



Forwards!

***Providing you the Tools
to act and build
your own Success!***

Our General Election

PLATFORM

FORWARDS!

FORWARDS!

Policy Platform

We have worked hard to build a set of policies that will provide New Zealanders with the tools to act and to achieve.

With your vote, we will be able to make every man aware of what he is and to make the full responsibility of his existence rest on him. We will help you build your own success.

Toastinrussian CNZM

FORWARDS!

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Tax:

Forwards! believes we should not burden those who need help with undue taxes. We want to reform our tax system to give those on low to middle incomes the opportunity to do their best; to act. Our tax system will also turn every tax into an incentive to act. We must utilise every one of our policy levels

Income Tax reform

Forwards! is proposing that you don't pay a cent of income tax on your first \$20,000. This will provide and encourage hard working people the cash they need to keep working and keep succeeding. It will also allow families who are struggling the most to keep food on the table. Spending in the economy will also be drastically increased supporting business growth.

A tax on Land Value

Forwards! will extend the Land Value Tax to help reduce other overburdening and restrictive taxes. This is the most efficient tax that could be implemented by the government. By having 0 deadweight loss it will ensure economic growth. An LVT incentivises business and community growth. We believe it is just what is needed to get life back into our suffering rural communities, and to make New Zealand even more relevant in international business.

Make Company tax a distributed profits tax.

Corporation tax slows the growth of the private sector. It means that firms do not have the room to expand. The government has recognized this and understands that the private sector needs to be able to grow to hire new staff and let them do their best. Therefore, we will be replacing the outdated and ineffective corporation tax with a Distributed profits tax. This is a tax, at the highest rate of income tax on the dividends a company

pays. This incentivises a company to invest its profits rather than giving them to shareholders – Allowing all New Zealanders to benefit.

Support for small businesses

Most businesses fail within their first year. This is due to mounting costs and low resilience. Furthermore, when a business fails the entrepreneur is less likely to start another firm. We want to encourage people to act. Therefore, we will strip any governmental fees on small and micro business start-ups within their first year. We will also provide free business advice to first time entrepreneurs to keep them going.

A tax on bonuses for socially irresponsible firms.

If companies are not acting in a socially, or environmentally responsible manner, they should be held accountable. As we all take from the land and community so must we give back. Therefore, *Forwards!* is proposing a tax on bonuses if firms are not acting in a way that allows individuals to act freely and stewards New Zealand.

Set up a name and shame for irresponsible and fraudulent companies.

Most New Zealanders work hard and abide by the rules and regulations in place to succeed. They do this with an understanding that everyone else will play by the rules. *Forwards!* believes that through naming and shaming fraudulent and irresponsible firms' individuals will be able to make a clear choice when they spend.

Increase sanctions against tax evaders

The most serious financial criminals must not escape sanction. *Forwards!* believes that sanctions against tax evaders must be increased.

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Commit to a research and innovation tax credit

To take New Zealand's economy, *Forwards!* to greater competitiveness and higher wages we need to support innovators. *Forwards!* support targeted tax breaks for businesses who put money into R&D of products in New Zealand.

Create a sovereign wealth fund for infrastructure and business investment.

A Save as You Go wealth fund for infrastructure investment. *Forwards!* believes that this model, which has worked so well for the NZ Super and ACC should be employed for infrastructure. Its interest will pay off significant portions of New Zealand's road maintenance budget. It will allow us to be resilient to infrastructure shocks and build infrastructure where needed. Such resilience is especially pertinent for such a disaster-prone nation.

Government:

Stewardship, customer focus, outcomes focus as additional values of the public service

Forwards! believes that the public sector must be agile, modern, and adaptive. It must be able to withstand shocks and deliver better outcomes in good faith to New Zealanders. In order to achieve this *Forwards!* proposes setting down in statute the additional values of Stewardship, a Customer focus, and an Outcomes focus. This will transform the way the public service works with New Zealanders for the better, while protecting important principles of political neutrality, free and

frank advice, and merit-based appointments. Fundamentally it will allow people to use the government to act more successfully to everyone's benefit.

Aim to offer all government services and administrative procedures online

We need to prepare for a digital age, online services can save both the government money and save Kiwis time! *Forwards!* will stop costly and unnecessary trips to government offices for menial administration tasks which you could do at home.

Extend the opening hours of public services

With less demand for in house public services, we can focus their provision on those without internet access and extend opening hours to help hard working Kiwis, access services they are entitled to.

We support Open Government

We would aim to boost transparency of how the government works with more data than ever on the efficiency and quality of public service delivery being required to be published.

Take innovative approaches to reduce government delays

Forwards! recognises the inordinate amount of time that you spend working with the government when you should be building your success. *Forwards!* will charge the public sector with investigating and implementing ways of reducing delays and getting you moving faster.

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Immigration:

We support free Universal opt out English language classes

It is critical that everyone who comes to New Zealand can speak our language to participate in our society fully, those accepted as immigrants will be offered English language classes which they may opt out of.

will be achieved by extending the loans to carbon negative or neutral income sources like forestry.

Support our farmers to go digital

By enabling the development of digital agricultural tools and open public platforms for data sharing we will get our farmers taking up the digital revolution at to their benefit.

Rural affairs:

Crack down on rural crime

Our rural communities, including many much beloved churches have been devastated by scrap metal thieves. A forward's MP would not only be a strong voice for rural policing but also would draft legislation to crack down on scrap metal thieves by preventing the non-traceable sale of items likely stolen property

Interest free loans for environmental protection retrofit of their farms to protect the environment and start revenue generating carbon negative sections.

Forward! recognises both the fantastic work our farmers do for New Zealand and their rural communities, and the environmental impact of their work. We believe that they should be supported in succeeding and stewarding New Zealand. As such, we will provide interest free loans to farmers to retrofit their land to protect the environment. We will also use these loans to encourage the diversification of farmers' incomes. This

Defence:

Publish a white paper on a future fixed wing air arm

Forwards! are committed to ensuring we have a defence force with the right equipment to keep it safe. If elected we would publish a white paper exploring a reinstated Fixed Wing Air arm for the Defence force, to improve our ability to defend our interests, contribute to peacekeeping and deter aggression.

Strengthening cyber security

In the twenty-first century we will face cyber threats to our transport hospitals and other public infrastructure all with the ability to harm us. We support increasing funding to our intelligence services and maintaining close cooperation with allies on intelligence to secure us from cyber-attacks.

Revitalize the reserve force

Reserve personnel provide a significant portion of specialised engineers and medical staff used in disaster relief while enlisted reserves ensure that we can rapidly surge capability when a crisis foreign or domestic hits.

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We would work with employers to ensure that reserve as supported in civilian lives and that their service is a benefit to them not a hindrance and give reserves greater access to training opportunities.

Develop work-experience and vocational training programs and opportunities in all high schools

We recognise that academic learning isn't for everyone, some people have different skills and abilities. To value vocational skill, we want every kiwi child to be able to get a good job and so would offer vocational courses and in work learning for high school age children who choose it.

Education:

Lower the age of compulsory education to 4.

Free education for four-year olds will not only start their skills development early but allow more workers into the labour market without having to worry about childcare costs. We hope that this change will also help equalise the gender pay gap.

Compulsory learn to swim classes and physical education

Rivers and waterways can be dangerous and too many lives are cut short by them, we would invest in infrastructure to ensure that as part of an expanded physical education curriculum every child gets to learn to swim classes.

Means tested free school lunches

Forwards! Understands that no child can act and achieve their goals on an empty stomach. Malnutrition slows brain development and makes children unruly in the class, leading to primary and secondary harm. We believe that the lowest decile schools are in dire need of assistance. Therefore we will provide a means tested free school lunch program.

Businesses:

Create a Wave Energy Prize

Forwards! sees great potential in wave power in New Zealand, we will push for the establishment of a prize fund to spur development and focus international expertise in New Zealand.

Allow New Zealanders to make a mistake.

Forwards! believes New Zealand should uphold our reputation as being a trustworthy society. A key part of that is how we work with the Government. The current relationship will heavily penalise those who make minor administrative mistakes accidentally. Forwards! will allow New Zealanders to make a mistake in good faith without being punished. This will help public servants trust New Zealanders and allow people to have faith the Government works for them. It will also allow people to get out and act again, rather than being saddled with repayments.

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Develop corporate social and environmental responsibility

In the era of major climate change, companies should pay respects to the land and environment. They must steward New Zealand. *Forwards!* believes that firms should be encouraged to act in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. We will encourage this through working with business to seek the change we all want to say

Create open jobs sites.

It is vital for one's wellbeing and fiscal security that they have a job. A day spent working hard provides stability, security, and a huge sense of accomplishment and pride in oneself that cannot be achieved at home. *Forwards!* believes that there are many who want to work but can't, or do not have the ability to go through the application process successfully. *Forwards!* will get people out, acting, and earning at open job sites. Anyone will be able to show up to these work sites, do a day's valued work and get paid.

Housing:

RMA reform

The RMA is clearly holding New Zealanders back. New Zealanders are unable to act and succeed because of the unnatural levels of restrictive regulation. We believe regulation should work in the interests of all stakeholders on an intergenerational level. With our reform New Zealanders will be able to easily create a business and act to build their own success.

Green home improvement fund

We would give low interest loans to homeowners and landlords to fit homes with solar panels and insulation to help them with energy costs and staying warm - while also doing our bit to fight climate change.

Create high density "youth housing" at income / study related rents.

In our major cities we see two housing crises for youth. Quality and Quantity. There are not enough homes, and of the available stock, many are barely fit to live in. This means that rents are skyrocketing for homes that are of a low quality. Homes that restrict the ability for the future of our nation to act, to build their own success. *Forwards!* will create high density youth housing in our major cities at income related rents. This will allow our young people a place to achieve, as well as show the market what the standard is for youth accommodation.

Ban renters blacklisting

A major part of the power imbalance between landlords and tenants is the threat of being "blacklisted" by going to the Tenancy tribunal. Many tenants live in homes that are unliveable out of fear of the blacklist, a list shared between rental agencies of tenants who have raised a complaint with the Tribunal. This is unacceptable. No one should feel afraid of the tribunal. *Forwards!* will ban the use of blacklists and allow tenants to utilise the levers that are there for them.

Poverty:

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Scrapping the current system of benefits in favour of a Negative income tax

A Negative Income Tax allows everyone the ability to act. It provides the unemployed with a safety net that rewards income generation rather than punishes it. It will allow our beneficiaries to be in a mana enhancing relationship with WINZ, rather than a degrading one we have now. Furthermore, it will reduce the inequality, that damages our social relationships, and keeps those least fortunate from acting, and building their own success. An NIT would also provide a safety net for everyone from hard times and work to combat underemployment by allowing people to take time out of work to train and also take more time between jobs looking for a job at their level of qualification. We also believe a Negative Income Tax would save the government money in administration, specific programs for those with disabilities and other needs would be retained.

Free P.O. Boxes for the homeless-

Everyone deserves equal access to government services; however, these often require a postal address. To solve this, catch 22 for homeless people we would fund public PO boxes for the homeless. We hope this would also support them in private ventures such as job applications too.

Environment:

Use property rights to fight pollution

Under the principle that polluters must pay we will explore legislation to enable private individuals to register interests in

natural resources and use the legal system to receive redress from any detriment.

Explore giving natural features, legal personhood to protect them from exploitation

Our court system already deals well with the best interests of mentally incapable adults and young children, forward wish to explore extending this test to natural features such as forests, lakes and rivers to protect them from unsustainable development.

Reviewing our environmental taxes

The Coffee Cup tax was not what we needed. It was a demonstration to the commitment to an idea, rather than an effective policy. *Forwards!* Will conduct a review of where best a plastic tax could be placed to minimise waste.

Foreign Affairs:

Support free trade, and to that end membership of the CPTPP

New Zealand is a natural exporting nation, we need free trade to open markets for our products around the world. Tariffs and protectionism would only inflate the cost of goods for Kiwi consumers!

Work towards deeper defence relationships with regional partners.

As a small nation we must work cooperatively to ensure our security, the Defence Cooperation Agreement with Singapore negotiated by *Forwards!* Deputy

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Leader LeChevalierMal-Fait offers a blueprint for wider bilateral deals, and potentially collective defence in the Asia Pacific region - keeping New Zealand safe by keeping the region peaceful.

Take a leading role in encouraging development in the Pacific

Development is one of the greatest moral and security challenges we face and the reduction of poverty in the Asia-Pacific region should be a key priority of the government. To that end we will spend more money on aid and focus it on Pacific partners while also improving the transparency of aid spending.

Create an international system where nations can help themselves too,

We shall introduce legislation to support remittance providers enabling workers in New Zealand to send money home with less of a mark-up, ensuring more money goes to communities that need it.

Repeal the international transparent treaties act,

It is simply a delay on international engagement and cooperation imposed by isolationists, a return to Ponsonby like rules will allow for the government to make agreements in the national interest rapidly in response to changing circumstances.

Health:

Reform the District Health boards

The District Health Boards are fundamentally not achieving the best that they could. *Forwards!* believes that New Zealanders should receive healthcare that is effective, efficient, and equitable. Healthcare that gets you back on your feet so you can succeed. We will therefore seek a commission to investigate the question of merging DHBs into the Ministry of Health with elected local bodies to advise the Ministry on local health issues.

Support a parity of care between physical and mental health

It's time to stand up and be counted for mental health! mental health services need to be funded with equal seriousness as physical health. Both can be life and death; *Forwards* are committed to legislation that would require public health authorities to establish a parity of care when making funding decisions.

Reform adult guardianship to encourage supported decisions

We will legislate to ensure that adults who lack capacity can be supported to make decisions about their future where possible, maximising personal and property rights of the individual.

Justice:

Prevent bomb making

We support regulation on explosive precursors that have industrial uses to prevent them falling into the wrong hands.

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A modern treason act:

We would update the laws on treason to include “civic treason” to enable prosecution of foreign fighters who committed crimes in unstable regions and recognise the wrongness of betraying one's country.

Support rehabilitative prisons

For many in our prisons they are just a gateway to more serious crime, we would reform our prisons along a Norwegian model focusing on ensuring safety for prisoners and officers

Institute a prohibition against short sighted short sentences

The outcome of punishment should fit its purpose. Short sentences disrupt people's lives, jobs and rent arrangements are minimised, they cast someone out of the ambit of the clean slate act for good. Prison should also only be the last resort; we would create in law a presumption against custodial sentences in all cases where it is unnecessary for public protection.

The removal of strict liability by statutory interpretation for all but the most mundane offences.

Normally, we require that someone meant to commit the act or cause the harm they have been charged with. If they didn't mean to do it for various reasons, they can raise a defence. Defences range from not knowing you did it, to insanity, to consent. Why should someone who takes a property they thought was their own be branded a criminal, a thief, and be imprisoned? Why should the victim of domestic violence who fights back in self-

defence be called a batterer? There are currently offences of strict liability where all the prosecution needs to prove is that the accused did the act. Therefore, you can't raise a defence as to your intention or ability. Most offences which are strict liability are not defined as strict liability in the law. They are interpreted by the courts as strict liability almost arbitrarily. This must stop. *Forwards!* Will work hard to ensure that every person charged with an offence can raise a defence as to their guilty mind.

Maori affairs:

A Mana enhancing approach to working with Maori

Forwards! Believes that working with Maori should be through a relationship of mana enhancement, rather than that of condescendence and patronisation. We will ensure that when Maori work with the Government in all facets they are able to go away in an improved state. We will increase the Mana of the Government and Maori

Focus on aligning Government programs to ensure they work for Maori

Forwards! understands that many government programs are currently not fit for purpose. Maori have an incredibly low rate of engagement with government programs, as they do not fit in with the Te Ao Maori worldview. *Forwards!* will ensure that new government programmes align with this world view and increase Maori Engagement