

OUR MANIFESTO TO KEEP NEW ZEALAND MOVING

Labour 2020



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A STRONG RECOVERY FOR ALL

These are uncertain times. COVID-19 has cast a shadow across the world. The global health and economic consequences will be with us for some time yet and New Zealand will not be immune. But we are well placed to weather the storm and will emerge from it stronger.

Our success in fighting the virus, protecting lives and livelihoods, has put us in a better position than many other countries in the world.

We didn't achieve these results by chance. We went hard and early with a clear plan that we stuck to. When issues arose, we moved to fix them as quickly as possible. The response has worked.

Together we have set ourselves up for a strong recovery. A recovery that keeps New Zealand safe and drives our economy. That will continue to be the top priority for Labour in Government.

Our task now is to make the most of that head start. We are already rolling out our plan for economic recovery. This manifesto details many of the initiatives and investments already underway. To protect our health with strong, smart borders that are continuously improved. A plan focused on creating jobs through investing in critical infrastructure like new hospitals, schools and community projects. We are training apprentices for tomorrow's jobs and supporting New Zealanders into work.

Together over the past few years, New Zealand has cleared some high hurdles. One day we will look back on this period and recognise that in a moment of uncertainty we built the foundations for New Zealand to emerge stronger. This manifesto sets out our plan to achieve that.

New Zealand has always sought to make something good come from the challenges that come our way. We're in the middle of that project right now. So let's stick together and let's keep moving.

LIVING LABOUR'S VALUES

Labour's approach is based on our values as a party, and our values as a country. Labour's values are enduring values. Our Party was formed in 1916 by working New Zealanders, determined that all people's contribution to our nation should be respected and valued. They strove then, as we do now, for a fair share for all, support for the vulnerable, and hope for a better tomorrow. The values that still guide us include:

EQUALITY ORITETANGA

Our vision of a just society is founded on equality and fairness. We believe in more than just equal opportunities—we believe in equity and equality of outcomes. An equal society is built on inclusion, respect for diversity, and co-operation.

OPPORTUNITY WHAKARITANGA

All New Zealanders have the opportunity to realise their potential and make the most of their talents. We want all New Zealanders to share in prosperity, feel valued, and have the capability to live full lives, participating in their communities.

SOLIDARITY KOTAHITANGA

Kotahitanga affirms our acceptance of mutual rights and obligations for the good of society as a whole. Solidarity defines our commitment to a compassionate, inclusive, tolerant, and responsible society. It gives us the means of finding our place in that society.

SUSTAINABILITY KAITIAKITANGA

We will ensure responsibility for sustainable use and restoration of our natural resources is shared by all, and in doing so protect our environment for future New Zealanders. We are driven, not only by what we have, but by whether our actions are going to leave our children's and grandchildren's generations with an even better country than we have today.

FREEDOM RANGITIRATANGA

Freedom is about both the right to fully participate in society and to exercise choice about how we live our lives. Labour recognises that people can only exercise true freedom when they can participate fully in a society that supports strong personal, social, and economic rights for everyone.

LABOUR'S RECOVERY PLAN

Labour's top priority in Government will continue to be a COVID recovery plan for all New Zealanders. Our strong health and economic response has put us in a position to bounce back better than many other countries.

Labour's economic plan is already being rolled out. Our plan is underpinned by a relentless focus on responsible management of government books to keep a lid on debt and invest in our recovery. We will also continue to build on our approach to keep people safe and to protect lives and livelihoods.

We are rolling out a plan that:

- Supports people to retrain for tomorrow's jobs.
- Creates jobs by rebuilding critical infrastructure.
- Future-proofs our economy by investing in plans to combat climate change, reduce waste, and support developing green energy.
- Supports small businesses and entrepreneurs to adapt, recover and grow.
- Grows exports and builds a confident and internationally connected nation.



1. INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

COVID-19 will ultimately mean big changes to the work that people do. Our plan supports people into work and helps them train or upskill for work. It also helps build workforces for the jobs for tomorrow.

- Labour will provide free access to all apprenticeships and to a range of trades training courses for the next two years, saving learners between \$2,500 and \$6,000 a year.
- Labour will continue the successful Mana in Mahi and He Poutama Rangatahi programmes which are upskilling and getting people into work.

[You can read more about our training policies here.](#)

- Labour will reinstate the Training Incentive Allowance for a wide range of higher-skill courses to support sole parents, disabled people and carers to improve their qualifications.
- Labour will increase abatement thresholds to support people into work by enabling them to earn at least \$160 a week before their benefit is reduced and continue to increase this rate year on year in line with minimum wage.
- Labour will support up to an additional 40,000 people to get into work through the Flexi-wage programme that invests in job seekers who are disadvantaged in the labour market. We'll also increase the average subsidy from \$3,500 to \$7,500.

[You can read more about these policies here.](#)



2. JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

Our recovery will create jobs, get New Zealanders back to work, and ensure people who find themselves out of work, or are entering the labour market for the first time, can get the skills and knowledge they need.

We have set out an extensive programme of new infrastructure investment, which will provide certainty to the regions and employers, and result in significant economic benefits. It invests in projects which are ready to go but also builds a long-term pipeline of investment to boost confidence and certainty.

- Labour will continue to invest in road, rail, public transport and walking and cycling infrastructure to get our cities moving, keep New Zealanders safe, unlock housing, and boost productivity.
- Labour will continue to roll out our major investments in rebuilding hospitals around the country, including substantial investments in new hospital facilities in Dunedin, Christchurch, New Plymouth, Auckland, and Counties Manukau, and investing in health infrastructure community clinics.
- Labour will continue our programme to build new schools and classrooms for 100,000 students. As well as building new schools and classrooms, we also want to better utilise the school buildings and facilities we have so we will continue to upgrade around 180 schools over the next 10 years.
- Labour will continue our build of over 18,000 public and transitional homes, our large-scale projects in places like Mt Roskill and Porirua, and investing in the necessary infrastructure for new homes.
- Labour will reform New Zealand's drinking water and waste water system and upgrade water infrastructure to create jobs across the country.
- Labour will continue to roll out Jobs for Nature that invests in community projects to address long-term environmental issues like wilding pines and cleaning up our waterways.
- Labour will build on our 'Opportunities Grow Here' campaign to attract New Zealanders into food and fibre jobs over four years, and consider innovative ways to attract young people into the primary sectors, develop career paths and business opportunities to ensure progressive succession and sustainable land use.
- Labour will partner with regions to progress their regional economic development plans by making \$200 million seed funding available through the Regional Strategic Partnership Fund for strategic investments in projects or programmes that support the growth of new and innovative industries, deliver sustainable employment opportunities, and further a region's economic development. [You can read more here.](#)





3. PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Labour's recovery plan invests in tackling long-term challenges so our economy emerges stronger. Our plan will create much-needed jobs and economic stimulus now, while also future-proofing our economy.

- Labour will bring forward our 100% renewable energy target to 2030 and investigate dry year storage options such as pumped hydro.
- Labour will continue to roll out our investment to increase electrification of industrial and process heat, including by phasing out fossil fuels in process heat by preventing the installation of new low and medium temperature coal-fired boilers, and supporting businesses to replace fossil fuels in industrial heat processes by connecting to the grid.

- Labour will help accelerate the uptake of electric and other low emission vehicles, including by increasing the Low Emissions Vehicles Contestable Fund to fund more EV chargers and support the purchase of more low emissions vehicles.
- Labour will continue its investment in innovation, including through the research and development tax credit programme.

For more information see our [climate change](#), [energy](#) and [housing](#) policies.



4. SUPPORTING OUR SMALL BUSINESSES, ENTREPRENEURS AND JOB CREATORS

Small businesses are at the heart of New Zealand's economy. We're backing our businesses with practical support to get through COVID-19, and to continue to innovate and grow. The next phase of our plan tackles a number of the challenges identified by the Small Business Council's Small Business Strategy.

- Labour will extend the Small Business Cashflow Scheme for a further three years, extend the interest-free period, and investigate permanent financing for smaller businesses.
- Labour will fund 30,000 Digital Training Vouchers for short-courses or training in digital training.
- Labour will accelerate and strengthen Business Connect.

- Labour will regulate the cost of Merchant Service Fees charged by a retailer's bank to reduce costs on retailers.
- Labour will continue to require Government departments to pay 95% of invoices they receive within 10 working days.

[You can read more about our small business policy here.](#)

Labour will also ask the Commerce Commission to conduct market studies on supermarkets and building supplies to ensure everyone is getting a fair deal. [You can read more about this policy here.](#)



5. POSITION NEW ZEALAND GLOBALLY

We're continuing to position New Zealand globally as a place to trade with and invest in to take full advantage of our economic head start. As a trading nation we rely on international customers to purchase our goods and services. Our plan will position New Zealand globally as a place to trade with, to invest in, and eventually, to visit again.

- Labour will progress the Government's tripartite Industry Policy focused on supporting industries in transition and growing high-value export firms.
- Labour will promote our primary sector roadmap Fit For a Better World to accelerate the productivity, sustainability and inclusiveness of the primary sector to deliver more value for all New Zealanders.
- Labour will continue to pursue high quality trade agreements that diversify our trade relationships. We will continue to expand opportunities including through trade deals with the EU and the UK, the Digital Economic Partnership Agreement and the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade, and Sustainability.
- Labour will work to attract high-quality companies to invest and establish here by expanding the Innovative Partnerships programme and New Zealand Trade and Enterprises (NZTE) dedicated international investment attraction team.
- Labour will open up travel bubbles when it is safe to do so.
- Labour will restart and reimagine a more sustainable tourism industry by working with the industry to support our tourism sector and invest in its transition to a sustainable, low carbon, high skill and high wage industry, focussed on attracting high-value tourists.
- Labour will promote tourism as we progressively open our borders, continue to support domestic tourism opportunities and maintain New Zealand's presence in the hearts and minds of key international markets.
- Labour will develop an ethical investment framework for all government-controlled investments so New Zealanders know that all the public's shared investments are into things we can stand proudly behind.
- Labour will use the government's procurement programme to support improved social and environmental outcomes, and good employers who model modern, worker-friendly businesses practices.



FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Labour in Government has proved itself to be a responsible manager of the Government's books. We have also demonstrated during the COVID-19 health crisis the decisive, calm decision-making and careful investment required to support New Zealanders through challenging and uncertain times.

Labour is the only party with a realistic plan to help the economy recover.

Our Fiscal Strategy shows New Zealanders how Labour proposes to pay for its balanced plan to carefully manage the country's finances, respond to COVID-19, maintain core public services, and deliver a stronger and more sustainable economy.

Achieving our five point plan will require a careful focus on fiscal management. To guide this approach, Labour's Fiscal Strategy sets out our principles for fiscal management. These principles are the basis on which Labour will make spending and investment decisions over the next term of government.

Labour will take a balanced approach to control and reduce debt while ensuring all New Zealanders have the health, education, and other essential services that they rely on.

We are also committed to building a stronger, fairer economy through our investments in productivity, sustainability and people.



CAREFUL MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT FINANCES

We will continue to carefully manage the Government's finances and keep debt under control including through on-going baseline reviews, rigorous Budget analysis, meticulous value-for-money processes, and a strong delivery focus. We will only spend the remaining COVID Response Recovery Fund (CRRF) contingency if we absolutely need to.



INVESTMENT IN CRITICAL PUBLIC SERVICES

We will prioritise investment in critical public services, such as health and education, to support New Zealanders through the COVID-19 response, recovery and rebuild phases. The lesson of previous recessions is that failing to invest slows our recovery, increases the impact, and has a scarring effect on our most vulnerable communities.



INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

We will grow the economy sustainably by making the long-term investments necessary to secure New Zealand's economic future.



STABLE REVENUE POLICY

We will maintain stability in the tax system. We will lift the rate of tax for income earned over \$180,000 to 39c in the dollar to contribute to COVID-19 response and recovery and keep debt under control.

Part of the importance of fiscal discipline today is that it makes it easier to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Any responsible government has to look beyond the horizon, positioning the country to meet the challenges we know are coming. One of those is the ageing population and the affordability of superannuation. Our children won't thank us if we borrow less now only by forcing them to borrow even more later. Responding to COVID cannot come at the expense of saving for New Zealand's future retirement.

- Labour will continue to make contributions to the NZ Super Fund.
- Labour will commit to not make any changes to the rate or entitlement age for New Zealand Superannuation.

[You can read more about our fiscal strategy here.](#)

Labour understands that today's borrowing needs to be repaid, and we'll all have to contribute our fair share. That's why Labour will make two changes to the tax system to make sure we can continue to fund services like health and education, while keeping a lid on debt.

- Labour will introduce a new top tax rate of 39c, for any income people earn in excess of \$180,000 a year.
- Labour will continue to proactively work with the OECD in order to find a workable solution to the issue of multi-national corporations not paying their fair share of tax.

[You can read more about our revenue policy here.](#)

HEALTH

Investing in the health of New Zealanders

New Zealand's response to COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of a strong, well-funded public health system. In 2017, we inherited a system characterised by glaring health inequalities and hospitals and health facilities that were severely depleted by historic under-investment.

We will continue to invest in our health system as a part of our elimination strategy to keep New Zealanders safe from COVID-19.

- Labour will continue to invest in a strong public health response to COVID-19, including promoting the importance of basic health measures, and continuing to increase our PPE supplies and distribution.
- Labour will prioritise our surveillance and testing strategies to enable early identification of COVID-19 and prevent and limit its spread in the community, including identifying and rolling out new testing technologies, appropriate for our context.
- Labour will continue improving our contact tracing capability, both at a local and national level.
- Labour will continue the COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme to support anyone who has to self-isolate due to a COVID-19 outbreak.
- Labour will continue to improve our border settings to keep COVID-19 out.
- Labour will ensure New Zealand secures a safe and effective vaccine (supported by a strong national immunisation programme), including working with international partners and investing in local research and innovation that contributes towards finding a cure.

Over the past three years we made record investments in health, playing catch-up after years of neglect. We will build on our record of investment in New Zealand's health services by tackling inequities, expanding mental health services, and rebuilding rundown hospitals. We will continue our increased investment to ensure New Zealanders can access services and procedures where and when they need them.

- Labour will undertake a long-term programme of reform to build a stronger health and disability system that delivers for all, drawing on the recommendations of the Health and Disability System Review.

- Labour will make mental health support available to all primary and intermediate school age students in the country and continue to roll out nurses in secondary schools.
- Labour will expand nurse-family partnerships across the country and additional respite beds for maternal mental health.
- Labour will expand minimum sick leave entitlements from five days to ten days a year.
- Labour will reduce planned care waiting lists by investing a further \$200 million.
- Labour will purchase more modern medicines and drugs by boosting funding by \$200 million.
- Labour will double the number of cochlear implants to 160 per year.
- Labour will increase dental health grants to \$1,000 for those on low incomes and fund 20 additional mobile dental clinics.
- Labour will work in collaboration with tangata whenua to establish a Māori Health Authority.

You can read more about our [health policy here](#).

Labour will also work to return ACC to its original purpose of assisting all New Zealanders who have had an injury.

This will involve:

- Addressing the changes National made when last in office, which unfairly disadvantaged tens of thousands of New Zealand workers.
- Considering the range of conditions ACC covers and taking an evidence-based approach to updating the list of chronic illnesses caused through workplace exposure to harmful environments.

As part of the welfare overhaul, Labour will examine inequities between support through ACC and the welfare and health system for disabled people and people with health conditions.

We will also continue the business transformation of ACC to support a customer centric approach to engaging with clients, business customers, health providers and transforming ACC culture.



EDUCATION

New Zealanders are skilled, adaptable and have access to lifelong learning

COVID-19 showed us the importance of supporting schools and their leaders, and exposed the existing inequities in our system. We must continue to address these inequities over the next decade to avoid unacceptable economic and social repercussions across our nation. Our approach to addressing inequities will be based on supporting our quality public education system.

Our plan is built around five key objectives: learners at the centre; barrier free access; quality teaching and learning; future of learning and work; and world class inclusive public education.

- Labour will continue to work towards pay parity between teachers in education and care centres and their counterparts in schools and kindergartens.
- Labour will continue to implement the 10-year Early Learning Action Plan and meet the needs of the youngest children in particular.
- Labour will continue to support and encourage more te reo Māori teachers and continue to integrate te reo Māori in our schools.
- Labour will continue to support the revitalisation of te reo Māori and implement the aspirations set out in Maihi Karauna.
- Labour will scrap the blunt and outdated decile system and implement the Equity Index for schools and early learning services, and increase the proportion of funding that is allocated on this basis.
- Labour will expand the Free and Healthy School Lunch programme to cover 200,000 students in 2021.
- Labour will provide free access to all apprenticeships and many trades training courses for the next two years.
- Labour will complete the reform of the Vocational Education system.
- Labour will continue to roll out our Budget 2020 boost to Adult and Community Education, including a modern approach to revitalising night classes.
- Labour will continue the Strategic Recovery Plan for the International Education sector to ensure the sector is rebuilt following the impacts of COVID-19.
- Labour will continue its programme to build brand new schools and classrooms for 100,000 students, and continue to upgrade around 180 schools over the next 10 years.

[You can read our Education policy here.](#)

HOUSING

Ensuring every New Zealander has a warm, dry home

Secure, healthy and affordable housing is at the heart of the wellbeing of New Zealand families. It will take many years of sustained and continued focus to make that a reality for every New Zealand family.

Labour is determined to keep making progress on housing. We know there is a lot more to do and it will take time to roll out.

- Labour will maintain construction momentum during COVID-19, through a Residential Development Response Fund, delivering over 18,000 public houses and transitional housing places, support for first home buyers, progressing the Construction Sector Accord, and removing barriers to building homes.
- Labour will repeal and replace the Resource Management Act 1991, and review and modernise the Unit Titles Act 2010.
- Labour will continue to partner with Community Housing Providers to support progressive homeownership and roll out a Government-led scheme.
- Labour will amend the Building Act 2004 to deliver a better building consenting system and continue with the Building for Climate Change work programme.

- Labour will strengthen public and transitional housing to maintain our progress tackling homelessness through the economic impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- Labour will establish an Earthquake-prone Building Remediation Service (EBRS) to help some apartment buildings be safer, faster.
- Labour will partner with Māori through MAIHI to support the implementation of the Homelessness Action Plan, repairing and maintaining homes, building papakainga and establishing the Iwi Māori pathway for progressive home ownership.
- Labour will support energy efficiency, including through new mandatory Energy Efficiency Certificates to support homeowners to reduce their power and energy costs.
- Labour will regulate property managers to protect landlords and tenants.
- Labour will expand the Ministry of Health's Healthy Homes Initiative to improve the quality of housing to prevent childhood hospitalisations.

Read more about our [Housing policy](#), [Resource Management Act policy](#) and [Healthy homes policy](#) by following the links.



SOCIAL SERVICES

Modernising our welfare system, so all New Zealanders can live with dignity and contribute meaningfully to their communities

Our welfare system should ensure that all New Zealanders in need are able to have an adequate income, are treated with respect and dignity, and are able to participate meaningfully in their communities.

Labour will continue culture change at Work and Income to improve people's experiences and ensure they are treated with kindness and dignity in all offices and regions across New Zealand. We will continue to improve how the one million New Zealanders who access Work and Income for support each year feel when they interact with the welfare system.

We will also focus on expanding employment support and services to New Zealanders who are out of work to upskill, train and re-enter the labour market.

- Labour will reinstate the Training Incentive Allowance so that sole parents and disabled people can access this extra support for courses at level four and above on the National Qualifications Framework.
- Labour will increase abatement thresholds so people are supported to take up part-time work while on a benefit.
- Labour will expand Flexi-Wage programme to support 40,000 New Zealanders into work.

Labour will continue the welfare overhaul and work towards implementing the recommendations of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group to improve the welfare system. Over the next term we will prioritise:

- Continuing to remove ineffective sanctions that negatively impact individuals and families. We have already started this by removing the harmful section 192 sanction which punished women for not naming the other parent of their child, and we will remove the subsequent child policy in 2021 to ensure parents are not penalised for having an additional child while on a benefit.
- Increasing income support and addressing debt.

- Resetting the foundations of the welfare system by exploring amendments to the purpose and principles of the Social Security Act 2018 with a focus on developing a kaupapa Māori values framework.
- Improving supports and services for disabled people and people with health conditions, and their carers.
- Simplifying the income support system and ensure the settings that underpin access to income support are fair and fit for purpose .

Labour will also work toward a more effective social service sector by improving how government commissions and works with social service providers.

[More information is available in our Social Development policy here.](#)

Labour is committed to addressing child poverty and making New Zealand the best place in the world to be a child. We passed legislation to establish targets and progress measures for reducing child poverty and set an ambitious ten-year target to halve the rate of child poverty in New Zealand. We will keep making real change to ensure our children get the best start in life.

- Labour will ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the 3rd optional protocol, and will remove all earlier reservations.
- Labour will expand the Free and Healthy School Lunch programme to cover 200,000 students in 2021.
- Labour will fund 20 additional mobile dental clinics to improve access to dental services for children and young people.
- Labour will expand the Healthy Homes Initiative to help prevent childhood hospitalisations, particularly for rheumatic fever
- Labour will ensure Oranga Tamariki partner with iwi, hapu, and Māori organisations to find appropriate solutions for children in need.



TE AO MĀORI

Continuing on the partnership

We have much to celebrate after three years of Government. Together we have started to tackle the big issues. We knew that to get real results for Māori, to put an end to the disparity between Māori and non-Māori, we had to do things differently. Our Māori Manifesto sets out our commitment to continuing on the partnership path with Māori and looks to take bolder steps to create the change we need to finally realise the promise of Te Tiriti – Governance, Rangatiratanga and equality for all.

Labour is committed to our obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We are committed to the articles of Te Tiriti – the role of the Government in article 1, the promises it makes to Māori and their Tino Rangatiratanga in article 2 – so that together we may achieve equality as promised in article 3.

- Labour will celebrate Matariki as a public holiday beginning in 2022.
- Labour will back Whānau Ora because we know it works.
- Labour will strengthen Māori housing outcomes through collaborative partnerships, home-ownership models, and papakāinga provision.
- Labour will ensure Oranga Tamariki partner with iwi, hapū, and Māori organisations to find appropriate solutions for children in need.

- Labour will support Whānau Māori business, enterprise and opportunities, including through a progressive procurement policy that would set a target for Māori business procurement.
- Labour will recognise the important role our Māori boarding schools play in growing our future Māori leaders by investing \$20 million into a fund designed to provide them with financial support to continue to house, educate and manaaki rangatahi in their care.
- Labour will ensure Oranga Tamariki partner with iwi, hapu, and Māori organisations to protect our most vulnerable children and whanau.
- Labour will recognise the vital contribution of Mātauranga Māori.
- Labour will continue its work to settle historic Treaty of Waitangi claims.
- Labour will continue our commitment to our obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

[Labour's full Māori manifesto is available here.](#)

IMMIGRATION

Striking the right balance to support our recovery, fairness and opportunity

We will manage immigration settings, border controls and access to critical skilled workers for business with a balance that will support New Zealand's economic recovery while ensuring ongoing health protections against COVID-19.

- Labour will open up our settings to get more people into the country, while maintaining robust controls at the border. This will include restarting the Refugee Quota programme.
- Labour will review immigration criteria to enable a broader range of workers to enter New Zealand
- Labour will enable a 10 percent quota for critical workers as we further develop the allocation system for managed isolation places
- Labour will establish a new Investment Attraction Strategy to encourage targeted and high-value international investment into New Zealand

[Read more about our COVID-19 border entry policy here.](#)

Labour will also make the most of the opportunity provided by the changes to our border settings by updating our immigration settings.

- Labour will continue to support redeployment of seasonal workers, working with primary sector bodies to help get them the workers they need and allow those who are in New Zealand to assist with seasonal work, while also getting more Kiwis into jobs in the primary sector.
- Labour will continue our work to develop an immigration system that better matches the needs of employers in different regions with the talents and aspirations of migrant workers.
- Labour will update the settings of partnership visas so that these are up-to-date, culturally appropriate, and represent international best practice.
- Labour will reduce barriers to access the parent category visa, including reconsidering the current provisions once the international flow of people across the border settles, and reducing the income thresholds.
- Labour will continue our work to stamp out migrant worker exploitation with a focus on exploring the implementation of modern slavery legislation in New Zealand to eliminate exploitation in supply chains.
- Labour will complete work on refugee family reunification and settlement.
- Labour will ensure our immigration policies work in the best interests of New Zealand, Pacific migrants and Pacific Island nations, including consideration of climate-related migration policies.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

Transition to a clean, green carbon neutral New Zealand

Climate change is a crisis, and Labour has put in place a comprehensive programme to tackle it across energy, transport, agriculture, forestry, waste, and our construction sector.

- Labour will work with local councils, unions, industry, iwi and Māori organisations to ensure a just transition to a zero carbon and climate-resilient economy and society, which also optimises economic development opportunities.
- Labour will phase out fossil fuels in process heat by preventing installation of new low and medium temperature coal-fired boilers.
- Labour will require only zero-emissions buses to be purchased for the public bus fleet by 2025 and target decarbonising the fleet by 2035.
- Labour will increase investment in world leading research that helps us reduce emissions.
- Labour will continue its work to help New Zealand's freight network to become more sustainable and efficient, including through coastal shipping.
- Labour will expand the Just Transitions Unit to regions and communities beyond Taranaki, where it is currently working to transition the Taranaki economy away from oil and gas.
- Labour will work to ensure that workers can access targeted training and new jobs as new opportunities are created and the economy transitions to being carbon-free.
- Labour will empower local councils to decide which land can be used for plantation and carbon forests through the resource consent process.
- Labour will continue its work towards New Zealand's goal of planting one billion trees by 2028.

[You can read more about our plan to tackle climate change here.](#)

The COVID-19 economic recovery represents a once in a generation opportunity to reshape New Zealand's energy system to be more renewable, affordable and secure, while creating new jobs and developing the high skill workforce our future economy needs to thrive.

- Labour will investigate dry year storage solutions to help New Zealand achieve 100% renewable electricity.
- Labour will continue to roll out our investment to increase electrification of industrial and process heat.
- Labour will continue to implement the recommendations following the Electricity Price Review, with a particular focus on alleviating energy hardship.
- Labour will investigate regulatory or market barriers to increase the uptake of solar electricity generation.
- Labour will increase funding to expand the low-emissions contestable fund to accelerate the uptake of low emission vehicles in New Zealand, including in the freight and public transport sectors and introduce a vehicle fuel efficiency standard for new and used light vehicles entering the fleet.

[You can read more about our energy policy here.](#)

OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Kaitiakitanga for current and future generations

Our natural environment is critical to our wellbeing, tourism, and national identity. New Zealand's environmental reputation is a core part of our export brand. As we continue our COVID-19 recovery, we're investing in nature to support thousands of people into jobs now, and protect our environment for generations to come.

- Labour's waste action plan will future proof our economy through preventing, reducing and recycling waste consistent with a zero waste approach where waste and pollution are designed out. This will create jobs, grow the economy and protect our environment. [You can read more about our Waste Action Plan here.](#)
- Labour will continue to improve the health of New Zealand's freshwater and coastal areas. Clean water is crucial to our environment, our economy and our reputation. Our work will focus on stopping further degradation, making immediate improvements, and reversing past damage to bring our freshwater resources, waterways and ecosystems to a healthy state within a generation.
- Labour will also work to achieve efficient and fair allocation of freshwater resources, having regard to all interests including Māori, and existing and potential new users.
- Labour will extend the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management to cover estuaries in similar detail to freshwater itself, as recommended by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.
- Labour will protect, preserve and restore our natural heritage and biodiversity, and promote the recovery of threatened species.
- Labour will commit to sustained funding for a kauri dieback National Pest Management Plan to provide a nationally coordinated, long-term approach to the management of kauri dieback disease, which is threatening kauri with extinction. [You can read more about our plan here.](#)

- Labour will repeal the Resource Management Act 1991 and replace it with a Natural and Built Environments Act and a Strategic Planning Act. [You can read more about this reform here.](#)
- Labour will continue to work with the agricultural sector to develop integrated farm plans to remove duplication of reporting requirements and achieve our goals of clean water, lowering emissions, and sustainable farming. [You can read more about our Farm Plans policy here.](#)

Labour will continue to improve the sustainability of our fisheries sector where a range of environmental, recreational, tangata whenua and commercial interests can be upheld through an abundant fishery.

- Labour will build on the sustainability measures we have already introduced and continue the roll out of cameras on boats, implement the Hector's and Māui Dolphin Threat Management Plan, and continue working on the Sea Change project within the Hauraki Gulf.
- Labour will work with industry to help modernise fishing practices, move towards an ecosystem-based management approach, and rebuild any fish stock that has been overfished.
- Labour will continue to work with Māori in the fisheries sector.
- Labour will update marine protected areas legislation.
- Labour will continue to fulfil our international obligations in the fishing sector.
- Labour will continue to support aquaculture across New Zealand through an aquaculture strategy.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

Building a modern New Zealand

Over the past three years Labour has invested significantly in modernising our essential infrastructure. This will help future-proof our country for decades to come by delivering new and upgraded roads, rail, schools and hospitals across the country. As well as future-proofing New Zealand, we're creating job opportunities up and down the country and boosting our economy - both locally and nationally.

- Labour will continue our major investment programme in rebuilding hospitals around the country, including substantial investments in new hospital facilities in Dunedin, Christchurch, New Plymouth, Auckland, and Counties Manukau, and investing in community clinics.
- Labour will continue our programme to build new schools and classrooms for 100,000 students.
- Labour will continue to upgrade around 180 schools over the next 10 years, and all state schools will continue to finish classroom upgrades, improve outdoor facilities, and install energy efficient heating and lighting, through our School Investment Package.
- Labour will continue building over 18,000 public and transitional homes, large-scale projects in places like Mt Roskill and Porirua, and invest in infrastructure for new homes.
- Labour will reform New Zealand's drinking water and waste water system and upgrade water infrastructure to create jobs across the country.
- Labour will continue the roll out of rural broadband, including access capacity upgrades, backhaul replacements and make spectrum available to network operators for low density application to enable the expansion of services in rural areas.
- Labour will continue to progress the Urban Growth Agenda, support the provision of infrastructure for housing, and set standards for quality urban design.
- Labour will run an evidence-based collaborative process with stakeholders to agree on the future of the upper North Island's ports.

Labour will continue to invest in road, rail, public transport and walking and cycling infrastructure to get our cities moving, keep New Zealanders

safe, unlock housing, and boost productivity. This includes implementing the 2021 Government Policy Statement on Land Transport.

- Labour will continue to prioritise further investment in public transport, commuter rail, and walking and cycling to ensure accessible, affordable and reliable choices and services for users.
- Labour will continue to prioritise road safety initiatives, including those from the Road to Zero Safety Strategy.
- Labour will progress the Auckland Transport Alignment Project, Let's Get Wellington Moving and developing a rapid transport network for Christchurch.
- Labour will build a light rail connection from the City centre to Māngere and the airport following the receipt of advice from the Ministry of Transport.
- Labour will continue to invest in KiwiRail and to develop domestic rail workshops at places like Hillside and Woburn.

WORKPLACE RELATIONS

An inclusive economy where economic growth is shared by all

New Zealanders value a strong economy that provides decent jobs, higher incomes and more opportunities for current and future generations

New Zealand is recognised as being one of the best places in the world to live. Wellbeing is high for New Zealanders overall, but the benefits of economic growth are unevenly distributed. Significant disparities exist with some of our communities faring worse on wellbeing indicators including unemployment, income, health and educational attainment.

We want all New Zealanders to have equal opportunities to participate in an economy that is strongly connected to the world, and for all New Zealanders to share in the rewards and benefits of economic growth.

- Labour will continue to increase the minimum wage.
- Labour will make it easier for workers to receive fair wages and conditions and avoid the 'race to the bottom' that occurs within competitive industries by legislating for and implementing Fair Pay Agreements.
- Labour will make it easier for women to gain pay equity in their organisation or across their industry.
- Labour will extend Living Wage guarantees to workers who the government pays via contractors in priority industries such as cleaning, catering and security guards, and then further as the COVID-19 recovery allows.

- Labour will strengthen and simplify the Holidays Act, consistent with the recommendations of the Holidays Act Tripartite Taskforce.
- Labour will recognise security guards as vulnerable workers to ensure their terms and conditions are protected by Schedule 1A of the Employment Relations Act.
- Labour will strengthen section 59b of the Employment Relations Act so unions don't have to establish "intent" of employers who automatically pass on gains from collective bargaining to non-union workers.
- Labour will work with unions and employers to develop a better statutory regime to protect dependent contractors.
- Labour will ensure that Seafarer Welfare Centres provide services to the level required by the ILO Maritime Labour Convention 2006 by amending the Maritime Transport Act 1994 to enable the maritime levy to fund the services required for seafarers' wellbeing.
- Labour will raise the age for workers to be allowed to perform hazardous work, and ensure workers have the right to elect health and safety representatives.

[You can read more about our workplace relations policy here.](#)

JUSTICE, CORRECTIONS AND POLICE

Tackling the long term challenges in our law and order system

Labour is working harder and smarter to keep our communities safe, break the cycle of offending and tackle the root causes of crime.

We have already started to roll out our plan through Hāpaitia te Oranga Tangata - Safe and Effective Justice, which is bringing people together to address the root causes of crime, empower victims, reduce offending, and reduce the over-representation of Māori in the criminal justice system.

- Labour will roll out the Te Ara Oranga meth harm pilot to support more communities impacted by high meth use.
- Labour will establish an Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court in Hawke's Bay .
- Labour will expand Māori Pathways prison rehabilitation programme to wāhine Māori.
- Labour will strengthen the Māori, Pacific and Ethnic Services Group within Police.

Across justice, corrections and police, we will also continue to implement changes to support proactive, evidence-based policing to keep our communities safe.

[You can read more about our law and order policy here.](#)

We will also continue to protect and strengthen the rights of New Zealanders.

- Labour will extend legal protections for groups that experience hate speech, including for reasons of religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation, by ensuring that we prohibit speech that is likely to incite others to feel hostility or contempt towards these groups under the Human Rights Act 1993.
- Labour will honour the result of the referendum on the recreational use of cannabis.
- Labour will continue to protect the integrity of New Zealand elections, and voters' access to the polls, including a review of financing rules.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

New Zealand's position in the world

New Zealand has a proud tradition of an independent foreign policy with a focus on promoting multilateralism, human rights, and the international rule of law. Our underlying foundation of New Zealand's foreign policy is to have principled, independent policy driven by our national interests and that outwardly reflects our national values and experience. This includes a commitment to our Pacific neighbourhood as our top priority, multilateral approaches to resolve multilateral issues, prioritising a human rights approach to international affairs, and contributing to UN-sanctioned peacekeeping and humanitarian missions.

- Labour will Chair APEC 2021 in a manner appropriate in a COVID-19 world and showcasing the best of New Zealand.
- Labour will continue to promote and develop strong multilateral links between Aotearoa and our international community.
- Labour will continue to work in the Pacific as a priority area.
- Labour will continue to make progress towards meeting New Zealand's Official Development Assistance target.
- Labour will build on our proud history of fighting for nuclear disarmament and continue New Zealand's long-standing advocacy for effective nuclear weapon free zones and a nuclear weapons-free world.
- Labour will support the inclusion of indigenous collaborations agreements in the trade policy agenda that would create indigenous-indigenous opportunities.
- Labour will continue to pursue high quality trade agreements that diversify our trade relationships. We will continue to expand opportunities including through trade deals with the EU and the UK, the Digital Economic Partnership Agreement and the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade, and Sustainability.
- Labour will open up travel bubbles when it is safe to do so.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES

Valuing Our Communities, Arts, Sports, and Media

Labour will uphold local decision making in the democratic institutions of local government. Local government plays an integral role in the delivery of social and economic wellbeing for all New Zealanders. We will maintain a cooperative, genuine, enduring, and meaningful partnership with local government.

- Labour will strengthen the Local Government Commission to provide ongoing assurance of best practice and good governance across the sector.
- Labour will continue to partner with communities, iwi, and local government on projects that provide world-class community facilities, community programmes, and affordable housing.
- Labour will ensure that major decisions about local democracy involve full participation of the local population from the outset. Examples of these types of decisions include amalgamation or de-amalgamation, or major contracting out, privatisation, or reduction of services.
- Labour will further integrate front line public services to enable easier access by New Zealanders.
- Labour will ensure our emergency management systems are geared towards an inclusive, community-led response to natural disasters and health events.
- Labour will continue to work with iwi on the role they play in emergency management.

Our stories and history are unique, and it is right that we celebrate them. Our priorities are ensuring there is more quality local broadcast content – about New Zealanders, made by New Zealanders, supporting the next generation of artists, and securing the future of Te Reo Māori.

- Labour will strengthen the role of public media and Māori media in the New Zealand community and ensure public media assets are fit for the future and able to thrive amid the changing media landscape.
- Labour will provide multi-year contestable funding through NZ On Air to fund public interest journalism, which is critical to an open, first world democracy, and to protect jobs that will otherwise be at risk or lost due to the impact of COVID-19 on newsrooms.
- Labour will continue to roll out the Creatives in Schools, Creative Arts Recovery and Employment Fund, the Cultural Innovation Fund, and the New Zealand Music Recovery Fund. These programmes will protect jobs and help our arts and music industry recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and inspire the next generation of artists.
- Labour will roll out a career service for creative jobseekers and creative sector workers who have lost income due to COVID-19, based on a modernised version of the Pathways to Arts and Cultural Employment (PACE) scheme for promising artists and creatives so we can continue to support their aspirations.

Sport plays a significant role in bringing our communities together. Our success on the world stage also brings inspiration and pride to our country. Much of the sector's funding has been impacted by COVID-19 and put sports, particularly at a community level, under immense strain.

- Labour will continue to roll out the Sport Recovery Package to get sport, from community clubs to elite level athletes, back up and running.
- Labour will roll out the Strategy for Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation.

PACIFIC PEOPLES

Within New Zealand, we have a large Pacific population that makes up almost eight percent of the population. It is important that our New Zealand Pacific peoples have the ability to access and participate in Pacific cultures.

- Labour will establish a Pacific Wellbeing Strategy, aimed at lifting Pacific wellbeing and aspirations in health, housing, education, business, employment, incomes, leadership, Pacific arts, sports, music and STEM career pathways.
- Labour will continue to roll out the Action Plan for Pacific Education, mapping out our commitment to transforming outcomes for Pacific learners and families, and signaling how early learning services, schools, and tertiary providers can achieve change for Pacific learners and their families.

- Labour will continue to roll out Ola Manuia: the Pacific Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2020–2025 and work towards health equity.
- Labour will continue to roll out support to Pasifika festivals to maintain the financial viability of these iconic events and ensure that the Pasifika community can continue to celebrate and share their rich culture and heritage in the future.
- Labour will ensure our immigration policies work in the best interests of New Zealand, Pacific migrants and Pacific Island nations, including consideration of climate-related migration policies.

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

New Zealand is a diverse and inclusive country. Our ethnic diversity is a source of strength, bringing new insights, skills, and opportunities to our society. To fully harness all of these benefits, we need to provide a supportive environment for our ethnic communities to settle and prosper. Labour will support the wellbeing of every person so that they are able to reach their full potential in life, while retaining a connection to their heritage, culture, and language.

We recognise in particular that ethnic communities in New Zealand seek opportunities to live in welcoming and safe communities, to succeed and contribute back to New Zealand, to be treated fairly and on their merits, and to build lives in a respectful and tolerant community.

We all have the right to be treated fairly, with respect and to be free from unwelcome racial discrimination. Labour will continue the work programme with the Office of Ethnic Communities and Human Rights Commission to tackle the scourge of everyday racism and discrimination. This will include creating and implementing a national plan of action to ensure tangible steps for government and all New Zealanders to take to help eliminate everyday racism and discrimination.

- Labour will create and implement a national plan of action to ensure tangible steps for government and all New Zealanders to take to help eliminate everyday racism and discrimination.
- Labour will ensure government and public services respond to the needs and strengths of ethnic communities including considering of the role and status of the Office of Ethnic Communities.
- Labour will respond to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Christchurch Mosque attacks with a view to eradicating violent extremism, and fostering a truly inclusive society for people from every culture, faith, and background.
- Labour will work to promote equal employment opportunities for all, with a view to removing the barriers to employment for people from ethnic communities.

DISABILITIES

Labour will continue our work towards a more inclusive and accessible New Zealand. Disabled people make up a quarter of New Zealand's population. Ensuring we support the needs of this group and uphold their rights is not only vital to improving wellbeing for the disability community, it will also contribute to a better New Zealand where everyone can meaningfully contribute and participate.

We are committed to supporting disabled people and the realisation of their full rights and opportunities. This commitment can be achieved through disability focused policy, funding and services, as well as ensuring disabled people as a population group have their needs and potential considered across all significant policy and service development. "Nothing about us, without us" is the mantra that underpins how Labour approaches addressing disability issues.

- Labour will introduce an Accessibility for New Zealanders Act to help New Zealand to become more welcoming and accessible for disabled people and other New Zealanders with accessibility needs.
- Labour will strengthen the mandate and resourcing of public leadership for the disability community, in consultation with the disability community.
- Labour will replace the Minimum Wage Exemption with a wage supplement to ensure disabled people are paid at least the minimum wage.
- Labour will increase access to closed captions in movie theatres and the availability of captions on free to air TV.
- Labour will continue to boost the number of accessible state houses to ensure all tenants' needs are met by requiring at least 25 percent of new public housing to meet universal design standards.

SENIORS

New Zealand has an ageing population. This means more of us are living longer, healthier lives than ever before. We need to ensure all people have the resources and support they need as they live longer while also embracing the opportunities that longevity brings.

- Labour will maintain the current entitlement age and the relative rate of New Zealand Superannuation.
- Labour will continue to implement the Better Later Life Strategy, which promotes a society where people can age positively and where older people are highly valued and recognised as an integral part of families and communities.
- Labour will establish an Aged Care Commissioner to help coordinate a system-wide response to addressing problems in aged care services through greater leadership to the sector and enabling better coordination of improvements
- Labour will work with the dementia sector to support the goals of the Dementia Action Plan.

RAINBOW

From Homosexual Law Reform to Civil Unions and Marriage Equality, Labour has long been relentlessly proud, standing with our Rainbow communities and fighting for equity and justice. We will continue to do this, creating a more inclusive and accepting New Zealand.

- Labour will ban conversion therapy.
- Labour will provide better access, support and treatment for our Rainbow communities through our health system and ensure our healthcare system is responsive to the needs of trans, intersex and gender diverse people.
- Labour will invest \$4 million in mental health services targeted to the Rainbow community.

- Labour will create more inclusive school environments, including working with schools to ensure they have gender neutral bathrooms.
- Labour will review the Human Rights Act 1993 to better protect communities from discrimination and prejudice, including adding gender identity as a prohibited ground of discrimination. All New Zealanders should have the same basic rights, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

[You can read more about our rainbow policy here.](#)

WOMEN

New Zealand has been at the forefront of fighting for gender equality. New Zealand was a world leader in implementing the Electoral Act which gave women the right to vote in September 1893. This law was the first step in fulfilling women's rights, reducing gender inequalities and acknowledging the importance of women in our political system.

We have taken massive strides since then, including reducing the gender pay gap, increasing leadership for women in the public sector and extending Paid Parental leave. However there is still much to do, particularly for Māori and Pacific women. Pacific and Māori women remain underrepresented in many of the areas where women in general are making progress.

We know that women undertake the majority of caring work in New Zealand, both paid and unpaid. While unpaid work is an important contribution to the economy and society, it is often poorly recognised and undervalued. We are committed to improving support for women both in their caring responsibilities, and if they want to return to the workforce.

- Labour will reinstate the Training Incentive Allowance for a wide range of higher-skill courses to support sole parents, disabled people and carers improve their qualifications.

- Labour will increase abatement thresholds so people can earn more while on a benefit and are not discouraged from taking up part-time work.
- Labour will continue the welfare overhaul and implementing the recommendations of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group.
- Labour will expand minimum sick leave entitlements from five days to ten days a year to make it easier for parents to care for their children when they get sick.
- Labour will make it easier for women to gain pay equity in their organisation or across their industry.
- Labour will continue to roll out our programme to address period poverty through providing free access to period products in schools, and will look to expand this programme.
- Labour will continue to roll out its Strategy for Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation to overcome inequalities for women and girls in sport.
- Labour will continue to take a community and prevention based approach to addressing family violence, while supporting the capability of frontline crisis services.

YOUTH

We want New Zealand to be the best place in the world for children and young people. The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy sets out a shared understanding of what children and young people need and want in order to be well, and what we can and should be doing to support them. It will guide Labour's work to improve the wellbeing of all children and young people in New Zealand.

- Labour will provide free access to all apprenticeships and to a range of trades training courses for the next two years, saving learners between \$2,500 and \$6,000 a year, and continue the successful Mana in Mahi and He Poutama Rangatahi programmes to support people upskilling and getting people into work.
- Labour will strengthen healthy home compliance and enforcement efforts by Tenancy Services, regulate property managers, expand the Healthy Homes initiative for housing basics like heaters, curtains, bedding and floor covering, and introduce a national register to actively track and treat rheumatic fever patients.
- Labour will continue to roll out our programme to address period poverty through providing free access to period products in schools, and will look to expand this programme.
- Labour will work to strengthen student voice in the school and tertiary education system.
- Labour will fund 20 additional mobile dental clinics to improve access to dental services for children and young people.
- Labour will ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the 3rd optional protocol, and will remove all earlier reservations.



ADDITIONAL LABOUR COMMITMENTS SINCE FISCAL STRATEGY

Labour has released a responsible, balanced and costed fiscal strategy that continues our strong track record of managing the books carefully while putting aside money for dealing with COVID-19 and protecting services like health and education.

[You can read the full fiscal strategy here.](#)

The fiscal strategy was released on 1 October 2020, and accounted for the policies announced up to that date during the campaign. It also set aside funding for contingencies and policies yet to be announced.

The table below sets out the additional spending commitments since the fiscal plan was published.

Additional spending commitments, \$m	2021	2022	2023	2024	4 year total
Housing					
Energy Performance Certificate	3	-	-	-	3
Earthquake-prone Building Remediation Service	3	3	3	3	12
Rheumatic fever					
Additional funding to Healthy Homes Initiative for purchasing	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	33
Extension of Healthy Homes Initiative to remaining 9 DHBs	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6
Increase Tenancy Services' Compliance and Enforcement team	4	4	4	4	16
Climate change					
Decarbonising public transport fleet fund for councils	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	50
Increase to agricultural climate change research	6	6	6	6	24
Kauri Dieback					
National Pest Threat Management Plan	8	8	8	8	32
Law and Order					
Expand Te Ara Oranga meth programme	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	38
Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court in Hawke's Bay	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	11
Wahine Māori Pathways	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10
Rural broadband					
Infrastructure fund	15	15	15	15	60
Spectrum for rural connectivity	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10
Disability					
Replacing the Minimum Wage Exemption with a wage supplement	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	34
Minor policy costs and Contingencies					
Four year total					141
Total New	87	84	84	84	480

Infometrics has been contracted by the Labour Party to examine the high-level assumptions underpinning the policy costings and to confirm that the value of the fiscal programme is as set out in this Fiscal Strategy. Infometrics concurs with the numbers presented within this document.

**Let's keep
moving >**

