

# Current political issues

Hugo Group panels

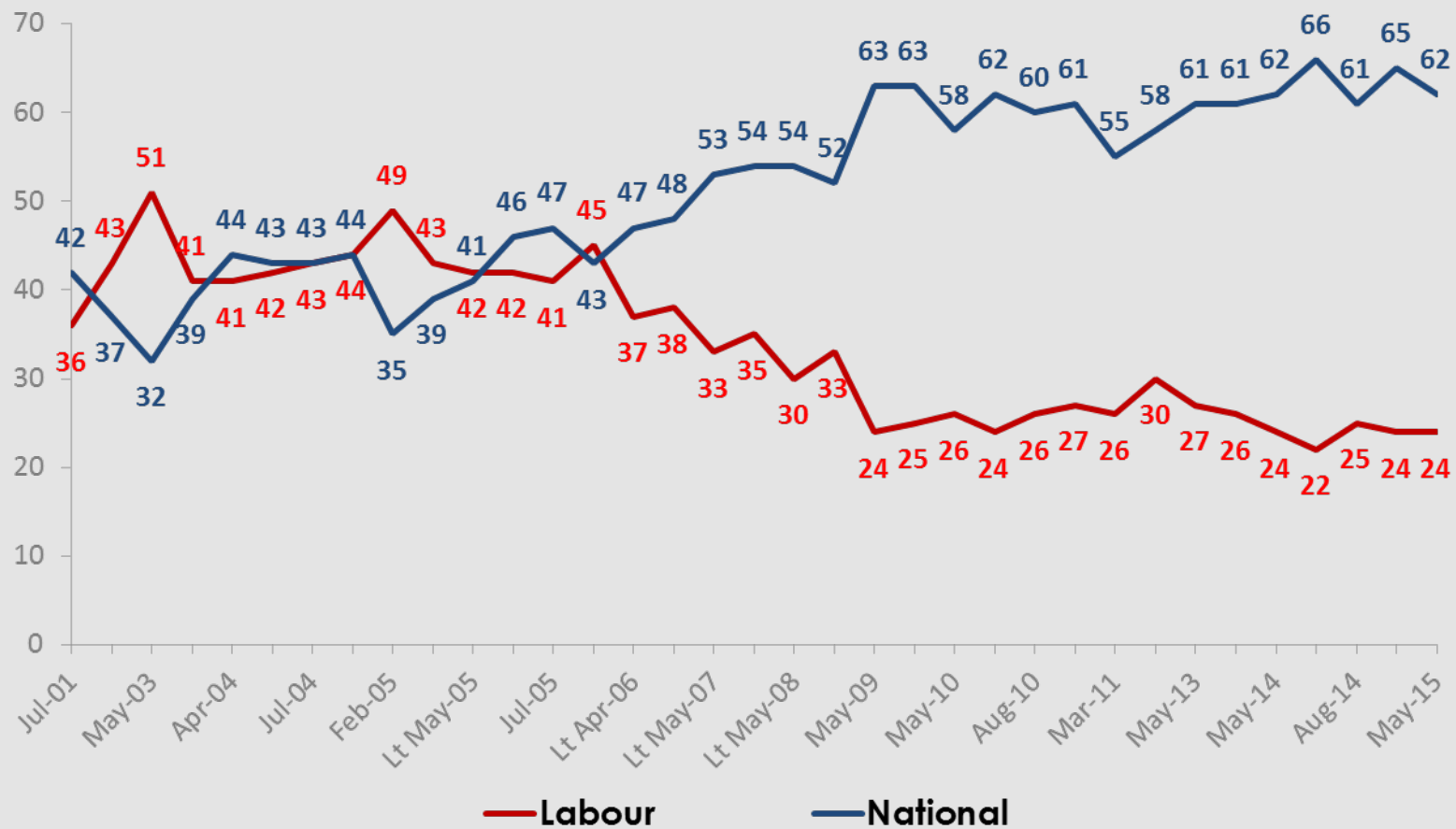
Patrick Smellie

September 9, 2015

## Political implications of a sharp downturn

- Inevitably, it will have impacts on National Party support
- Conventional wisdom says 'governments lose elections, opposition parties don't win them'
- BNZ's downside scenario bottoms out in 2018
  - Deterioration through election year
- However, bear in mind....

## National remains dominant on economic management



Source: UMR

[www.thehugogroup.com](http://www.thehugogroup.com)

## Labour's competence – will it improve?

- Five working papers produced for Future of Work Commission
  - No media traction or fresh debate
  - Grant Robertson remains a learner
- Andrew Little being pulled left on TPP (& the Corbyn phenomenon?)
- Note the Australian Labor Party is close to scuttling the Aussie/China FTA
- A starker choice emerging – does a more left-leaning Labour really become more electable?

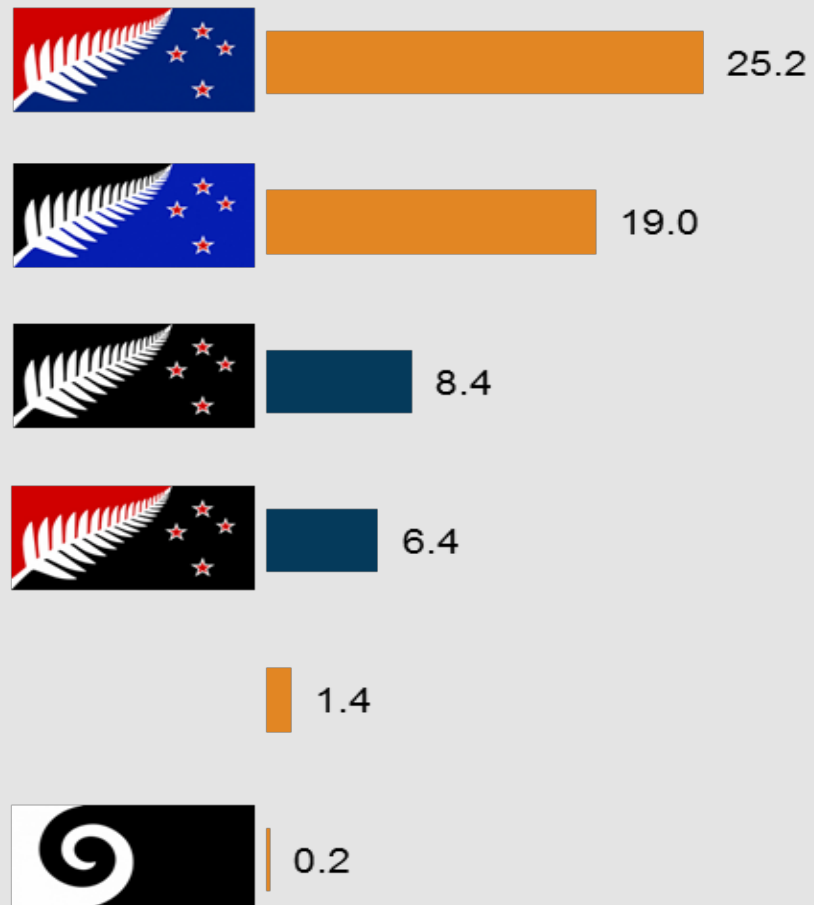
## Recent policy developments - transport

- Govt has rolled over Len Brown on Auckland transport strategy review
  - New blueprint before 2016 local body election
  - With concrete progress in 2017?
- National infrastructure plan makes clear KiwiRail will continue to be supported
  - Probably without much change to the current network
- Digital technology to aid time-based user charging to deal with congestion

## The flag



## UMR poll of flag preferences – virtually unreported



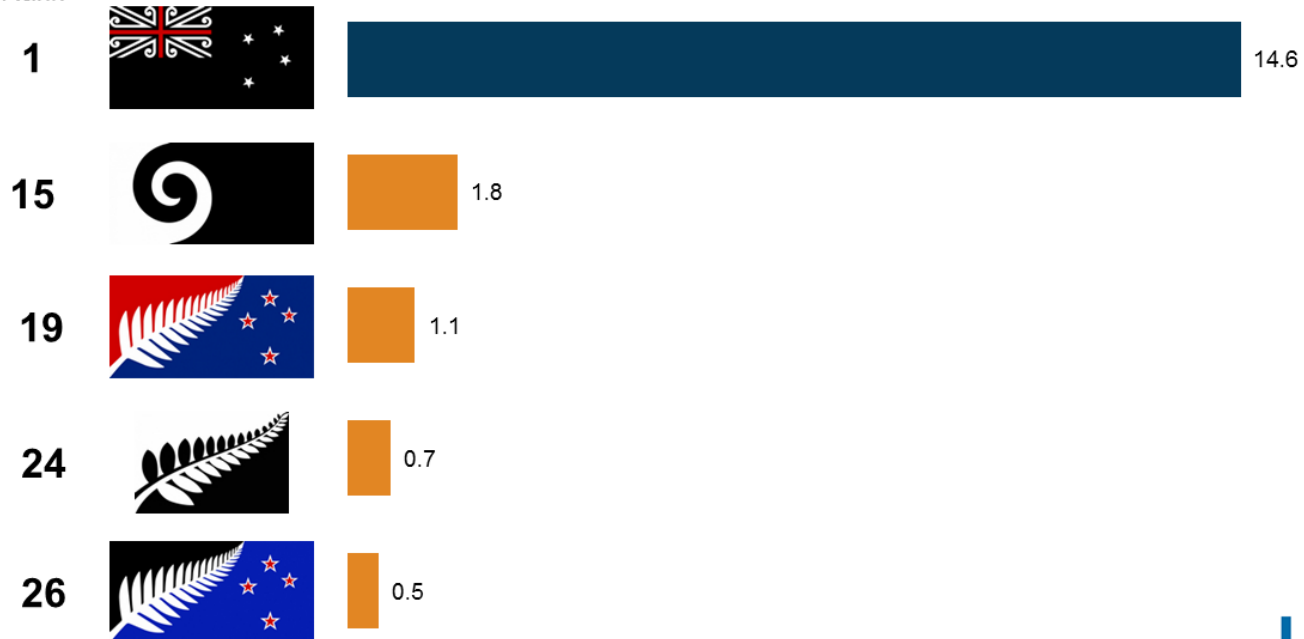
## By contrast

### Least favourite design



Now, we would like you to select your least favourite design.

Rank



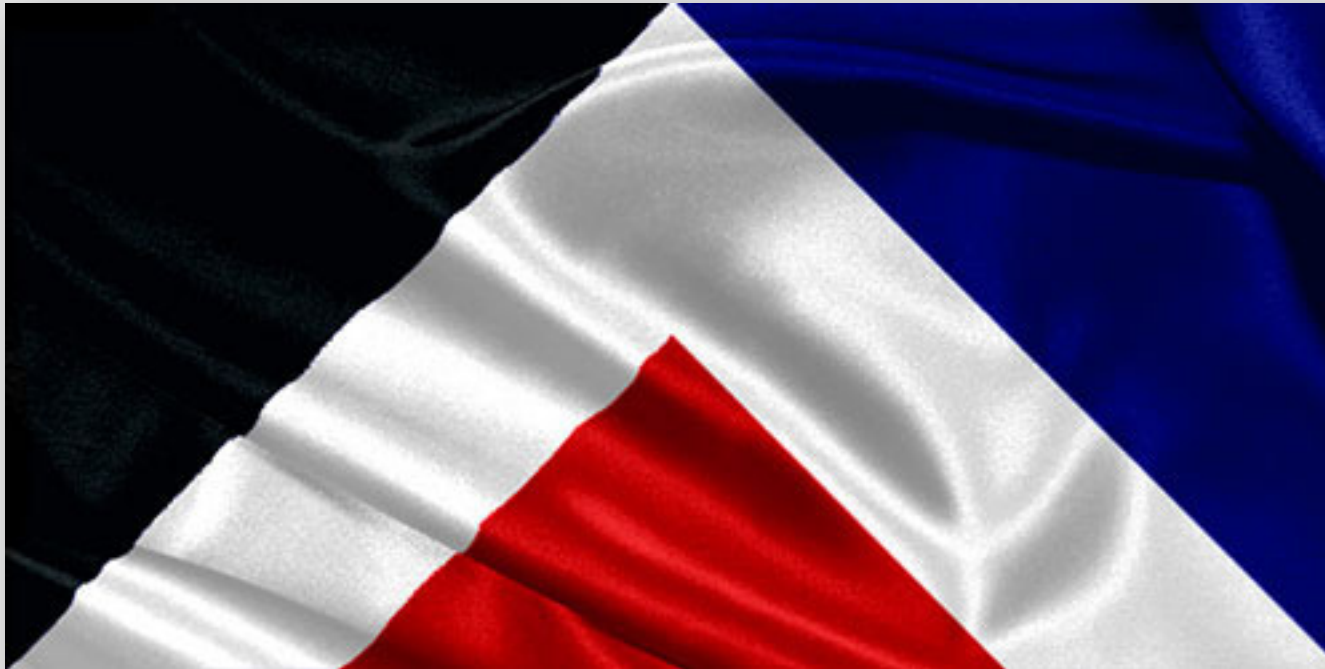
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UMR  
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Red Peak – 35<sup>th</sup> from 40 ‘most preferred’



# International politics

- Australia
  - Canning by-election, Sept 19, another referendum on Abbott
  - Early return to polls unlikely, but possible
- UK
  - Despite elites assuming him unelectable, the frustration with globalisation and unrepresentative politics that Jeremy Corbyn embodies can't be ignored
- China
  - Economic management not so sure-footed; political reaction is to become more authoritarian
- Middle East and Europe
  - Refugee crisis – will it play into Assad's hands