

# **Progressive Party Policy Statement**

## **Research, Science & Technology**

The Progressives, as a party committed to a fair go society in which we take responsibility for and care for one another as citizens, are conscious of the need to build such a society on the solid foundation of a sustainable economy.

A crucial factor in that sustainability has always been New Zealand's commitment to adding value to what we export as an agricultural trading nation. Almost invariably that added value has been science based. We are therefore strongly committed to a policy of well resourced research and technology based development. This is pre-eminently an area in which public private partnerships are the best way of proceeding.

As Minister for Economic and Regional Development from 1999 to 2005 Progressive Leader Jim Anderton was instrumental in the setting up of a number of significant research and development initiatives such as the establishment of the Centre for Wine Excellence in Marlborough. This is a commitment he has continued as Minister of Agriculture, pre-eminently through the New Zealand Fast Forward programme, the largest research commitment in New Zealand. This programme will encourage new research, innovation and development in the pastoral and food industries over the next ten to fifteen years. Central government has made an initial contribution of \$700 million, to be grown to \$1 billion, and matched by industry, an overall commitment of \$2 billion.

As a member of successive governments since 1999 the Progressives have endorsed significant research and development initiatives in business, international competitiveness, ICT, wood products, engineering using new materials and advanced electronic technology, and renewable energy.

30 October 2008