

Confidence and Supply Agreement with United Future

United Future agrees to provide confidence and supply through positive votes of support for the term of this Parliament to a National-led government.

The relationship between United Future and the government will be based on good faith and no surprises.

Consultation arrangements

The Government will consult with United Future on issues including:

- The broad outline of the legislative programme.
- Key legislative measures.
- Major policy issues.
- Broad budget parameters

Consultation will occur in a timely fashion to ensure United Future views can be incorporated into final decision-making.

Formal consultation will be managed between the Prime Minister's Office and the Office of the Leader of United Future.

Other co-operation will include:

- Access to relevant Ministers.
- Regular meetings between the Prime Minister and the United Future Leader.
- Advance notification to the other party of significant announcements by either the Government or United Future.
- Briefings by the Government on significant issues before any public announcement.

Ministerial Position

The Leader of United Future will be appointed to the positions of Minister of Revenue and Associate Minister of Health. These ministerial positions will be outside of Cabinet.

Policy Programme

The National-led government has agreed during this term of Parliament to adopt and implement the following broad principles, policies and priorities advanced by United Future:

- Maintain the policy, research and advocacy role of the Families Commission whilst seeking to achieve administrative efficiencies between the operations of the Families Commission and the Office of the Children's Commissioner.
- Reducing elective surgery waiting lists by greater utilisation of private hospital capacity, in a planned way where this cannot be met by the public hospital system;
- Progressing the long-term medicines strategy for quality use of pharmaceuticals in the health sector, *Medicines New Zealand*, including the role Pharmac should play in that strategy.

- Support Public Private Partnerships for major roading infrastructure developments where these are deemed to be the preferred options regionally and nationally, such as the Transmission Gully highway.
- The government notes that United Future has been committed to income splitting as a key part of their tax policy and agrees to support appropriate legislation to First Reading in Parliament.
- Proceed with the establishment of a Big Game Hunting Council as part of a national wild game management strategy with a view to it becoming a statutory authority.
- And the government acknowledges United Future's ongoing support and interest in the development of the Seniors' Gold Card, the Community and Voluntary sector, and advancing the interests of the disability sector.

The government has identified the initiatives on National's "*My key commitments to you*" and "*National's Post-Election Action Plan*" publications as priorities for them. United Future agrees to support the legislation required to give effect to these policies. These publications are attached as schedules to this agreement.

Support for other legislation which is not part of a confidence or supply motion will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Briefings

It is agreed that the leader of United Future will be briefed on significant issues which are likely to be politically sensitive before any public announcements are made.

Confidentiality

It is agreed that where briefings are provided to United Future, or where United Future is involved in a consultative arrangement with regard to legislation, policy, or budgetary matters, all such discussions shall be confidential unless otherwise agreed.

In the event that government papers are provided to United Future in the course of consultation or briefings they shall be treated as confidential, and shall not be released or the information used for any public purpose, without the express agreement of the relevant Minister.

In the event that Cabinet or Cabinet committee papers are provided to United Future for the purposes of consultation they shall be provided to a designated person within the Office of the Leader who will take responsibility for ensuring they are accorded the appropriate degree of confidentiality.

Collective responsibility

The Leader of United Future agrees to be bound by collective responsibility in relation to his portfolios. When he speaks about issues within his portfolio responsibilities he will speak for the government and as part of the government, representing the government's position in relation to those responsibilities. When he speaks about matters outside his portfolio responsibilities, however, he may speak as Leader of United Future, or as a member of Parliament. He will support the government's position in all matters that are the subject of confidence and supply votes.

Where there has been full participation in the development of a policy initiative outside of any portfolio responsibility held by the Leader of United Future, and that participation has led to an

agreed position, it is expected that all parties to this agreement will publicly support the process and the outcome.

Cabinet Manual

The Leader of United Future agrees to be bound by the Cabinet Manual in the exercise of his Ministerial responsibilities, and in particular agrees to be bound by the provisions in the Cabinet Manual on the conduct, public duty, and personal interests of Ministers.

Procedural Motions

United Future agrees that it will support the government on procedural motions in the House and in Select Committees unless United Future has previously advised that such support is not forthcoming. The Government agrees that it will operate a no surprises policy in terms of procedural motions it intends to put before the House or a select committee.

Select Committees

United Future and the Government will consult on the make up and operation of select committees with a view to reaching an agreed majority position.

Legislative Programme

Support for particular legislative measures which do not relate to confidence or supply will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Relationship to other confidence and supply agreements

Both parties to this agreement recognise that the government will be working with a range of parties, both in terms of coalitions, and confidence and supply arrangements.

The government agrees that it will not enter into any other relationship agreement which is inconsistent with this agreement, and United Future and the government agree that they will each act in good faith to allow all such agreements to be complied with.

Dated the 14th November 2008

**John Key
National Leader**

**Hon Peter Dunne
United Future Leader**

My key commitments to you

If National is elected to lead the next Government, I personally guarantee that we will:

1. Strengthen the economy, increase after-tax incomes and ensure Kiwis can get ahead under their own steam by **reducing personal taxes on 1 April 2009, 1 April 2010 and 1 April 2011.**
2. Maintain and build New Zealand's asset base by **increasing investment in infrastructure such as roads, broadband and public transport, and by not selling Kiwibank or any other state-owned company.**
3. Ensure government spending is focused on frontline services such as health and education by **capping the number of bureaucrats and putting real discipline around government spending.**
4. Make our communities safer by **ensuring the worst repeat violent offenders are not eligible for parole.**
5. Confront failure in our school system by **setting National Standards in literacy and numeracy, and requiring all pupils' progress to be assessed and the results reported to parents in plain English.**
6. Tackle our health workforce crisis by **introducing voluntary bonding for new doctors, nurses and midwives, and by boosting the number of funded medical student places by 200 over five years.**
7. Give families financial certainty by **continuing all Working for Families payments at current levels, keeping 20 hours ECE, and keeping caps on doctors' fees.**
8. Give seniors financial certainty by **keeping the age of eligibility of NZ Superannuation at 65 and steadily increasing the amount of Super paid each week as a result of our personal tax cuts.**
9. Encourage people to save for their retirement, while making it fairer and more affordable for everyone in these tighter economic times, by **retaining KiwiSaver, with contributions at the 2% plus 2% level.**
10. Provide a safety net for those who are unable to work by **passing a law to maintain and inflation-index all benefit payments, while encouraging those who can work to go back to work.**
11. Encourage students to get rid of debt sooner by **keeping interest-free student loans and offering a 10% bonus on early repayments.**

John Key, National Party Leader

NATIONAL'S POST-ELECTION ACTION PLAN

National has a comprehensive plan to tackle the issues that matter to New Zealanders. Our policies have been fully costed and funded. If National is elected to lead the next Government, I will see to it that these first actions are carried out in our first 100 days after being sworn in to office.

John Key
National Party Leader

FIRST ACTIONS ON THE ECONOMY

- Introduce and pass National's tax package into law before Christmas, with tax cuts beginning on 1 April 2009.
- Update and publish the economic and fiscal forecasts to gauge the true state of the Government's books and determine the on-going effects of the international economic crisis.
- Appoint a Minister of Infrastructure and begin implementing our infrastructure plan.
- Introduce an RMA reform bill to reduce the costs, delays, and uncertainties in the Act.
- Introduce and pass National's transitional relief package into law to offer extra assistance to Kiwis who are worst hit by redundancy.
- Call in the public service chief executives and instruct them to undertake a line-by-line review of their department's spending.
- Establish a Cabinet Expenditure Control Committee to oversee the review of departmental spending and ensure savings are focused on the front line.
- Begin a regulatory review programme to identify and remove inefficient and superfluous regulation.

FIRST ACTIONS ON LAW AND ORDER

- Introduce legislation to remove the right of the worst repeat violent offenders to be released on parole.
- Introduce legislation to clamp down on criminal gangs and their drug trade.
- Introduce legislation to toughen the bail laws to make it harder for criminals awaiting trial to get bail.
- Introduce legislation to tackle increasing violent youth crime by bolstering the Youth Court with a range of new interventions and sentences.
- Introduce legislation to require DNA testing for every person arrested for an imprisonable offence.
- Introduce legislation to give police the power to issue on-the-spot protection orders to help them protect victims of domestic violence.
- Introduce legislation to compensate victims by levying criminals and putting the money into a Victims Compensation Scheme.

FIRST ACTIONS ON EDUCATION

- Amend the Education Act 1989 so the Minister of Education can set agreed National Standards in literacy and numeracy.
- Publish requirements for primary and intermediate schools to report to parents in plain English about how their child is doing compared to the set National Standards, and compared to other children their age.
- Begin work on allocating an additional \$500 million capital investment in schools in preparation for our first Budget to start future-proofing our schools.

- Introduce a “voluntary bonding” scheme which offers student loan debt write-offs to graduate teachers who agree to work in hard-to-staff communities or subjects.
- Amend the Education Act 1989 to increase the current fines for parents of truant children from \$150 and \$400 for first-time and repeat offenders respectively, and allow the Ministry of Education to take prosecutions.

FIRST ACTIONS ON HEALTH

- Instruct the Ministry of Health and DHBs to halt the growth in health bureaucracy.
- Open the books on the true state of hospital waiting lists and the crisis in services.
- Fast-track funding for 24-hour Plunketline.
- Instruct that a full 12-month course of Herceptin be publicly available.
- Begin implementing National’s Tackling Waiting Lists plan.
- Establish a “voluntary bonding scheme” offering student loan debt write-off to graduate doctors, nurses, and midwives who agree to work in hard-to-staff communities or specialties.

FIRST ACTION ON ELECTORAL LAW

- Repeal the Electoral Finance Act 2007 and reinstate the Electoral Act 1993, with the sections in the Electoral Finance Act relating to donations retained.