



Labour

Green

# CONFIDENCE & SUPPLY AGREEMENT

New Zealand  
Labour Party &  
Green Party of  
Aotearoa New  
Zealand

52<sup>nd</sup> Parliament



# Confidence and Supply Agreement between the New Zealand Labour Party and the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Preamble

The Labour and Green Parties have a range of shared values, and policy objectives. This agreement builds on the working relationship established by the Memorandum of Understanding, signed while both parties were in Opposition.

The commitment of Labour and the Green Party is to provide stable government. Labour wishes to progress action in accordance with the Labour Party's Policy Platform. The Green Party wishes to progress action in accordance with the Green Charter.

Together, we will work to provide Aotearoa New Zealand with a transformational Government, committed to resolving the greatest long-term challenges for the country: sustainable economic development including 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.

The Labour and Green Parties 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.

## Nature of Agreement

The Green Party agrees to provide confidence and supply support to a Labour-led Government for the term of this Parliament. The Green Party will oppose any no confidence motions and will support Budgets developed in accordance with this agreement. The Green Party will determine its own position in relation to any policy or legislative matter not covered by collective responsibility as set out below. Labour in turn supports the areas of priority set out in this document, alongside its policy programme.

The Labour and Green Parties agree to identify policies and roles in a way that maintains and promotes the distinct identity of each party.

The relationship between the Green Party and Labour will be based on good faith and no surprises.

## **Consultation arrangements**

The Labour and Green Parties are committed to consensus decision-making where possible.

The Labour-led Government will consult with the Green Party on issues including:

- The broad outline of the legislative programme
- Significant legislative, regulatory and policy changes
- Broad Budget parameters and process

Consultation will occur in a timely fashion to ensure the Green Party's views can be incorporated.

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

Other cooperation will include:

- Access to relevant Ministers (including Associate Ministers)
- Regular meetings between the Prime Minister and the Green Party Co-Leaders
- Briefings by Ministers and officials on significant issues that are likely to be politically sensitive before any public announcement
- Advance notification of significant announcements by either the Government, or the Green Party
- Joint announcements on areas of shared policy

## **Consultation**

The Labour and Green Parties will work together 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.

# Policy Programme

The Green Party supports a transformative Government which implements the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In this parliamentary term, the Green Party has a number of priorities to progress the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Labour-led Government shares and will support these priorities. They include the following goals:

## **Sustainable Economy**

1. Adopt and make progress towards the goal of a Net Zero Emissions Economy by 2050, with a particular focus on policy development and initiatives in transport and urban form, energy and primary industries in accordance with milestones to be set by an independent Climate Commission and with a focus on establishing Just Transitions for exposed regions and industries.
  - a. Introduce a Zero Carbon Act and establish an independent Climate Commission
  - b. All new legislation will have a climate impact assessment analysis.
  - c. A comprehensive set of environmental, social and economic sustainability indicators will be developed.
  - d. A new cross-agency climate change board of public sector CEOs will be established.
2. Reduce congestion and carbon emissions by substantially increasing investment in safe walking and cycling, frequent and affordable passenger transport, rail, and sea freight.
  - a. Investigate a Green Transport Card as part of work to reduce the cost of public transport, prioritising people in low income households and people on a benefit.
  - b. National Land Transport Fund spending will be reprioritised to increase the investment in rail infrastructure in cities and regions, and cycling and walking.
  - c. Auckland's East-West motorway link will not proceed as currently proposed.
  - d. Work will begin on light rail from the city to the airport in Auckland.
  - e. Safe cycling and walking, especially around schools, will be a transport priority.
3. Request the Climate Commission to plan the transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2035 (which includes geothermal) in a normal hydrological year.
  - a. Solar panels on schools will be investigated as part of this goal.
4. Stimulate up to \$1 billion of new investment in low carbon industries by 2020, kick-started by a Government-backed Green Investment Fund of \$100 million.

5. Provide assistance to the agricultural sector to reduce biological emissions, improve water quality, and shift to more diverse and sustainable land use including more forestry.

### **Healthy Environment**

6. Safeguard our indigenous biodiversity by reducing the extinction risk for 3,000 threatened plant and wildlife species, significantly increasing conservation funding, increasing predator control and protecting their habitats.
  - a. Budget provision will be made for significantly increasing the Department of Conservation's funding.
7. Improve water quality and prioritise achieving healthy rivers, lakes and aquifers with stronger regulatory instruments, funding for freshwater enhancement and winding down Government support for irrigation.
  - a. The Resource Management Act will be better enforced.
8. Safeguard the healthy functioning of marine ecosystems and promote abundant fisheries. Use best endeavours and work alongside Māori to establish the Kermadec/ Rangitāhua Ocean Sanctuary and look to establish a Taranaki blue whale sanctuary.
9. Commit to minimising waste to landfill with significant reductions in all waste classes by 2020.

### **Fair Society**

10. Overhaul the welfare system, ensure access to entitlements, remove excessive sanctions and review Working For Families so that everyone has a standard of living and income that enables them to live in dignity and participate in their communities, and lifts children and their families out of poverty.
  - a. Safe sleeping environment devices will be made available for vulnerable families.
11. Ensure that every child with special needs and learning difficulties can participate fully in school life.
12. Eliminate the gender pay gap within the core public sector with substantial progress within this Parliamentary term, and work to ensure the wider public sector and private sector is on a similar pathway.
13. Aim to end energy poverty in New Zealand and ensure that every New Zealander has a warm, dry, secure home, whether they rent or own.
  - a. Budget provision will be made to substantially increase the number of homes insulated.

14. Deliver innovative home ownership models within the State and broader community housing programme.
  - a. A Rent to Own scheme or similar progressive ownership models will be developed as part of Labour's Kiwibuild programme.
15. Make tertiary education more affordable for students and reduce the number of students living in financial hardship.
16. Ensure everyone has access to timely and high quality mental health services, including free counselling for those under 25 years.
17. Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the country's founding document.
18. Review, and adequately fund and support, the family re-unification scheme for refugees.
19. Increase funding for alcohol and drug addiction services and ensure drug use is treated as a health issue, and have a referendum on legalising the personal use of cannabis at, or by, the 2020 general election.
20. Strengthen New Zealand's democracy by increasing public participation, openness, and transparency around official information.

Labour agrees to work with the Green Party on these and other policy areas as may be identified from time to time, and in good faith.

## **Ministerial Positions**

Green Party Members of Parliament will hold the following Ministerial positions: Climate Change, Associate Finance, Conservation, Women, Land Information New Zealand, Associate Environment, Statistics, Associate Transport, Associate Health and an Undersecretary to the Minister of Justice (Domestic and Sexual Violence).

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

## **Collective Responsibility**

The Green Party agrees that any Green Party Minister or Associate Minister is bound by collective responsibility in relation to their respective portfolios. When Ministers speak about issues within their portfolio responsibilities, they will speak for the Government, representing the Government's position in relation to those responsibilities. When Green Party Ministers speak about matters outside their

portfolio responsibilities, however, they may speak as Co-Leader and/or members of the Green Party.

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

In other areas “agree to disagree” provisions will be applied as necessary.

## **Cabinet Manual**

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

## **Relationship management process**

The Labour and Green Parties commit to consensus decision-making. Protocols will be established for relationship management, policy consultation, select committee management and non-routine procedural motions.

The Green Party also undertakes to keep full voting numbers present whenever the House is sitting and in Select Committee on matters where the Green Party has committed to support the Labour-led Government.

## **Confidentiality**

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

In the event that Government papers are provided to the Green 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 Green Party for the purposes of consultation, they shall be provided to a designated person within the office of the Green Party, who will take responsibility for ensuring that they are accorded the appropriate degree of confidentiality.

## Relationship to other agreements

Both parties to this agreement recognise that Labour will be working with other parties both in terms of coalitions and confidence and supply arrangements.

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

**Dated: 24 October 2017**

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**Jacinda Ardern**

Labour Leader

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**James Shaw**

Green Party Co-Leader