

BusinessNZ Election Survey

September 2014







The Deloitte-BusinessNZ Election Survey gives business a periscope view of the coming political landscape.

Each election year BusinessNZ and Deloitte join forces to survey the views of the business community and compare them with the policies of all main political parties on the big issues for business and the economy.

The survey researches over a thousand New Zealand enterprises, asking what the most important issues are for their business.

Political parties are also surveyed, and their policies compared with what business wants, to give a picture of what is likely to be delivered by the political process.

In an MMP environment, party commitments are liable to undergo change in post-election negotiations. Knowing the policy positions of all parties gives the best sense of what might emerge after the election.

The Deloitte-BusinessNZ Election Survey presents an insightful picture of likely policy directions on business and the economy to be undertaken by the next Government.

We hope you find the report interesting, informative, and of value to your business.



Phil O'Reilly

**Chief Executive
BusinessNZ**

About the Deloitte BusinessNZ 2014 Election Survey

The Deloitte BusinessNZ 2014 Election Survey consisted of two related questionnaires.

The first was sent to BusinessNZ members. It was in the field during June and July 2014. There were 1147 responses across a broad range of business-sizes, regions and industries.

A similar questionnaire was sent to New Zealand's ten main political parties. Eight of the parties responded. The Mana party did not respond and the Internet party did not respond in time for the document's print deadline. Given space restrictions, the responses from the political parties have been summarised where necessary.









Document Key

① All questions directed at BusinessNZ members are highlighted in charcoal.



② All questions directed at New Zealand’s political parties are highlighted in light grey.

Political Parties Question

	ACT Party
	Conservative Party
	Green Party
	Labour Party
	Māori Party
	National Party
	New Zealand First Party
	United Future New Zealand Party

1. Government Environment



Does the Government currently have a coordinated plan of action focused on raising New Zealand's economic performance?

● Yes: 62.5%
● No: 17.2%
● Unsure: 20.3%



1.1 Are current policies and programs already achieving economic growth to New Zealand's full potential?



No. The greatest inhibitors of growth are taxation and regulation, which are both caused by government.



No. New Zealand has vast unused resources, people not working and a steady loss of IP to overseas interests. Growth is predicted to be significant for a mere two years and then drop back to very average levels. In essence no long term change has been achieved despite enormous borrowing and extensive rhetoric advising us otherwise.



No, we need to focus more on a smarter greener economy which innovates and adds value rather than the simple commodity economy that has increasing levels of environmental impact that National champions.



No. Need to significantly push growth in innovation and develop the sophistication of our economy. There are widening gaps between regions and cities as well as classes of people, while annualised real house prices in Auckland have increased at a faster rate than under the previous government. These gaps and imbalances are hurting us all and holding back the economy.



There are a number of policies that are achieving economic growth. Many of the policies of the Maori Party are aimed at giving individuals the right direction, education, incentives, and opportunities to be able to make a positive contribution to the New Zealand economy, and to reduce their dependency on Government benefits.



Want to see sustained growth over the coming years. That requires sticking to our course, with careful stewardship of public money, with sound, proven economic policies and with a determined focus on results from public services.

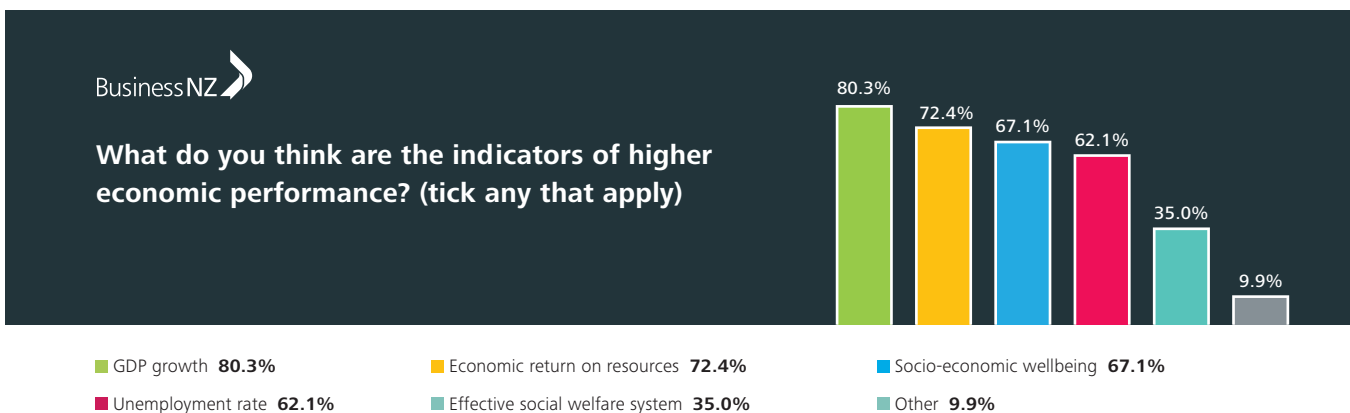


No.



Broadly yes – New Zealand is headed in the right direction economically and socially.

1. Government Environment



1.2 Are there areas other than economic growth that should be focused on, and if so what?



Of course. But what is "focused on" should be a matter for individuals, not politicians. The same goes for economic growth. The proper "focus" of investment should be up to individual investors, not politicians.



Government has two jobs, one is to make laws regarding right and wrong and the other is to manage the economy. The two are of course interrelated.



There is of course a whole world of policy concerns outside of economic growth such as cleaning up rivers and reducing inequality.



We run our economy in a way that prefers the interests of speculators over the interest of the productive economy and exporters. We need more capital to invest in the productive sector and therefore universal KiwiSaver is necessary.



Absolutely. Environmental issues need addressing such as the restoration of water quality or environmentally sustainable land use. Adequate housing, better health and education outcomes, greater investment in employment opportunities and a renewable energy strategy to name a few.



Responsibly managing the government's finances, building a more competitive and productive economy, delivering better public services and rebuilding Christchurch.



- Maintaining and broadening the manufacturing sector
- Adding value to a range of primary products



Yes – UnitedFuture has a particular focus on the outdoors and ensuring that all New Zealanders can have access to and enjoy our stunning outdoor amenities. We seek to ensure the balance between growth and environment protection is right.

1. Government Environment



Should the Government, in the near future, look to introduce further tax changes so that New Zealand has a reasonably flat tax structure, with no/few exemptions or tax breaks?

● Yes: 55.4%
● No: 25.7%
● Unsure: 18.9%



1.3 Should New Zealand's tax system have a reasonably flat tax structure, with no/few exemptions or tax breaks?



Propose a flat tax of 17.5% to be introduced ultimately. A flat tax is the fairest and most efficient income tax. Initially our policy is a flattening of the tax structure by bringing the top rate of tax down to 24%.



Yes. \$20,000 tax free and flat tax after that. All tax rates aligned (i.e. top personal = corporate = trust).



Believes in a fair society, hence we support progressive taxation.



Yes, although some progressivity is important. GST is a regressive tax that attracts a higher proportion of income from lower income relative to more well-off New Zealanders. One of the significant exemptions in the tax system that needs to be closed is the lack of a Capital Gains Tax.



No, New Zealand should not have a flat tax system. Unfortunately a flat tax rate disproportionately benefits the rich and also treats individuals like corporations.



Focus on a simpler, fairer tax system to support hard work and better economic growth.



No. Priority is a fair and equitable tax system.



Yes – this is especially important for improving business confidence, entrepreneurship, and economic growth. It reduces costs for both business and government.

1. Government Environment

1.4a What is your tax policy in relation to: Company tax rate?



20% initially. Long term even lower as ACT believes taxing corporates is counter-productive.



Aim to reduce.



A cut in the corporate tax rate to 27%.



No change.



Currently company tax is at 28% which is less than personal tax for those earning over \$48,001 and is therefore far too low and would consider changing this.



No future changes announced.



Over time we would like to see some reduction, but it is currently about right.

1.4b What is your tax policy in relation to: GST?



No change.



No change.



No change anticipated.



No change.



Should not be charged on healthy food (fruit, vegetables etc.) as well as prescription medicines.



No future changes announced.



Remove GST from household food and rates.



Ensure it remains as it stands. 15% is about the right rate and it must stay on all goods and services with one exception – property rates.

1. Government Environment

1.4c What is your tax policy in relation to:
Trust tax rate?



Same as top tax rate.



Same as corporate rate.



Increase the trust tax rate to 36% to maintain alignment with revised top personal tax rate.



No change required.



No future changes announced.



About right.

1.4d What is your tax policy in relation to:
Alignment of tax rates (top personal, company and trust rates)?



See previous answers.



Should be aligned.



See previous answers.



Individuals would be treated the same as trusts or corporations and yet the benefits back are disproportionately in favour of the corporations and trusts.



No future changes announced.



These must remain aligned to remove perverse incentives.

1. Government Environment



Would you support increasing the highest personal marginal tax rate from 33%?

● Yes: **20.1%**
● No: **73.5%**
● Unsure: **6.4%**



1.4e What is your tax policy in relation to: Top personal income tax rate and threshold?



24% from \$48,000.



\$20,000 tax free then flat rate after that.



Increase top personal tax rate to 40%, kicking in at \$140,000. Introduce a \$2,000 income tax-free band for families and businesses.



Increase top personal tax rate to 36%, kicking in at \$150,000.



Personal tax is remarkably high when we consider what corporations pay in tax.



No future changes announced.



The top tax rate should be 30% with a higher threshold than we currently have. We would see this gradually moving from the current \$70,000/annum up to around \$90,000.

1. Government Environment

Do you support the introduction of a capital gains tax?

● Yes: 26.9%
● No: 62.5%
● Unsure: 10.5%



Would you be more likely to support a capital gains tax if there is a corresponding reduction in personal tax rates?

● Yes: 40.5%
● No: 46.1%
● Unsure: 13.4%



1.5 Do you have a policy destination for tax reform? If so, please briefly provide an explanation of this destination.



Ideally, we would have no taxes on capital (that includes corporate tax) and a flat income tax and a sales tax (GST) at the same rate. That regime will avoid the perverse disincentives to save built into the current regime. The proper level of taxation depends on the proper level of government spending.



Simplification and lower rates. Will take time to achieve, our first target is 25% rate.



Transition towards a system which places more tax on bads such as pollution and less tax on goods such as work and enterprise.



A fairer tax system that removes the bias towards property speculation and encourages investment in the productive economy.



No, we do not have a policy for tax reform at this stage.



Overall, support tax package reforms that make the tax system fairer, more sustainable, and better for economic growth.



The tax system must be fair and equitable for all New Zealanders.



We seek a flatter more simple tax system.

1. Government Environment



Given increasing life expectancy and the implications for future health and superannuation costs, should the Government be clearly signalling options and timeframes for changing eligibility for New Zealand Superannuation?

● Yes: 78.5%
● No: 15.3%
● Unsure: 6.3%



1.6 What changes (if any) do you propose to eligibility for New Zealand Superannuation?



Age of eligibility for universal superannuation to rise over time to 67, and rate of superannuation indexed to inflation not wages. The inflation rate used will not be measured by the bundle of goods purchased by the average New Zealander but by the average New Zealander over the age of 65. We would introduce means tested superannuation from age 65 for laborers who cannot easily continue working until 67.



Support an option to enable super to be taken earlier or later with payout amount adjusted accordingly. i.e flexibility.



Maintain the current entitlement age for New Zealand Superannuation. However, we are open to there being a national discussion around how we best provide superannuation and how we best look after older New Zealanders.



Will raise the eligibility for New Zealand Superannuation from 65 to 67 gradually from 2020 to 2032. Those who cannot continue work in their ordinary job past 65 (e.g. a manual labourer) will be able to obtain the equivalent from age 65.



Do not propose any eligibility changes for New Zealand Superannuation.



None, as it's sustainable, which is shown in long-term forecasts.



Will maintain the current age of entitlement and no means testing.



Propose Flexisuper and have had a government discussion document produced. Flexisuper will allow people to take up a lower rate from 60 years old or a higher rate if taken from any age above 65 up to 70 years old.

1. Government Environment

If KiwiSaver was made compulsory, do you believe the minimum contribution rate (currently at 3%) should:

● Increase: 30.4%
● Stay the same: 59.4%
● Decrease: 10.2%



Would you support compulsory KiwiSaver if all tax-payer funded subsidies were removed? (e.g. \$1,000 for initial sign-up plus up to \$521 per year)

● Yes: 41.2%
● No: 44.1%
● Unsure: 14.7



Are further changes required for Working for Families:

● Yes: 23.9%
● No: 36.1%
● Unsure: 40.0%



Are further changes required for interest free student loans?

● Yes: 33.4%
● No: 41.7%
● Unsure: 24.9%



1. Government Environment

1.7 What changes (if any) do you propose to eligibility for KiwiSaver, Working for Families or interest free student loans?



Eliminate Kiwisaver tax credits and kick-start payments. Policies that force the poor to save, while retaining a state pension, harm the poor by misallocating their spending over the course of their lives.



Working for Families needs to be changed so that work always pays more than non-work (not the case at the moment). Would change tertiary education away from "bottoms on seats policy" thereby providing debt free tertiary education to a smaller number of qualifying students. Current system which has student borrowing, government borrowing and universities borrowing is clearly not sustainable.



No major change. The Green Party understands that some people cannot afford compulsory superannuation and for those struggling with a mortgage, saving in Kiwisaver may not be the best investment.



Will introduce universal KiwiSaver and raise the employer and employee contribution rates gradually over time from 3.0% currently to 4.5% by 2021.



Will keep interest-free student loans and will also look at a reintroducing a universal student allowance set at the level of the unemployment benefit. Working for Families and KiwiSaver will continue without change.



No significant changes.



A new KiwiSaver option called KiwiFund, which is a government provided low fee option with a guaranteed return of capital invested.



Student loans – we will abolish loan fees paid for by removing the student allowance. All students will be able to borrow their living costs on their loans – this will dramatically reduce the amount students are borrowing. Kiwisaver – we will move to Kiwisaver being a compulsory savings scheme over time. We will also like to see an increase in the minimum contribution rates by both employees and employers.
Working For Families – no change.

1. Government Environment



Should local government be restricted to the provision of local public goods and services that businesses, individuals or voluntary groups cannot provide more efficiently?

● Yes: **59.2%**
● No: **23.9%**
● Unsure: **16.9%**



1.8 Should local government be restricted to the provision of local public goods and services that businesses, individuals or voluntary groups cannot provide more efficiently?



All government activities should be restricted to the provision of public goods that would otherwise be undersupplied by commercial and voluntary enterprises.



Yes we support this proposal. Massive growth of local government bureaucracy and cost has been detrimental to economy. We believe in smaller more efficient government (local and central) and the same proposal should be made as regards central government too.



No. Local government has a strong role beyond the provision of basic services.



Ensure local government is responsive and accountable to local communities, that it is affordable for its residents and ratepayers, and effective in dealing with local issues. Labour will restore the four well-beings of the Local Government Act 2002. By restoring the powers of general competence we will enable local governments to serve and be accountable to the communities they represent.



Do not believe that local government should be restricted to the provision of local public goods and services that businesses, individuals or voluntary groups cannot provide more efficiently, as long as the costs to the ratepayers are not exorbitant.



National's first phase of local government reforms focused councils back on their core roles of providing local infrastructure, local public services, and local regulatory functions, at the least cost to households and businesses.



No. Unless there is a clearly proven cost benefit case.



No.

1. Government Environment



Should water, wastewater and roading services be subject to greater commercial disciplines and user charges?

● Yes: **50.5%**
● No: **36.9%**
● Unsure: **12.6%**



1.9 Should water, wastewater and roading services be subject to greater commercial disciplines and user charges?



Yes, supports user pays whenever possible. This includes toll roads and road user charges slowly replacing petrol tax. Water resources should be allocated using tradeable water permits.



Yes.



Supports competitive tenders for the provision of public services. It strongly opposes the privatisation of water, wastewater or roading services.



Ensure local government is responsive and accountable to local communities and that it is affordable for its residents and ratepayers. We do not want to see a repeat of the situation we saw with the Kaipara District Council.



Believes that the water, wastewater and roading services should be subject to a greater commercial discipline particularly where such action leads to a positive impact on water quality or sustainable land-use.



This is the core role of local bodies and is their decision to make.



Not if that results in poorer services at greater cost.



In one sense yes – we support the use of public private partnerships in providing public services such as roads and wastewater and the like. On the other side of it we would not like to see communities and local authorities lose too much control over what are essential services. We support making services as efficient and effective as possible.

1. Government Environment



Do you support a Regulatory Standards Act to improve the quality of regulation in New Zealand?

● Yes: **63.1%**
● No: **7.8%**
● Unsure: **29.0%**



1.10 Do you support a Regulatory Standards Act to improve the quality of regulation in New Zealand?



Yes. In fact, our own Rodney Hide proposed the Regulatory Responsibility Bill and advancing this cause was part of ACT's 2011 Confidence and Supply Agreement with National. Advancing this agenda remains a high priority for ACT.



No specific policy on this. Certainly prepared to consider the merits of this.



Strongly opposes legislation that asserts property rights are paramount to other public goods such as protecting human health or the environment.



While this may sound like a good idea on the face of it, it would be important to see the detail.



Support, but must not in any way be inconsistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Bills of Rights or the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



This Government supports the improvement in the quality of regulation and aspects of this bill are included in the Legislation Amendment Bill which was introduced in May this year.



Will consider any detailed proposal carefully and take a view based on the evidence.







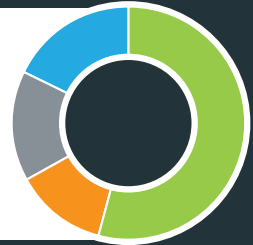
Absolutely – New Zealand is very good at making new laws and regulations and not so good at removing or updating existing regulation and legislation.

1. Government Environment

BusinessNZ 

Primary view on the mixed ownership model:

	Support, mix is about right	54.4%
	Support, but should go further with asset sales	12.8%
	Support, but should not go as far with private ownership	15.2%
	Do not support, should never have been made open to part private ownership	17.6%



1.11 Which, if any, major central government assets will your party seek to sell/part-privatise?



All of them. Landcorp would be the first to go.



No agenda to privatise assets, happy to support SOE model. However, do believe government must look carefully at loss making activities (state housing and rail being two examples). Are there better approaches?



None.



We have no privatisation plans and will not sell major government assets.



Not seek to privatise any assets.



None.



None.



We are comfortable with the current balance.

1. Government Environment

1.12 Which, if any, major business assets will your party seek to purchase?



None.



None.



We support the repurchase of recently sold state assets when it is fiscally responsible.



Retain the right to buy back shares in the privatised SOEs if and where appropriate.



Would not seek to purchase any major business.



None.

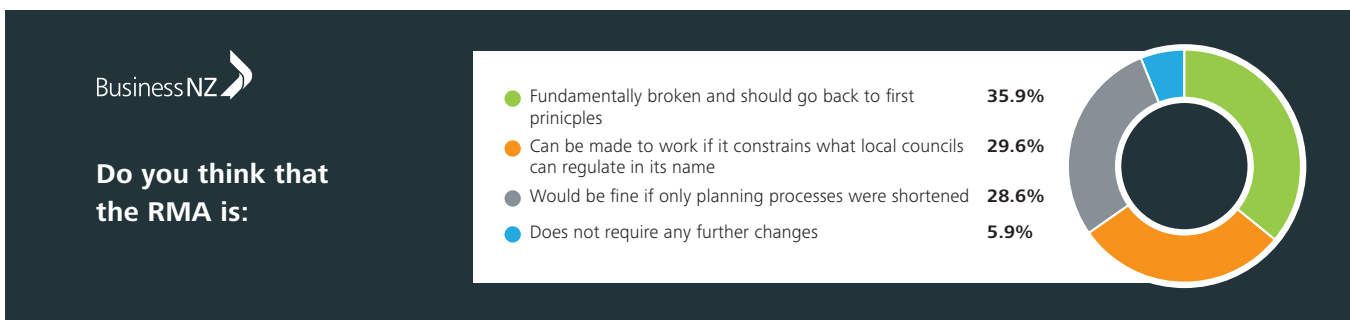


Buy back shares in power companies sold by National.



None.

1. Government Environment



1.13 What changes, if any, would you make to the Resource Management Act?



Significant changes. ACT would prefer to dismantle the RMA and replace it with common law and a small regulatory impost. This will take time and initially ACT will focus on removing the ability of the RMA to take property rights without compensation.



Major change that would exempt many minor activities especially in regards to residential housing and small business activity which have no significant environmental impact to consider. Current approach is just red tape and a waste of time and money.



Support the purpose of the RMA - to promote sustainable land management and allow for development in a way that respects nature's boundaries.



Open to making the Act work better in its objective of having all environmental impacts of activities considered together in an integrated way – and in encouraging community input to find local solutions to local issues. Would like to see far greater use of National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards, and provide greater guidance from central government to provide greater consistency across the country.



Retains a greater emphasis on the sustainability of the environment and environmentally sustainable land use that does not degrade our whenua or water systems. We would like to see the enactment of Section 33 of the RMA as well as a collaborative freshwater and resource management reform process for greater Māori participation in planning.



Our proposals to revamp the resource management system make it easier to use, increase certainty and predictability, attract investment, and reduce unnecessary duplication and cost, while continuing to protect the environment. We have made significant progress in streamlining and simplifying the RMA, and the next stage of reforms will proceed after the election.



The RMA is not immutable but in our view any changes to the RMA need to be taken very carefully in the light of the evidence.



We are strongly in favour of process changes to the Act. The current issues hold up so much development with 'red tape' that brings no benefit. We will not support any changes to the principles of the Act. These are the bedrock of the legislation and should remain be the base on which we build our nation.

1. Government Environment



Do you think the Government is doing enough to attract foreign direct investment in New Zealand?

● Yes: **59.4%**
● No: **13.6%**
● Unsure: **27.0%**



1.14 What are your party's policies towards encouraging (or limiting) foreign direct investment into New Zealand?



ACT wants to encourage foreign investment. It will free up the ability of foreigners to buy assets in New Zealand by changing the criteria in the overseas investment approval process.



Support encouragement of foreign investment provided this is enhancing New Zealand economic potential. Opposed to foreign business buying land or gaining majority benefit of our resources.



Welcome new investment that creates new jobs in sustainable enterprises. Would strengthen the national interest test for foreign investment and ensure the Overseas Investment Act is properly enforced. We would ensure productive farmland does not fall into foreign hands.



Welcomes foreign direct investment provided that it adds value to the economy, increases jobs and raises incomes for New Zealanders. Selling our farms and existing houses does not have that effect and is opposed by Labour. We will ban (in all but the rarest of cases), the sale of farms and existing homes.



Do not support the sale of land for foreign investment in New Zealand.



Overseas investment benefits New Zealand and we only approve it if it does.



Most foreign investment is simply a transfer of ownership and creates no new jobs or assets. Foreign ownership must be subject to strict controls and regulation to protect the national interest.



We do not seek to limit FDI like many parties, in fact we encourage it. FDI is fundamentally important to New Zealand. We support the current OIO process as it strikes the right balance.

1. Government Environment



Do you believe that the Government should have a visible Regional Economic Development Strategy to balance economic activity as far as possible throughout New Zealand?

● Yes: **79.2%**
● No: **8.3%**
● Unsure: **12.6%**



1.15 Do you have a Regional Economic Development Strategy to balance as far as possible economic activity in New Zealand?



ACT rejects the very idea of a “balanced” economy. That said, government policy should stop positively attacking regions that are struggling economically.



Yes, consider regions are under supported at the moment. Consider that tax derived from regions should be returned into that region through government spending and development. Think that cross-subsidising (one region taxed to support another) is not in best economic interests of New Zealand long term.



Yes.



See iwi as major contributors to the economy, and owners of large natural resources. We support their investments in geothermal and water power plants and want to also profile their successes, and support growth with academically based training programmes. Support and promote indigenous representation in local, regional, national and international decision-making bodies.



For New Zealand to build a more productive and competitive economy, we need all our regions to achieve to their potential. That’s precisely what the Government’s Business Growth Agenda is all about.

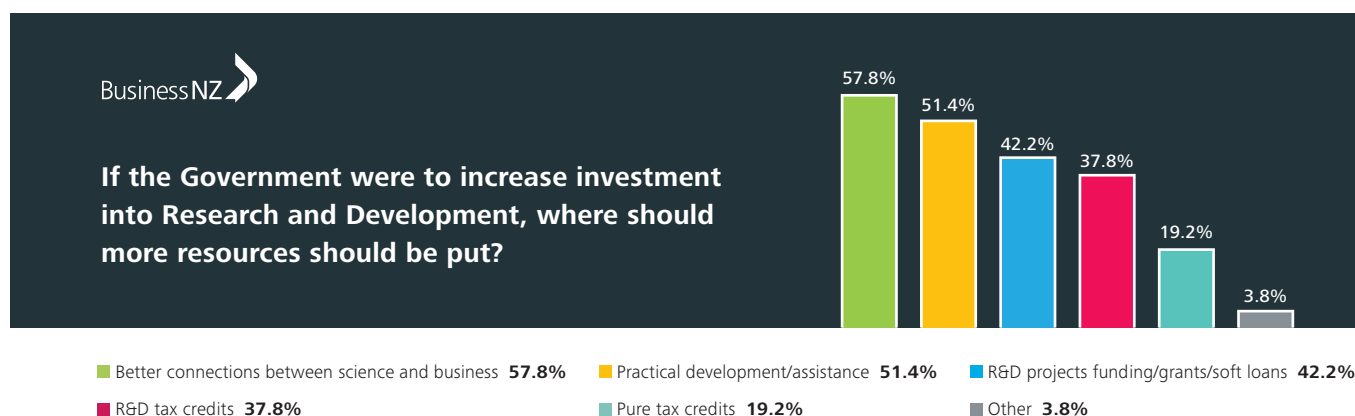


Yes and that includes a regional royalties programme so regions get a fair share of the wealth generated in their area.



No.

2. Investment, Innovation & Sustainability



2.1 What do you see as the major steps needed to increase both public and private R&D in New Zealand?



ACT views public expenditure of this nature as corporate welfare. We would rather reduce taxes on all companies than pick winners and assist a few at the expense of the many.



- \$1 billion of new government funding over three years for research and development
- Government to take a collaborative partnership approach to innovation with the private sector, which will include R&D funding made up of tax credits and grants
- Enhanced incentives to study and teach STEM disciplines



Re-introduction of an R&D tax credit for business as crucial for lifting New Zealand's lagging R&D expenditure by encouraging businesses to research and innovate.



Supports R&D, but the results of such partnerships should reflect the interests of the wider community, public authorities and all other relevant stakeholders.



Committed to creating the right business environment and incentives to encourage New Zealand's business sector to double their expenditure on R&D to more than 1% of GDP.



Committed to achieving a target of over 2 per cent of GDP for R&D.
Use targeted tax incentives to spur investment in innovative technology projects and R&D.



Need ongoing political support of R&D tax credits to provide stability to entrepreneurs and businesses. We need to have a robust and accountable system that recognises we won't always get it right. Part of this is ensuring that we support research and development as a principle and not just because it may bring immediate economic results.

2. Investment, Innovation & Sustainability



Do you intend to invest more into R&D for your business in the near future?

● Yes: 35.4%
● No: 45.5%
● Unsure: 19.1%



2.2 Do you support the re-introduction of an R&D tax credit?



No. See previous answer.



Yes, have announced will support a hybrid system of grants and tax credits.



Yes, at a rate of 12.5%.



Yes, as long as the large companies have some constraints. For example, large companies that receive grants would need to give some benefits back to the community.



No. Instead, loss-making start-up companies will be able to cash out all or part of their tax losses from R&D expenditure, while all businesses will be allowed tax deductibility for R&D "black hole" expenditure that is currently neither deductible nor able to be depreciated.



Yes, will provide real tax incentives to increase R&D.



Yes we do. R&D allows New Zealand to move up the value chain and vastly improve our wealth and prosperity.

2. Investment, Innovation & Sustainability

2.3 Do you support closer working relationships between science based organisations and business? If so, why?



We support them with kind words and smiles but not with taxpayers' money.



Definitely. The private sector has been unable to invest enough in R&D. To overcome the limitations of size and isolation, the government can adopt an active, partnership approach to working with the private sector to build our economic prosperity.



Yes, will explore how better collaboration between CRIs, universities and businesses might be encouraged without imposing artificial coordination that wastes time.

We will also encourage closer association between business and university commercialisation centres to ensure 'discoveries' within the universities are most effectively brought to market and have the best chance for success.



Yes, support a closer working relationship between science-based organisations and business. Such a relationship helps future growth by developing new products and services, and smarter and more efficient ways of doing things. It also helps to grow graduates and industry to employ these graduates which is better for the community.



Yes. For example, we established Callaghan Innovation.



Yes.



Yes we do. Science always struggles for funding and businesses often don't have the resources or expertise to capitalize on science innovations. We must ensure that all science research isn't funded by business however as we do not want scientific enquiry entirely determined by business needs and aspirations.

2. Investment, Innovation & Sustainability

2.4 Do you have any policies directed at improving innovation and entrepreneurship in New Zealand?



Entrepreneurship and innovation flourish in free markets. They are the closest of bedfellows. ACT is the only party in New Zealand committed to free markets. More specifically, we seek lower taxes, less regulation and greater openness to foreign trade and investment.



Will put innovation front and centre of our economic policy. Recognition of the importance of innovation is the first step. Initiatives such as our R&D policy and the establishment of the Green Investment Bank are concrete strides to transitioning in the right direction.



Introduce 'Garage Grants' to enable and support entrepreneurs in transforming their clever idea into something big. Tackle unnecessary red tape and make tax compliance easier for small business, building on the NZICA proposal of 'no more than one hour, one return and one payment each month for income tax and GST compliance'. Provide strategic support to various industries through our Economic Upgrade.



New Zealand economic growth is critical to Maori living standards and vice versa. Young Maori play a critical role in our growth as a country. Maori-led economic growth understands whanau are central to our infrastructure. The business growth agenda must be mediated by whanau.



Variety of policies, including supporting crowd funding and peer-to-peer lending, attracting multinationals to make high-value investments in New Zealand R&D, and providing more capital raising options for small and medium-sized firms.

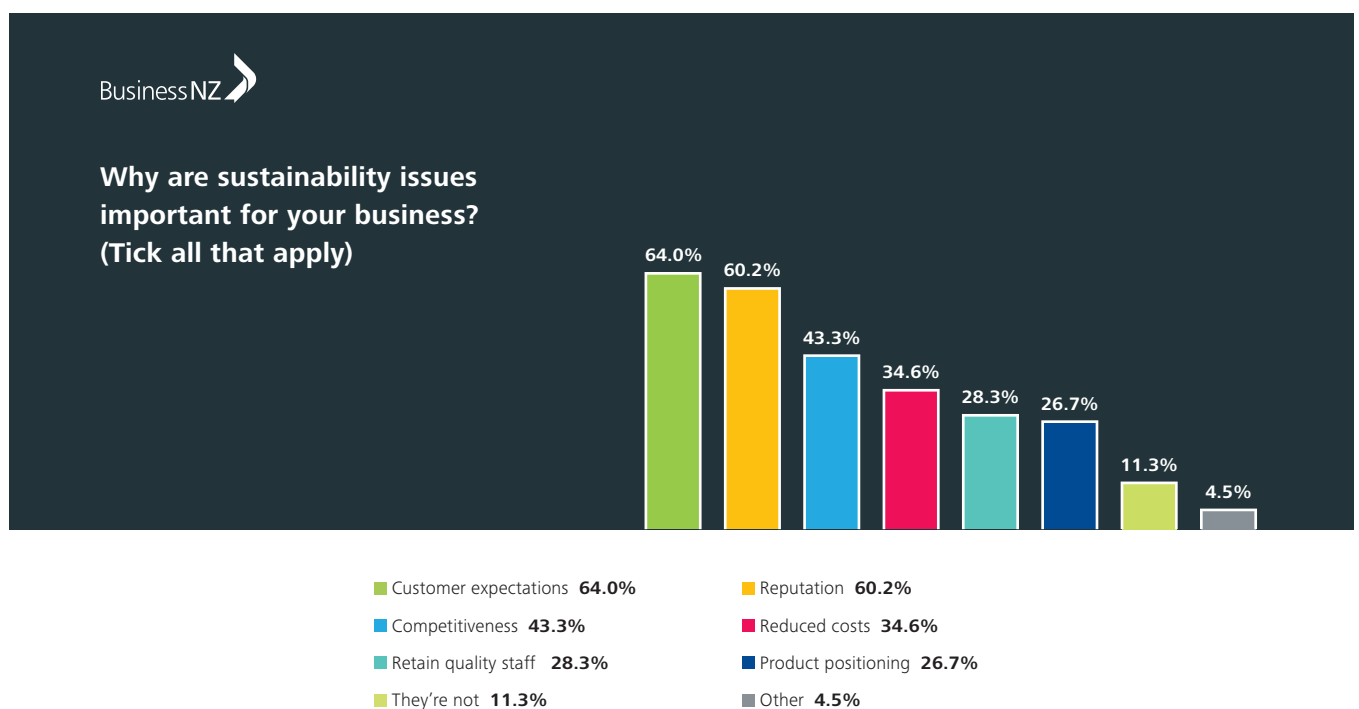
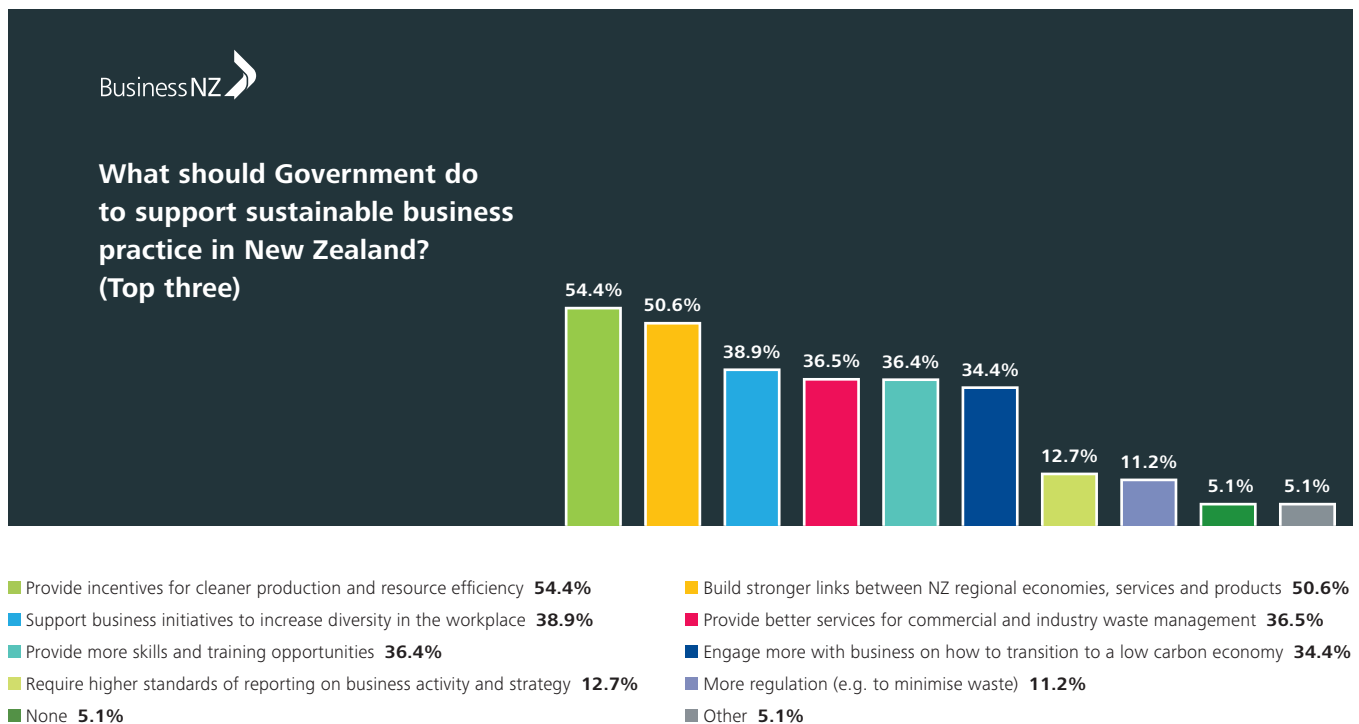


Yes.



Further simplify the tax system to relieve the compliance burden on SMEs, encourage entrepreneurial activity, especially export orientation, assistance in export introductions, pooling of expertise through business incubators and mentoring schemes, and introduction to investors all through a regionally-available MBIE co-ordinated service that has minimal bureaucracy attached to it.

2. Investment, Innovation & Sustainability



2. Investment, Innovation & Sustainability

2.5 What, if anything, do you believe could be done to enhance sustainable business performance?



Businesses are inherently unsustainable. That is a virtue of the capitalist system. Consumer preferences change and production methods change.



An effective response to climate change is vital both to protect the environment and to ensure our business and way of life has a future. Our Climate Tax Cut policy is the first, necessary step in that direction.



Will implement a programme within government that establishes benchmarks and standards for what sustainable businesses look like. Will promote sustainable practice, and establish measurable standards, across the public sector. This will make it possible to establish benchmarks and standards for private businesses wishing to work with government agencies to provide goods and services.



No response.



The Government is committed to reducing New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions. The ETS settings provide the Government with flexibility to balance our fair contribution to global climate change efforts against the costs imposed on New Zealand households and businesses. Doing our fair share to curb emissions puts us in the right space to protect our brand, market access, and economy.

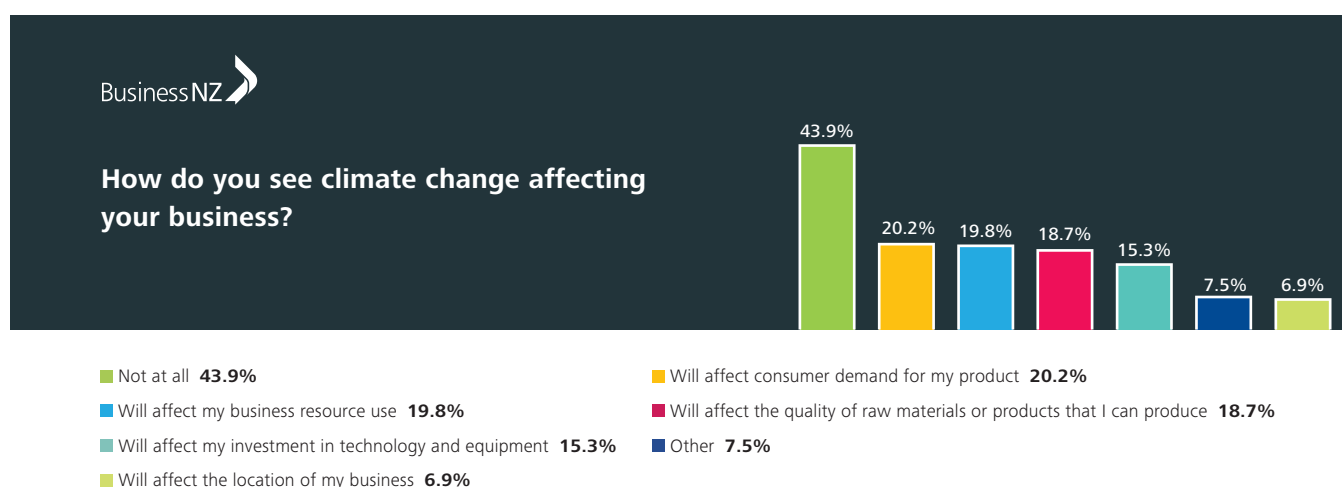


Greater collaboration between academic, government and business sectors.



We must firstly ensure that business understands the long term benefits that sustainable practice brings. We must ensure that there remains in New Zealand a business friendly climate that doesn't overly burden business. This allows for long term thinking and frees up the resources needed to move to a longer term 'sustainable focus'.

2. Investment, Innovation & Sustainability



2.6 With regard to activity on climate change, what changes would you make from current Government policy?



Abolish the ETS and oppose any other proposal for imposing costs on the emitters of greenhouse gases.



We would scrap the ETS. Instead would focus on actual cleanup of environment. Would follow Canadian lead and withdraw from Kyoto.



Will scrap the failed ETS which has resulted in carbon emissions rising 20% since 2008 and emissions under that regime projected to increase by another 50% in the next 10 years and replace it with a Climate Tax Cut.



Will take climate change seriously and commit to a clean energy future. This is about future-proofing our economy. Labour will strengthen the emissions trading scheme, require transparency around carbon pricing, and restrict cheap international units.



Various policies, including:

- Ensure that the ETS must be based on the principle that polluters pay, with strong incentives for energy efficiency and conservation, and urgent action to avoid more serious consequences caused by delayed implementation
- Investigate the introduction of a carbon tax to promote the use of renewable energy
- Hold the government accountable to milestones, reporting dates, goals and targets of the ETS



Committed to act on climate change, and our objective is for New Zealand to make a fair and affordable contribution to global emissions reduction efforts. That's why we're continuing with the ETS as the most economically effective climate change action. We have already committed to reviewing the ETS in 2015.



Will abandon the failed ETS and implement a national climate change plan and net metering.



We have been supportive of the ETS but are disappointed with its inability to manage emissions in New Zealand. The ETS needs some fundamental reform in order to work effectively. We seek a full scale review of the scheme that considers a range of options including minimum pricing.

2. Investment, Innovation & Sustainability

2.7 What policies, if any, do you believe should be introduced to reduce business carbon emissions?



None. There are enough incentives to reduce energy use.



No policy yet, but looking at best practice overseas.



Wide consensus that setting a price on carbon is the most effective way to cut emissions. We will replace the ETS with a carbon levy, setting the price of carbon at \$25/tonne.



An approach that encompasses carbon pricing, support for renewables and the low carbon sector, a focus on energy efficiency, research and development funding, and a clear strategy for forestry and public transport is the best method to reduce business carbon emissions.



Business should use energy more efficiently and choose renewable (or lower carbon fuels) where possible. Good energy and fuel management can effectively reduce a company's carbon footprint and also reduce their costs at the same time. While greenhouse gas emissions from businesses vary depending on the sector within which they operate and the technologies they use, any policies developed would need to consider the sector e.g. agriculture versus business.



New Zealand's primary long-term policy tool is the ETS, which is designed to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The ETS settings provide the government with flexibility to balance our fair contribution to global climate change efforts against the costs imposed on New Zealand households and businesses.



There must be a formal national plan with real targets to progressively de-carbonize the economy.

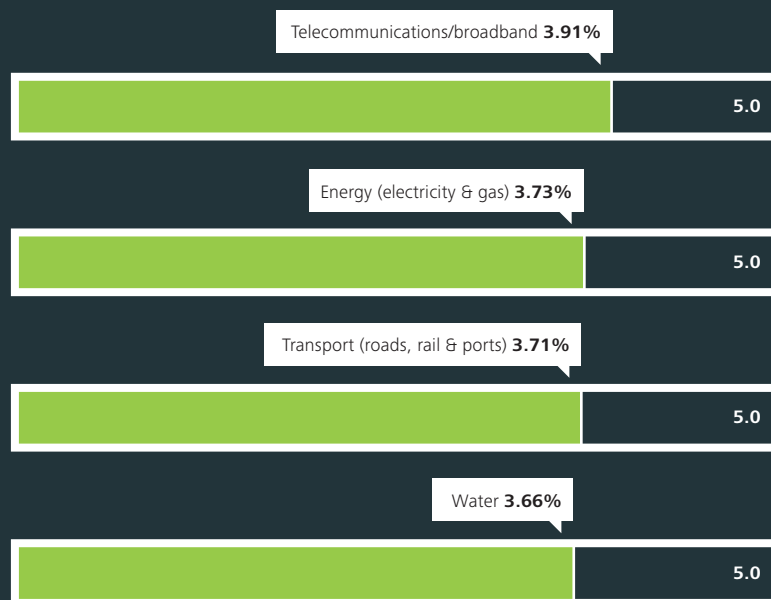


We do not support the introduction of a carbon tax. We will make EECA the central funding agency for contestable funding programmes aimed at reducing long term energy consumption in small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

3. Infrastructure



Please rank each of the following types of New Zealand infrastructure in terms of which has the most potential to contribute to New Zealand's future economic prosperity (1-5 where 5 has the highest potential and 1 has the least potential)



3. Infrastructure



Will the Government's current infrastructure spending plans deliver the best economic outcome for New Zealand?

● Yes: **25.9%**
● No: **22.5%**
● Unsure: **51.6%**



3.2 What are the major infrastructure issues your party will focus on?



We believe in New Zealand today, roads are generally better value than rail. Otherwise, we have no particular priorities for publically funded infrastructure. In general, we think infrastructure should be funded by private investment and paid for by its users.



Removing bottlenecks from transport infrastructure (primarily roading) is best value spend in our view.



Renewable energy and sustainable transport.



Efficient and high quality infrastructure is fundamental for New Zealand's economic growth and competitiveness. Infrastructure investment should be based on reasonable cost-benefit assessment, including social and environmental factors. Infrastructural capacity is central to Labour's regional policy, including committing to an efficient transport system that prioritises public transport and reduced emissions. Transport infrastructure is still fragmented, both geographically and between transport modes.



Support iwi investment in geothermal and water power plants. We want to also profile their successes, and support growth with academically-based training programmes. We have produced a Maori Economic Strategy to address the drivers that underpin investment in iwi/Maori. Will continue to grow iwi/Maori participation in the economy by providing opportunity for iwi Infrastructure/ Maori Economic Consortiums to contribute to the development of the country.



Building broadband infrastructure to help transform New Zealand's future - investing \$1.65 billion to deliver faster broadband to 97.8% of all New Zealanders by 2025. Also, investing more than \$12 billion over 10 years to reduce congestion on our high-use highways through the Roads of National Significance programme. Investing \$212 million in key regional routes to provincial centres to improve route security, reliability and safety. Building a better transport system is part of our priority to build a competitive and productive economy.



Want an integrated transport strategy with balanced investment in road, rail and public transport infrastructure, i.e. support the Auckland City Rail Link projects starting by 2016. Would also have a designated rail investment programme.



Fibre broadband and transport infrastructure are the two major areas of focus.

3. Infrastructure

3.3 What is your party's policy regarding the future of energy supply in New Zealand?



Remove the target of renewable energy. Privatised electricity generators and encourage new development by removing barriers to the use of natural resources. Dismantle the ETS and impose no carbon tax. Generally, let energy be provided in the normal competitive way that other goods and services are supplied.



Support gradual move to renewables but primarily water and geothermal as being most economic. Would open up new gas fields to ensure affordable energy and consistency of supply (i.e. repeat Maui Gas field approach but use to top up hydro when required rather than be in competition with).



Set renewable electricity generation target of 100% by 2030. Accelerate the transition towards sustainable transport fuels.



Essential that New Zealand's homes and businesses have a secure supply of electricity. Labour will work to ensure a secure energy supply that provides for the country's energy needs now and into the future, while reducing the impact on the environment through increased use of renewable sources of energy. We will ensure that at least 90% of New Zealand's electricity is generated from renewable sources by 2025.



Must be a greater investment in energy infrastructure and increase renewables in preparation for a world less reliant upon oil. Believes in the investment of a more renewable energy strategy to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.



New Zealand has an abundance of natural resources – hydro, geothermal, wind, oil, gas, and minerals. This gives us a range of energy options, some well-established, some at a relatively early stage of development. National is committed to a mixed and balanced approach to our energy future, and will continue to pursue an "all of the above" policy, as the world transitions towards a low-carbon future. This includes making the most of our untapped energy potential, in a safe and environmentally responsible way.



A long term energy plan for New Zealand is required.



We will develop a National Energy Strategy to ensure we have sufficient supply of energy and are harnessing our resources appropriately.

3. Infrastructure



Regarding the joint Labour Party/Green Party policy to create a new agency called NZ Power to act as a single buyer and seller of wholesale electricity, do you think:



- The current electricity market is mostly competitive, but needs improving **46.0%** ● NZ Power will have a chilling effect on local and international investment **29.7%**
● NZ Power is a sound policy that will deliver sustainable long-run power price reductions **14.6%** ● The current electricity market does not require any further changes **9.7%**

3.4 Do you believe that future energy prices is an issue to be concerned about, and if so, how will you address it?



Future energy prices have been a concern for decades. Yet they are lower today in real terms than they were 50 years ago and the known supplies of fossil fuels have expanded. Supplies may expand further if New Zealand is able to take advantage of the resources it may soon be able to access.



Yes. It is possible to lock in long term stable pricing and that is ideal.



Fossil fuel is limited and prices will inevitably rise. Climate change is the defining issue of our generation, if not all generations. We see this as an opportunity – to develop a green tech economy. We will set a target that electricity is 100% renewable by 2030 and set an achievable target for sustainable transport fuels.



Both residential and business customers pay too much for their electricity. Labour will create NZ Power to act as a single buyer of electricity. NZ Power will save New Zealand households hundreds of dollars every year and reduce businesses electricity costs by 5-7%. Electricity price reductions of this magnitude will create over 5,000 jobs and boost economic growth by \$450m.



Concerned with the future energy prices and would seek to address this concern.



We have delivered much-needed investment and reforms in terms of security of supply, efficiency, and pricing for consumers. National believes competition is the best way to keep downward pressure on prices and we will continue to promote competitive and innovative measures in the electricity market.



Yes. The current New Zealand electricity and power sector is a fundamentally flawed model.



The stability of energy supply and prices are of strategic concern to all countries including New Zealand. We seek to increase investment in small scale localized electricity generation to decrease the burden and reliance on the national grid. We also will support projects that develop alternative energy schemes.

3. Infrastructure



Is the Government doing enough to ensure faster internet for the benefit of increased productivity/growth?

● Yes: **38.7%**
● No: **39.7%**
● Unsure: **21.6%**



3.5 What is your party's policy regarding increasing New Zealand's broadband penetration rate?



The optimal "broadband penetration rate" depends on the cost of providing it and the value derived from it by consumers. There is no reason for politicians to take a view on the matter. Purely commercial interactions will deliver the optimal "penetration rate".



The ideal is to have near total coverage but this ideal must be balanced by cost realities. Need to relook at the instal cost projections and resulting benefit. However, our views are still under review on this issue.



Uptake of fast broadband is too slow because it is too expensive. We support building of the second Internet cable into New Zealand to boost competition and resiliency.



A review of the UFB scheme and telecommunications regulations along with pilot schemes to increase connectivity in urban and rural areas of New Zealand. We will also elevate ICT to the highest level of government by establishing the position of Chief Technology Officer in Government, reporting directly to the Prime Minister and Cabinet and charging them with undertaking a wide-ranging inquiry and stocktake of the way that information technology projects are managed by government agencies.



- Continue to support Broadband and ongoing investment in Computers in Homes and iPads in schools
- Support the expansion of employment opportunities in the information, computer and telecommunications technology sector through Ngā Pū Waea (rural and ultrafast broadband)
- Push for Maori cadetships in the digital creative sector



National's ultra-fast broadband commitment will make New Zealand one of the most connected countries in the world. We are investing \$1.65 billion to deliver faster broadband to 97.8 per cent of all New Zealanders where they live, work, and study by 2025.



We support investment in new communications technologies.

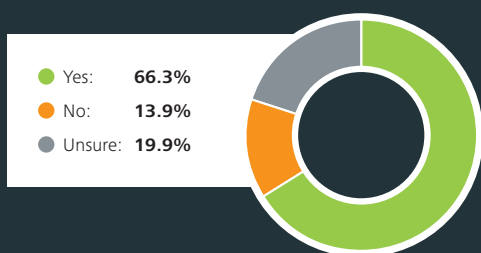


Supports the current scheme between government and telecom companies to develop and extend faster broadband across New Zealand.

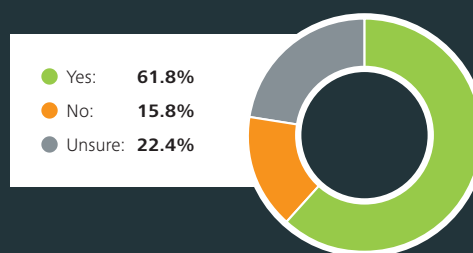
3. Infrastructure



Can the private sector play a greater role in the delivery of essential infrastructure?



Do you support supplying major infrastructure services through public-private partnerships (PPPs)?



3.6 Do you support supplying major infrastructure services through public-private partnerships?



Yes, but only when the risk is carried by the private suppliers. We do not approve of partnerships where the private party gets the profits and taxpayers carry all the risk.



Yes.



The government can access funding at a cheaper rate than any private sector and therefore build services cheaper. Private sector will always have a key role in the provision of public services but that doesn't require PPPs.



Yes, in the right place. But we find it hard to accept that PPPs are more efficient for owning and running schools and hospitals.



Yes.



In some circumstances.



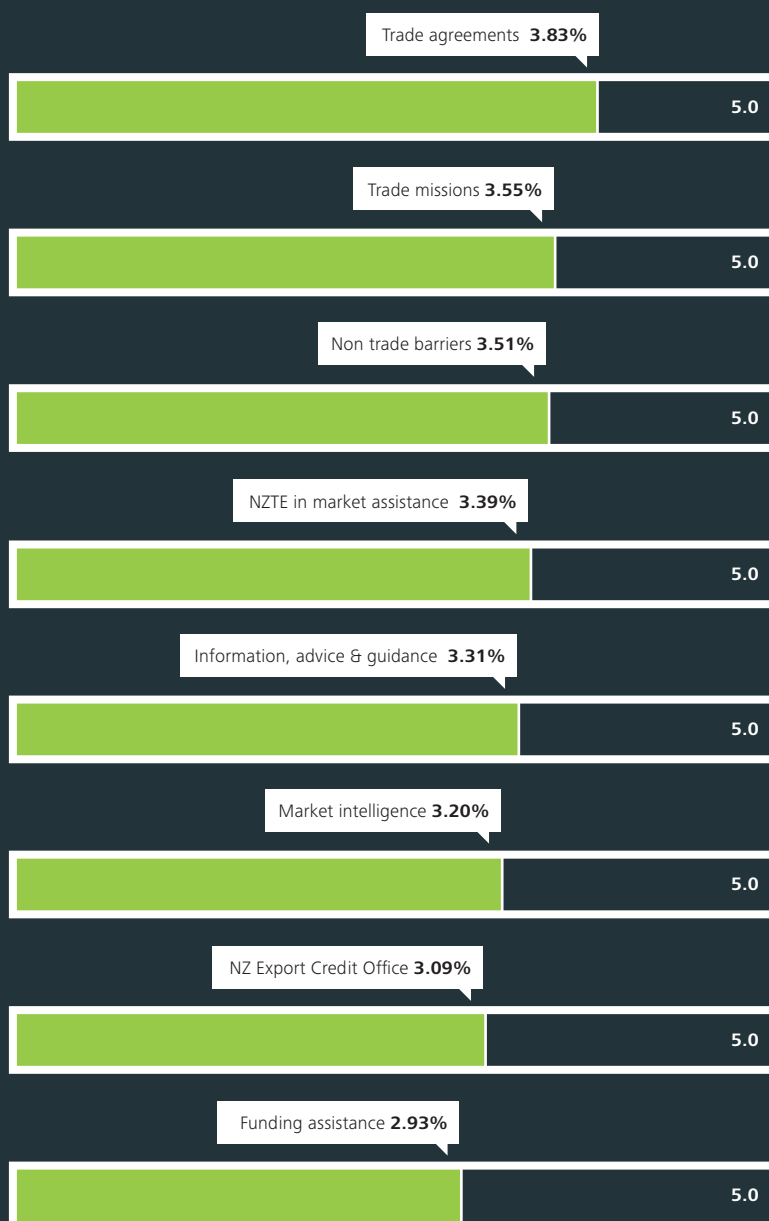
No. Unless there is a clearly proven cost benefit case.



Yes we do. In situations where there are clear benefits to building infrastructure through PPPs we strongly support that process.

4. Trade

**Ranking Government policies and programmes
in regards to international trade (average score
where 1 = poor and 5 = excellent)**



4. Trade

4.1 What are your party's policies for supporting New Zealand businesses in terms of international trade?



Would eliminate all remaining import tariffs, and would agree to all free trade agreements. We would reduce barriers to foreign investment and cut the corporate tax rate, which will attract companies with foreign customers to New Zealand.



Being true to our proclaimed 100% pure brand is the best way to ensure that New Zealand businesses thrive in offshore markets.



Various policies, including getting our monetary policy settings right, encouraging investment in productive rather than speculative economic areas, promoting an innovative and high value added economy and export sector by policies which promote research and development and a highly educated and skilled workforce, strengthening the role of NZTE in assisting New Zealand companies to become exporters and to fully understand the markets they wish to export to, and focusing on and playing to our strengths to help New Zealand to develop niche markets in the world.



Do not support trade agreements that have the potential to impact on the domestic market or New Zealand's ability to trade.



New Zealand's economic future lies in the strength of our connections to international markets to sell our goods and services. Policies include a reinvigorated NZTE designed to support businesses to grow and succeed internationally, increased trade presence and getting the right level of resources in growth markets, increased number of high level trade missions, and development of the 'New Zealand Story'.



The first requirement is a realistic exchange rate. We will reform the Reserve Bank to ensure this happens.



Support the work that both MFAT and NZTE do in this area.

4. Trade



Should the Government work towards concluding the Trans-Pacific Partnership?

● Yes: **72.7%**
● No: **10.3%**
● Unsure: **17.0%**



4.2 Do you support further work towards concluding the Trans-Pacific Partnership?



Yes.



Opposed to the TTP.



Will work to conclude the TPP provided it meets our bottom lines and is of net benefit to New Zealand. Those bottom lines include not giving up New Zealand's sovereign rights to legislate for the public good, preserving the role and integrity of Pharmac and ensuring market access to New Zealand's key export products and services.



No, we do not support the TTP.



Absolutely. A high level TPP agreement has the potential to deliver massive economic opportunities for New Zealand.



No.



Yes we do. Trade is of vital importance to New Zealand.

4. Trade

4.3 Do you agree with the view that New Zealand should pursue Free Trade Agreements with other countries?



Yes.



Supports trade solutions that promote sustainable forms of development and protect all human rights, including labour laws and protection against child exploitation. Free trade needs to be fair trade that acts as a pathway to greater, shared, global prosperity.



Yes. Our first priority in an ideal world would be to progress the WTO Round as this is the most effective way to achieve comprehensive change and deal with issues such as removing export incentives and subsidies on agricultural products and fish. Our second priority is for multilateral agreements such as the APEC concept of a Free Trade Area of Asia Pacific.



As long as the pursuit of free trade does not impact on the domestic market.



Yes. Opening up markets through pro-active trade negotiations agenda is essential to building a more productive and competitive economy that will help to create jobs, boost incomes, and provide the world-class public services that Kiwi families need.

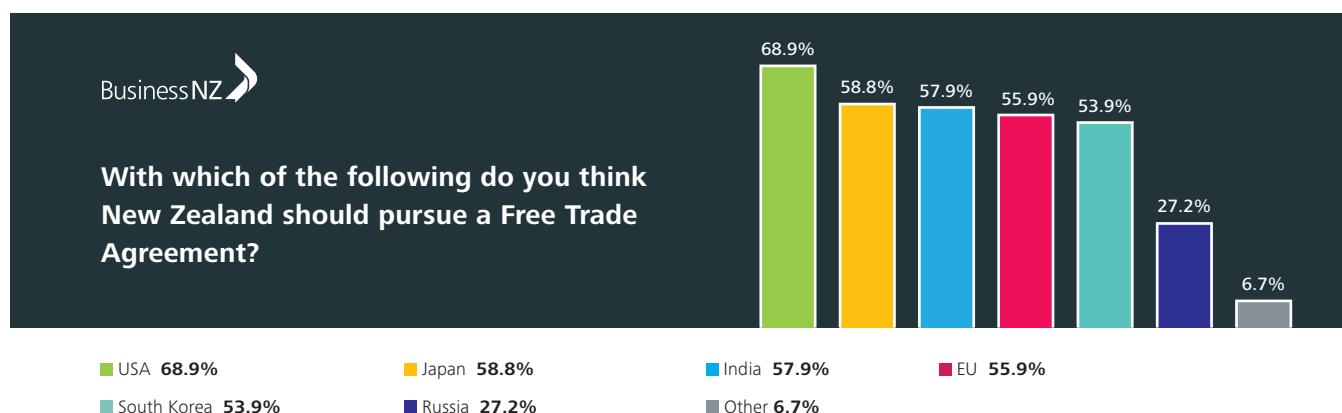


Not in secret.



Yes, trade agreements and the simplification of international trade must be the number one priority for New Zealand if we wish to become a happier, healthier, and more prosperous nation.

4. Trade



4.3 a If so, what other countries/regions do you believe should be first priority(ies)?



None. ACT does not believe that politicians should choose the best prospects for businesses.



The focus of New Zealand's trade priorities should be on global negotiations, however painstaking these are proving to be, and away from regional and bilateral deals. There is an associated need to initiate multilateral discussions for the reform of the WTO.



The priority areas for the negotiation of bilateral free trade agreements should be those countries which are the most important potential markets for us. They include the Republic of Korea, India, Russia and Europe.



No preference.



As well as bringing TPP to a successful conclusion, National wants to conclude FTAs with the 6 countries of the Gulf Corporation Council, Korea, India, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership with 16 Asian countries. We are also on the lookout for other opportunities to expand our trade and economic relationships with other markets such as the European Union and the fast growing emerging economies of the Pacific Alliance (Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru). This could possibly include FTAs.



India must be a key priority given the size of the market there. We need to focus largely on Africa which we have traditionally somewhat ignored. New Zealand needs an expanded trade presence and better expertise on Africa. Our Commonwealth ties ought to be used as a starting point here. Lastly, South America is a key region – its proximity is a huge advantage for us and we must focus efforts there also.

5. Skills & Human Capital



Does NCEA level 2 match the skill set required for first entrants into the labour market?

● Yes: **20.6%**
 ● No: **25.2%**
 ● Unsure: **54.2%**



5.1 Given the quality of the labour market (i.e. people with qualifications) has improved over the last decade, what would your party do to improve the contribution education and training makes to productivity and competitiveness?



Have a distinctive education policy which we believe will improve educational standards, especially among students who are now underperforming.



Education should be seen not only as the acquisition of job skills; but as an integral part of life-long learning. Within this framework we need to look at where the future employment streams will come.



Will put in place a programme that provides an affordable option, available to all schools, for Year 5-13 students to have access to a portable digital device, in the classroom and at home. Also, enhancements to Gateway, Māori trade Training and a programme to get young New Zealanders off the unemployment benefit and into apprenticeships by paying \$9,100 (the equivalent of the dole) to employers willing to offer a permanent full time job.



Support initiatives to advance Maori academic leadership and scholarship excellence which assists in improving educational success for learners, including supporting trade training initiatives, Trade Academies, the Secondary Tertiary Alignment Resource (STAR) and Youth Guarantee Partnerships.



One of our priorities is to build a more competitive and productive economy. National believes the best way to do this is through education and training, and our Business Growth Agenda.



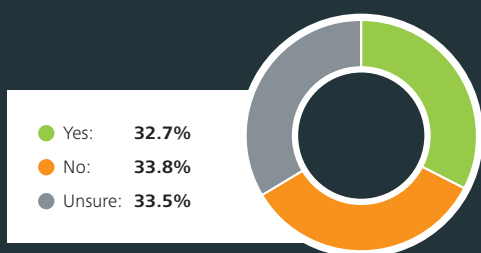
Support funding a first class education system. Would also introduce an immigration policy that will put the interests of New Zealanders first, and will remove the current disincentive to upskill and train for all New Zealanders.



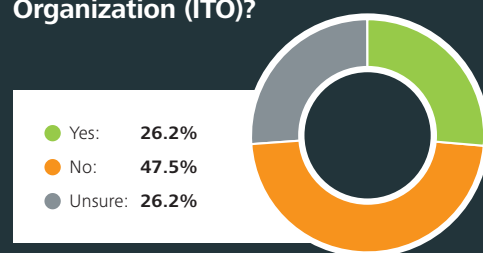
Strong focus on education. We are advocating for a rebalancing of funding to fees from student support with our Zero-Fees Policy. This will cancel the student allowance, and use that money (plus some additional government funding) to offer a no fees tertiary education. Students will remain able to borrow their living costs.

5. Skills & Human Capital

Is the government doing enough to deliver skills needed for your industry?



Given government reforms of industry training and apprenticeships, have you experienced an overall improvement in the level of services from your Industry Training Organization (ITO)?



5.2 Do you have specific policies aimed at better matching the supply of skills to demand for skills in industry and communities?



No. A deregulated labour market, through changes in actual and anticipated wages and earnings, will guide people into better and better occupational choices, education and training investments and into the specific jobs that suit their talents and inclinations most.



Tertiary sector should be innovative and responsive to the changing needs of our society. Will support vocational training in emerging clean technology areas and work to ensure that there are enough skilled people to fill any gaps. For certain professional and vocational courses, we will work with the sectors to ensure we are not training people in the knowledge there are no jobs for them, or training them up ready to move overseas. This includes increased support for STEM teaching.



A series of Economic Upgrade policies targeting industries such as Forestry, ICT, and Manufacturing which will help organize the industries to better match skills to demand. In addition we will ensure that the immigration system promotes a high-skilled high-wage economy and reward skilled immigrants who live in the regions, where their skills can unlock growth and job opportunities for the community.



Encourage tertiary education organisations to provide information early about the requirements and expectations and realities of tertiary and vocational study including what is available in terms of culturally relevant academic and pastoral support and information about scholarships, admission criteria and bridging courses.



National's Industry Training and Apprenticeships Amendment Bill will remove the Industry Training Organisations' skills-leadership requirement to enable other organisations, such as industry associations, to take a greater role in communicating demand and supply of skills to government agencies.



Various policies, but to encourage the uptake of study in skilled areas propose supporting migrants to re-train to New Zealand standards; zero fees for students studying medicine, dentistry, nursing, and pharmacy; prioritise residency applications of those who have skills we need and a job offer that is relevant to those skills.

5. Skills & Human Capital



Are university and polytechnic graduates well prepared to be effective in the workplace?

● Yes: **34.6%**
● No: **36.0%**
● Unsure: **29.4%**



5.3 What would you do to provide greater information about institutions, programmes, courses and outcomes to assist student choice?



Nothing. The people who supply the institutions, programmes and courses should have all the required incentives to supply information about them.



Work to facilitate good relationships between schools, local businesses, and educators to ensure that students are aware of, and able to pursue, a wide range of post-school options. Careers advisors at secondary schools are often under-resourced, and need more support to stay abreast of current and future opportunities for students.



Commit \$2.5 million in 2015/16 to develop a National Careers Strategy that sets goals and strategies for ensuring there is a high quality careers advice structure at school and beyond, disestablish Careers New Zealand and have a different body oversee the Careers Strategy, with input from schools, employers, tertiary training providers and careers experts, overhaul career information and guidance in schools, commit \$17 million over four years to provide more secondary teachers and other staff to improve careers guidance and increase the support available for young people in school and out in the community to remain engaged in learning, require a personalised education plan to be developed for every high school student to guide their learning.



See previous answer.



National requires every tertiary organisation funded through Vote Tertiary Education to produce an Investment Plan, so students can see what outcomes different providers get for their students. And the vocational pathways and online qualification and job prospect tools also give students the ability to see where different qualifications will lead in relation to income and job prospects.



Support adequate funding for vocational guidance and similar programmes.



Support the raising of the school leaving age from 16 provided it is accompanied by a range of options for students to use their years 12 and 13 for more career-focused learning options like trade training; and universities are prepared to allow students to attain first year university credits in year 13. Also, ensure that senior students have sufficient access to advice and information about career choices and opportunities for further education and training, and that schools years 7–13 at school take an integrated approach to life skills by establishing it as a separate subject, including segments on career planning, budgeting advice, civic education, relationship and parenting skills.

5. Skills & Human Capital

5.4 What would you do to improve access to quality and timely careers information, advice and guidance?



Nothing beyond making educational institutions compete for the business of willing customers. These institutions will then have an incentive to make the right trade-offs between the cost of supplying such information and the value of it to their customers (the students).



Work to facilitate good relationships between schools, local businesses, and educators to ensure that students are aware of, and able to pursue, a wide range of post-school options. We support a flexible approach to the funding of vocational education and training to support secondary/tertiary/workplace transitions, with the qualification that we would amend the current legislation to prevent private employers from being directly funded to provide industry training and education.



See previous answer.



To ensure that all people have the chance to pursue tertiary education, we will introduce a fee reduction policy to reduce fees to a nominal level over time.



Introduced six vocational pathways, and an annual Occupational Outlook report which sets out the expected income, fees, and job prospects from data collected from the industries and businesses in the years ahead. Careers New Zealand now has the online “compare study options” tool, which uses data to show the variation in earning potential for different qualifications, and the employment status of people one year after qualification completion.



We support adequate funding for vocational guidance and similar programmes.



In school career advisers offer a valuable service. We should expand their work and ensure that all secondary students are aware of the wide variety of opportunities available including vocational and apprenticeship training.

5. Skills & Human Capital



Is the government doing enough to improve workforce literacy, language and numeracy skills?

● Yes: **22.9%**
● No: **43.1%**
● Unsure: **34.0%**



5.5 Do you have any policies directed at raising the skills of those people already in the workforce?



No. Nothing now stops people increasing their skills. They and their employers must decide if the costs are worth the benefits.



Would restore adequate funding to Adult Community Education programmes, which do have a proven record of improving skill levels, and of giving people confidence to undertake further 'formal' education.



Need to do more to raise the skills of those already in the workforce. We will be announcing further policies on jobs and skills closer to the election.



Will introduce a fee reduction policy to reduce fees to a nominal level over time, increase access to student allowances, by reintroducing a universal student allowance (set at the level of the unemployment benefit), student loan debt repayments should only start when you start earning 1.5 times the average wage, would like to see a five year grace period for repayments after graduation and student loans will remain interest-free, ensure Maori course and qualification completion is a criterion for performance linked funding.



Variety of policies, including supporting crowd funding and peer-to-peer lending, attracting multinationals to make high-value investments in NZ R&D, and providing more capital raising options for small and medium-sized firms.



Have a comprehensive set of policies in the fields of education, training and skills development.



Encourage sabbatical schemes and employer supported post graduate study schemes. We will work with business to support the retraining and upskilling of staff.

5. Skills & Human Capital

5.6 How would you make New Zealand Apprenticeships and formal industry training simpler?



By abolishing any governmental role in such matters.



Believe that the modern apprenticeship programme provides a very good training service and that is why we would expand it. We would also like to see greater levels of cooperation between education and training providers and employers in business, state sector or community sector.



Supports the creation of the New Zealand Apprenticeship system to streamline and better coordinate apprenticeships across New Zealand. We will continue the current scheme that began in 2013, including the incentive payments for new apprentices, with a review in 2016. We will also ensure an easier pathway from pre-apprenticeship training. Also believes it is desirable to develop a range of apprenticeship opportunities in sectors that have not traditionally included them.



Supports the provision of trade qualifications and New Zealand Apprenticeships made simpler through the provision of programmes such as Maori and Pasifika Trade Training.



Created "New Zealand Apprenticeships" to replace Modern Apprenticeships and other apprentice-like training programmes. Also, boosted the educational content to be at least 120 credits, and increased funding – meaning ITOs can invest in the quality of education for apprentices, and lower fees for employers.



Promote greater awareness amongst young people of the opportunities afforded by vocational training, such as apprenticeships. Encourage all young people under 25 who are not at school to either be "earning or learning" (i.e. in some form of education/training or work) and support initiatives such as the Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs.

5. Skills & Human Capital

5.7 Do you have policies to promote more efficient pathways to higher education via vocational education and training?



Partnership schools which specialise in vocational topics will better prepare students for particular tertiary education.



Have long been concerned that the industry training sector has not been able to be responsive to future employment needs of industry. Believes more can be done to ensure that future skills demand meets future skills need.



Will establish Centres of Vocational Excellence to drive training and innovation in industries that are vital to our economy and our regions. This will reinforce the strengths of our ITP network and to lift the status of vocational education. Will also review the structure and operations of the Tertiary Education Commission and, through this review, develop a more collaborative approach to tertiary education in New Zealand.



Vision where a learner's knowledge and experiences are valued and incorporated in teaching and learning and that the focus is on better outcomes for tauira (learners). This vision is premised on the notion that education is better aligned to the needs of the learners, ensuring relevant skills are developed, and which are then aligned to meet the needs of employers and industry.



Developed vocational pathways with industry, employers, and government agencies, to enable a smooth transition for Kiwi learners from school into industry training, and into a trades career.



See previous answer.

5. Skills & Human Capital

5.8 What do you see as the major steps needed to strengthen the connections between business and education and training organisations?



Liberalising the education market is all that is required.



New Zealand is facing a shortage of tradespeople. We need a comprehensive strategy around building and retaining our skills base, and there needs to be genuine and ongoing dialogue between government and key stakeholders to ensure that the industry is able to produce the tradespeople that we need going into the future.



Centres of Vocational Excellence will make a significant difference in this regard. The Centres will operate in a similar way to CoREs and support collaboration between those working in a field from different institutions, agencies and businesses. The Centres will support partnerships between local polytechnics and industry. ITPs will be invited to propose the establishment of a centre based on an existing area of expertise or specialisation.



Framework that supports better programme design and careers advice, and improves the links between education and employment for taurua Maori.



As part of their funding agreement with the government, education and training organisations have to detail their connection with stakeholders, such as businesses and industry. National's next step through our Industry Training bill is to get organisations, such as industry associations, to take a greater role in communicating demand and supply of skills to government agencies.



Must encourage and facilitate more networks and co-operation between tertiary providers and industry to ensure that skills taught are relevant and required in the future labour market.

5. Skills & Human Capital



Does Immigration New Zealand have the balance right in allowing needed skilled people into New Zealand?

● Yes, the balance is right: **28.3%**
● No, they let too many people in: **24.8%**
● They don't let enough people in: **18.0%**
● Unsure: **28.9%**



5.9 What is your view on the role of immigration in a productive and competitive economy?



It is helpful. It often brings in new skills and entrepreneurial energy. And it increases competition in the labour market. Most importantly, immigrants from poor countries often find their incomes and prospects massively improved.



Our beautiful natural environment is our competitive advantage in the international marketplace for talent. We would give priority in the skilled migrant category to skills needed for a sustainable society and economy, such as scientists, engineers, and other trades with relevant skills.



Committed to immigration that not only meets economic priorities but which contributes to social objectives and to New Zealand's vibrant multicultural society. Boosting regional development and lifting New Zealand's economic performance toward a high-skilled high-income economy are key components of Labour's immigration policy.



Immigration must be well managed and compatible with Maori aspirations for economic development and employment and training opportunities.



Immigration is a key economic driver, and an important part of our business growth agenda. It helps to build a stronger economy and create jobs by encouraging innovation, deepening our links with international markets, and providing the skills and capital we need for growth. It underpins tourism and export education, our biggest service export industries.



Immigration should be strictly controlled and it should serve the interests of New Zealanders.



We embrace the diversity that makes us culturally richer and do not shy away from the serious challenges that our demographic changes present.

5. Skills & Human Capital



Are Immigration New Zealand's current skills shortage processes effective in delivering skills for your industry?

● Yes: 26.0%
● No: 32.1%
● Unsure: 41.9%



5.10 What, if any, changes would you make to ensure the immigration system responds to and meets business and industry needs?



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Ensure that the immigration system promotes a high-skilled high-wage economy rather than exploiting cheap labour that undercuts wages and undervalues training, reward skilled immigrants who live in the regions, where their skills can unlock growth and job opportunities for the community, revitalise the settlement programme and seek to reduce the numbers of migrants on temporary visas for long periods, and use the points system and other tools to manage the number of immigrants entering the country on work visas to even out the peaks and troughs in the immigration cycle.



Immigration must be well managed and compatible with Maori aspirations for economic development and employment and training opportunities.



Changes to improve our Investor Policies have been hugely successful in attracting more capital investment to New Zealand. Earlier this year we also introduced a new Entrepreneur Work Visa to encourage business owners to come to New Zealand create skilled jobs for New Zealanders. We also regularly review our essential skills lists and other policies to ensure businesses are able to get the skilled workers they need, while ensuring that New Zealanders remain at the front of the job queue.



Mass immigration has been used as an excuse not to upskill and train New Zealanders first. New Zealand First would apply much stricter criteria to immigration policy.

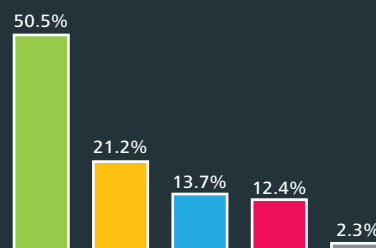


We embrace the diversity that makes us culturally richer and do not shy away from the serious challenges that our demographic changes present.

6. Employment Environment



Which of the following employment issues are currently of greatest importance to you?



■ Access to skills and talent **50.5%**
■ Health and safety issues **21.2%**
■ Attitudes to entrepreneurship and business success **13.7%**
■ Employment Relations Legislation (e.g. minimum wages) **12.4%**
■ Holidays Act **2.3%**

6.1 What major changes, if any, would your party make to the Employment Relations Act?



The ERA is a barrier to prosperity for many employees. The best protection an employee can have is a ready supply of jobs. Ultimately, ACT would like to move to a free exchange of labour for reward and allow employees who want to do so to opt out of the employment relationship and contract their services. Initially, ACT will allow employees to opt out of the grievance process. ACT expects employers will pay more to employees who choose this.



Broadly support the Act, but are in favour of some significant amendments. We will change it to improve employment rights and increase protection for casual, seasonal, fixed term, and temporary workers, and to extend protections to workers who are hired as contractors rather than employees. We support the establishment of a wide range of interventions in workplace disputes, including dispute resolution, problem solving, relationship building, best practice and employment rights education, and collective agreement and bargaining support for both employers and workers.



Will establish a Commission of Inquiry to be charged with investigating wage setting and other workplace practices and reporting on how to best implement industry standard agreements, tailored as needed to meet New Zealand conditions. This will involve a three-person panel supported by appropriate staff, including investigative staff.



Continue to oppose any proposed amendments to the Employment Relations Act which are designed to give employers the capacity to:

- Walk away from negotiations for a collective agreement
- Break down the national agreements (MECAs) for members in district health boards
- Pay new workers less
- Get rid of employees when a contract changes hands
- Remove the right to tea and rest breaks
- Make industrial action even more difficult.



National's proposed changes to the Employment Relations Act are aimed at improving fairness, flexibility and choice in the labour market. We will progress legislation amending the employment relations regime including extended flexible working arrangements, improved collective bargaining, and a clearer and more balanced Part 6A.



Opposes any attempt to weaken the pay and conditions of employees.



Support the amendments to this legislation that we have negotiated. These ensure that employers must negotiate with good faith in order to reach a conclusion.

6. Employment Environment

Should the current union monopoly over collective bargaining be retained?

● Yes: 14.6%
● No: 63.4%
● Unsure: 22.0%



Should employment relations legislation promote collective bargaining over bargaining for individual employment agreements?

● Yes: 14.4%
● No: 66.4%
● Unsure: 19.2%



6.2 Do you agree that the Employment Relations Act's current preference for collective bargaining is the right approach?



Supports the right of any employee to opt out of any collective bargaining process and negotiate their own income.



Collective bargaining is important for democracy, economic success and fairer returns to work in New Zealand. International evidence, matched by New Zealand experience, suggests that employee voice is vital for high performance success and in ensuring a fair share of the returns to work. Our preference is for pay and conditions to be negotiated primarily through collective bargaining. The present law does not adequately protect a worker's freedom of choice to belong to a union and therefore to participate in collective bargaining and to have a collective voice at work.



Yes, support collective bargaining.



Committed to maintaining the framework for collective bargaining, but we wish to ensure there is adequate flexibility and choice within that framework in order to prevent unnecessary, fruitless and protracted collective bargaining.



Yes.



See above.

6. Employment Environment



Have you experienced any difficulty in terminating an unsatisfactory employee's employment?

● Yes: 44.9%
● No: 51.0%
● Unsure: 4.1%



Has the 90-day trial period assisted your business operations?

● Yes: 44.4%
● No: 35.9%
● Unsure: 19.7%



6.3 Do you support the 90-day trial period provision as it currently stands?



Yes. Ultimately, ACT would like the freedom provided to employers during the 90 day trial to extend beyond 90 days.



Oppose the 90 day a trial provisions because there already existed the ability for employers and employees to negotiate this without making it a default provision. We would support provisions to enable easier access to flexible working hours which can be a win-win solution for employers and employees as well.



No, we will repeal the provision. We will look at the rules relating to probationary periods, and if they are not as explicit as employers and workers would like, we will make them explicit.



No.



Yes.



Yes.

6. Employment Environment



Under the Holidays Act, has the introduction of the average daily pay formula been helpful for your business?

● Yes: **31.2%**
● No: **28.9%**
● Unsure: **39.9%**



6.4 What changes, if any, would you make to the current Holidays Act?



None at this point. Ultimately, holidays should be more flexible and having employees move from employment relationship to contract for service will achieve this.



Support amending the Holidays Act to provide that when a worker is rostered off for a day that is a statutory holiday, the statutory holiday entitlement is provided to that worker on a subsequent day. We would also add an additional statutory holiday between Queen's Birthday Weekend and Labour Weekend, and make Easter Sunday a statutory holiday.



Will continue the current protections under the Holidays Act.



We would not make any changes to the current Holidays Act at this stage.



Changes National made in 2010 increased flexibility in the Holidays Act. The legislation had long proved difficult for employers to interpret and our changes provided more certainty and reduced compliance costs.



None.

6. Employment Environment

6.5 What changes, if any, would you make to the current health and safety framework?



Health and safety legislation is only needed because we do not have the ability to sue for negligence. Restoring private litigation and insurance will be more efficient and effective.



Health and safety legislation currently before the House should have been passed prior to the election. However, we consider the right of workers and unions to participate in health and safety forums needs to be included in legislation. Would like to strengthen the legislation with respect to: substances hazardous to health, including control of fumes and particles; occupational cancer; reproductive health and lone working. Extending health and safety obligations with respect to contractors to the owner of the workplace, where this person is in the best position to carry out those obligations.



Will review the recent government changes to ensure that the board of Worksafe is tripartite and that worker participation systems in health and safety are clearly regulated, all key recommendations of the Taskforce and Pike River Inquiry are included, and that adequate resources are available to Worksafe New Zealand.



Without a closer inspection the Maori Party is unable to say whether we will make changes to the health and safety framework.



National is committed to improving workplace health and safety – we've set a firm target of a 25% reduction in the rate of workplace fatalities and serious injuries by 2020. Our Working Safer reform package will substantially improve workplace health and safety across all sectors in New Zealand.



Will review all legislation and regulations that impose coercive powers (e.g. Resource Management Act, Health and Safety in Employment Act) to ensure that the impact on business is minimised yet is consistent with the overall public interest.

6. Employment Environment

6.6 What changes, if any, would you make to ACC?



Supports opening ACC to competition from private insurers.



Need a plan to rehabilitate ACC and get it back to work. ACC needs to provide a world class public service and honour the social contract it was founded on. This means an end to the shift towards a profit driven insurance model. Various changes announced.



Will guarantee that ACC remains a publicly administered and delivered social insurance scheme which provides comprehensive and universal coverage for all New Zealanders. We are focused on restoring faith in ACC's ability to deliver fair treatment and fair compensation in return for a fair levy. There will be some changes for people who receive compensation for loss of potential earnings and those who become incapacitated at a date after they were injured.



Would seek a review of the cost of ACC and also current ACC cover, entitlements and assessment criteria. The review would include the criteria for approving surgery, restrictions on cover for hearing loss and work-related gradual process injuries, sexual abuse counselling and widening the vocational independence assessment criteria under which ACC decides to stop paying claimants weekly compensation to name a few areas.



Continue strengthening ACC's focus on injury prevention, including better incentives for safer workplaces. We will also ensure ACC systems and processes are transforming to address the expectations of a digital world.



Maintain ACC as a first class system.



Make it easier for businesses to assess their levies once they have been set for the coming year, increasing certainty as to what their obligations will be. Support the continuation of the 'no-fault' regime and mandatory workplace accident insurance, but support competition in the provision of accident compensation services. Continue ACC's focus on injury prevention as the best long term solution to reducing levies and claims. Introduce more significant discounts on employer levies for those who undertake workplace safety regimes, and give more responsibility to industry sector groups to ensure safe practices.

6. Employment Environment



Do you support the concept of a living wage (i.e. paying workers a minimum of \$18.80 per hour?)

● Yes: 42.6%
 ● No: 47.8%
 ● Unsure: 9.6%



Would you be prepared to pay the living wage as a minimum in your business in the near future?

● Yes: 45.7%
 ● No: 41.9%
 ● Unsure: 12.4%



6.7 What are your policies regarding the minimum wage and the living wage?



Will not impose a living wage requirement and will remove the minimum wage. Too many people are priced out of the market already.



Would raise the minimum wage to \$15 immediately post-election and work quickly towards a living wage for all workers.



Will raise the minimum wage by \$2 an hour in our first year, with a \$15 an hour in our first hundred days in government, and another increase to \$16.25 an hour in early 2015. We will set a target of returning the minimum wage to two-thirds of the average wage by the end of our second term, as economic conditions allow. Will ensure that the core public service are paid at least the living wage, and extend this as fiscal condition permit.



Would like to raise the individual and collective living standards through promoting employer incentives to introduce a living wage of \$18 plus CPI adjustments.



National has raised the minimum wage every year since taking office. We currently have the highest minimum wage, in relation to the average hourly wage, in the OECD. Setting the minimum wage represents a careful balance between protecting low-paid workers, the capacity for businesses to pay a bit more, and ensuring jobs are not lost.



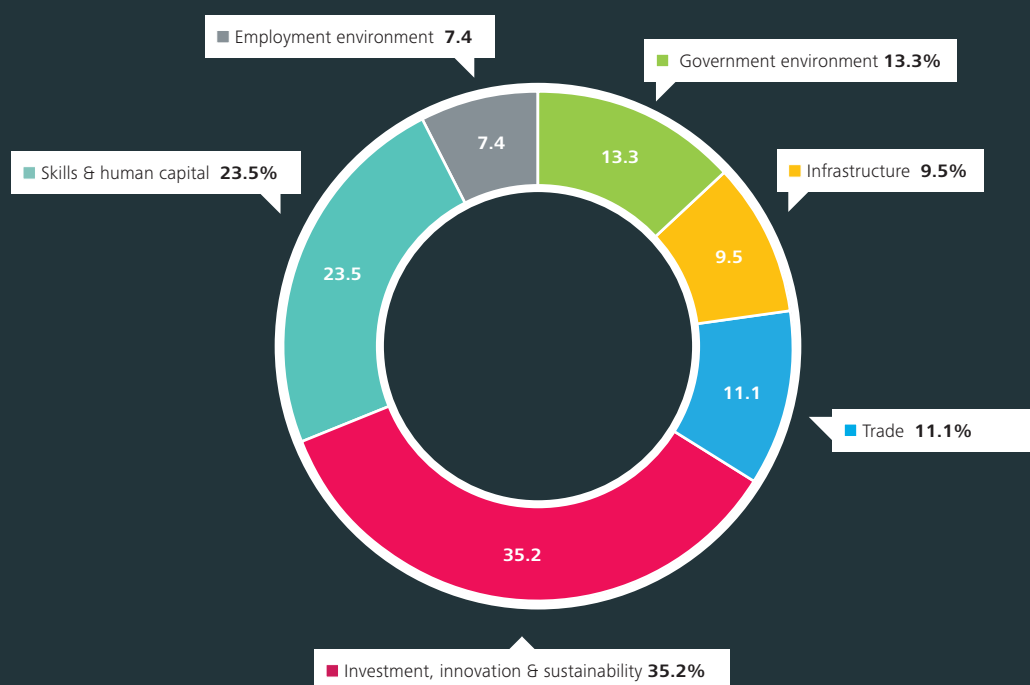
Supports an immediate increase in the minimum wage to \$16.



Do not support the living wage as a new 'minimum wage' nor do we support changing the minimum wage other than by the regular review as currently occurs.

7. Overall Summary

Of the six topics you have provided responses to, which is currently most important for achieving sustained economic growth?



About Your Business

Please indicate the number of staff employed by your enterprise:

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1-5 employees	397	34.6	34.6
6-9 employees	138	12.0	46.6
10-49 employees	283	24.7	71.3
50-99 employees	119	10.4	81.7
100-499 employees	124	10.8	92.5
500+ employees	86	7.5	100.0
Total	1147	100.0	

Please indicate the main region your company is based in:

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Northland	29	2.5	2.5
Auckland	323	28.2	30.7
Waikato	96	8.4	39.1
Bay of Plenty	69	6.0	45.1
Gisborne	15	1.3	46.4
Hawkes Bay	50	4.4	50.7
Taranaki	27	2.4	53.1
Manawatu-Wanganui	72	6.3	59.4
Wellington	176	15.3	74.7
Nelson-Tasman	25	2.2	76.9
Marlborough	55	4.8	81.7
West Coast	8	.7	82.4
Canterbury	104	9.1	91.5
Otago	73	6.4	97.8
Southland	25	2.2	100.0
Total	1147	100.0	

Please indicate the industry sector your enterprise operates in:

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Accommodation, cafes & Restaurants	23	2.0	2.0
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	279	24.3	26.3
Communication services	24	2.1	28.4
Construction	57	5.0	33.4
Cultural & recreational services	19	1.7	35.0
Education	38	3.3	38.4
Electricity, gas & water supply	14	1.2	39.6
Finance & insurance	48	4.2	43.8
Government administration & defence	16	1.4	45.2
Health & community services	60	5.2	50.4
Manufacturing	167	14.6	65.0
Mining	4	.3	65.3
Personal services	21	1.8	67.1
Property & business services	130	11.3	78.5
Retail trade	134	11.7	90.1
Transport & storage	62	5.4	95.6
Wholesale trade	51	4.4	100.0
Total	1147	100.0	



