

**Election 2020 – TradeWorks  
Trading Promises  
National Party**

**1. How would you describe the state of NZ’s relationship with China? In your view has the 2008 FTA been a success?**

The 2008 China-NZ FTA has been a success. It has delivered new opportunities for New Zealand exporters into global markets.

New Zealand goods and services now have tariffs eliminated on over 97% of total exports this has facilitated major opportunities for New Zealand exporters with a 70 per cent growth in exports since 2016. Industries such as dairy, meat, forestry, international education and fruit producers have all seen major increases in trade facilitated by our free trade agreement.

New Zealand’s relationship with China is respectful and we are proud of the many “firsts” we have had with China, including being the first developed country to sign a free trade agreement with China.

National strongly believes that we should stand up for our values on the world stage and maintain our independent foreign policy. We have our differences with China, but the relationship is one where we can and do raise our concerns with Government of China within a long standing context of mutual respect and identifying areas of shared opportunity.

**2. How would you describe the state of NZ’s relationship with the United States? Do you think it advisable or possible to negotiate an FTA with the USA?**

National is committed to pursuing a free trade agreement with the United States. We believe that this is possible and that this is a natural progression of the long standing trading relationship we have worked to build with the United States.

New Zealand shares democratic values and freedoms with the United States and we have a strong relationship working across the region and internationally. The last National-led Government paved the way with Washington and Wellington Declarations which led to the expansion of our diplomatic, security and political relationship that is paying dividends for New Zealand.

The United States remains the world’s largest economy. It has delivered high value growth to the New Zealand tourism industry with successful new direct flight routes in recent years to San Francisco, Houston, Chicago and in late 2020 to New York. It is a high value market for our export education section. It is the largest market for our high value, intellectual property exports and new industries like New Zealand’s fast-growing screen and aerospace sectors. It is also an important high value market for our dairy, meat and horticulture exporters.

**3. Is your party committed to concluding FTAs with the European Union and the UK? Do you think concluding these agreements should depend on strong market access outcomes for agriculture? What else would be important for you?**

Yes. National is committed to securing high quality trade deals with the European Union and the United Kingdom. Access for agriculture must be prioritised. In the case of the United Kingdom, when they entered the European Union, New Zealand ended up worse of in terms of our trading relationship. We need to ensure that we can secure a high quality deal to enhance the relationship now that the United Kingdom is leaving the EU.

**4. Should trade agreements include enforceable environmental provisions?**

We are happy to have trade agreements enforce environmental principles when all the parties to an agreement agree to them. The previous National Government advanced work to establish an Environmental Goods Agreement that would have seen progress on eliminating tariffs from environmental goods.

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

Trade agreements can and do seek to remove barriers for investment for a range of industries, including the creative and digital industries. This can occur through standardising practices amongst industry between trade partners, removing tariffs and non-tariff barriers to investment and trade, and ensuring mutual protections for intellectual property in overseas markets.

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

Trade agreements need to reflect the values and interests of all New Zealand and where it makes sense to have specific provisions we are open to them. That is why, for example, when New Zealand negotiated the Trans Pacific Partnership, we sought and delivered specific reference to the Treaty of Waitangi and our obligations to Maori. This ensured that our agreement reflected the obligations and commitments New Zealand has to Maori.

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

Yes. Foreign direct investment is important to grow the economy and encourage innovation and enterprise. Trade Agreements should, where possible, seek to standardise investment practices to encourage investment between partners.