Where New Zealand political parties stand on the vegetable sector

Assessment against New Zealand Vegetable Sector Manifesto priorities (30 October 2026)

Manifesto priority	National	New Zealand First	ACT	Labour	Green	Opportunity
Practical resource management and land use flexibility	✓	✓	✓	●	●	●
Water allocation and storage for food production	●	●	●	–	●	–
Faster crop protection and agrichemical approvals	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–
Energy certainty for growing, storage and processing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grower confidence, viability and processing investment	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	●
Fair supply chains and supermarket competition	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓
Vegetable consumption, local food and nutrition	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	●
Biosecurity readiness and science-based decisions	●	●	●	●	●	–
Research, innovation, education and sector skills	●	✓	✓	✓	●	✓
Market access, trade support and export compliance	✓	●	●	●	●	–

✓ Supported ✗ Opposed ● Inconclusive – Not addressed

Supported means direct evidence aligns with the priority. Inconclusive means alignment is partial, indirect, conditional, or does not cover the full request. Not addressed means no sufficiently specific position was identified. Ratings assess manifesto alignment, not overall party performance.

Evidence and rating notes

National

- Resource management: supports Resource Management Act replacement, national direction, permitted activity settings and reduced duplication. Water allocation and storage were not specifically committed to.
- Energy: supports additional generation, renewable projects, backup generation and gas as a transition fuel.
- Supply chains and trade: supports supermarket separation proposals, new trade negotiations, paperless trade, digital customs and work on non-tariff barriers.
- Consumption: debate response supported promotion, updated nutrition guidance and government working with the primary sector.
- Biosecurity and vegetable-specific research: no sufficiently specific 2026 commitment identified.

New Zealand First

- Resource management: debate response supported permitted activity status and domestic food production. Water allocation and storage were not specifically addressed.
- Energy: supports gas and fuel security, geothermal development, power company restructuring and an Emissions Trading Scheme carve-out for vegetable growing.
- Supply chains: supports supermarket break-up, stronger enforcement, supplier fairness and farm-to-shelf rules.
- Consumption and research: supports prevention, nutrition education, dietary guideline review and investment in agricultural innovation.
- Biosecurity and market access: no sufficiently specific commitment identified.

ACT

- Resource management: supports property-rights-based national rules, measurable standards, practical farm plans, crop rotation and reduced duplication.
- Crop protection: supports recognition of trusted overseas approvals for agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines.
- Energy and viability: supports industrial allocation settings, generation, solar, regulatory relief and a rural workforce visa.
- Supermarkets: supports addressing barriers to entry and anti-competitive conduct but opposes direct restructuring, so alignment is inconclusive.
- Consumption, biosecurity and market access: evidence reviewed did not meet the full manifesto asks.

Labour

- Resource management: debate response supported retaining legislation already passed while referring to further environmental safeguards, without covering the full NZVeg requests.
- Energy: supports solar, firming capacity and attention to Emissions Trading Scheme settings affecting food production.

- Supply chains: supports independent supermarket wholesale operations, supplier fee restrictions, transparency and action against unfairly low supplier prices.
- Viability and innovation: small-business investment measures, faster supplier payment, the Future Fund and innovation policy provide direct alignment.
- Consumption: debate response supported campaigns and food affordability. Biosecurity and horticulture-specific market access remain inconclusive.

Green Party

- Resource management: supports viable domestic food production while retaining strong freshwater and environmental protections, without fully adopting the NZVeg regulatory requests.
- Energy: supports public renewable generation, firming capacity and industrial decarbonisation investment.
- Supply chains and local food: supports public supermarket and distribution proposals, transparency, local processing and expanded locally provided school lunches.
- Crop protection: debate response indicated cross-party support for the approval reform discussed.
- Biosecurity, research and market access: no sufficiently specific commitment matching the detailed manifesto requests identified.

Opportunity

- Resource management: supports simpler national planning and consenting, but published detail found relates mainly to housing and does not explicitly commit to permitted vegetable growing, crop rotation, priority water allocation or storage.
- Energy: supports a long-term plan to reach 30 gigawatts of renewable capacity, electricity-market reform, distribution investment and business electrification.
- Supply chains: supports stronger Commerce Commission powers, including power to seek break-ups of uncompetitive markets.
- Research and innovation: commits to lift research and development spending to at least 2 percent of Gross Domestic Product, technology investment tax credits and regional innovation hubs.
- Viability is inconclusive because innovation and energy policies may support businesses, while the proposed rural land value tax remains an unresolved issue for high-value vegetable land. Crop protection, water storage, biosecurity and market access were not sufficiently addressed.