



WHAT BETTER *MEANS FOR* *NEW ZEALAND*

LABOUR'S PLAN

2026

What Better Means for New Zealand

Better means lower bills.

Cheaper transport with a \$20 fare cap, fairer grocery prices and more money left at the end of the week.

Better means healthcare you can afford.

Three free GP visits a year, free prescriptions and hospitals there when you need them.

Better means more good jobs.

Getting Kiwis back to work fixing our schools and hospitals, backing 30,000 apprentices into work, and guaranteeing jobs for graduate nurses.

Better means growing the economy from the grassroots up.

Backing local businesses, investing in Kiwi ideas, and creating opportunities across New Zealand.

Better means a fair go.

Cracking down on rip-offs like hidden fees and subscription traps, and giving people and small businesses a better deal.

Better means real action to get your cost of living under control.

Better means building a future here.

Better starts now.



My plan *for better*

A New Zealand where a week's hard work is enough to pay the bills, with something left over.

Where you can get healthcare when you need it.

And where our kids can choose to stay and build a good life here.

That's the New Zealand I believe in. And that's the New Zealand I'll fight for every day.

A stylized red signature of Chris Hipkins.

Chris Hipkins

Leader of the Labour Party

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**LABOUR'S
FIRST STEPS**
TO BETTER



Lower everyday bills

Cap public transport fares at \$20 a week in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, and \$10 a week elsewhere. Freeze fuel tax for three years.

Remove the upfront cost of solar and batteries through SolarSaver, saving a typical household around \$1,000 a year.

Ban price gouging on essentials, take on the supermarket giants and crack down on hidden fees, unfair charges and subscription traps.

Healthcare you can afford, close to home

Give every New Zealander three free GP visits a year, make prescriptions free and provide free maternity scans and cervical screening.

Free up 4.5 million more clinic appointments a year, help family doctors set up practices and guarantee jobs for eligible graduate nurses.

Repair hospitals and strengthen frontline care so people can get treated earlier and hospitals are there when we need them.

Good jobs now

Get local tradies back to work fixing schools and hospitals and restart public housing construction.

Back nearly 30,000 apprentices, including a \$1,000 grant for the tools and equipment they need to get started.

A fair go for small businesses

Give independent grocers fairer access to supermarket wholesale supplies and local mechanics the right to repair vehicles.

Open up banking and payments so new Kiwi providers can compete, and make sure small businesses get paid on time.

A future made in New Zealand

Cut student loan balances by 10% for eligible borrowers who stay in New Zealand.

Invest up to \$50 million in innovative Kiwi start-ups and establish a New Zealand Future Fund to back long-term growth.

Same money. Better choices.

Every commitment is costed. Every commitment is funded. We'll work within the same Budget operating allowances but make different choices about what matters most to families.

Get the cost of living under control. Build a future here.

Better starts now.



GOOD JOBS
*SO YOU CAN
GET AHEAD*

OUR PROMISE

*Good jobs,
decent wages,
and more
opportunities
for Kiwis to
build a future
here.*

Hard work should mean you can get ahead and build a future here. But too many Kiwis are working harder for less. There are 48,000 more people out of work than when National took office, and more than 2,000 Kiwis have been leaving the country every week.

Young New Zealanders should be able to find a good job, learn a trade and build a future here.

Labour will get Kiwis back into work by getting on with the work New Zealand needs. We'll guarantee jobs for graduate nurses, so the nurses we train here can stay here.

We'll build homes, fix schools and repair hospitals, creating jobs for local tradies and work for local businesses. We'll give 30,000 apprentices the chance to learn on the job and gain a qualification.



Good jobs are at the heart of our plan to get the cost of living under control. Good pay and secure work make it easier to cover the bills, plan ahead and see a future for yourself and your family in New Zealand.

1. *Start work now*

Good jobs and reliable incomes, so working hard gives people the chance to get ahead.

Repair schools and hospitals, restart state house building and guarantee jobs for graduate nurses.

2. *Apprenticeship Boost*

A new generation of skilled tradies, with good work and a future they can build here.

Extend Apprenticeship Boost to two years, with \$500 a month for employers, a \$1,000 grant for tools and equipment, more mentoring and support across more trades.

3. *SolarSaver*

A growing clean-energy industry that cuts power bills and creates skilled local jobs.

Work with industry through the Tertiary Education Commission to train more solar installers as SolarSaver expands.

4. *Pay women what they deserve*

A country where women are paid fairly for the work they do.

Restore pay equity legislation in our first 100 days and give 65,000 care and support workers an immediate \$4-an-hour pay rise.

5. *Fair pay and security at work*

A country where everyone can earn a decent wage and have the security to plan for the future.

Restore Fair Pay Agreements, strengthen protections for contractors, reverse changes that have weakened employment rights, and pay the Living Wage across the public service.

6. *School lunches*

School lunches made locally, by local people, with local jobs.

Put local food back at the heart of Ka Ora, Ka Ako, with more school lunches made and supplied by iwi, hapū and local providers.

OUR PROGRAMME

FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Workplace relations

- Restore pay equity legislation in our first 100 days
- Give care and support workers an interim pay rise in our first 100 days, followed by a full pay equity settlement
- Introduce legislation for Fair Pay Agreements in the first 100 days and better protect contractors in law
- Roll back the current government's employment changes and restore a worker-centred framework that ensures fair pay, safe workplaces, and decent leave
- Reinstate leave entitlements that were removed by Holidays Act changes
- Require employers to publish the pay gaps between different groups of their staff
- Pay at least the Living Wage across the public service and publicly owned organisations, and work towards extending it across the wider public sector, starting with schools and hospitals
- Increase the minimum wage at least in line with inflation every year
- Ratify ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment at work
- Reject the gateway test and work towards ratification of international protections for gig and platform workers
- Require employers to pay holiday pay to employees who take parental leave
- Create an offence of corporate homicide
- Reverse National's changes to health and safety law and strengthen protections at work
- Review the Employment Relations Act, including minimum compensation redundancy provisions, so people are better supported when they lose their job, unions and employers can work constructively with government, and workers can bargain with whoever actually controls their work.
- Make collective agreements the default, while allowing people to choose an individual agreement
- Protect people's existing terms and conditions when a business is sold or a contract changes hands
- Ban most non-compete clauses in employment agreements

Training and skills

- Target training to the skills and jobs needed in each region
- Make sure work-based and vocational training providers meet strong quality and employment standards
- Make micro-credentials high-quality and consistent, so people can build up skills as they move through their careers

- Develop local transition plans with working people, unions, businesses, iwi and councils in the regions most affected by economic change

Getting people into work

- Back local programmes that connect local people with local jobs
- Reorient the Ministry of Social Development's employment support system toward quality, tailored case management that genuinely matches jobseekers' capabilities with employers' needs, and focuses on local relationships
- Improve employment support for disabled people through the Ministry of Social Development
- Back the Accessibility Tick and specialist services that connect disabled people with training and jobs

Work for young people

- Back youth employment programmes to step in before a young person needs Jobseeker Support
- Make it easier for young people to get their driver's licence

**HEALTHCARE
YOU CAN
AFFORD,
CLOSE TO
HOME**

OUR PROMISE

*Affordable
healthcare,
close to home,
and emergency
care you can
count on.*



When you or someone you love is sick, you should be able to get care without worrying about the cost. But one in six New Zealanders are putting off seeing a doctor because they cannot afford it, while hospitals struggle to get the staff they need. Under Christopher Luxon, GP fees have gone up 21%.

Labour will make healthcare more affordable, faster and close to home. Three free GP visits a year and free prescriptions will help people get treated earlier, before they need a trip to hospital. More appointments and support for local family doctors will make it easier to get care in your community.

We'll guarantee jobs for eligible graduate nurses and act on dangerous emergency department waits. We want people to know that when they need hospital care, there will be a bed and the staff to look after them.

1. *Cheaper healthcare*

A health system where no one puts off getting care because they can't afford it.

Provide three free doctor's visits for everyone with a new Medicaid, free prescriptions, and free cervical screening and maternity ultrasound scans.

2. *Easier to get an appointment*

When you're sick, you should be able to see someone and get help sooner.

Free up 4.5 million clinic visits a year by giving doctors more time, space and tools to see patients, and let pharmacists treat more conditions without a prescription. Make sure people have more ways to collect medicines when pharmacies are closed.

3. *Ease the pressure on emergency departments*

When someone you love needs emergency care, you should know they can get help quickly.

Start fixing overcrowded emergency departments, with more nurses, faster access to hospital beds and more people getting care before they need to go to the ED.

4. *Back family doctors*

Boost the number of GP clinics across New Zealand - and strengthen the ones we already have.

Fund general practice fairly through a new Independent Pricing Authority and help local doctors buy into or open new practices through the Family Doctor Loan Scheme.

5. *Catch it early*

A health system that finds problems early, before they become emergencies.

Expand bowel cancer screening and melanoma prevention. Expand Health NZ's existing sponsorship buy-out programme.

Legislate for a smokefree generation and license tobacco and vape retailers. Reverse National's tobacco tax cut and introduce a tobacco transparency bill.

6. *Train the healthcare professionals we need*

Train our health professionals here and give them every reason to build their careers here.

Guarantee jobs for all eligible New Zealand-trained graduate nurses and fund more sonographer training so people can get scans and diagnoses sooner.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Getting care in your community

- Fix the way children's dental care is delivered so every child can get the free care they're entitled to
- Grow the sonography workforce to reduce delays in scans and diagnosis
- Train more extended-care paramedics to assess and treat people at home or at the scene, including providing medicines and treatment
- Establish a clinical telehealth service so paramedics, aged-care staff and other health professionals can consult an urgent-care or ED doctor

Hospitals and waiting times

- Make better use of public hospital theatres
- Start fixing overcrowded emergency departments, by properly staffing EDs, including with more nurses; faster access to hospital beds; and more people getting care before they need to go to the ED
- End the health hiring freeze
- Order a rapid, independent report on deaths, quality and safety linked to long ED waits
- Restart winter planning immediately, rather than waiting for demand to surge

- Carry out a nationwide stock take of unopened beds, the staff needed to open them, and other barriers to admitting patients
- Require hospitals to use better real-time information and clear responsibility for decisions about moving patients safely from ED into wards
- Keep the focus on faster treatment times for specialists but also monitor referral rejections so the numbers aren't being manipulated
- Back health workers to improve how care is delivered and better connect services
- Fund early supported discharge teams in every region

Medicines

- Require Pharmac to proactively seek out medicines New Zealanders need
- Work across parties to agree a long-term, stable way of funding Pharmac, so medicines funding doesn't change with every government
- Put the Public Health Agency in charge of deciding the national vaccine schedule
- Help people continue their regular medicines by reviewing the rules to allow an emergency continuation of treatment beyond the current 72-hour limit

Healthcare for everyone

- Deliver the Pae Ora health strategies, including action on women's health, endometriosis, menopause and cervical cancer
- Work with Ethnic communities to improve access to healthcare, including through drafting and implementing strategies that address their needs and access barriers.
- Work with Rainbow communities to improve access to healthcare, including through drafting and implementing strategies that address their needs and access barriers.
- Make sure every region has access to culturally competent and gender-affirming care
- Work with retailers to introduce a tobacco and vape retail licensing regime to crack down on illicit tobacco sales
- Formally respond to the Ministerial Advisory Group report on Aged Care

Mental health and Patient Rights

- Phase out the use of seclusion in mental health facilities
- Strengthen the Health and Disability Commission's complaints and review process

ACC

- Require ACC to develop a clear injury prevention strategy, aligned to its 2030 claims-cost reduction target, with funding that matches the level of harm
- Extend ACC cover to volunteer firefighters
- Extend presumptive cover for firefighters with occupational illnesses
- Work towards a system where people get the care and support they need to recover, regardless of how they were injured

A photograph of three people smiling in a brightly lit indoor shopping mall. On the left is a young woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue lanyard with cartoon characters. In the center is a woman with long brown hair, wearing a black jacket. On the right is a man with short blonde hair, wearing a red jacket with a 'Labr' logo. The background shows blurred storefronts and other shoppers.

LOWER BILLS AND *FAIRER PRICES*

OUR PROMISE

*Lower everyday
bills, fairer
prices and a
better deal for
New Zealanders.*

Getting the cost of living under control will be Labour's number one priority. People are working hard and watching every dollar. They deserve a fair price for the things they cannot do without, and a government prepared to stand up to companies ripping them off.

Labour will take action on the bills people face week after week. We'll open up the grocery market so smaller supermarkets have guaranteed access to wholesale products and can offer better prices.

We'll introduce new laws to make price gouging by the big companies illegal, including groceries, fuel and power, and force companies to pay you back if they are found to have overcharged you. We'll also take practical action to crack down on the hidden fees, unfair charges, and cancellation traps that take more money out of your pocket.

We'll cap public transport fares and act to bring down power bills. We'll take action to make it easier to get a fair deal from your bank, when you get your car repaired, and when you fly.



1. *Fairer grocery prices*

A better deal for families and a chance for smaller grocers.

Separate supermarket wholesale and retail operations so new competitors can get the products they need. Break up control of key distribution infrastructure where needed to allow independent wholesalers to compete.

Ban supermarket deals and practices that shut smaller competitors out and give regulators and courts stronger powers to unwind mergers that have harmed competition.

2. *Make price gouging illegal*

Crackdown on companies ripping you off

Ban price gouging on essential goods, including groceries, fuel and power, and force companies to pay you back if they are found to have overcharged you

3. *Cheaper buses and trains*

Getting to work, school and home shouldn't take such a big bite out of your pay

Cap public transport fares at \$20 a week in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch and cap fares at \$10 a week everywhere else.

4. *Crackdown on hidden fees*

The deal you see should be the deal you get, with no hidden costs or traps.

Crack down on drip pricing, fake countdown timers and misleading claims online, make subscriptions as easy to cancel as they are to sign up for, and crack down on exploitative add-ons such as junk insurance on cars and phones.

5. *Your car*

A fairer deal for drivers, with more choice and less to pay for fuel and repairs.

Freeze fuel tax for three years. Increase scrutiny of the fuel sector and penalties for misconduct, make sure smaller fuel retailers can buy wholesale fuel on fair terms, and introduce a Right to Repair, so independent workshops can compete.

6. *Cheaper banking*

Banks should have to earn your business by offering a better deal.

Give customers control of their banking data so it's easier to compare, switch and use new financial services. Make it easier for new banks and financial firms to grow into genuine competitors and require real-time payments so that fintechs can offer them.

7. *Your flights*

Flights you can book with confidence, without nasty surprises at checkout.

Require all-in pricing on domestic flights and require automatic refunds when flights are cancelled. Strengthen passenger rights when flights or baggage are delayed and increase competition on key domestic routes.



OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Energy market reform

- Begin a review of structural reform of the electricity market in our first 100 days and introduce legislation to enact reform within six months
- Reform the market so expensive fossil-fuel generation doesn't automatically set the price everyone pays.

Supermarkets

- Strengthen the Grocery Supply Code, with tougher penalties and enforcement so farmers, growers and manufacturers get a fair deal.

Competition across the economy

- Ban unreasonable restraints of trade on small suppliers
- Stop large firms using their market power to squeeze out new entrants
- Ensure Kiwibank has the tools and structure to drive real competition, while keeping Kiwibank 100% Government owned

KiwiSaver

- Increase employer contributions to 6% by 2032, while allowing employees to choose contributions with a default setting of 4%
- Ban total-remuneration contracts in our first year so employer KiwiSaver contributions are genuinely additional
- Make KiwiSaver work better for self-employed workers

- Extend employer contributions to people working beyond 65

Superannuation

- Keep the New Zealand Super age at 65 years without means testing.

A man with short, light brown hair, wearing a dark grey suit, white shirt, and a red, blue, and white striped tie, stands outdoors. He is gesturing with his right hand. In the background, there is a light blue house with a dark roof and a window showing people inside. Green bushes are in the foreground. The text 'HOMES YOU CAN AFFORD TO BUY, RENT AND LIVE IN' is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

HOMES
YOU CAN
AFFORD TO
BUY, RENT
AND LIVE IN

OUR PROMISE

*A warm,
secure home
and bills you
can afford.*

You should be able to work hard, save for a home and build a future in New Zealand. Young people should be able to imagine raising their own families here, close to the people and places they love. For too many, that feels out of reach.



Labour will help more people into their first home and give people who rent the security to make a home of their own. Whether you buy or rent, your home should be warm, affordable to live in and somewhere you can plan your life around.

We'll get Kāinga Ora building again, back community housing providers and help households lower their power bills. Building more homes also means work for local tradies and apprentices. It gives families somewhere to live and more people a reason to stay and build their future here.

1. *Your first home*

Making owning a first home within reach for more people.

Make more people eligible for the Kāinga Ora First Home Loan and support rent-to-buy in both public and private housing while ensuring a net increase of social housing stock.

2. *Security for people who rent*

A place you rent should feel like a home, with security and peace of mind.

Reverse National's changes to the Residential Tenancies Act, including restoring the ban on no-cause evictions. Give people who rent more notice when a periodic tenancy is ended and limit rent increases to once a year.

3. *Lower power bills*

Warm, comfortable homes that cost less to power, without a huge upfront bill.

Remove the upfront cost of solar to lower power bills through SolarSaver. Introduce two Government-backed long-term low-interest finance options - lines company lending and the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme, repaid through the power or rates bill. Kick-start subsidies of up to \$3,000 for low- and middle-income

households and safe plug-in solar for renters. EECA as a one-stop shop for free independent advice, accredited installers and finance matching.

4. *Restart the build*

More homes for families, and work for the Kiwi builders.

Restart the Kāinga Ora building programme and increase funding to Community Housing Providers, guarantee Community Housing Funding Agency borrowing so community providers can build more homes, and re-establish Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga.

5. *Get homes built faster*

The homes, schools and hospitals we need, built without years of unnecessary delay.

Work to make consents for major housing, hospitals, schools and public infrastructure faster so we can build at a lower cost.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Renting

- Introduce a new Duty of Care to require landlords to make sure homes are safe to live in
- Require landlords, including Kāinga Ora, to act on serious anti-social behaviour
- Limit insurance-required flat inspections to once every six months
- Improve boarding house regulation and oversight
- Expand the Healthy Homes Standards to require fit-for-purpose curtains in all tenancies
- Regulate property managers to ensure that neither tenants nor landlords are exploited
- Make it easier for young people to secure a home, including by lowering the age for tenancy agreements and allowing children of public housing tenants to be added to the tenancy

Homelessness

- Work towards eliminating homelessness
- Improve homelessness data so we know who needs help and where
- Set a clear goal to reduce rough sleeping, with regular public reporting on whether the number of people living on the streets is coming down.

- Remove unnecessary barriers to emergency housing while more permanent homes are built
- Remove the criminalisation of rough sleeping and begging from the Government's move-on orders
- Bring government agencies, councils and frontline providers together around a long-term plan to reduce homelessness
- Explore a legal duty to make sure people experiencing homelessness get the help they need
- Work with young people to design and implement a youth homelessness action plan

Homes that work for everyone

- Universal design in at least 25% of new public housing
- Ensure accessibility options are considered as part of Kāinga Ora's regular renovation programme
- Build a wider range of social housing, including accessible homes and homes for multi-generational families

Building and construction

- Restore the Construction Sector Accord to bring government and the sector together
- Deliver a Construction Skills Action Plan covering training, workplaces and immigration
- Increase competition in building materials, back New Zealand manufacturers and crack down on anti-competitive behaviour
- Make it easier to use prefabricated and modular construction
- Introduce proportionate liability alongside strong consumer protections, including a regulated home building insurance scheme
- Make sure government building projects create more job opportunities for New Zealand workers, apprentices and businesses

Consenting and planning

- Ensure fast-track consenting supports high-quality housing with good access to jobs, transport and green space.
- Empower selected regional centres to manage planning and consenting, and create a national hub for large-scale housing developments, including flexible stormwater consenting
- Work to make consents for major housing, hospitals, schools and public infrastructure faster so we can build at a lower cost
- Speed up consenting through a national design book and pre-approved building plans, drawing on successful overseas models
- Make commercial-to-residential conversions easier with like-for-like standards for earthquakes, noise and warmth, and clearer rules for viewshafts and setbacks
- Enable and encourage councils to use value capture tools to build the infrastructure our growing cities need
- Incorporate green infrastructure principles into urban design, such as sponge cities and daylighting streams to manage stormwater, reduce heat, and ensure every community has access to quality green space
- Support consent authorities to work together to improve consistency, capability and speed



**GROW THE
ECONOMY**
*FROM THE
GRASSROOTS
UP*

OUR PROMISE

*Back Kiwi
businesses,
create good
jobs and build
a stronger
economy from
the grassroots
up.*

New Zealand should be a place where you can find good work, start or grow a business and build a future for your family. Labour will grow the economy from the grassroots up, backing the people and businesses doing the hard work.

We'll get work started in our communities and help small businesses get paid on time, invest in equipment and take on more work. We'll back innovative Kiwi businesses with investment and help people gain the skills to make the most of new technology, so more of the jobs and wealth of the future are created here.



*We'll be responsible
with your money
and ambitious for
New Zealand. Managing
the books carefully
goes hand in hand with
investing in our future.
And we'll bring everyday
costs under control, so
people feel the benefit of
a growing economy in
their own lives.*

1. *Clear, responsible fiscal rules*

A stronger economy and reliable public services, built on responsible choices.

Restore the original OBEGAL measure and return to surplus by 2028/2029, maintaining a sustainable fiscal position after that. Reduce net debt towards 20% of GDP while prioritising investments that grow the economy and restore net debt as the government's main debt measure. Core Crown spending and revenue around 33% of GDP over the medium term.

2. *The Future Fund*

Back Kiwi ideas and infrastructure today to create good jobs and opportunities tomorrow.

Establish the New Zealand Future Fund to invest in infrastructure and growing, innovative Kiwi businesses.

3. *Backing small business*

A country where small businesses have a fair chance to grow, hire and get ahead.

Require big businesses to pay small suppliers within 15 days and publish their payment times, lift the instant asset write-off to \$10,000 and raise the GST threshold to \$80,000, and give small businesses a fairer shot at government contracts, with a 15% procurement target.

4. *Smarter investment*

More investment in the businesses that create jobs.

Introduce a simple, targeted capital gains tax to shift investment into the productive economy, with every dollar raised invested in health - including three free GP visits a year for every New Zealander.

5. *Artificial intelligence*

New technology creating opportunities for Kiwis, with safeguards that put people first.

Keep government decisions accountable to people, strengthen control over New Zealand's data and make large data centres pay their own way. Strengthen copyright protections so creators have control over whether their work is used to train AI, and ban non-consensual deepfake pornography.

Establish an Office of AI to coordinate government action. Help small businesses use AI safely and back training so people share in the benefits. Work with working people, employers and unions to prepare for how AI will change jobs and skills.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Backing small business

- Reduce red tape by looking into how the government can use information it already holds and consider small business impacts before new laws, regulations and procurement rules are approved.
- Help small businesses adopt AI and back more New Zealand start-ups and founders

Research and development

- Bring researchers, businesses and government together around areas where New Zealand can lead

Infrastructure that lasts

- Commit to not cancelling any major infrastructure project already contracted or funded
- Require the Infrastructure Commission to independently review all new major commitments for cost, feasibility and priority
- Build cross-party agreement on long-term road, rail and public transport priorities, so projects aren't changed or cancelled every election cycle

Buy New Zealand, build New Zealand

- Set clear government procurement targets for New Zealand small businesses, innovative firms and Māori businesses
- Use major government projects to create job and apprenticeship opportunities for New Zealanders
- Give Ministers the ability to direct SOEs to prioritise sector-wide competition, long term investment and innovation, or contribute to nationwide resilience, while still operating as successful businesses.
- Reform the State-Owned Enterprises Act to make sure SOEs have broader goals that align with government's plans

AI

- Safeguard against bias and misuse of personal data where AI makes decisions about individuals
- Set clear rules for AI, including transparency, accountability, responsible use and protection of intellectual property

Transport and freight

- Rebalance transport investment across roads, rail, public transport, walking, cycling, air and sea to give people and businesses more choice

- Put maintenance and resilience ahead of announcing new projects
- Restore councils' ability to manage their local roads, including speed limits around schools
- Build a work programme to support coastal shipping as a lower-emissions freight option, with better coordination between ports

The creative economy

- Expand the Game Development Sector Rebate and explore similar support for other high-growth creative industries
- Redirect the Major Events Fund to better support New Zealand's live events sector
- Protect creative industry training through the transition to Industry Skills Boards
- Update copyright law so New Zealand creators have greater control over whether and how their work is used to train AI
- Develop practical licensing options so creators can be paid when their work is used by AI companies
- Expand apprenticeships into the creative economy

Farming, food, and forestry

- Move towards one farm plan, one audit to cut duplication and give farmers more time on the farm
- Support sustainable action against wilding pines by completing the national pest management plan with clear, consistent rules, and making restoration and regrowth control a core part of the national programme
- Continue funding catchment groups alongside farmers, rural communities, Māori and environmental groups
- Progress water storage to strengthen freshwater security
- Modernise sharemilking law to better protect sharemilkers and strengthen pathways into farm ownership
- Continue to grow wood processing in New Zealand, including businesses that make better use of the whole tree

Tax

- Introduce a targeted Capital Gains Tax on residential and commercial property, excluding the family home, farms, KiwiSaver, and businesses.
- Ensure transparency about where large multinationals make their profits and pay tax

A photograph of three men in a professional setting. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue suit and a striped tie, looking towards the man on the right. The man in the center is wearing a dark green suit and a striped tie, looking towards the man on the right. The man on the right is wearing a black t-shirt and blue jeans, smiling and clapping his hands. The background is an orange wall with a whiteboard and a potted plant.

BACK THE INDUSTRIES *OF THE FUTURE*

OUR PROMISE

Build on our strengths to create skilled jobs, successful businesses and new export opportunities.



New Zealand has the talent and ideas to build successful businesses and create good jobs. Too often, those ideas go overseas before we see the full benefit. Labour will back our own potential and build a future made in New Zealand.

That means using cheaper, cleaner energy to attract new industries and reduce our exposure to global energy shocks.

We'll back Kiwi creativity and make sure more of the value from the food we grow stays here. We'll back a world-class tourism sector that supports local communities and protects the places we love. We'll give the construction industry the certainty it needs so it can build the homes and infrastructure we need with New Zealand skills and businesses.

*We want more
New Zealanders
turning their skills
and ideas into a future
here, with more of the
jobs, opportunities
and wealth staying in
the country.*

1. *Clean energy*

Affordable, home-grown clean energy powering our homes, businesses and industries.

Increase renewable energy to 50% of total energy use by 2035 and develop a pathway to being carbon-neutral in domestic energy by 2050. Use cheaper, cleaner energy to attract new industries and reduce our exposure to global energy shocks.

2. *Creative economy*

Kiwi creative talent on the world stage, with more careers built here at home.

Work with the sector to quadruple creative exports by 2040, develop a Creative Export Plan with clear targets and reporting, and back New Zealand creators and businesses to compete globally.

3. *Food grown and made here*

More value, better jobs and stronger communities from the food we grow.

Explore ways to keep more food production and processing in New Zealand, back innovative food businesses to scale up here, and strengthen our domestic food supply and resilience to global shocks.

4. *Tourism that gives back*

A thriving tourism sector that delivers for local communities and protects what makes New Zealand special.

Reduce tourism's environmental impact, develop a pathway towards carbon-neutral tourism, and support tourism that creates good local jobs and benefits communities.

5. *Homes built here*

Build more homes here, faster, using New Zealand skills and businesses

Grow New Zealand's prefabricated and modular construction industry, make planning and building rules work better for modern construction, and build a more stable construction industry with better jobs and less boom and bust.

A photograph of two men in dark blue suits embracing. The man on the left is balding with a light blue shirt, and the man on the right has short blonde hair and a red tie. They are standing in front of a traditional Maori structure with red carved wood. A white umbrella is visible on the left, and a person in a blue hat is partially visible in the background.

MĀORI **OPPORTUNITY** *AND* *PARTNERSHIP*

OUR PROMISE

*Honour
Te Tiriti o
Waitangi, cut
costs, and
back Māori to
get ahead.*

Labour wants more whānau Māori to have the opportunity to get ahead and build a good future. Across the country, Māori businesses, iwi and hapū are creating jobs and opening doors for the next generation. We'll back that ambition.

Māori-led training will help more people gain skills and move into good, well-paid work. We'll create more opportunities for Māori businesses and make it easier for whānau to build homes on their whenua. Better access to healthcare and support for Māori education will help whānau thrive.

This work rests on a partnership that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Labour will uphold the Crown's obligations, support Māori to shape the decisions that affect them and strengthen te reo Māori, so the next generation can grow up confident in who they are and what they can achieve.

1. *Back Māori business and jobs*

Grow Māori enterprise and create more opportunities.

Set government procurement targets that create more opportunities for Māori businesses through the reestablishment of Progressive Procurement. Restore Māori Trades Training and continue Mana in Mahi and He Poutama Rangatahi. Grow Māori tourism and promote Māori businesses internationally.

2. *Better health for Māori*

Better health for Māori, with care shaped by whānau and the communities it serves.

Deliver three free GP visits a year for everyone through the Medicard, while supporting services designed around community needs. Support expanding services provided by Māori health and Whānau Ora providers and grow a health workforce that better reflects the communities it serves.

3. *Māori housing*

Easier for whānau to build homes on their whenua

Make funding, consenting and land processes for papakāinga simpler and work with Māori to unlock more Māori land for housing and infrastructure. Update Te Ture

Whenua Māori Act to better support papakāinga and reinstate Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga.

4. *Te reo and Māori education*

Te reo Māori thriving in everyday life and strengthening Māori pathways through education.

Reinvigorate the goal of one million te reo Māori speakers by 2040 and work towards 30% Māori participation in Kaupapa Māori and Māori-medium education by 2040. Partner with Māori to grow the Māori education workforce and protect the distinct role of wānanga.

5. *Honour Te Tiriti*

A stronger partnership that honours Te Tiriti.

Uphold and honour the Treaty principles, of participation, protection and partnership. Restore Treaty clauses in legislation, so Crown decisionmakers have clear obligations.

Strengthen Māori leadership and capability across the public service and protect Māori institutions and support Māori decision-making over language, taonga and resources.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Tamariki and whānau

- Reinstate and strengthen Section 7AA so tamariki Māori and rangatahi remain connected to whānau, whakapapa and identity
- Work with Māori and communities to create a 10-year plan to devolve care and protection services and decision-making closer to whānau, where it is safe to do so
- Move towards smaller, community-based youth justice homes, working with Māori and local communities

Māori health

- Strengthen Iwi Māori Partnership Boards so Māori have more devolved influence over local health services
- Increase Māori enrolment in primary care
- Continue Māori health workforce programmes through wānanga and tertiary providers

Māori Housing

- Restore Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga as a dedicated, Māori-led housing pathway so iwi and hapū can deliver homes for their whānau
- Strengthen the Māori Land Court

Education

- Work with Māori to develop a plan to meet demand for kaupapa Māori education, including expanding Kōhanga Reo, Puna Reo, Kura Kaupapa Māori and Kura-ā-Iwi
- Grow rūmaki and reo rua pathways in Kura Auraki
- Require school boards to give effect to Te Tiriti
- Work in genuine partnership to enable greater Māori leadership over Māori education

Māori economic development

- Work with Māori to unlock the economic potential of whenua Māori
- Back NZ Māori Tourism and Māori-led tourism ventures across the country
- Work alongside iwi and other Māori entities to grow the Māori economy

Te reo Māori

- Back long-term, Māori-led revitalisation of te reo Māori
- Strengthen pathways into work for fluent speakers, teachers, translators and language experts

Toi Māori and mātauranga Māori

- Require Crown-funded museums and galleries to adopt indigenous data sovereignty standards for Māori collections
- Investigate the protection of Māori art and mātauranga Māori in the intellectual property system
- Protect funding for Te Matatini and support kapa haka around the country
- Give iwi and hapū greater say over how taonga held by Crown-funded museums and galleries are digitised, described and shared
- Strengthen legal protection for Māori art, taonga works and mātauranga Māori

Resilient communities

- Amend the Emergency Management Act to strengthen Māori participation and leadership in emergency management
- Fund marae emergency preparedness, response, recovery and resilience, and include Māori communities in long-term resilience planning
- Include Māori communities in long-term climate resilience and disaster planning
- Explore opportunities to increase iwi participation and investment in major infrastructure and strategic assets

The Crown as a Treaty partner

- Make sure government agencies are equipped to engage meaningfully with Māori
- Improve how government develops policy affecting Te Tiriti and Māori interests
- Advance Māori data sovereignty, working with Māori on how Māori data is collected, owned, governed and used
- Protect the role and independence of the Waitangi Tribunal
- Repeal the changes the Government made to the Marine and Coastal Areas Act

Local democracy

- Put Māori wards on the same footing as other council wards
- Make sure local government reform protects Māori participation and is consistent with Te Tiriti
- Reinstate Mana Whakahono ā Rohe



**GREAT
SCHOOLS,
LOWER COSTS
FOR PARENTS,
AND A FUTURE
HERE**

OUR PROMISE

*Every child is
able to reach
their full
potential, with
great schools
and cutting
costs for
parents.*



Every child should get a great education and the chance to make the most of their abilities. Parents should be able to trust that their kids are getting a great education, with the help they need to do well, and teachers should have the support to help every child learn.

Labour will put more help into classrooms and give parents, teachers and students the certainty they need. Our curriculum should be written here, for New Zealand children, and shaped by what works in the classroom rather than rewritten every time the government changes. Parents deserve confidence that schools are focused on helping their children learn and succeed.

We'll also bring down the cost of going to school and ease the pressure of student debt. The cost of uniforms, lunches and getting the kids to school should not leave families out of pocket.

Education should open doors, giving young New Zealanders the skills and confidence to choose their next step and build a future here.

1. *Take education out of the political cycle*

Give teachers and students stability and parents certainty about what their kids are learning.

Establish an independent, expert-led centre for curriculum, assessment and teacher development, including Te Whāriki. Pause the curriculum update and review alongside teachers and proven classroom practice, rather than rewriting it every few years.

2. *A New Zealand curriculum, written here*

A curriculum designed for New Zealand children and classrooms.

Make sure the New Zealand Curriculum is written by New Zealanders, for New Zealanders. Ground public education in Te Tiriti and recognise mātauranga Māori across the curriculum and qualifications.

3. *Real help in the classroom*

More support for teachers, more help for kids and confidence for parents that their child's needs will be met.

Fund 1,000 more teacher aides. Fund teacher aides centrally with professional learning and career pathways.

4. *Lower the cost of going to school*

Make it easier for parents to afford the things their kids need for school.

Limit compulsory branded uniform items so families can choose cheaper generic alternatives. Work to restore rural school bus routes. Put locally prepared food back at the heart of the school lunch programme.

5. *Ease the pressure on students*

Cut student debt by 10%, so more young people can get ahead and build a future here.

Cut student loans by 10% on 1 April 2027. Wipe 10% off student loans of current and future students who stay in New Zealand for three years after they finish study. Clear all current student loans of \$2,000 or less.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

The basics, and what comes next

- Lift achievement in English and maths while building critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving
- Prepare children to use AI, digital tools and social media safely and confidently
- Retain NCEA until the independent, expert-led centre for curriculum, assessment and teacher development has reviewed the curriculum
- Continue structured literacy in every school
- Give schools the flexibility to decide how they deliver the daily hour of reading, writing and maths
- Curriculum changes that have not yet been implemented will be paused for one year, giving schools breathing room and experts time to assess what should proceed.

Real help in the classroom

- Embed neurodivergency, disability and inclusive practice into teacher training and ongoing development

Backing our teachers

- Develop a long-term plan with the sector to recruit, retain and support teachers
- Move away from excessive standardisation and high-stakes testing
- Shift professional development funding away from costly external contracting and towards teacher-led development

- Make sure New Zealand has the teachers and specialists it needs, including educational psychologists and speech-language therapists

A strong public education system

- Expand Pacific bilingual and immersion education pathways, while supporting culturally responsive teaching and celebrating Pacific students and languages.
- End the charter school model so no new charter schools can be established. Work with existing charter schools on a case-by-case basis to transition them into the state system, special character or alternative education
- Review state-integrated school legislation to support special-character education within a strong and transparent public system
- Foster collaboration between local schools to solve regional challenges and share expertise across communities

Screens and AI in education

- Maximise opportunity by establishing a dedicated AI in Education team within Network for Learning to help schools use new technology safely
- Teach online safety and safe AI use throughout the curriculum
- Give schools practical online-safety tools and access to a safe, New Zealand-controlled classroom AI tool

- Set clearer national expectations and require schools to have sensible policies on screen use, giving parents confidence that technology supports their children's learning

Safe and supportive schools

- Tackle bullying, racism and online harm through a refreshed Positive Behaviour for Learning, digital safety initiatives, and healthy relationships and sexuality education

Early childhood education

- Restore the intent of 20 Hours early childhood education (ECE), so funded hours are genuinely free
- Affirm Te Whāriki and continue to implement the Early Learning Action Plan
- Restore ECE's purpose as education
- Launch a work programme to address ECE workforce issues and work towards genuine pay parity for ECE teachers
- Remove unnecessary barriers for qualified teachers, including working with Pacific and other centres where English is not the language of instruction on exemptions from English-language testing
- Ensure all communities benefit from ECE, including Pacific language nests and Puna Reo and Te Kōhanga Reo
- Strengthen oversight and transparency, with unannounced checks, clearer financial reporting and a better complaints process
- Make sure communities have the early learning they need, restoring network

planning and supporting community-based, smaller and parent-led providers

- Give parents more choice and confidence, including better information about providers and support for a diverse range of high-quality early learning options
- Refresh the 10-year strategic plan to lift the quality of all forms of early childhood education

Tertiary education

- Work with tertiary institutes on a funding approach that gives three to five years of certainty, so they can plan investment in technology, infrastructure and staffing
- Refocus the Tertiary Education Strategy on a stable and sustainable university, polytechnic and wānanga system
- Grow international education into a wider range of markets
- Ensure all tertiary education institutions have a strong system of internal student representation and advocacy in place and investigate ways to ensure that student voice is heard at a national level
- Work towards reducing the number of young people not engaged in education, employment and training through initiatives such as the Apprenticeship Boost Scheme, Youth Guarantee Places and Māori and Pasifika Trades Training

Wānanga

- Support wānanga as a distinct and essential part of New Zealand's tertiary education system - and protect their unique role in Māori education and research

A photograph of a middle-aged man with light brown hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a light-colored patterned shirt. He is sitting and holding a baby on his lap. The baby is wearing a yellow and white striped long-sleeved shirt and red pants with a white patterned band. The man is looking down at the baby with a warm, smiling expression. The background is softly blurred, showing indoor plants and a window with light coming through.

**THE BEST
PLACE IN
THE WORLD
*TO GROW UP***

OUR PROMISE

*More sport,
more play and
more fun, so
kids can be kids
for longer.*

We want kids getting outside, being active and having fun with their friends. We want them to try new things, discover what they love and have the freedom to be kids for longer.



Smartphones and social media have changed what it means to grow up. Parents are left trying to manage the pressure, and when money is tight, sport fees, uniforms and after-school activities can put other options out of reach. We cannot just tell kids to put their phones down. We need to give them something better to do, without a big cost for parents.

Labour will help with those costs and back more after-school activities. We'll give schools clearer guidance on screens and require big technology companies to take responsibility for children's safety online.

1. Time off screens

More time playing, learning and being with other kids.

Help cover sport costs with grants of up to \$300 a year for two years and invest \$4 million more each year in after-school activities.

Back successful community sport models that give kids free opportunities to get involved. Keep phones out of classrooms during the school day.

2. Safety online

Keep children safe online

Ban social media for under 16s. Require new digital platforms to embed safety by design. Strengthen privacy protections, with targeted protections for children and young people online. Strengthen protections against AI-enabled abuse and harmful content.



OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Early intervention

- Expand the Engage and Enrich programmes across early childhood education and into primary schools
- Back New Zealand-developed parenting and family support, especially for whānau whose children are not in early education

Keeping children safe

- Restore the child poverty monitoring framework with refreshed targets and quality reporting
- Require independent reviews for every child death where two or more agencies had prior contact, with findings public and agencies accountable
- Deliver a child harm prevention and response action plan through Te Aorere kura
- Increase public awareness of how to recognise and respond to child abuse
- Direct Oranga Tamariki to meet the National Care Standards
- Bring the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into New Zealand law

Children online

- Ban social media for under-16s, with legislation passing its first reading and going to select committee within Labour's first 100 days

- Give children, parents and whānau practical support to stay safe online and back New Zealand research into what works
- Establish an independent digital regulator to oversee platforms and enforce standards
- Ensure tech companies are transparent in their use of algorithms and implement safety features to help keep people safe online.

Care protection, and youth justice

- Work with Māori and communities to create a 10-year-plan to move care and protections services and decision-making closer to whānau, where it is safe to do so
- Continue to strengthen the formal children's system, including legislate so children in state care get the services they need
- Continue the Circuit Breaker/Fast Track programme to prevent repeat youth offending
- Improve conditions in existing youth justice facilities
- Scrap military-style boot camps for young offenders
- Develop a phased plan to move youth justice institutions to small, community-based homes

Young people into work and learning

- Transform alternative education into a high-quality pathway back into learning, training or work
- Work with existing youth employment partners to build a cohesive and efficient system of support that gets young people into meaningful work they enjoy and stay in

The workforce to support children and young people

- Develop a long-term plan to recruit, train and retain social workers
- Support whānau navigators for children with a parent in prison
- Support youth workers' professionalisation



SUPPORT
*WHEN YOU
NEED IT*

OUR PROMISE

*When life gets
hard, help
should be there,
with dignity
and the chance
to get ahead.*

Everyone should have the security of knowing that when life gets hard, help will be there. Losing your job, getting sick or needing support because of a disability should not mean being left to struggle on your own.

Labour will make sure benefits keep up with living costs and support people to live with dignity. Disabled people deserve fair pay and the freedom to make decisions about their own lives, without having to fight the same battles with the system year after year.

We'll pursue justice for survivors of abuse in care and a fairer deal for retirement village residents. We'll also back communities helping people put food on the table. People should be able to count on support that gives them security and the chance to get ahead.



1. *Benefits that keep up*

Make sure support doesn't fall behind the cost of living.

Increase benefits by whichever is higher: inflation or average wage growth through indexation. Reverse National's changes to the Income-Related Rent Subsidy and Accommodation Supplement.

2. *Dignity for disabled people*

More independence, less bureaucracy and equal pay for work.

End the Minimum Wage Exemption so disabled workers cannot be paid below the minimum wage. Work towards systemic change so disabled people can transition into open employment. End annual benefit renewals for people with verified permanent disabilities. Work with communities and local councils to ensure the sustainability of the total mobility scheme.

3. *Food on the table*

Back communities to make sure people can access affordable food.

Fund food banks for the next three years, while developing a sustainable long-term plan with the sector. Make it easier to establish local social supermarkets. Back locally led food initiatives, including

māra kai, community gardens, farmers markets and local food infrastructure.

4. *Justice for survivors of abuse in care*

An independent redress system that puts survivors first.

Establish an Independent Redress System, building on the High-Level Design Group's proposal. Amend the Limitation Act so time limits don't stop survivors seeking compensation.

5. *A fair deal in retirement villages*

More protection for residents and their families.

Require retirement villages to repay residents' capital within three months, with 10% paid within five working days, with appropriate protections for not-for-profit villages and others facing genuine financial difficulty. Require clearer contracts, including who owns and pays for fixtures and chattels. Establish an accessible, independent dispute resolution service.

OUR PROGRAMME

FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Social security

- Require courts to conduct a financial means assessment before granting any attachment order against a benefit
- Focus on quality case management, with sanctions applied only when necessary and in fair and humane ways
- Direct the Ministry of Social Development to ensure its frontline staff and processes treat every person with dignity and respect

Enabling Good Lives

- Work with disability communities to build disabled leadership capacity
- Require government agencies to produce Enabling Good Lives impact assessments, targets and actions

Navigating the system

- Make it easier for disabled people and carers to find support, access services, and raise concerns when something goes wrong.

Disability rights

- Amend the Human Rights Act to define reasonable accommodation, and recognise that denying it is discrimination
- Progress incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into law
- Repeal Disability Support Services Act and work with disabled people, carers and disabled people's organisations on a rights-based Disability Support Services framework that includes a focus on safeguarding

Abuse in care

- Continue the Safe Care Ministerial and CEO Groups, working toward Safe Care Principles, a National Care Safety Strategy and a Care Safety Act, and complete the assessment of the outstanding recommendations
- Direct the Crown Response Office to take a survivor-centric focus and include survivors in decision-making
- Revisit the Royal Commission's findings on torture beyond Lake Alice and work with survivors and advocates to resolve the outstanding issues
- Create an annual non-statutory Memorial Day for the public to learn about New Zealand's history of abuse in care and ongoing issues of harm to children and at-risk adults

- Apologise to the mothers who were pressured or coerced to have their children adopted and their children and families for the suffering caused.

Ageing with security

- Fix driver-testing for senior drivers so requirements are consistent, evidence-based and not age-discriminatory
- Investigate a cross-government positive duty of care so agencies act on and prevent abuse of older people

A secure food system

- Develop a long-term food security plan with communities, growers and experts
- Protect essential domestic food production and processing capability

A man with short, light brown hair, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a red, white, and blue striped tie, is speaking into a microphone. He is gesturing with his hands, pointing his right index finger. The background is blurred, showing a white building and green foliage. The text "SAFER COMMUNITIES" is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

SAFER
COMMUNITIES

OUR PROMISE

*Safer streets,
fewer victims
of crime and
communities
where people
feel secure.*



Everyone deserves to feel safe at home, at work and in their neighbourhood. Families should be able to enjoy their communities, and local businesses should be able to get on with earning a living without fear of crime.

Labour will act on the harm caused by methamphetamine and strengthen enforcement at the border. We'll also tackle the dangerous and disruptive behaviour that can make everyday life frustrating, including excessive vehicle noise, illegal dumping and dangerous dogs.

Keeping people safe means preventing offending as well as responding when it happens. We'll focus on practical action that reduces harm and helps people feel secure in the places they call home.

1. *Break the cycle of offending*

Stop crime happening in the first place.

Tackle methamphetamine related crime and strengthen border enforcement against methamphetamine.

2. *Everyday safety*

Deal with the problems that make communities feel less safe.

Crack down on excessive vehicle noise through stronger enforcement, import rules and WOF standards. Modernise laws covering illegal dumping and dangerous dogs.

3. *Back Police*

Support Police to spend less time on paperwork.

Look at ways to free up Police to focus on fighting crime by reducing unnecessary paperwork so officers can spend more time keeping communities safe.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Preventing crime

- Strengthen the Police Resilience to Organised Crime in Communities programme, with deeper links to health and social services
- Enhance alternative resolution approaches, including Family Group Conferences and Te Pae Oranga
- Continue addressing youth reoffending, including identifying opportunities where Circuit Breaker could be expanded
- Respond to the Law Commission review on hate crimes
- Keep the ban on gang patches in public places

Corrections and rehabilitation

- Ensure there is a focus on rehabilitation, reintegration and whānau support, including mental health and addiction treatment, kaupapa Māori and women's programmes, and support for families affected by imprisonment
- Prioritise reducing unnecessary time on remand, improving supported accommodation and secure bail housing

Supporting Police

- Expand access to mental health support for Police

Justice

- Review legal aid and Community Law funding to ensure people can get the legal advice and representation they need
- Strengthen support for victims of crime by reviewing victim support services to identify gaps and ensure victims can access support.
- Ensure the effectiveness of specialist courts and look to expand successful models that improve outcomes for victims and reduce reoffending
- Reduce the number of victims of crime by introducing evidence-based crime prevention and early intervention programmes that tackle the causes of offending.

- Support ending good-character sentencing discounts for child sexual offenders

Preventing family and sexual violence

- Improve the education and support available for parents and young people on affirmative consent, online harm, abuse and coercion
- Strengthen action against webcam exploitation and AI-enabled abuse

- Ban non-consensual deepfake pornography by amending the definition of intimate visual recording under the Crimes Act and Harmful Digital Communications Act
- Strengthen legal protections for victims of sexual violence by introducing an affirmative definition of consent, extending counsellor-client privilege, restricting retraumatising courtroom practices and banning virginity testing and hymenoplasty
- Improve digital firearms services to make licensing and lawful transfers faster and easier
- Reaffirm that firearms ownership is a privilege, not a right, dependent on remaining fit and proper, obeying the law and protecting public safety

Firearms

- Amend the Arms Act 2026 to better protect the public, responsible firearms owners and frontline Police, including preventing people with revoked licences from using firearms and restoring effective oversight of shooting ranges
- Keep firearms out of the wrong hands by strengthening links between Police and the firearms regulator, improving real-time intelligence sharing, monitoring emerging threats and maintaining a comprehensive Firearms Registry
- Ensure frontline experience shapes firearms policy by properly consulting the Police Association and others dealing directly with firearms harm and risk

A man with short, light brown hair, wearing a red jacket, is smiling and looking at a smartphone held by a woman. The woman has dark hair, wears black-rimmed glasses and a nose ring, and is also smiling. They are outdoors at what appears to be a festival or community event, with other people and white tents visible in the background under a bright sky. The text "STRONG COMMUNITIES, WHEREVER YOU CALL HOME" is overlaid in the bottom left corner.

**STRONG
COMMUNITIES,**
*WHEREVER YOU
CALL HOME*

OUR PROMISE

*Thriving
communities
where people
can belong, put
down roots and
build a future.*



People should be able to build a good life in the place they call home. That means access to services, opportunities to get involved and a sense that you belong, whether you live in a rural town or a big city.

Labour will back the people who make our communities work. We'll strengthen rural services and help local clubs give more people the chance to play sport. We'll support migrants to settle and build their lives here, while protecting them from exploitation.

We'll also back independent local journalism, so people can find out what is happening in their area and hold decisionmakers to account. Strong communities give people more reasons to stay, contribute and make a future together.

1. *Thriving rural communities*

Good services and opportunities, wherever you live.

Accelerate the rural health strategy. Work with Māori, businesses and communities on a strategy that addresses rural needs coherently across government. Work to restore rural school bus routes.

2. *Make sport easier to take part in locally*

More ways to play, volunteer and belong, close to home.

Increase participation among women and girls, disabled people and communities that face barriers to getting involved. Strengthen links between schools and local clubs, and make sport more affordable through help with fees, equipment and transport.

3. *A safer internet for Kiwis*

Basic rules for big tech. More choice. Better protection for our kids.

Ban social media for under 16s. Give people more choice over how their social media feeds look. Introduce a new Digital Duty of Care, putting basic legal responsibilities on the companies that run online services.

OUR PROGRAMME

FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

75

Migrants who put down roots

- Let migrants move between accredited employers after three months, so no one is trapped with a single employer
- Bid in the additional funding for the Labour Inspectorate secured through the India FTA negotiation. Ensure New Zealand life and culture education is delivered by existing community providers to foster social cohesion
- Consider the benefit of providing migrant workers automatic membership of support and welfare organisations with an opt out
- Develop additional refugee pathways based on education and skills

News you can trust

- Require TVNZ and RNZ to balance high-quality independent local content with commercial imperatives
- Explore options to require tech platforms fairly compensate New Zealand media for content
- Continue to support the Local Democracy Reporting initiative.

Digital access

- Back what's already working in digital inclusion, such as community providers, libraries and iwi-led programmes, and make sure government works alongside them
- Get surplus devices and computing equipment to people who need them

Backing community organisations

- Accelerate the shift to long-term, outcomes-based contracting, in partnership with contracted organisations
- Transition the Social Investment Agency to an advisory entity rather than another commissioning agency so that its expertise is shared across government
- Create a recognised structure for social enterprises that protects their community purpose
- Develop a strategy to grow the sector to make charitable giving simpler

Immigration settings

- Set clear, long-term immigration goals that reflect New Zealand's workforce, housing, infrastructure and social needs through a Government Policy Statement
- Review the cost of Parent Boost visa financial thresholds, English-language requirements and health rules to make sure they are fair
- Require people to spend four years in New Zealand before qualifying for permanent residence
- Protect humanitarian appeals against deportation as a safeguard
- Set up a citizenship pathway for children born here to undocumented parents, after 10 years' residence

Pacific connections

- Work with Pacific countries to expand regional labour mobility, improve worker protections and training, and manage workforce pressures
- Make travel to New Zealand easier and cheaper for Pacific citizens through progressively expanded NZeTA visa-waiver access

Refugees and reunification

- Create a humanitarian visa so New Zealanders can protect family caught in war and crisis
- Make community refugee sponsorship additional to the annual refugee quota and increase the quota over time
- Give recognised refugees who arrived as asylum seekers the same support as other refugees
- Establish up to 15 dedicated refugee places a year for Rainbow people facing persecution

Media and screen

- Update copyright, media and intellectual property law for the age of digital platforms and AI
- Bring public funding for television, radio, film, digital media and gaming into a simpler system
- Simplify the International Screen Production Rebate, while ensuring local talent benefits
- Make sure New Zealand content remains easy to find online
- Ensure training and career pathways in media and screen
- Continue support for Māori media sector

Arts

- Bring the NZ Music Commission, NZ On Air's music funding and Creative New Zealand's music initiatives into one entity
- Refresh the Amplify strategy with the sector, achieving wellbeing outcomes with equity of access across Māori, Pacific, ethnic and regional communities
- Explore options to make sure smaller art events and Pacific arts festivals have a more sustainable footing
- Protect Archives New Zealand and the National Library
- Require international music acts to have a New Zealand support act.

Sport and major events

- Attract more major and regional sporting events, including major, regional, women's, para, youth, Māori and Pacific events, with lasting benefits for local communities and participation
- Work to secure bipartisan support for a long-term plan for major events
- Review the Incorporated Societies Act to reduce red tape for low-risk, volunteer-run amateur sports clubs
- Ban gambling advertising in sport

Animal welfare

- Continue the Dog Control Act review, with penalties for repeat offenders and more council tools for roaming dogs
- Ban puppy farming and keeping dogs permanently confined
- Work with farmers and animal welfare groups to improve pig welfare
- Protect the independence of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and prioritise updated welfare standards for cats and dogs

Fire and emergency response

- Engage with the review of FENZ funding and support a model that treats fire and emergency response as a properly funded public good
- Ensure FENZ prioritises the frontline staff and fleet it needs to respond to growing demand

A photograph of three people standing in front of a house with solar panels on the roof. On the left is a woman with long brown hair wearing a light-colored trench coat over a striped shirt. In the center is a man with short grey hair wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a striped tie. On the right is a woman with short brown hair wearing a dark blazer over a dark patterned dress. They are all smiling. The background shows a house with light-colored siding and large windows, with solar panels mounted on the roof.

**CLIMATE
ACTION**
*THAT
LOWERS
BILLS*

OUR PROMISE

*Cheaper,
cleaner
energy, lower
emissions and
communities
ready for
a changing
climate.*

Climate action should help make life more affordable now while protecting the future our kids will inherit. New Zealand has abundant clean energy. We should be using it to lower power bills, create good jobs and make our communities more secure.



Labour's SolarSaver will help families get solar without the upfront cost. Community batteries will let more neighbourhoods share the benefits of locally generated power, including households without panels on their roofs. Installing that equipment will also create work for local electricians, installers and apprentices.

We'll cut emissions and help communities prepare for a changing climate. Families, councils and businesses need a clear plan for protecting homes and infrastructure from extreme weather. We'll work with them to build a safer future and make better use of the clean energy we have here at home.

1. *SolarSaver*

Solar without the upfront cost

Deliver SolarSaver to help households install solar and batteries without the upfront cost and provide safe plug-in solar for people who rent.

2. *Community batteries*

Store more cheap, clean power where it is generated.

Establish a \$30 million fund for community batteries to store locally generated solar power.

3. *Restore the Emissions Trading Scheme*

Make polluters pay their fair share and put the money back into climate action.

Urgently review and fix the ETS so the carbon price drives real emissions reductions and puts New Zealand on track to meet our Paris Agreement targets.

4. *Resilient communities*

Help communities prepare.

Pass a national Adaptation Act so communities, councils, Māori and government can plan together. Work with banks and insurers on affordable finance to make homes more resilient. Prevent building in the highest-risk locations and support more development in safer areas.

5. *Moving beyond fossil fuels*

Move from fossil fuels to cleaner, home-grown energy

Reinstate the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration. Phase out low- and medium-heat coal boilers by 2037. The Government's proposed LNG import facility in Taranaki will not proceed under a Labour Government.

6. *Transport*

Cleaner ways to get around, with more affordable public transport.

Make public transport cheaper by capping weekly fares at \$20 in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch, and \$10 everywhere else.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Clean energy

- Work with industry to increase bioenergy, offshore wind and geothermal generation
- Make it easier to connect batteries, flexible demand and new generation to the electricity grid
- Train more people to install and maintain solar and other clean-energy technology
- Begin a review of structural reform of the electricity market in our first 100 days to deliver cheaper, cleaner power

Climate action

- Affirm New Zealand's commitment to the Paris Agreement
- Make sure forestry ETS rules support New Zealand's long-term climate goals
- Investigate establishing a climate fund, as ETS revenues allow, to invest in adaptation, renewable energy, native forests and nature-based solutions
- Work with Māori, forestry, councils and communities to reduce reliance on exotic forestry offsets
- Make sure methane targets keep New Zealand on track to meet its international commitments, while backing farmers to reduce emissions
- Provide independent, science-based public climate information

- Reaffirm the significant role that the Climate Change Commission plays in providing independent advice
- Repeal the Climate Change Response (Tort Liability) Amendment Bill

Building for resilience

- Develop a national spatial plan so decisions about where we build are based on consistent risk information
- Develop open-source Kāinga Ora house designs for areas exposed to moderate natural-hazard risk
- Require Treasury to create guidance for central and local government on including resilience in business cases

Moving beyond fossil fuels

- Continue the transition away from coal at Huntly by scaling up biomass and storage
- Support electricity affordability through market reform, including at peak times, as we transition to cleaner energy
- Work in partnership with working people, unions, businesses, iwi, local communities, and councils to develop local transition plans

Transport and freight

- Strengthen clean-car emissions standards and work towards expansion of the EV charging network
- Accelerate decarbonisation of the government vehicle fleet
- Explore options to support businesses to transition to cleaner commercial vehicles
- Remove unnecessary barriers to cleaner shipping and aviation technology

Forestry

- Work with Māori, forestry, councils and communities on a long-term alternative to relying on exotic forestry in the ETS
- Support the transition of suitable exotic carbon forests to indigenous forest
- Better align forestry, biodiversity, erosion control and regional development

AI and energy

- Make major data centres pay their way, so AI growth doesn't push up household power bills or put unnecessary pressure on water and electricity infrastructure

PROTECTING
OUR *NATURAL*
ENVIRONMENT

OUR PROMISE

*Clean rivers,
healthy oceans
and thriving
wildlife,
protected
for future
generations.*

Our rivers, beaches, forests and wildlife are part of what makes New Zealand so special. We want our kids to swim in clean rivers, explore the places we love and grow up knowing that our unique wildlife is protected.



Labour will look after the water we drink and the waterways our communities rely on. We'll protect native species and conservation land, safeguard more of our oceans and give communities a proper say in decisions that affect their environment.

The choices we make now will determine what we leave to the next generation. We'll put the public interest and the protection of nature at the heart of those decisions, so the places that make New Zealand special are there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

1. *Protect nature*

Environmental decisions that put protection of nature and the public interest first.

Fix the Fast-track Approvals Act so environmental protection, public benefit and public participation are at its core. Give communities better access to reliable environmental information.

2. *Clean water*

Protect the rivers, lakes and drinking water we rely on.

Improve freshwater quality and protect the rivers, lakes and waterways communities rely on.

3. *Protect our wildlife and unique ecosystems*

Look after the animals, plants, and wild places that make New Zealand special.

Update Conservation law by fixing the Conservation Amendment Act to ensure that conservation continues to be DOC's primary focus and to protect public conservation land, replacing the Wildlife Act and ensuring the Conservation Act honours Te Tiriti. No new mines on conservation land.

4. *Healthy oceans*

Healthy seas and marine life protected for future generations.

Expand marine protected areas towards 30% of our marine environment. Ban seabed mining. Stop new areas of bottom trawling on seamounts and other vulnerable ecosystems. Ban bottom trawling in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Resource management

- Ensure resource management law protects the environment, enables responsible development, supports democratic decision-making and honours Te Tiriti.

Freshwater and soil

- Monitor and protect soil health, recognising its role in food production, erosion control and carbon storage
- Respond to the review of nitrates in drinking water
- Continue supporting freshwater restoration projects, including Crown funding for the Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme

Conservation

- Better align conservation, pest management and resource-management rules
- Support coordinated action against wilding pines, and introduced pests like browsers, rabbits and hares
- Ask the New Zealand Conservation Authority to consider adding Sams Creek to Kahurangi National Park
- Support communities to connect conservation land and strengthen wildlife corridors
- Continue work to achieve Predator Free 2050.

Oceans and fisheries

- Take an ecosystem approach to fisheries management
- Improve monitoring, reduce waste, minimise by-catch and support fishers to adopt lower-impact practices, using a science-based approach
- Continue protecting Hector's and Māui dolphins
- Scrap the Fisheries Amendment Bill entirely
- Introduce welfare standards for farmed fish and ban octopus farming
- Grow New Zealand's blue economy and circular use of marine resources
- Reform marine protection law and protect estuaries, wetlands and salt marshes
- Remove ring-net fishing rights in Hauraki Gulf High Protection Areas
- Investigate restricting trawling within the 100-metre contour, with exceptions for specialty fisheries
- Ratify UN high seas treaty in first 100 days

Waste and the circular economy

- Strengthen durability and introduce a Right to Repair, starting with cars
- Modernise waste law and expand product-stewardship schemes, including container returns

- Set targets to reduce food waste and make greater use of food waste for bioenergy
- Require home-compostable labels on domestically sold fruit by 1 July 2028
- Sign the global Plastics Treaty

Mining and resource extraction

- Update the Crown Minerals Act with environmental stewardship provisions, review mining levies, and strengthen bonding to make sure companies meet the cost of cleaning up
- Make sure mining happens only in appropriate places, with community input, strong environmental protections, fair royalties and safe jobs

Data

- Create a central source of reliable environmental data in the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport



A GOVERNMENT
YOU CAN TRUST

OUR PROMISE

*A government
that works for
people, spends
carefully and
earns the
public's trust.*

Government should be on your side. You should be able to get the public services you need, trust that your money is being spent carefully and see how the decisions affecting your life are made.

Labour will protect strong public services and make government easier to deal with. We'll help councils fund the infrastructure and services communities need without putting all the pressure on ratepayers.

People should have confidence that government is working for them. We'll require greater transparency about lobbying and political donations, make it easier to vote and hold decision-makers accountable. Public money and public decisions should serve the people of New Zealand.

1. *Keep rates down*

Help councils deliver without putting more pressure on ratepayers.

Guarantee no new costs imposed by central government without new funding mechanisms to pay for them.

2. *Get money out of politics*

Know who is lobbying the government and who is paying for political influence.

Introduce a mandatory lobbying code of conduct and a register of paid lobbyists. Require lobbyists to disclose who they represent, with a stand-down period for former Ministers. Require third-party promoters to disclose donations over \$6,000, the same as political parties.

3. *Making voting easier*

Make it easier to have your say.

Restore same-day enrolment. Put the Electoral Commission in charge of local election administration. End multiple voting in local elections by removing the ratepayer-electors vote. Give 16- and 17-year-olds the vote in local elections, alongside stronger civics education.

4. *A modern public service*

Government that is easier to deal with and better at getting things done.

Protect strong public services, apply a public-interest test to future reorganisation, and keep essential public services in public ownership. Continue the work underway to ensure NZ Govt App is a one-stop shop for public services.

OUR PROGRAMME

FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

A stronger democracy

- Restore voting rights taken away by National Government
- Investigate deriving the electoral roll from Inland Revenue's population register, to cut costs and improve accuracy
- Introduce a Human Rights Committee as a formal select committee, and require Section 7 Bill of Rights reports for changes made after introduction
- Improve parliamentary accountability by limiting the circumstances in which Urgency can be used and expanding the ability to use extended sitting

Open government

- Modernise and strengthen the Official Information Act and Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, and consider implementing Law Commission and Ombudsman recommendations
- Distinguish between vexatious and genuine requests, and create an effective penalties regime for breaches
- Codify proactive release, including of ministerial diaries
- Strengthen the Auditor-General's capacity to investigate concerns about government contracts and appointments
- Update the Cabinet Manual so Ministers act in the public interest, not for donors

or private interests

Justice that works for ordinary people

- Establish a proper class-action and litigation-funding regime with protections against predatory funding
- Strengthen complaints bodies' and tribunals' ability to enforce decisions, and investigate tools to make them faster
- Protect trans and gender-diverse people from discrimination in the Human Rights Act
- Modernise surrogacy law so it reflects how New Zealand families are formed

Local government

- Simplify consultation rules while making sure communities are heard
- Give councils new ways to fund infrastructure and services, including value capture and bed levies.
- Make sure all elected members are eligible for KiwiSaver
- Give councils more flexibility to use fines, targeted rates and other existing tools
- Require regions to develop plans for working together to deliver better services and outcomes for their communities
- Guarantee approval for local government plans that lower rates while protecting essential council services,

including environmental monitoring and regulation

- Continue implementing City and Regional Deals, under an updated framework.
- Implement the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme

Auckland

- Give Auckland more flexible transport funding for local roads, public transport, walking and cycling, reducing delays and red tape
- Develop an integrated transport plan with Auckland Council
- Give Auckland a voice in national decisions that have major impacts on the region
- Plan jointly for Auckland's population growth, including schools, primary care and hospitals

A public service that works

- Build more expertise inside government and rely less on expensive external consultants
- Improve data-sharing across government, with strong privacy protections, so you don't repeat your story to every agency
- Revitalise the Performance Improvement Framework, especially in infrastructure, asset management and procurement
- Take a coordinated approach to government digital investment and procurement
- Create a consistent government brand and consolidate websites.

- Stop the Government's cuts to public sector jobs

AI in government

- Provide clear government leadership and oversight and protect New Zealand's control over our data and our choices.
- Create a new Office of AI within DPMC, and an online safety regulator
- Use AI responsibly to improve public services, with strong protections for privacy, security and personal information
- Build greater New Zealand control over our data and digital infrastructure
- Set consistent standards across government for buying, using and overseeing AI

Sound economic institutions

- Establish a Parliamentary Budget Office, giving independent costing of election commitments
- Restore wellbeing reporting to the Public Finance Act
- Reinstate the Reserve Bank's dual mandate, refocusing monetary policy on price stability and employment
- Repeal the Regulatory Standards Act and disestablish the Ministry of Regulation

Data we can trust

- Protect the professional independence of official statistics
- Improve the collection and publication of ethnicity data so government can see who is being served and who is missing out

A photograph of two men in business suits. The man on the left, with light brown hair, is smiling broadly and looking towards the man on the right. The man on the right, with dark hair, is also smiling and looking down. They appear to be in a professional setting, possibly a conference or meeting. The background is slightly blurred, showing architectural elements.

**AN
INDEPENDENT**
*VOICE IN THE
WORLD*

OUR PROMISE

*An independent
foreign policy
that stands up
for New Zealand,
international law
and a peaceful
Pacific.*

New Zealand has a proud tradition of speaking for ourselves and standing up for what is right. Labour will maintain an independent foreign policy that protects our interests and upholds international law and human rights.

Our future is closely tied to the Pacific. We'll work with our neighbours to support peace, strengthen resilience to climate change and protect the region's independence. We'll maintain our nuclear-free policy and play our part in disarmament and international security.



We'll also build relationships that open doors for Kiwi businesses and create opportunities here at home. New Zealand can be a confident voice for peace and fair treatment, while working with others to build a more secure and prosperous future.

1. *An independent voice*

Stand up for our interests and values.

Defend international law and rebuild coalitions of small and middle powers. Strengthen relationships across Europe, ASEAN, Canada and other like-minded countries.

2. *A peaceful and resilient Pacific*

A peaceful and resilient Pacific.

Support stronger regional sovereignty, climate resilience and sustainable development.

3. *More markets, stronger connections*

Open more doors for New Zealand exporters.

Help New Zealand businesses make better use of existing trade agreements and expand the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Develop new market opportunities, including in Africa and South America. Keep trade agreements consistent with environmental standards, good working conditions and Te Tiriti.

4. *Stand up for international law and human rights*

Apply the same principles, wherever abuses occur.

Recognise the State of Palestine and take stronger action in response to the grave violations of human rights committed by Israel in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories. Champion women's and girls' rights, including action against gender apartheid.

5. *Peace, security and disarmament*

Anchor our international engagement in peacebuilding and reassert New Zealand's leadership on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Reassert New Zealand's leadership on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Maintain our nuclear-free policy and the firm position that New Zealand will not join AUKUS Pillar II.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Trade and international partnerships

- Back effective multilateral institutions that give countries like New Zealand a real voice
- Build stronger relationships with small and medium-sized countries including those across Europe, Asia and the Americas
- Help Kiwi businesses make better use of existing trade agreements, expand the CPTPP, and remove barriers to trade in markets like the UK, EU and India

Recommit to Trade for All

- Review InvestNZ so overseas investment serves New Zealand's long-term interests
- Align NZTE's offshore work more closely with growing New Zealand-owned businesses at home
- Support reform of the United Nations, World Trade Organisation and other multilateral institutions, so they are effective and give smaller countries a stronger voice
- Continue New Zealand leadership on modern digital trade rules
- Keep New Zealand at the forefront of digital trade
- Maintain strong, constructive, and respectful relationships with both the United States and China

The Pacific

- Work with Pacific countries towards greater regional peace and demilitarisation, consistent with the Treaty of Rarotonga
- Re-engage strongly in international climate diplomacy and support the global transition away from fossil fuels
- Work with Kiribati and Tuvalu on long-term climate adaptation and resettlement
- Work towards a Pacific agreement on climate mitigation, adaptation and displacement
- Progressively increase overseas development assistance towards 0.7% of GNI as a horizon objective as fiscal conditions allow
- Focus development assistance on poverty reduction, human rights and lasting local impact
- Support closer economic integration across the Pacific
- Work with Pacific partners to advance the Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace
- Make it easier and cheaper to move money and data across the Pacific

International law and human rights

- Introduce economic sanctions in response to Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian Territory consistent with the International Court of Justice opinion
- Intervene in support of South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice under the Genocide Convention
- Require the NZ Super Fund and ACC to divest from holdings on the UN list of companies operating in occupied West Bank
- Seek an ICJ opinion on the legality of lethal autonomous weapons and support international efforts to ban them
- Advocate for the rights of women and girls and for gender apartheid to be recognised in international law
- Strengthen New Zealand's advocacy for democracy, peace and human rights, including in Myanmar
- Establish a programme to support human rights defenders
- Strengthen the multilateral system by backing WTO leadership on trade and adopting updated WHO health regulations

Defence, peace and disarmament

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- Champion the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
- Strengthen our relationship with Australia and security partnerships across the Pacific.
- Maintain a capable, modern Defence Force
- Maintain New Zealand's prohibition on nuclear-armed and nuclear-powered vessels
- Establish clear parliamentary scrutiny if New Zealand joins armed conflicts
- Strengthen oversight of payloads launched from New Zealand to ensure compliance with the current law
- Meet our commitments to protect civilians from explosive weapons in populated areas
- Modernise the Defence Act
- Improve NZDF workforce conditions to enhance recruitment, retention and overall capability, and enable establishment of representative associations for personnel to improve employment, health and welfare for service members and their families.