

'We need to dispel that superwoman narrative': Ardern speaks of politics and parenthood

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"It's a very emotive issue. We are food producers. It's part of who we are," she said. However, with farming producing almost half her country's greenhouse gas emissions, and climate change a major part of her election campaign, there was no backing away from it.

Ms Ardern made New Zealand the first country in the world to legislate for the pricing of livestock methane emissions similar to the way industries pay for carbon emissions.

Farmers have until 2025 before they start paying, but if the plan becomes a reality, it will send a signal – and perhaps a shockwave – to farmers all over the world.

Ms Ardern no longer has control over what may happen as she is looking at

Jacinda Ardern had to handle the deadly horrors of a terror attack, a volcano and a pandemic – but one of her trickiest tasks as prime minister was introducing the "fart tax".

A cousin had once driven a tractor up the steps of parliament in protest at the proposed climate action measure so she knew how delicate the issue was.



Jacinda Ardern spoke about climate change and parenting at the AIB Sustainability Conference. Photo: Getty

politics in the rearview mirror, having stood down from parliament earlier this year.

But as the "accidental prime minister" – who only took over the leadership of her party six weeks out from a general election – as the youngest female leader in the world at the time, and as one of only two to ever give birth while prime minister, her five years in power continue to attract massive interest.

Ms Ardern was speaking at the annual AIB Sustainability Conference about the challenges she faced and the leadership techniques that helped her cope.

She was barely in the door of the prime minister's office in 2017 when the first crisis of her reign erupted. An outbreak of *M. bovis*, or bovine TB, had been detected in the otherwise TB-free national herd.

There were two options: try to manage the disease and take the costly hit on farm productivity it would cause, or cull to eradicate it.

Her officials contacted their Irish counterparts, all too familiar with the scourge of TB, and they advised to aim for eradication.

Ms Ardern said she called in all the farm leaders and they jointly made the decision to selectively cull. Five years later, New Zealand is on its way to eradicating the disease, which would also be a world first.

She took a similar approach to the methane pricing issue, setting out the principle that its emissions must be paid for, but including farmers in devising an appropriate scheme.

"There are some areas in politics where we should try and take the politics out of the issue," she said.

"Climate change is one of the best examples that I could ever muster because we need more than decisions that

exist for one political cycle. We need decisions for the next 30-50 years."

The country's landmark Zero Carbon Act was another example.

She deliberately "went across the aisle" to the opposition parties and asked for their input so that the law would be consistently applied no matter what government followed hers.

There are some things she believes politicians should not have to compromise on, however.

She had been trying for a baby and struggling to conceive when her sudden arrival at the threshold of the prime minister's office happened, just as she discovered her last IVF cycle worked.

Her first thought was: "How do I tell New Zealand?"

If she took the position of prime minister, she would be just months in the job when she would be absenting herself from the Labour Party and heading to the labour ward.

"No one should have to make a decision that by choosing one path they're automatically excluding options in relation to family," she said.

She understood the fuss around the birth of baby Neve and the publicity surrounding the first international engagements she attended with her months-old tot in her arms.

"I wished there had been more focus on my partner, Clarke [Gayford], who was the one in the UN side rooms changing nappies on a boardroom table," she said.

"Women would come up to me and say I don't know how you're doing all this.

"We really need to dispel that superwoman narrative. I wasn't doing it all. I can only be a mother because he's a father."

Comedian and TV presenter, Trevor Noah, also spoke at the conference, stressing the importance of first finding common ground when embarking on discussions on difficult issues.

This applied to all the contentious issues raging in society today, he said, including climate change. He also said the emphasis needed to change.

"We haven't made sustainability sexy enough. We haven't made it something that people should chase after," he said.

"We've made it seem like we're doing the planet a favour when you're doing yourself a favour. You can improve your life, you can make your world better."

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Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



Material Contravention of Mayo County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 Ref. No. in Planning Register P22/1049

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 34(6) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000, as amended, that Mayo County Council intends to consider deciding to grant a permission for a development which will consist of

25 housing units consisting of good housing mix of bungalows, semi-detached and maisonettes together with connection to all existing site services, access roads, multi games area and public open spaces at Elm Park, Clare, Claremorris, Co Mayo. (Reference No. in the Planning Register is P22/1049).

The aforementioned development would contravene materially the Strategic Residential Reserve Tier 1 in Map CM1 Claremorris Land Use Zoning in Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Particulars of the development may be inspected at the following locations during public opening hours from Tuesday, 21st November, 2023 to Wednesday, 20th December, 2023 inclusive, at the

- Planning Office, Mayo Co Council, Aras an Chontae, The Mall, Castlebar, Co Mayo, F23 WF90
- Claremorris Civic Offices, Kilcolman Road, Claremorris, Co Mayo, F12 P383, and
- Unrestricted access is available on-line at <https://consult.mayo.ie> between 21st November, 2023 and 20th December, 2023.

Any submissions or observations received regarding the making of a decision to grant permission on Planning File Reference No. P22/1049 received strictly not later than **4.00pm on 20th December, 2023** will be duly considered by the members of Claremorris Swinford Municipal District.

Submissions or observations should be made in writing to

- Senior Planner, Planning Section, Aras an Chontae, The Mall, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, OR
- on [CONSULT.mayo.ie](https://consult.mayo.ie)

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