

ROLL CALL – How Our MPs Performed In 2011

Trans Tasman's Editors have once again run their rule over NZ's MPs and rated their performance in 2011. Roll Call looks at how they've performed in Caucus, Cabinet, Committee, the House, their electorate and the influence they bring, or are likely, to bring to bear in their various forums. This year being election year, there are some MPs who are no longer with us, and a host of newcomers and some better known returnees, who are not rated, but on whom we have commented regarding what we know of them, and what to expect from them. As we are rating MPs for their 2011 performances, new Cabinet or shadow Cabinet roles are not included.

Cabinet Ministers					
Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2010 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Key, John</i>	Helensville	Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Ministerial Services, Minister in Charge of the NZ Security, Intelligence Service, Minister Responsible for the GCSB	As one of NZ's most popular ever PMs, Key did what was needed by his party and delivered National a second term based almost entirely upon "Brand Key." Some of the Teflon armour flaked off over the year and some of his strongest supporters wonder whether he has a plan beyond careful political management and upsetting as few people as possible. In the House Key was comfortable most of the time, though once or twice he showed a mean streak. He took a bit of a battering during the campaign itself, but a win is a win is a win.	9	9
<i>English, Bill</i>	Clutha-Southland	Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Finance Minister for Infrastructure	In charge of the country's finances in the worst international economic turmoil since the 1930s, English has managed to keep his nerves steady. Critics from the right say he should have been more austere, the left believed he was too harsh and others think he got the mix wrong. His 2011 budget looks optimistic and it will take a ruthless ability to say no to spending Ministers over the next three years and very fair economic winds to deliver a promised surplus. In his favour there is surprising amount of support from senior civil servants. There is a plan there, but like criticism about Key, some say it is not very grand and lacks vision.	8.5	8.5
<i>Brownlee, Gerry</i>	Ilam	Minister for Economic Development Minister of Energy and Resources Leader of the House Associate Minister for the Rugby World Cup Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery	The enormity of dealing with the aftermath of the Canterbury earthquakes meant Brownlee all but gave up his roles in Economic Development, Energy and as Leader of the House. Understandably he was rarely seen around Wellington for much of the year. The job came with no manual and with so many suffering it was going to be impossible to please everybody. Brownlee made the mistake of initially promising too much and taking an overly bureaucratic approach to some issues. Credited with helping turn the once Labour stronghold into a party vote sea of blue in the election, as National's earthquake response won the support of voters.	8	9
<i>Ryall, Tony</i>	Bay of Plenty	Minister of Health Minister of State Services Minister for State Owned Enterprises	Continued his quiet careful management of what should have been two trouble spots - health and state services. Managed to incrementally reform the health system with hardly anyone noticing and secured most of what little new spending money Bill English had. In Parliament and in public had to front the Govt's sinking lid on the public service, he never once looked flustered and his opponents seemed to focus more on his dress sense.	8.5	8
<i>Smith, Nick</i>	Nelson	Minister for the Environment Minister for Climate Change Issues Minister for ACC	Attacked by some for even believing in climate change or environmental protection, Smith walked a fine balance between some of the noisiest lobby groups in the country. On the environmental front on-going reform of the Environmental Management Act is being cheered by the business sector. During the initial response to the grounding of the Rena, Smith looked like the only one on top of his portfolio.	8	7

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2010 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Collins, Judith</i>	Papakura	Minister of Police Minister of Corrections Minister of Veterans' Affairs	A year in which "The Crusher" played to her strengths and continued her transformation into a cross between Margaret Thatcher and Jenny Shipley. Adored by the Police rank-and-file and feared by their bosses, she also drove justice reform issues the more liberal minded Simon Power declined to put his weight behind. Getting a private prison up and running with minimal fuss was another achievement, though any failures there could come back to haunt her. In Parliament she was a target for some in Labour's ranks, but she never batted an eye lid.	7.5	7
<i>Tolley, Anne</i>	East Coast	Minister of Education Minister Responsible For The Education Review Office	Placating the unions over National Standards was never going to be possible, but Tolley spent most of the year trying to make up lost ground in the PR battle around it. She seemed to struggle with the workload and pressure. Her greatest relief in Parliament was turmoil within Labour's ranks. Trevor Mallard, who monstered her in the House as her Ministerial shadow, was replaced by Darren Hughes who in turn quit under a cloud and was replaced by the inexperienced Sue Moroney. As a result Tolley looked a bit more at ease, but there is no doubt the Opposition still consider her one of National's weakest links.	5.5	5.5
<i>Finlayson, Chris</i>	List	Attorney-General [Includes responsibility for Serious Fraud Office] Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage	His greatest achievement is to have kept the momentum in the treaty settlement process going, even though National has no chance of making its "aspirational" historical treaty settlement date of 2014. Some of the deals look a bit hasty and risk coming apart over time, but will do more to settle down race relations in NZ than all the posturing of those on the side lines. Sometime comes across in Parliament as smug and aloof, though the fact is he is cleverer than most MPs. Managed to forge a compromise on contentious surveillance legislation though sometimes during the debate his nastier side did emerge while doing combat with Charles Chauvel.	7.5	7
<i>Carter, David</i>	List	Minister of Agriculture Minister for Bio-Security Minister of Forestry	Carter was rarely called upon in Parliament despite some horticulturists questioning his Ministry's handling of the PSA virus. Labour believes cuts and changes to the biosecurity regime will also come back to bite him and the country, but it hasn't happened yet. His greatest coup for his portfolio constituents is getting the Crown to spend up to \$400m on irrigation and water storage development, though of course it helped having Bill English agree with it. Solid, but will never set the political world on fire.	7	6
<i>McCully, Murray</i>	East Coast Bays	Minister of Foreign Affairs Minister for Sport and Recreation Minister for the Rugby World Cup	If it wasn't for the Rugby World Cup, this would have been another year for McCully to move from being National's Machiavelli to its diplomat. He continued to nurture the warming relationship with the US and China, though some have questioned his stance on Pacific issues. The Rugby World Cup brought out the micromanager of old. For a while it looked like McCully's obsession with the details meant he had lost sight of the big picture when the opening night turned a touch chaotic. In the end it was an emphatic success.	8	8
<i>Groser, Tim</i>	List	Minister of Trade Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues (International Negotiations)	It is Groser's job to negotiate trade deals and by any measure he did well with deals done and even more underway as NZ casts its trading net wider. As a result he was rarely seen in NZ or Parliament, which probably pleased his colleagues as his "I'm the smartest guy in the room" attitude just drives everyone nuts.	7.5	7.5

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2010 Rating	This Year's Rating
Joyce, Steven	List	Minister of Transport Minister for Communications and Information Technology Minister for Tertiary Education Associate Minister of Finance Associate Minister for Infrastructure	Continued his usual approach to issues which some would describe as pragmatic and sensible. Some of his decisions over the broadband roll out and the deal with Telecom left many in the sector gobsmacked and outraged. Stuck to his guns on roading decisions and managed to get runs on the board. Did some damage to his reputation as the trusted right hand of Key over his initial handling of the Rena grounding. If he grasped the seriousness of the problem he did not show it and failed Political PR101 by not looking like he was doing something about it, even if there was little he could do.	7.5	7
Bennett, Paula	List	Minister of Youth Affairs Minister for Social Development & Employment	Played the rough diamond "Westie" very well both in the House and in the media, attacks and jibes just bounced off her. Gently shepherded welfare reform and debate on child abuse through Cabinet, Caucus and into the public domain. Some officials say she lacks the intellectual grunt to go far and needs her hand held, but that could be said about a lot of politicians who prosper.	6.5	6
Heatley, Phil	Whangarei	Minister of Fisheries Minister of Housing	Heatley has been chipping away at state housing as he tries to reshape the portfolio to fit National's philosophy. The plan to spread the load over the community sector is unfolding, but very slowly and there are still doubts about how successful it will be. Many in the aquaculture sector are hoping he has finally untangled the red tape which has strangled the industry for so long. Does not seem to have learnt any lessons about his performance in Parliament, tends to swagger, but leaves the impression it is all sizzle and no sausage.	6.5	6
Coleman, Jonathan	Northcote	Minister of Immigration Minister of Broadcasting Associate Minister of Tourism Associate Minister of Health	Coleman managed to stay out of the headlines for gaffes which seemed to dominate his first two years as a Minister. Immigration has settled down and the National agenda in broadcasting is easy – just repeat "we have no money and if we did you are way down the list." Competent and confident in the House, tipped by some to rise further while others believe he has reached his level of competence.	4.5	4.5
Wilkinson, Kate	Waimakariri	Minister of Labour Minister for Food Safety Associate Minister of Immigration Associate Minister for Conservation	Wilkinson has so far handled difficult issues quietly and with minimal fuss. The state of the Labour Department under her watch is going to be an on-going issue as the microscope continues on the Pike River Coal Mine tragedy. The long overdue reform of food legislation is also in danger of going off the rails as various interest groups take charge of the debate. If she is aware of the problems unfolding she is playing it with a poker face. Has all the makings of a good Minister, but events may undo her. Did well to win Waimakariri from Clayton Cosgrove.	4.5	4
Parata, Hekia	List	Minister for Ethnic Affairs Minister for Women's Affairs Associate Minister for ACC Acting Minister for Energy and Resources Associate Minister of Energy and Resources Associate Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector	Elevated after a good campaign in Mana. Got thrown in the deep end a bit when she took over Brownlee's Energy portfolio in an acting role. Showed a good grip when promoted to be in Cabinet - will help Key with Maori issues.	5.5	6.5
Ministers Outside Cabinet					
Williamson, Maurice	Pakuranga	Minister Outside Cabinet for Building & Construction Minister of Customs Minister of Statistics Minister for Small Business Minister for Land Information	His three year rise from virtual zero to virtual hero was completed this year. The leaky home saga solution was not perfect, but it was a compromise everyone welcomed as they could all move on. Took a real interest in even some of the most boring details of his portfolios. Williamson is a witty guy. It is a shame he is now shy of the media - maybe it's time to come out of his shell. Will he be the new Speaker?	5.5	5.5

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2010 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Guy, Nathan</i>	Otaki	Minister of Internal Affairs Minister Responsible for Archives New Zealand Minister Responsible for National Library Associate Minister of Justice Associate Minister of Transport	Guy plays it so safe he tends toward the outright boring, which is not always a bad thing in a new Minister. His backing of the Government's roading plans through his electorate caused him a few headaches, but he managed to stick to his guns.	5.5	5
Foss, Craig	Tukituki	Civil Defence and Emergency Services, Racing, Senior Citizens Associate Minister for Commerce, Local Government	Promoted after chairing the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee. Likes to get into the detail of problems and knows how to express it well in the House. An invisible performance for racing and no help to the industry.	6	5
<i>Sharples, Pita</i>	Tamaki Makarau	Minister of Maori Affairs Associate Minister of Corrections Associate Minister of Education Maori Party	It was a tough year for the Maori Party and Sharples. Hone Harawira tore the party apart, and reports of the party's death were not too wide of the mark. Managed to maintain his dignity and decorum, and hold what was left of his party together. His defeat of Shane Jones was a vindication for his stance. Made small gains in his portfolios without spectacular progress, the foreshore and seabed legislation was a compromise. But his reign as co-leader is set to come to an end.	7	6
<i>Turia, Tariana</i>	Te Tai Hauauru	Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector Associate Minister of Health Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment Maori Party	Worked tirelessly on her portfolios and has been pleasantly surprised at how much support she got from senior Ministers to get Whanau Ora off the ground. It is starting small and many people have not got their heads around it, will no doubt work tirelessly for the next three years to try to make it work.	7.5	6.5
United Future					
<i>Dunne, Peter</i>	Ohariu	Minister of Revenue Associate Minister of Health	Dunne continued to squirrel away on the detail of tax legislation and managed to progress his own income-splitting legislation (even if it has virtually no chance of passing into law). Also made headlines for clamping down on various synthetic drugs. There are signs of strain within the IRD with its aging computer systems and failed attempts to upgrade it. One of the best speakers in Parliament. Held on to his seat for another three years, will this be the last term?	5.5	5
National Back Benchers					
<i>Adams, Amy</i>	Selwyn		Took over as Chair of the Finance Select Committee after Craig Foss was elevated to Ministerial ranks, a sign she is sure to rise. Clever, ambitious, but sometimes a bit sour faced, Adams looks like she knows what she is talking about and just loves the details.	5.5	6.5
<i>Arderm, Shane</i>	Taranaki-King Country		Chaired the Primary Production Select Committee well. With one of the safest seats in the country is destined to be forever one of National's Parliamentary foot soldiers and is a competent participant in the House.	4	4
<i>Auchinvole, Chris</i>	List		The Pike River Coal Mine disaster and the need to fight to hold on to one of the most marginal seats in the country understandably meant his mind was often elsewhere. In Parliament he chaired the Local Government And Administration Select Committee well and with a fair hand. He shone when called upon to oversee the brief Committee consideration of the Canterbury earthquake emergency legislation. While many were losing their heads, he kept his and did the best in difficult circumstances. A polite affable bloke, which means he will probably not go far.	3.5	3.5
<i>Bakshi, Kanwaljit</i>	List		Bakshi is somewhat awkward around Parliament, said to be conscientious and works hard in the Indian community for National, otherwise virtually invisible.	4	3

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2010 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Barry, Maggie</i>	North Shore		Rated by old school Nats, but potential to do her own thing may see tears before bedtime. "Diva."	N/A	N/A
<i>Bennett, David</i>	Hamilton East		Bennett was adequate chairing the Transport Select Committee and a useful attendee at the Finance Select Committee. In the House tended towards somewhat over the top speeches singing the praises of National and Key. The occasional thoughtful contribution showed there might be more to him than the partisan bluster.	3	3.5
<i>Blue, Jackie</i>	List		Her medical expertise is under used. Gave herself things to do such as throwing herself into Pacific Island health issues, which goes to show she wants to do more than make up the numbers. Probably her last term.	4.5	4.5
<i>Borrows, Chester</i>	Whanganui		A brilliant bi-partisan chair of the Justice Select Committee. Deserves a Ministerial posting, and it could be sooner than later. Usually a thoughtful contributor in the House who brings his background and the reality of life as a cop into legislation.	6	6
<i>Bridges, Simon</i>	Tauranga		Clever, bright, easy on the eye, but very much underused. Seems to have spent the year cementing himself in the Tauranga electorate. Upcoming fatherhood will test him, but really needs to be pushed harder in politics. May be too soon for a Ministerial position but could be in line for a Whips job or Select Committee chairmanship. More maturity needed.	6	5
<i>Calder, Cam</i>	List		Last year we said he backed himself as one of Parliament's better speakers, but came across as lacking depth. Nothing has really changed.	3	3.5
<i>Dean, Jacqui</i>	Waitaki		She is clearly competent, but virtually invisible.	3	3
<i>Goldsmith, Paul</i>	List		Simon Upton type who handled media hype around Epsom with real skill.	N/A	N/A
<i>Goodhew, Jo</i>	Rangitata		Improving in her performance as Junior Whip which is all that can be asked for.	5	5
<i>Hayes, John</i>	Wairarapa		As a former diplomat it was no surprise he was made chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee, though he does allow his partisanship to cloud his conduct and seems unable to accept other people may have different points of view. It raised the eyes of many in the civil service and Parliament when he was given powers to play around inside his old Ministry. Some suspect this was due to his closeness to Groser than respect for his ability. Still makes strange speeches in the House.	4	4
<i>Henare, Tau</i>	List		Loud, brash and out there. His political brawler attitude masks a sharp political mind.	4	3
<i>Hutchison, Paul</i>	Hunua		Continued his polite and thoughtful chairmanship of the Health Select Committee. Is highly regarded by most around Parliament with the exception of the Press Gallery who find him a bit painful, may not rise much further.	6	4
<i>Kaye, Nikki</i>	Auckland Central		Ambitious and worked her marginal electorate hard all year and winning again. Became the voice for the young blue-greens with her stance on mining in the Hauraki Gulf. Some suspect it was more to do with electoral survival than any true belief, which is a bit unkind. Drives colleagues mad as she fights for attention.	4	5
<i>King, Colin</i>	Kaikoura		A diligent MP in the House and on Select Committee, but really needs to do more.	3.5	2

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2010 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Lee, Melissa</i>	List		Sadly her spectacular loss in the Mt Albert by-election seems to have defined her. Works hard in Auckland for National, but this might be as good as it gets.	3.5	2
<i>Sam Lotu-Liga, Peseta</i>	Maungakiekie		Started to push himself more in the House and was a useful contributor. He was promoted as one to watch and a new face for National, pity the powers that be have not given him a chance to find out if this is true and he has shown little initiative in grabbing the bull by the horns. Balancing this he has been working hard in his electorate and in the Samoan community.	3	4
<i>McKelvie, Ian</i>	Rangitikei		Not expected to shine - too old.	N/A	N/A
<i>Macindoe, Tim</i>	Hamilton West		Seems to enjoy his job and speaking in the House, but seems to believe boring and playing it safe are the same thing.	3.5	3.5
<i>McClay, Todd</i>	Rotorua		Confident in the House, Parliament and his electorate. One of the first on the scene after the Rena grounding. Needs to lift his game if he wants to get something more interesting to do.	5	4
<i>Mitchell, Mark</i>	Rodney		Has talent but is modest - a good newbie.	N/A	N/A
<i>Ngaro, Alfred</i>	List		First Cook Is MP. Good community support, little party background - one to watch.	N/A	N/A
<i>O'Connor, Simon</i>	Tamaki		Don't expect too much -very conservative.	N/A	N/A
Ross, Jamie- Lee	Botany		Latecomer to Parliament through Pansy Wong's demise. Made little impression. Keen to learn.	N/A	3
<i>Roy, Eric</i>	Invercargill		Main job was to be the Associate Speaker which he did with grace and dignity. Had to put up with some antics from Trevor Mallard and co, but even Mallard stepped back from the brink of nuclear meltdown. Roy often irritated his National colleagues by bending over backwards for Labour and Mallard in particular.	5	4
<i>Sabin, Mike</i>	Northland		Must ensure he doesn't become a "P" bore.	N/A	N/A
<i>Shanks, Katrina</i>	List		Somewhat sidelined after she was ordered not to compete for the electorate vote against Dunne. Shanks was looking like a strong campaigner and had no chance to show her mettle. May never get a chance to show what she is capable of.	3	3.5
<i>Simpson, Scott</i>	Coromandel		Not likely to make much progress.	N/A	N/A
<i>Smith, Lockwood</i>	List	Speaker	Continued his work in trying to improve behaviour during Parliament's question time. Sometimes was far too patient with truculent MPs. Lost a few points when he over reacted to various clashes with the media, but understandable considering some of the hysterical prima donnas he has to deal with in the Gallery. Winston will test him.	8	8
<i>Tisch, Lindsay</i>	Waikato	Deputy Speaker	Meticulous in his handling of the House, sometime overly so. Reliable - does the job he needs to do.	7	5.5
<i>Tremain, Chris</i>	Napier	Senior Whip	Improved as Govt Whip as the year went on. Usually a platform into Cabinet, unless he enjoys the job and National wants continuity in the role.	6	6
<i>Upston, Louise</i>	Taupo		Ended her first term without tainting her reputation, good in the House and Select Committee. Another National MP who has not really been tested. Impressed senior colleagues. Could be next in line for promotion.	4.5	6

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2010 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Wagner, Nicky</i>	List		Like all Christchurch MPs somewhat pre-occupied with events there. Her taking of Christchurch central adds something of a string to her bow.	3.5	5
<i>Woodhouse, Michael</i>	List		Prone to somewhat theatrical performances in the House, seems to enjoy the rough and tumble of Parliamentary debate. A bright MP destined for better things. Undoubtedly on track for a Ministerial role.	3	5
<i>Yang, Jian</i>	List		Academic - National's new Asian face.	N/A	N/A
<i>Young, Jonathan</i>	New Plymouth		To be charitable, perhaps he was just focusing on holding onto New Plymouth as he made little impact anywhere else. Colleagues rate him though.	3	4
ACT					
<i>Banks, John</i>	Epsom		In the on-going ACT soap opera he took Epsom despite polls not being in his favour. Stayed on message and showed he can still do the campaign basics well to win in a canter.	N/A	N/A
Maori					
<i>Sharples, Pita</i>	Tamaki Makarau	Co-Leader	See Ministers Outside Cabinet		
<i>Turia, Tariana</i>	Te Tai Hauauru	Co-Leader	See Ministers Outside Cabinet		
<i>Flavell, Te Ururoa</i>	Waiariki		Was given the unenviable task of selling the foreshore and seabed legislation compromise to sceptical Maori Party members and as a result became a target for the Mana Party. Solid in Parliament, spoke well on the surveillance issue, and dealt well with the Hone fallout. Set to replace Sharples as co-leader.	6	5
Mana Party					
<i>Harawira, Hone</i>	Te Tai Tokerau		Could not live with his decision to back the deal with National and walked away tearing apart his party and forcing a by-election. Been rated lowly in the past for his poor behaviour, this year Trans-Tasman has to acknowledge for all his destructiveness, he did manage (with significant help) to set up a new political party and get back into Parliament appealing to the disaffected and disenfranchised. This is a significant political achievement, whether he and Mana can become anything but a vehicle for divisive and over the top rhetoric is yet to be seen. Will be disappointed he was unable to bring any other MPs in with him.	2	5
Labour Front Bench					
<i>Goff, Phil</i>	Mt Roskill	SIS	It was always going to be a tough job taking on one of NZ's most popular PMs in his first term in office. Goff was not helped by a caucus which had outright rebellion in the form of Chris Carter and with many MPs seemingly going through the motions and more interested in what happens after election day. Performed well in Parliament throughout the year and tried everything possible in the election campaign. He did fail to connect with enough voters, but most of them had the phone of the hook. His resignation signals more blood letting in Labour.	6	6
<i>King, Annette</i>	Rongotai	Deputy Leader, Social Development	Remained loyal till the end. Did her best to keep the Labour team focused. The Darren Hughes affair hurt her in a personal sense, but managed to maintain her good relations with colleagues and the media. Always solid in the House, but rarely got under Paula Bennett's skin. Her all round political skills will be missed.	6.5	6

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2010 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Cunliffe, David</i>	New Lynn	Finance	Cunliffe played a major role in developing some of Labour's more innovative, and some would say overly courageous, policy development. Rarely tested Bill English in Parliament, but at least held his own. Still tends to irritate his colleagues and the media, but has been working hard on controlling his ego. Some say he spent too much time thinking about what happened after election day. May resign if the leadership eludes him.	5.5	6
<i>Dyson, Ruth</i>	Port Hills	Spokesperson for Conservation Spokesperson for State Services Spokesperson on Immigration	Started off with the important health portfolio and ended up being sidelined despite remaining on the front bench. There is no doubt she was on top of her portfolios, despite this landed few blows. Once again being a Christchurch MP, matters of more importance took up her time than politics. Despite this looked disinterested and while in the House her speeches dripped partisan venom. Dyson finds it very hard to say anything nice about her political opponents.	4.5	3.5
<i>Horomia, Parekura</i>	Ikaoroa-Rawhiti	Maori Affairs, Treaty Negotiations	An amiable politician and important to bolster Labour's Maori support, but it was difficult to work out why he remained in Parliament. Needed to lift his game this year, but didn't and difficult to see what contribution he will make this term.	3	2
<i>Cosgrove, Clayton</i>	List	Spokesperson on Law & Order Spokesperson for Police Spokesperson for Corrections Spokesperson for State Owned Enterprises Associate Finance Spokesperson Spokesperson for Earthquake Recovery	Led Labour's response to the Canterbury earthquakes, while putting a lot of work into his portfolios and trying to hang on to his marginal electorate, eventually losing it. Worked hard for little reward and continued to collect as many enemies in Labour as he did outside. Notably he reversed his stance on the party list and took up the safety net this time.	4	5
<i>Mahuta, Nanaia</i>	Hauraki-Waikato	Spokesperson for Maori Social Development Spokesperson for the Voluntary & Community Sector	An articulate intelligent contributor around Parliament, but kept a very low profile as she worked to ensure she held her electorate seat. May end up as deputy leader.	3.5	4
<i>Mallard, Trevor</i>	Hutt South	Shadow Leader of the House Spokesperson for Sport and Recreation Spokesperson on the Rugby World Cup Spokesperson on the America's Cup Associate Finance Spokesperson	Lost his major portfolios as Labour tried to push new talent forward. If he was bitter he did not show it and remained Labour's tiger in the debating chamber. Sometimes struggled to contain his temper, but seemed to get it under control as the year went on. Few would have noticed but once he became shadow Leader of the House, Mallard and Power worked together to get the House humming like a well-oiled machine when it came to passing legislation. It showed what could be achieved when a Govt gives the opposition its right to delay and protest against legislation and the Opposition acknowledges a Govt has a mandate to progress its programme. The question being asked now is why is he still there?	5	5
<i>Parker, David</i>	List	Shadow Attorney-General Spokesperson for Economic Development Spokesperson for Energy Associate Finance Spokesperson	An intelligent, articulate and constructive Parliamentarian. His move to Auckland showed he had one eye on the future. Having dropped his leadership ambitions, he will certainly knuckle down.	6.5	6
<i>Street, Maryan</i>	List	Spokesperson on Trade Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs Spokesperson for Overseas Development Assistance	Passionate about her portfolios and loves to work. But Labour really needed its senior MPs to be a bit more visible and bit less of a girly swot.	4	4
Labour Back Benchers					
<i>Ardern, Jacinda</i>	List	Spokesperson for Youth Affairs Spokesperson on Employment Associate Spokesperson for Arts, Culture & Heritage	This year Ardern confirmed her place as one of Labour's bright hopes. In command of her portfolios and probably got more air time than most of her more senior and experienced colleagues. A bright speaker was formidable on the hustings. Goff and King recognised her talent and wisely pushed her forward. Couldn't quite make it in Auckland Central.	5	6

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2010 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Chauvel, Charles</i>	List	Spokesperson for Justice Spokesperson for the Environment	One of Labour's high fliers. Always worth listening to - should take it as a compliment to his effectiveness many in National singled him out for attack. Worked hard in Ohariu. His nasty streak can be a handicap.	6	5
<i>Clark, David</i>	Dunedin North		Conservative, but should make a good MP.	N/A	N/A
<i>Curran, Clare</i>	Dunedin South	Spokesperson for Communications & IT Spokesperson for Broadcasting	Earnest, sincere and sometimes unintelligible. Loved her portfolio work, but seemed to put too heavy an emphasis on the internet and social media. Spent much of her time arguing with the converted and unconvertible. Has potential, but needs to get out more.	3.5	3
<i>Dalziel, Lianne</i>	Christchurch East	Spokesperson for Small Business Spokesperson for Commerce Spokesperson on Electoral Reform Spokesperson on Regulatory Reform Associate Spokesperson for Justice	One of Labour's best performers in Parliament manages to combine passion with intelligence. One of the best in articulating her constituents' frustrations about the earthquake response. Dalziel also chaired the Commerce Select Committee well and her stewardship helped Simon Power progress an impressive array of legislation. Still had flashes of anger when frustrated, but Labour could have done with more MPs like her. Might be her last term.	5.5	6
<i>Fafoi, Kris</i>	Mana	Spokesperson for Civil Defence Associate Spokesperson for Pacific Island Affairs	Still learning to be an MP and had little impact. Made a useful contribution in Parliament and worked hard in Mana shoring up his electorate vote after a less than convincing by-election win.	4	3
<i>Fenton, Darien</i>	List	Spokesperson for Labour Spokesperson for Transport Safety	Drives National MPs nuts with her unabashed support for the union movement and labour rights, which is just what she wants. A hard worker, but loses a point for unwisely labelling the Mad Butcher a class traitor.	4	2
<i>Hipkins, Chris</i>	Rimutaka	Spokesperson for ACC Spokesperson for Internal Affairs	Performed in the House like he was veteran MP. Leadership gave the first term MP a vote of confidence with the ACC role and he should have made more of it. Worries about his electorate probably played on his mind, needs to lift his game to fulfil his promise.	4	4
<i>Jones, Shane</i>	List		After a quiet time last year recovering from various unfortunate headlines, made his way back towards the main stage. His oratory in the House can be wonderful to listen to, if sometimes a bit overblown. Worked hard to unseat Sharples, but had too much baggage to overcome. Despite his woes he is still one of Labour's great hopes, though many of his colleagues do not see it that way.	5	5
<i>Lees-Galloway, Iain</i>	Palmerston North	Spokesperson for Land Information Spokesperson for Defence Associate Spokesperson for Health (Drugs & Alcohol) Associate Spokesperson on Transport	Active in Parliament and a good debater. Took an interest in his portfolios, especially defence, which impacted on his electorate.	4	3
<i>Little, Andrew</i>	List		Fancied his chances in New Plymouth but was well beaten in the end. Big task to make unions still relevant. Needs to prove himself - not popular.	N/A	N/A
<i>Mackey, Moana</i>	List	Spokesperson for Housing Associate Spokesperson for Research & Development, Science & Technology	Usually a quiet performer who does her homework and gets on with the job. Shows occasional moments of passion - Labour needs more of it.	5	4
<i>Moroney, Sue</i>	List	Education Spokesperson Spokesperson for Early Childhood Education	After good work in the early childhood portfolio was promoted to the full education role. She performed adequately, possibly would have hoped to score more points against Anne Tolley. It is a sign of the problems Labour has at the top of its ranks that Moroney was given the job when still ranked so lowly.	5	3

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2010 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>O'Connor, Damien</i>	West Coast -Tasman	Spokesperson for Rural Affairs Spokesperson for Biosecurity Spokesperson for Agriculture	It came a bit late in the term, but Labour finally realised it needed MPs like O'Connor to appeal to every day non-politicised working class people. O'Connor seemed to spend as much time in internal politics fending off offended colleagues as he did working for the party. A notable victory on the West Coast kept him in Parliament and strengthened his hand.	4	5
<i>Prasad, Rajen</i>	List	Voluntary & Community Sector, Associate Ethnic Affairs, Associate Social Development - Family & CYF	Mystery to anyone outside Labour why he was so high on the list. Competent, but ineffectual.	4	1
<i>Robertson, Grant</i>	Wellington Central	Spokesperson for Health Associate Spokesperson for Arts, Culture & Heritage	Quite rightly promoted into the Health portfolio, which once again shows the problem in Labour with senior MPs hogging the front benches not being up to the job, but refusing to stand down. Looked experienced beyond his years in Parliament and made Wellington Central a safe seat for Labour with the National candidate hardly bothering to campaign for the electorate vote. Affable and clever, part of Labour's future leadership team once the old guard finally accept their day is gone.	5	6
<i>Robertson, Ross</i>	Manukau East	Assistant Speaker Spokesperson for Racing Spokesperson for Disarmament & Arms Control	An excellent Assistant Speaker for which he gets all his points. His hold on his electorate and the failure of Labour to free up the safe seat for someone who might make up an impact on the wider political stage says volumes about the party.	3.5	3.5
<i>Sepuloni, Carmel</i>	Waitakere	Spokesperson for Disability Issues Spokesperson for Victims' Rights Associate Spokesperson for Social Development	Contributed more in the House this year and worked hard in taking back Waitakere for Labour. Could be part of the Party's future.	3.5	4
<i>Shearer, David</i>	Mt Albert	Spokesperson for Tertiary Education Spokesperson for Research & Development, Science & Technology	Those who know him say he could be the future of the Labour Party. Always makes thoughtful contributions in Parliament, but rarely contributed to Labour's cause. He has made an ambitious bid for the leadership, and must show there's a reason to choose him.	3	5
<i>Sio, Su'a William</i>	Mangere	Spokesperson for Pacific Island Affairs Spokesperson on Interfaith Dialogue Spokesperson for Customs	Always looks serious around Parliament and maintains a sense of gravitas. Looks clever, but really does need to do more, if you get given a seat for life it would be good to make something of it. Personal style grates with colleagues.	3.5	2
<i>Tirikatene, Rino</i>	Te Tai Tonga		Don't expect much.	N/A	N/A
<i>Twyford, Phil</i>	Te Atatu	Spokesperson for Local Government Spokesperson for Building & Construction Spokesperson for Auckland Issues	Doggedly good humoured and chipped away on his portfolios. It is obvious he has talent and finally found a home in the Te Atatu electorate and did well there.	4.5	4
<i>Wall, Louisa</i>	Manurewa		Returned to Parliament after Darren Hughes resigned. Has a safe seat - now must earn it.	4	2
<i>Woods, Megan</i>	Wigram		Seat is payback for civic duty.	N/A	N/A
Greens					
<i>Browning, Steffan</i>	List		Wants to be new Kedgey but is stubborn and pedantic.	N/A	N/A
<i>Delahunty, Catherine</i>	List		Had her moments in Parliament and is clearly passionate about the things she believes in. But in danger of becoming a walking cliché.	3.5	3.5
<i>Clendon, David</i>	List		Last year we said he was a worthy newcomer who speaks in a monotone, but should be listened to. Nothing much has changed, but perhaps it is time to start making a bigger mark.	3.5	2
<i>Genter, Julie Ann</i>	List		A transport expert who lacks charm.	N/A	N/A

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2010 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Graham, Kennedy</i>	List		A thoughtful contributor to Parliament, he usually speaks in measured tones and is worth listening to. Seems set to take over Keith Locke's role as the quiet polite conscience of the left in Parliament.	4	4
<i>Hague, Kevin</i>	List		As a West Coast based MP he was much caught up in the aftermath of the Pike River Coal Mine disaster. When in Parliament spoke sense.	3.5	4.5
<i>Hughes, Gareth</i>	List		Last year we said he was a promising new addition to the Green team. This year he showed it. Hughes was everywhere. Enthusiastic in the House and out on the campaign trail. He even managed to do it without looking like a cliché.	3	5
<i>Logie, Jan</i>	List		Nice version of Sue Bradford.	N/A	N/A
<i>Mathers, Mojo</i>	List		First profoundly deaf MP to be in Parliament - a party policy advisor previously.	N/A	N/A
<i>Norman, Russel</i>	List	Co-Leader	A candidate for politician of the year, as he converted the Greens from a fringe left party to an organisation able to appeal across the spectrum. Had to upset some activists along the way, but the reality is Norman stayed true to his party's core beliefs. Has taken the Greens to the edge of actually wielding some power, up to them now whether they take it.	5	8
<i>Roche, Denise</i>	List		Has charm, but steeped in trade union ways.	N/A	N/A
<i>Sage, Eugeine</i>	List		Knows the RMA like few others and will keep developers honest.	N/A	N/A
<i>Turei, Metiria</i>	List	Co-Leader	Completed her rebirth from anarchist feminist to leader of a mainstream green movement, Strong in the House and strong in public debate. Nats don't trust her.	4.5	6
<i>Walker, Holly</i>	List		Academic with treaty settlements background.	N/A	N/A
NZ First					
<i>Horan, Brendon</i>	List		Not much expected of him. A potential weak link. Has a fine singing voice, which is not much use in the House.	N/A	N/A
<i>Martin, Tracey</i>	List		Has potential. Perhaps worth watching, but he lacks experience which may cost him.	N/A	N/A
<i>O'Rourke, Denis</i>	List		Lefty provincial lawyer and former councillor. His local body experience may be useful, but he needs to control himself.	N/A	N/A
<i>Peters, Winston</i>	List		Many had written him off as finished, but the slightest whiff of oxygen on the campaign trail re-ignited the old flame. Expect more fire and brimstone as he attempts to wrest the tile of Parliament's opposition leader from whoever ends up with the mantle of Labour leader. He will be Lockwood Smith's nightmare.	N/A	N/A
<i>Prosser, Richard</i>	List		Portrayed as somewhat of a joke, he is not the madman the media want to portray him as. He has views many in the community actually agree with. He is a good communicator, but will have to be careful in the way he expresses his views.	N/A	N/A
<i>Stewart, Barbara</i>	List		She is pleasant and friendly and, critically in this new caucus, she has had experience in Parliament before.	N/A	N/A
<i>Taylor, Asenati</i>	List		This former PI with good community experience, real spirit and determination could be one to watch. Not scared to give her views and has a great sense of humour.	N/A	N/A
<i>Williams, Andrew</i>	List		Has potential to embarrass the party one day. He wants to do things his way already. Said to have a huge temper problem.	N/A	N/A

Politician Of The Year - Gerry Brownlee

• Contenders this year included John Key, the highest polling NZ Prime Minister on record, Greens co-leader Russel Norman who succeeded in transforming his party from seriously radical to radically serious, Foreign Minister Murray McCully, who not only masterminded running the biggest sporting event in NZ's history but stood in for the PM at such prestigious events as the Commonwealth Heads of Govt in Perth, despite being ranked only number 11 in the NZ Cabinet. Comeback kid Winston Peters was also mentioned. He was written off as dead and buried, but rose like Lazarus from the grave to come back to Parliament in what many will see as their worst nightmare

So Why not Key? His role in dominating the centre-ground of NZ politics and winning a second term for his coalition cannot be under-estimated. He routed his main political opponent, who announced immediately he would stepping down as leader of the Labour Party. The Rugby World Cup victory created a euphoria through the nation, which shut down political debate for the best part of two months, and cut down the any political oxygen for Opposition parties. But the honeymoon is over for the populist PM. He had a less than stellar election campaign. There are still questions about his ability to drive through a coherent economic plan, and his "smile and wave" persona has worried business which wants to see real economic action. This term he will have to deliver.

Key was also helped home in the election by Christchurch's abandonment of the Labour Party. The salient feature of the 2011 general election was the astonishing feat of turning Christchurch into almost true-blue National territory. Without big party-vote majorities in several traditional Labour electorates in and around Christchurch, National might have fallen behind the aggregate vote of the parties aligned against it. The man at the centre of this achievement is Gerry Brownlee.

As Minister in charge of directing recovery from the devastating earthquakes in Canterbury, and faced almost daily with hard decisions, Brownlee has shown his true mettle. He has stood four-square behind the Govt's determination to rebuild Christchurch, and has given back hope to those whose homes and businesses were torn apart. The job is far from done and Brownlee is expected to remain in charge for at least a year as the process of rebuilding gathers pace. What may have exercised a strong influence on the outcome of the election, as National harvested majorities in onetime Labour fiefdoms in Christchurch, was the conviction the Govt totally supported the city, transmitted through the Brownlee personality, and built around the extraordinary generosity in the payouts to citizens whose homes had been destroyed.

While Brownlee's focus will continue to be concentrated on reconstruction in Christchurch, the Govt will also be expecting him to resume his role as Leader of the House, where his particular skills may be required to smooth the path for Govt business to progress, given the Key-led coalition has to contend with a new Leader of the Opposition, the reinforced ranks of the Greens, plus the redoubtable Winston Peters, who enjoys nothing more than sticking it to his old mates.

Release: 15 December, 2011.

Note: This publication went to print prior to John Key's announcement of his new cabinet line-up, but does reflect the situation in Parliament following the counting of special votes.

Max Bowden
 Editor In Chief
 The Main Report Group
 mbowden@transtasman.co.nz

Ian Templeton
 Senior Editor
 The Main Report Group
 transtas@xtra.co.nz

Tony Doe
 Research Analyst
 The Main Report Group
 tdoe@themainreport.co.nz

For extra print copies of this Report or the electronic version in PDF format for distribution among business associates, friends and family, please contact Jan Martin at +64 365 3891

