

FUEL CRISIS SCORECARD:

Scoring Methodology

This document explains the methodology used to assign scores in Greenpeace Aotearoa's Fuel Crisis Response Scorecard. The scorecard assesses each political party's support for nine policy measures designed to reduce New Zealand's dependence on imported fossil fuels and protect households from rising energy costs.

Scoring methodology

Each political party was asked the same nine questions. Each question required a direct Yes or No answer. Where parties provided a clear yes or no response, scores were assigned directly.

Where a party:

- qualified its response by expressing support only in principle, attaching conditions, or supporting only a weaker version of the policy, or
- did not participate in the survey at all,

scores were assigned using publicly available information, including:

- Their response in the questionnaire,
- official party policy documents,
- public statements by party leaders or spokespersons,
- parliamentary voting records for the current parliamentary term,
- for governing parties a failure to enact the policy or actions taken that are inconsistent with the policy, during the current parliamentary term.

The National Party and New Zealand First chose not to respond to the questionnaire. Scores for these parties were assigned using the same methodology described above.

Scoring system

Colour	Point	Definition
Green	2	Clear and unambiguous support for the specific policy.
Orange	1	Qualified or conditional support, support in principle only, or support for a weaker version of the policy.
Red	0	Opposition to the policy or no public evidence of support. For governing parties, they have failed to enact the policy or taken actions that are inconsistent with the policy this term.

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Question-by-question scoring explanation

1. Cancel the LNG Terminal

Question: Will your party cancel the proposed LNG import terminal?

Labour Party — Orange (1 point)

The Labour Party expressed opposition to the LNG terminal but did not make an unconditional commitment to cancel it. In their questionnaire response Labour stated:

"Labour does not support it, and if we can, we will cancel it. Labour has called on the Government to scrap the LNG import terminal."

The phrase "if we can" introduces a condition and stops short of a definitive commitment, therefore Labour was assigned 1 point.

National Party — Red (0 points)

The National Party is the lead governing party that has proposed the LNG import terminal, therefore National was assigned 0 points.

New Zealand First — Red (0 points)

NZ First as a governing coalition partner, is supporting the proposed LNG import terminal, therefore NZ First was assigned 0 points.

2. Support Rooftop Solar

Question: Will your party commit to a nationwide rooftop solar and battery grant or loan scheme, with delivery starting by the end of 2026?

Labour Party — Orange (1 point)

Labour indicated general support for rooftop solar but did not commit to a grant or loan scheme therefore Labour was assigned 1 point. They stated in their questionnaire response:

"Labour will announce our energy plan before the election, including how New Zealand can ramp up the rollout of solar and batteries. Warm, dry, healthy homes and thriving industries with well-paid, stable jobs are central to Labour's plan for a New Zealand that works for everyone."

National Party — Red (0 points)

The National Party is the lead governing party and has so far failed to roll out a rooftop solar and battery grant or loan scheme, therefore National was assigned 0 points.

New Zealand First — Red (0 points)

NZ First as a governing coalition partner, has so far failed to roll out a rooftop solar and battery grant or loan scheme. Additionally the deputy leader has publicly labelled solar advocates as "woke, riddled munchkins". Therefore NZ First was assigned 0 points.

3. Free Public Transport

Question: Will your party commit to immediately making public transport free as a response to rising fuel costs?

Green Party — Orange (1 point)

The Green Party supported the policy but added a condition. They stated in their questionnaire response:

“Yes, for an initial period of three months.”

Because the question asked whether public transport would be made free immediately as a response to rising fuel costs, without specifying an arbitrary time period, the Green Party was assigned 1 point.

Labour Party — Orange (1 point)

Labour indicated support for public transport but did not commit to making public transport free. Therefore Labour was assigned 1 point. They stated in their questionnaire response:

“Most Kiwis are worried about the cost of filling up the tank - on top of costs that were already too high before the Iran war began. Labour is committed to making access to public transport easier and all options should be on the table to help people with higher fuel prices, including discounted public transport and flexible working arrangements.”

National Party — Red (0 points)

The National Party is the lead governing party and has not initiated free public transport in response to rising fuel costs, therefore National was assigned 0 points.

New Zealand First — Red (0 points)

NZ First is a governing coalition partner and has not initiated free public transport in response to rising fuel costs, therefore NZ First was assigned 0 points.

4. Reallocate Mega-road Funding to Public and Active Transport

Question: Will your party cancel the Roads of National Significance programme and redirect that funding into a large-scale expansion of public and active transport?

Green Party — Orange (1 point)

The Green Party supported cancelling only some RONS, therefore the Green Party was assigned 1 point. They stated in their questionnaire response:

"Yes, we support cancelling the worst of the RONS and reviewing the rest to add public and active networks to any genuinely needed projects".

The Opportunity Party — Orange (1 point)

TOP did not commit to cancelling any RONS, but expressed opposition to the Government current roading approach and conditional support for funding public transport and active transport infrastructure. Therefore, TOP was assigned 1 point.

In their questionnaire response they stated:

"Opportunity is committed to removing politics from infrastructure decisionmaking. Where public transport and active transport infrastructure projects stack up (and in our view they often do) they should be funded, but unquestioning devotion to non-road transport infrastructure construction is no better than the current government's unquestioning support for ever more roads."

Labour Party — Orange (1 point)

Labour might cancel some RONS but they attached several conditions. They did not commit to funding the large-scale expansion of public and active transport. Therefore Labour was assigned 1 point. In their questionnaire response they stated:

"Labour will only honour RoNS that have been signed, contracted are underway and have money allocated to it. Any re-direction would need to support an approach towards a more integrated transportation system than the one we have at the moment."

National Party — Red (0 points)

The National Party is the architect and principal supporter of the Roads of National Significance programme and was therefore assigned 0 points.

New Zealand First — Red (0 points)

NZ First is a governing coalition partner, and signed on to support the Roads of National Significance programme in its coalition agreement where it also negotiated cancelling Auckland light rail, and reducing expenditure on cycleways. Therefore NZ First was assigned 0 points.

5. Get Freight off Roads and onto Rail

Question: Will your party invest in upgrading and expanding the rail network?

Labour Party — Orange (1 point)

Labour indicated it would take an integrated approach to transport and recognised the role of rail, but did not provide a direct yes to the specific commitment sought.

National Party - Orange (1 point)

The National party has invested in rail in this parliamentary term, however, in response to the fuel crisis they have not signalled any increase in investment or move to shift more freight onto rail. Instead, along with ACT, they have pushed to ease heavy weight vehicle restrictions and other trucking regulations so that trucks can carry more weight.

New Zealand First - Green (2 points)

NZ First has spearheaded ongoing investment in rail (regional freight rail) while in this Government. Leader Winston Peters has vocally supported rail as part of the fuel crisis response and recently, NZ First publicly stated they would not support lifting weight restrictions on heavy vehicles as part of the fuel crisis response, and advocated for rail as an alternative.

6. Electrify the Vehicle Fleet

Question: Will your party restore the clean car discount or bring in a new self-funding feebate scheme that provides rebates for EVs and fuel efficient vehicles funded by fees on fuel-inefficient vehicles?

The Opportunity Party — Orange (1 point)

TOP expressed support for electrifying public transport and EV uptake, but did not commit directly to introducing a specific feebate scheme that would disincentivise fuel-inefficient vehicles at the same time. In their questionnaire response they stated:

“We have committed to support electrification of the public transport fleet and want to support EV uptake as part of promoting electrification (including solar, battery, appliance upgrades and home efficiency improvements). Expenditure of this sort is justifiable in light of its wider impact on the economy and energy system, so does not necessarily need to be directly linked to charges on ICVs. Our Energy Abundance policy proposes ringfencing dividend revenue from the electricity “gentailers” as a method of funding electrification for communities and households.”

Labour Party — Orange (1 point)

Labour defended the Clean Car Discount and highlighted its success, but did not explicitly commit to restoring the scheme or introducing a replacement. Therefore Labour was assigned 1 point. In their questionnaire response they stated:

“The Clean Car Discount saw record numbers of people able to afford an EV and created a pipeline of affordable EVs for the future. The Government cut that off at the knees and have failed to achieve their 10,000 EV charger rollout. We need to be open to looking at ways in which we incentivise the supply and availability of EVs.”

National Party — Red (0 points)

The National Party abolished the Clean Car Discount and has not committed to reinstating it or replacing it with a feebate system, and was therefore assigned 0 points.

New Zealand First — Red (0 points)

NZ First is a governing coalition partner and supported the abolishing of the Clean Car Discount. It was therefore assigned 0 points.

7. Raise Fuel Efficiency Standards for Imported Vehicles

Question: Will your party raise minimum fuel efficiency standards on imported vehicles by the end of this year?

Labour Party — Orange (1 point)

Labour indicated general support for reducing the number of high emission vehicles in NZ but did not explicitly commit to strengthening the standards within the timeframe proposed. Therefore Labour was assigned 1 point. In their questionnaire response they stated:

“We opposed legislation to weaken the Clean Car Standard, which was designed to improve the fuel efficiency of imported vehicles, lower fuel costs for households, and reduce emissions. We continue to support maintaining and strengthening measures that prevent New Zealand becoming a dumping ground for higher emissions vehicles.”

National Party — Red (0 points)

The National Party weakened the Clean Car standard, cutting fees by nearly 80% on fuel-inefficient vehicle imports, despite warnings it would cost an extra \$115 million in fuel costs and is now considering cancelling the standard altogether. It was therefore assigned 0 points.

New Zealand First — Red (0 points)

NZ First is a governing coalition partner and supported the weakening of the Clean Car Standard. It was therefore assigned 0 points.

8. Create a Fair Fuel Rationing Plan

Question: Will your party restrict luxury fuel use by private jets, private helicopters and mega-yachts before limiting fuel for everyday needs such as getting to work and maintaining essential services?

Labour Party — Orange (1 point)

Labour indicated they support making sure everyday needs are prioritised but did not explicitly commit to enacting the priority restrictions outlined in the question. Therefore Labour was assigned 1 point. In their questionnaire response they stated:

“Labour will not support any plan that puts the ultra-wealth ahead of everyday people just trying to get to work or accessing essential services. This Government’s track record is clear: if you own a private jet or mega-yacht, they’ll have your back, but if you’re a regular Kiwi trying to get by then you are on your own. Any fuel rationing plan the Government announces must put those doing it toughest first.”

National Party — Red (0 points)

The National Party is the lead governing party and the fuel rationing plan they have announced contains no specific restrictions on luxury fuel use by private jets, private helicopters and mega-yachts before limits on fuel for everyday needs are introduced therefore National was assigned 0 points.

New Zealand First — Red (0 points)

NZ First is a governing coalition partner and the Government's fuel rationing plan that it supports contains no specific restrictions on luxury fuel use by private jets, private helicopters and mega-yachts before limits on fuel for everyday needs are introduced therefore NZ First was assigned 0 points.