



Protecting our drinking water

For a cleaner environment

We can't take clean drinking water for granted anymore

New Zealanders shouldn't have to worry that the water coming from their taps is not safe, or that there's not enough of it, or that bottling companies are taking the good stuff. Many communities endure contaminated drinking water, while an outbreak in Havelock North last year made 5,000 sick from the water that came from their own taps. At the same time, water bottlers and exporters profit from a precious free resource. This isn't right, and we're going to fix it.

The Green Party will put a stop to water bottling companies and exporters taking our water for free, and clean up drinking water so it doesn't make Kiwis sick. We will preserve clean water for you, your children, and your grandchildren.

The Green Party will:

1. Put an immediate 10 cent/litre levy on the sale and exports of water, including for drinking to ensure companies that profit from our cleanest water give something back.
2. Develop a fair way to charge all commercial water users, through nationwide meetings and hui with all interested people and organisations, starting from the position that water should be protected, te Tiriti o Waitangi should be honoured, and commercial water users should pay their fair share. We expect tangata whenua will play a critical role in this process.
3. Protect sources of drinking water through regulatory changes to the Resource Management Act and National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.
4. Help smaller communities and marae get clean water by re-instating the Drinking Water Subsidy Scheme.

Water bottlers should pay for the privilege

A recent poll showed that 87 per cent of people asked think water bottlers and exporters should pay royalties. They can see how unfair it is that private companies profit from a public resource, without giving anything back to the communities they take water from.

The Green Party will, as an interim measure, put an excise levy of 10 cents/litre on all domestic sales of New Zealand water and a 10/cent litre export levy on water exports. We will also put an interim ban on new resource consents for companies wanting to take water to bottle or export until a comprehensive commercial water pricing scheme is in place.

- Revenue will be divided 50/50 between local councils and mana whenua.
- Councils will be expected to use the revenue for environmental programmes and drinking water management

A fair charge for all commercial water uses

Water bottling is only a small part of the water crisis we face in New Zealand. Other commercial uses of water, such as irrigation, have a greater environmental impact. How we go about putting a fair charge on all commercial water uses is a question for all New Zealanders. The Green Party will:

- Establish a working group to facilitate a national conversation with mana whenua and all New Zealanders to agree the best ways to protect water sources and implement fair resource charges on all commercial uses of water.
- The discussion will be based on core bottom lines that protect water quality, protect domestic and small users' access to water, and honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Protect the sources of our drinking water

The Green Party will:

- Bring the National Environmental Standard for Drinking Water up to scratch to better protect sources of drinking water from becoming contaminated.
- Put in place better rules to ensure groundwater is protected from polluting activities on land, because 40% of New Zealanders rely on groundwater from aquifers for their drinking water.
- Require councils to prioritise protecting drinking water when making decisions about how they allocate water resources.

Ensure smaller communities and marae have access to safe drinking water

Current protections for drinking water sources don't apply to communities of fewer than 500 people, and many small communities don't have the means to secure clean water supply. We will reinstate the Drinking Water Subsidy that saw \$10 million a year for 10 years help people to upgrade equipment, get technical advice, and ensure their communities are safe, paid for by a new commercial charge on water use.

www.greens.org.nz/protecting-drinking-water

The logo for the Green Party, featuring a stylized green leaf above the word "Green" in a white, serif font.

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