

BusinessNZ Election Survey

October 2011



BusinessNZ 

Deloitte.



The Deloitte-BusinessNZ Election Survey gives great insight into what lies ahead for New Zealand business and the economy.

Conducted each election year, it scrutinises the views of the business community as well as the policies of all main political parties on issues that are important for enterprise.

Some policies, such as tax or regulation, can have a major effect on business growth yet are sometimes not given a great deal of prominence during election campaigns.

The Deloitte-BusinessNZ Election Survey allows voters to find out what the parties might be planning around critical business and economic issues, by bringing together the views of political parties on all business-related policies.

It also researches over a thousand New Zealand enterprises, asking what the most important issues are for them and their business.

Taken together, these results give an unparalleled view of what business wants – and what is likely to be delivered by the political process.

We have grouped together the responses of the business community and political parties on related questions in the report, providing a snapshot of how close the respective party policies are to the views of business on key issues (questions to the business community appear in tint boxes with the BusinessNZ logo).

In an MMP environment, parties' commitments to policies are liable to undergo change in post-election negotiations. But it is essential to know the policy positions of all parties in order to get a sense of what might emerge after the election.

For this purpose, the Deloitte-BusinessNZ Election Survey presents a picture of likely policy directions on issues relating to business and the economy by the next Government.

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



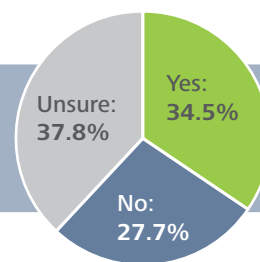
Phil O'Reilly

**Chief Executive
BusinessNZ**

1. Government Environment



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



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

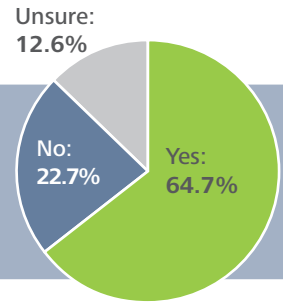
		Since 2004, per capital growth in real terms has been on the decline, therefore very far away from achieving economic growth to our full potential.
	No	Poor economic management have led to record levels of Government debt, a fragile economic recovery and lost opportunity to shift economy onto a more sustainable export-led footing.
	No	As economy is struggling with high unemployment and debt.
		Needs greater recognition and commitment to Maori economic growth, including opportunities opened up for iwi to invest in state-owned assets and infrastructure, as well as more public/private partnerships with Maori.
	Yes	As NZ is better placed than many other countries to manage what will remain an uncertain global environment.
		NZ's economic growth is now negligible and sadly falling way below its full potential with credit ratings downgrades exacerbating.
	Yes	Generally in the right direction.

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

		1.Lift education standards. 2.Make sure that welfare works. 3.Equality before the law. 4.Keeping our communities safe.
		Single focus on growing GDP has concealed the related decline in other measures such as rapidly declining quality of water in rivers or increased inequality within NZ's society.
		Will focus on dealing with high government debt and giving hardworking kiwis a break.
		Support investments in geothermal and water power plants. Also want additional funding to improve access to quality early childhood education.
		Focus on savings, exports, reducing debt and getting back to surplus.
		NZ is an export dependent economy and economic and social policy should reflect that centuries old fact.
		Greater emphasis and support by Government for targeted research and development.



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

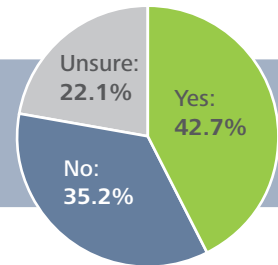


1.3 Should NZ's tax system have a reasonably flat tax structure, with no/few exemptions or tax breaks?








	Yes	Act has always been in favour of a broad-based and low-rate tax system with few exemptions.
		Good tax system is one that raise enough money to fund the level of Government services needed. Support progressive income tax structure believing those earning the most are most able to pay the taxes to secure important government services.
		Current system favours speculation on property over investment in productive businesses. Labour is committed to a fairer tax system where all forms of income are treated the same.
		NZ's tax system should be fair and equitable to all. Would like to see NZers pay an amount which is equitable to their income.
		No specific answer provided.
		A reasonably flat tax structure with few exemptions or tax breaks such as export market and R&D encouragement.
	Yes	Certainly, top personal, company and trust rates should be aligned when economic circumstances permit.




Do you believe your business is better off as a result of the tax changes by the current Government?










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

	Policy to be released closer to Election, but ACT believes in lowering taxes.
	No current policy to change existing corporate tax rate.
	No specific answer provided.
	Cut the company tax rate for those businesses whose net income is under \$100,000.
	Given changes made in 2010, we do not envisage any need for further significant changes.
	20% for corporate and individuals involved in exports and new market discovery. Also R&D tax breaks, directly accountable to IRD with substantial penalties for false accounts.
	28%








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

	Policy to be released closer to Election, but ACT believes in lowering taxes.
	Did not support recent rise in GST.
	Removal of GST off fresh fruit and vegetables.
	GST to be removed from all food.
	Given changes made in 2010, we do not envisage any need for further significant changes.
	12.5%
	15%








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

	Policy to be released closer to Election, but ACT believes in lowering taxes.
	No policy on this.
	No specific answer provided.
	No comment.
	Given changes made in 2010, we do not envisage any need for further significant changes.
	No change.
	28%








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

	Policy to be released closer to Election, but ACT believes in lowering taxes.
	Do not support further reduction of the top tax rate.
	No specific answer provided.
	No comment.
	Given changes made in 2010, we do not envisage any need for further significant changes.
	Alignment is an ideological, not a practical objective.
	All 28%

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

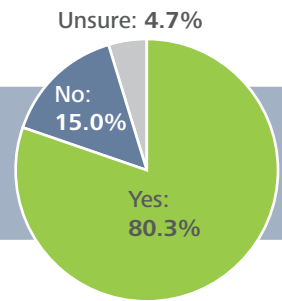
	Policy to be released closer to Election, but ACT believes in lowering taxes.
	Top tax rate of 39% over \$80,000.
	Introduce a new progressive top tax rate of 39% on income over \$150,000.
	No comment.
	Given changes made in 2010, we do not envisage any need for further significant changes.
	Those who will earn much more under our tax policies will pay a little more.
	28% at \$75,000. Also, introduction of income sharing for families.

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








	Policy to be released closer to Election, but ACT believes in lowering taxes.
	To promote greater equality, introduce an income tax-free threshold of \$100,000 and a comprehensive capital gains tax (excluding the family home). Ecological taxes on waste and pollution. Also, levy on commercial water use.
	A fairer tax system as at present the major tax burden falls on individuals through wages and salaries while capital gains are not taxed at all.
	Tax policy reforms must help to benefit those people who are most vulnerable.
	Tax system that rewards work and savings, discourages borrowing and consumption, and significantly tightens tax rules on property speculation.
	NZ tax law is out of proportion for the size of our country. It requires codification, simplification and fairness much of what it is not now.
	Tax system should work in the interested of those raising families and it should empower family and community self-sufficiency rather than creating dependency.



Should the Government be clearly signalling options and timeframes for changing eligibility for NZ Super?

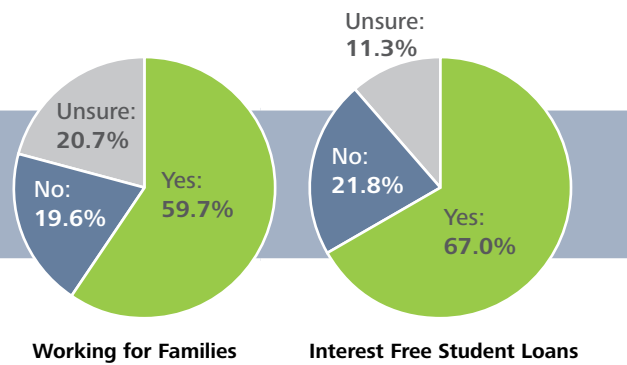


1.6 What changes (if any) do you propose to eligibility for NZ Superannuation

	<p>Slowly increasing the age of eligibility with plenty of warning is the fairest way to keep down the ballooning costs. In addition, other measures will ensure those truly needing assistance in their old age will receive it.</p>
	<p>No plans to change current age of entitlement.</p>
	<p>Committed to maintaining the current system as introduction of capital gains tax will help prepare for the costs of an aging population.</p>
	<p>Bring forward superannuation payments for those who may experience lower life expectancy.</p>
	<p>No changes outlined.</p>
	<p>A compulsory savings regime is the only solution to NZ's superannuation sustainability.</p>
	<p>1. Give people option of receiving NZ super earlier but at reduced rate. 2. Change formula for NZ super by calculating it on anticipated forecasted changes to CPI and increases in average wage for the following 12 months. 3. Changes to Section 70.</p>



Are further changes needed to the policy directions for the following policies?



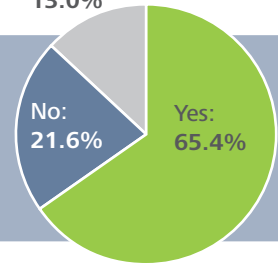
1.7 What changes (if any) do you propose to eligibility for KiwiSaver, Working for Families or interest free student loans?

	Will outline policy in relation to these closer to the Election.
	KiwiSaver – re-introduce policies aimed at encouraging private savings, including automatic enrolment (with an opt-out option). WfF – extend the scheme to every low income family to bring 100,000 NZ children out of poverty by 2014.
	Committed to maintaining Working for Families and interest-free student loans given these programmes provide much needed assistance to many NZers.
	WfF – despite supporting the changes to WfF in Budget 2011, do not want those on lower incomes who have been reliant on WfF to miss out. Would want to review this policy. A priority is how an inwork tax credit can be universally applied to support low income whanau. Student loans – would like to keep this policy unchanged.
	WfF – target WfF to those who need it most. Interest Free Student Loans – make interest free student loans sustainable.
	KiwiSaver – support its continuation. WfF – result of failed economic policy and low wage structures leading to politicians trying to patch up inevitable effects. Student loans – encourage students via a dollar for dollar write to quit their debts now, applicable to those graduate who remain working in the NZ economy.
	KiwiSaver – compulsory enrolment. WfF – changes needed around abatement rates, also interactions of income sharing with WfF. Interest Free Student Loans – No change but zero-fees policy for tertiary education in NZ in place of student allowances.










Should local government provide only local public goods and services that businesses, individuals or voluntary groups cannot provide more efficiently?

Unsure:
13.0%



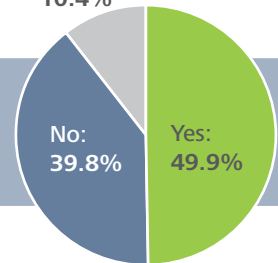
1.8 Should local government be restricted to the provision of local public goods and services that businesses, individuals or voluntary groups cannot provide more efficiently?

	Yes	Councils should focus on core competencies like the ones outlined in this question.
		Should be determined by the community it is elected by.
		A decision for communities and their elected representatives. Labour is committed to restoring democracy to local government by listening to councils.
	Yes	
		Ensure best value for ratepayer investment into their communities. Always looking to ensure local government, as well as central government is as efficient as possible.
		Efficiency disciplines should apply whether it be local or national government as it should also apply to any non government provider.
	No	










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

Unsure:
10.4%

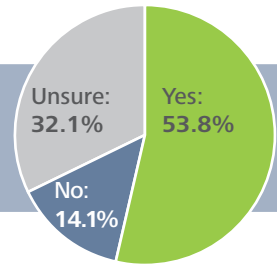


1.9 Should water, wastewater and roading services be subject to greater commercial disciplines and user charges?








	Yes	Have been in favour of introducing greater commercial discipline into these areas.
		Support measures in waste and transport that makes the true cost of services more transparent.
		Opposed to asset sales, so local authorities should not sell their infrastructure unless they have a firm mandate from their people.
		Concerned about water management, restoration of water quality and environmentally sustainable land use that does not degrade our water systems. Will ensure that iwi are involved in the governance, management and decision-making on freshwater.
	Yes	National has implemented water metering regulations that will ensure 98% of water takes are measured by 2016, which is more related to the management of allocations to large users. The issue of user charges at domestic and small business level lies with the providers of the service.
		Absurdity to commercially charge NZers for drinking water from NZ skies, rivers and lakes. Waste water from domestic use should attract a small cost to deter waste.
	Yes	In principle.



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

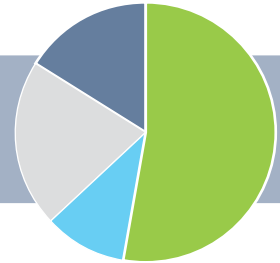


1.10 Do you support a Regulatory Standards Act to improve the quality of regulation in New Zealand?

	Yes	ACT's policy is to ensure that there is greater standards and transparency when it comes to regulation.
	No	The proposed Bill does not fulfil its intended purpose, but remain open to other proposals that lift the quality of regulation.
	No	Do not support the Regulatory Standards Bill, but committed to quality regulation review process which removes barriers to business growth.
		Will support a Regulatory Standards Act which respects the principles of partnership and cultural diversity.
		No specific answer provided.
	Yes	
	Yes	In principle.










Do you agree with the mixed ownership model that the Government has outlined for certain SOE assets?










Key

- Yes, the mix is about right 52.8%
- Yes, but they should go further 10.4%
- Yes, but they should not go so far 20.9%
- No, they should not be open to private ownership 15.9%

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

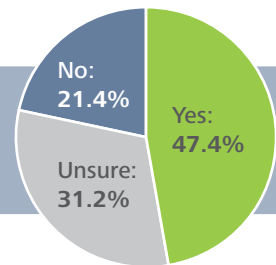
	Policy to be released closer to the Election, but ACT favours a greater role of the private sector in running these operations.
	A plan that keeps our publicly-owned energy companies in public ownership and ensures profits stay in New Zealand.
	No Strongly opposes sale of state-owned assets.
	Support the right for iwi to have greater opportunity to invest in government assets, as the natural investment partner. Privatisation of state owned assets must be managed in a manner consistent with the Treaty.
	No specific answer provided.
	No None. NZ First supports a commissioned management model to ensure commercial objectives are met.
	Not in favour of wholesale privatisation of state assets, but not opposed to partial share floats in trading companies.

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

	Would drastically change the way the RMA works. At present, it is far too cumbersome and allows those with no interest in relation to a development to make complaints that hinder people to develop their own land.
	RMA needs strengthening to ensure it fulfils its purpose of environmental protection and allowing public participation in planning decisions.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rectify weakness of current national environmental standards and national policy statements2. Ensure central environmental policy-making and enforcements properly restored3. Part's of National's RMA amendments reversed, especially those that undermine environmental protections and exclude community involvement.
	Adopt the recommendations made in Ko Aotearoa Tenei, the Wai 262 report and amend the RMA.
	Initiated substantial reforms in its first phase of simplifying and streamlining the RMA. Now progressing with phase two reforms and considering a proposal to review 6.7.
	Changes to <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. expediate decision making.2. reduce costs.3. implement strategies for certainty and uniformity of decision making across NZ.4. revisit the issue of who should have status in hearings under the Act.
	Regular reviews of the RMA.










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



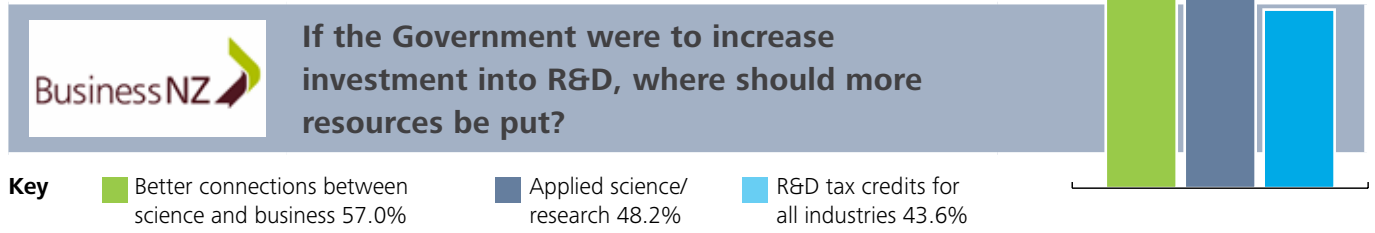
1.13 What are your party's policies towards encouraging (or limiting) foreign direct investment into New Zealand?

	Would encourage foreign investment as a means to create jobs and ensure that there is greater productivity and growth.
	Supports stronger controls on foreign investment in New Zealand, including the outright ban on the sale of land to overseas owners. Will build up Kiwibank so that it can compete effectively with the four large Australian banks.
	Foreign investment important, but no overseas person has the right to buy New Zealand land or businesses. Therefore, stricter controls on the sale of farm land monopolies will be introduced.
	Main priority is that iwi are given priority over potential foreign investors when it comes to purchase or investment and as a Treaty partner, are given decision-making authority when it comes to potential sale or part-sale.
	No specific answer provided.
	There would first be a clear understanding of the difference between sound foreign investment in the national interest creating new jobs and new wealth as opposed to a foreign corporate raid which on NZ past experience does neither.
	Supports foreign direct investment, and satisfied with current policy settings.








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

	None.
	No plans to acquire major new Government assets, as decisions on purchasing need to be practical rather than ideological.
	No major business assets identified
	None at this stage.
	No specific answer provided.
	Those which make sound economic sense in the national interest and sound investments for a national savings fund or funds.
	Not proposing the purchase of any business assets.








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?

	Policy in relation to R&D will be released closer to the Election.
	Would boost Govt R&D funding through combination of tax credits and grants costing \$1b over 3 years. R&D in cleantech greentech industries would be prioritised, specifically in areas of competitive advantage.
	Re-introduction of the R&D tax credit at 12.5%
	Successfully aligning NZ's investments in science and innovation with Maori business will lead to 150,000 new jobs per year by 2060 and an additional \$12 billion in GDP.
	Increased public funding via MSI and Primary Growth Partnership. A significant part of the investment has gone into business support, including Tech NZ, the Technology Development Grants and the Vouchers, stimulate business investment as they are co-funded by both Govt and business.
	For public R&D – more efficiently targeted funding. For private R&D – provide substantial tax right offs.
	Continue with tax/investment reform started since current Minister of Revenue began in 2005.

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

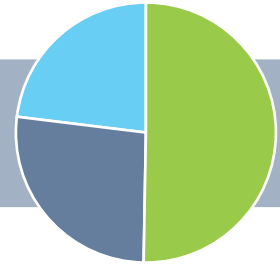
		Policy in relation to R&D will be released closer to the Election.
	Yes	
	Yes	At 12.5% at an average cost of \$160m per year.
	Yes	
	No	R&D tax credits are untargeted, open ended and susceptible to abuse.
		See above.
	Yes	When economic circumstances permit.

2.3 Do you believe more needs to be done to provide closer working relationships between science based organisations and business? If so, why?

		Policy in relation to R&D will be released closer to the Election.
		Work towards ensuring better relationships between state funded research organisations and SMEs, particularly in the clean tech sector.
		Critical to getting more value out of our science investment. Crown Research Institutes and universities are not doing enough in making the leap to commercial development.
		See above.
		Bringing business and science together has been at the heart of National's science and innovation strategy. In addition to existing policies, will continue to prioritise effective measures that bring business, research and government closer together for NZ's benefit.
	Yes	Because it makes infinitely sound economic sense.
	Yes	To ensure NZ gets leading edge innovation to add value to high quality raw materials and intellectual property.



Have consumer demands for evidence of sustainable business practices impacted on how your business operates?



Key

- No, but most likely in the future 50.4%
- No likely impact now or in future 26.7%
- Yes, currently having an impact 22.9%



What could the Government do to enhance sustainable business performance?



Key

- Support business initiatives 65.3%
- Regulations that match international standards 39.7%
- Capacity building through training and workshops 38.9%
- Subsidies/incentives 33.8%

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



Businesses are in the best position to be able to judge how they will become more sustainable. There is already pressures applied by the market to encourage businesses to become sustainable, therefore the Govt does not need to interfere.



Support businesses in their transition to more sustainable ways of doing business through green Govt procurement and certification processes to drive rapid commercialisation of green technologies and manufacturing processes.



12.5% R&D tax credit, along with bringing agriculture back into the ETS earlier.



Maori have a unique approach to sustainability that has been practiced for hundreds of years. Food production and fishing, mineral collection, principles of whakwhanungatanga manaakitanga in business practice, trade and enterprise provide us with a leading edge.



Building a faster growing economy built on savings and exports, reducing our debt and getting back to surplus in three years.



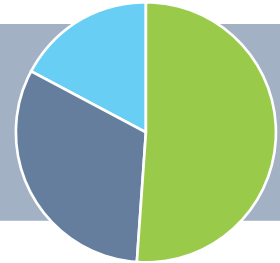
No specific answer provided.



Continued streamlining of compliance costs; removal of blockages arising from aspects of the RMA; investment in transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructure.



Should any Government money going into innovation be principally provided via a contestable fund or be directed to specific sectors/businesses?



Key

Contestable fund 51.3%

Specific sectors/
businesses 31.6%

Unsure 17.0%

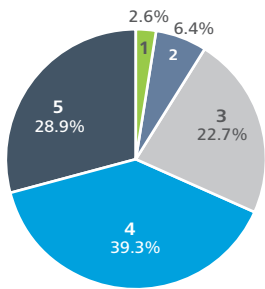
2.5 Do you have any policies directed to improving innovation and entrepreneurship in New Zealand?

	<p>Best way to improve innovation and entrepreneurship is for the Govt to get out of the way as the Govt is typically poor at picking winners.</p>
	<p>1. Increase funding to Govt research organisations. 2. Support increased funding and better coordination for university enterprises. 3. Require state funded researchers to work with SMEs. 4. Assist SMEs in finding appropriate partners to help develop new ideas and technologies. 5. Investigate models to support small businesses exporting intellectual property and R&D expertise in sustainable energies, technologies and practices.</p>
	<p>12.5% R&D tax credit, with more policy announcements to be made.</p>
	<p>Party wants to drive Maori innovation and entrepreneurship, by planning to increase the volume of 'better by design' programmes through NZTE available for access by iwi and Maori. Want to build a Maori economic strategy to encourage more Maori business with greater protection mechanisms for intellectual property, Maori representation on creative boards and NZTE and an initiation of business ventures between Government and Maori.</p>
	<p>See above.</p>
	<p>Will appear in NZ First's manifesto.</p>
	<p>Yes, commitment to improved support for R&D and simplified business taxation arrangements.</p>

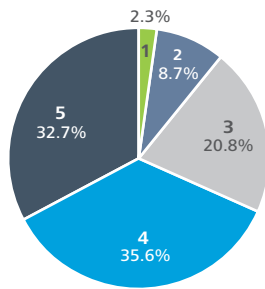
3. Infrastructure



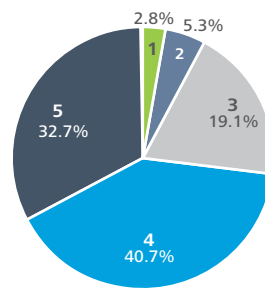
Please rank each of the following types of New Zealand infrastructure in terms of which has the most potential to contribute to New Zealand’s future economic prosperity (from 1-5 where 5 is highest potential and 1 is least potential)



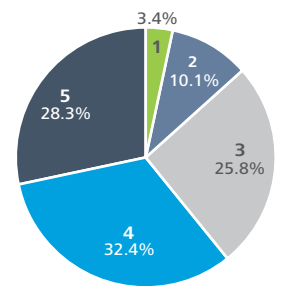
Energy (electricity and gas)
(Average score 3.85)



Telecommunications/broadband
(Average score 3.88)



Transport (roads, rail, ports)
(Average score 3.94)



Water
(Average score 3.72)

3.1 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 (from 1-5 where 5 is highest potential and 1 is least potential): transport, telecommunications/broadband, transport, and water



Each has a significant role to play in NZ’s economic prosperity.



All highest potential, but only if managed sustainably.



All are important to contributing to New Zealand’s future economic prosperity.



Energy (some potential), telecommunications/broadband (highest potential), transport (lower potential), water (high potential).



All are strategic opportunities within National’s Infrastructure Plan.



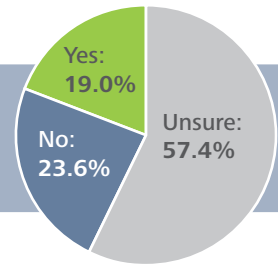
All highest potential.



4 (energy and telecommunications/broadband), 5 (transport and water).










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










3.2 What are your party's major infrastructure issues?

	<p>1. Greatest barrier to infrastructure development is excessive red-tape and regulation, with the biggest culprit being the RMA. Therefore, would favour a 'root and branch' reform of the one-size-fits-all RMA and a return to common law principles of standing, remedies for injunctive relief relating to resource use and regulation.</p>
	<p>All new infrastructure and upgrades to existing infrastructure to contribute to a sustainable, low carbon future. Invest in transport infrastructure that gives people more choices. Water policies to ensure its protected from pollution and enough left behind for fish and birds.</p>
	<p>Move infrastructure spotlight back onto coastal shipping and rail. While maintaining investment in roading it would also reduce pressure on roads through increased investment in public and other transport modes.</p>
	<p>Greater innovation in our public transport system. Also, want to see an improvement to roads and telecommunications, such as broadband and cell phone coverage in isolated rural areas.</p>
	<p>Major infrastructure plan released. Future prioritisation on: 1. Working with Canterbury infrastructure providers to rebuild infrastructure. 2. Provide a comprehensive approach to investment in Auckland. 3. Achieve significant improvement in the management of government owned social infrastructure assets. 4. Focusing land transport investment on supporting exporters. 5. Improving the ability to monitor performance across infrastructure sectors.</p>
	<p>To be announced in our manifesto.</p>
	<p>1. Develop a National Energy Strategy. 2. Convert TranspowerNZ to a public utility. 3. Complete Roads of National Significance programme. 4. Increase the Financial Assistance Rate. Also, further changes below.</p>

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

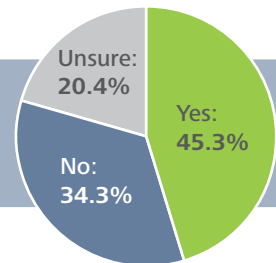
	NZ already has a high level of renewable energy. Biggest barrier to creating new renewable energy infrastructure is excessive regulation, like the RMA.
	1. All reasonable needs for energy services are reliably and affordably met from renewable energy. 2. Much smarter use of energy, which allows scale and impact of energy production and use to be reduced in line with ecological sustainability. 3. All NZers involved in decisions about energy and take responsibility for using it sustainably.
	Detailed energy policy to come.
	Strongly supports the use and development of sustainable and renewable energy use, in particular wind, hydro, solar, geothermal and wave. We want to protect and preserve our limited resources such as oil, gas and coal by implementing an energy strategy to address our reliance on these resources.
	Make the most of all assets we have - hydro, wind, geothermal, oil, gas and minerals, while balancing economic opportunities with our environmental responsibilities. Committed to renewable energy options, although fossil fuels will continue to play an important part in New Zealand.
	To be announced in our manifesto.
	See 3.2 above.

3.4 Do you believe that future energy prices will adversely affect business operations?








	Yes	Will adversely affect both businesses and households. With energy prices driven by the market, a constraint of supply because of issues like Project Aqua and the RMA will ultimately drive wholesale and retail prices up.
	Yes	Govt needs to have a plan to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels to increase the resilience and energy efficiency of our economy.
		Very concerned that sale of state-owned electricity companies will force up power prices for business owners.
	Yes	Rising energy prices will adversely affect us all, including businesses, especially small businesses. This is why we support businesses who want to become more environmentally friendly by subsidising those who undertake environmental impact assessments and come up with innovative new ideas.
		NZ electricity prices compare well with most OECD countries. Initiatives being implemented following the review of the market in 2009 will improve competition. The real issue has been poor regulation of the electricity sector, which this Govt has addressed.
		They already seriously are.
	Yes	If the current level of investment in energy generation of all types is not increased.



Will the Government's UFB initiative lead to greater productivity and/or growth for your business?

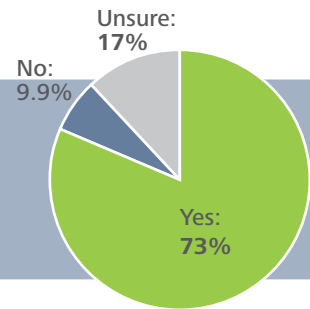


3.5 What is your party's policy regarding increasing New Zealand's broadband penetration rate?

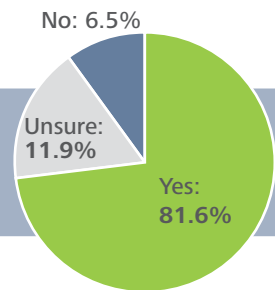
	To be released closer to the Election.
	Supports increasing broadband coverage and services available to both urban and rural environments.
	Continue roll out of ultra-fast broadband, but believe the current scheme is flawed, anti-competitive and lacks transparency.
	Fully supportive of increasing speed and access to broadband. Have facilitated discussion on behalf of tangata whenua through the Maori Broadband Working Group.
	National's \$1.2b Ultra Fast Broadband rollout is underway, as well as the \$300m Rural Broadband Initiative. Both will significantly improve broadband speed and penetration across business, residential, service and rural areas.
	Implementing a sound strategy, and wisely choosing the constructors of it, which clearly is not what is happening now.
	Support the national partnership involving telecommunications companies and the Government to develop a realistic timetable for the extension of broadband services into rural areas and hard to service urban areas.



Do you think the use of public-private partnerships will deliver infrastructure that is better value for money, and within a shorter timeframe?

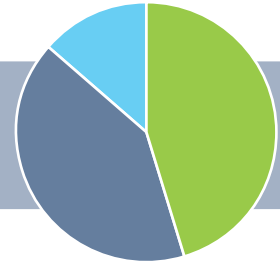


Can the private sector play a greater role in the delivery of essential infrastructure?










3.6 Do you believe supplying major infrastructure services through public-private partnerships would help achieve better value for money, more innovation and more expertise?

	Yes	Yes. ACT is fully supportive of greater involvement of the private sector in infrastructure investment, including public-private partnerships.
		PPPs do not always secure better outcomes, and in many cases privatises the profits while socialising the risk. Any support for PPPs would need to be evidence based.
		Does not rule out PPPs where they are in the public interest, but should be pursued with great care to avoid unintended consequences to taxpayers.
	Yes	Yes, we agree that public-private partnerships would achieve better value for money.
	Yes	In principle yes, with each project taken on its merits. Would also expect the number of toll roads in NZ to slowly increase as they help fund projects and help drive value-for-money, allow greater private sector contribution to innovation and access to leading expertise.
		Depends on who or what is the watch dog. Ideally it should, but far too much international experience suggest it does not.
	Yes	Yes, will support PPPs and other investment options for urgently-needed, high cost highways for which there is significant community support, but continue to treat the National Land Transport Fund as primary source of funding.










Key ■ About right = 45.3% ■ Too much = 41.3% ■ Not enough = 13.4%

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

	<p>ACT has fought the ETS every step of the way and would see it scrapped.</p>
	<p>Introduce meaningful price on carbon which would have to be paid by the major polluters, rather than just households. Introduce a moratorium on lignite coal and new deep sea oil drilling. Set short, medium and long term targets of reducing greenhouse emissions, and support those targets with regulations and targeted investment. Would change transport funding and policy to support increased walking, cycling and public transport.</p>
	<p>Will return to original 2013 date for the inclusion of agriculture in the ETS. Leave unaltered the changes made by National in other sectors until the review periods.</p>
	<p>We have halved price charges under the ETS of power and petrol and also negotiated a greater subsidy for energy efficient homes. There will be more meaningful consultation on ETS charges on Maori land and land subject to settlement negotiations and fisheries quota arrangements for iwi.</p>
	<p>National will continue with a balanced approach, ensuring NZ does its fair share on this important global issue.</p>
	<p>Kyoto is dead. Those changes required to preserve our export potential whilst moving at the same speed as our major trading partners.</p>
	<p>See 3.8 below.</p>

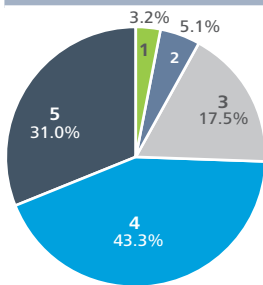
3.8 What policies, if any, do you believe should be introduced to reduce business carbon emissions?

	<p>Favours a low, fiscally neutral, carbon tax over the ETS.</p>
	<p>See above.</p>
	<p>A move away from unsustainable methods of transport. Also, strengthening of the ETS by restoring it to how we intended it to operate when it was first established.</p>
	<p>Will increase riparian planting on streams and rivers and recognize this as offsetting carbon emissions under the Emissions Trading Scheme. We will also push for greater enforcement of the objectives and policies set out in the National Policy Statement on Freshwater by setting reasonable and fair but sustainable water quality and quantity limits.</p>
	<p>Industrial emissions account for less than 10% of total emissions and are subject to a price on carbon through the ETS. This is the primary lever to encourage large businesses to reduce their carbon intensity.</p>
	<p>To be announced in our manifesto.</p>
	<p>1. Promote public/private climate change initiatives (i.e. home insulation). 2. Support creation of CO2 emissions trading mechanisms. 3. Boost investment in R&D for alternative energy systems and technologies. 4. Encourage and mandate ethanol and other bio-fuel alternatives to petroleum based fuels.</p>

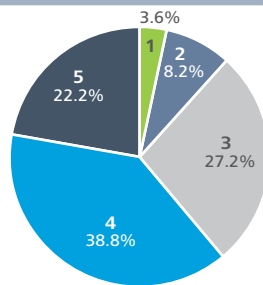
4. Trade



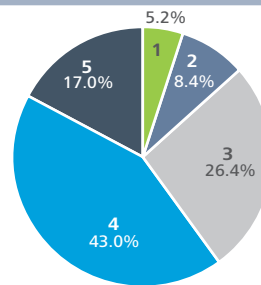
Please rank the supportive Government policies and programmes in regards to international trade (rank from 1-5 where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent)



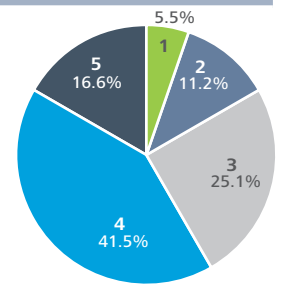
Trade Agreements
(Average score 3.94)



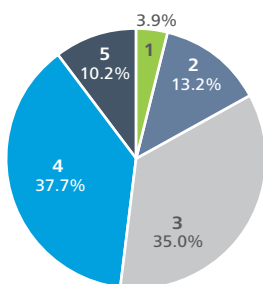
Non Trade Barriers
(Average score 3.68)



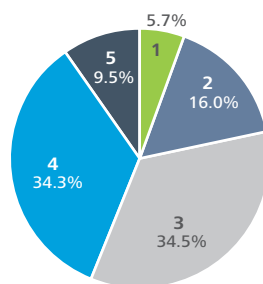
Trade Missions
(Average score 3.58)



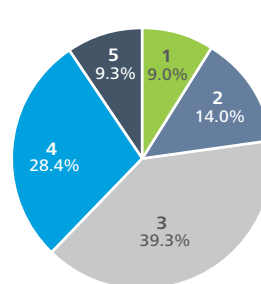
NZTE in Market Assistance
(Average score 3.52)



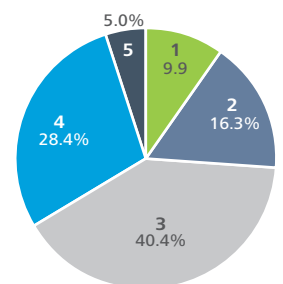
Information, Advice & Guidance
(Average score 3.37)



Market Intelligence
(Average score 3.26)



NZ Export Credit Office
(Average score 3.15)



Funding Assistance
(Average score 3.02)

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



Always in favour of removing the remaining tariffs to allow for a truly open market in New Zealand. Lowering taxes in NZ would help NZ businesses be able to launch their products into overseas markets by allowing them to keep more of the profits that they make.



Changes to the Reserve Bank framework that would prevent return to high interest rates, high dollar approach. As transport prices continue to rise, we need to turn more and more to 'weightless' exports such as IT, therefore need a high speed broadband in order to facilitate this.



Consult with exporting industries to see what they require to be successful. Better focus NZTE on assessing export opportunities for NZ firms. Make mentors and advisors available through government-assisted secondments in NZ and offshore to guide new exporters into new markets.



Economic benefits of international trade agreements must be balanced fairly with the interests of our own progress as communities and as a nation. We believe that as a Treaty partner Maori must be given due consideration in that balance as well.



Underway on an ambitious agenda of negotiations for free trade agreements aimed at opening offshore markets to NZ exporters. Trade missions to Gulf region, China, Hong Kong, Brazil, Mexico and India. NZ company efforts have been supported by other bilateral visits including New York, Singapore, Japan and China.



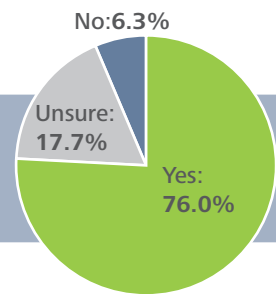
1. Special export tax encouragement regime. 2. R&D direct tax breaks. 3. Specific support for individuals and corporates that are highly competitive internationally in what they do. 4. Beefing up our offshore Foreign Affairs and Trade presence to provide support in foreign markets in numbers equivalent to match.



Work within NZTE's structures to help New Zealand export businesses get access to market opportunities, trade fairs and other promotion and development opportunities.



If this will provide a net economic benefit to NZ, should the Government work towards concluding a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)?



4.2 Do you support further work towards concluding the TPP, if it provides a net economic benefit to New Zealand?

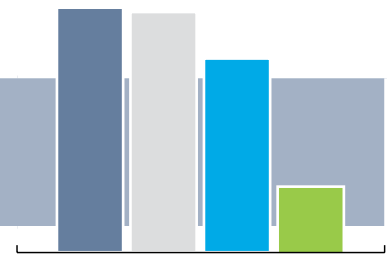
	Yes	
	No	Do not support trade agreements were we concede sovereignty, does not protect local businesses and competition from markets with little or no labour rights and/or environmental standards.
		Supports the TPP negotiation which seeks to extend agreements to the USA and other nations. Will continue to participate in Trans-Pacific Partnership talks, but reiterate our commitment to maintaining the independence and functions of Pharmac in particular.
		As long as sufficient space is opened up for negotiations between tangata whenua.
	Yes	Current goal is to negotiate an Asia-Pacific regional deal , while longer-term vision will be for it to expand beyond the current group of countries, which will expand the opportunities for our economy by wider concentric rings of freer trade and investment.
		Would be pointless to continue if the objective is to merely gain a net economic benefit to NZ. What NZ needs are substantial benefits and it is not enough to merely pursue the TPP whilst ignoring other critical policies to grow our export wealth now.
	Yes	

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

	Yes	However we believe that NZ should actively reduce its own barriers to international trade ensuring that we continue to be an open and free place to trade.
		Supports fair trade, not free trade. Only those with decent and binding human rights, labour rights and environmental standards would be worth considering.
		Recognise the importance of NZ pursuing trade relationships, and remain committed to multilateral trade arrangements through the WTO and the Doha round. Also recognise that high quality regional FTAs are beneficial and can be used to complement multilateral initiatives.
		Supports fair trade rather than free trade.
		Have an ambitious trade agenda, as it is one of the Govt's six drivers of economic growth.
		No specific answer provided.
	Yes	



With which of the following countries do you think NZ should pursue a Free Trade Agreement?



Key


■ USA (67.3%)
 ■ Japan (66.1%)
 ■ EU (53.3%)
 ■ Other (18.4%)

*Of 'Other', India was the most popular choice.

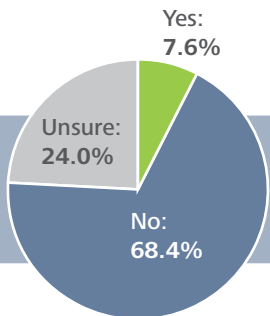
4.4 If so, what other countries/regions do you believe should be first priority(ies)?

	See above.
	No specific answer provided.
	Gulf Cooperation Council, India, Russia, South America. Also, revisit trade relationships and development assistance in the Pacific to create sustainable industries for them.
	No specific answer provided.
	Started negotiations with Korea, India, Russia and eight other countries participating in the TPP negotiations, which includes the USA.
	USA, Japan.
	Trans Pacific Partnership, USA, North Asia.


5. Skills & Productivity



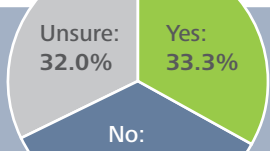
Are school leavers well prepared to be effective in the workforce?



Response	Percentage
Yes	7.6%
No	68.4%
Unsure	24.0%



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



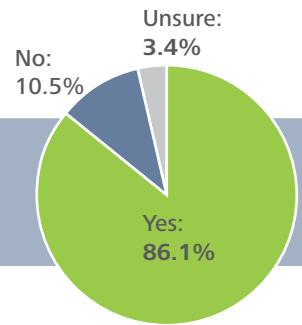
Response	Percentage
Yes	33.3%
No	34.7%
Unsure	32.0%

5.1 Do you have specific policies aimed at responding to current skills shortages?








	Should make it easier to get skilled immigrants to come in and fill skills shortages. Lowering personal and business taxes will make NZ a profitable place to work, with high wages and high living standards.
	Invest further in tertiary education and trades training, along with incentives for graduates to stay in New Zealand. Also, would expand vocational guidance services for those unemployed, provide professional bodies with incentives and funding support to help migrants/refugees reach standards to practise their professions, and ensure greater availability of bridging courses for immigrants in professions for which NZ needs.
	Invest \$87m to get 9000 young NZers off the dole and into apprenticeships by offering employers a \$8700 subsidy per person over one year, and 5000 new fees-free training places.
	We want to establish more trade-training and apprenticeships for Maori and reinstate the Training Incentive Allowance. We also want more affordable childcare and flexible working arrangements to get parents back to work.
	Immigration NZ's policies are flexible and able to adapt to the changing labour force that NZ needs. The long term skills shortage list and the intermediate skills shortage lists identify skills that NZ needs and simplifies the process for employers wanting to employ migrants in these areas. The new Skills for Growth programme gives young people a chance at getting skills they need, which is in addition to the Job Ops with Training initiative.
	1. Earlier streaming at the secondary school level. 2. Governmental support for a dramatic increase in apprentices. 3. Direct payment of the unemployment benefit to employers who take on trainees towards skilled employment. 4. Adjusting social welfare delivery to encourage an employment mindset of those who should be filling these skill shortages now.
	1. Reform student structure. 2. Encourage under 25's who are not in school to be either 'earning or learning'. 3. Establish regional employment initiatives. 4. Prioritise funding for vocational courses that develop skills and provide qualifications in fields facing shortages. 5. Take proactive approach to skills shortages through promotional events in overseas target markets. with high proportion of skilled people.



Should improving workforce literacy, language and numeracy skills be a priority for the Government?

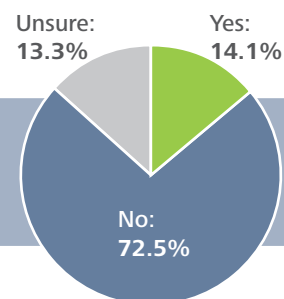


5.2 Do you have any policies directed at raising the skills of those in the workforce?








	Need to lift education standards, particularly among low-income families. Funding should follow the child, with greater diversity in the education system benefiting all children.
	Support more industry training, and expand apprenticeship programme and institute programmes to broaden the workforce of industries by encouraging woman, Maori, Pacific and other groups to train in industries currently under-represented.
	Full tertiary education (including workplace learning) policy yet to be announced.
	The Maori Party believes that cultural competency is one of the most important issues facing this generation of New Zealanders.
	Focus is on young people as they are at the most risk of long-term welfare dependency if we don't equip them with the right skills to get ahead.
	To be announced in our manifesto.
	See 5.1 above.



Is the Government doing enough to support apprenticeships and formal industry training?

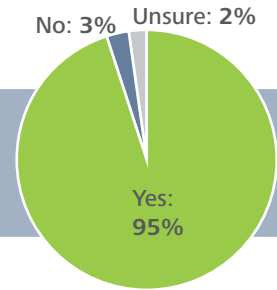


5.3 Do you have specific policies to increase the number of people involved in apprenticeships and formal industry training?

	Will release policy on this closer to the Election.
	Reinstating the ability to use the Training Incentive Allowance for tertiary education.
	In addition to q 5.1 above, will also fund 1000 new Group and Shared Apprenticeship places and 1000 Enhanced Gateway places. Labour will also continue the roll-out of Trade Academies.
	See above.
	Allocated \$66.5 million over four years to increase number of Trades Academies and Service Academies to keep more 16/17 year olds engaged in education and training.
	See 5.1 above and to be announced in our manifesto.
	See 5.1 above.










Should schools ensure all school-leavers have achieved basic literacy and numeracy standards, attaining at least NCEA Level 1?










5.4 Do you support the provision of policies to improve compulsory education outcomes so that all students achieve basic literacy and numeracy standards, and attain at least NCEA Level 1?

	Believe the best policy is to allow for funding to follow the child.	
	Would like to see special funding to identify and promote best practice across all schools to improve pupils learning and minimise students falling through the cracks. Reduce class size to ideally a teacher student ratio of 1 to 20.	
	Will lift achievement by setting high expectations for each student according to their individual ability and providing parents with information they want in plain language about their child's learning.	
	Maori are highly represented in the statistics for our school students who leave school without a qualification. In order for our students to achieve at school, we think cultural competency is the key to getting our Maori students to stay at school for longer. We want greater recognition of Maori medium early childhood and primary education and greater emphasis on Maori language and culture in secondary schools.	
	Introduced national standards as a crucial part of our plan to make sure children learn the basics at school, as well as identify children falling behind and get them the support they need. Investing \$36m to develop programmes for kids needing extra support, and placing 50 experts in schools to give them specialised help.	
	Yes	However, that is not happening now.
	Yes	

5.5 What would you do to improve the performance of NZ vocational education training system?

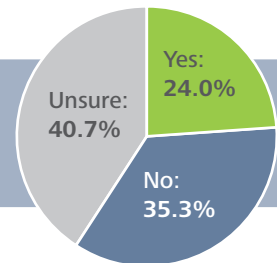
	Will release policy on this closer to the Election.
	Modern apprenticeship programme provides a very good training service and would therefore expand it. Would also want to see greater levels of cooperation between education and training providers and employers in business, state or community sector.
	Build on work already underway with the Industry Training Federation (ITF) to develop clear vocational pathways for secondary school students.
	Establish work-based 'job taster' training programmes with public sector and local government and more apprenticeships, cadetships and other learning-based partnerships, with subsidies for those who take on new young employers.
	TEC now publishes high-level TEO performance information online, so students can get information on courses etc and the likely impact on future career prospects. Also working to help develop clear career paths for students by focusing on five broad vocational sectors.
	To be announced in our manifesto.
	See above.

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








	Will release policy on this closer to the Election.
	See above.
	Address the maze young people face when interested in a trade by working with the ITF to build coherent vocational pathways in schools. Also, will complete the Youth Transitions (YT) network currently assisting over 6600 young people.
	See above.
	Understand that Trades Academies are partnerships between schools, tertiary providers, industry training organisations and employers. Also, Skills for Growth programme provides a subsidy for employers to employ and train young people in high demand industries.
	Both business and education systems urgently need a better understanding of each other's needs. This is more critical than ever and needs practical not theoretical commitment.
	See above.



Does the immigration system currently respond to and meet business and industry's immigration needs?

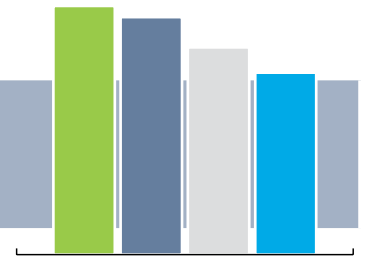


5.7 What, if any, changes would you make to ensure the immigration system responds to and meets business and industry needs?

	Always believed that we should make it easier to get skilled immigrants to come in and fill skill shortages.
	Being true to our 100% Pure brand given our natural environment is our competitive advantage in the international market place for talent. Would give priority in skilled migrant category to skills needed for a sustainable society and economy.
	Committed to creating world-class immigration system, but must be built on a foundation of 'kiwis first'. Further policy details to come.
	Would like to see a great emphasis put on cultural competency so that potential business partners will respect and understand the uniqueness of New Zealand and New Zealanders.
	Continue to seek improvement from immigration NZ and look to reduce red tape and unnecessary barriers for those using the Immigration service. At the same time we will maintain our commitment to jobs for NZers first.
	Planned controlled immigration strategies that are responsive to gaps in NZ's education, science and industry.
	See above.



What are the top productivity issues the Government should devote the most resources to?



Key

- Increasing the literacy, numeracy and basic skill levels of the workforce (60.0%)
- Encouraging innovation and the use of technology (57.3%)
- Investing in people and skills (50.0%)
- Building leadership and management capability (43.9%)

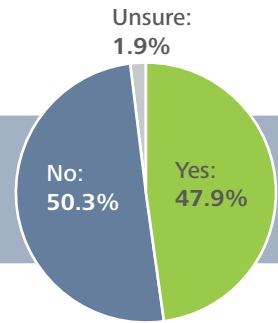
5.8 What, if any, workplace productivity issues do you believe Government should devote most resources?

	Will release policy on this closer to the Election.
	Explore ways to enhance the quality of business management in NZ. Lift minimum wage to \$15 per hour.
	Lifting the skills of our workforce and ensuring those skills are properly utilized should be a priority for improving productivity.
	The Maori Party continues to uphold the issue of institutional racism in our workplaces. We believe that ending racism in our workplaces will bring about much healthier race-relations in this country, which is something that all of us will benefit from.
	Set up Productivity Commission to help boost NZ's economic performance across the public and private sectors.
	The introduction of up to date work place technologies and the training to maximise the work place use of them.
	Workforce skills development.

6. Employment Environment



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



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



Yet to release our employment policy, but believe that employment regulations should be more flexible, making it easier for the employer and employee to negotiate freely. Also concerned that the processes surrounding terminating employment are too complicated and cumbersome for many employers.



Increase protection for casual, seasonal, fixed term and temporary workers, and extend protections to workers who are hired as contractors rather than employees. Support wide range of interventions in workplace disputes. Oppose 90 day trial provisions. Support provisions to enable easier access to flexible working hours.



Top priority is repealing the 90 day trial period provision. Further announcements to be made.



Opposes the 90-day trial provision period. We do not believe it has provided any benefits to employers. We want all new employees to feel as though they are trusted and made to feel secure in their ability to do their work and the 90-day trial effectively destroys those first impressions before a person even begins their new job.



Rather than a big-bang change, we've followed a pragmatic programme of incremental improvement. Currently doing more work in this area to build on these changes to reduce compliance costs, give businesses more confidence to take on new staff, help resolve workplace disputes faster and provide more choices for employers and employees.



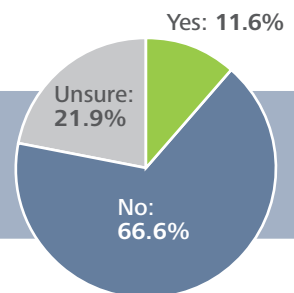
Changes to ensure the Act is neutral, impartial and biased towards neither party.



None.

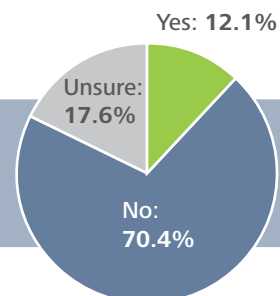


Should the current union monopoly over collective bargaining be retained?





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



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

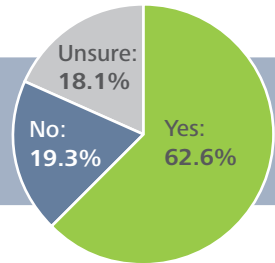
		ACT does not think it is the role of political parties or the Govt to favour either individual or collective bargaining as they both have their place in employment negotiations.
	Yes	
	Yes	As weakness of collective bargaining in New Zealand is a reason behind our slow wage growth.
	Yes	Collective approach to bargaining is always the best way.
		There are some areas where collective bargaining rules need to be improved. Currently looking at options to address this.
		Collective bargaining in employment situations is a one size fits all concept. Yet it doesn't fit all and numerous contracts do not confirm to this description. In essence the issue is very complex.
	Yes	

6.3 If not already outlined above, would you support the 90-day trial period provision as it currently stands?

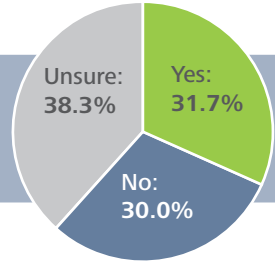
	Yes	Strong supporter of the 90-day trial period.
	No	
		See above
	No	
	Yes	It has given employers more confidence to hire new employees and gives people the chance to prove themselves in a job.
		The 90 day trial period provision is workable if it is equally fair to both parties and long term employment as its objective.
	Yes	



Do you allow/will you be allowing employees to cash up part of their annual holidays?



Has the introduction of the average daily pay formula been helpful for your business?



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



Yet to release our employment policy.



When worker is rostered off a day that is a statutory holiday, the statutory holiday entitlement is provided to the worker on a subsequent day. Would also add additional statutory holiday between Queens Birthday and Labour Day, and make Easter Sunday a statutory holiday.



Repeal all employment law changes that unnecessarily remove rights from New Zealand wage and salary earners. Further announcements to come.



Would like to see Maori New Year, or Matariki legally recognized with a public holiday.



Changes introduced by current Govt have made it easier for businesses and employees to understand and apply. They give employees and employers more choices and more flexibility.



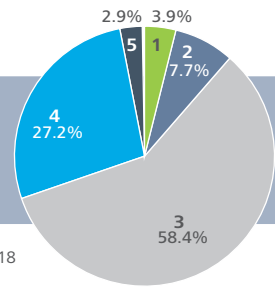
None.



None.










How do you rank the current HSE Act? (from 1-5 with 1=poor and 5=excellent)



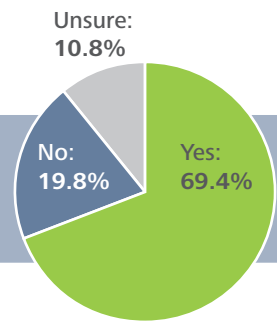
Average score 3.18

6.5 What changes, if any, would you make to the current Health and Safety in Employment Act?

	Yet to release our employment policy. However, for H&S one of the best changes that could be made is opening ACC up to competition.
	Strengthen legislation with respect to hazardous substances, extend H&S obligations with respect to contractors to the owner of the workplace, where this person is in best position to carry out those obligations.
	Reinstate check inspectors within most mines around the country. Further announcements to come.
	Would like to see greater recognition of cultural competency in the Act. This will bring about institutional changes in attitudes toward racism in the workplace, an issue we take extremely seriously.
	Open to make amendments to our H&S framework where improvements are needed. A current focus following the tragedy at Pike River is the report from the Royal Commission of Inquiry.
	To be announced in our manifesto.
	None contemplated at this stage.



Should the private sector be allowed to compete with ACC?

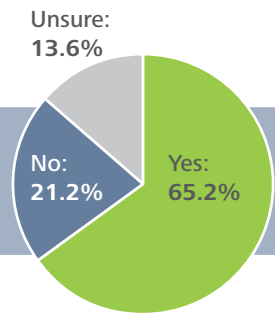


6.6 Should the private sector be allowed to compete with ACC?








	Yes	ACC is inefficient and far too expensive.
	No	
	No	
		State should continue to be responsible for providing financial aid, compensation and rehabilitation to those who have injuries.
		Announced an in-principle decision to introduce choice into ACC's Work Account.
		It does already.
	Yes	



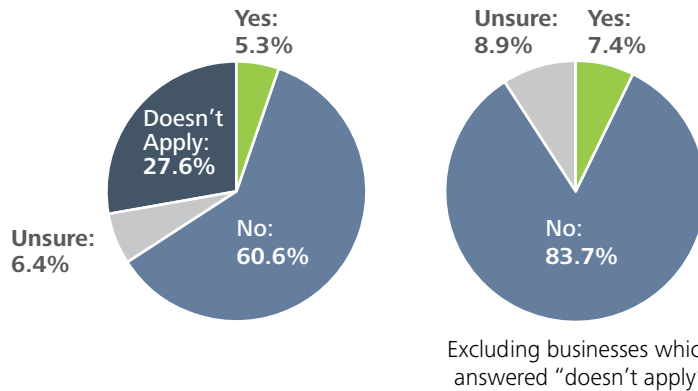
Given the current high level of youth employment, would it be sensible to reintroduce the youth minimum rate?



6.7 Given the current high level of youth employment, would your party reintroduce the youth minimum rate?

	Yes	Strong campaigner for the reintroduction of the youth minimum wage.
	No	
	No	
	Yes	We think that reintroducing the youth minimum rate would reduce unemployment rates and increase motivation amongst our most promising generation.
		Interested in exploring what policies might help teenagers into jobs. Further election announcements to follow.
		If a sound economic argument was made to support such a move then the answer is yes. However, as yet one has not been made.
	No	

Would increasing the minimum wage lead to greater productivity growth for your businesses?



6.8 Do you believe increasing the minimum wage rate would lead to greater productivity growth for businesses?

	No	Increasing the minimum wage would not significantly increase productivity. If businesses stood to get major productivity gains from increasing wages they would do so without Govt intervention.
	Yes	
	Yes	
	Yes	Believe it would lead to greater productivity. We also believe it would entice beneficiaries back into work, leading to business growth everywhere.
		Has increased minimum wage every year since being elected. By imposing gradual costs on employers while increasing after-tax income of our low paid, we've taken a balanced approach that has helped workers from being priced out of the market. Legislating our way to a high-wage economy is not a long term solution (i.e. \$15 minimum wage).
	Yes	If we want to be leaders in the First World the answer is yes because minimum wage increases would be linked to greater productivity strategies.
	No	Of itself, no.

