

**Election 2020 – TradeWorks
Trading Promises
Labour**

1. How would you describe the state of NZ's relationship with China?

Mature, multifaceted and in good shape. It is one of our most important relationships. While we have different perspectives on some issues we continue to manage those well.

In your view has the 2008 FTA been a success?

Yes. The increase in trade with China since it was signed speaks for itself. The upgrade will provide new access into services markets in China, tariff elimination on some wood and paper products, improvements in customs procedures, and a new chapter on e-commerce committing to further developing e-commerce for trade. The upgrade will also ensure that the rules underpinning our bilateral trade are responsive and fit-for-purpose.

2. How would you describe the state of NZ's relationship with the United States?

New Zealand and the United States are close strategic partners. We have a deep and longstanding friendship and we are united by a commitment to promote a free, democratic, secure and prosperous world.

Do you think it advisable or possible to negotiate an FTA with the USA?

New Zealand is always keen to broaden and deepen our trade relationships and we are open to negotiating a free trade agreement with the US as part of that.

3. Is your party committed to concluding FTAs with the European Union and the UK?

Yes. Negotiations are under way on both of these. The conclusion of a comprehensive, high quality free trade agreement with the EU is a priority. Good progress was made during the 8th round in July, which was held virtually. The next round will be held after New Zealand's election.

Do you think concluding these agreements should depend on strong market access outcomes for agriculture?

Yes.

What else would be important for you?

A balanced outcome and no ISDS clauses as part of those agreements.

4. Should trade agreements include enforceable environmental provisions?

In general yes. We are generally willing to go further than our trading partners in that regard. However, it is unfair to expect as a precondition to entering into a trade agreement that an agreement should have enforceability mechanisms that international climate change agreements cannot agree themselves.

5. How can trade agreements assist the services and creative industries and the digital economy?

We have signed DEPA – the Digital Economic Partnership Agreement – with Singapore and Chile. It will help New Zealand exporters and SMEs take advantage of opportunities from digital trade. It is a ground breaking agreement that promotes interoperability between different regimes and addresses the new issues brought about by digitalisation. You need to be careful that while protecting privacy and proper public interests you don't go too far in requiring the on-shoring of data. Any restrictions on services should reflect a proper underlying concern rather than be used as a trade barrier.

6. Should trade agreements include specific provisions to address the inclusion of women, Maori and small business?

We should be trying to ensure that trade benefits all sections of society, which is why we adopted our Trade for All policy. You can, for example, go some way in trade agreements to standing against rules in-country that prejudice against the role of women in certain industries. We also want Maori and small businesses to be able to take advantage of the opportunities offered by trade. Some of these things are not only found in trade agreements but also in the side agreements, such as the recently signed agreement to boost women's role in trade that we signed with Chile and Canada post the CPTPP.

7. Should trade agreements seek to promote foreign direct investment and if so how?

We don't want to penalise investors through higher regulatory standards or the tax regime, depending on where they are from. So we want to preserve neutrality in those regards. Countries should be able to retain the right to screen what investments are made, however. If you go too far in not screening investments you risk serving really wealthy interests overseas to the detriment of New Zealanders. If you do that, you put at risk the consensus in society in favour of trade agreements. That was why we introduced screening of all foreign buyers of residential land, which saw a ban on most purchases of homes in New Zealand by overseas owners.