

Tuesday, 21 March 2017

National Party well down in March as Prime Minister Bill English talks of lifting retirement age to 67 - lowest party vote since September 2016

During March support for National fell by 4.5% to 43.5%, now just behind a potential Labour/ Greens alliance 44% (up 5%). If a New Zealand Election was held now the latest New Zealand Roy Morgan Poll shows it would be too close to call with New Zealand first likely to play a decisive role in determining which parties would form the next Government.

Support for the National partners was virtually unchanged with the Maori Party unchanged at 2%, Act NZ was 0.5% (down 0.5%) and United Future was 0.5% (up 0.5%).

Of the three Parliamentary Opposition parties - Labour's support was at 29.5% (up 3.5%), Greens 14.5% (up 1.5%) and New Zealand First 7.5% (down 0.5%). Of the parties outside Parliament the Internet Party was 0.5% (up 0.5%), Conservative Party of NZ was 0.5% (up 0.5%) and support for Independent/ Others was 1% (down 1%).

In addition the New Zealand Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating is down 4pts to 136pts in March with 61.5% (down 2%) of NZ electors saying NZ is 'heading in the right direction' cf. 25.5% (up 2%) that say New Zealand is 'heading in the wrong direction'.

Gary Morgan, Executive Chairman, Roy Morgan Research, says:

"Today's New Zealand Roy Morgan Poll shows a sharp decline in support for National – down 4.5% to 43.5% - the lowest they've been since English became Prime Minister in early December.

"A potential Labour/ Greens alliance is now just in front of National on 44% (up 5%) with both parties enjoying increases in support – Labour up 3.5% to 29.5% and the Greens up 1.5% to 14.5%. The neck-and-neck contest between the two sides of New Zealand politics means the centrist New Zealand First Party (7.5%, down 0.5%) led by 'Maverick' MP Winston Peters could once again decide which parties form Government in September.

"The fall in support for National comes after Prime Minister Bill English announced a raft of potential reforms to New Zealand's superannuation laws early in March including increasing the retirement age to 67 (from 65) by 2040. The proposed reform will impact anyone born after July 1, 1972 – ie under 45 today. In addition immigrants will have to live for twice as long in New Zealand to gain access to NZ Super.

"The proposed changes to the superannuation laws were criticised by potential Government partner New Zealand First Leader Winston Peters who questioned whether the proposed changes would achieve anything at all; and Act Party Leader David Seymour who said the changes were too far in the future and the retirement age needed to be raised now due to escalating costs.

"The clear opposition to the changes suggests Prime Minister English risks losing the National majority if these reforms become an election issue."

Electors were asked: "If a New Zealand Election were held today which party would receive your party vote?" This latest New Zealand Roy Morgan Poll on voting intention was conducted by telephone – both landline and mobile telephone – with a NZ wide cross-section of 847 electors between February 27 – March 12, 2017. Of all electors surveyed 7.5% (up 2%) didn't name a party.

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Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. The following table gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. The figures are approximate and for general guidance only, and assume a simple random sample. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

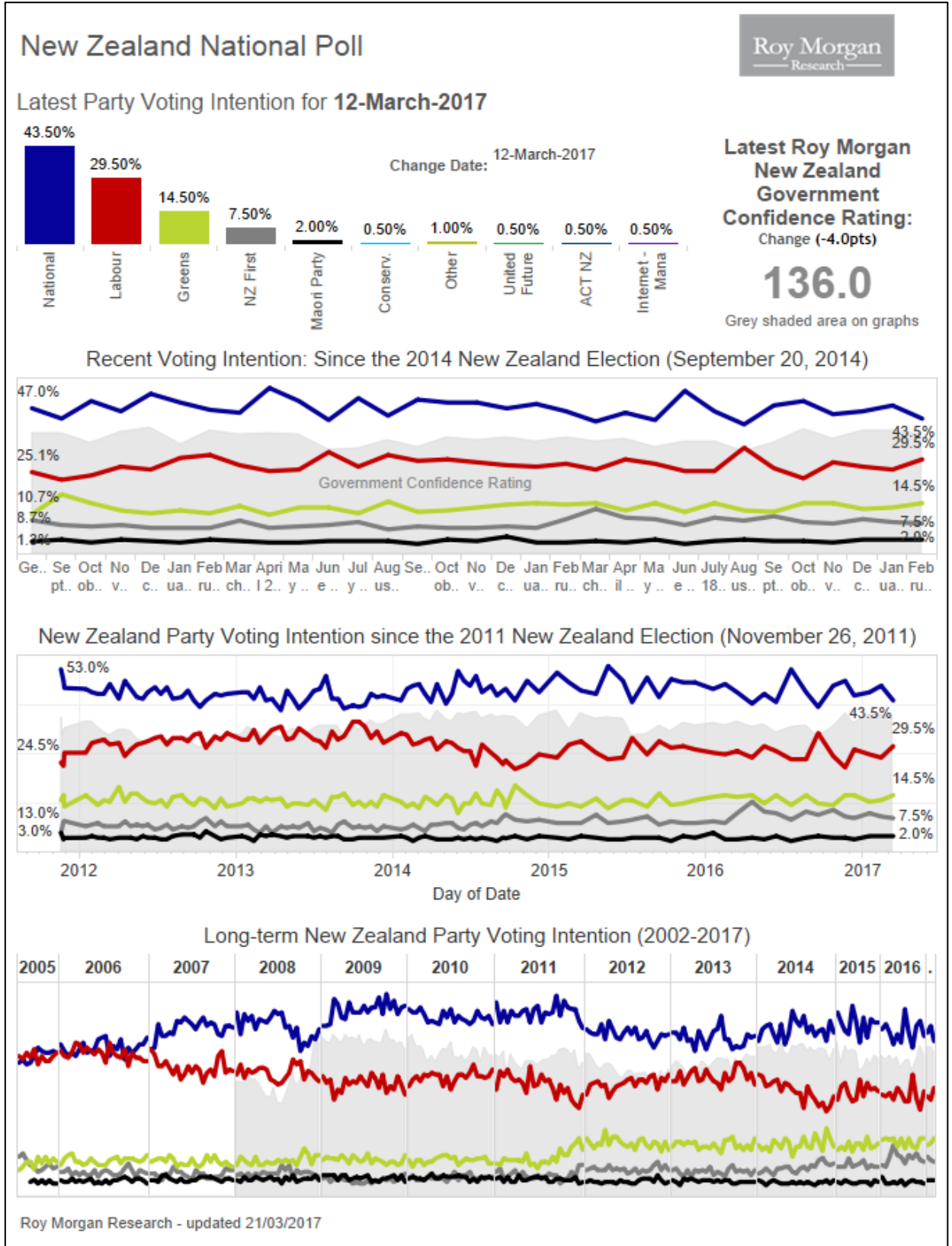
Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
1,000	±3.2	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4
1,500	±2.6	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1

Roy Morgan New Zealand Interactive Voting Charts

These interactive charts allow a deeper look at voting patterns in New Zealand over varying timeframes and provide election observers with the ability to pinpoint key turning points for the political parties.

[View interactive New Zealand Election charts here.](#)

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Voting Intention Summary

The following table compares the latest New Zealand Roy Morgan Polls on Voting Intention with the result from the September 20, 2014 General Election:

PARTY VOTE ELECTIONS	National %	Labour %	Green Party* %	NZ First %	Maori Party* %	ACT NZ %	United Future* %	Conserva tives* %	Mana Party* %	Internet* %	Other %
October 12, 1996*	33.87	28.19	10.10	13.35	n/a	6.10	0.88	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.51
November 27, 1999	30.50	38.74	5.16	4.26	n/a	7.04	1.66	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.64
July 27, 2002	20.93	41.26	7.00	10.38	n/a	7.14	6.69	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.60
September 17, 2005	39.10	41.10	5.30	5.72	2.12	1.51	2.67	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.48
November 8, 2008	44.93	33.99	6.72	4.07	2.39	3.65	0.87	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.38
November 26, 2011	47.31	27.48	11.06	6.59	1.43	1.07	0.60	2.65	1.08	n/a	0.73
September 20, 2014	47.04	25.13	10.70	8.66	1.32	0.69	0.22	3.97	1.42	n/a	0.85
ROY MORGAN POLL											
Sep 29-Oct 12, 2014	43.5	22.5	17.5	7	2	0.5	0.5	5	1	^	0.5
Oct 27-Nov 9, 2014	49.5	24	14.5	6.5	1	0.5	^	2	0.5	^	1.5
Nov 24-Dec 7, 2014	46	27	12	7	2	1.5	^	2.5	1	^	1
January 5-18, 2015	52	26	11	6	1.5	1	^	2	^	^	0.5
February 2-15, 2015	49	30	12	6	1	^	^	1.5	^	^	0.5
March 2-15, 2015	46.5	31	11	6	2	1	^	1.5	^	^	1
April 6-19, 2015	45.5	27.5	13.5	8.5	1.5	1	^	1	^	^	1.5
May 4-17, 2015	54	25.5	10.5	6	1	1	^	1	^	^	1
June 8-21, 2015	49.5	26	13	6.5	1	1	^	1	^	^	2
June 29-July 12, 2015	43	32	13	7	1.5	0.5	^	1.5	^	^	1.5
August 3-16, 2015	50.5	27	11	8	1.5	0.5	^	^	0.5	^	1
Aug 31-Sep 13, 2015	44.5	31	15	5.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	^	^
Sep 28-Oct 11, 2015	50	29	11.5	6.5	0.5	0.5	^	0.5	0.5	^	1
Oct 26-Nov 8, 2015	49	29.5	12	6	2	0.5	^	0.5	0.5	^	^
Nov 23-Dec 6, 2015	49	28.5	13	6	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	^	^	0.5
Jan 4-17, 2016	47	27.5	14	6.5	3	0.5	^	1	^	^	0.5
Feb 1-14, 2016	48.5	27	14.5	6	1	0.5	^	1	0.5	^	1
Feb 29-Mar 13, 2016	46	28	14	9	1	1	^	0.5	0.5	^	^
April 4-17, 2016	42.5	26	14.5	12.5	1.5	1.5	^	1	^	^	0.5
May 2-15, 2016	45.5	29.5	12	9.5	1	1	^	0.5	^	^	1
May 30-June 12, 2016	43	28	14.5	9	2	0.5	^	1	0.5	0.5	1
July 4-17, 2016	53	25.5	11.5	7	0.5	1	^	0.5	0.5	^	0.5
August 8-21, 2016	46	25.5	14.5	9.5	1.5	1	^	1	0.5	^	0.5
Sep 5-18, 2016	41.5	33.5	12	8.5	2	1	^	0.5	^	^	1
Oct 10-23, 2016	48	26.5	11.5	10	1.5	0.5	^	^	^	0.5	1.5
Nov 7-20, 2016	49.5	23	14.5	8	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	^	^	1.5
Nov 28-Dec 11, 2016	45	28.5	14.5	7.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	^	0.5	1.5
January 3 -16, 2017	46	27	12.5	9	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	^	^	2
Jan 30 - Feb 12, 2017	48	26	13	8	2	1	^	^	^	^	2
Feb 27-March 12, 2017	43.5	29.5	14.5	7.5	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	^	0.5	1

^Result less than 0.5%. *The 1996 Election was the first New Zealand Election contested via MMP (Mixed Member Proportional). At the 1996 Election the Greens Party contested as part of the "Alliance" political grouping with four other political parties. *United Future was formed via a merger in 2000 between the United Party and the Future New Zealand Party, which separately contested the 1999 Election. *The Maori Party was launched in July 2004; The Mana Party was launched in July 2011. The Conservative Party was launched in August 2011. The Internet Party was launched in January 2014. The Internet Party & Mana Party announced an alliance in May 2014 that jointly contested the 2014 NZ Election. The combined result for the Internet-Mana Party Alliance is included in the Mana Party result (1.42%).

Two-Party Preferred: National Party-led Government vs. Parliamentary Opposition Parties

The following table compares the latest New Zealand Roy Morgan Polls on Voting Intention with the result from the September 20, 2014 General Election:

	National Party-led Government*	Parliamentary Opposition Parties#
Election, November 8, 2008	51.84	48.16
Election, November 26, 2011	50.41	46.21
Election, September 20, 2014	49.27	44.49
<u>ROY MORGAN POLL</u>		
September 29 – October 12, 2014	46.5	47
October 27 – November 9, 2014	51	45
November 24 – December 7, 2014	49.5	46
January 5-18, 2015	54.5	43
February 2-15, 2015	50	48
March 2-15, 2015	49.5	48
April 6-19, 2015	48	49.5
May 4-7, 2015	56	42
June 8-21, 2015	51.5	45.5
June 29-July 12, 2015	45	52
August 3-16, 2015	52.5	46
Aug 31-Sep 13, 2015	47	51.5
Sep 28-Oct 11, 2015	51	47
Oct 26-Nov 8, 2015	51.5	47.5
Nov 23-Dec 6, 2015	51.5	47.5
Jan 4-17, 2016	50.5	48
Feb 1-14, 2016	50	47.5
Feb 29 – Mar 13, 2016	48	51
April 4 – 17, 2016	45.5	53
May 2-15, 2016	47.5	51
May 30-June 12, 2016	45.5	51.5
July 4-17, 2016	54.5	44
Aug 8-21, 2016	48.5	49.5
Sep 5-18, 2016	44.5	54
Oct 10-23, 2016	50	48
Nov 7-20, 2016	52.5	45.5
Nov 28-Dec 11, 2016	47	50.5
January 3-16, 2017	49	48.5
Jan 30 – Feb 12, 2017	51	47
Feb 27-Mar 12, 2017	46.5	51.5

*National-led Government: National Party, Maori Party, ACT NZ, United Future; #Opposition Parties: Labour Party, Green Party, NZ First. Parties not represented: Conservative Party, Internet Party, Mana Party & Other not included as they are not represented in Parliament.

Finding No. 7189 taken from Computer Report No. 2436

The Roy Morgan Poll is conducted by the **ONLY** Australian and NZ member of the Gallup International Association.

No other public opinion poll taken in Australia or New Zealand has this qualification.

NEW ZEALAND: HEADING IN “RIGHT” OR “WRONG” DIRECTION?

Electors were asked: “Generally speaking, do you feel that things in New Zealand are heading in the right direction or would you say things are seriously heading in the wrong direction?”

NZ Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating: Interviewing Dates (National Party Govt.)

	Aug 18-31, <u>2014</u>	Sep 1-14, <u>2014</u>	Sep 29-Oct 12, <u>2014</u>	Oct 27-Nov 9, <u>2014</u>	Nov 24-Dec 7, <u>2014</u>	Jan 5-18, <u>2015</u>	Feb 2-15, <u>2015</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	61	62	61.5	56	62.5	67	55
Wrong direction	25	24	24.5	30	24.5	23	31
Roy Morgan GCR#	136	138	137	126	138	144	124
Can't say	14	14	14	14	13	10	14
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

NZ Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating: Interviewing Dates (National Party Govt.)

	Mar 2-15, <u>2015</u>	April 6-19, <u>2015</u>	May 4-17, <u>2015</u>	June 8-21, <u>2015</u>	June 29-July 12, <u>2015</u>	Aug 3-16, <u>2015</u>	Aug 31-Sep 13, <u>2015</u>	Sep 28-Oct 11, <u>2015</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	64.5	62	63	62.5	51	54	58	53
Wrong direction	24	27	26.5	27	33	34	29.5	31
Roy Morgan GCR#	140.5	135	136.5	135.5	118	120	128.5	122
Can't say	11.5	11	11	10.5	16	12	12.5	16
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

NZ Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating: Interviewing Dates (National Party Govt.)

	Oct 26- Nov 8, <u>2015</u>	Nov 23-Dec 6, <u>2015</u>	Jan 4-17, <u>2016</u>	Feb 1-14, <u>2016</u>	Feb 29-Mar 13, <u>2016</u>	Apr 4-17, <u>2016</u>	May 2-15, <u>2016</u>	May 30-June 12, <u>2016</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	60	59.5	59.5	56.5	61	57.5	59	54.5
Wrong direction	28.5	31	28	28.5	29	30.5	29	34
Roy Morgan GCR#	131.5	128.5	131.5	128	132	127	130	120.5
Can't say	11.5	9.5	12.5	15	10	12	12	11.5
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

NZ Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating: Interviewing Dates (National Party Govt.)

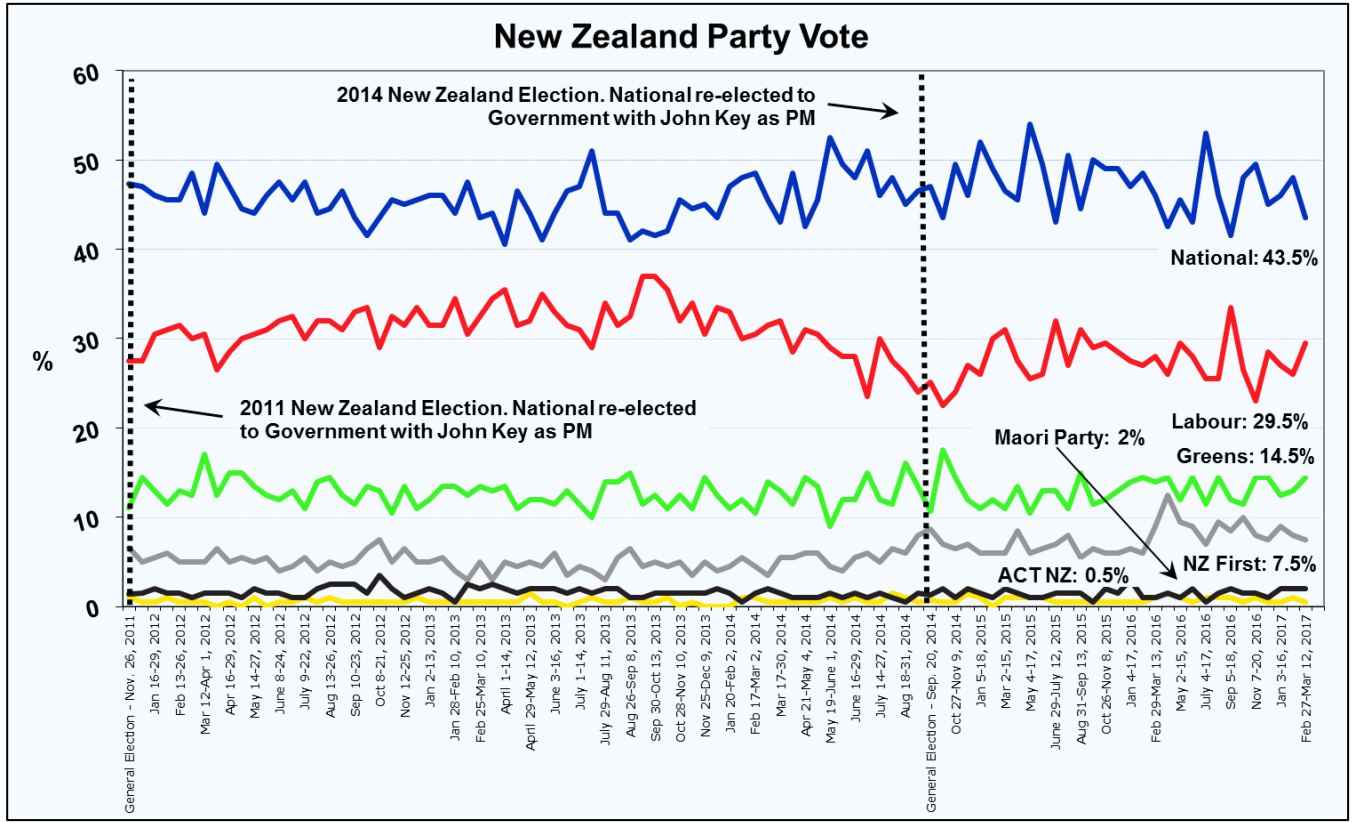
	Jul 4-17, <u>2016</u>	Aug 8-21, <u>2016</u>	Sep 5-18, <u>2016</u>	Oct 10-23, <u>2016</u>	Nov 7-20, <u>2016</u>	Nov 28-Dec 11, <u>2016</u>	Jan 3-16, <u>2017</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	57.5	58	52	55.5	65	58.5	63
Wrong direction	30.5	30.5	35	29	24	27.5	23
Roy Morgan GCR#	127	127.5	117	126.5	141	131	140
Can't say	12	11.5	13	15.5	11	14	14
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

NZ Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating: Interviewing Dates (National Party Govt.)

	Jan 30-Feb 12, <u>2017</u>	Feb 27-Mar 12, <u>2017</u>
	%	%
Right direction	63.5	61.5
Wrong direction	23.5	25.5
Roy Morgan GCR#	140	136
Can't say	13	13
TOTAL	100	100

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Zealand Party Vote



New Zealand Roy Morgan GCR

