



Local Government and Internal Affairs

National believes modern, efficient and high-performing public administration is essential to provide critical services to New Zealanders.

Today central and local government are addressing problems of unprecedented complexity. At the same time, the systems and tools of governance are increasingly open, digital and networked. National will ensure that the skills and expertise in our government keep pace, and allow for the most efficient and responsive central and local government in the world.

Internal affairs is a diverse portfolio and National will ensure that all elements of it are operating at their very best. We will continue driving forward to ensure New Zealand has the best digitally enabled public service in the world. We will put Fire and Emergency New Zealand on a firm financial footing and support our firefighters. And we will ensure that our Civil Defence arrangements are fit for purpose for the future.

National will:

- Repeal the RMA and replace it with separate environmental and urban development legislation.
- Deliver more options for common transactions, such as driver's license applications, to be able to be completed online Expedite and complete the review of funding for Fire and Emergency New Zealand and explore alternative funding models and mechanisms for the organisation.
- Amend ACC legislation to clarify cover for firefighters through an evidence-based presumptive list of cancers which arise from being a firefighter.

Local Government

Strong local representation is a foundation of prosperous regions and communities.

National will champion the rights of ratepayers and communities, ensuring the costs and benefits of growth are shared fairly. We will support councils to deliver high quality services that continue to support growth and development, while ensuring that mandates from central government get the funding they require.

We will help fast growing councils to build the infrastructure they need to meet the demands of their growing economies and communities and we are supporting the regions through our regional growth programmes.

We will amend the Building Act to allow private sector organisations to complete building consents. These private sector organisations will be required to guarantee their work and hold indemnity insurance. This will speed up the building consent process and move the risk of the consenting process away from local government.

National will:

- Repeal the RMA and replace it with separate environmental and urban development legislation.
- Require local councils to consent 30 years of residential land to unlock more land for housing.
- Work to centralise the Building Consent process.
- Seek continuous improvement in Council performance in their regulatory function including a review into the functions of Auckland Council



Digital Government Services

National believes that the Government should encourage digital options to simplify New Zealanders' interactions with public services, and should leverage technology to drive productivity across the public sector.

Modern, efficient and high-performing public administration is essential to provide critical services to New Zealanders. Currently too many basic transactions with the government are slow, bureaucratic, and frustrating.

National will address this and work towards having the best digitally enabled public service in the world.

National will:

- Deliver more options for common transactions, such as driver's license applications, to be able to be completed online.
- Increase data collection and sharing across agencies to better inform the social investment approach.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand

National will act to put Fire and Emergency New Zealand on a firm footing and support our firefighters.

Firefighters are New Zealand's most respected and trusted profession. Whatever the emergency, our fire and emergency workers are at the forefront of helping communities. Fire, cyclone, earthquake, flood—any form of emergency, they are there.

Many of the firefighters who risk their lives in these emergencies are volunteers, and in provincial New Zealand it would be impossible to operate our emergency services without the hard work and dedication of these Kiwis. However, the government has not always provided our firefighters with the support they deserve.

National will:

- Expedite and complete the review of funding for Fire and Emergency New Zealand and explore alternative funding models and mechanisms for the organisation.