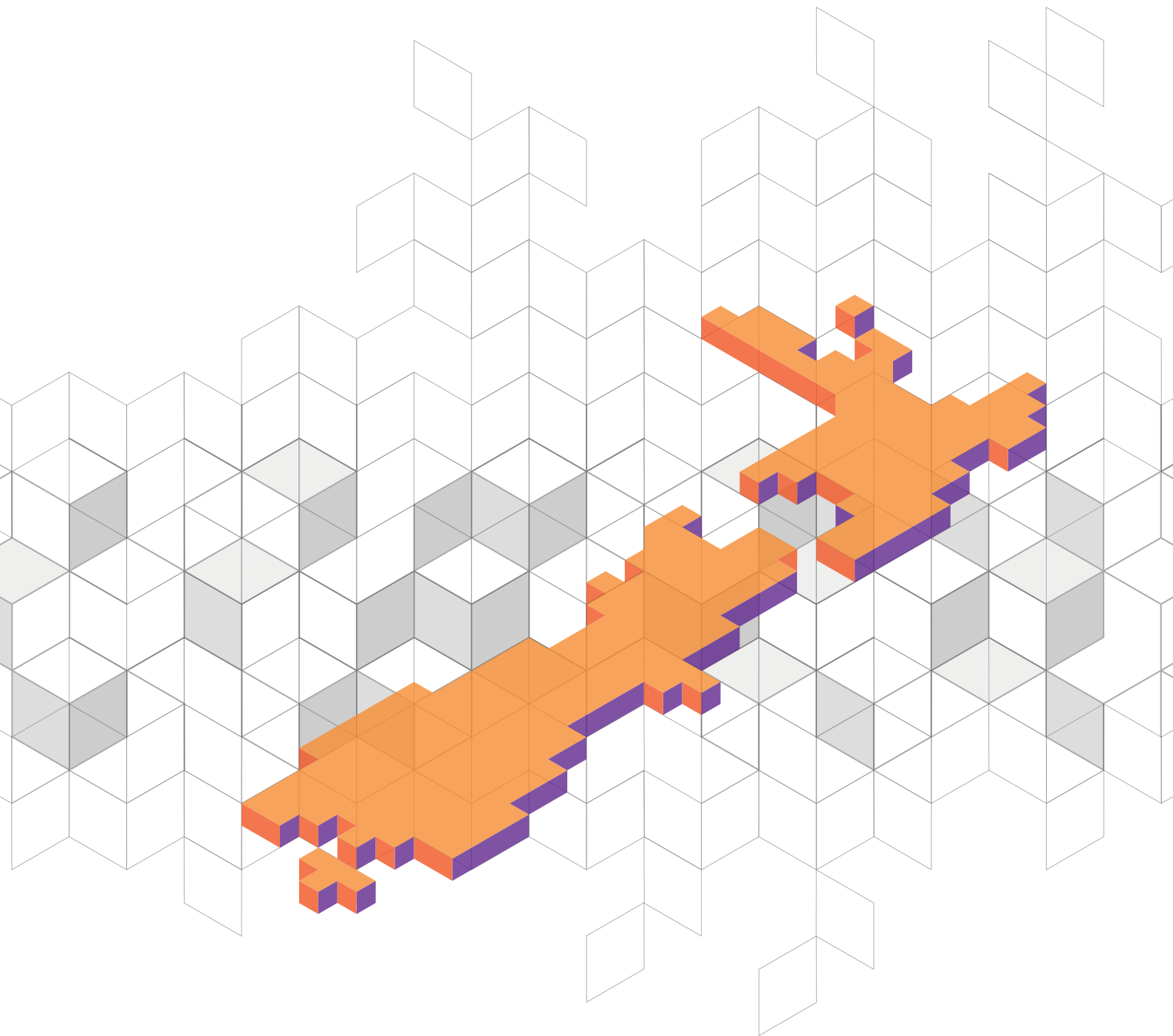


September 2023

The Deloitte and Chapman Tripp **Election Survey**

conducted by BusinessNZ



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Conducted by BusinessNZ, The Deloitte and Chapman Tripp Election Survey is the leading survey of business opinion for the 2023 General Election.

Each election, the surveyed views of businesses are compared with political parties' policies on issues such as tax, trade, investment, sustainability, and other policies important for business and the economy.

The comparison between business and party responses gives useful insights into the likely landscape for business and the economy after the election.

The 2023 Survey has attracted a high response rate from the business community with clear indications of opinion on important business issues.

The Survey provides exclusive information for the business voter not available from other sources.

We hope you find the report informative and of value for your business.



Kirk Hope
Chief Executive
BusinessNZ

About the Deloitte and Chapman Tripp Election Survey



Conducted by BusinessNZ, The Deloitte and Chapman Tripp Election Survey consisted of two related questionnaires.

The first surveyed BusinessNZ members, covering a broad range of business sizes, regions and industries. It attracted 876 responses, which is fewer than in 2020 (1193 responses), but more than in 2017 (575 responses).

The second invited the seven main political parties contesting this election to describe their policies across five areas of particular interest to business: the economy, sustainable investment and climate change, infrastructure, skills and human capital, and employment.

For reasons of space, their policy statements had to be reasonably short. Some responses have been updated from when we received them to incorporate new election policy announcements.

All percentages have been rounded up to the nearest whole number, and as a result not all totals are equal to 100%.

Document key

- 1** All questions directed at BusinessNZ members are on a grey background.

**Business question and response
from BusinessNZ Survey**

- 2** All questions directed at New Zealand's political parties are on white.

 ACT New Zealand

 Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand

 New Zealand Labour Party

 Māori Party

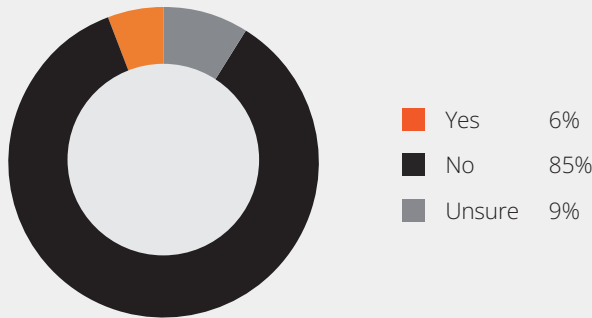
 New Zealand National Party

 New Zealand First


 The Opportunities Party

1 Economic environment


Given recent extreme events in New Zealand such as COVID and regional flooding, do you think the Government has a coordinated plan of action focused on raising New Zealand's economic performance?




1.1 Given recent extreme events in New Zealand such as COVID and regional flooding, do you think the Government has a coordinated plan of action focused on raising New Zealand's economic performance?

-
- 


No.

 - 


Without more ambitious progress on climate change there can be no effective plan of action for economic performance. We support coordinated plans for reducing emissions, adapting to a changing climate, and ensuring a just transition for workers as part of a sustainable approach to economic development.

 - 


Labour is strengthening the economy by investing in the basics for growth – skills, better infrastructure, export links, and science and technology.
Examples include the four new Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and the Research & Development (R&D) Tax Incentive, which is a key driver in taking total R&D expenditure over \$5b in 2022 – up 67% since 2016.

 - 


No. Governments over the last decade have claimed to have a coordinated plan focused on raising New Zealand's economic performance but have been unable to explain exactly what the plan entails or to point to any specific outcomes.

 - 

No. National will focus on strong economic management to solve the cost of living crisis, create jobs and lift incomes. This will include stopping wasteful government spending, delivering tax relief, cutting red tape, growing skills, driving technology and innovation, building infrastructure and encouraging trade and investment.

 - 

The Government has not revealed a coherent plan of action or indeed a sense of urgency, and it has too many working parties and ad hoc responses.

 - 

No.



Getting tougher and smarter on crime, ensuring deregulation and quality legislation through a Regulatory Standards Act and associated Ministry, legally defining the “principles of the Treaty of Waitangi” as what the Treaty actually says to draw a line in the sand of divisive co-government.



Tackling the unacceptable levels of inequality and environmental damage through fairer taxes, bolstering environmental protection, investing in people and innovation, and increasing investment in education and healthcare.



Labour is working to ease the cost of living pressure on families by providing targeted support that won't drive up inflation, such as cheaper childcare, free prescriptions and half-priced public transport.



Better concentration on the drivers of inequality and poverty.

Greater investment in qualitative and measurable performance indicators across health, welfare, education, justice and housing.



National will restore law and order and deliver better health services and higher education standards.

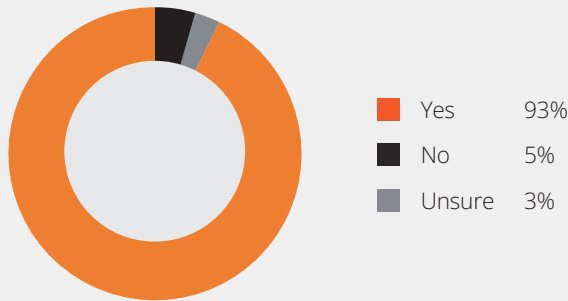


Institutional reform including Waka Kotahi, the energy sector, the size of the public sector and a reset of welfare policy to ensure we transition the maximum number of welfare recipients into work.



Building resilience.

Based on your experience of doing business over the past 3 years, have the changes made by Government increased the costs of doing business?



1.3

Do you have any plans to reduce the costs of doing business? If so, what are they?



Repeal FPAs.
Introduce a Regulatory Standards Act and a Ministry of Regulation dedicated to eliminating unnecessary red tape.



Promote a fair competitive environment for businesses.
Make it easier to invest in new technology and research, explore capital access options for new businesses and make compliance easier, especially for SMEs.
Make it easier for small businesses to meet their legal obligations.



The Government is developing opportunity for New Zealand businesses by negotiating easier access to overseas markets. The NZ-UK FTA will increase our annual GDP by up to \$1b.
Business Connect is a digital platform that will enable businesses to apply for licences or permits across different government agencies.



We need to upscale investigation units at Inland Revenue and the Serious Fraud Office to stop white collar corruption and to enlarge the Commerce Commission's capacity to bring down binding orders stopping market manipulation by the few against the many.



National will cut red tape and complex regulations that have added cost for business and have cut access to credit for small businesses.
We will repeal the so-called "Fair Pay" legislation.
We will introduce fast-tracked priority consenting for major infrastructure projects and fix rules holding back investment in renewable electricity.

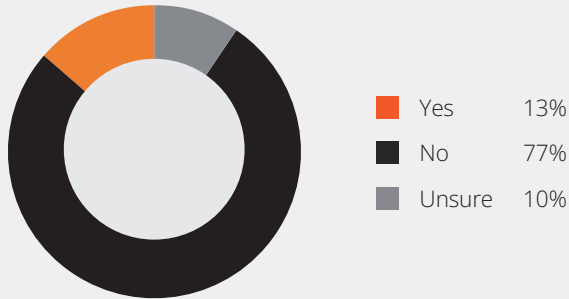


Increase the number of exemptions in the Building Act.
Enable the transport sector to choose their own path to decarbonisation.
Increase the capacity of the Transpower grid to incentivise further energy investments.
Deal to red tape impeding sound business and adding unnecessary costs.



Open to suggestions – accelerated depreciation, support for digital transformation, inward investment, smarter immigration.

If there were to be additional taxes or levies introduced, should they be targeted at those that have claimed the wage subsidy (e.g., a surcharge to repay the assistance provided - as earnings allow)?



1.4

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



Yes.



The Green Party has released its plan for a fairer tax system which will help redistribute wealth from those with the most to those with the least.



We are committed to a fair and equitable tax system in which everyone pays their fair share, as reflected in the recent alignment of the trustee tax rate to the top personal income tax rate.



Yes.



We support a broad-base low-rate tax system with few exemptions and a progressive personal income tax system.

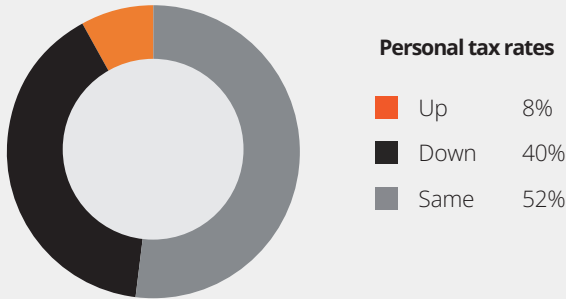


New Zealand First was founded on a principle of a simple and fair tax system and that New Zealanders should pay less tax in the long term.





Maybe.


What tax policy settings, if any, would you support changing to address the fiscal challenges COVID-19 and recent weather events have caused?





1.5a What is your tax policy in relation to: personal taxes (both rates and thresholds)?


- 


Personal tax rates will be gradually lowered to a two-rate system (17.5% up to \$70,000, 28% above \$70,000).
- 

Introduce a new tax-free threshold so that no-one has to pay tax on the first \$10,000 of their income.
Tax income over \$180,000 at 45%.
Index tax brackets and adjust them every three years for inflation.
- 

Labour will increase the in-work tax credit from \$72.50 to \$97.50 from 1 April 2024.
- 

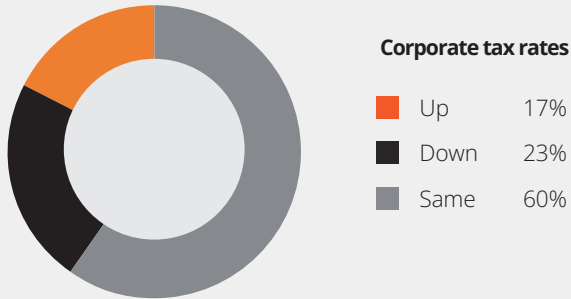
All tax rates will align to 33%.
The first \$30,000 of income earned on incomes of under \$70,000 a year will be tax-free.
- 

National's full tax plan will be released prior to the election.
It will include indexation, cuts that will ensure the average wage earner is \$960 a year better off, and a Family Boost tax rebate of up to \$75 a week toward childcare costs.
- 








Adjust tax rate thresholds "sympathetically". Bring them back to the intent behind them when they were first imposed.
- 

A tax-free threshold of \$15,000.
Five new brackets to replace the current tax thresholds.

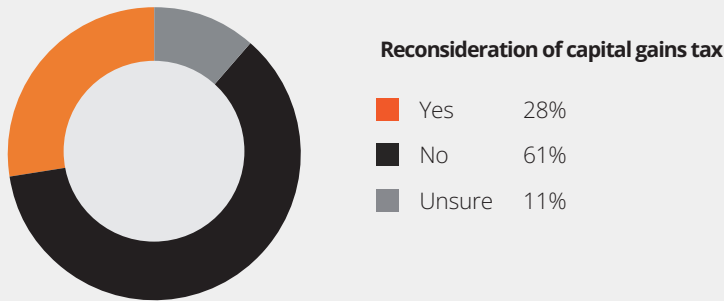
What tax policy settings, if any, would you support changing to address the fiscal challenges COVID-19 and recent weather events have caused?



1.5b What is your tax policy in relation to: corporate tax rate?

-  No change.
-  The Green party will return the corporate tax rate to 33%.
-  Our full tax policy will be released before the election.
-  33%.
-  National wants businesses to grow and thrive in New Zealand. That means that, over time, we want their tax obligations to decrease.
-  No response.
-  No response.

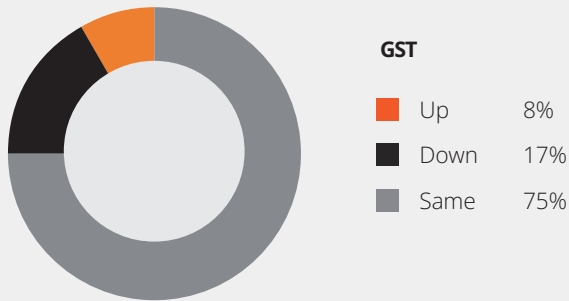
What tax policy settings, if any, would you support changing to address the fiscal challenges COVID-19 and recent weather events have caused?



1.5c What is your tax policy in relation to: capital gains tax?

-  Opposes a capital gains tax (CGT).
-  A comprehensive tax on inflation-adjusted capital gains at the time of realization, but this is not a campaign priority for 2023.
-  Labour has ruled out any form of wealth or capital gains tax this election.
-  33%, which aligns to a flat tax structure.
-  National is opposed to a capital gains tax.
-  New Zealand First has never supported a capital gains tax.
-  A land value tax at 0.75% of the value of urban residential land, paid annually.

What tax policy settings, if any, would you support changing to address the fiscal challenges COVID-19 and recent weather events have caused?




1.5d What is your tax policy in relation to: GST?

- 


The GST system is elegant in its simplicity. ACT would avoid making any changes to its structure.
- 

The Green Party is not proposing any changes to GST as a priority this election.
- 

Labour will remove GST on fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables from 1 April 2024.
- 

GST to be removed from all food items.
- 

We believe the current GST settings are largely correct.
We would reverse the 'app tax' which removes the GST exemption for app-based businesses earning less than \$60,000 a year.
- 

New Zealand First has never supported increases in GST.
- 

No response.

What tax policy settings, if any, would you support changing to address the fiscal challenges COVID-19 and recent weather events have caused?



Wealth tax


Yes	18%
No	67%
Unsure	15%





Windfall tax


Yes	12%
No	70%
Unsure	18%


1.5e What is your tax policy in relation to: wealth taxes?


- 


Opposes a wealth tax.
- 

A 2.5% wealth tax on net assets (e.g., properties and shares) worth more than \$4m for couples, \$2m for individuals after mortgages and other debts are deducted.
- 

Labour has ruled out any form of wealth or capital gains tax this election.
- 

- 0% net wealth under \$2million will not be taxed.
 - 2% tax rate for net wealth over \$2million.
 - 4% tax rate for net wealth over \$5million.
 - 8% tax rate for net wealth over \$10million.
- 

National is opposed to a wealth tax – including for properties held in trust.
- 

New Zealand First has never supported a wealth tax.
- 

No response.

1.5f

What is your tax policy in relation to: the trust tax rate?



ACT does not have an explicit policy to change the trust tax rate but takes the position that income, corporate and trust tax rates should be aligned.



1.5% tax on all assets held in private trusts so people cannot avoid the Green Party's wealth tax.



The trustee tax rate will be aligned with the top personal tax rate of 39% from April 2024.



33%.



National's full tax plan will be released prior to the election.

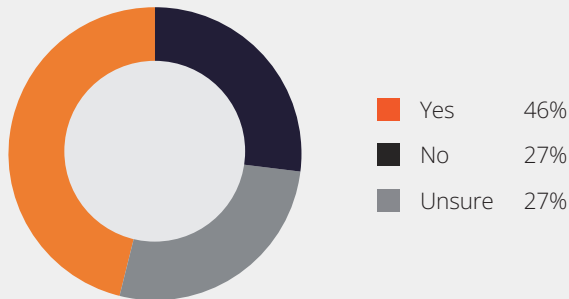


No response.



No response.

Would accelerated depreciation deductions positively influence your business decisions to invest in new, productivity-enhancing assets?



1.5g

What is your tax policy in relation to: accelerated depreciation deductions?



ACT does not have a policy on accelerated depreciation deductions.



The Green Party is not proposing any changes on accelerated depreciation deductions as a priority this election.



Labour's full tax policy will be released before the election.



33%.



National's full tax plan will be released prior to the election.

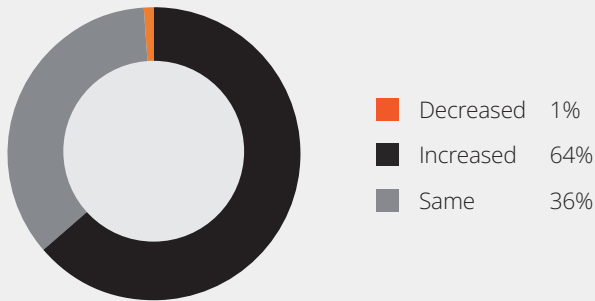


Introduce a robust depreciation schedule.

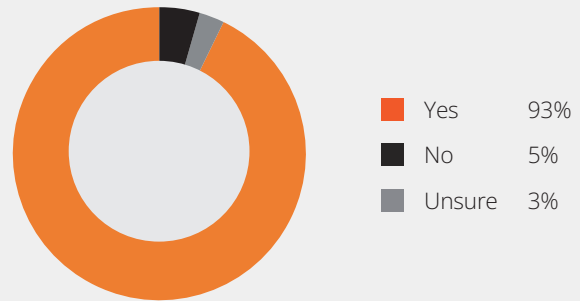


TOP would support accelerated depreciation deductions.

Over the last three years, have your tax compliance costs increased, decreased or stayed the same?



Based on your experience of doing business over the past three years, have the changes made by Government increased the costs of doing business?



1.6 Do you believe the Government should look to partner more with the private sector to help drive down the compliance costs associated with tax?

act/ ACT supports working with the private sector to drive down compliance costs across the board.

Green The Green Party supports changes to the tax system to ensure that compliance becomes simpler over time.

Labour Yes.

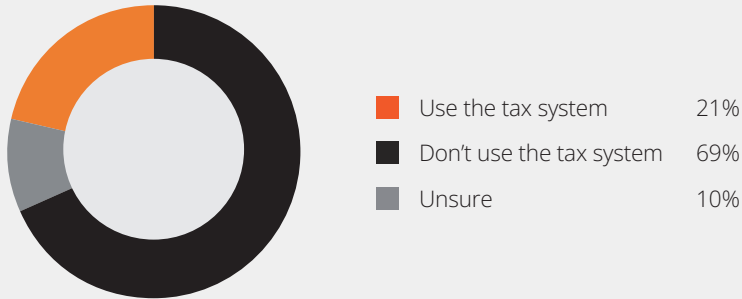
māori
PARTY

National Any agreement would have to come on a case-by-case basis.

NEW ZEALAND FIRST Yes, in cases where there is a high level of trust and a proven track record.

TOP. Sure. The tax system should be as fair and efficient as possible.

Do you believe the tax system should be used to deliver wider social outcomes (e.g., increased R&D, uptake of electric vehicles), or should other methods be used first?



1.7

Do you believe the tax system should be used to deliver wider social outcomes (e.g., increased R&D, uptake of electric vehicles), or should other methods be used first?



ACT is generally opposed to using the tax system to achieve such objectives. We prefer a simple, low rate, broad base tax system allowing individuals and businesses to make their own investments with their own money.



The tax system is one lever available to Government to deliver positive social outcomes and should be considered alongside other options where appropriate.



Yes. Good examples are the R&D Tax incentive which is supporting \$1.6b of business investment and the Clean Car policies that have helped drive a 70% increase in EVs since 2021.



We would prefer that wider social outcomes were not loaded into a tax system but to be expensed more overtly budget by budget post receipt of tax.



National supports the use of other tools to promote economic and social outcomes, but occasionally the tax system is the most efficient vehicle to deliver other policy goals.



With a suitable depreciation schedule, the tax system can be used to increase productivity and to assist a shift to less carbon intensive capital assets and more efficient equipment in sectors such as transport and fisheries.



Yes, tax policy is a tool, like monetary policy. Pricing externalities would also help (i.e., ETS).

1.8

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



The system is unsustainable as it is. ACT would gradually increase the age of superannuation to 67 years at a rate of two months per year, starting in 2023/24.



The Green Party will maintain universal superannuation for New Zealanders 65 years and older.



Labour is committed to keeping the age of eligibility at 65. To ensure this, we have resumed contributions to the New Zealand Super Fund and delivered a significant boost to superannuation payments.



We require National Superannuation ages to be dropped commensurate with the earlier average death rate of Māori.



Our plan will gradually increase the age of eligibility to 67, with adjustments not beginning until 2044. This change wouldn't affect anyone born before 1979.



New Zealand First continues to support the current age of eligibility without means testing.



None, though overseas private pensions should be treated as normal taxable income.

1.9

What changes (if any) do you propose for KiwiSaver, Working for Families and interest-free student loans?



KiwiSaver subsidies would be targeted at lower income earners, with the \$521.43 maximum decreasing starting from an income of \$48,000, approaching zero by around \$65,000.



The Green Party's Income Guarantee will provide parents or caregivers with up to \$215 every week for the first child, and \$135 a week for every other child – with an abatement threshold of \$60,000 and an abatement rate of 18%.

Students would receive \$385 a week while studying.

The Green Party would also:

- Explore options to introduce a debt write-off scheme for student loans.
- Adjust the repayment thresholds, and introduce a progressive repayment scheme.
- Lengthen the repayment holiday for overseas borrowers.



Recent changes include:

- A 3% contribution to the KiwiSaver accounts of paid parental leave recipients who maintain their own contributions.
- Increases from 1 April this year to Working for Families Tax Credits.
- A commitment to increase student support rates in line with inflation.



None.



National has no planned changes to entitlements in these areas.



No changes – other than to student loans, which will be announced during the election campaign.



Some shifts in welfare rules and TOP is open to reduction in student loan repayment amounts.

1.10

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



In principle, yes.



The Green Party recognises that iwi, local government, communities, civil society and business will be key partners in combatting, responding and adapting to the impacts of climate change.



Labour currently has no plans to do this.



Yes.



National wants councils focused on the essentials, so the burden on ratepayers is lower, and local government operates more efficiently.



Local government should have a limited and focussed remit. It is critical to deliver timely RMA consents and infrastructure resilience, and to contribute to growth in the added value, IT, and export sectors.



Local government should focus on delivering core public services.

1.11

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



Yes.



The Green Party supports a resource rental for the commercial use of water (such as for irrigation) with revenue directed to restoration and sustainable water management.

Alongside this would be education programmes to encourage water conservation by all water users.

We support road user charges covering a greater proportion of road maintenance (including higher charges for heavy vehicles).



Yes.



None.



National's Local Water Done Well plan will use the Commerce Commission to set new rules for water services management, including making sure they price appropriately and manage their assets well.

The test for National is revenue sufficiency, meaning these services fund themselves without taking revenue from other areas.

We won't mandate a specific pricing model as that's a decision for communities and their councils.



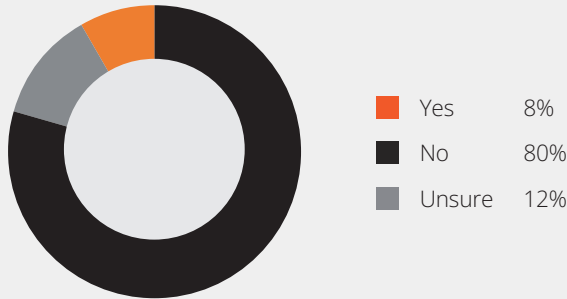
Of course there should be strict commercial discipline, and user charges should reflect efficient delivery and economical use.

We will release policies later on utility users' charges. Our view is that homes and businesses are already paying too much.





Yes.


Do you believe region-focused delivery of Three Waters services by new public sector entities that are separate from territorial local authorities will bring about the types of economic gains that the Government has outlined?





1.12 Do you support the current Three Waters (Affordable Water) proposals?


- 


No.
- 

We are pleased that the Government has increased the number of water entities to ensure a closer connection with communities they serve.
But we still have significant concerns that the current proposals don't do enough to guarantee public ownership and protect nature.
The failure to separate stormwater management is another missed opportunity.
- 

Yes. The cost of fixing our broken water infrastructure is estimated at \$185b over the next 30 years.
Local councils cannot afford this on their own, and households in some areas could see rates rise up to \$9,730 per year by 2054 if we do nothing.
- 

No because Maori ownership rights and entitlements have yet to be determined.
- 

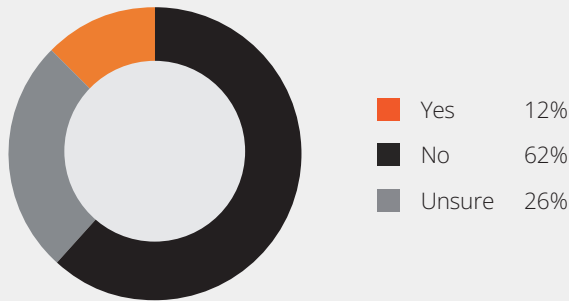
No. Labour's policy is just "Three Waters" under a new name, with the same asset confiscation, broken governance and bureaucratic centralisation.
We will repeal Labour's Three Waters and return assets to local hands.
- 

No. It is a racist Trojan Horse masquerading as a solution. And the fiscals behind it have already be thrown into serious question.
- 

No. Instead:

 - Maintain Crown funding through Crown Infrastructure Partners.
 - Create a national 30 year water infrastructure strategy, funded via 30 year infrastructure bonds issued by the Crown.
 - Set up a Ministry of Water Works to commission and oversee the infrastructure upgrades required.
 - Create an Alliance Contracting Model to work on rolling 10 year delivery plans building on the SCIRT and Watercare models.
 - Ensure iwi interests in water are addressed at the local level.

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



1.13

What policies do you have regarding attracting (or limiting) foreign investment into New Zealand?



ACT would, by default, allow foreign direct investment from OECD countries.



The Green Party encourages foreign investment in research and development in line with New Zealand's strategic priorities. Any overseas investment in New Zealand, however, should meet stringent conditions to be approved by the appropriate government authority.



Labour has secured four FTAs and upgraded existing agreements with Singapore, China and ASEAN member states. FTAs now cover almost 75% of New Zealand's exports, up from less than 50% six years ago. We will continue to support New Zealand businesses to expand into new markets by doing whatever we can to open doors and clear trade roadblocks.



We support foreign investment provided there is financial transfer tax – e.g., the Australian banks paying 2c in the dollar for every dollar transferred away from their New Zealand owned banking concerns. We also believe that foreigners should be able to take long-term leasehold positions in our whenua, but not freehold it.



We will release our full economic policy prior to the election.

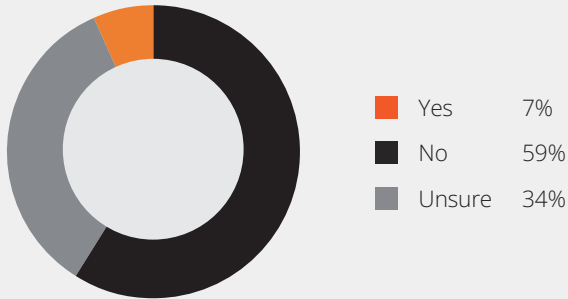


New Zealand First supports foreign investment in New Zealand but staunchly opposes foreign ownership of key strategic assets. We have always seen Singapore as the model on issues of investment and savings. Any further policies will be made available during the campaign.





Would support a much more liberal framework for allowing foreign direct investment.


Do you believe the legislation replacing the Resource Management Act (RMA) will satisfactorily support economic development while also protecting and restoring the environment?





1.14 Do you support the proposed changes to the Resource Management Act?


- 


ACT has released a policy to replace the RMA which puts property rights and local decision-making at the centre.
- 

We supported the Natural and Built Environments Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill, to the Select Committee but will continue to push for improvements to ensure that nature and the climate are at the heart of the system.
- 

Yes. The new resource management system will better protect the environment while cutting red tape, lowering costs and shortening the time it takes to approve new homes and key infrastructure projects. It is expected to cut costs to users by 19%.
- 

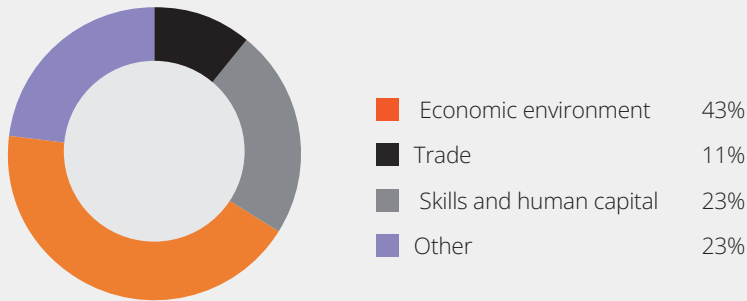
Yes.
- 

No. We will repeal Labour's RMA replacement Bills by Christmas 2023.
- 

No. New Zealand First does not support the expansion of Treaty references in the new legislation or the inclusion of spiritual beliefs in water management.
- 

No idea.

Overall, which is currently most important for achieving sustained economic growth?



1.15 What do you consider the single most important government-related issue?

- 

The three Cs of crime, cost of living and co-government.
- 

Human-induced climate change.
- 

Bread and butter issues like the cost of living, education, health, housing and keeping communities and businesses safe.
- 

Poor procurement and oversight of multiple expenditure across the whole of government.
- 

The most important task of any government is to deliver a strong economy.
- 

The high cost of living, law and order, and real productivity. Preserving democracy and promoting national unity.
- 

Long-term infrastructure investment.

2 Sustainable investment and climate change

2.1 What changes (if any) would you make to the current ban on new offshore oil and gas exploration?



Reverse the ban.



The Green Party would strengthen the ban by also prohibiting extensions to existing permits and new fossil fuel extraction on land as well as offshore.



Alongside the ban, Labour is supporting the move to renewable energy. Initiatives include: the NZ Battery project; a \$650m investment to phase out the use of oil fired industrial boilers; a renewable energy regime to enable offshore wind projects; and updating the National Policy Statement on Renewable Energy Generation.



None.



National will reverse the ban and support the transition to sustainable and renewable energy by making it easier to build renewable energy generation.



New Zealand First will make announcements on this matter during the campaign.



We should be going full-bore on renewable energy. If people still want to explore and pay for the privilege, then fine.



A Regulatory Standards Act, liberalising our overseas investment rules, increasing choice and competition in our education system with Partnership Schools and Student Education Accounts, repealing Fair Pay Agreements (FPAs) to reduce costs and lower compliance hurdles, liberalising genetic engineering and genetic modification law to enable innovative biotech, and many more.



We plan to significantly increase investment into research, science and technology focused on greening the economy. We will also collaborate with the private sector to capitalise on the growing international market for clean and sustainable technology and knowledge-intensive innovation, and build local capacity to participate and lead internationally.



Please refer to the answer in question 2.4.



Trialling tax-free zones in regard to start ups. Supporting the SME start up sector with two years tax-free status excluding PAYE, GST.



We will remove red tape and regulatory restrictions that discourage entrepreneurship and innovation – for example, by ending the effective ban on gene technologies in New Zealand and by not imposing any new capital gains tax. Our full policy will be released prior to the election.

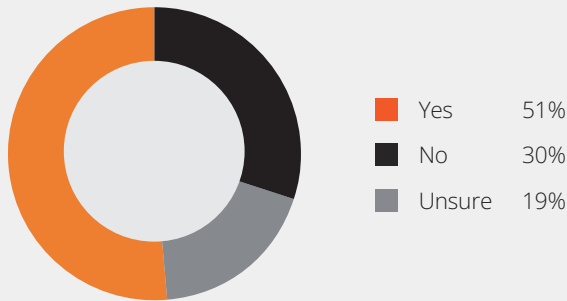


We will make taxation announcements that focus on the rapid utilisation of IT, added value, and productivity incentivisation supported by a wise depreciation regime.



Digital grants, increased R&D investment, accelerated depreciation, talent visas.

Do you believe New Zealand needs to increase its investment in adaption to climate change?



2.3

Do you believe New Zealand needs to increase its investment in adaption to climate change?



Yes. ACT believes climate change spending should be focused on adaptation rather than mitigation.



We supported the Natural and Built Environments Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill, to the Select Committee but will continue to push for improvements to ensure that nature and the climate are at the heart of the system.



Budget 2023 allocated \$6b in initial funding for a National Resilience Plan for infrastructure. The Government also released New Zealand's first Emissions Reduction Plan in May last year.



Yes.



New Zealand will need to invest more in future-proofed infrastructure to ensure we can meet the adaptation challenge. National will work in good faith to make sure that cost is appropriately distributed.



Yes. New Zealand First was already doing this with the allocations from the Provincial Growth Fund to adaptation initiatives.



Yes, this is a national security issue.

What should Government do to support sustainable business practice in New Zealand?



2.4

What policies do you have regarding enhancing sustainable business practices?



ACT believes it is up to business leaders to make their own decisions about sustainability.



The Green Party envisions a New Zealand economy that is both economically viable and environmentally and socially sustainable, where businesses are supported to adopt sustainability as a core value.

The Green Investment Fund.

Mandatory public disclosure of climate-related risks and opportunities.



The Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Fund.

Government investment in the Decarbonising Industry Fund.

The product stewardship programme to support the recovery and reuse of raw materials from end-of-life products.



Polluters should be dealt with through the criminal justice system. Carbon emission schemes are fraught with political manipulation and/or market manipulation.



We supported legislation requiring emissions reporting for listed companies.

We need to lower compliance costs and allow businesses involved in sustainable development to innovate and grow.

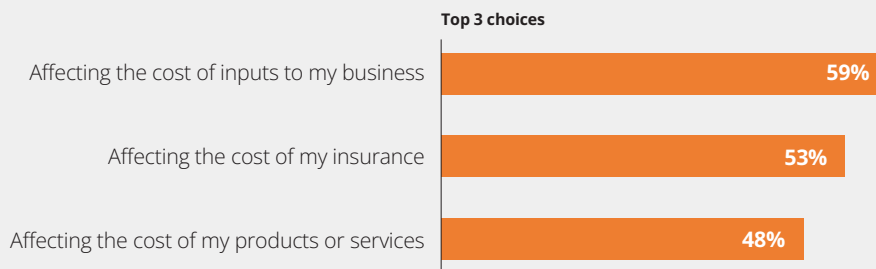


New Zealand First will be making announcements during the election campaign.



Stop talking and start doing. Invest in climate resilience and pay the true cost of production.

How is climate change impacting your business?



2.5

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



ACT believes climate change spending should be focused on adaptation rather than mitigation.



The Green Party envisions a New Zealand in which Government at all levels, iwi, communities, industry, and research institutions are aligned and collaborate in taking urgent, informed and sustained action to decrease and manage the adverse effects of global climate change.



We will be making further announcements in our election manifesto.



Add polluters to the criminal code.



National supports the emissions targets, the emissions reduction budgets and the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) as the key delivery mechanism.

We will work to ensure the ETS is credible and effective.

National's Electrify NZ policy will turbo-charge new renewable power projects by requiring consenting decisions to be issued within one year of the application being received and consents to last for 35 years.

We will tackle agricultural emissions by reversing the effective ban on gene technology and by working with industry to maintain investments in science and research.

Our full policy will be released prior to the election.



Greater focus on all aspects of adaptation including water storage, floodgates, and marine infrastructure.

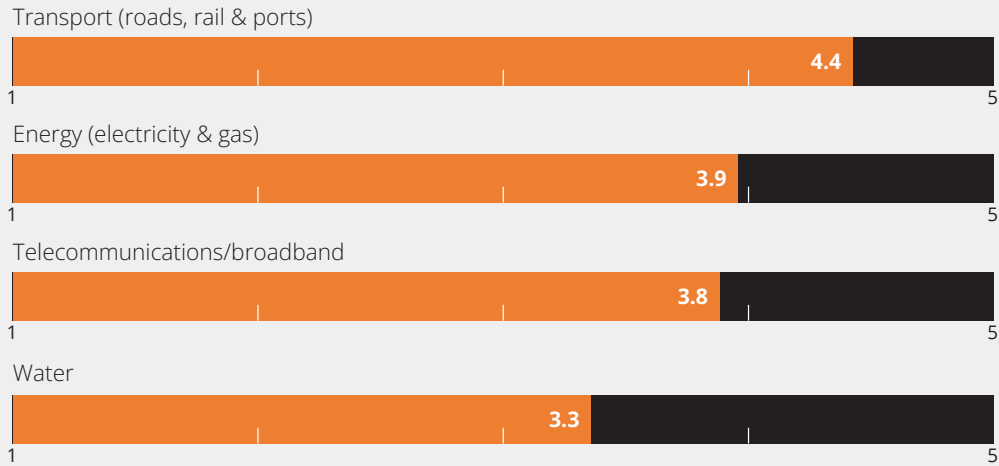
We are opposed to international purchases of carbon credits which will remove billions of dollars from our economy.




Go faster on decarbonisation, future proof supply chains and develop a national resilience plan that can be implemented.


3 Infrastructure

Please rank each of the following types of New Zealand's infrastructures in terms of which has the most potential to contribute to New Zealand's business growth:




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

- 


Infrastructure resilience, potholes and road quality.
- 

Our infrastructure priorities are:


 - Public housing as a public good.
 - Investment in rail, active transport, electric vehicles and public transport.
 - An equitable, affordable and climate resilient energy system..
- 

We have a \$71b infrastructure pipeline over the next five years.

Reform of the resource management system.

The National Resilience Plan, with initial funding of \$6b.
- 

Increase support for off grid capacity: e.g., capture of rainwater, solar power, wind power.


Increase the efficiency of infrastructure and capital projects by opening major contracts offshore.
- 

A National Infrastructure Agency to coordinate government funding, connect domestic and offshore investors, and improve procurement and delivery.


Innovative funding and financing tools to create investment opportunities for ACC, the NZ Super Fund and KiwiSaver funds.

National, City and Regional Deals to partner with local government to create long-term pipelines of regional projects.

A fast-track consents process.

A 30 year infrastructure pipeline to deliver long-term certainty.
- 

Ongoing investment in rail, prioritising roading maintenance and increasing marine infrastructure, including a drydock facility in Marsden Point.

Converting waste into energy using the latest available technology.
- 

A 30 year infrastructure plan, updated every five years, with a focus on water, energy, housing and transport.

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



ACT would create an environment where investment could be made with more confidence, extending consent terms for hydro schemes, enabling gas generation to be used to meet peak demand.



The Green Party envisions a New Zealand in which:

- All reasonable needs for energy services are reliably and affordably met from renewable energy.
- There is much smarter use of energy.
- All New Zealanders are involved in decisions about energy and take responsibility for using it sustainably.



The significance of renewable electricity will have more weight in the RMA process to better enable community-scale renewable projects, as well as large-scale wind and solar.

More baseload generation will be needed to complement the intermittent nature of many renewables, which is why we're moving forward with the New Zealand Battery project.



Accelerate our shift to renewables..



National's Electrify NZ policy will turbo-charge investment in renewable generation.

National will also streamline upgrades to existing infrastructure.



To effect resilience outcomes, we will invest in rural grid infrastructure.

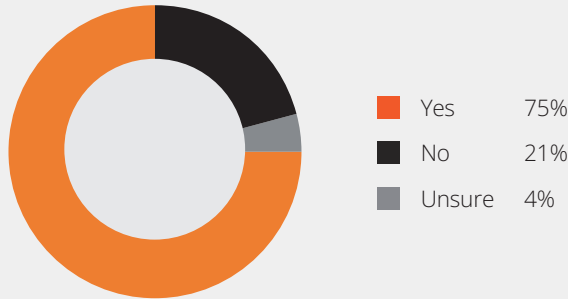
We will simplify the statutory processes for energy developments such as geothermal, wind, and solar.

We will support initiatives such as waste to energy, biofuels, and geothermal.



Decarbonise and build local resilience.

Is the cost of energy a concern for your business in the future?



3.3

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



Yes, if infrastructure development continues to be stifled by prohibitive red tape.

ACT would reform the RMA to make it significantly easier to undertake major infrastructure projects, allowing the energy market to respond to increased demand.

In the medium term, ACT acknowledges that gas generation will be necessary to meet peak demand.



The Green Party has worked hard since we entered Government to expand the Winter Energy Payment and extend the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme.

We will accelerate the generation of renewable energy and encourage more options for consumers to manage their energy demand.

We will reform the electricity market structure to encourage competition among generators and retailers in order to bring down prices.



We are always concerned about keeping the cost of living manageable for Kiwis. Energy initiatives include:

- The Winter Energy Payment to help those on the lowest incomes and super annuitants with their energy bills.
- The New Zealand Energy Strategy to support the transition to a low carbon economy, including by increasing renewable generation.



We are able to keep ahead here if we continue to invest in renewables, including more efficient use of our hydro power.



National is concerned about rising energy costs. Since 2017 industrial electricity and gas prices have risen 48% and 89% respectively.

The solution is open competition and investment in energy supply subject to credible and competent regulation.

Our Electrify NZ policy will drive significant new investment in renewable energy to ensure we have what we need to grow the economy.

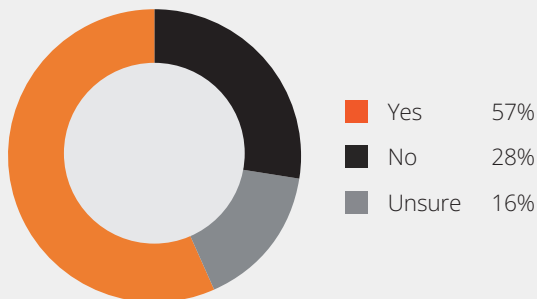


We seek to restore the competitive advantage New Zealand once had in energy prices and will facilitate supply by clearing regulatory hurdles

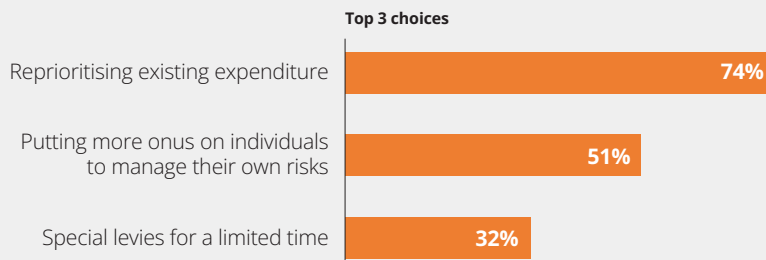


Improve efficiency and security of domestic supply.


Do you think there should be increased user pays charges to help fund infrastructure build?




Which of the following options should future investment required to address natural disasters be largely funded from?




3.4 What are your party's preferred options for funding future investments that address natural disasters?

- 


Public-private partnerships are generally ACT's preferred funding vehicle for major investments.
- 


Initiate a cross-party dialogue on the appropriate means of financing recovery from major natural disasters so that there is an established policy framework in place.

Support the use of the full range of fiscal and monetary tools available to government, including a progressive temporary surcharge on income tax.


Ensure that recovery financing supports and enhances the transition to a smart, fair and sustainable economy.
- 

The Government has set aside an initial \$6b to build back better after the Auckland floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. It has also published the Infrastructure Action Plan and the National Adaptation Plan.


The Infrastructure Commission has been asked to prepare guidance to ensure that the financing tool is right for the project.
- 

We have to ensure that our building and construction methodologies are robust against extreme weather events and that our national balance sheet is strong enough to carry the cost.
- 

New Zealand needs a framework to assign decisions and costs that is supported by a consensus and applied consistently. Property owners and their insurers should be responsible in the first instance for protecting properties.

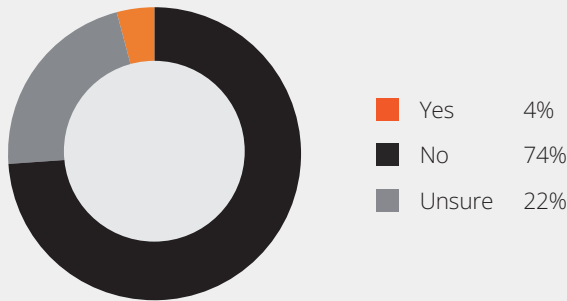
Local and central government should provide information and step in to prevent hardship in the aftermath of disasters. National will speed the response by cutting red tape.
- 

New Zealand First prefers a dedicated climate resilience capital fund that is financed from the ETS.

This would be supported by a focus on all aspects of adaptation including water storage, floodgates, and marine infrastructure.
- 

From the Crown balance sheet, with private capital where needed and suitable.

Does the Government have the balance of infrastructure spending right? (i.e., spending on big projects compared to smaller projects/spending too much in one region and not others):



3.5

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

act / Yes.

Green Major infrastructure services that deliver essential public services such as energy and water should exist for the public good, not for profit. The Green Party prioritises Māori, community and public ownership over private profit.

Labour We are open to alternative funding and financing tools, such as public-private partnerships (PPPs) and congestion charging however our current policy precludes PPPs in health, education, and corrections.

māori PARTY Yes.

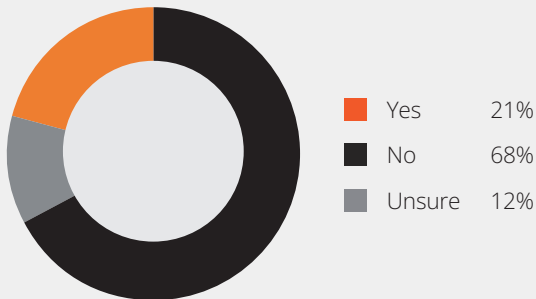
National Yes.

NEW ZEALAND FIRST New Zealand First has been reluctant to support PPPs in the past, where KPIs have not been met, but would not rule them out if there was accountable public oversight before and after establishment.

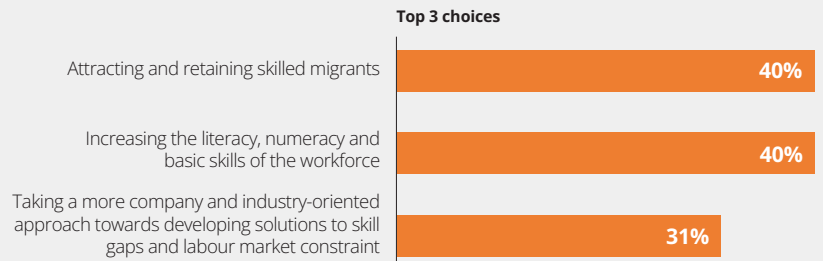
TOP. See 3.4.

4 Skills and human capital

Do you think compulsory education is setting up young people with the skills they need to succeed in the future?



Which of the following skills and human capital issues should Government focus on?



4.1

What policies does your party have to ensure the education sector is doing enough to deliver the skills – both technical and soft – needed by the business community?



School choice, charter schools, mandatory digital attendance reporting to keep track of where truancy is rife, penalties and truancy officers to correct problems where needed. More to be announced in the run-up to election.



The Green Party will widen the teaching of practical and social life skills in primary and secondary schools. We will also facilitate good relationships between schools, local businesses, and tertiary educators to ensure that students are aware of, and able to pursue, a wide range of post-school options.



The Budget is responding to pressures in the tertiary sector and moving forward with our Tertiary Education Strategy. We know when we invest in New Zealanders, they have greater opportunities to prosper, provide for their families, and contribute to our nation's success and ongoing economic security.



We need to vary our educational model by investing in a range of alternative educational campuses and processes. Many schools are not digitally empowered and lack the required teaching capacity. Home schooling will increase, requiring increased investment in distance education.



Our Teaching the Basics Brilliantly Policy sees:

- An hour each day on reading, writing, and maths.
- Minimum requirements for what schools must teach every year in reading, writing, maths and science.
- Regular standardised assessment to ensure progress is being made and clearly reported to parents.
- Better training and more tools to support teachers.

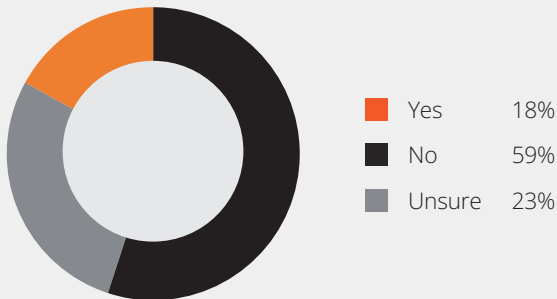


New Zealand First has been supportive of initiatives that focus on vocational pathways to match education inputs to skills required by both employees and employers.

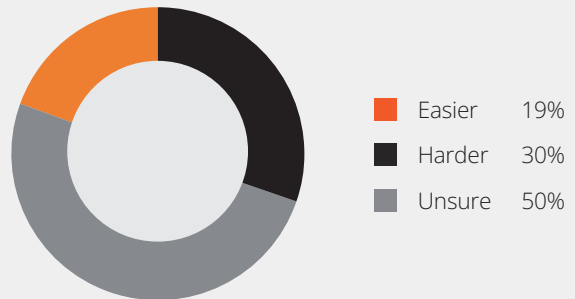


No response.

Do you have confidence in getting the skills needed for your business under current immigration settings?



Does the new Accredited Employer Assisted Visa system provide access to the international skills you need? (for those who use immigration):



4.2

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



ACT would make it significantly easier to bring skilled labour into New Zealand to meet requirements.



The Green Party will give priority to skills needed to build a low-carbon economy that lifts living standards. We will also provide greater support for migrants and refugees to gain New Zealand credentials and employment in their chosen field.



Please refer to answer 1 in 'employment environment'.



There can be no business case for dodgy short term immigration programmes that gouge out the rights for which Kiwi citizens have fought so long. These conditions must exist for all migrant workers.



National will ensure the immigration system plugs the skills shortages in the private sector while ensuring New Zealanders get the first opportunity to fill job vacancies. We will ensure that Immigration New Zealand mitigates migrant exploitation risk by proper verification of applicants.

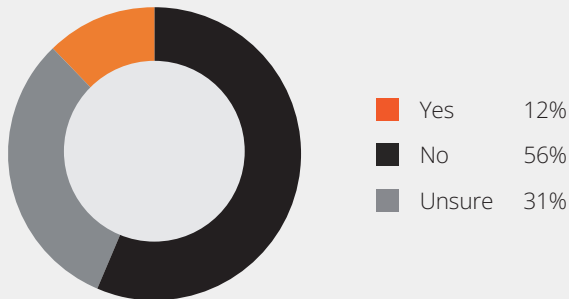


It is important that our own people are trained and incentivised to meet the needs of our labour market and that skills gaps are filled by a focused immigration policy, not indiscriminate mass immigration.



Improve the Accredited Employer Scheme.

Do you think the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE) will improve the access, quality and relevance of vocational skills in New Zealand? (for those who have heard of RoVE)



4.3

What are your policies to make vocational education, technical and trades training a more attractive study option?



ACT supports the full or partial privatisation of polytechnics to allow them to make independent decisions in response to market requirements.



The Green Party will increase support for apprenticeships and trade training, including through Trades Academies. We would also review current funding to tertiary institutions and increase resources to provide meaningful training to the unemployed and the underemployed.



Labour has been single minded in our focus of keeping New Zealanders in work and training during the COVID-19 economic shock. Budget 2023 extends the Apprenticeship Boost initiative to an estimated 30,000 apprentices to start or continue receiving support.



These vocations need to be affirmed, not demonised in favour of an academic qualification.



National believes more needs to be done to attract students into STEM subjects and make vocational education a more attractive option. We will reverse the Government's disastrous polytechnic mega-merger. Polytechs connected to their communities and businesses know what knowledge and skills are most relevant.



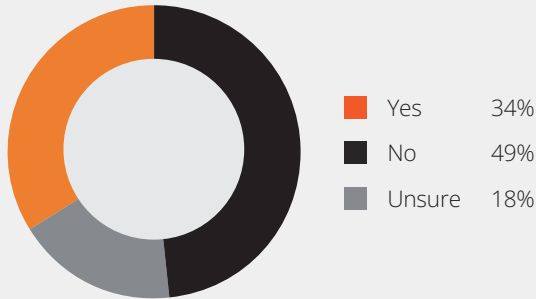
New Zealand First supports free trade training through employer subsidies. We need much more of it.



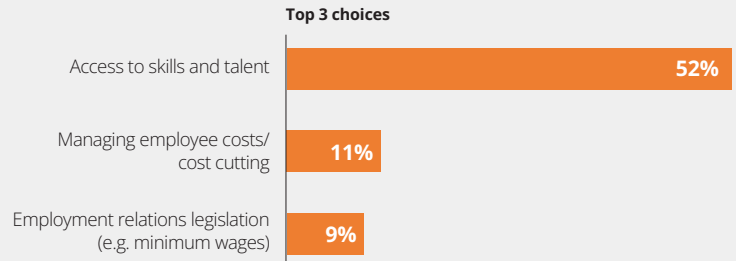
Clear pathways for all children leaving school with funding for vocational training.

5 Employment environment

Over the next 5-10 years, do you believe there will be significant impacts on the size and composition of your workforce as a result of emerging technology (i.e. artificial intelligence (AI)/robotics)?



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



5.1

What major changes, if any, would you introduce to address the possible significant impacts on the size and composition of New Zealand's workforce as a result of emerging technology (AI/robotics etc.)?



ACT is not proposing any specific policies in this area but would respond to issues as they arise.



The transition to a low emissions economy, combined with ongoing technological disruption, will require active policies to protect the interests of working people.

The Green Party is committed to encouraging a shift towards job creation in sectors that are socially and ecologically sustainable.



The immigration policy rebalance has been designed to ensure that immigration is responsive to changes in global and local workforce trends.

In addition to this, we monitor settings regularly to ensure they are fit for purpose, including in the face of emerging technologies such as AI.



We are Te Pāti Māori not Jesus Christ.



We need to ensure Kiwis are equipped to deal with future changes in workforce requirements – including being able to upskill during their career.

Key to this is a strong tertiary education sector – which is why National will reverse the centralisation of the polytechs.

More broadly, National will focus on strong economic management to both create jobs and lift incomes.



New Zealand First believes that the emergence of new technology, AI, and robotics, will lead to more employment opportunities not fewer.



Start planning for a universal basic income and a more flexible work environment.

Do you support the introduction of an Income Insurance Scheme? If yes/no, for what reason(s)?



No. Those on the median wage would be little better off under the scheme as proposed than they would be on the benefit while facing a significant extra tax burden.



The Greens first priority is welfare reform.

If an Income Insurance Scheme is introduced, our focus will be on ensuring it is equitable for low wage and insecure workers, and those who become unable to work due to a health condition or disability.



The proposed social insurance scheme is off the table for now. We will need to see a significant improvement in economic conditions before anything is advanced.



Poorer and more vulnerable workers who do not have the income to purchase private income insurance need cover. It is as simple as that.



No. This scheme would be another cost on business that will put pressure on prices, and it would make a typical worker \$834 worse off every year. National believes pressure should be taken off businesses and workers, not piled on.

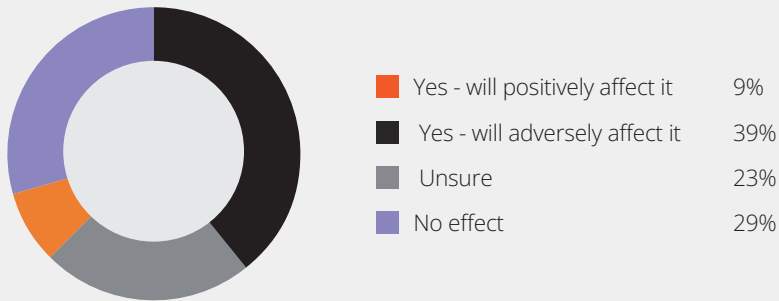


No. Our focus is on rapid retraining and the concept of a community wage.



No response.

Will Fair Pay Agreements affect your business/sector in the future?



5.3

Do you support Fair Pay Agreements? If yes/no, for what reason(s)?



No. They allow a tiny percentage of employees to make decisions affecting 100% in the sector and will make doing business significantly more difficult, regulated and expensive, especially for SMEs.



Yes. FPAs will ensure that more New Zealanders are paid fairly for the work they do. They will also make an important contribution to closing the ethnic and gender pay gaps.



Yes. They will improve employment conditions by enabling employers and employees to bargain collectively for industry or occupation-wide minimum employment terms.



We support FPAs, because we believe in a fair and decent workplace, and a fair and decent society.



No. National has committed to repealing the legislation within our first 100 days.

FPAs are not about fair pay. They're about imposing mandatory union deals that force a one-size-fits all approach on Kiwi workplaces.



This and other issues to do with industrial relations will be addressed by New Zealand First during the election campaign.



No response.

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



ACT supports changes to make it easier to do business, including the long-held position of restoring the ability for all businesses to conduct 90 day trials. More detail will be released closer to the election in the Small Business policy document.



A key priority for us in the employment space is improving employment protections for contractors. We will also shift to default union membership, so that new employees are automatically enrolled as members when they start a new job (but can opt out).



The Employment Relations Amendment Act, passed in 2018, reinstated prescribed meal and rest breaks, strengthened collective bargaining and union rights, limited 90 day trials to business with fewer than 20 employees, and restored protections for vulnerable workers.



None.



Our full policy on employment relations will be released prior to the election.

National's longstanding position is to take a pragmatic approach to employment relations and ensure that employers are not bogged down with unnecessary regulations that inhibit productivity and growth.



As per 5.3.



No response.

5.5

If not already outlined above, would you support the reintroduction of the 90 day trial period provision for all employers?



Yes.



opposes 90 day trials and was pleased to help end these, to increase stability in work.



No.



No.



Our full policy on employment relations will be released prior to the election.



Yes.



This can be covered off in direct contract.

What changes, if not already outlined above, would you make to the current Holidays Act?



Given the establishment of Matariki, ACT would remove a public holiday so that businesses do not face additional cost. A likely candidate would be the day after New Year's Day. More proposed changes will be announced approaching the election.



Progressively increase paid annual leave to five weeks.
Ensure bereavement leave entitlements are culturally appropriate for all New Zealanders and acknowledge the particular significance of tangihanga for Māori



The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Holidays Act Taskforce. They will provide certainty to employers and help employees receive their correct leave entitlements.

Business and union representatives have reached consensus on the changes, and we are working through next steps. It is a significant and complex reform, and it is important we take the time to get the changes right.



None.



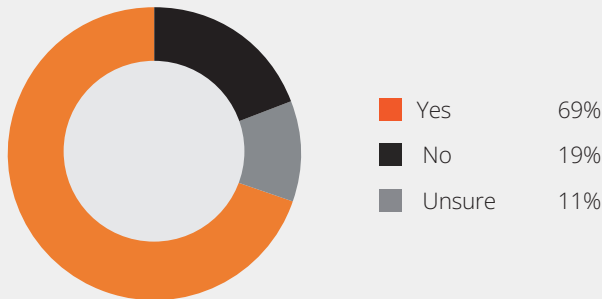
Our full policy on employment relations will be released prior to the election.



Our country sadly is broke, and there is no time for more holidays.



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



The living wage is currently \$23.65 per hour.

5.7

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



ACT has opposed increases to the minimum wage and does not support any further increases for the time being.



The Green Party supports progressively increasing the minimum wage, at least in line with inflation, and abolishing differential starting out wages for youth.

We would ensure the state sector pays a living wage and requires service contractors to pay staff a living wage.



We will continue to review the minimum wage each year and remain committed to increasing the real incomes of our lowest-paid workers.

We believe that a hard day's work deserves a fair day's pay. That's why we've boosted the minimum wage to \$22.70 per hour. The Living Wage is currently \$23.65 per hour.



We agree that there must be a Minimum Wage. A number of our Māori-owned businesses pay a living wage instead, as a baseline.



National agrees that the minimum wage should continue to increase at an incremental rate, allowing sufficient consultation and time for employers to prepare to absorb any potential cost increases.

Our tax cuts will provide employees with more income as cost pressures increase, without passing that cost back to employers.



New Zealand First's strong support for a proper minimum wage is balanced by the understanding that this needs to be accompanied by lower taxation so that businesses can afford the cost.



No response.

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