

Country Alliance targets extremist protesters

The Country Alliance party aims to make it easier for law enforcement officials to take action against extremist protesters.

Party spokesman, Russell Bate, said that while he supported the right to protest, it was time protesters took more responsibility for their actions.

"Our policy requires a clear definition by Government of which actions by protesters are and are not permissible and legislation to compound penalties for repeat offenders," he said.

"Most importantly, our policy requires the enforcement of workplace laws when protests could occasion additional risk to workers in their work environment. This would clearly extend to forestry operations, farms and power stations where unfortunately there is a history of illegal protest activity placing the lives and livelihoods of workers at risk.

"There is simply no justification for differentiating between illegal activity committed in the course of a protest and any other forms of violence and vandalism. Protesters illegally entering workplaces are clearly and deliberately going beyond their legitimate right to protest."

"To make their day slightly worse, our policy would make those protesters personally liable for the costs of vandalism, damage and financial loss."

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