



John Key new leader of New Zealand National Party November 27, 2006

Today at a special caucus meeting, member of parliaments (MP) for National agreed that the new leader of the opposition, New Zealand's National Party, is John Key and the deputy leader is Bill English. They are taking over from past leader, Dr Don Brash and past deputy leader, Gerry Brownlee.

Dr Brash quit last week as he thought he was damaging the image of the National Party and Gerry Brownlee didn't seek leadership or to continue being the deputy.

Bill English, 45-years-old, is the former leader of the National Party. He was outed in 2003, for a bad performance at the 2002 New Zealand elections, and replaced by Dr Brash. Mr English only managed to get 22% of the votes cast.

John Key, also 45-years-old, said at the announcement of the new leader and deputy leader that he was honoured that he was chosen to be the new leader of the National Party and also honoured that Mr English would be his deputy. "Can I tell you I think we will make a formidable team," he said. Key said the public placed a high value on unity.

"The new leadership represents the future," and Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and deputy PM, Michael Cullen "represent the

past," Mr Key said.

Mr English had supported Mr Key as long as he was promised the position of deputy.

Murray McCully, strategy manager, met Mr English, Mr Key and Simon Power, supporter of Mr English, in Auckland where they discussed and finalised the takeover of the party.

Mr Key said: "...It was critical that we proved we can manage ourselves. If we do that successfully then we can earn the right to manage the country. People definitely took the view they were putting the party before themselves."

Mr English said that he believes that he and Mr Key will be the leaders for several elections.

The political editor for Newstalk ZB and Prime News, Barry Soper, said: "The two forty-somethings give the party a new, young look. It is a meteoric rise for John Key. The 45-year-old only rejoined the National Party less than 10 years ago, and became an MP just over four years ago. However, it is still not as meteoric as Don Brash's rise to the job - he had only been an MP for a year when he was made leader."

Dr Brash will however stay on the National Party. He is at number 3 on the list of National MPs, behind Key and English. His new caucus responsibilities will be Spokesman for the Security and Intelligence Service and Spokesman for Relationships with

Non-Government Parties. His select committee responsibility is Security and Intelligence.

Since 1999 when New Zealand Labour Party took power, National has had four leaders which has given an image to the public of instability. Mr Key is the fifth leader.

Mr English will now be the finance spokesman taking over from Mr Key.

Eden Park to be upgraded for New Zealand's Rugby World Cup November 27, 2006

The New Zealand Government has announced that it is ditching its preferred option of building a new stadium on Auckland's waterfront and instead is going to upgrade Auckland's current stadium of Eden Park for the 2011 Rugby World Cup final that New Zealand is hosting.



Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand.

The decision is only if Eden Park can do a "...redevelopment design, and on governance and funding issues going forward, with a report back to Cabinet

by December 13. This report back date will not affect building timelines," Trevor Mallard, minister for sport, said.

The waterfront stadium was to cost NZ\$497 million compared to the upgrade of Eden Park which will cost \$385 million.

John Alexander, chief executive of Eden Park, said: "This decision is the right one for Auckland and for New Zealand. The Eden Park of 2011 will make Auckland and New Zealand proud. Not only will it preserve our rich sporting and social history, and provide sports viewing of an international quality, our plans will put the Park back into Eden Park."

Mr Mallard said: "The decision on a stadium had always been one for Auckland to make but unfortunately Auckland has been unable to agree to a preference, with Auckland City Council in favour of a waterfront site, and the Auckland Regional Council not favouring such a site."

The North Harbour stadium has been announced as the back up option, "It has also been agreed that North Harbour be considered as a reserve option for the time being..." Mr Mallard said.

"Cabinet today considered two options given this lack of unanimity - either to convene a group of all key parties to see whether issues with the waterfront could be overcome, or to support a redevelopment of Eden Park, which was the Auckland City Council's second option, subject to further work," Mr Mallard said.

"Cabinet decided to explore an alternative stadium site after it became clear - in August - that the cost of an Eden Park redevelopment had gone from around \$150 million when the hosting bid was won, to an estimated

\$320 million. The latest Eden Park version is estimated to cost \$385 million. If the government had been advised of the escalation of these costs earlier, then the timeframe would not have been so tight, and the process of evaluating options and consultation would have been much different," Trevor Mallard noted.

New Zealand Telecom could be split into three **November 28, 2006**

The Parliamentary Finance and Expenditure Select Committee has today released the amendments it made to the Telecommunications Act of 2001. The regulation will most likely cause Telecom New Zealand to be split into three, one for each division. They will report to parliament in a weeks time.

The three divisions will cover a fixed network access services unit, a wholesale business and the retail side of Telecom. All these divisions will still be run dependently by Telecom New Zealand under a fixed directors board. If Telecom cannot split itself then it will be penalised NZ\$10 million, unless they have a good reason.

Telecom New Zealand has said that the carving up of their company is "Not ideal..."

Wayne Boyd, chairman of Telecom, said: "We made it clear that we preferred a simpler form of operational separation which we believed was better suited to New Zealand. This form of separation is more complicated and costly than we believe is necessary for New Zealand but we will work to implement it as swiftly as reasonably possible. With the reorganisation Telecom has been working on since early this year, Telecom has already made progress..."

The government has welcomed the changes. "The committee's proposed amendments have been made public... The government will consider the recommendations before deciding on the next step in the progress of this bill," David Cunliffe, minister of communications and minister of information technology, said.

The regulation is harsher than what Mr Cunliffe had originally planned for in his draft bill introduced into parliament on June 29.

Part of the new bill is expected to cover unbundling of the local loop which was announced on May 3, 2006. The local loop is currently owned and operated under Telecom, New Zealand's telecommunications monopoly company.

The new amendments will enable the government to deliver "faster, better broadband Internet access."

The splitting of Telecom is similar to what happened to the British Telecom.

New Zealand company planning for monorail in Wellington **November 29, 2006**

SkyCabs International, a New Zealand company based in Auckland, New Zealand, has announced that it is planning to build a monorail in New Zealand's capital, Wellington for about NZ\$300 million.

SkyCabs International's plans are to build a monorail service that starts in Johnsonville which then travels into the central business district (cbd) and then finally goes to Wellington International Airport.

The chief executive of SkyCabs, Hugh Chapman, said that it could be "...economically feasible." And that the monorail would be "a real

opportunity." The monorail would also be environmentally friendly, according to Mr Chapman.

"SkyCabs' cabs could run in opposite directions on both sides of the beam - instead of on the top as standard monorails do - at speeds of up to 80kmh and carrying 4800 people an hour in each direction. A monorail around Evans Bay and Oriental Bay would blow tourists' minds," said Mr Chapman.

SkyCabs is currently trying to raise \$31.2 million so it can built a 600 metre track in Auckland to show investors and the public what the monorail will look like and how it will work as their technology is so far unproven and untested. The possible site is Rainbows End, a theme park in Auckland.

"Potentially, if we can prove it works, the market is about \$25.4 billion a year," Mr Chapman said.

Andrew Cutler, spokesman for the greater Wellington regional council, said: "SkyCabs had briefed some council staff on its ideas. However, given the council and Government recently committed to a \$50 million upgrade of the Johnsonville rail line, SkyCabs would certainly not be constructing a Johnsonville-to-city monorail."

Hell Pizza condom advertisements: complaints upheld November 29, 2006

A record number of complaints, over 600, against the New Zealand restaurant chain Hell Pizza for its advertising campaign using condoms delivered via letterbox have been upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). Family First "welcomes heavenly decision from

ASA on Hells Pizza."

Hell Pizza delivered sealed foil condoms in a cardboard box to households nationwide. On the outside of the box were the words: "Our pizza for meat lovers!" and the restaurant logo. The inside of the box included the condom and explicit instructions on how to use it. Hell Pizza delivered 70,000 condoms to households. An additional 100,000 were distributed to health and community groups who the chain said were "very supportive."

Bob McCoskrie, director of Family First, said: "This is a victory for the protection of families from grubby advertising by companies like Hell's Pizza, and is also a message to other companies who cross the line of what is decent and acceptable to our community. This is a pizza delivery company taking the moral high ground on sex education and telling parents how to give sex education to their kids, implying that all parents have failed at this, and kids as young as five should be exposed to this type of material."

S. Nicholas filed a formal complaint and said in the complaint: "Any child can open the box take out these condoms and play with them. These are contraceptive devices, not playthings. The package also gave full instructions 'how to use the condom' in case some young person wanted to 'experiment'! It shows lack of taste and is irresponsible."

Other complainants said that it is inappropriate to promote food with a condom, the text "meat lovers" was offensive, that it undermined family values, and removed the right for families to teach sex education to their children. Condom use instructions that came with the advertising campaign were unnecessary and unacceptable and that there are health and safety

issues if the condom broke during delivery.

The ASA said that three code of ethic rules were broken. They were basic principle 4, advertisements should follow a sense of social responsibility to both the consumers and society; rule 4, advertisements should not contain anything generally offensive and rule 5, advertisements should not contain anything that would cause serious widespread offence.

The agency Cinderella, acting on behalf of Hell Pizza, said that they "most certainly did approach this campaign with a due sense of social responsibility to consumers and society."

Cinderella said: "From the very beginning, the company's marketing activities were unconventional and memorable... HELL has built a successful brand by utilizing a limited marketing budget in ways that sought to grab attention and secure significant additional media coverage that would never have been able to be sustained using conventional, paid-for, advertising techniques."

"LUST and sex are, in our experience, often found not far apart. One generally follows the other. And enjoying great food either before or after is also not such a stretch."

Replying to the instructions that have to be printed, Cinderella said: "The terms are not really sexually arousing and the suggestion made by one hysterical complainant that they could then go and act out the instructions on the next door child is just not plausible and probably not even physically possible. It borders on insane to believe that this is a credible risk. ...there has not been an explosion of sexual assault of children after being exposed to government health

warnings."

The ASA then considered all information given to them by both complainants and the advertiser.

The ASA agreed that the advertisements were in breach of basic principle 4 because: "Unsolicited, unaddressed delivery of a condom to letterboxes to promote a food brand did not meet [the basic principle 4] standard." The standard "required all advertising to be prepared with a due sense of social responsibility to consumers and society."

The ASA then reviewed whether or not the advertisement programme had breached rule 4 and rule 5. "The method of distribution was a key factor in considering whether or not the promotion had breached the Rules, taking into account the random context, medium, audience and product. The majority of the Board noted that it was difficult to target specific groups or ages using unaddressed letterbox distribution. In addition, it was concerned that such a method of distribution allowed any member of a household access to the advertising." The majority of the ASA board did not find the instructions offensive but did agree that it would cause widespread offense. The advertisement programme is in breach of rule 4 and rule 5.

Some of the ASA board said: "...While the promotion had caused offence to some, this was offset by the possibility that the promotion had reached an audience that may not access the safe sex message via other media."

The ASA decided to uphold the complaints, "complaints were unanimously upheld."

"Our message to Hell's Pizza is simple – stay out of the bedroom and get back into the kitchen," Mr McCoskrie said.

Don Brash, ex-leader of New Zealand National Party, leaves politics

November 30, 2006



The ex-leader of New Zealand's National Party, Dr Don Brash, has announced today that he has left his five year career in politics. Dr Brash had announced last week today that he was stepping down from leader of the National Party.

Dr. Brash was to stay on in politics as long as the new leader, John Key, gave him a senior portfolio and front bench position, where it was thought there would be no room for Dr Brash. However Dr Brash did not comment on whether he had sought that kind of position. The front bench positions and a possible portfolio reorganising will not be announced until tomorrow, Friday.

Over the past few days Dr Brash had been pondering his political career and he said that it is clear that he should leave politics after consulting with friends, colleagues and family including his wife, Je Lan. Dr Brash said: "I've come to the conclusion that now is the right time for me to leave Parliament and I informed John Key of that earlier today."

At the press conference where he announced his intention to leave, few journalists were there compared to his resignation from leader conference.

Dr Brash will stay in Parliament until next year when he will not return. He said that he wanted to tie up loose knots.

Mr Key, last Thursday, said that he had only a few talks with Dr Brash, one on Tuesday and one this morning, but would not comment on Brash's future. Dr Brash described those

meetings as "constructive."

When Dr Brash first entered politics in 2002 from being head of the Reserve Bank, he had wanted to make a difference and he said that he leaves with the belief that he had accomplished that. He also believes that National could take out the next election to be held in 2008 as it is in great shape. Dr Brash said: "I entered Parliament in 2002 with the intention of making a difference and I leave believing that I've done that. The National Party is in great shape to win the next election and I believe that debate about economic policy and about the Treaty is more mature and more realistic than it was five years ago."

Dr Brash still claims that the book based around his leaked political emails by Nicky Hager, titled *The Hollow Men: A Study in the Politics of Deception*, played no part in his decision to leave.

Next year Katrina Shanks, accountant, will enter politics again to fill in the empty seat made by Dr Brash, she is currently at number 46 on the list. She had been in politics last year but was forced out after the special votes were counted. Ms Shanks said that she feels positive about changing her career but she said that she would have preferred entering politics on election night and not because Dr Brash had left.

Dr Brash announced that he will look into becoming a director at a company but would not be a director at a state owned enterprise, "not with this Government." He told TV3's *Campbell Live* programme that he will now look after his kiwifruit orchard.

Dr Brash said his colleagues reaction was mixed, Dr Brash said some said: "you've done a fantastic job for the National Party. Your work on that has

finished."

New Zealand MPs to receive payrise November 30, 2006

New Zealand Members of Parliament will receive thousands more after getting pay increases today.

The pay rises for backbench MPs are between 3.8% and 4.1% which will mean a backbench MP will now earn around NZ\$122,500. The pay rises are to counter inflation next year of about 2.5% which will result in MPs receiving more money. Other MPs with senior positions will get rises of between 4% and 8.1%.

This year the Prime Minister's increase will be worth just over \$14,000 - paying her \$6,942 a week. Helen Clark, PM of New Zealand, received a 9.4 per cent rise last year, increasing her salary by nearly \$30,000 to \$347,000. The latest increase will see her salary rise to about \$361,000.

National's multimillionaire John Key has already secured a significant pay rise this week with his election to the leader's job and is on \$216,000.

The pay rise will be backdated to July 1, The New Zealand Herald reported today.

Mr Key told The New Zealand Herald that he would donate a significant amount of his pay check to charitable organisations, as he has done since he first became an MP.

Last year backbenchers got a 4.1% increase in their pay.

Judges are also going to expect a pay rise next year of about 5%.

Great white sharks to be protected in New Zealand December 1, 2006

The New Zealand conservation minister, Chris Carter, announced Thursday that it will be illegal in New Zealand to hunt great white sharks in New Zealand waters or in any waters with a boat carrying the New Zealand flag starting in April 2007. The decision is being hailed by conservation groups who claim the sharks would become extinct if hunting continued.



The distribution of the great white shark internationally.

It will be illegal for a great white sharks, also known by the less common name white pointer sharks, to be hunted, possessed, killed or traded within 200 nautical miles of New Zealand according to The Wildlife Act. However if the shark was accidentally caught or killed then no prosecution will occur if they register the incident with authorities. And swimmers in Dunedin, New Zealand will also be protected by the use of shark nets.

The decision mainly comes because New Zealand signed the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

Mr Carter said: "These majestic animals occur naturally in low numbers and, without protection, could be pushed to the brink of extinction. The Wildlife Act provides a strong deterrent against targeting great whites with a \$250,000 fine and up to six months imprisonment as a

maximum penalty."

Kirstie Knowles, spokeswoman for Forest and Bird, said: "The sharks had been landed with an undeserved bad rap."

Vaughan Hill wants Mr Carter to reconsider as he is the latest man in New Zealand who has survived a shark attack. Mr Hill wants the reconsideration because of fear of his children being attacked and not because he was once attacked. Mr Hill now only 35% control of one arm with the other been amputated and has scars on his back and front. Mr Hill was 23-years-old when the attack occurred 10 years ago while he was diving for pāua, or Abalone, commercially 100 meters away from Pitt Island, "It was pretty murky water and I felt a big smack ... I was looking into the eye and the jaw of the shark."

"The last thing I thought was that I had to get another mouthful of air to fight it off, but blood overtook me."

Mr Hill said that sharks should only be protected if they are in a "ring-fenced marine reserve." He described the great white shark as "the ultimate killing machines [which] should be controlled. I want the beaches protected, and the workplace, which for divers is the sea."

Dr Malcolm Francis, principal scientist of NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research), said: "Despite the sharks' fierce reputation they were mysterious to biologists. Great whites were known to travel huge distances but their breeding and life cycles were not as well documented."

"They are incredible predators, but they are more vulnerable than us," Dr Francis said, "Human attacks are more likely a case of mistaken identity. They let go when they realise we're not

their normal prey (fish and seals), but often the initial bite is devastating."

Jim Anderton, minister of fisheries, said: "The white pointer shark was not known to be targeted by commercial fishing but was occasionally taken, unintentionally, as by-catch. They were sometimes targeted by recreational fishers and there was some demand for jaws and teeth as fishing trophies. Others were unintentionally caught in set nets."

"No one wants to see an animal hunted to extinction for the sake of a jaw or a few teeth or to be placed under pressure by accidental catch. Under these new regulations no fisher will be able to profit from taking a white pointer, and any fisher inadvertently catching one will have to return it to the sea, intact, and alive, if possible."

In New Zealand there have only been nine reported cases of shark attacks for 16-years.



Great white shark.

Genetically modified seeds got into New Zealand December 2, 2006

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is investigating how genetically modified (gm) seeds of sweet corn was knowingly cleared to enter New Zealand in October 2006.

The two consignments totalling 1,800 kilogram of gm sweetcorn originating from the United States of America was

cleared by the quarantine service run by MAF. Each consignment had a certificate that showed that the seeds had not been gm but there was documentation available that showed that the two consignments had a presence of gm. Jeanette Fitzsimons, spokesperson for genetic engineering and the leader of the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand, said: "I am absolutely shocked and angered that 1.8 tonnes of sweet corn seeds crossed our border, even though the accompanying testing documentation showed that it was contaminated with GE."

MAF said that the presence of any GM seeds is extremely low because of the combination of the two results.

The amount of seeds of sweetcorn that entered New Zealand could amount of 400 hectares of sweetcorn.

MAF is checking where the seeds were planted and will contact the affected parties. Conclusions from the discussions will determine the outcome of the seeds and or the plants.

Ms Fitzsimons said: "This is an indication that too many people in MAF still don't take the issue seriously. There needs to be a major shake up among the people who constitute our first line of defence."

MAF is also conducting an investigation on how they can increase border security so it never happens again. Ms Fitzsimons said: "It is extremely disturbing to learn that our border is still not secure against GE contaminated seeds. It is even worse that it has taken two months to discover that."

"Our markets still show no sign of accepting GE foods or GE contamination and it would be suicidal not to listen to them. Nor do New Zealanders want to eat GE foods," Ms

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