



## Sustainable New Zealand Party Conservation Policy

### Our Vision

It is our responsibility to protect the natural environment on which we all depend. Collectively we have neglected our duty. Our unique flora and fauna are under threat.

Over 80% of our land-based native birds, bats, reptiles and frogs are at risk of extinction.

31% of our freshwater plants, 74% of our freshwater fish, and 34% of our freshwater invertebrates are at risk of extinction.

Almost half of the world's whales and dolphins visit or live in New Zealand waters.

Of the 360 seabird species found worldwide, 86 breed in New Zealand, including 38 which breed nowhere else.

A third of New Zealand's land mass is protected in parks and reserves but our marine reserves cover just 0.48% of our oceans.

Source: <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz>

We can turn this around by a combination of clear policy, careful investment and community effort.

We believe that it is government's role to set a framework and create incentives. We do not want central government to take over and crowd out what can best be done by local communities.

The government currently invests 0.5% of its total budget on conservation. The Sustainable New Zealand Party will increase that to 0.75% initially and to 1% by 2025.

We want more of that spending to go to communities. But will take time to build up capability on the ground.

The financial cost of protecting our environment is surprisingly low. The total cost of continued neglect is incalculably high.

Restoring healthy ecosystems will take a generation. This is our plan as a Party for Conservation in the first three years of government.

We are committed to a **Billion Dollar Funding Boost for environmental conservation.**

We will release our Freshwater, Marine and Fisheries Policy separately.

## Targets

No more extinctions of native species.

1% of government spending to be on conservation by 2025.

## Key Principles

1. We will enhance and restore healthy ecosystems.
2. We will protect our native plant and animal species from habitat loss and degradation.
3. We aim to make 2050 Predator Free.
4. We will partner with communities and businesses to build a team of 4.7 million New Zealanders working together to protect the natural environment.
5. We will wage War on Weeds and Wilding Conifers.
6. We will apply the best science and modern technology to advance conservation.
7. We will support improved on the ground farm management to protect ecosystems.
8. We will extend the national network of marine protected areas.<sup>1</sup>

## Specific Policy Points

We will provide a Billion Dollar conservation funding boost over 4 years to restore and enhance our ecosystems :-

1. We will extend the significant natural areas under active pest management from under 50% to 75% plus of New Zealand's significant natural ecosystems.<sup>2</sup>
2. We will double core funding for [Predator Free 2050](#) to \$19 million a year.
3. We will increase Department of Conservation (DOC) funding to maintain, restore and protect ecosystems, habitats and species by 10% or \$26.374 million a year.
4. We will protect areas of high ecological value through purchase or covenant by doubling the [Nature Heritage Fund](#) to \$12.194 million a year.
5. We will double the funding for the protection and management of [Historic Heritage](#) to \$11.62 million a year.
6. We will increase funding of DOC's [Conservation in the Community programme](#) of public education and building conservation partnerships by 10% or \$3.86 million a year.
7. We will increase the Crown's contribution to the [QEII Trust](#) by 50% or \$1.706 million a year.<sup>3</sup>
8. We fund the SPCA to support responsible cat and dog management at \$0.5 million a year.
9. We will wage war on wilding pines and pest plants by investing an extra \$26 million a year into the delivery of [Regional Council Pest Management Plans](#). That is an average of \$2 million for each Regional Council shifting the burden from the ratepayer to the taxpayer.
10. We will invest a further \$6 million a year on targeted wallaby control with the long-term aim of eradication.<sup>4</sup>
11. We will invest \$60 million more a year into the [National Science Challenges](#) to advance new pest-control technologies and eco-system based management of natural resources.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/about-doc/annual-reports/annual-report-2018/annual-report-2018.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://treasury.govt.nz/publications/estimates/vote-conservation-environment-sector-estimates-2019-2020-html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://qeiiationaltrust.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2018-QEII-Annual-Report-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/forest-bird-calls-more-funding-stop-plague-wallabies>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/e7c91ccacc/science-board-decisions-on-second-period-funding-2018.pdf>

12. We will increase the recently announced [A Sustainable Future – Productive and Sustainable Land Use](#) fund by \$95 million a year for practical advice and support to implement integrated farm management plans.

### Legislation

We will bring environmental legislation up to date to protect and restore our biodiversity by: -

- Supporting a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
- Streamlining the Resource Management Act 1991
- Progressing an overhaul of the Biosecurity Act 1993
- Updating the Fisheries Act 1996 and the Wildlife Act 1953
- Reviewing the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978
- Reviewing the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996

### Billion Dollar Funding Boost

\$Ms	Additional Environment Conservation Funding
9.5	Predator Free NZ
26.374	Management of Natural Heritage
6.097	Nature Heritage Fund
5.81	Historic Heritage Fund
3.86	Conservation in the Community
1.706	QE11 trust
0.5	Responsible cat and dog ownership (SPCA)
26	Conifers and weeds (Regional Councils via Biosecurity NZ)
6	Wallaby control (Regional Councils via Biosecurity NZ)
60	Science and research (National Science Challenges MBIE)
95	Freshwater Fund (Ministry for Environment)
<b>\$240.85</b>	<b>Total Year One</b> 2.5% annual increase
\$246.87	Total Year Two
\$253.04	Total Year Three
\$259.37	Total Year Four
<b>\$1,000.13</b>	<b>Four Year Total</b>

Note: These figures are based upon Budget 2019 appropriations.