



Legally Speaking



Proposed election policies and their impact on Canterbury farmers

With the October election looming, political parties are rolling out their policies to entice a vote for their party.



with Alivia Nevin
Helmore Stewart Lawyers

It is clear that farmers have been imposed with a number of policies over recent years that have not made the running of the farm easier. The following proposed policies could be influential in a farmer's party vote.

The Government's recent Clean Car Scheme was criticised for being a 'ute tax', with very little low-emission utes available in New Zealand. With the rising cost of living

and uncertain global markets, this scheme was not in favour of farmers.

The National party have revealed that they intend to scrap the ute tax as part of their supercharge to the rural economy. Furthermore, National intend to introduce a no duplication rule, meaning that the government cannot ask farmers for the same information twice, it would be up to officials to share the relevant information with the appropriate departments within the system.

On the other hand, some Canterbury Farmers have been changing their practices as they have climate change at the forefront of their mind.

The Green party is proposing to support the agricultural community through a transition to reduce emissions and minimise harmful inputs and practices. The Green party intend to do this by reducing livestock numbers, phasing out synthetic nitrogen fertilizers and ensuring that New Zealand honours its commitment to the International Methane Pledge.



Although these policies are great for the environment, it may have some Canterbury Farmers wondering how they will make it through with rising costs and climate policies imposing new practices that could impose significant costs to the running of the farm.

Labour have not yet announced any proposed policies for farmers, although have

acknowledged that they are focused on meeting out climate challenge. The coming weeks should see the Labour party identify what this will mean for New Zealand farmers.

As the political parties continue to roll out their policies, be sure to keep up to date with how the next Government may impact you and your farm.

