

## **NZ Labour agreement to form government and immediate policy agenda**

**October 2017**

Yesterday, New Zealand Labour (NZ Labour) and New Zealand First (NZ First) announced a coalition agreement (the agreement), to form minority government.

The agreement is supported by a confidence and supply agreement between Labour and the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand (Greens).

Under the agreement Labour Leader Jacinda Ardern, will become Prime Minister.

Ms Ardern has confirmed NZ First will hold four Cabinet positions and one Parliamentary undersecretary position, and the Greens will hold three ministerial positions outside Cabinet and one undersecretary position.

The coalition partners will have a total of 55 seats (46 NZ Labour and 9 NZ First). The Greens have 8 seats.

The opposition will be the Nationals (56 seats). The remaining seat is held by the ACT party.

61 votes are required for a majority on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Further information on NZ Labour's election commitments are available in the Occasional Paper [here](#).

This Occasional Paper will outline the 100-day policy agenda of NZ Labour as part of the new government.

### **100-day agenda**

NZ Labour's immediate policy agenda includes:

- Establishing a Tax Working Group;
- Increasing the minimum wage to \$16.50 an hour, to take effect from 1 April 2018, and introducing other industrial relations legislation to parliament;
- Commencing work on Labour's KiwiBuild programme, including the establishment of Affordable Housing Authority;
- Instructing Housing NZ to stop selling state houses;
- Passing Labour's Healthy Homes Guarantee Bill, which would require rentals to be warm and dry
- Banning overseas speculators from buying existing houses;
- Setting a zero-carbon emissions target, beginning by setting up an independent Climate Commission;
- Making the first year of tertiary education or training free from 1 January 2018;



- Increasing allowances and living cost loans for student from 1 January 2018;
- Establishing a mental health crisis Ministerial Inquiry;
- Legislating a Families Package, including a Winter Fuel Payment, Best Start and increases to Paid Parental Leave, to take effect from 1 July 2018;
- Legislating to make medicinal cannabis available for people with terminal illnesses or in chronic pain;
- Resuming contributions to the NZ Superannuation Fund to safeguard the provision of universal superannuation from age 65;
- Holding a Clean Waters Summit;
- Establishing the Pike River Recovery Agency and assigning a responsible Minister; and
- Introducing legislation to set a child poverty reduction target and ensuring that progress on achieving this target is reported as part of the budget;
- Setting up an inquiry into the abuse of children in state care;

#### **Further information**

Further information on Jacinda Ardern and her election to the NZ Labour leadership are available in our Occasional Paper [here](#).

Further information on NZ Labour's election policies is available [here](#).

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