

New Zealand Labour Party policy process summary

Stage 1

Your ideas and local debate

You have a great idea!

You also have good arguments and evidence to support the idea.

Your local branch, LEC or Sector Council agrees to put forward the idea to Regional Conference at least 6 weeks before the Conference.

They also decide who will be their voting delegates at Regional Conference.

Stage 2

Regional debate at Regional conference

All proposals/amendments need to be received by the Regional Conference organiser at least 6 weeks before the conference.

Labour Regional Councils or conference organisers will consolidate, scrutinise and group proposals by Policy Platform chapter.

Stage 3

Policy committee consolidation and finalisation

Once it passes Regional Conference the proposal/ amendment is given to a Policy Committee (or Sector Council). A Policy Committee develops detailed Party policy by working with MPs and party members.

The Committee/Council will finalise and consolidate all the ideas it receives nationwide into proposals to be debated and voted on by Annual Conference.

Stage 4

National debate at Annual Conference

Annual Conference debates and votes on the idea.

Members, LECs, and sectors might lobby or campaign other members about ideas they would like to see passed.

If the whole party agrees with them at Annual Conference, then it becomes part of the Policy Platform or gets formally considered in development of the election Manifesto.

There are two formal ways members can put forward policy ideas. There are also many informal ways, such as talking with specific Labour Members of Parliament

Policy Platform amendments

These are changes to the Policy Platform.

The Platform is meant as an enduring high-level statement of Labour's values and general approach to policy, rather than containing lots of specific detail about issues.

Different chapters will be open for amendment each year.

Policy proposals

Previously called remits, these are specific proposals which stand alone rather than amend an existing document.

They generally start with the words "That Labour [does or supports xxx]" or "That Labour in government [does or supports xxx]".

Platform amendments and Policy proposals

A Policy Council then chooses up to 10 proposals for debate, with a general resolution to adopt or reject the remaining policy proposals.

The Policy Council then chooses up to 10 proposals for debate, with a general resolution to adopt or reject the remaining policy proposals.

Platform amendments and Policy proposals are finalised by the Policy Council and circulated around the Party 6 weeks before Annual Conference.

A report on what has happened to amendments and proposals debated at Regional Conferences is circulated around the Party 8 weeks before Annual Conference.

For 2018-20, there are five policy committees: Education and Workforce, Health and Wellbeing, Economic Development, Infrastructure and Environment, and Justice. Te Kaunihera Māori considers Māori development issues.