

Policy 2017



National's plan for regional New Zealand

Backing our regions

New Zealand is a nation of opportunities – and that's all because of the hard work and enterprise of New Zealanders, backed by National's six-point plan for the future.

First, we are **raising family incomes and delivering more jobs**. On 1 April someone on the average wage will receive a tax cut of \$1000 per year.

Second, we're **building infrastructure** to support growth in our regions with Accelerated Regional Roding Projects, new Roads of National Significance and broadband expansions throughout New Zealand.

Third, we're **helping regional businesses** to grow by negotiating new trade agreements and investing in regional economic development. And we're **building skills and innovation** with new regional research institutes and by developing the skills of our young people.

Fourth, we're **getting the finances in order**. By their own numbers, Labour would borrow an extra \$11b over the next four years at a time we should be paying down debt to prepare for the next financial crisis or natural disaster.

Fifth, we are investing even more in **world-class public services** for regional New Zealand. We're delivering cheaper GP visits and investing in education. And our social investment programme is helping vulnerable New Zealanders change their lives one by one.

The sixth point of our plan is what we won't do. **We won't create new taxes** – we won't raise income taxes, or introduce an inheritance tax, or a regional fuel tax.

We also won't hit farmers with new taxes that would slow down regional New Zealand – a capital gains tax, a water tax, a land tax or adding farmers to the Emissions Trading Scheme.

Policy highlights

- One of the fastest-growing economies in the developed world
- Lower taxes for families and businesses and making it easier for businesses to pay the right amount of tax
- Working with our farmers and growers, rather than imposing punitive taxes on hard-working New Zealanders
- Wages are rising and jobs are growing – the average wage has increased by \$13,000 to \$59,000, and 181,000 new jobs have been created in the last two years
- Ultra-Fast and Rural Broadband are better connecting our regions to each other and to the world
- Better transport infrastructure to connect our regions to main centres, and ensuring our roads are safer
- Ensuring our immigration settings encourage migrants to the regions to support local economies
- Building access to international markets through more and better free trade agreements
- Working with regions on economic action plans

National is...

Growing regional economies

- New Zealand has come a long way since National took office, and regions are growing strongly
- We built from a recession to what is now one of the fastest-growing economies in the developed world
- 181,000 new jobs have been created in the last two years, and unemployment is the lowest it has been since the GFC at 4.8 per cent and falling
- We are selling more to the world – our exports are now worth over \$70b a year and we are continuing to build on our access to international markets
- Our success means we are investing record amounts in world-class public services and we are ensuring more money for family budgets
- We're helping develop the skills we need in a modern economy – 85 per cent of students now get NCEA Level 2, compared to 70 per cent in 2008
- We are working closely with regions to develop economic action plans which aim to increase jobs, incomes and investment in regional New Zealand
- So far we've released plans with Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne/Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu-Whanganui, Canterbury, West Coast and Southland
- We are helping regional New Zealand build on its strengths, attract people and capital and investing in the projects we know will contribute to growth

Delivering lower taxes

- National wants to reward hardworking New Zealanders by ensuring they pay less tax, while still providing world-class public services
- National will reduce income taxes – so that from 1 April someone on the average wage will pay \$1000 less tax per year. Our Family Incomes Package means 1.3 million New Zealand families will be \$26 a week better off on average
- Under National, regional businesses will have the confidence to start and grow, to hire more staff and to invest in becoming more productive and environmentally friendly because they will know how much tax they will pay



National is...

Building regional infrastructure

- Our growing economy means we can invest more in the infrastructure needed for New Zealand to continue to grow
- We are investing \$32.5b in core infrastructure over the next four years into new roads, schools, hospitals and venues like the new stadium in Christchurch and covered velodrome in Whanganui to attract more visitors
- New Zealand is also seeing record numbers of tourists so we are investing in the facilities to help our smaller towns and communities cater to them
- Our Ultra-Fast and Rural Broadband is connecting New Zealanders with each other and the world, making it easier to learn, stay in touch and do business right around the country
- By 2022, 87 per cent of New Zealanders will have access to UFB and 99 per cent will have access to high speed internet through the Rural Broadband Initiative
- We're investing in transport links to ensure our regions are better connected – through our Roads of National Significance and Accelerated Regional Roding projects
- We're making great progress on the first seven Roads of National Significance, with some already completed, so we have committed to ten more to make our roads faster, safer and more reliable
- The Accelerated Regional Roding Projects are speeding up roading upgrades that are important for regional development and growth
- Investing \$600 million to fix the worst 90 black spots around the country, reducing deaths and serious injuries by 900 over 10 years

Existing Roads of National Significance



Next Generation Roads of National Significance



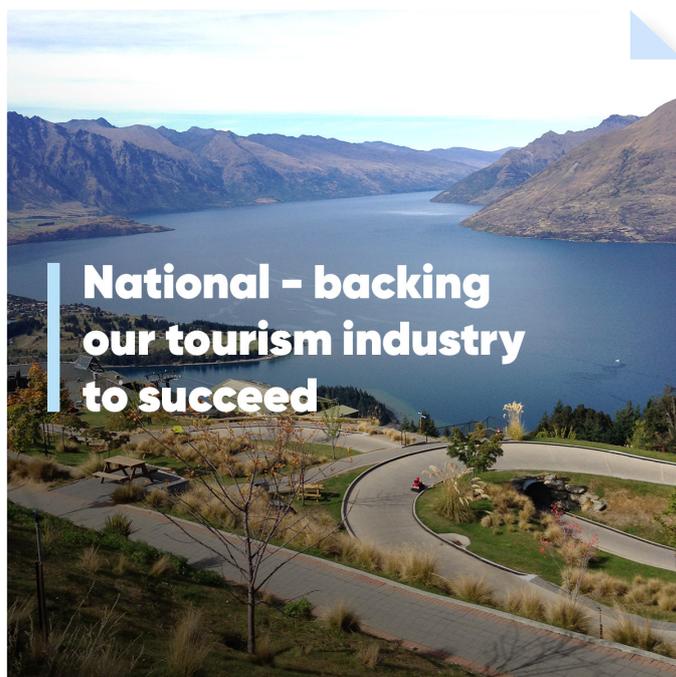
National is...

Supporting our exporters

- Our regions are built on trade, and under National exports continue to rise – we're now selling \$70b of our products to the world every year
- Our economy is diversifying, and we are seeing strong growth in newer industries like wine, ICT, film and high tech manufacturing – in addition to our traditional strengths in agriculture, horticulture and tourism
- National has set an ambitious goal of having 90 per cent of our exports covered by a trade agreement – when we open the door for exporters they create opportunities for Kiwis back home
- We will focus on pursuing agreements like the TPP11, which will increase access to markets like Japan and Mexico – an agreement Labour opposes
- Japan has a tariff on our beef exports of 50 per cent – we have a great opportunity to help our exporters by getting TPP11 over the line, and reducing this significantly
- We will also pursue agreements with the UK, EU and Sri Lanka while improving our agreements with China
- Our trade agenda over the next three years means we will work to unlock markets with 2.5 billion new consumers for the benefit of large and small exporters and their workers in every region of New Zealand – because we won't get rich selling to ourselves

Supporting tourism

- Tourism is now our biggest exporter, worth \$14.5b to the economy, employing more than 180,000 people and showing us off to the world
- We are ensuring those benefits are spread around NZ throughout the year, supporting regional economies
- National is funding vital tourism infrastructure around the country such as toilet blocks and rubbish compacting facilities
- We now have 22 national cycle trails all around New Zealand, in addition to 54 urban cycleway projects in 15 centres across the country
- National is cracking down on freedom camping – ensuring this only happens where councils have the infrastructure to support it



National is...

Working with our primary sector

- National will work with our farmers and growers to tackle environmental challenges, and invest more in the new science and technology to help them
- We won't raise taxes or impose new ones
- We will continue to invest in irrigation to give our farmers and growers more certainty
- We will continue to provide greater access to international markets
- We will ensure our immigration settings allow employers to find the right staff and train our young people to take up jobs in the primary industries

Improving the environment

- Our opponents believe we have to choose between the economy and the environment
- National believes you can do both - and in fact a strong economy can help us deal with environmental challenges better
- National is working with communities to cleanup our waterways, and we've set world-standard swimmability targets
- We are committed to making New Zealand predator free. And we have signed up to the Paris Climate Accord, which sets challenging targets for emissions reductions over the next decade

Supporting families

- Our Family Incomes Package benefits around 1.3 million families in New Zealand by, on average, \$26 per week
- We are investing record levels in health - it's now \$17b per year compared to \$12b when we came into office
- We introduced free GP visits for under-13s, and will expand \$18 GP visits to a further 600,000 lower income New Zealanders - meaning it is either cheap or free for 2.5 million New Zealanders to visit the doctor
- We will expand Paid Parental Leave from 18 to 22 weeks, having already extended it to 18 weeks and widened eligibility
- Around 85 per cent of 18-year olds now get NCEA Level 2 - up from 70 per cent in 2008. There's even better improvement for Māori and Pasifika
- The married rate of NZ Super has gone up from \$24k a year to \$31k a year under National - and will go up further next year as a result of our Family Incomes Package
- We will double the support for first-home buyers buying a home, and increase it for those building a home
- We will continue to support our most vulnerable while also ensuring they work with us to turn their lives around
- We will work towards our goal of making New Zealand the safest country in the world by adding an extra 1125 police staff and cracking down on drugs and gangs

Don't put it all at risk

- Labour would impose a raft of new taxes on New Zealanders, but they are refusing to be up front
- Capital gains, land, inheritance, carbon, regional fuel, tourist and water taxes are all on the table, and they've confirmed they will cancel National's income tax cuts (which are already in law)
- They are refusing to support free trade - meaning New Zealanders would miss out on the massive benefits of TPP11 and other new agreements
- Labour would slash immigration, making it harder for businesses to attract the right staff to help them grow
- Centralised, industry by industry wage bargaining would take New Zealand backwards
- Cancelling National Standards means parents won't be able to see how their children are doing in schools
- Labour want to increase our debt by \$11b over the next four years. And they've allocated almost all of the cash so their unrealistic budgets will lead to even more borrowing and higher interest rates for businesses and families