



16 November 2008

Relationship and Confidence and Supply Agreement between the National Party and the Maori Party

Introduction

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

The relationship between the Maori Party and the National Party will be one of good faith and no surprises.

Both the National Party and the Maori Party will act in accordance with te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Treaty of Waitangi.

Consultation Arrangements

The National Party will consult the Maori Party on issues including:

- The legislative programme/measures
- Policy issues
- Broad Budget parameters
- Government appointments, with the National Party considering in good faith recommendations by the Maori Party

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

Formal consultation will be managed between the Office of the Prime Minister and the Office of the Co-Leaders of the Maori Party.

The relationship between the two parties will also be furthered through:

- Timely access to relevant Ministers by designated Maori Party Members of Parliament
- Monthly meetings between the Prime Minister and the Co-Leaders of the Maori Party

- Advance notification to the other party of significant announcements by either the National led Government or the Maori Party
- Briefings by the National led Government on significant issues before any public announcement

Status of the Maori Seats

Both parties agree to the establishment (including its composition and terms of reference) by no later than early 2010 of a group to consider constitutional issues including Maori representation. The Maori Party will be consulted on membership and the choice of Chairperson, and will be represented on the group.

The National Party agrees it will not seek to remove the Maori seats without the consent of the Maori people. Accordingly, the Maori Party and the National Party will not be pursuing the entrenchment of the Maori seats in the current parliamentary term.

Both parties agree that there will not be a question about the future of the Maori seats in the referendum on MMP planned by the National Party.

Foreshore and Seabed

The National Party recognises the concerns of the Maori Party relating to the current Foreshore and Seabed legislation.

The Maori Party recognises the public interest and concern of all New Zealanders to ensure that their usage of the foreshore and seabed are protected.

The National Party and the Maori Party will, in this term of Parliament, initiate as a priority a review of the application of the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 to ascertain whether it adequately maintains and enhances mana whenua.

Ministers representing the two parties will work together to prepare agreed terms of reference for the review by 28 February. The review will be completed by 31 December 2009.

In the event that repeal of the legislation is necessary, the National-led Government will ensure that there is appropriate protection in place to ensure that all New Zealanders enjoy access to the foreshore and seabed, through existing and potentially new legislation.

Ministerial Positions

The Co-Leaders of the Maori Party, Dr Pita Sharples and Hon Tariana Turia, will be appointed to ministerial positions outside Cabinet. This is the preference of the Maori Party.

The Maori Party and the National Party agree to allocate these positions with agreed formally delegated and defined responsibilities in areas in which the Maori Party seeks significant advancement over the next three years.

The Maori Party seeks significant outcomes in whanau ora, through eliminating poverty, advocating for social justice, and advancing Maori social, cultural, economic and community development in the best interests of the nation.

These ministerial positions will confer on the Maori Party Co-leaders control over significant areas of responsibility within their portfolios, along with Associate Minister responsibilities, including service delivery, departmental support and funding, as agreed by the parties.

Dr Sharples will be appointed Minister of Maori Affairs, Associate Minister of Education and Associate Minister of Corrections.

Hon Tariana Turia will be appointed Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Associate Minister of Health and Associate Minister of Social Development and Employment.

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

Policy Priorities

The two parties both have policy priorities and there are areas of commonality and other areas of difference. The National Party and the Maori Party will work together to progress these priorities as and where agreement can be found. The policy priorities of the National Party and of the Maori Party are attached as a schedule to this document.

Briefings

It is agreed that relevant spokespeople within the Maori Party will be briefed on significant issues which are likely to be politically sensitive before any public announcements are made.

Confidentiality

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

In the event that National Party-led Government papers are provided to the Maori 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 Maori Party for the purposes of consultation they shall be provided to a designated person within the Office of the Co-leaders who will take responsibility for ensuring they are accorded the appropriate degree of confidentiality.

Collective Responsibility

The Maori Party agree to be bound by collective responsibility in relation to their Ministerial portfolios and their Associate Minister responsibilities. When the Maori

Party Ministers speak about issues within their portfolios and Associate Minister responsibilities, they will speak for the government and as part of the government, representing the government's position in relation to these responsibilities. When they speak about matters outside these responsibilities, however, they speak as the Co-Leaders of the Maori Party or as members of Parliament. The "agree to disagree" provisions apply as necessary. They will support the government's position on all matters that are the subject of confidence and supply votes.

Cabinet Manual

The Maori Party Ministers agree to be bound by the Cabinet Manual in the exercise of their ministerial functions, and in particular to be bound by the provisions of the Cabinet Manual on the conduct, public duty and personal interests of Ministers.

Procedural Motions

The Maori Party agrees that it will support the National-led government on procedural motions in the House and in Select Committees unless the Maori Party has previously advised that such support is not forthcoming. The National Party 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 Maori Party will work with the National Party to determine the person who will be appointed Chairperson, Maori Affairs Select Committee, on the understanding that this person will be a National Party Member of Parliament. The Maori Party will also be allocated memberships on Select Committees including Finance and Expenditure, Commerce and Privileges.

Electorate Resources

The challenges of servicing the disproportionately large size of the Maori electorates will be addressed through immediate implementation of the recommendation from the March 2007 report of the Committee of the Third Triennial Review (Goulter report).

There is inequity in respect of the support that Parliament provides the very large electorates compared to the very small ones. One comparison is between Te Tai Tonga (147,000 sq km) and Epsom (22 sq km).

That recommendation reads:

"That all Maori constituent Members of Parliament and each constituency Member of Parliament with an electorate in excess of 20,000 sq km in area be entitled to the services of an extra staff member to equate to three full-time equivalent out of Parliament support staff members"

Legislative Programme

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

Confidence and Supply

The Maori Party agrees to provide confidence and supply for the term of this Parliament to a National Party-led Government.

Relationship to other confidence and supply agreements

Both parties to this agreement recognise that the National Party will be working with a range of parties in terms of confidence and supply arrangements.

The National Party agrees that it will not enter into any other relationship agreement which is inconsistent with this agreement and the Maori Party and the National Party agree that they will each act in good faith to allow all such agreements to be complied with.

Dated 16 November 2008

John Key
National Party Leader

Dr Pita Sharples
Co-leader, Maori Party

Hon Tariana Turia
Co-leader, Maori Party

My key commitments to you

If National is elected to lead the next Government, I personally guarantee that we will:

1. Strengthen the economy, increase after-tax incomes and ensure Kiwis can get ahead under their own steam by **reducing personal taxes on 1 April 2009, 1 April 2010 and 1 April 2011.**
2. Maintain and build New Zealand's asset base by **increasing investment in infrastructure such as roads, broadband and public transport, and by not selling Kiwibank or any other state-owned company.**
3. Ensure government spending is focused on frontline services such as health and education by **capping the number of bureaucrats and putting real discipline around government spending.**
4. Make our communities safer by **ensuring the worst repeat violent offenders are not eligible for parole.**
5. Confront failure in our school system by **setting National Standards in literacy and numeracy, and requiring all pupils' progress to be assessed and the results reported to parents in plain English.**
6. Tackle our health workforce crisis by **introducing voluntary bonding for new doctors, nurses and midwives, and by boosting the number of funded medical student places by 200 over five years.**
7. Give families financial certainty by **continuing all Working for Families payments at current levels, keeping 20 hours ECE, and keeping caps on doctors' fees.**
8. Give seniors financial certainty by **keeping the age of eligibility of NZ Superannuation at 65 and steadily increasing the amount of Super paid each week as a result of our personal tax cuts.**
9. Encourage people to save for their retirement, while making it fairer and more affordable for everyone in these tighter economic times, by **retaining KiwiSaver, with contributions at the 2% plus 2% level.**

10. Provide a safety net for those who are unable to work by **passing a law to maintain and inflation-index all benefit payments, while encouraging those who can work to go back to work.**

11. Encourage students to get rid of debt sooner by **keeping interest-free student loans and offering a 10% bonus on early repayments.**

John Key, National Party Leader

NATIONAL'S POST-ELECTION ACTION PLAN

National has a comprehensive plan to tackle the issues that matter to New Zealanders. Our policies have been fully costed and funded. If National is elected to lead the next Government, I will see to it that these first actions are carried out in our first 100 days after being sworn in to office.

John Key
National Party Leader

FIRST ACTIONS ON THE ECONOMY

- Introduce and pass National's tax package into law before Christmas, with tax cuts beginning on 1 April 2009.
- Update and publish the economic and fiscal forecasts to gauge the true state of the Government's books and determine the on-going effects of the international economic crisis.
- Appoint a Minister of Infrastructure and begin implementing our infrastructure plan.
- Introduce an RMA reform bill to reduce the costs, delays, and uncertainties in the Act.
- Introduce and pass National's transitional relief package into law to offer extra assistance to Kiwis who are worst hit by redundancy.
- Call in the public service chief executives and instruct them to undertake a line-by-line review of their department's spending.
- Establish a Cabinet Expenditure Control Committee to oversee the review of departmental spending and ensure savings are focused on the front line.
- Begin a regulatory review programme to identify and remove inefficient and superfluous regulation.

FIRST ACTIONS ON LAW AND ORDER

- Introduce legislation to remove the right of the worst repeat violent offenders to be released on parole.
- Introduce legislation to clamp down on criminal gangs and their drug trade.
- Introduce legislation to toughen the bail laws to make it harder for criminals awaiting trial to get bail.
- Introduce legislation to tackle increasing violent youth crime by bolstering the Youth Court with a range of new interventions and sentences.
- Introduce legislation to require DNA testing for every person arrested for an imprisonable offence.
- Introduce legislation to give police the power to issue on-the-spot protection orders to help them protect victims of domestic violence.

- Introduce legislation to compensate victims by levying criminals and putting the money into a Victims Compensation Scheme.

FIRST ACTIONS ON EDUCATION

- Amend the Education Act 1989 so the Minister of Education can set agreed National Standards in literacy and numeracy.
- Publish requirements for primary and intermediate schools to report to parents in plain English about how their child is doing compared to the set National Standards, and compared to other children their age.
- Begin work on allocating an additional \$500 million capital investment in schools in preparation for our first Budget to start future-proofing our schools.
- Introduce a “voluntary bonding” scheme which offers student loan debt write-offs to graduate teachers who agree to work in hard-to-staff communities or subjects.
- Amend the Education Act 1989 to increase the current fines for parents of truant children from \$150 and \$400 for first-time and repeat offenders respectively, and allow the Ministry of Education to take prosecutions.

FIRST ACTIONS ON HEALTH

- Instruct the Ministry of Health and DHBs to halt the growth in health bureaucracy.
- Open the books on the true state of hospital waiting lists and the crisis in services.
- Fast-track funding for 24-hour Plunketline.
- Instruct that a full 12-month course of Herceptin be publicly available.
- Begin implementing National’s Tackling Waiting Lists plan.
- Establish a “voluntary bonding scheme” offering student loan debt write-off to graduate doctors, nurses, and midwives who agree to work in hard-to-staff communities or specialties.

FIRST ACTION ON ELECTORAL LAW

- Repeal the Electoral Finance Act 2007 and reinstate the Electoral Act 1993, with the sections in the Electoral Finance Act relating to donations retained.