

Report Card



Doing what we said we would do.

UnitedFuture has a track record of solutions-based politics and you can judge for yourself below.

UnitedFuture's 2005–2008 Confidence & Supply Agreement with the Government – the Results

1. The Families Commission will co-ordinate parenting education and relationship counselling programmes.

Result: The Families Commission's "Parenting: the Best Job You'll Ever Do" programme was launched in February 2008. The Families Commission is also currently undertaking research on the operation of the Child Support scheme.

2. Business Taxes will be reviewed.

Result: The tax cut for businesses and certain savings products was cut to 30 cents from 1 April 2008, with associated cuts in personal taxes to be announced in the 2008 Budget.

3. A new tax regime for charities will be developed.

Result: The limits on the level of personal and corporate charitable donations eligible for tax rebates have been abolished from 1 April 2008 so that all personal and corporate charitable donations will be able claim to a rebate of 33 cents in the dollar. A voluntary payroll giving scheme, and new rules making expenses incurred by volunteers non-taxable will be introduced from 1 April 2009.

4. The proposed carbon tax will be deferred, pending a new cost benefit analysis.

Result: The carbon tax was scrapped in 2005. Consideration is now being given to the introduction of an emissions trading regime.

5. Improved access to student allowances.

Result: Improved access to student allowances due for announcement in the 2008 Budget.

6. Private surgical hospital capacity to be used to reduce waiting lists where feasible. [In negotiation]

7. The Prostitution Reform Act will be reviewed, with specific reference to street soliciting, under age involvement and brothel zoning.

Result: A working party has been established and has made recommendations to the government for changes in these areas.

8. Improvements to public access along rivers, lakes and foreshores.

Result: The Walking Access Review Panel was established and met during 2006, and a special land access agency has been established to negotiate access arrangements with individual landowners.

9. Water quality and agrarian run-off issues to be addressed.

Result: Water quality standards have now been included for the first time in the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Water Programme of Action.

10. A long term medicines strategy regarding the quality use of pharmaceuticals to be developed.

Result: "Medicines New Zealand", a national medicines policy, and "Actioning Medicines New Zealand", its implementation plan, were released in December 2007.

11. A nationwide pest reduction strategy to be developed.

Result: An independent task force, established in May 2007, has recommended several changes, including treating deer as game animals, and better structures for representing the interests of recreational hunters.

12. Central government funding will be available for the Transmission Gully highway if that is the preferred option of the Wellington region.

Result: The 2006 Budget confirmed government funding for Transmission Gully, with contracts for geotechnical and other work let in late 2006, to be completed by mid 2008.

13. A government discussion document on income splitting will be developed.

Result: A government discussion on how an income splitting system for parents with dependent children could be introduced was released in April 2008, and is open for public submissions until the end of June 2008.

14. No limits on freedom of speech through hate speech laws will be introduced.

Result: No hate speech laws have been introduced.

15. No legislative initiatives to decriminalise the recreational use of cannabis.

Result: There have been no moves to decriminalise the recreational use of cannabis.

We set out a programme of what we want to realistically achieve and then we go all out to get there.

www.unitedfuture.org.nz

Authorised by Phil Johnson,
Financial Agent, United Future
New Zealand, 57 Para Street,
Miramar, Wellington