



EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME INFORMATION KIT

**MEDIA STATEMENTS
SPECIFIC CONCESSIONS
QUESTIONS and ANSWERS**

23 November 2009
EMBARGOED UNTIL 4PM

MEDIA STATEMENT

Monday November 23, 2009

Maori Party deal to benefit all

New Zealand's role in global warming and its financial commitments are set to be lowered as a result of the afforestation provision the Maori Party has negotiated with the Government.

"Afforestation is about planting permanent forests and by allowing iwi to do this on Crown land everyone in New Zealand will benefit not just environmentally but in the pocket as well," the co-leaders Tariana Turia and Dr Pita Sharples said.

"The creation of large-scale permanent forests will breathe new life into an environment that has been taken for granted. And in turn that will reduce the amount of money taxpayers pay to meet this country's financial obligations under the Kyoto Protocol."

"Climate change affects us all and while we aspire to have a great economy, we know this must not be done at the expense of the environment," the co-leaders said.

The afforestation provision will enable iwi to plant permanent forests on Crown land and in return, accrue carbon credits.

In the Maori Party talks with the Government it was also able to get a number of other concessions in exchange for supporting the Climate Change (Moderated Emissions Trading) Amendment Bill when it comes before the House this week.

"We've put tireless effort into coming out with a deal that benefits the environment, every taxpayer, vulnerable families and iwi who play a huge role as partners to the Treaty," the co-leaders said.

The afforestation provision will see several iwi – Ngai Tahu, Ngati Awa, Ngati Tuwharetoa ki Kawerau, Waikato / Tainui and Te Uri o Hau – plant about 35,000 hectares of forests. It will also see the Government work with other iwi to facilitate indigenous planting.

Keeping a focus on vulnerable families:

The Maori Party has managed to cushion the blow on low-income families by halving petrol and power price increases in its negotiations with the Government over the emissions trading scheme.

“We pushed for this because we’re mindful of the impact these increases will have on vulnerable families,” the co-leaders Tariana Turia and Dr Pita Sharples said.

In addition to reducing petrol and power prices, the Maori Party also managed to negotiate an extra \$24 million of new money to insulate houses lived in by Community Service Card holders.

“Families living in non-insulated houses not only have higher power bills – they also have higher chances of getting sick, so we are pleased the Government has heard our call on this issue.”

The insulation funding would see an extra 2000 houses of Community Service Card holders insulated every year from now up to 2013.

It is estimated that as a result of the Maori Party concessions on petrol, power and insulation, households will save at least \$4 a week.

Keeping a focus on the Treaty:

Brokering a relationship between the Treaty partners has been a key feature in the Maori Party’s negotiations over the emissions trading scheme.

“The negotiations have allowed us to bring together the two Treaty partners (iwi and the Government) so Maori values are not only taken into account in this scheme but this country’s overall legislative approach to addressing climate change issues,” co-leaders Tariana Turia and Dr Pita Sharples said.

“Iwi have told us of their responsibilities to whanau, particularly those of their members on low-incomes, and we welcome their intention, over and above what we’ve already negotiated, to help ease the pressure on those whanau.

“Iwi have also told us of their responsibilities to whenua and we welcome the Government’s decision to allow them to invest in indigenous forestry on Crown-owned land and other projects which recognise the importance of biodiversity.

Iwi are the key drivers behind the Maori economy which contributes billions of dollars to the country's economy, the co-leaders said.

"The Maori economy and this country's economy underpin the livelihoods and wellbeing of so many of our whanau, hapu and iwi.

"Forestry, fisheries and agriculture are key drivers for the Maori economy and the iwi groups running them are truly passionate about their role not only as businesses but kaitiaki who have already started to adopt better practices so our future generations inherit rivers, lakes, lands and forests that are clean and healthy."

Keeping a focus on collective responsibility:

The Maori Party says collective responsibility for environmental and social outcomes is the only way to respond to the bigger picture of climate change.

"No piece of legislation can ever be the whole answer to New Zealand's response to climate change," co-leaders Tariana Turia and Dr Pita Sharples said.

"The real answers can only come from people as whanau, communities and enterprises deciding to change how we live and interact with the environment.

"This bill is only a small part of the change that is needed. And it is time we as a nation, as whanau, as iwi focused on the real challenge of addressing our collective responsibilities for carbon emissions."

End

SPECIFIC CONCESSIONS NEGOTIATED

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Below is a table outlining all of the concessions the Maori Party was able to secure in its negotiations.

Whānau Outcomes	
Measure	Outcome
Price Impact	Petrol and power price impact on the average household halved from \$330 a year to \$165 a year through transitional approach.
Home Insulation	The Warm-Up New Zealand scheme will be enhanced by an additional investment of \$24 million in new money targeted exclusively for low income families. This will enable 8000 additional homes to benefit from the scheme. EECA has been requested to work closely with iwi to explore opportunities for their involvement in the programme. This will include where practical, an increase in the number of Maori home insulation providers and installers and further development of the existing work with community groups and iwi to provide targeted support to low income households
Kura Taiao – Enviro-Schools	Agreement to continue funding the Kura Taiao – Enviro-Schools programme. Through a joint contract between Ministry of Environment and Te Puni Kokiri this programme will continue to build a network of schools/kura committed to environmental learning, action and creating sustainable communities.
Whenua Outcomes	
Measure	Outcome
Crown-lwi Afforestation	Agreement to further explore Crown-lwi partnerships in afforestation. There is significant potential for indigenous species afforestation that will deliver enhanced biodiversity outcomes. These arrangements are akin to public private partnerships in environmental infrastructure. These arrangements will also significantly reduce New Zealand’s liabilities under the Kyoto Protocol and therefore reduce the burden on future generations of New Zealand tax payers.
NPS on Biodiversity	A National Policy Statement on Biodiversity under the Resource Management Act has long been sought, and will now be progressed in early 2010. The NPS is designed to improve and better value the importance of biodiversity to environmental outcomes.
Complimentary	The government agrees to consult with the Maori Party on the wider programme of complementary climate

Measures	change measures that, alongside the ETS, will contribute to New Zealand moving to a lower carbon economy. This will specifically include consultation prior to Government decisions on the proposed NES on sea level rises and NPS on renewable energy. This consultation will include any new proposals on complementary measures on climate change following a Stocktake in 2010. The government also agrees to consult with the Maori Party on other environmental initiatives including the waste fund, work on the Environmental Protection Authority and phase II of the Resource management Reform programme.
Māori Economy Outcomes	
Measure	Outcome
Permanent Forests Sinks Review	The Permanent Forest Sinks Initiative encourages indigenous tree planting by issuing Assigned Amount Units for carbon uptake. Now that an ETS is in place for the forestry sector the Maori Party has proposed a review of these schemes. This will be undertaken in the New Year with particular emphasis on the impacts on land owners.
Fisheries Industry	It is agreed that the ETS will be amended to provide for an increased 90% allocation for the fishing industry through the transitional period to 2013 taking into account the half obligation. This has been determined to be 700,000 units. This allocation will be made to quota holders on a tonnage basis instead of vessel owners so to prevent NZ unit going overseas.
Agricultural Advisory Group	It has been agreed that a special advisory group will be convened to advise Government on the various issues relating to measuring and reporting, point of obligation emission factors and the like to ensure a smooth implementation in 2015. The Government will work with the Maori Party in developing the Cabinet paper to establish the group, its terms of reference and its membership which will include Maori agricultural interests.
Agricultural Research	The Government has committed to working with the Maori Party on two important research initiatives; Primary Growth Partnership and a Domestic Agricultural Research Centre. The commitment will ensure appropriate iwi involvement and substantially increase public investment in this strategically important area for New Zealand and iwi.
Treaty of Waitangi Outcomes	
Measure	Outcome
Iwi Unknowingly	Five iwi (Ngāi Tahu, Waikato-Tainui, Te Uri o Hau,

Disadvantaged	Ngāti Awa, Tuwharetoa ki Kawerau) have reached an agreement in principle to carbon farm on 35,000 hectares of low conservation value DoC land. This deal is valued in the vicinity of \$25 million to \$50 million subject to the price of carbon, and therefore just covers the cost of the loss the iwi will experience under the ETS because the Crown did not meet its information disclosure requirements of Treaty settlements in respect of the likely impact of an ETS on pre-1990 forest land.
Treaty Clause	The Government will support an agreed SOP, moved by the Maori party during the Committee stages of the bill that recognises the Treaty of Waitangi. This provision will specifically set out the ongoing decisions on which Crown has an obligation to consult.
International Negotiations	Māori representation in a government delegation has been secured and is a further manifestation of the Treaty relationship because it ensures the highest level of input on agricultural, forestry and fishing issues impacting the economy and the Maori economy in particular.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

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What is the purpose of the Climate Change (Moderated Response Amendment) Bill?

The bill amends the Climate Change Response Act 2002 in order to modify New Zealand's current emissions trading scheme (ETS). The purpose of the ETS is to enable NZ to comply with its international obligations under the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nation's framework convention on climate change to reduce and report on emissions levels.

Has the Maori Party changed its position?

No. The Maori Party still believes that polluters must pay. We are also concerned that there are too many pollution deniers. We must all take responsibility for caring for the environment. Climate change will not be fixed by a piece of legislation alone. It can only be resolved by people – from the grassroots through to corporate conglomerates be they Maori or non-Maori – making decisions to do things differently. We believe a balance can be struck, but that it will take the collective will power of everyone in order to achieve that.

Wasn't Labour's scheme better?

No, not for Maori anyway. Labour did not provide for whanau, whenua, the Treaty of Waitangi and the Maori economy. These are four outcomes we have pursued vigorously throughout our negotiations.

What's so significant about the Treaty clause ?

The Treaty clause is about recognising our founding document and recognising that the Treaty is about joint responsibility and working together. The scheme also relies on regulations for much of its implementation. The Treaty clause will ensure iwi and Maori are able to participate in the development of these rules.

Aren't you just working for 'big iwi' interests?

As the Maori Party, we have an obligation to listen to whanau, hapu and iwi. We are listening to them – and no other political party can genuinely say they are. We are standing up for their rights and needs because that is our role. In the end, the big interests for iwi are whanau. Te Runanga o Ngati Porou for example has as their big interests the descendants of Porourangi, likewise with Ngai Tahu who have their descendants as their big interests.

What's the Maori Party's position on climate change?

The Maori Party accepts that climate change is real, and that it is one of the biggest global threats that we will face. We also understand that it is hard to 'see' climate change as a real threat, because it is happening slowly and the consequences aren't that bad, yet. But, we believe that climate change is and will have a major impact on our people:

- ⇒ Whanau – for whanau, climate change will result in higher costs of living as businesses try to transfer the costs of their efforts to reduce and/or pay for carbon emissions. In time, it might also mean that transport is more expensive, impacting on our ability to travel to see whanau and go back to our marae;
- ⇒ Hapu – for hapu, climate change could impact on how connected our people are if it is harder to travel, it could also result in changes to our customary take as species become more scarce, or rivers become more polluted (climate change could result in salt getting into the rivers, which will have a big impact on our customary take);
- ⇒ Iwi – for iwi, climate change will impact on our traditional territories and their sustainability for future generations. It will also impact on how our commercial engines operate and their ability to protect and grow the putea for our people.

The Maori Party position is that everyone who contributes to climate change should be responsible for helping to stop climate change and

contribute to environmental sustainability. Climate change is our collective responsibility, whanau, communities, and business must act locally, nationally and globally together.

What's the Maori Party's position on the ETS?

The Maori Party opposed Labour's scheme because it did not respect the rights of Maori and iwi and have given conditional support to National's scheme because they have committed to working with us on delivering better outcomes for our whanau, whenua, recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi and the Maori economy.

The Emissions Trading Scheme is a long way from perfect, and ultimately, any scheme will only be part of the solution for climate change. No piece of legislation can deliver the collective responsibility that we believe is needed. We decided to support the Bill on the condition that four priority outcome areas are met:

- ⇒ Whanau – all lower income households get much better access to funding for insulation because insulation lowers the cost of power and contributes to better health and there is more work done on other ways to stop businesses from transferring their costs to whanau;
- ⇒ Whenua – increasing environmental sustainability across a number of policy areas and supporting Iwi and Maori to get environmental, customary and economic benefit from carbon farming (carbon farming is planting trees to earn credits, with the added benefit that we get more indigenous forest in our rohe);
- ⇒ Treaty of Waitangi – the Treaty must be provided for in the scheme so that it is fair for our people, no matter what future changes get made along the way and so that Treaty Settlements are respected;
- ⇒ Maori Economy – our people are heavily involved in fishing, farming and forestry, all of which are affected by the scheme. We are working on making sure that our people's businesses are not the hardest hit by the scheme, so that the outcomes are fair and our economy can grow.

We decided it was better to get these outcomes and stop the delaying tactics that businesses have been using to try to avoid the scheme over the last three years. We think it is important that a scheme is put in place so that we can all focus on what really needs to be done – the bigger, broader changes we all need to make to stop climate change.