

ENERGY FEDERATION OF NEW ZEALAND ENERGY POLICY FORUM 2011

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LABOUR'S VISION

- Labour will:
 - Permit mineral exploitation provided the externalities are correctly priced and the costs not shifted to the state
 - Maintain security of electricity supply and affordable electricity for New Zealanders
 - Plan for 90% of our electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2025
 - Plan to halve our capita domestic transport emissions by 2040 (taking 2007 as the base year)
 - Plan for carbon neutrality in the whole energy sector by 2040

ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS

- Labour will:
 - Strengthen the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 by encouraging renewable generation with low environmental impacts, with a particular view to protecting rivers from being dammed
 - Ensure that an assessment of the costs of any new generation plant or energy infrastructure includes all the environmental costs involved

EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

- Labour will:
 - Ensure the effective implementation of the ETS, and strengthen it by bringing agriculture in on 1 January 2013
 - Base the amount of “free” emissions units allocated to agriculture on 90 per cent of its 2005 emissions
 - Direct the resulting revenues to an R&D tax credit to boost private sector R&D

NO ELECTRICITY SOES TO BE SOLD

- Labour will retain our three electricity generating SOEs in 100 per cent public (i.e. Crown) ownership
- Labour envisages using the SOEs more actively to promote wealth, security of supply and a more reliably renewable future

PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Labour will:
 - Develop new electricity system structures that can deal with higher proportions of variable renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power, including homeowners selling surplus electricity back into the national grid
 - Promote marine power
 - Promote small scale renewable electricity generation for rural and isolated locations

SOLAR HOT WATER HEATING

- Labour will:
 - Provide support for the installation of solar water heating systems in homes, and promote its installation in new houses
 - Promote the installation of solar water heating in public buildings (e.g. hospitals, schools and marae), and will encourage the commercial building sector to do so as well

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Labour will:
 - Ensure that New Zealand invests in improved energy efficiency where this is cheaper than the cost of generating extra energy or building extra energy infrastructure
 - Entrench the energy efficiency principle in all relevant sector legislation and in the objectives of the Electricity Authority

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT HOME

- Labour will:
 - Support every New Zealand home being properly insulated, and will provide or encourage appropriate assistance to achieve this
 - Prioritise the insulation of remaining state houses without proper insulation
 - Require the Electricity Authority to implement the 2009 recommendations on smart meters from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
 - Instruct the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) to develop and implement a minimum energy performance standard for residential rental housing

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUSINESSES

- Labour will, through EECA, help businesses to save energy, and money, by encouraging their uptake of cost effective energy management practices and technologies

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

- Labour will:
 - Continue to support funding for public transport and energy – efficient freight transport modes such as rail
 - Promote locally produced biofuel, especially using wood as the technology becomes available
 - Promote the introduction of a nationwide infrastructure to recharge electric vehicles

PETROLEUM RESOURCES

- Labour will:
 - Ensure that New Zealand benefits from development of our petroleum resources
 - Urgently review New Zealand's preparedness for marine oil spills, especially the capability of Maritime New Zealand
 - Ensure that liability for clean-up of oil spills and financial losses lies with the polluters rather than with taxpayers
 - Accede to the international treaties which define and simplify the compensation regime that applies in the event of future oil spills
 - Review the minimum technical requirements for navigation systems of large vessels operating in New Zealand waters
 - Insist on high environmental standards and stringent safeguards for exploration and development of petroleum resources in the EEZ
 - Not allow deep sea drilling to occur unless standards and safeguards are in place, as well as robust contingency plans and an effective rapid response capability if an incident occurs
 - Put a comprehensive oceans policy in place, including legislating to safeguard New Zealand's ocean ecosystems and to minimise the environmental risks of activities in our EEZ

FRACKING AND LIGNITE

- Labour will initiate an inquiry into fracking
- Labour will direct Solid Energy not to proceed with its intention to exploit lignite resources, given the negative cost/benefit to the Crown because of the effect on our emissions profile

MINING

- Labour will:
 - Insist on high environmental safeguards in the development of New Zealand's mineral resources
 - Make automatic the closure of areas coming within the generic protected categories listed in Schedule 4 (e.g. national parks and marine reserves)
 - Make it clear that land may be added to Schedule 4 by Order in Council, but may not be taken out of the Schedule by that means
 - Not amend the CMA to provide for joint Ministerial approval (rather than only the Minister of Conservation, or other land-holding Minister) for mining access to Crown land
 - Align the access arrangement legal tests for mining activities with the legal tests for other concessions on public conservation land