



Hello everyone

This additional newsletter mainly contains answers by the Palmerston North Parliamentary Candidates to questions asked by F&B Manawātū.

I have always wondered what it was like on the top of the Ruahines –



photo taken from video by Anthony Behrens

A short video made by Anthony Behrens while he was volunteering on a trap line deep in the Ruahines. Click on the link <https://vimeo.com/232602439> He is part of a dedicated group of volunteers that set, and monitor, trap lines to ensure the native wildlife has a chance. He also has a message with the video.

FOREST AND BIRD MANAWATŪ ASKED THE PALMERSTON NORTH PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Below are their answers.

Adrienne Pierce (AP)

National Party Candidate for Palmerston North

Darroch Ball (DB)

NZ First candidate for Palmerston North

Iain Lees-Galloway (IL-G)

Labour Party Candidate for Palmerston North

Thomas Nash (TN)

Candidate for Palmerston North
Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand

1. Fresh water in New Zealand:

1.1. Forest & Bird was recently part of a cross-disciplinary coalition that launched a 7 point Freshwater Rescue Plan, which includes bringing in polluter pays systems. What will you do to ensure that the new government signs up to this plan?

AP - Our water quality is strong by international standards but National wants to see it even better. That's why we've made freshwater standards a priority in government.

Our Swimmable Rivers 2040 policy is already delivering measures that will boost water quality. We're the first government to set minimum standards, we're putting stronger regulations on stock exclusion, and we're giving councils better tools to enforce water quality rules.

National has also started rolling out the first round of water clean-up project grants under the new Freshwater Improvement Fund. This first round has seen almost \$6 million dollars allocated to Manawatu-Whanganui. As a local MP, I'll work hard to identify where we need improvement and will advocate strongly for the resources we need to make it happen.

IL-G - Labour's 12-point Freshwater Plan is broadly consistent with Forest & Bird's plan. We look forward to implementing it when we are in Government. You can read our full Water Policy at www.labour.org.nz/water

DB - New Zealand First does not regard allowing polluters to pay for the privilege of continuing to pollute is a practical or sensible way forward. We will ensure that regulations exist to limit pollution, the assessment of which will be based on accurate actual monitoring of discharges rather than incomplete software modelling. We will also ensure that such regulations are properly enforced, and that adequate resourcing is allocated to science and research to ensure that reduction and mitigation technologies are available to polluters to assist in achieving these aims.

TN -Water is at a tipping point in New Zealand, and the Greens are the only Party 100% committed to bold solutions to protect our freshwater heritage. Building on our charter principle of Ecological Wisdom, the Greens are strongly supportive of the Freshwater Rescue Plan as led by Forest & Bird and others. We welcomed the release of the Plan, see <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA1706/S00137/green-party-welcomes-freshwater-rescue-plan.htm>

In a new progressive government, the Greens will ensure Labour's recent strengthened rhetoric about cleaning up New Zealand rivers are actually followed through with action. With a strong team of Green MPs including James Shaw, Eugenie Sage, Gareth Hughes and (retiring) Catherine Delahunty, the Greens have been leading on clean water solutions in Parliament for 17 years. We have well considered and fiscally validated policy positions, such as our price on bottled water exports, that are closely reflected in the Freshwater Rescue Plan.

1.2. Do you think that people who make money from water should pay a resource rental?

AP - If we are going to charge a resource rental for the commercial use of water then it needs to apply to everyone.

Labour policy of charging an unknown amount per cubic metre only applies to those businesses that have a consent to take water and who have invested in the assets to extract and distribute the water.

In other words they are targeting our rural food producers while ignoring all other businesses.

They have the same approach to water bottlers who have invested in the infrastructure to extract and process the water while allowing beer, soft drink and water bottlers using town supply to avoid any charge for use of the resource.

It should be noted that contrary to a general belief no-one on town supply actually pays for water. They either pay a fixed sum through their rates for the supply of treated water to their house or business and if metered they pay a fixed rate for the infrastructure and a per litre rate to cover the cost of chemicals, electricity and labour.

IL-G - Yes.

DB - New Zealand First policy, now adopted by a number of other Parties, is to charge a royalty on the export of water in the form of water. We are completely opposed to any form of volumetric charge for properly consented water takes for any purpose within New Zealand. Water is a Commons and access to it must be without impost.

TN - Yes. The Greens will put a price on bottled water exporters, and work with other industrial and commercial water users to develop a pricing system that is fair and reasonable and reflects that freshwater is a valuable resource that should be carefully managed, including strong protection for in stream values including native fish habitat.

2. The Department of Conservation:

In the latest budget DOC effectively received in real terms a decrease in its natural heritage budget. It is obvious that DOC does not have enough money to do their core job of protecting NZ's native wildlife. How much more money does the Department of Conservation need to do its job properly?

AP - We've set New Zealand's most ambitious conservation target ever with our Predator Free 2050 goal.

National is investing more in DOC so it's able to drive this project and see our natural environment in better shape than ever. Just recently, we announced almost \$70 million extra to boost Predator Free 2050 and we're backing DOC and local communities to achieve this goal.

This announcement is in addition to our year-on-year funding increases for DOC and Budget 2017's \$107.8 million injection into strengthening conservation programmes and managing tourism growth on conservation land.

IL-G - Labour is committed to providing DoC with an extra \$30m a year from the Tourism and Conversation Infrastructure Fund. We recognise that this doesn't bring it back up to pre-2008 levels but as a government we'd look to gradually increase funding in real terms over time.

DB - New Zealand First will resource Conservation to the level required in order to protect and preserve our unique flora, fauna, and environment, and to reflect the importance of Conservation to our tourism and international brand and reputation, including methods of pest control that do not rely on systemic poisons and eco-toxins.

TN - The Greens agree that the Department of Conservation needs further investment to deliver on its statutory mandate. Our Tourism Levy of \$20 / visitor will generate \$1.5 billion

in revenue by 2050. In short, this policy will secure sufficient revenue from international visitors that a Green government will invest \$58 million in the first year into Predator Free NZ. That investment will double the number of DoC rangers on the front lines of conservation, and will also double the amount of pest control in New Zealand protecting our most precious endangered birds and other native fauna.

For DoC to successfully protect endangered species and the conservation estate, we also need to restore the science and advocacy capacity and focus in the department – the Greens are committed to a strong DoC that does take a proactive approach to protecting the environment.

3. Climate change policy:

3.1. Climate change is the greatest environmental crisis the world has ever faced. Forest and Bird is one of the organisations that supports The Zero Carbon Act, which calls for a pathway of legally binding 5 yr carbon budgets to progress NZ to zero carbon by 2050. Will your party back the proposed Zero Carbon Act?

AP - Simply legislating zero carbon is a nice theory but there needs to be a strong plan behind it to make a substantial change to our carbon emissions and that's what National has got.

We're committed to fulfilling our responsibilities under the Paris target to reduce carbon. National is taking real action to reduce emissions, by introducing an electric vehicles target, having a target of 90% renewable electricity by 2025 and investing in millions in research to reduce emissions from our agriculture. These will help us meet our Paris targets while also growing jobs and the economy.

IL-G - Labour's policy is focused around how we transition to a low carbon economy. For the past couple of elections, we've had a policy of an independent climate commission that sets carbon budgets. These budgets will be detailed plans of where in the economy (transport, agriculture, energy etc) we would actually make the reductions. National does not currently have an overarching strategy for the reductions or the transition and are refusing to include agriculture within the ETS, which accounts for almost half of our emissions.

DB - New Zealand First supports the proposed Zero Carbon Act

TN - The Greens are the only Party that has endorsed the Zero Carbon Act and committed to its passage within the first 100 days of a new government. See <https://www.greens.org.nz/news/press-release/greens-commit-zero-carbon-act-first-100-days>

3.2. When do you think farming should pay for the cost of its greenhouse gas emissions?

AP - No other ETS in the world includes agriculture. Bringing them in would place a cost on our farmers that no other farmers face

We will continue to invest in finding a scientific solution for emissions from agriculture. Our farmers are the best, most sustainable and efficient in the world and they are continuously getting better. The world still needs our produce and there is no point in

putting our farmers out of business just so the produce can be produced less efficiently elsewhere.

IL-G - Our policy is an ETS that includes all sectors and that includes agriculture. There needs to be a science-led discussion about the relative impacts of short-run and long-run gases and how to account for them.

Our full Climate Change policy is available here: <http://www.labour.org.nz/climatechange>

DB - New Zealand First is opposed to the inclusion of Agriculture in the ETS. We are opposed to Emissions Trading Schemes on principle, because Trading Schemes are about trading, and not about emissions. New Zealand First will follow Britain and Norway in initiating domestic programs such as reforestation and wetlands restoration in order to meet the international commitments New Zealand has signed up to.

TN - We will work with the farming sector to identify a time within the first term of a new government.

KIWIS AGAINST SEABED MINING

<http://kasm.org.nz/inside-kasm/activities/>



Kind Regards

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Forest & Bird

TE REO O TE TAIAO | Giving Nature a Voice