

AI and Our Election

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for the Christchurch AI Risk and Ethics Community
27th October 2026



Election year!

It's crunch time for AI regulation!

Issues are getting pressing.

Next election: 2029, for 2030-33

Before then:

AI-2027's decision point
Kurzweil's 2029 'singularity'

...various other prophecies.

Two things to discuss

- Policy on offer

What do our parties say they'll do?
Which issues do they address?

- GenAI in campaigning

Democracy & news vs deepfakes.
How is it going?
Have we lost our shared reality?

GenAI in campaigning

What's happened,
to what effect,
and who's doing it?



'GenAI' = text2image/video diffusion

Counting where:

- Someone's prompted
- text-to-image
- (or video, or speech, or a mix)
- & published the results, raw

(There's also one egregious vibecoded website to discuss.)

Text generation too.

Automated spam generation.

AI authored policy & positions?

AI authored press releases.

Detecting GenAI usage — images

Google image gen = SynthID
→ upload & ask Gemini, will check

GPT Image
→ watermarked,
<https://openai.com/verify/>

But: check for their AI only!
SynthID watermarking
CP2A content provenance metadata

No way to check other AI work

Detecting GenAI usage — text

No good way to verify AI gen text

Watermarking exists for:

→ Google, OpenAI, Anthropic

But: no public access to verifier!

→ researchers etc can ask for access

→ OpenAI only watermarks in EU?

But: one ‘GPT detector’ does work!

Pangram

Specialized in low false positive

Custom classifier over text corpus

→ not based on perplexity score

Still has some false positives.

Detecting GenAI usage — pure vibes

But: you can tell, right?

People working with AI,
who have to figure out AI:
Learn to spot it!

Regular users ‘taste’ model family

Distinctive tells in phrasing,
& visual style

Let’s play a game!

Real party contesting 2026 election

Will show you their site,
& ad for merch.

Is it AI?

Is this AI generated?

 Home About Policy Candidates Shop Flyers Events Q & A



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Billboards

Showing 1-8 of 18 results

Default sorting



NZ LOYAL Party Vote NZ LOYAL 1% TAX

Alexander Hislop
WESTCOAST - TASMAN

NZ LOYAL
Loyal to You, Not to Them

NZ LOYAL Billboard (2400x1200mm)

Alexander Hislop - West Coast-Tasman

\$150.00

Add to cart



NZ LOYAL Party Vote NZ LOYAL 1% TAX

Allan Lind
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NZ LOYAL
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NZ LOYAL Billboard (2400x1200mm) Allan Lind - East Coast Bays

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Barak Ford
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Loyal to You, Not to Them

NZ LOYAL Billboard (2400x1200mm) Barak



NZ LOYAL Party Vote NZ LOYAL 1% TAX

Brenton Faithfull
WHANGAPARAQA

NZ LOYAL
Loyal to You, Not to Them

NZ LOYAL Billboard (2400x1200mm) Brenton



1% Transaction Tax Explained by Secretary

'IMPOSSIBLE' IS OFTEN JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR 'WE'VE NEVER DONE IT THAT WAY BEFORE'

by Kelvyn Alp

Kelvyn Alp on the Platform with Michael Laws by Kelvyn Alp

John Alcock On Concerns Around Digital ID by Secretary

Meet The Candidates: NZ LOYAL by Secretary

NZ LOYAL Party List announced by Secretary

Rewriting the Rules of the Financial System by Kelvyn Alp

Glenn Thompson - CHRISTCHURCH EAST



NZ LOYAL
LOYAL TO YOU



NZ LOYAL BEE BADGES

There's something fitting about having a beekeeper standing as a candidate for NZ Loyal. For more than 30 years, **Alexander Hislop (West Coast - Tasman)** has worked with bees, built a business, employed people and produced New Zealand products for local and international markets.

WHAT THE BEE REPRESENTS

- HARD WORK**
Getting the job done.
- COOPERATION**
Each person contributes to a stronger New Zealand.
- PRODUCTIVITY**
Creating genuine value for our communities.
- RESILIENCE**
Adapting through changing conditions.
- STEWARDSHIP**
Caring for our land and environment.
- COMMUNITY**
Individual effort, working together.



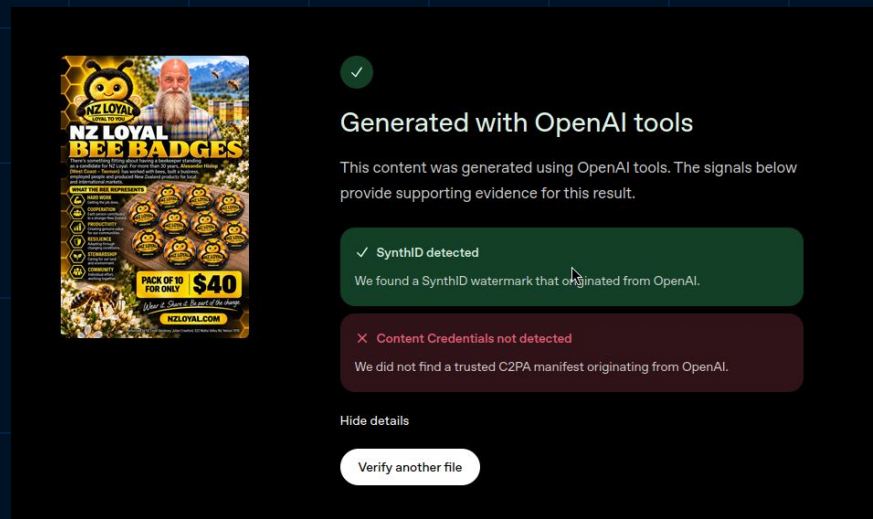
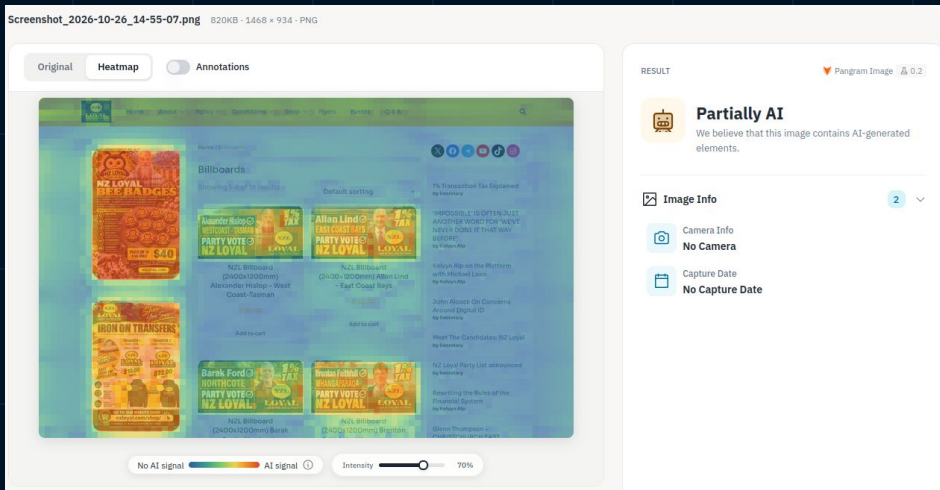
PACK OF 10 FOR ONLY \$40

Wear it. Share it. Be part of the change.

NZLOYAL.COM

Authorised by NZ Loyal Secretary, Julian Crawford, 522 Maitai Valley Rd, Nelson 7010

Yes.



Did you need the verification?

But have they done something wrong?

Are artists being deprived?

→ 'lost sales' argument

→ echoes 2000s piracy debate

With no AI, what happens?

→ Clipart, stock photos, wordart...

→ Are illustrators losing sales?

(Yes, but here?)

AI-enabled deception

AI: not just cheap graphic design

Deepfakes

The worry:

Hi-def video of prominent person,
doing horrible things

... hasn't really emerged?

Good media awareness (in youth)
Wary of AI gen

Risk of backlash?

Public opinion on AI varies:
From helpful,
to worried,
to apocalyptic.

Official deepfakes: risky!

Notable incidents

'Thief Hipkins' TPU ad

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ww_AEIw2VlM

It has an AI generated flag up front.

Explicitly depicts close likeness, criminal actions.

Reported cost: \$200 all up.

... implies capital gains = cash?

[Heather du Plessis-Allan, Newstalk ZB host:](#)

"... I think it's brilliant. [...] I thought it was very funny the first time I watched it. It doesn't cross any ethical lines. [...] You'd have to be an idiot to think it was real. The use of AI is also perfectly acceptable."

18billion.co.nz website

Current version $\neq$ early reporting on it

AIgen 'money' still there

Wayback machine shows:
“Dodge the taxes” game gone

Feels pretty vibecoded: scales etc

Headlines removed

Rephrased

Focus on “per household cost”

So who's using it?

- National Party
- NZ Loyal
- Taxpayers Union

Is this the 'right bloc'?

→ No!

ACT have stance against deepfakes.

No use from NZ First?

Previous National election incidents

2014 – Eminem Soundalike

But:

Generally run-ins with the ASA

Electoral law breaches not so much

Legality

False statements covered by Electoral Act
– for three days before voting closes

With voting open for two weeks, this is bad.

No current copyright exemption for satire!
[Amendment going through the process now](#)

“No Bill before Parliament covers election deepfakes. ACT MP Laura McClure’s Deepfake Digital Harm and Exploitation Bill, at select committee since May 2026, deals with sexual images made without consent.”

– [Canterbury Today](#)

Absolute props to ACT for this
→ has broad support in parliament

Advertising Standards Authority

ASA has no legislative force!

Does have a policy

[ASA policy on AI gen](#)

Should disclose when

- depicting false events
- imitating a real person

The test: consumer takeout

- are people actually fooled?

On the TPU ad:

→ “taxation is theft” = politics trope.

→ but: highly realistic style, real likeness

→ could clips of the ad be deepfake libel?

Notably: did disclose.

Probably ok by the ASA?

How many bots are out there?

No one's checked (for 2026, to date).

What have you seen?

Reddit mods complaining about it
→ ongoing issue since forever

Who operates them, what are they pushing?

No real research so far. We're blind.
→ need realtime monitoring! Academics lag.

Can we have a democratic discussion,
with outside participants in the mix?
→ NZ focused online spaces vs location verify

Revenge of the traditional media?
Or full post-truth mode on tiktok?

AI Policy for 2027–2030

What's on offer from our major parties



Good Ancestors NZ policy scorecard

Seven parties

×

Six questions

& answers scored.

The questions

1. Risk

“Does your party consider that advanced AI systems could pose serious risks to public safety and national security in New Zealand?”

Kinda rolls a lot into one!
X-risk, LAWs, cyberpocalypse, bio risk.

2. Government Capability

“Will your party establish a dedicated government function with the technical and policy expertise to assess the risks of advanced AI and advise on them (such as an AI Safety Institute or equivalent)?”

Having the tech & policy expertise important here!

AISI becoming standard
→ USA, UK, AU, CAN all have one.

The questions

3. Leadership & Strategy

“Will your party appoint a minister with cross-government responsibility for AI and publish a whole-of-government plan that addresses the risks of advanced AI?”

Most parties have govt AI plan (not NZ1st/ACT)
→ but: centralized? Or diffuse & existing orgs?

4. Law

“Will your party commission a review of whether New Zealand law is adequate to manage risks from advanced AI, and act on its findings?”

The questions

5. Access

“Will your party take steps to ensure New Zealand’s government, researchers and businesses keep access to advanced AI models?”

Not theoretical!

- NZ & globe cut off from Fable5.0 in June
- Trump admin arbitrarily took it down

6. Incident Reporting

“Will your party establish a way for serious AI incidents affecting New Zealanders to be reported, investigated and learned from?”

Already have incident coordination for cyber.

1. Risk

Considers advanced AI a serious risk to public safety and national security



2. Government capability

Will set up a dedicated government function to assess advanced AI risks



3. Leadership and strategy

Will appoint a minister for AI and publish a plan to address advanced AI risks



4. Law

Will review and update our laws to manage advanced AI risks



5. Access

Will act to keep advanced AI models available to government, researchers and businesses



6. Incident reporting

Will set up a way to report, investigate and learn from serious AI incidents



WHAT THE TICKS MEAN



A clear public commitment that meets the question in full, in published policy or a statement on the party's behalf.



A public commitment that meets most of the question but not all of it, or one made only in the questionnaire.



Support for part of what we asked, or support in principle.



A position against what we asked.



No public position found. This does not mean the party opposes what we asked.

Four direct responses:

Asked about AI in first 100 days.

Te Pāti Māori

“Te Pāti Māori will initiate a whole-of-government plan for AI in our first 100 days, and we will act urgently to put in place a comprehensive regulatory system for AI that upholds tikanga, tino rangatiratanga, and Māori data sovereignty.

We must ensure that our system is configured to protect our people, our taiao, and our mātauranga.

Te Pāti Māori recognises the potential of AI to benefit our communities, but these benefits will not be realised without strong protections for Aotearoa.”

National

“National would continue implementing New Zealand’s AI Strategy, with a focus on capturing the significant economic and productivity opportunities offered by AI while managing risks responsibly.

We would continue work across government to ensure New Zealand has the capability to understand emerging AI risks, including through MBIE, the Government Chief Digital Officer, the National Cyber Security Centre and the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Technology.

We would maintain New Zealand’s participation in international discussions on responsible AI and continue aligning our approach with the OECD AI Principles.

Our approach will remain practical and proportionate: supporting responsible adoption, providing clear guidance to businesses and government agencies, monitoring emerging risks, and updating existing legislation or regulatory tools where there is evidence that change is required.

New Zealand should be a confident and responsible adopter of AI, capturing the benefits of advanced technology without ignoring the risks.”

Aotearoa Greens

“The Green Party would work to make sure the right AI protections are in place, as outlined in our AI policy:
https://www.greens.org.nz/ai_policy

That includes:

- Requiring public registers of AI systems used by government agencies – full transparency around AI use, including where in policy processes it has been used, and where or how it has been used to inform decisions
- Ensuring that children are not forced to use AI, particularly at school, and protecting the rights of children in line with the UNCRC’s Joint Statement on Artificial Intelligence and the Rights of the Child.
- Beginning work to collaborate globally with like-minded countries to align AI regulation and governance, establishing New Zealand as a moral leader, building on our work on the Christchurch Call.
- Introducing labelling requirements for AI-generated content.
- Establishing an AI office to oversee AI policy and regulation.
- Adopting international best practice, including key aspects of the EU AI Act, around disclosure requirements, labelling requirements, and audits of AI systems.”

Opportunity

“Our aim is durable, cross-party settings so New Zealand can capture the benefits of AI while managing its risks.

In our first 100 days, Opportunity would:

- begin setting up the cross-party committee to oversee a National AI Framework, with clear implementation responsibility given to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- broaden the Law Commission’s review of automated decision-making to cover private-sector decisions, algorithmic bias, rights to human review and transparency, likeness rights, Māori data sovereignty and copyright
- start work on legislation for mandatory reporting of serious AI incidents, their harms and remedial actions
- prioritise increased funding for the National Cyber Security Centre and bring the Electoral Commission’s systems within the critical infrastructure cyber security regime
- use our trade, security and science relationships to begin securing reliable access to leading AI models for economic benefit and national security.”

No response to GA NZ (so far)

Labour

But: extensive policy plan on AI

ACT

NZ First

→ kinda absent from AI discussion in general?

What I want

Clear policy on existential risk

→ intent to negotiate disarmament for USA/CN

Clear policy on continued access

→ datacenters: balance of 'do it' & environment

→ third option between USA/CN. EU/Mistral?

Clear policy on who in NZ is responsible

→ set up govt department? AISI?

Figure out the copyright quagmire

→ in collaboration with other countries

Plan for increasing automation vs employment

→ no use = bad, full use = far less employment!

Clear criminal law around deepfakes

→ build on right to personal image?

→ often a form of sexual harassment or libel

Clear policy on autonomous weapons

NZ orgs inside cyber access programs now:

→ Project Glasswing

→ Daybreak Red

→ Fairwind Program

Explicit comms on AI in govt & policy

→ right to appeal AI decisions, oversight

Investigate AI in education

→ good: aristocratic tutoring for everyone

→ bad: will our kids think, do homework?

