Pilot the Youth Education, Training & Employment initiative and provide 800 extra places for the LSV scheme.
- Introduce programmes for long-term unemployed to improve work readiness such as 'Ready for Work'.

## **Superannuitants**

- Introduce a new generation SuperGold smartcard containing entitlements and concessions.
- National Superannuation eligibility to remain at 65.

## **Environment**

- The government's vehicle fleet, where practicable, to become emissions-free by 2025/26.
- Introduce a Zero Carbon Act and an independent Climate Commission, based on the recommendations of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.
- If the Climate Commission determines that agriculture is to be included in the ETS, then upon entry, the free allocation to agriculture will be 95% but with all revenues from this source recycled back into agriculture in order to encourage agricultural innovation, mitigation and additional planting of forestry.
- Significantly increase funding for the Department of Conservation.
- Establish a tyre stewardship fund.
- Increase support for National Science Challenges, including for piloting alternatives to 1080 and countering myrtle rust and kauri dieback.
- No resource rentals for water in this term of Parliament.
- Introduce a royalty on exports of bottled water.
- Higher water quality standards for urban and rural using measurements which take into account seasonal differences.
- Work with Māori and other quota holders to resolve outstanding issues in the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary Bill in a way that is satisfactory to both Labour and New Zealand First.

## **Democracy**

- No new Parliamentary building to proceed this term.
- Independent review of the integrity of electoral processes and enrolments.
- Review the processes of Parliament to reflect an MMP environment.
- Introduce and pass a 'Waka Jumping' Bill.

## Immigration

- As per Labour's policy, pursue Labour and New Zealand First's shared priorities to:
  - Ensure work visas issued reflect genuine skills shortages and cut down on low quality international education courses.
  - Take serious action on migrant exploitation, particularly of international students.

## Other

- Commit to re-entry to Pike River.
- Build a museum to commemorate the Māori Battalion at Waitangi.
- Hold a full-scale review into retail power pricing.
- Allow a conscience vote for MPs on New Zealand First's Supplementary Order Paper to the End of Life Choice Bill, which provides for a referendum.
- Hold a Public Inquiry "A decade after Shand" to investigate the drivers of local government costs and its revenue base.
- Support New Zealand First's Racing policy.
- Work towards a Free Trade Agreement with the Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union and initiate Closer Commonwealth Economic Relations.
- Record a Cabinet minute regarding the lack of process followed prior to the National-led government's sponsorship of UNSC2334.

## Ministerial Positions

New Zealand First will have four Ministers inside Cabinet, including Rt Hon Winston Peters as Deputy Prime Minister, and one Parliamentary Under-Secretary.

This will include the following portfolios: Foreign Affairs, Infrastructure, Regional Economic Development, Internal Affairs, Seniors, Defence, Veterans' Affairs, Children, Forestry, State Owned Enterprises, Racing, Associate Finance, Associate Education and an Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Regional Economic Development.

A Minister from New Zealand First will be represented on the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH) and the Cabinet Legislation Committee. Ministers from New Zealand First will also be represented on other Cabinet Committees as agreed between the Party Leaders.

## **Relationship to other agreements**

Both parties to this agreement recognise that Labour will be working with other parties to deliver a stable Government.

Labour agrees that it will not enter into any other relationship agreement which is inconsistent with this agreement, and New Zealand First and Labour agree that they will each act in good faith to allow any other agreements to be complied with.

**Dated: 24 October 2017**

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**Jacinda Ardern**

Labour Leader

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**Rt Hon Winston Peters**

New Zealand First Leader