

Questions for Election Forum 14/10/8

Living Streets Aotearoa Questions

1. Would you support increasing expenditure on existing road and footpath maintenance and expenditure on walking and cycling rather than spending tens of millions on brand new road projects?
2. Currently central government funding for walking and cycling only covers the transport component whilst central government funding for motorised vehicles includes both recreational and transport components. Will you ensure that all modes of transport are treated equally and are funded for both recreational and transport purposes?

Forest and Bird Questions

3. Water is a big issue in Canterbury. There are concerns about our rivers and streams, aquifers and drinking water. The Regional Council, ECan, has declared some zones as 'red zones', ie, already allocated or even over-allocated. Yet the Environment Court allowed Synlait to be issued a permit to further extract river water, from a designated 'red zone'. Would your party call a moratorium on further major water takes until major studies on Canterbury's water use are completed?
4. NZ is one of the least efficient users of electricity and water in the OECD. Would your party introduce compulsory national building codes for new housing, requiring, at least, water collection tanks, greywater systems and solar water panels?

Sustainable Business Network Questions

5. Green House Gas Emissions are only one of the problems that we are facing in terms of environmental degradation, will your party provide incentives for companies to reduce/mitigate their environmental impacts (other than offsetting through a trading mechanism)?
6. Currently businesses are only required to file financial reports with the Companies office. Does your party have a policy framework that will support the adoption of triple bottom line reporting as standard amongst all businesses?

Sustainable Otago Christchurch Questions

7. Do your party's policies support the protection and improvement of indigenous biodiversity values and habitats, and the recognition of kaitiakitanga?

8. Do your party's policies address the implications of the declining availability of affordable petroleum?

New Zealand Association of Environmental Educators Question

9. Sustainability is now a key theme of the New Zealand Curriculum. Does your party agree with this being the case, and will it work to ensure that education for sustainability is actively implemented within school learning programmes?

Question from the Organising Committee as a whole.

10 Much work to further sustainability is being done voluntarily, through a wide range of environmental, conservation, sustainable transport advocacy and alternative energy groups, and through the transition towns movement. Does your party have policy designed to encourage the Tangata whenua, community and voluntary sector, and are you prepared to fund initiatives such as 'The Clearing House' <http://www.communityresearch.org.nz/>, that seek to foster and distribute research into developments in this area?