

Election 2026 Nature and Climate Policy Scorecard: Scoring Methodology

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This document explains the methodology used to assign scores in Greenpeace Aotearoa's Election Scorecard's for 2026. The scorecards assess each political party's support for policies to address the climate and biodiversity crises. The scorecards also identify which parties have received political donations connected to Fast Track applicants and the following industries: Agribusiness, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas.

Scoring methodology

Each political party was asked the same set of 20 policy questions. Each question required a direct Yes or No answer. Parties were assigned a score for their response using the following categories.

Colour	Point	Definition
Green	3	Clear and unambiguous support for the specific policy.
Yellow	2	Substantial support for the policy, but with a material qualification.
Orange	1	Supports the general policy objective, but only commits to a weaker version
Red	0	Opposes the policy, has a clearly contrary position, or has no identifiable policy position

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 and ACT parties chose not to respond to the survey at all. Scores for these parties were assigned using the same methodology described above.

Overall Grade

The party's overall grade was calculated by adding the points they received for policy questions together and dividing them by the number of questions. This gives an average score between 0 and 3, which was converted to a grade:

Grade	Average score
A	2.5–3.0
B	2.0–2.49
C	1.5–1.99
D	1.0–1.49
E	0.5–0.99
F	0–0.49

Political donations

The scorecards identify parties that have received donations linked to several industries. To establish this, Greenpeace reviewed Electoral Commission data on donations made directly to political parties since 2022. Donations made directly to individual candidates were not reviewed or included.

Where a party received a donation from a company operating in a relevant industry, or from an individual with a known connection to that industry, the donation was recorded as linked to that industry. These are recorded [here](#). Due to the extensive number of donations from individuals that were made to political parties, these were not comprehensively reviewed. Only large donations from individuals with known industry connections identified through our research were included, as such the scorecard may not capture all donations linked to the industries assessed. Greenpeace will update the figures if further information comes to light.

Donations linked to entities involved in Fast-track applications were identified using RNZ's [analysis of political donations and Fast-track applicants](#).

Scoring Evidence

This section sets out the evidence used to assign each score. Where a party responded directly to our questions, its answers are provided in full in *italics*.

Conservation

1. Won't sell-off Conservation land

Q. Will you maintain existing legal protections against the sale, disposal and exchange of public conservation land?

Labour Party - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes. We will also reform conservation and wildlife protection laws to give effect to Te Tiriti, elevate Indigenous-led land stewardship and ensure the conservation management system prioritises halting and reversing nature loss in Aotearoa.

Opportunity - Green (3 Points)

Yes

New Zealand First - Orange (1 point)

Shane Jones, deputy leader of the NZ first party has publicly said that [“the conservation estate was too big.”](#) He has also stated he wants to [break up the Department of Conservation](#), the government body charged with caring for the conservation estate. The Party did not respond with a clear yes to the question, and provided no detail on whether existing protections on the assessment of stewardship land would remain

NZ First principles state that strategic state asset sales will cease, and we seek to safeguard state and local assets from sale. However, our policy is to survey all stewardship land and remove parts that do not warrant conservation status.

ACT - Red (0 points)

David Seymour, leader of the party [publicly defended](#) the plan to make it easier to sell off public conservation land. He stated that “All we’re saying is some of this land*. It should probably be available for someone else to buy and use”. *The land being referred to in this quote is the conservation estate. See the full statement [here](#). Since these statements the party has not released any policy or statements ruling out selling off conservation land.

National Party - Orange (1 point)

No response. The National Party introduced a Bill proposing to make it easier to sell-off 60% - 5 million hectares of the conservation estate. They pulled these particular clauses out as a result of

mass public pushback. However they have refused to pull the Bill entirely, so it continues to progress through parliament and may be amended further after the election. The National party has not released any policy or made any categorical statements that selling off conservation land will not occur under a Government it leads.

2. Bin the Conservation Bill

Q. Will you abandon the Conservation Amendment Bill 2026?

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes. We will also restore the purpose of the Conservation Act 1987 so conservation comes first, reversing any shift towards the prioritisation of commercial development on conservation land.

Labour Party - Orange (1 point)

Supported removing the clause that would enable greater exploitation of conservation land but fell short of committing to opposing the bill in full:

Labour opposed the Conservation Amendment Bill at first reading. While we agree there may be changes required to make the concessions regime more efficient, we continue to oppose the amendments that make it easier to sell or exchange public conservation land and change the purpose of the Department of Conservation to give primary to economic development over conservation. Labour in government will protect public conservation land that belongs of all of us and ensure that conservation remains DOC's primary purpose.

Opportunity - Orange (1 point)

Supported removing the clause that would enable greater exploitation of conservation land but fell short of committing to opposing the bill in full:

We will not support the Bill without significant and substantive improvements being made to it, including the removal of the late-stage changes to section 6 regarding the functions of the Department of Conservation.

NZ First - Red (0 points)

No

National, Act - Red (0 points)

Both parties voted the Conservation Amendment Bill through its first reading and none have yet to commit pulling their support for the Bill.

3. Ban mining on conservation land

Will you permanently prohibit mining on all Conservation land, including stewardship land?

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Labour Party - Green (3 points)

Labour initially did not commit to doing this:

Labour is yet to release our policy in this area, that will happen prior to the election. Labour will fix the Fast-track Approvals Act so environmental protections are not overridden, and a proper process is followed."

However they updated their position on the 12 October to "No new mines on conservation land"

Opportunity - Orange (1 point)

Supports restrictions on mining on conservation land but will not commit to banning it.:

Opportunity does not support a blanket ban on mining across public conservation land, but considers the presumption should be strongly against it: most of this land - including stewardship land - has high ecological, cultural, recreational or other values that make it fundamentally unsuitable for mining. We would allow mining only where impacts are demonstrably extremely low, such as most small-scale alluvial gold mining, and subject to strict environmental controls. We also recognise that public conservation land is a critically important source of pounamu for Ngāi Tahu, and that an outright ban on all mining would be fundamentally unworkable in light of the rights that Ngāi Tahu hold with respect to pounamu.

NZ First - Red (0 points)

No, NZ First opposes a permanent ban; our policy is to provide access to Department of Conservation stewardship land for sustainable and environmentally approved mining

National and ACT - Red (0 points)

No response to poll. Both parties passed the Fast Track Approvals Act which included a coal mine on conservation land in its schedule of listed projects. Both parties also voted the Conservation Amendment Bill through its first reading, which proposes to make it easier to mine conservation land by changing the purpose architecture of the law so that it is no longer restricted to protection and preservation, but enables commercial exploitation to the greatest extent practicable.

Oceans

5. Ban bottom trawling on seamounts

Will you ban bottom trawling on all seamounts and similar features in Aotearoa by the end of 2027?

Labour Party - Red (0 Points)

Labour in their written response to the question confirmed they would stop new areas of bottom trawling on seamounts, not on all seamounts and similar features in Aotearoa, therefore they did not

show substantial support of the policy. Labour later confirmed via email that they were updating their position. However confirmation of this position change has not yet been received.

Labour will stop new areas of bottom trawling on seamounts and other vulnerable ecosystems.

Labour will ban bottom trawling in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. We do not have a fixed timeframe for this, but will undertake this work during the 2026-2029 Parliamentary term.

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Opportunity Party - Yellow (2 Points)

Showed substantial support for the policy of ending bottom trawling on seamounts and features, but with the qualification of a longer timeframe.

Opportunity will phase out destructive bottom-contact fishing methods including bottom trawling, dredging and Danish seining. Our proposed timeframe is: Immediate closures in the Hauraki Gulf/Tīkapa Moana and other inshore areas facing critical ecosystem decline; a three-year phase-out on seamounts; and a five-year phase-out on other deep-sea features, including cold-water coral habitats and vulnerable benthic ecosystems. Opportunity would provide transition assistance to affected fishing operators, including retraining, support to adopt alternative methods, or assistance to leave the industry with dignity.

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes

National - Red (0 Points)

National did not respond to the polling question. At the WWF pre-election Oceans debate in August, spokesperson Grant McCallum did not commit to a ban on bottom trawling on seamounts and instead suggested investment in making methods less damaging. As they have not shown identifiable support for the policy, they were rated 0.

ACT - Red (0 Points)

ACT did not respond to polling question. Their [ocean policy gives no reference](#) to spatial closures to fishing, including on seamounts, in the WWF pre-election Oceans Debate spokesperson Cameron Luxton said 'something needs to be done' about seamount trawling but did not commit to a position, therefore they were given 0.

NZ First - Red (0 Points)

NZ First responded to the polling question stating a clearly contrary position.

No, our policy is that restricting or prohibiting bottom trawling will only occur where there is clear evidence that harvesting causes damage to outstanding biodiversity or critical habitats

6. End bottom trawling in the South Pacific high seas

Will you support the closure of all vulnerable marine ecosystems in the South Pacific high seas?

Labour Party - Yellow (2 Points)

Labour showed support for the policy but with a qualification.

Yes, ideally by the end of 2027 but we can not commit to a fixed timeframe.

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Opportunity Party - Yellow (2 Points)

Opportunity showed support for the policy, with the qualification being the timeframe.

Opportunity will phase out destructive bottom-contact fishing methods including bottom trawling, dredging and Danish seining. Our proposed timeframe is: Immediate closures in the Hauraki Gulf/Tīkapa Moana and other inshore areas facing critical ecosystem decline; a three-year phase-out on seamounts; and a five-year phase-out on other deep-sea features, including cold-water coral habitats and vulnerable benthic ecosystems. Opportunity would provide transition assistance to affected fishing operators, including retraining, support to adopt alternative methods, or assistance to leave the industry with dignity.

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes

National - Red (0 Points)

No response to the polling question. No stated policy position found. Part of the current government under which NZ blocked support for closing seamounts in the High Seas area at SPRFMO.

ACT - Red (0 Points)

No response. No stated policy position found. Part of the current government under which NZ blocked support for closing seamounts in the High Seas area at SPRFMO.

NZ First - Red (0 Points)

NZ First has [repeatedly supported NZ continuing](#) to bottom trawl in the South Pacific high seas, blocked NZ support for closing seamounts in the High Seas area at SPRFMO, and pushed for an increase in the amount of coral that can be caught by trawlers in the region. In response to the poll they said:

NZ First supports protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems and sustainable international fisheries management. However, we don't support for an automatic closure of all areas described in the question and would consider measures through the relevant international scientific and fisheries processes.

7. Ratify the global ocean treaty

Will you commit to ratifying the BBNJ agreement within the first 100 days of government?

Labour - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Opportunity Party - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes

National - Red (0 Points)

No response to polling question. As a current member of the government they have not progressed ratification of the global ocean treaty, despite it being signed by New Zealand in 2023.

ACT - Red (0 Points)

No response to the polling question. As a current member of the government they have not progressed ratification of the global ocean treaty, despite it being signed by New Zealand in 2023.

NZ First - (0 Points)

As a current member of the government they have not progressed ratification of the global ocean treaty, despite it being signed by New Zealand in 2023.

NZ First supports New Zealand participating constructively in international environmental agreements, but treaty ratification should follow proper domestic consideration of New Zealand's legal, economic and sovereignty interests.

8. Tasman Sea protection

Will your party commit to advancing a proposal for a fully protected ocean sanctuary in the international waters of the Tasman Sea under the BBNJ Treaty?

Labour - Yellow (2 Points)

Showed support for the policy, with a qualification.

Yes, if possible. Within New Zealand waters, Labour will expand marine protected areas towards 30% of our marine environment

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Opportunity Party - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes

National - Red (0 Points)

No response to polling question. No stated position elsewhere.

ACT - Red (0 Points)

No response to polling question. No stated position elsewhere.

NZ First - Red (0 Points)

Did not show support for policy.

NZ First would consider any proposal for an international ocean sanctuary on its environmental evidence, scientific basis and implications for New Zealand's interests and maritime rights.

9. Fisheries Amendment Bill

Will you abandon the Fisheries Amendment Bill 2026?

Labour - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Opportunity Party - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes

National - Orange (1 Point)

Did not answer the polling question. Voted Bill through at First Reading. Public statements on the Bill removed their support for the current iteration of the Bill, but there has been no public commitment to abandon it entirely.

ACT - Orange (1 Point)

Did not answer the polling question. Voted Bill through at First Reading. Public statements removed their support for the current iteration of the Bill, but there has been no public commitment to abandon it entirely.

NZ First - Red (0 Points)

No. The Bill is sponsored by NZ First Minister Shane Jones, seeks to improve the responsiveness and efficiency of fisheries management while maintaining sustainability

10. Ban seabed mining

Will you ban seabed mining in the waters of Aotearoa?

Labour - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Opportunity Party - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes

National - Red (0 Points)

No response to polling question. The National Party has previously (2023) voted against members' bills to ban seabed mining in Aotearoa. Part of the coalition government that introduced the Fast Track Bill that gave seabed miners Trans Tasman Resources a new pathway to apply.

ACT - Red (0 Points)

No response to poll. ACT has previously (2023) voted against members' bills to ban seabed mining in Aotearoa. Has been [vocal about pro-mining stance and support for critical minerals extraction](#). Part of the coalition government that introduced the Fast Track Bill that gave seabed miners Trans Tasman Resources a new pathway to apply.

NZ First - Red (0 Points)

No, NZ First does not support a ban; instead, we advocate for higher government levies on minerals extracted from coastal seabed iron sands

Freshwater

12. Further restrict fertiliser use

Will you immediately lower the synthetic nitrogen fertiliser cap and extend it across all land uses?

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes. We would phase out synthetic nitrogen fertiliser and take action to reduce stocking rates on a catchment basis to improve the health of rivers and drinking water and reduce climate pollution.

Labour - Orange (1 point)

Labour expressed support for the use of a fertiliser cap but failed to commit to lowering the cap:

“When last in Government, Labour introduced a nitrogen fertiliser cap to reduce the amount of nitrogen getting to waterways. This acknowledged that nitrogen is a major pollutant of freshwater. Labour will take an evidence-based approach to nitrogen fertiliser and in way that places the health of people and the environment at the forefront.”

Opportunity - Red (0 point)

Did not commit to the policy:

“Opportunity supports piloting of innovative solutions to reduce nitrogen losses from fertiliser, reduce nitrous oxide emissions, and shift farm systems to lower-N footprints.”

NZ First - Red (0 points)

No. Our approach is for practical, science-based freshwater management that balances environmental outcomes with productive land use.

National Party and ACT - Red (0 points)

No response to poll. Both parties supported blocking regional plans to protect freshwater from coming into effect and allowed the previous restrictions on agricultural intensification and new conversions to lapse in January 2025.

13. Ban dairy conversions

Will you prohibit new dairy conversions?

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Labour - Red

Labour did not commit to bring back the restrictions on dairy conversions and agricultural intensification that the Coalition repealed:

“Labour is committed to the goal of swimmable rivers. Labour recognises the problem of nitrates in water and the negative effect this has. That’s why in government, Labour introduced the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and introduced temporary rules that restricted the conversion of farmland to intensive dairy, which aimed to improve water quality for rivers, lakes and wetlands within five years. It was disappointing the National led government repealed many of these protections and blocked Regional Councils from implementing their own freshwater plans. Labour believes freshwater limits should be national bottom lines. RMA reforms need to provide for this, and Labour made amendments that would implement freshwater limits. Any decisions would be based on evidence and well understood.”

Opportunity - Red (0 points)

No

NZ First - Red (0 points)

No, NZ First does not have a policy to prohibit new dairy conversions; we focus on backing the primary industry and enabling it to grow sustainably.

National Party and ACT - Red (0 points)

No response to poll. Both parties supported blocking regional plans to protect freshwater from coming into effect and allowed the previous restrictions on agricultural intensification and new conversions to lapse in January 2025.

14. Restore Te Mana o te Wai

Will you re-embed Te Mana o te Wai* - the hierarchy of water management principles* to all planning and consenting decisions, in the first 100 days?

*The hierarchy states:

Freshwater must be managed in a way that prioritises:

1. first, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems
2. second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water)
3. third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future.

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes. We would reinstate Te Mana o Te Wai to prioritise the health of freshwater in decision making and regulation and to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Labour - Orange (1 point)

While Labour expressed support for Te Mana o te Wai it did not commit to reinstating it:

Labour is proud of introducing Te Mana o te Wai as an approach to the management of freshwater when last in government. Labour's full policy manifesto will be released prior to the election. Labour believes the health of people and the environment should be at the forefront of decisions. The key issue is that regional councils need to be able to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management in regional plans that have been stopped by the current government.

Opportunity - Yellow (2 points)

Opportunity commits to the policy but will not deliver it in the first 100 days:

"Opportunity will reinstate Te Mana o te Wai as the governing principle of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management — putting the health of waterways first. However, we

consider that this is unlikely to be achievable within the first 100 days whilst upholding sound democratic process. “

NZ First - Red (0 points)

No. NZ First has explicitly supported replacing Te Mana o te Wai in RMA planning. We support freshwater management that balances environmental outcomes with the social, economic and community needs of New Zealanders.

National Party, ACT - Red (0 points)

No response to poll. Both parties supported passing the [Resource Management \(Freshwater and Other Matters\) Amendment Bill](#) which blocked Councils from taking into account Te Mana o te Wai in individual resource consent decisions. The ACT party has [strongly campaigned](#) to scrap Te Mana o te wai altogether.

Climate

16. Reinstate the offshore oil & gas ban

Will you bring back the ban on new offshore oil and gas exploration?

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes. The Green Party wants to see new fossil fuel extraction ended in Aotearoa, end subsidies for fossil fuels and cancel the Government's proposed Liquefied Natural Gas terminal. We want to phase out the dependence of our economic systems on fossil fuels and ensure that government encourages and supports the private sector to transition away from climate change-causing activities and climate-related risk

Labour - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Opportunity - Orange (1 party)

Opportunity would not oppose reinstating it but would not progress it themselves:

“Given the rapid expansion of cheap renewable energy and increasing pressure to transition away from fossil fuel extraction globally, prospective investments in new offshore oil and gas developments are now so unattractive that few institutional investors are willing to countenance them. Noting this, we consider a reinstatement of the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration is probably unnecessary. However, for the purpose of clarity, Opportunity would not oppose a reinstatement of the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration should a future governing party seek to progress it.”

NZ First - Red (0 points)

No. NZ First does not support reinstating a blanket ban on oil and gas exploration. The party supports strengthening New Zealand's energy security and making responsible use of domestic natural resources.

National, ACT - Red (0 points)

No response to poll. Both parties voted to repeal the ban on new offshore oil and gas exploration.

17. Bring Agriculture into the ETS

Will you bring agriculture into the Emissions Trading Scheme by mid-2027?

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

We will bring agricultural emissions into the ETS. Further, the Green Party will reform the Emissions Trading Scheme and remove forestry offsetting, so the scheme acts as a genuine 'cap-and-trade' scheme. Alongside this, we will establish a biodiversity credit scheme that supports and incentivises landowners to undertake restoration and protection of land as a voluntary alternative to the Emissions Trading Scheme, and to prioritise marginal whenua Māori where agreed by landowners.

Labour - Red (0 points)

Labour made no commitment to do this:

"Labour is committed to our climate goals and the importance of a sustainable agricultural sector. At the moment, the ETS is broken and is not efficiently driving down emissions. That's why in government Labour will urgently review the ETS and move quickly to implement changes informed by this work. We can deliver cleaner and more affordable energy, gives businesses the certainty to invest, and help our farmers to compete in global markets by building on New Zealand's reputation for world class sustainability."

Opportunity - Orange (1 points)

Opportunity did not commit to the policy. It is exploring but has not committed to any other methods of making NZ's biggest emitter pay its fair share:

"Opportunity will explore a cap-and-trade market or novel levy structure for reducing the annual flow rate of biogenic methane (CH₄) into the atmosphere in line with five year emissions budgets and long-term targets."

NZ First - Red (0 points)

No, NZ First does not support emissions pricing in any form unless adopted by key trading partners, and we support stopping the current review of the ETS system.

National, ACT - Red (0 points)

No response to poll. Both parties have refused to put Agriculture into the ETS this parliamentary term and neither have committed to doing so in their policies in the lead up to the 2026 election.

18. Reduce the dairy herd

Will you scale down dairy production in Aotearoa and reduce the number of dairy cattle?

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes, sensibly and practically. We will ban palm kernel expeller and ensure all supplementary feed is sustainably sourced and does not strain the carrying capacity of the local environment, as well as phasing out synthetic nitrogen fertiliser. We will increase support for farmers to transition to more sustainable forms of agricultural production through finance mechanisms such as low-interest loans and grants, including for plant-based food and fibre production.

Labour - Red (0 points)

Labour would not commit to this policy:

"Labour is committed to our climate goals and the importance of clean and safe freshwater. "

Opportunity - Red (0 points)

Opportunity did not commit to the policy, and gave the same answer as it did for question 17.

NZ First - Red (0 points)

No, NZ First opposes scaling down production; our policies focus on backing the primary sector to grow sustainably while incentivising emissions reductions like lowmethane genetics

National, ACT - Red (0 points)

No response to poll. Dairy cattle have increased in this parliamentary term. Both parties supported the passing of laws that:

- a) weakened the country's methane target from a 24-47 percent reduction by 2050 to a 14-24 percent reduction.
- b) prevent citizens from suing companies like Fonterra for the harm they caused by contributing to climate change,
- c) allow companies to increase their water pollution in the RMA and prevent regional plans from coming into effect, both of which reduced or blocked restrictions on dairy intensification and conversions.

19. Stop the LNG terminal

Will you cancel the proposed LNG import terminal?

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes. Further, we will put public wellbeing outcomes first in legislation to guarantee the power system works for people, not profits.

Labour - Orange (1 point)

Labour commits to cancelling the progress on LNG terminal, but only if contracts are not signed:

Fossil fuels are not the future. We should be investing in clean, locally generated energy to bring down household bills now and protect our energy supply for the years ahead. Labour's preference would be to stop the process if we can, but we need to see more details of the agreement. We're not interested in paying compensation payments to fossil fuel companies.

NZ First - Red (0 points)

NZ First made no commitment to cancel it:

NZ First places significant weight on energy security, reliability and affordability. Any decisions regarding LNG infrastructure should be assessed against New Zealand's long-term energy needs and security of supply.

National Act - Red (0 points)

No response to poll. Both parties publicly support the LNG import terminal and have committed to pulling their support in the lead up to the 2026 election.

Environmental Law and Democracy

21. Honour Te Tiriti in environmental decisions.

Q. Will you re-instate strong and meaningful Te Tiriti o Waitangi clauses into all environment laws?

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes. We would implement strong evidence-based limits for ecosystem health, secure the role of Te Tiriti and affirm the role of tangata whenua as shared decision makers and kaitiaki in the new resource management system.

Labour - Green (3 Points)

Labour is committed to te Tiriti o Waitangi. Labour proposed an amendment to the Government's Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill required giving effect to the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Opportunity - Green (3 Points)

Yes

NZ First - Red (0 points)

No, our policy is to remove references to the "principles of the Treaty of Waitangi" from environmental laws, including the Resource Management Act.

National, ACT - Red (0 points)

No response to poll. Both parties have voted in support of the Natural Environment and Planning Bills, and the Conservation Amendment Bill in which strong and meaningful Te Tiriti o Waitangi clauses are removed.

22. Stop corporate compensation for environmental rules

Q. Will you repeal the Regulatory Standards Act and remove all "regulatory relief" provisions from the National Environment and Planning Laws?

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Labour - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Opportunity - Green (3 Points)

Yes

NZ First - Red (0 point)

Despite prior commitment by NZ First to repeal the Regulatory Standards Act it gave the following answer:

NZ First supports strong environmental standards, but not necessarily a return to previous consenting systems. Our approach is to ensure environmental protections are effective while also making planning and consenting systems faster, clearer and less bureaucratic.

National, Act - Red (0 points)

No response to poll. Both parties supported the passing of the Regulatory Standards Act and are supporting the corporate compensation clauses in the Natural Environment or Planning Bills.

23. Restore environmental protections in consenting

Will you restore strong and enforceable environmental protections and public participation in all resource consenting legislation?

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes. As noted we will re-instate consideration of Te Mana o Te Wai in consenting decisions. We support communities being able to participate in resource consenting processes and oppose the Government's moves to reduce the ability for people to participate in these processes, such as through the Fast-Track Approvals Act.

Labour - Green (3 Points)

Labour will fix the Fast-track Approvals Act so that environmental protections are not overridden, there is public participation, and robust processes. In Government, Labour will make amendments to the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill so there is better environmental protection and public participation.

Opportunity - Green (3 Points)

Yes

NZ First - Red (0 points)

NZ first supported the passing of the Fast Track Approvals Act and support the Natural Environment and Planning Bills, which remove strong and enforceable environmental protections and public participation from New Zealand's environmental management system. They responded to the poll with no commitment to reinstate protections removed by these Acts/Bills.

NZ First supports strong environmental standards, but not necessarily a return to previous consenting systems. Our approach is to ensure environmental protections are effective while also making planning and consenting systems faster, clearer and less bureaucratic.

National, ACT - Red (0 points)

No response to poll. Both parties supported the passing of the Fast Track Approvals Act and support the Natural Environment and Planning Bills, which remove strong and enforceable environmental protections and public participation from New Zealand's environmental management system.

24. Get Big money out of politics

Will you reform the electoral financing rules so that only registered New Zealand voters can donate to political parties?

Te Pāti Māori - Green (3 Points)

Yes

Greens - Green (3 Points)

Yes. As well as increasing public financing of campaigns and capping a donor's donations at a level that does not risk donor influence over policy.

Opportunity - Green (3 points)

Yes - and, in addition, Opportunity's 'Clean Up Politics' policy will regulate lobbying, cap political donations, and establish an independent anti-corruption body to centralise and coordinate action against corruption. Opportunity will: a.) Cap donations at \$30,000 per party, per donor, per election as recommended by the Independent Electoral Review; b.) Ban donations from companies and trusts, so only registered New Zealand voters can donate; and, c.) Lower disclosure limits, so donations over \$1,000 are included in annual statements.

Labour - Red (0 points)

Labour's full policy manifesto will be released prior to the election. Labour believes in transparent and fair rules for political party donations.

National, ACT - Red (0 points)

No response to poll. Neither of the parties have policies or public statements regarding reforming electoral financing rules so that only registered New Zealand voters can donate to political parties.

NZ First - Red (0 points)

NZ First supports strong electoral integrity and transparency but has not announced a policy restricting all political donations exclusively to registered New Zealand voters.