

Policy 2017

Primary Industries

National

The backbone of our economy

National believes that the strength of our economy depends on a healthy and prosperous primary sector. Over the last nine years we've worked alongside our farmers and growers through natural disasters, commodity price fluctuations, and the naysayers.

We have backed and supported them to succeed. We know it's possible to grow the sector, creating jobs and opportunities, as well as protect our environment – because working with farmers we're doing just that already. And we don't need a water tax to do it.

We continue to believe in free trade and we are committed to forging even greater access to international markets for our exporters.

National is the only party with a record of partnering with industry through any challenges to ensure we maintain a globally competitive primary sector.

"A strong primary sector means a strong economy. We will continue to stand beside our farmers and growers and back them to succeed."

– Primary Industries spokesperson
Nathan Guy

Policy highlights

- \$759m Primary Growth Partnership which means Government working with industry to create opportunities and solve challenges
- \$280m for new irrigation and water storage projects
- Leading the international push for more free trade to help our products into more markets
- Record levels of biosecurity funding
- Modernised the Animal Welfare Act and enacted new regulations to help protect our reputation
- Initiated Future of our Fisheries programme with cameras to be installed on all commercial vessels
- We will invest alongside our farmers in new technology to help create the future of farming
- We will allow young farming families to buy their first farm through the sale of Landcorp farms

We are growing...

Primary Growth Partnership

- We've partnered with industry through 22 R&D programmes in the \$759m Primary Growth Partnership
- These programmes will help us achieve our goal of doubling the value of our exports to \$64b by 2025
- We're developing new and innovative ways of doing things – from faster ways to make mozzarella, to breeding mussels, to building forestry harvesters for steep land
- An independent study shows that Primary Growth Partnership programmes could help us return an additional \$6.4b in exports per year

Primary sector exports forecast to grow to record \$41.6b by June 2018



Irrigation and Water Storage

- We've put around \$280m into irrigation and water storage projects – a programme Labour opposes
- We only collect 2 per cent of the rainfall in New Zealand – the rest flows out to sea
- More water security means farmers and growers have more certainty about the amount and kinds of food they can grow
- Not only do these projects help the sector grow, they also have environmental benefits such as better summer river flows and flushing out algae
- Irrigation and water storage could return \$2.2b a year to our economy

Time to flush the myths

- Opponents of irrigation incorrectly argue it's all about environmental pollution through more intensive dairy
- The reality is that dairy is only 48 per cent of irrigated land – and with more water security many farmers will be able to convert to land uses like horticulture
- Farmers have to comply with regional council rules about nutrient losses from their farms
- It's hypocritical of opponents of farming to lecture about the impacts of climate change, and then deny farmers a tool to help with better food security

We are protecting...

More for biosecurity

- Keeping out unwanted pests and diseases is a critical part of ensuring our primary sector stays healthy and competitive
- Biosecurity funding has grown under National to record levels of almost \$250m a year
- We've also launched the Biosecurity 2025 strategy that encourages everyone to play their part in biosecurity
- We're reviewing our import rules to make sure we get rid of pests and diseases before products even reach our border

Modernising our fisheries

- We've initiated the Future of our Fisheries programme – a widespread review which is strengthening our fisheries management system
- Cameras and electronic monitoring will now be installed on all commercial boats to help increase transparency of our fisheries
- An extra \$30.5m will also help us get better information on the health of our fisheries to protect them for future generations

Our results so far...

- Primary Sector exports are forecast to grow to record levels of \$41.8b next year – that's over \$8000 for every man, woman, and child in the country
- We're rolling out faster internet to our rural communities and improve mobile coverage in black spot areas through our rural broadband programmes
- Investing \$9.2b into New Zealand's state highway network over the next four years
- Rural communities will be better served by our Safer Communities package which will mean a total of 1125 new Police on the beat
- We've supported the sector through droughts, earthquakes, and floods
- We're maintaining our commitment to free trade with a refreshed trade strategy
- We've signed the mandate to negotiate the new TPP11 – this will mean major tariff savings for exporters and better market access
- Negotiations on a China FTA upgrade are underway and we are progressing opportunities with a number of countries including Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Peru

We're backing farming...

More young farmers

- National will direct Landcorp to sell some of its farms to young farming families and invest the proceeds towards developing world-leading innovative farming systems
- The farms will be awarded on a ten year, lease-to-buy arrangement with the leasee being required to work the farm for the duration of the lease in order to buy it
- The sales are expected to take over a decade to complete and at least 100 young families will benefit from the sales



National will help young farmers to own their own farm, by directing Landcorp to sell some of its farms

Future of Farming Fund

- National wants our farmers and growers to lead the world in sustainable food production
- We will turbo-charge the Sustainable Farming Fund, renaming it the Future of Farming Fund and boosting its funding from \$7m to \$20m per year
- The fund will invest in projects which improve the way we farm and grow, ensuring we are more productive and sustainable and it will develop technology for export
- We will set a target of doubling the value of our agritech industry to \$6b by 2025. We want the latest soil sensors, farm management software, and diagnostic tools all developed here, and exported to the world
- A cross-sector Future of Farming Panel to oversee the Fund's direction and to drive the investment in innovation and science

We're backing farming...

Tougher on biosecurity

- Our Biosecurity Act is almost 15 years old and it's time to modernise it in line with our Biosecurity 2025 strategy
- We'll create stronger rules around imports to ensure that pests and diseases don't even make to the border
- Biosecurity isn't just about farmers and growers – we need to educate and encourage the whole country to play a part

"We are committed to biosecurity and we are investing record amounts to do an even better job of protecting our environment and our livelihoods."

– Primary Industries spokesperson
Nathan Guy

Tough on stock rustling

- Stock rustling is not just an inconvenience – it has a big emotional impact on farmers and resonates through the local community
- We need to send a stronger deterrent to stock rustlers that if they're caught, there'll be serious consequences
- National will put the Stock Rustling Bill high on the legislative agenda
- We'll also work with Police and local community groups to prevent rustling happening in the first place

Smarter regulation

- Overseas consumers place a lot of confidence in the assurances our Government makes about products
- We want better support industry by authenticating higher standards of production
- This will help reward those producers who are going above and beyond to create more value for their products

Don't put it all at risk

The opposition would...

- Labour would impose a raft of new taxes on our primary industries, imposing huge added costs on hard working New Zealand farmers and growers and driving up food prices
- They're considering capital gains, carbon, water, land and death taxes – and they are leaving it to a "working group" to come up with the details
- Labour would slash immigration, making it harder for businesses to attract the right staff to help them grow
- Centralised, industry by industry wage bargaining would take New Zealand backwards
- Labour would scrap our irrigation programme, meaning less certainty and security for farmers, and reducing our production and economic growth
- Labour, New Zealand First, and the Greens have all opposed trade deals, including TPP11, that would mean \$100's of millions for our primary sector