

# THE BACKBENCHER

CHRISTCHURCH, SUNDAY 25 AUGUST 2019

## IT'S DAY TWO! WOOHOO

Congratulations all! You've made it through one of the three days of the conference. It was so incredible seeing all the select committees come to life. The first reading was a real treat to watch as well.

Do remember that the CAs are giving up their time and holidays for you - some are even missing class time at university to help this conference be a success. Thanks to all our volunteers!

A reminder that all of the CAs have a compliments bag in which you can send good will messages and compliments to CAs!!

Please remember also that we have Instagram, Snapchats and Facebooks to share all your wholesome and fun photographs with the rest of the organisation! We want people to see how amazing New Zealand Model Parliament is, and your hype goes so far in helping to make this a reality!

We hope that you are having an absolutely wonderful time at New Zealand Model Parliament 2019. I am looking forward to more memes, more dreams, and hopefully a passed bill by the end of the conference.

Have a wonderful day!

*Page 1 written by Patrick Hayes*

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SQUARE UP

## WISDOM

*"Live. Laugh. Love"*  
- You

*5+2 equals 7, but 3+4 ALSO  
equals 7. Follow your own path."*  
- Joe Lycett

*"| | | | | \_"*  
- Is this loss?

# NEWS

## MPS THREATEN WITH VOTES

Azaria Howell, The Spinoff  
24 August 2019

Electorate MPs from The Coromandel and Maungakiekie have gone against National Party lines by vowing not to support the New Zealand Constitution Bill. They cited climate change and prisoner voting rights as reasons why they're voting against the Bill.

These MPs believe in strong climate action. The harsh impacts of climate change have significantly harmed their electorates, with sea level rise eating at the coast of the Coromandel. "We are ravaged by coastal storms," said National's local MP to the region. "We have huge problems with climate change that are only getting worse". The National Party's leader expressed a preference of economic growth over environmental protection when interviewed.

The voting rights of prisoners has been a hot topic for these rogue MPs, who claim that voting is a right. "We support the Labour MP based in Rangitata who voted against the Bill. It is atrocious that we are forced to follow party lines," says the National MP for Coromandel. "I see thousands of people in my community suffering because their parents are being taken off to prison."

"I have 4,000 Māori people in my electorate, which doesn't seem like many, but it is when you consider the population," says the National MP for the Coromandel electorate. "I need to consider what's best for them and how they're disproportionately affected by these issues".

## NOT SO ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Rose Mason-Collins, Newshub  
24 August 2019

A Labour MP contravened their own parties wishes yesterday by choosing to support the use of Nuclear power. Needless to say, the facial expressions from around the room were priceless.

Clause 15 of the new Bill also caused concern. All members of the National Party spoke to this clause saying that it needed to be changed. Somehow, they all wanted to change something different. When asked to clarify however they weren't specific or cohesive on what needed to be changed.

A controversial opinion was spread by a Labour party member that brought some unrest to the rest of their party. In an unconventional approach the press was asked to ignore the opinion of this MP and to focus on the position of the members of opposing parties. All I can say is look out for your committee members. You might be thrown under the bus.

Lastly, another disagreement arose when in the education select committee there was disagreement about policy affecting current educational rights of New Zealanders. A Labour MP put forward an amendment that compromised the current government policy of one year of free tertiary education, basically terminating it. This is strange as this policy was a major part of Labour's campaign in 2017.

# NEWS

## MPs QUESTION NUCLEAR FUTURE

Alex Brown, Newstalk ZB  
24 August 2019

Nuclear power proved a contentious issue in Saturday's environment select committee, with the sixteenth clause in the initial draft of the bill stating New Zealand would remain free from nuclear power.

The Green Party co-leader asserted that New Zealand keeping its nuclear free status should be a 'non-partisan issue'. MPs, however, were united across party lines in their opposition to the clause - three National MPs and a Labour MP objected to it during caucus time.

When the question of the impacts environmental regulations would have on the mining industry was raised, the National MP for Whanganui expressed concern that banning nuclear power "limits our options of a sustainable transition" away from coal.

Then Prime Minister David Lange banned nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed ships from New Zealand in 1984. The nuclear-free status of New Zealand's territorial airspace, sea and land was solidified by the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act of 1987.

New Zealand is located on a major geographical fault line. Historic trends and records dating from the 1840s show that, on average, New Zealand can expect several magnitude six earthquakes every year, one magnitude seven every ten years, and a magnitude eight every century.

## MAKE NEW ZEALAND NUCLEAR AGAIN?

Grace Prodanov, NZ Herald  
24 August 2019

"New Zealand would be more environmentally friendly if we made the switch from our renewable energy sources such as hydro dams and wind power to nuclear energy", was the sentiment expressed by several National MPs in the Environment committee session yesterday.

The National leaders in the committee claimed that the Greens may be pushing to retain clause 16 in part three, for "all New Zealand territory to be free from nuclear-power" for their own gain of remaining in favour with the public.

The issue raised was that New Zealand must slam on the breaks of environmentally damaging energy sources if it wants any chance of reaching the goal of being carbon neutral by 2050. National members argued that nuclear energy, at least for the short term, was an efficient way to convert from coal and reduce carbon emissions. There was also talks of specifying in another section of the bill a clause that this would still protect New Zealanders from nuclear weaponry, alluding to an amendment that strongly emphasising this clause would only affect peaceful nuclear energy.

National says that this would be a positive step towards New Zealand's 2050 goal, but what repercussions could this have long term? This is a question all environment committee members need to think about when deciding New Zealand's future.

# NEWS

## PRISONERS RIGHTS OR WRONGS?

Xyryll Gayagoy, Radio New Zealand  
24 August 2019

The topic of the prisoner's right to vote sparked heated debate across parties yesterday. A National-led Government amended the Electoral Act to bar prisoners from voting in 2010.

The National Party firmly argued for the ban, saying that if people breached a law severe enough for a prison sentence, that it was right and just that they faced the consequences. This 2010 law is claimed to have disproportionately affected Māori which many claim shows a lack of inconsistency with the Bill of Rights Act and Te Tiriti o Waitangi by multiple parties.

Taking away the rights of inmates infringes the Crown's obligation to Maori under Te Tiriti, according to experts who spoke to RNZ. The Labour Party asserted that disenfranchisement of prison inmates neglects their democratic rights, especially of Māori representation. What makes this especially pertinent is that over fifty percent of the New Zealand's total prison population have māori whakapapa.

The Labour Party tried to assert this view during the Select Committee session but National would not be shaken. National's leader has clearly expressed that they will oppose any changes made to Section 8 (2) - the provision removing the voting rights of prisoners.

Due to a general lack of understanding between parties, the committee session did not progress, resulting in no amendments being made. Especially with the general election coming around in 2020, this is an extremely PRESSing issue.

## NEWS TEAM MAKES AN AWKWARD FIVE

Patrick Hayes, The Backbencher  
24 August 2019

An uneven number of press delegates has made it incredibly hard for newsreaders across the country to fill in blank spaces.

Information attained by The Backbencher under the Official Information Act showed that members from the Speakers' Office were unwilling to allow a sixth member of the press team to come in and write another article.

When approached by The Backbencher, NZ First Whip Henry Seaton had this to say on odd numbers:

"A blight on humanity which should be removed at all costs. Even numbers are more satisfying, more equal, ergo more superior, than their odd counterparts."

The Backbencher has declined to attain any further interviews on the matter.



*"Don't forget  
to stay  
hydrated!!!"*  
- Welfare

# HOROSCOPES FOR 25 AUGUST

## ♈ Aries: March 21-April 19

You are fire incarnate. You are a powerhouse of charisma, nerve, and diplomacy. You are...thinking about lunch.

## ♉ Taurus: April 20 - May 20

Like the strong, persistent ox of your sign, Taurus, you will accidentally knock a piece of goofy slab to the ground. In the distance, Jayden van Leeuwen weeps.

## ♊ Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Perceptive Gemini, your powers of insight and empathy will help you figure out who truly meant that compliment this morning. Did they actually like your shoes? You're the only one who knows.

## ♋ Cancer: June 21 - July 22

A kind CA will give you guidance over your choice of Subway sandwich. Maybe put a cool compliment in the compliments bag?

## ♌ Leo: July 23 - August 22

It's flu season Leo, but with your fiery nature you're a forcefield of confidence and hand sanitiser. Also, unlike everyone else you remembered to hydrate this weekend.

## ♍ Virgo: August 23 - September 22

This late afternoon your moon heads into Gemini, spelling difficulty in concentration. Resist the urge to check twitter in between amendments.

*Horoscopes written by Olivia Nally*

## ♎ Libra: September 23 - October 22

Venus moves into the global ninth house this morning, calling for caring and kindness this conference. Compliment someone! Tell them you like their shoes!

## ♏ Scorpio: October 23 - November 21

The sun beams on you today Scorpio. You will make a pun in your closing speech and EVERYONE will laugh.

## ♐ Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21

A positive outlook will prove integral over this weekend, Sagittarius. Your amendment will pass! If it doesn't, show the speaker this horoscope. It won't help, but it'll be funny.

## ♑ Capricorn: December 22 - January 19

Foggy conversations come with the territory of making new friends. Keep up the good work, Capricorn, it'll be worth it for the great connections you make.

## ♒ Aquarius: January 20 - February 18

You will find yourself in a house you don't recognise. A white man has put up his ugly decorations and asked you for a flat white. You're stuck in the Te Whare Zone.

## ♓ Pisces: February 19 - March 20

Being the wet fish of signs isn't something to cry about, Pisces! Or maybe it is? Sit down for a hearty emotional outpour with a trusted friend. You'll feel better about it later.

## REMINDER ABOUT YOUR LANYARDS

**RED:** Welfare

**ORANGE:** Press facs

**YELLOW:** Logistics

**GREEN:** Media

**BLUE:** Conference Assistants

**PURPLE:** National Executive

**PINK:** Organising committee

**BLACK:** Representatives



# PHOTOS FROM DAY ONE





# MEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEMES!!!!!!!

**Fun drinking game:**

**Drink a glass of water every couple hours to make sure you're healthy and hydrated**



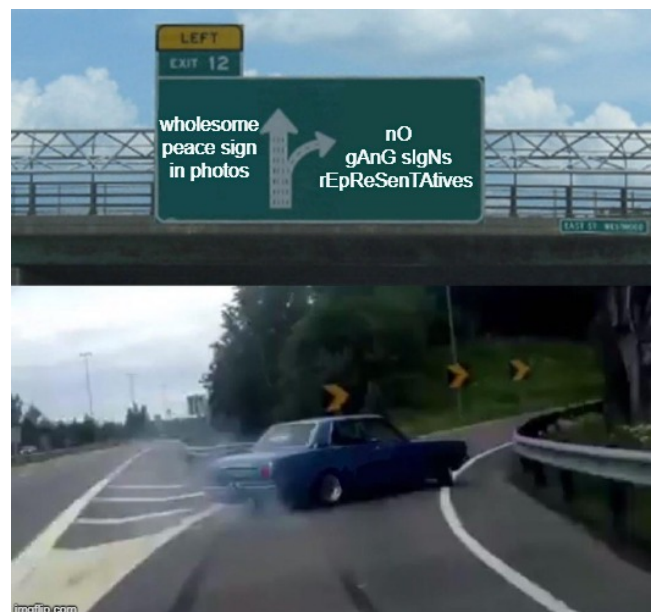
Representative: \*makes minor slip up\*  
Representative: "Oops, I hope nobody noticed"  
Press:



MPARL Logistics team after setting up morning tea



Starbucks run



# WORDS OF ADVICE FROM YOUR CAs

Be like the river that flows from the mountain to the river, and please just remember to drink water.  
- Charlotte

Great  
- Patrick

Take a napkin, happy logistics. Happy logistics, happy life.  
- Matt

Today is gonna be the day that we're gonna throw it back to you  
- Tyler

The fact that the Goofy Slab wasn't frozen this year is definitive proof of climate change  
- Henry

The world is indeed full of peril, and in it are many dark places. But still there is much that is fair. And though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it still grows, perhaps, the greater  
- Jock

Buy now, a hummus and a wow, extra large falafel meal for two.  
- Matt

It's super busy round here. Think first  
- George

## OLD MAN YELLS AT CLOUD



An elderly man is in police custody after being found angrily gesticulating at a passing cloud.

The man, who Backbencher has not named for police reasons, angrily spoke to Backbencher about poor choices in environmental select committees as the reason behind his remarks. "I just don't understand why we still have clouds", the man said. "Why don't we just name the cloud what it really is - just a load of hot air".

The Environment Select Committee is hearing submissions today on the New Zealand Constitution Bill, which has been pushed through Parliament this weekend. The second and third readings are expected to take place tomorrow.

*Written by Patrick Hayes*