

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Water is a taonga and we must do everything we can to protect its quality and vitality and ensure its availability for all New Zealanders.

He taonga te wai. Me kaha tātau ki te tiaki te mana me te mauri o te wai kia wātea ai ki ngā tāngata katoa o Aotearoa.

GOING FORWARD

Water – Te Mana o Te Wai

The Māori Party established Te Mana o Te Wai - the health and well-being of our water - as a driving policy for freshwater management. The three elements of Te Mana o Te Wai are:

- te hauora o te wai – the health and mauri (quality and vitality) of water
- te hauora o taiao – the health and mauri of the environment and
- te hauora o te tangata - the health and mauri of the people.

The Māori Party will:

- ensure that Te Mana o Te Wai remains as the overarching objective for freshwater management
- introduce legislation that gives the status of taonga to freshwater including safer targets for water where food is gathered and where we swim
- ensure that communities are able to restore their local freshwater bodies through initiatives such as planting riparian buffers to protect waterways and establishing wetlands through the Te Mana o Te Wai Fund
- prioritise action to counter the effects of pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus that are leaching into our waterways
- support funding for the capturing of rainfall and better clean water storage systems
- continue to lobby Government to ensure that the Resource Management Act protects te mana o te wai

Kaitiakitanga – Reviving the role of kaitiaki for whānau, hapū and iwi

As Māori we have a kaitiaki or guardianship role of our natural resources based on the spiritual and cultural relationship we have always had with the environment. Māori therefore have a crucial role in the management of these resources including our rivers, mountains and national parks. It is our responsibility and right to protect, restore and enhance the environment.

The Māori Party will:

- redirect resources in the Department of Conservation to restore the role of kaitiaki for whānau, hapū and iwi
- continue to support iwi to demonstrate their role as kaitiaki in their tribal regions.
- promote robust consultation with mana whenua for all oil and mineral exploration permits
- introduce tax breaks for renewable energy research institutions and businesses

ENVIRONMENT POLICY (CONT.)

GOING FORWARD (CONT.)

- enhance biodiversity within the marine area and prevent the extinction of the Māui dolphin and other marine species
- promote transition from net setting and trawling to more selective sustainable fishing methods
- retain the management of recreational fishing outside the Quota Management System

Climate Change Solutions

The Māori Party recognises the urgency in establishing alternative sources of energy that are environmentally friendly and do not depend on fossil fuels.

The Māori Party will:

- promote innovative ways to support the development of alternate fuel from raw materials
- develop a trial with the Māori Centre of Research Excellence and the Government to test viability of a locally focused alternative fuels project
- develop grants to fund Generation Zero mentors to support whānau to develop alternative energy sources
- champion solar panels for government agencies, hospitals and schools
- subsidize solar heating and expansion of energy hubs for rural communities
- establish whānau friendly cities encouraging young people to have a voice in the design and planning of their cities starting with green spaces in urban centres
- create more kura taiao and enviro-schools
- support a proposal that will see the planting of 100,000 hectares of new forests over the next 10 years

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR

As part of the Government, the Māori Party has:

- secured \$5 million over two years for Te Mana o Te Wai for restoration of waterways in Budget 2014
- restored funding to the value of \$12.45 million over three years starting 2015 for the Māori Centre of Research Excellence in Budget 2014 to cover a wide range of research projects
- secured \$5 million over the next two years for Māori Science and Innovation to develop the potential of Māori people, resources and knowledge in Budget 2014
- supported the development of kura taiao – enviroschools programmes including the Te Aho Tū Roa network which now includes 960 schools, kura and early childhood centres with a combined roll of 250,000 students
- supported iwi to have their role of kaitiaki acknowledged and formalised in their treaty settlements