

I want every New Zealander and their family to get ahead and reach their potential. That's why I got into politics and that's what still drives me.

**Today, I ruled out working with New Zealand First and Winston Peters after this election and I wanted to let you know why.**

The rhetoric we've heard from Winston Peters this year is a style of cheap, divisive politics imported from overseas. It's designed to cause fear and division within our communities. It does not fit with my values or my vision for New Zealand's future, and that's why I've made this decision.

**New Zealand needs political leaders who are focused on the bread and butter issues that matter most, and Labour's focus won't be on an imported culture war. We are focused on fighting an economic war against inflation, the cost of living and inequality. And we are focused on building a strong, united and prosperous future for our country.**

I believe that New Zealand First is a force for chaos, and that's the last thing New Zealand needs just as our economy is starting to turn a corner after a tough global economic cycle.

In fact, National, ACT, and New Zealand First hold a range of views that I believe would alienate large sections of our society. Not just economically, but to their sense of belonging too. Some of these views – including about women, Maōri, Pacifica and our Rainbow community – are incredibly out of step with modern New Zealand.

Together, they are the Coalition of Fear – focused on creating division just to try and win a few votes. And we know where this 'us and them' rhetoric can lead.

**I believe that there's always more that unites New Zealanders than divides us.** We may come from many different backgrounds and beliefs but at our core we Kiwis share common aspirations. A good job, a home, quality education for our kids, good healthcare when we're sick, secure communities, protection in retirement. And when we share a sense of hope that there are better days ahead.

This election, I'm asking you to think about the type of leadership you want and the kind of country we want to build for our children, friends, workmates and loved ones.

One that goes backwards, or one that keeps moving forward, together.

**I want to bring New Zealanders together, and I will be a leader who's in it for everyone.**

This is going to be one of the tightest elections we've seen in years, and we're facing opponents with deep pockets. **Will you chip in to help us fight for a New Zealand we can be proud of?**

Thanks,

Chris