



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.



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 and Tom Peters.

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 and Independent Director



Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director, The New Zealand Initiative



Matthew Cockram
Chief Executive, Cooper and Company



Stephen Jennings
Chief Executive and Founder, Rendevour



John Judge
Director, John Judge Ltd



Liz Naylor
Head of Government Affairs and Market Access, Janssen, Johnson & Johnson



Neil Paviour-Smith
Managing Director, Forsyth Barr



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



Chris Quin
Chief Executive, Foodstuffs North Island

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 and Denmark in 2019. Covid permitting, we are planning our next delegation visit to Ireland in 2023.

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

"The Swiss have understood how important it is to be internationally competitive. The proportion of their economy exposed to international competition is

substantially greater than for New Zealand. Being in the middle of Europe obviously helps but there is more to it than favourable geography. It is as much a matter of the right mindset."

"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?"

What people say about us



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

The New Zealand Initiative is one of the very few independent sources of critical thinking in New Zealand. Increasingly, national debate, and about contentious issues such as healthcare, are polarised and politicised. Sadly, academic freedom is increasingly violated. Most publicly employed doctors are essentially gagged. Consequently, the Initiative is not only to be congratulated but also needs active support to maintain its role of promoting free and frank discussion and policy development.



Des Gorman, Professor of Medicine,
University of Auckland

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
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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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