



**THE
NEW ZEALAND
INITIATIVE**

MEMBERSHIP

**For Prosperity.
For Community.
For New Zealand.**

About The New Zealand Initiative

The New Zealand Initiative is an independent, not-for-profit and non-partisan think tank based in Wellington supported by businesses, NGOs, iwi and individuals who share our mission.

Through our research and advocacy, The New Zealand Initiative promotes a competitive, open and dynamic economy.

Our mission is to help create a free and prosperous New Zealand for all its people.

Welcome to The New Zealand Initiative

We are committed to New Zealand. We believe this country has great potential. It can be one of the most dynamic places of the 21st century. But potential is not enough. To unlock it, New Zealand must embrace reform.

We must learn from international best practice. We must adapt these learnings to New Zealand circumstances. And we must establish the foundations on which individuals, families, communities and businesses can prosper.

This is what The New Zealand Initiative is about.

We are the organisation to lay out pathways to a better future.

As New Zealand's leading think tank, we work closely with our members, policymakers across the political spectrum, the wider business community, the media, academics and the general public.

Our researchers conduct independent research on a wide range of policy issues. From education to economic policy, from poverty to housing, from local government to immigration, and from health to the environment, we are continually injecting new ideas into New Zealand's political debates.

We are strictly non-partisan in our work and welcome an open exchange of views and ideas. The results of our research are made available to the public, free of charge, on our website.



Our membership

The New Zealand Initiative is supported by its members. They come from a broad range of backgrounds, industries and organisations. They have diverse interests and viewpoints. And they are united in their commitment to invest in policy development and public debates about the future of our country.

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister for Housing, Infrastructure, Sport and Recreation, Responsible for RMA Reform, Leader of the House National Party

Chair: Oliver Hartwich



We're New Zealand's leading think tank

We are proud of our research. Providing independent advice and evidence-based ideas to policymakers across the political spectrum is what we do.

Our research is informed by sound economics and data. We do not undertake commissioned research. Many of our policy ideas have been adopted by political parties and the government.

1

The New Zealand Initiative engages business leaders in public policy debates

Our membership is diverse. It unites business leaders with a broad range of experience, connections, and views. Members meet regularly to connect and to engage with high-profile guest speakers.

At our regular members' meetings and lunches, we receive updates from senior politicians and opinion leaders. At our annual members' retreat, we have an opportunity for an in-depth conversation with leading politicians and visiting guests.

We have attracted the highest calibre of speakers from New Zealand and worldwide. They

include Barbara Oakley, Bjørn Lomborg, David Seymour, Hon Andrew Leigh, Hon David Parker, Hon Grant Robertson, Hon John Howard, Hon Peter Costello, Hon Phil Goff, Hon Sir Roger Douglas, Hon Stuart Nash, Hon Tony Abbott, Jonathan Haidt, Julie-Anne Genter, Katharine Birbalsingh, Rt Hon Peter Lilley, Rt Hon Sir Bill English, Rt Hon Sir John Key, Rt Hon Stephen Harper, Tom Peters, Hon Chris Bishop and Rt Hon Christopher Luxon.

2

The Initiative undertakes high quality research on issues that matter to New Zealand

We often hear complaints that public debates in New Zealand are shallow, that our media does not provide enough analysis and thoughtful commentary, and that the public does not properly understand big policy issues.

The New Zealand Initiative's research deals with these problems. We research issues in a way that time-constrained journalists cannot. We then communicate complex ideas in an accessible manner that most academics will not do. In this way,

we have a profound influence on the direction of our country.

3

New Zealand needs a strong voice for sound public policy

The New Zealand Initiative occupies a unique spot in New Zealand debates. We are a business-backed research organisation but not a lobby group.

We bring a pro-market perspective to policy debates without pushing specific industries or companies' interests. Such a voice is needed in political debates, without The New Zealand Initiative, it would not exist.

Our members are committed to New Zealand's long-term prosperity and prepared to contribute to the public good.



Ideas with impact

Our impact has been significant in a wide range of policy areas, for example:

Education

- Throughout our education research, we have advocated for better performance measurement for schools, a new knowledge-based curriculum and assessment system, and for a new phonics-based approach to teaching literacy.
- As a result of our recommendations, the government has increased the literacy and numeracy requirements for NCEA.
- Our work on education policy has produced successes under both Labour and National-led governments.
- Our research was instrumental in creating the \$359m Investing in Educational Success package introduced under Prime Minister John Key in 2014.



Creating a better future through policy reform is our goal. With everything we do, we aim for that impact. Whether it is research reports, media articles, engagement with policymakers, or public events, we want to create positive change.



Housing

- While others still claimed it was a demand-induced affordability crisis, we consistently argued that housing supply was at the core of New Zealand's affordability crisis. Our opinion has prevailed over time, and the government has taken steps to address the supply constraints.
- To take infrastructure off councils' balance sheets, we proposed municipal utility districts. We got that with the creation of Crown Infrastructure Partners.
- We also proposed removing height and density restrictions in our major cities. That happened when Labour and National agreed to abolish planning controls for inner-city sections.
- We also proposed direct fiscal incentives to councils that consent more buildings. ACT and National have both committed to introducing such grants in the future.

Environment

- An effective environmental policy must be based on sound economics. The challenge with climate change is reducing carbon emissions as cost-effectively as possible.
- Along with the Interim Climate Change Committee, we successfully argued against rushing towards 100% renewable energy for electricity generation. We explained how New Zealand could achieve more carbon reductions at the same cost in other areas.
- We then explained how New Zealand's Emissions Trading Scheme works, what policies can be incorporated, and what incompatible policies are. With this issue on the agenda, climate policy is now more economically rigorous - and politicians are challenged to explain how their policies will reduce emissions.

Our research

For more information on our research, visit our website: www.nzinitiative.org.nz/research

Our board

The Initiative is governed by a high calibre Board of Directors:



Roger Partridge
Chair, The New Zealand Initiative



Barbara Chapman
CNZM
Deputy Chair, The New Zealand Initiative



Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director,
The New Zealand Initiative



Matthew Cockram
Chief Executive,
Cooper and Company



Carrie Hurihanganui
Chief Executive,
Auckland Airport



Neil Paviour-Smith
Managing Director,
Forsyth Barr



Scott Perkins
Non-Executive
Director, Brambles,
Origin Energy
and Woolworths



Chris Quin
Chief Executive,
Foodstuffs North Island



Mark Synott
Executive Chairman,
Colliers



Sara Tucker
External Relations
Director,
Lion

Membership benefits



Shaping the future

Show your commitment to creating a better New Zealand.



Be engaged with research and events

We actively engage in and promote debates about New Zealand's future through our high-level events and publications. We promote innovative thinking and find new solutions.

You will be invited to all our events, and we invite you to partner with us to launch our latest research and host high-profile speakers.

You could also participate in members' task forces supporting our research.



Be recognised as a thought-leader

Your company's logo and profile will appear on The New Zealand Initiative's website. Your company's senior executives are eligible for The New Zealand Initiative's board.

We invite you to contribute to our weekly newsletter, Insights, which is read by politicians, government officials, journalists, academics, and the general public.



Networking opportunities

Become a member of The New Zealand Initiative and gain access to our extensive network of contacts, domestically and internationally. Our events feature high-ranking government officials and politicians.

Your team will receive exclusive invitations to our members-only events. Our annual members' retreat feature high-calibre speakers from around New Zealand, as well as high-profile politicians and international speakers.



Access to our policy expertise

From policy notes to essays, The New Zealand Initiative produces a range of publications.

Members participate in our research process as experts and peer reviewers. We will send you our reports before they are published.

Our research team is available to provide private briefings for your company at your request.



Show your commitment to New Zealand

There is no other organisation in New Zealand like the Initiative.

We are non-partisan. Our work is evidence-based. Our credibility is unquestionable.

We strive to make New Zealand a better place.

And we invite you to join us.



Overseas business delegations – an opportunity to network and learn

Members can learn from international best practices through our biennial overseas business delegations. Delegations provide excellent opportunities to interact with business leaders.

The delegates gain a deeper understanding of what drives a country's success and how

businesses and governments have overcome their major challenges.

Business delegations visited Switzerland in 2017, Denmark in 2019 and Ireland in 2023.

Fraser Whineray, who led both our previous delegations when he was CEO of Mercury, described his learnings like this:

“Going to Denmark opened our delegation’s eyes to the possibility of doing things differently. While we would not want to import or copy everything Denmark does, observing its phenomenal productivity levels, its deeply

strategic infrastructure projects and its shared purpose made us wonder: could we be a bit more Danish?”

“The United Kingdom must observe, somewhat jealously, what has been achieved by the Republic of Ireland in the last four decades. And I do too.”

What people say about us



The NZ Initiative with its deep analysis and comment on vital issues to all New Zealanders is to be commended and recommended. Being a member is most rewarding. Their researched, circulated results and recommendations are a significant relief to the ego driven shallow commentaries of much of our media.



Bruce Plested, Chairman and Founder of Mainfreight Limited

The Initiative's work is important as it blends insights and perspectives from Industry, Government and Academics locally here in Aotearoa and effectively sources relevant thought leadership from around the world to both stimulate and progress the debate. It does a good job of focusing the members and participants on what is good for the country and successfully avoids the pitfall of being tethered to particular industry interests, or a side of government. This approach allows it to put forward sometimes thought provoking and challenging ideas for the improvement of the country without them being dismissed as playing to a particular agenda.



Ross Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Fletcher Building Limited

The New Zealand Initiative is a rare jewel in an otherwise bleak and cloudy New Zealand political and economic landscape dominated by shallow commentary and a lack of deep research. It stands as a lone voice in its quest for unbiased, deeply researched policy driven studies underwriting a commitment to democracy and the economic betterment of N.Z. in its purest form.

With a focus on the fundamental big policy issues of New Zealand society of the day, the New Zealand Initiative brings an independent economic perspective, earnestly seeking out evidence-based solutions of NZ's most significant challenges and issues, whilst testing government proposals and ideals with alternatives, which might otherwise be ignored or never investigated as feasible options.

As an independent member funded organization, it measures itself publicly on the success or otherwise of the measures it raises and the impact of these measures which are taken up, and their effect on NZ society over time. This approach ensures a fully transparent self-accountability ensuring results are the basis of its existence.

It is a privilege to be a member of such a constructive and worthy contributor to the politically unbiased betterment of NZ society today.



Peter Cooper, Founder & Executive Chairman, Cooper and Company

New Zealand is very lucky to have The New Zealand Initiative as an independent policy think tank and particularly so in terms of the quality of the team Oliver has gathered around him. The FSF appreciates the Initiative's support of the need for a robust non-bank lending sector and the value it adds to the New Zealand economy.



**Lyn McMorran, Executive Director,
Financial Services Federation**

Thank goodness for The New Zealand Initiative. I am grateful for the innovative ideas, excellent research and the ensuing policy recommendations that help lead informed debate. The Initiative is building strong credibility with successive governments who are becoming more open to ideas.

The Initiative seeks to challenge the status quo in the pursuit of better outcomes for future generations, with excellent research linking to strong and clear policy options for government to consider. I have enjoyed engaging with Oliver and his team on sector-specific legislative submissions, where we have been able to influence legislation on the floor during the year. It is one thing to criticise, but more powerful to offer solutions.



**Simon Bennett
Chair, Accordant NZ**

In the past four years, companies have had the hardest time figuring out what matters to New Zealanders and the businesses serving them. As we deal with the most uncertain times many of us have ever faced, The New Zealand Initiative and its thoughtful research has been an enormous help to our decision-making.



**Chris Quin, Chief Executive Officer,
Foodstuffs North Island**

The team at NZ Initiative are true to their word; they embrace debate, encourage us to challenge their research and ideas, and genuinely reach out, not just to the likeminded, but the unlike minded too. They're not afraid to test their ideas with people like me. Whether in my media roles or running the Council for International Development, debates and events with NZI are always enjoyable, robust, and fun. Long may this willingness to model a good old-fashioned contest of ideas continue. We need it more than ever today.



**Josie Pagani
Consultant and commentator**



**Our
members**

For the full list of our members please visit our website:
www.nzinitiative.org.nz/membership/our-members



Contact

For further information
on membership with
The New Zealand Initiative,
please contact:



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Meet the team

Get to know the team by
visiting our website:
[www.nzinitiative.org.nz/
about-us/our-people](http://www.nzinitiative.org.nz/about-us/our-people)

Follow us



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**We are non-partisan. We are
evidence-based. We are credible.
And we are committed to making
New Zealand a better country.**

We hope you will join us.

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