STANDING BY OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

National stands by regional communities and will help the primary sector create jobs and keep driving the New Zealand economy.

National has set an ambitious goal of doubling the country’s primary sector exports by 2025 – from $32 billion to $64 billion.

We’re negotiating free trade agreements with some of the biggest economies in the world, to help make this a reality.

We will continue to ensure the regions and the primary sector have high-quality infrastructure such as water storage, irrigation, modern roads and enhanced broadband.

We will maintain our focus on investment in research and development to lift productivity and boost skill levels in the primary sector.

National has significantly increased spending on biosecurity to ensure the primary sector is protected from pests and diseases that could threaten New Zealand’s economy.

National will continue to strengthen the country’s world-leading food safety system.

We’re responsibly managing New Zealand’s fisheries and we’re backing recreational fishers.

Alongside farmers, National believes that a strong primary sector goes hand in hand with high quality water and environmental standards. That’s why we will spend $100 million over 10 years to buy and retire areas of selected farmland next to important waterways to create an environmental buffer that helps improve water quality.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

→ Helping boost primary sector exports
→ Strengthening New Zealand’s borders by investing in new biosecurity technology and staff on the country’s frontlines.
→ Partnering with industry to invest over $700 million in the Primary Growth Partnership.
→ Supporting new forest planting.
→ Investing in irrigation projects that will deliver economic and environmental benefits for New Zealand.
→ Committing an extra $150 million to enable more rural New Zealanders to benefit from faster, more reliable broadband, and create a mobile black spot fund.
→ Managing New Zealand’s fisheries and backing recreational fishers.
NATIONAL IS...

GROWING THE EXPORT SECTOR

✓ Primary sector exports are now worth almost $38 billion a year - a record high.
✓ Seafood industry exports are worth $1.4 billion per year and are forecast to increase to $1.6 billion by 2018, with aquaculture the key driver of this growth.
✓ New Zealand Trade and Enterprise is helping New Zealand exporters compete in overseas markets.
✓ We’re boosting New Zealand's overseas footprint with more Ministry for Primary Industries staff in key markets like China, Indonesia and the Middle East.

INVESTING IN THE REGIONS

✓ Investing $120 million so far in Crown Irrigation Investment Ltd to work as an independent investor to help kick-start regional water infrastructure projects.
✓ Investing $28 million in 15 projects through the Irrigation Acceleration Fund to support the investigation, design and funding stages of regional irrigation projects.
✓ Rolling out the Rural Broadband Initiative to boost connectivity in the regions. Around 250,000 rural homes and businesses now have access to better, more reliable internet.
✓ Investing in a $212 million accelerated regional roading package.
✓ Increased veterinarian placements in the regions through voluntary bonding schemes.

SUPPORTING INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

✓ Committing over $700 million with industry into 18 innovation projects through the Primary Growth Partnership.
✓ Investing $44 million into regional sustainability schemes through the Sustainable Farming Fund.

BOOSTING BIOSECURITY

✓ Increasing investment in biosecurity with new technology and new staff.
✓ 125 more biosecurity staff and 12 new X-ray machines in the past 18 months
✓ A new $65 million high-containment biosecurity laboratory in Upper Hutt.
✓ Significantly strengthening New Zealand’s preparedness for foot and mouth disease, including an agreement signed with Australia to bring closer cooperation.

BOOSTING THE PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFITABILITY OF AQUACULTURE

✓ Investing in the Precision Seafood Harvesting Programme, which allows fish to be caught live and reduces waste. This is a $52 million project with funding coming from both industry and government.
✓ Investing in a $26 million programme to breed high-value shellfish, with half the funding coming from government.
RESPONSIBLY MANAGING NEW ZEALAND’S FISHERIES

✓ Increasing monitoring and tough new rules for commercial fishers in the Snapper 1 area. As fish stocks increase, the recreational share will grow to around 50 per cent.

✓ Requiring all commercial fishers in this area to report all catch under the commercial legal size, trialling the use of cameras to record and measure fish returned to the sea, and introducing a “move on rule”, where commercial fishers will move from fishing spots where a significant portion of catch is small juvenile fish.

✓ Mandatory Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) to be on all commercial vessels in the Snapper 1 area by the end of the year, and camera or observer coverage to be on all trawl vessels by 1 October 2015.

✓ All foreign-owned vessels operating in New Zealand waters are now required to carry the New Zealand flag from 1 May 2016, and operate under full New Zealand legal jurisdiction.

✓ Cracking down on poachers, including an increase in the number of frontline fisheries officers

✓ Kept paua resources in areas around Otago and Southland closed to commercial activity - recognising that these are greatly valued by recreational and customary fishers.

✓ Approved 4 mataaitai reserves across the North and South Islands - providing benefits to recreational and customary fishers as commercial fishing is banned in these areas.

IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

✓ Progressing the Animal Welfare Amendment Bill, which will provide more protection for animals.

✓ Banned the use of blunt force to euthanise bobby calves.

✓ Shark finning to be banned from 1 October 2014.
WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT...

1. BOOST PRIMARY SECTOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

→ Establish a Food Safety Science and Research Centre, as recommended by the Government inquiry into the whey protein contamination incident.

The Centre will ensure delivery of excellent food safety science and research while also minimising the risks of foodborne illness and maximising economic growth opportunities. It will be funded by at least $5 million per year made up of contributions from government and industry. The centre will help to ensure that New Zealand’s food safety system remains the best in the world, and will focus on cutting-edge, internationally recognised research into key aspects of food safety.

→ Ensure that publicly funded R&D spending supports innovation and jobs in the primary sector.

We will continue to invest in primary sector R&D programmes, including the Primary Growth Partnership and the Sustainable Farming Fund. These programmes help to ensure New Zealand’s primary sector maintains its competitive and sustainable advantage. The Primary Growth Partnership has the potential to deliver returns of up to $11 billion by 2025.

2. INVEST IN WATER STORAGE

→ Continue our commitment to provide up to $400 million from the Future Investment Fund to help kick-start regional water infrastructure projects.

We don’t have a shortage of water in New Zealand, we have a water storage problem. We only capture and store around 2 per cent of our annual rainfall. Research suggests that by irrigating a further 420,000 hectares, exports could be boosted by around $4 billion a year by 2026, as well as providing positive environmental outcomes and boosting jobs and productivity in our regions.
3. ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF OUR WATERWAYS

→ Spend $100 million over 10 years to buy and retire selected areas of farmland next to important waterways.

This will create an environmental buffer that helps improve water quality.

→ Require dairy cattle to be excluded from waterways by 1 July 2017.

The dairy industry has made significant progress in voluntarily addressing some of the key environmental issues their industry faces. However, to provide greater confidence to New Zealanders, we will make meeting this environmental protection a mandatory requirement for dairy farmers.

We will work constructively with dairy farmers when developing the legislation to ensure practical solutions in areas of difficult terrain and areas which are subject to extreme weather events. National will also work with industry to exclude other cattle from waterways over time on intensively-farmed lowland properties.
4. EXTEND THE RURAL BROADBAND INITIATIVE

→ Deliver enhanced ICT infrastructure to New Zealand’s regions.

We will invest a further $150 million to enable more rural New Zealanders to benefit from better, more reliable broadband through two contestable funds:

- $100 million will enable more rural New Zealanders to benefit from faster broadband. We are going to make funding available for communities to improve their connectivity with a $100 million contestable fund for extending fixed broadband connectivity to homes and businesses outside the UFB footprint.

- $50 million will go towards a mobile black spot fund. This fund will enable companies and communities to nominate their black spots and key tourist areas, and work together to make cases for funding. Criteria for selection will include the case made by the community and company involved, financial contribution and importance of the site in New Zealand’s overall mobile coverage network.
5. SUPPORT THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY

→ Re-boot the Afforestation Grant Scheme, and invest $22.5 million over five years to encourage and support the planting of new forests.

The grant will go some way to alleviating the start-up costs of new planting. Grant recipients will meet the long-term costs associated with developing and sustaining a forest. Forests have a number of environmental benefits. New planting will help property owners address soil erosion, water quality and biodiversity.

$22.5 MILLION TO PLANT NEW TREES
15,000 HECTARES OF NEW FORESTS

6. WORK TO INCREASE EXPORTS

→ Continue to progress free trade agreements.

National supports free trade. We will continue to progress free trade deals such as the TransPacific Partnership to ensure our exporters can compete in major markets like Japan, the USA, India, South Korea, and the Gulf Council region in the Middle East.

→ Continue our successful programme of trade missions.

National Ministers will lead agricultural trade delegations to open up more new markets and opportunities for New Zealand exporters.

7. GROW OPPORTUNITIES FROM MAORI FREEHOLD LAND

→ Give more control to Maori landowners to unlock the potential of the Maori land estate and deliver significant benefits for Maori economic development.

Research suggests that over 1 million hectares of Maori freehold land is not being used to its full potential. Improving the productivity of this land has the potential to create up to 3,600 extra jobs and increase exports by $8 billion. This represents an opportunity for Maori, the wider primary sector and New Zealand as a whole.
8. CONTINUE TO CAREFULLY MANAGE NEW ZEALAND’S FISHING STOCKS

→ Set responsible catch limits that protect our valuable fish stocks.

Sustainable fishing is the only way we can protect our fisheries for future generations to enjoy.

→ Continue our unrelenting effort to combat poaching and illegal taking of high-value species, such as paua and crayfish.

We will work hard to protect our fisheries from poachers and those who are eroding our sustainability efforts.

9. INTRODUCE TWO RECREATIONAL FISHING PARKS

→ Introduce two recreational fishing parks covering areas of the inner Hauraki Gulf and the Marlborough Sounds as part of a wider reform of marine protection legislation.

These areas will be predominantly for recreational fishing and will enhance the opportunity for Kiwi families to catch fish in areas like the inner Hauraki Gulf and the Marlborough Sounds.

They would be managed for a range of recreational activities by an advisory board of local users, and would exclude most commercial fishing.
DON’T PUT IT ALL AT RISK

Labour and the Greens would:

- **Bring in 5 new taxes:**
  - A higher top personal tax rate.
  - A capital gains tax on all businesses and farms.
  - A tax on water use.
  - A carbon tax.
  - Regional fuel taxes.

- **Impose additional costs** on New Zealand farms and businesses through policies such as:
  - An irresponsible increase to the minimum wage that will force employers to cut back on staff and future recruitment.
  - Scrapping 90-day trial periods.
  - Big increases in employer KiwiSaver contributions.
  - A national award pay system.

- **Introduce climate change policies which would put New Zealand’s primary sector at a massive competitive disadvantage against most major agricultural exporting nations.**

- **Stop free trade negotiations**, including the TPP.