

# Proactive Release

Date: 5 August 2019

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

***First Voluntary National Review on New Zealand's Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals: (CAB-19-MIN-223)***

***He Waka Eke Noa Towards a Better Future, Together – New Zealand's Progress Towards the SDGs 2019 – Draft Report: (GOV-19-MIN-024 refers)***

***He Waka Eke Noa Towards a Better Future, Together – New Zealand's Progress Towards the SDGs 2019 – Design templates***

Please note the delays in releasing these papers were owing to agency processes to finalise the documents for release.

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# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### **Report of the Cabinet Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee: Period Ended 10 May 2019**

On 13 May 2019, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee for the period ended 10 May 2019:

GOV-19-MIN-0024    **First Voluntary National Review on New Zealand's Progress Toward the Sustainable Development Goals**    CONFIRMED  
Portfolio: Foreign Affairs

Out of scope

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Out of Scope

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**

Cabinet Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee  
Minister of Civil Defence

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Chair,  
Cabinet Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee (GOV)

## First Voluntary National Review on New Zealand's Progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals

### Proposal

1 That Cabinet approve the draft Voluntary National Review on New Zealand's Progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). That Cabinet agree to release the draft Voluntary National Review (VNR) for public feedback and authorise the Minister of Foreign Affairs to sign-off the final report ahead of submission to the United Nations.

### Executive summary

2 New Zealand is scheduled to present its first VNR to the United Nations in July 2019 on progress with implementation of the SDGs.

3 The draft report (**attached**) has been prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), with input from a wide range of other government departments and the Stakeholder Reference Group. This paper seeks approval of the draft report.

4 This Cabinet paper proposes that the draft report be released online for public feedback in May 2019. This paper further proposes that the final report be referred to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for sign-off ahead of submission to the United Nations. The Minister of Foreign Affairs will sign-off in consultation with relevant Ministers in the event of any substantive changes following public feedback.

### Background

5 In 2015, all United Nations member states, including New Zealand, adopted the 2030 Agenda, a blueprint for sustainable development which includes 17 Goals, referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs (Annex A). The SDGs serve as a global action plan to end poverty, promote peace and prosperity, and protect the planet. They apply to developed and developing countries alike.

6 While the SDGs are non-binding, each Member State committed to presenting two VNRs on progress towards the SDGs before 2030. New Zealand is scheduled to present its first VNR to the United Nations between 16 to 18 July 2019. The final text must be submitted to the UN by 14 June 2019.

7 The VNR is a vehicle for reporting high-level progress in the context of Government policy and priorities for sustainable development, not for determining policy. The VNR showcases New Zealand's approach to sustainable development and economic, environmental and social wellbeing, using an SDG framework. Domestically, the report will

provide context as to how the SDGs fit alongside New Zealand government policy. The VNR also provides an opportunity to outline New Zealand's international contributions to sustainable development, particularly in the Pacific.

8 In December 2018, Cabinet agreed to the approach, structure and governance of the VNR (CAB-18-MIN-0605 refers).

### Preparation of the draft VNR

9 MFAT has led the preparation of the draft report (attached) with substantive input from a wide range of other government agencies. The draft report incorporates feedback received from a cross-sectoral reference group of non-government stakeholders (the Stakeholder Reference Group).

10 The SDGs are framed within New Zealand's approach to improving wellbeing and aspirations to build a more productive, sustainable and inclusive economy. The draft VNR considers New Zealand's implementation of each SDG at a high-level, taking into account the Government's key priorities and clearly identifying challenges as well as highlighting successes. This VNR will form part of the conversation within New Zealand about the SDGs, and our approach to sustainable development, which will continue until 2030.

11 While predominantly a government report, the draft report includes a handful of case studies from outside government, sourced through a public request for input. Lead agencies (Annex B) have undertaken varying levels of stakeholder engagement on their particular content.

12 Public engagement is a core principle of the 2030 Agenda. There is a risk of criticism that there has not been sufficient consultation in the development of the VNR. Countries undertaking VNRs have approached public engagement in different ways. In New Zealand there is a considerable amount of consultation already under way across government on policies and issues relevant to the SDGs. Those conversations have fed into the development of the VNR.

13 The design templates for the report are also attached for approval. The templates have been developed to be visually impactful and reflect New Zealand's unique identity while complementing the existing SDG branding. The design elements will be also used by MFAT on social media to promote the VNR.

14 The draft report and design have been considered by relevant Government agencies, approved by the Deputy Chief Executives Measuring Progress Steering Group and are presented to Cabinet for approval.

15 This paper seeks approval for the draft report to be made available on MFAT's "Have Your Say" website for public feedback from 14 to 26 May 2019. Providing an opportunity for feedback will allow members of the wider public to engage directly with the VNR process. The timeframe for comment is, however, tight due to the 14 June UN deadline for submission of the report.

16 Changes to the report may be made on the basis of the public feedback. As the report reflects current government work streams, and the Stakeholder Reference Group

has not raised substantive issues, any changes following public feedback are anticipated to be minor. Amendments may also be required to incorporate Budget decisions.

17 This paper proposes that the Minister of Foreign Affairs be authorised to sign-off the final report for submission to the United Nations, provided there are no substantive changes to the report.

18 Should substantive changes be required, the final report would be finalised by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in consultation with relevant Ministers.

19 A shadow report is likely to be prepared by New Zealand community groups. Shadow reports are an important part of accountability. There is no process for official submission of shadow reports to the UN, but accredited NGOs may pose questions to New Zealand during the presentation. The feedback process may provide some indication as to the likely nature of those questions.

### Consultation

20 The draft report was prepared with input from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Conservation, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry for Women, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Primary Industries, Ministry of Social Development, Office for Disability Issues, Statistics New Zealand, Te Arawhiti, Te Puni Kōkiri, and Treasury.

21 Feedback on the draft report has additionally been sought from the Stakeholder Reference Group. This Group includes members from the business community, NGOs, academia, youth and Māori representation.

22 The proposed public feedback on the draft report will provide an opportunity for a wider range of stakeholders to provide input.

### Financial implications

23 Nil. The minimal costs associated with the VNR are covered by agency baselines.

### Human rights

22 There are no inconsistencies with the Human Rights Act 1993 and New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

### Legislative implications

24 Nil

### Regulatory impact analysis

25 Not required.

## Gender implications

26 Gender is both a specific SDG and a cross-cutting issue within the 2030 Agenda. Gender is an important dimension and is considered in many of the goals throughout New Zealand's VNR, creating greater awareness of gender issues across government.

## Disability perspective

27 Disability is not the subject of a specific SDG but a number of the Goals, Targets and Indicators include reference to persons with disabilities.

## Publicity

28 It is proposed that the draft report will be posted on MFAT's "Have Your Say" website, and promoted through social media. A link to the draft report will be emailed to members of the Stakeholder Reference Group and other interested persons. Once finalised the report will be provided to the UN by 14 June 2019, and presented formally in July 2019. A domestic launch will be held at a similar time and will be an opportunity to promote further the positive stories from the report.

## Proactive release

29 It is proposed that this paper be proactively released, subject to appropriate redaction.

## Recommendations

30 The Minister of Foreign Affairs recommends that the Committee:

- 1. Note** New Zealand will deliver its first Voluntary National Review on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to the United Nations in July 2019
- 2. Approve** the attached draft report
- 3. Agree** that the attached draft report be released for public feedback from 14 to 26 May 2019
- 4. Authorise** the Minister of Foreign Affairs to sign-off the final report for submission to the United Nations provided there are no substantive changes to the report.
- 5. Agree** that in the event that substantive changes are made to the report, the report will be finalised by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in consultation with relevant Ministers.
- 6. Approve** the attached design templates

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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COMM-31-459



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## Annex A

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COMM-31-459

## Annex B

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<b>Goal</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere	MSD
2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition	MPI
3 Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages	MoH
4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	MoE
5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	MfW
6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	MFE / MoH
7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	MBIE
8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	MBIE / Treasur y
9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation	Treasur y
10 Reduce inequality within and among countries	MSD
11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	HUD
12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	MPI

COMM-31-459

13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	MFE
14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	MFAT
15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt the reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	DOC
16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions	MoJ
17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	MFAT

COMM-31-459



# Cabinet Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### First Voluntary National Review on New Zealand's Progress Toward the Sustainable Development Goals

**Portfolio**                      **Foreign Affairs**

On 9 May 2019, the Cabinet Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee (GOV):

- 1        **noted** that on 4 December 2018, GOV:
  - 1.1      noted that New Zealand has committed to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals;
  - 1.2      noted that New Zealand will deliver its first Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to the United Nations in July 2019;

[GOV-18-MIN-0090]
- 2        **approved** the draft report *He Waka Eke Noa: Towards a Better Future, Together: New Zealand's Progress Towards the SDGs 2019* (the draft report), attached to the paper under GOV-19-SUB-0024;
- 3        **agreed** that the draft report be released for public feedback from 14 to 26 May 2019;
- 4        **authorised** the Minister of Foreign Affairs to sign-off the final report for submission to the United Nations, provided there are no substantive changes to the report;
- 5        **agreed** that in the event substantive changes are made to the report, the report will be finalised by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in consultation with relevant Ministers;
- 6        **approved** the design templates for the report, attached to the paper under GOV-19-SUB-0024.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

**Hard-copy distribution: (see over)**

**Present:**

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Chris Hipkins (Chair)  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Julie Anne Genter

**Officials present from:**

Officials Committee for GOV

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

He Waka Eke Noa  
Towards a Better Future, Together

New Zealand's Progress Towards the SDGs  
2019

**Draft Report**

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

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**DRAFT**  
Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

## New Zealand's Approach to Sustainable Development

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Achieving sustainable development globally is a critical challenge facing all of us.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development serves as our collective blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. It challenges us to get serious about delivering an integrated and balanced social, economic and environmental agenda.

New Zealand is contributing to achievement of the Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a combination of domestic action, international leadership on global issues, and support for developing countries. Achievement requires a whole of government effort, working alongside the private sector and civil society.

This is our first Voluntary National Review on our implementation of the SDGs. We have chosen to address those aspects of the 2030 Agenda most relevant to New Zealand. The report captures our current initiatives and high level plans, and reflects our commitment to productive, sustainable and inclusive development as a country and as a global partner. We intend to provide a foundation for future national reporting to build on.

### **Redefining success**

New Zealand's policy direction is influenced by our position as a small independent Pacific country, deeply engaged in our region and the world. We are a nation of explorers and adventurers, and have been since the first waka reached our shores. We are agile and adaptable with a mindset that enables us to be innovative in the face of new challenges.

As a people we highly value our egalitarian society. But we know that despite our developed status, there are New Zealanders who struggle to achieve a decent level of wellbeing. Our success as a nation rests on far more than just economic indicators.

We are therefore taking a new approach. We are redefining what success looks like by putting the wellbeing of all New Zealanders at the centre of everything we do.

Our approach takes into account New Zealand's unique characteristics, including the relationship between the Crown and Māori as tangata whenua. It builds on our national values, our collective responsibilities as kaitiaki of our environment, and the international reputation we are proud of.

### **Treaty of Waitangi**

New Zealand is founded on a partnership between Māori, the tangata whenua or indigenous people of New Zealand, and the Crown (or government). In 1840 a founding constitutional document, Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi), was signed. The intent was to formalise an enduring partnership between Māori and the Crown. The Treaty encompasses

both individual and collective rights and provides a framework for the State to promote, protect and respect indigenous rights.

The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in good faith by representatives of the British Crown and by many Māori Chiefs on behalf of their people. The Crown intended Māori to be treated fairly and honourably, particularly in the course of land transactions. However, Māori suffered greatly through the process of colonisation and the government now acknowledges that since 1840 it has breached its duties under the Treaty and has accepted a moral obligation to resolve Māori historical grievances.

Today the distinct and special status of Māori as tangata whenua is of profound importance to New Zealand and fundamental to our identity as a nation. The Treaty is recognised as a foundational document of New Zealand that has significant constitutional, historical, and ongoing importance. It belongs to all New Zealanders and is a source of both individual and collective rights of Māori.

### **A just transition**

Ensuring a just transition is about how we transform our economy to one that is productive, sustainable and inclusive. It is about creating new opportunities, new jobs, new skills and new investments. It is also about building an understanding of potential pathways to transform the New Zealand economy and how the impacts of the transition will be distributed across the economy. A just transition requires working alongside communities, regions and sectors to make choices about how we manage the pace and impacts of change in a fair and inclusive way.

Achieving a just transition is a long-term process. To be successful it will require managing the pace and timing of change with a mix of policies, government support and commitment to social dialogue at multiple levels. The work of the government and its social partners will need to be underpinned by a deep understanding of which groups in our society will face the most significant challenges and the likely nature of those challenges. The government will work with sectors and communities to empower them to develop strategies for anticipating and responding to opportunities and challenges from transitions.

### **Productivity**

New Zealand wants to be a leader and constructive partner, both nationally and internationally, in the transformation to a modern and sustainable economy. Our direction moves us away from a simple focus on Gross Domestic Product (GDP), to incorporate environmental and social factors as well as economic indicators.

Our vision, to improve the wellbeing and living standards of New Zealanders through building a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy, echoes the objectives of the SDGs. We are embedding our wellbeing focus into our policy thinking to ensure that the

direction of all government policy is consistent. This means thinking holistically about how policies and programmes impact each other and contribute to our overall objectives.

To deliver higher living standards for New Zealanders, we are working to overcome some significant challenges to productivity, sustainability and inclusiveness. Productivity is a key driver of economic performance, higher wages and higher living standards.

We are at the beginning of a period of significant change that will impact on our economy, now and for decades to come. These changes include things like our demographics, technology, the sharing economy, and climate change. We also need to respond to changing financial and trade policies of major economies around the world. To meet the challenges and take the opportunities of a rapidly changing world we need to support workers and businesses to be inclusive, resilient and adaptable.

Internationally, we cooperate with partners to create conditions that enable all countries to prosper. We are committed to development cooperation that embeds the principles of the 2030 Agenda. We work for sustainable and inclusive growth globally, including through strengthened economic governance and stability.

### **Inclusivity**

The wellbeing of people and communities is at the centre of New Zealand's vision. We are committed to delivering equitable outcomes and enabling current and future generations to achieve higher living standards. We are determined to make New Zealand the best place in the world to be a child, and to build healthier, safer and more connected communities.

Economic growth and social inclusion are interdependent. We are determined to grow and share more fairly New Zealand's prosperity. All New Zealanders should have equal opportunities to participate in our economy. We will reduce the barriers to participation and support people and businesses to take advantage of the opportunities available. We will ensure everyone who is able to is earning, learning, caring or volunteering.

We recognise that there is disparity in outcomes for New Zealanders, particularly for Māori, Pacific peoples, and women. We are committed to ensuring that all New Zealanders benefit from growth, now and in future generations.

### **Sustainability**

Our natural capital, or natural resource base, is woven into the fabric of every New Zealander's health and wellbeing, the country's brand and Te Ao Māori. Our land, forests, waterways and oceans are the foundation of our economy.

New Zealand is in the process of transitioning to a cleaner, greener, carbon neutral country. We must progressively reverse environmental damage and support the economy to be more sustainable through smart use of technology, education, regulation, investment

and pricing. We must be resilient and able to respond to shock events and emerging stresses.

### **Global partnerships**

New Zealand seeks a peaceful world in which all people live with dignity and safety, all countries can prosper, and our shared environment is protected.

We cooperate to advance that goal globally. We work to strengthen international rules and institutions including those relating to economic success, environmental protection, and natural resource management. We work to strengthen the contribution of trade to inclusive and sustainable development. We have increased our aid and we target this to countries most in need, particularly small island developing countries and Least Developed Countries.

We focus our contribution on the Pacific where we have deepened our partnerships and direct 60 percent of our aid. Alongside strong market access, we have committed to provide 20 percent of our Official Development Assistance as Aid for Trade in the Pacific with the aim of improving two-way trade, Pacific prosperity and economic resilience. We have increased our commitment to climate related financing to \$300 million through to 2022. This will include a focus on adaptation to the impacts of climate change, in line with Pacific partner priorities.

### **Our sustainable future**

New Zealand is driving transformation through collaboration and partnerships between local and central government, businesses, workers and unions, rural and urban communities and iwi, as well as with international partners. It is essential that participation across sectors, communities and agencies is developed and deepened.

We want to build a solid and enduring foundation to achieve a more productive, sustainable and inclusive society. Every step counts. We look forward to taking ever greater strides towards improving the wellbeing of all New Zealanders, especially the most vulnerable, and to the delivery of the SDGs.

#### **Pacific Wellbeing**

Pacific Aotearoa talanoa with more than 2,500 Pacific people living in New Zealand have identified what wellbeing means for Pacific peoples today and for the future. These talanoa highlighted Pacific identities, languages and cultures; economic development and income; health and wellness; and intergenerational opportunities for youth as key priority areas.

This has provided the basis to develop the Pacific Aotearoa vision for Pacific peoples: "Pacific values are our anchor, with each generation weaving the foundation for the next to stand on. Pacific communities are leading innovations within Aotearoa, the Pacific region

and the world. We are confident in our endeavours, we are thriving, resilient, and prosperous Pacific Aotearoa.”

Pacific Aotearoa places the aspirations of Pacific peoples at the centre of thinking and decision making. It recognises their leadership role and strengths to drive change from within, and for, their own communities. It is fundamental that Pacific values inform how initiatives are developed. Relationships must be effective in a Pacific community setting. This vision provides insight to tailor initiatives to ensure they resonate with and are impactful for Pacific communities.

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## Living Standards Framework and Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand

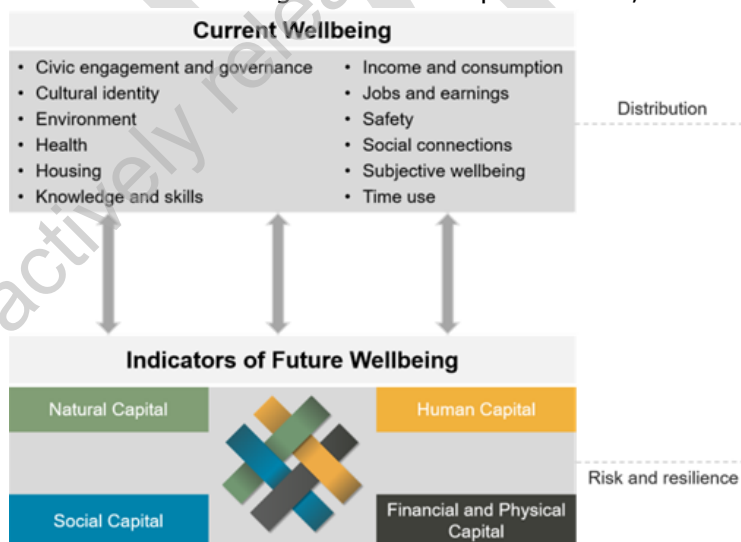
New Zealand’s approach to achieving sustainable development is broad, integrated, and holistic. It is focused on improving the wellbeing and living standards of all New Zealanders.

Our conceptualisation of sustainable development is consistent with the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, which outlines a series of interconnected goals which are people-centred and encompass a wide variety of issues affecting the wellbeing of our planet and all of humanity.

We are redefining what success means for New Zealand. We believe that to be successful we need to build a productive, sustainable, and inclusive economy which improves the wellbeing and living standards of all New Zealanders. To this end, the New Zealand Treasury, the government’s lead economic and financial adviser, has developed a *Living Standards Framework* (LSF) to improve the depth, breadth and quality of policy development concerning living standards.

The LSF is an innovative, high-level framework for measuring and analysing the dynamics of intergenerational wellbeing, covering current wellbeing, future wellbeing, and risk and resilience across a range of economic, social and environmental outcome domains. It is designed to link the Treasury’s existing suite of fiscal and economic analysis tools to a balanced, comprehensive and transparent specification of key wellbeing outcomes at a macro level.

Within *current wellbeing*, 12 domains reflect wellbeing at a ‘point in time’. Four capitals – natural, human, social, and financial and physical – are the assets that generate wellbeing now and into the future. New Zealand’s capital stocks include our people’s skills, knowledge, and physical and mental health; our natural environment; our social connections, communities and institutions; and the buildings, machines, and other physical assets that support material living conditions. Links can be drawn between the LSF current domains of wellbeing and future capital stocks, and the SDGs.



The LSF is a practical application of national and international research around measuring wellbeing. To distil and structure this knowledge, and to ensure international comparability, the Treasury drew on the internationally-recognised approach taken by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The LSF includes a dashboard - a structured database of indicators to support policy development to lift intergenerational wellbeing. The use of these tools as part of regular financial and economic analysis of options for government action will support our progress towards achieving the SDGs.

In parallel, Statistics New Zealand has developed *Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand - Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa*, a new suite of statistical indicators that go beyond economic measures, such as GDP, and include wellbeing and sustainable development to help inform government policy and investment decisions. This new tool supports the development of the LSF, as well as other governmental wellbeing reporting and analysis activities including monitoring and reporting against the SDGs. Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand is a comprehensive suite of approximately 100 social, cultural, environmental and economic indicators to measure and track New Zealand's progress over time. There will be approximately 20 population and production indicators, providing context for considering and interpreting the wellbeing indicators.

The indicator suite has been developed to allow for measurement of New Zealand's current and future wellbeing, and New Zealand's impact on the rest of the world. The indicators build on international best practice, and have been tailored to a New Zealand context by incorporating topics such as culture, identity, land and waste. New Zealand's official statistics agency is partnering with Māori to further develop the set of indicators based on concepts of wellbeing from a Te Ao Māori perspective.

This suite of indicators was developed through broad and inclusive public consultation. It included input from subject matter experts across many sectors, including government, non-government organisations, academia, business, and international wellbeing experts – all of which fed into recommendations on the indicator set. To the extent possible, the wellbeing indicators will be disaggregated to track the progress of different groups within the population.

Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand will function as the data source that underpins government analytical frameworks and decision making. This includes supporting New Zealand's reporting on progress on the SDGs. The indicators will support government strategic direction and provide the information needed to guide priorities and improve the wellbeing of all New Zealanders. The indicators will also enable local government, businesses, civil society and communities, and individuals to make informed choices on wellbeing and sustainability.

The first cut of the indicators will be released in late June 2019. It is intended that the Treasury will draw indicators and data from the indicator suite for the Living Standards

Framework. More information on Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand can be found at [www.wellbeingindicators.stats.govt.nz](http://www.wellbeingindicators.stats.govt.nz).

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

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## New Zealand's International Cooperation

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In addition to pursuing sustainable development at home, New Zealand works to advance the 2030 Agenda in our region and in the world. Sustainable development is a core foreign policy priority. It is central to the mission of our aid programme and informs our approach to trade, environment, development and security policy, as well as our domestic policy.

New Zealand cooperates for sustainable development across three key spheres.

**We cooperate for global solutions to global challenges** – New Zealand recognises the importance of effective global cooperation to protect and advance global public goods and to create conditions that enable all countries to realise sustainable development.

New Zealand works for durable international solutions to global environmental, economic, security and development challenges. We aim to strengthen the international rules and institutions essential to sustainable development. We are active within and support the multilateral system. We bring particular focus to global cooperation on human rights and gender equality, climate change, environmental and oceans stewardship, open and rules-based trade, disarmament, and security. We seek global policy coherence including through the elimination of environmentally harmful subsidies that undermine progress toward sustainability. We advocate for global systems to work effectively for small island developing states.

**We support sustainable development in developing countries** – New Zealand recognises the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries across a range of circumstances. We recognise the risk of countries falling behind due to governance, conflict or environmental reasons. We recognise the scale, vulnerability and climate issues faced by Small Island Developing States. And the middle income country challenge of sustaining social and economic progress while making a historic transition to low emissions and environmentally sustainable development.

New Zealand targets its aid to countries most in need, particularly small island developing states and Least Developed Countries. We focus our aid on countries where we have the presence and partnerships to be effective. Globally we have focussed our aid on sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and education. Across all our aid we pursue development that is resilient, inclusive, sustained, and effective. And we seek to strengthen the role of trade in delivering inclusive and sustainable development in developing countries.

**We work for Pacific achievement of the SDGs** - New Zealand is a Pacific country and we recognise the unique and critical sustainable challenges facing our region. Our presence and partnerships in the Pacific mean this is where New Zealand's contribution to sustainable development is most important and can have most impact. It is the geographic focus for our aid.

New Zealand works with Pacific Island countries and the region to support progress against the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development. Our aid partnerships are responsive to context and each country's issues and priorities. We are working to deliver ambitious targets in terms of expanded access to affordable, reliable and clean energy and increased economic and food security benefits from sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

Our recently announced Pacific Reset signalled a lift in New Zealand's strategic ambition and investment in the region. The Reset aims to build deeper and more mutual partnerships with Pacific countries, enhance coordination with other key partners and institutions, and improve the coherence between New Zealand's policies – whether domestic or foreign policy – that have a bearing on the Pacific and its people. An additional \$714 million in overall aid funding announced in Budget 2018 will be drawn on to tackle priority issues for the Pacific, in particular economic resilience, climate change, health, education, gender, human rights, and youth.

## SDG Summit (submission from Universities New Zealand)

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New Zealand's eight universities are represented at a national level by Universities New Zealand - *Te Pōkai Tara*. They are working together and with other sectors - specifically central and local government, civil society, the private sector and youth - to show leadership in the implementation of the SDGs at a national level. This includes hosting a series of national SDG Summits that aim to promote, build and accelerate multi-sector action to implement the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in New Zealand.

The inaugural national SDG Summit in Wellington in 2018 aimed to 'bring the SDGs home to New Zealand', to 'inform, excite and mobilise' leadership across the sectors, and to start cross-sectoral conversations around action. Three hundred participants from across the sectors were given opportunities to find out how government agencies, businesses, civil society, Māori enterprises and academia were already using the SDGs and measuring their progress towards achieving them. The Summit included international and national keynote speakers, panel discussions with sector-group leaders, and action stations where participants worked together to prepare actionable, investable ideas to progress achievement in pre-poll topics of relevance to one or more of the SDGs.

The theme of the second national SDG Summit, to be held in Auckland in September 2019, is 'accelerated action, together', recognising the need for urgency and cross-sector engagement. The Summit hosts have extended the Stakeholder Group to include 350° Aotearoa, Auckland District Health Board, EnviroSchools, Forest and Bird, Hui-E!, Manaaki Whenua, New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, NZ Council for International Development, NZ Green Building Council, Sustainable Business Council and Sustainable Business Network.

Stakeholder groups are working with the sectors to assess their current status with regard to the SDGs, catalogue exemplary initiatives, and identify gaps, challenges and solutions. The second summit will formulate cross-sectoral plans for accelerated action, and these plans will be implemented in the run-up to the following summit. By encouraging complementary and integrated planning and action in and across other sectors, the summits are expected to play an important and ongoing role in driving New Zealand's implementation of the SDGs.

## Narrative Imperative (submission from Narrative Imperative)

Narrative Imperative was a 2018 competition that asked New Zealanders to write about the SDGs that they felt passionate about. Co-founded by six friends, this volunteer run initiative set out to engage the New Zealand public in the global agenda for sustainable development. The Narrative Imperative team wanted to provide a platform for all New Zealanders to engage with the SDGs they care about, extending the conversation beyond government's policy advisers.

Entries could be written in either Te Reo Māori or English, and could be in any written form – including poems, opinion articles, and short stories. All entries were uploaded online and anyone residing in New Zealand had the opportunity to vote for their favourite submission.

In the two months that the competition ran over 200 people submitted an entry and more than 5000 people voted.

The Narrative Imperative team were successful in their aim of generating exposure and engaging New Zealanders with the SDGs. The team were interviewed by Radio New Zealand, and former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark promoted the competition on social media. Teachers across New Zealand had their classrooms discuss the SDGs and submit an entry.

Narrative Imperative is a great example of the power the SDGs have to engage people across a nation and globally on the economic, environmental and societal dimensions of sustainable development. To read the entries go to [www.narrativeimperative.org](http://www.narrativeimperative.org).

## Goal 1 – No Poverty

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“We want to halve child poverty within ten years – the first step is the passing of the Child Poverty Reduction Act.”

### **New Zealand context**

New Zealand is a highly developed country with a high standard of living. International comparisons indicate that our low-income and material deprivation population proportions are on a par with OECD countries’ average performance, but we recognise that we have more work to do to reduce the rates. We are committed to tackling these issues and improving the wellbeing of all people in New Zealand, with a particular focus on reducing child poverty and improving child wellbeing.

At the international level we act in many ways to end poverty. We recently increased our Official Development Assistance (ODA) significantly in order to contribute more to global sustainable development needs, particularly in the Pacific. We aim to use our ODA to support those most in need.

### **Challenges**

Despite New Zealand’s overall high standard of living, annual household survey data tells us that a proportion of New Zealand households experience poverty or material hardship, with certain groups overrepresented.

For example, using those households with incomes less than 50 percent of equivalised median household income as the measure, nine percent of the population were below this threshold before deducting housing costs in 2015. This increased to 15 percent after deducting housing costs.

The proportion of those below this poverty threshold varies significantly by household type and ethnicity. Sole parent households are more likely to be on low-incomes than other types of households. Similarly, household income data shows that Māori and Pacific peoples are significantly overrepresented among low-income households, as are New Zealanders with disabilities.

Child poverty is an area of particular concern. Evidence shows that the experience of poverty, especially when that experience is severe and persistent, can have a negative impact on the lives of children. They may be more likely, on average, to experience poorer educational outcomes, poorer health, and have more difficulty finding work in adulthood.

### **Initiatives underway**

New Zealand has extensive social protections in place to provide support to people when needed. We are also undertaking a range of initiatives and commitments that will make a



significant contribution to reducing the proportion of New Zealanders living in poverty particularly amongst groups which are overrepresented.

Social protections, including targeted financial and other supports, are available to those seeking employment, and support is provided for those people with, or who are caring for someone with, a health condition, injury, or disability. Financial support is available for sole parents along with additional support to help them find part-time work or prepare for future work. An important focus of employment related support is to provide people with more opportunities to work and earn a good living.

We want New Zealand to be the best place in the world for children and young people. To help achieve that vision we have introduced new laws. The Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018 creates an on-going focus on child poverty, and provides for political accountability against published targets. The new legislation requires successive governments to measure and report on child poverty (using a suite of measures). We have announced ten-year targets, aimed at halving child poverty on both low-income and material hardship measures by 2028. Intermediate targets have also been announced and seek to reduce the number of children in poverty on these same measures by tens of thousands in the first three years.

Alongside this, we have increased the size of our Household Economic Survey sample to 20,000, so that in future we will have better information about poverty and hardship for particular populations and groups.

Legislative changes also require successive governments to develop and publish a strategy to improve the wellbeing of all children; including children with greater needs as a particular focus. The strategy will also address reducing child poverty, and mitigating the impacts of child poverty and socio-economic disadvantage faced by children. The scope of the first strategy has been extended to include young people and is due to be published later in 2019.

These actions to reduce child poverty and improve child wellbeing will contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Our commitment to reduce poverty is also demonstrated by our recent Families Package, which includes a range of tax-credit changes and other measures that will increase the incomes of low-income families. When the Package is fully implemented in 2021, it will boost the incomes of about 384,000 families with children, about 62 percent of New Zealand's families with children, and reduce the number of children in poverty by tens of thousands.

Alongside the Families Package, we are acting to address household income levels. The minimum wage has been increased to \$17.70 per hour, a 7.2 percent increase, and this will be further increased over the coming years as economic conditions allow. This will raise incomes derived from employment across many household types, including those with low-

incomes. Many New Zealanders on low-incomes have also benefited from pay equity settlements, in particular groups of predominantly women workers.

We are also reviewing the levels of support provided through the social welfare system. The government has commissioned a group of independent experts to undertake a broad-ranging review of the social welfare system and provide advice on ways to ensure people have an adequate income and standard of living, are treated with respect, can live in dignity, and are able to participate meaningfully in their communities. The government is currently considering the group's report.

We are also working to address the impact of housing costs on New Zealanders, including those at high risk of poverty. We are committed to increasing the stock of public housing places and affordable housing over the next four years. We are also focused on achieving equitable housing outcomes for Māori and other groups with poor housing outcomes. Means-tested supplementary social welfare supports are available to those on low incomes to assist with accommodation costs.

For those living in rented accommodation we are progressing work to improve the quality of housing and rental conditions. This includes legislative changes aimed at improving security of tenure and implementing the Healthy Homes Guarantee Act 2017 to ensure that rental homes are warm and dry.

We know that debt is a factor for many families experiencing poverty and hardship. A number of initiatives are underway that may help to reduce poverty and hardship by reducing problem debt. Legislative measures are being introduced to address predatory lending, and we are exploring other ways to enable access to affordable credit (or other support) for vulnerable consumers.

The impacts of poverty do not fall equally across population groups. We are working to address the specific needs of these populations. Whānau Ora is a community driven programme designed to support a holistic approach to improving the wellbeing of Māori and all New Zealanders. The approach supports whānau to achieve their aspirations by placing them at the centre of decision making and giving them greater control of the services they need. Kaiārahi (navigators) typically work with whānau to identify their specific needs and aspirations and then help identify and connect them with appropriate services, education providers, or employment and business opportunities.

Government agencies work jointly with disabled people's organisations to implement the Disability Action Plan. The current Disability Action Plan 2014-2018 includes actions to increase disabled people's employment and economic opportunities, and testing a new support system that empowers persons with disabilities to make decisions about how they spend their disability support funding. A new Disability Action Plan 2019-2022 is currently being developed which will include an action to reduce the employment gap between disabled and non-disabled people.

Compared to other age groups, older New Zealanders are less likely to experience material hardship or have low-incomes after housing costs. This reflects the universal provision of the public retirement pension, New Zealand Superannuation, and significant assets built up by many in this age group, especially mortgage-free home ownership. The voluntary, work-based KiwiSaver retirement saving scheme is also helping people save for retirement. We are also developing a new strategy to prepare New Zealand for an ageing population. Areas of focus include housing, health, financial security and work.

We recently increased our Official Development Assistance (ODA) significantly in response to the 2030 Agenda and to sustainable development finance needs, particularly in the Pacific. From 2018, we have allocated an additional \$714 million over a four-year budget cycle, representing a 30 percent increase, lifting ODA to a projected 0.28 percent of Gross National Income.

We focus our ODA on the challenges of countries most in need, including small island developing states (where we allocate 60 percent of our ODA), least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and fragile and conflict affected states. We consider that our ODA has a comparative advantage as a source of financing for countries that struggle to access other finance and as a catalyst for mobilising resources for regions and groups of people most at risk of being left behind.

## Reducing child poverty and improving wellbeing

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In December 2018 we passed legislation to help achieve a significant and sustained reduction in child poverty, and to improve the wellbeing of all children and young people in New Zealand. The legislation requires successive governments to set intermediate (three-year) and long-term (ten-year) targets on a set of child poverty measures. The government must report on child poverty rates each year and outline how official budget decisions will impact on child poverty.

The current government has announced its intermediate target, which aims to reduce the number of children in poverty by tens of thousands by 2021, and its long-term target, which aims to halve child poverty by 2028. To help reach these targets, the government has introduced the Families Package – a range of measures that deliver more money to families. As well as tax-credits, these include weekly payments to families of new-born children, and winter energy payments to low-income families. The government has also expanded Statistics New Zealand's Household Economic Survey, to strengthen the measuring and reporting of child poverty.

New legislation also requires the government to develop and publish a strategy to improve the wellbeing of all children. The strategy must include a focus on the wellbeing of those with greater needs, those experiencing poverty and socio-economic disadvantage, and those of interest to the New Zealand agency which administers our statutory care, protection, and youth justice systems. The new legislation requires consultation with children, and with Māori. It also makes explicit reference to the Treaty of Waitangi, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The government undertook extensive public engagement on the strategy in 2018, including hearing from more than 6,000 children and young people. This feedback will help inform the direction and content of the first strategy, which is due to be released later in 2019.

We have also introduced a Child Impact Assessment Tool for voluntary use by government and non-government organisations in New Zealand to assess whether policy proposals will increase the wellbeing of children and young people. The tool helps to provide a child-centred assessment where the best interests of the child are a primary consideration and the views of children are respected and given due weight. Guidance is also provided on how to ensure that the voices of children and young people are captured in the design, implementation and review of policy decisions.

## Te Puna Oranga (submission from ME Family Services)

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Te Puna Oranga – ‘The Spring of Life’ - is the name of a new community garden and makerspace at ME Family Services in Mangere East. The name was gifted to us by local mana whenua Pania Newton, who felt it reflected the wairua of the space and its role in bringing to life the hopes and aspirations ME Family Services has for our community: a thriving, regenerative community where everyone and everything has value.

From a swamp, to farmland, to the muddy end of a school field in the middle of the suburbs, we wanted to capture the essence of the space and find out what its unique contribution could be to the local community. Using the metaphor of the swamp, we saw that the space had a role to play in capturing and regenerating the ‘waste’ from our neighbourhood. The space was created in partnership with MAU Studio, and with the help of local schools, locally-based architecture students and local time-traders.

The entire site is constructed from our neighbourhood’s “waste”: tyres for garden beds, a shipping container for our makerspace, a pallet deck and garden shed, old bed heads for plant supports. A water tank collects rain water from our roof and connects to a rustic outdoor kitchen space, where meals can be cooked up straight from the garden. The garden is maintained and developed by ME Family Services staff, alongside many fabulous local time-traders.

Since our official opening in November 2018, Te Puna Oranga has already received many visitors, from local and central government departments, to local organisations, schools and neighbours. Te Puna Oranga offers the kind of space every community is in need of; somewhere people can go to feel valued, make a contribution, share knowledge about growing food and eating well, and rethink how we create and deal with ‘rubbish’.

It provides a doorway in to the wrap-around support offered by ME Family Services including social work support, early childhood education, driver licensing, and micro-business support. Most importantly it connects people to their local community and to themselves.

## Goal 2 – Zero Hunger

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“We have a significant role to play in global food security.”

### **New Zealand context**

New Zealand is a substantial net exporter of food products, playing an important role in global food security through the provision of safe, nutritious and sustainably produced food products to the world.

New Zealand’s efficient production systems and strict regulatory policy regimes ensure the safety and integrity of our products for international consumers. Meeting high standards has been driven by more than 30 years without production or trade distorting subsidies for our agriculture and fisheries sectors. This has resulted in innovative producers who strive to gain maximum value from New Zealand’s pasture-based agriculture system and quota-managed fisheries.

Goal 2 seeks to double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particularly indigenous peoples. In New Zealand, Māori are significant owners of land assets and drivers of economic activity in food production and export sectors, and in the economy as a whole. Much of the \$55 billion asset base in the Māori economy is in the primary sectors, including 38 percent of all fisheries quota, 30 percent of lamb production and 10 percent of dairy production. Much of the government’s activity has been concerned with increasing Māori presence, capability and productivity in these sectors. As well as being major economic players, the principles of New Zealand’s Treaty of Waitangi guarantee a role for Māori in decision-making around resource management.

New Zealand is a long-standing proponent for the removal of barriers to international trade in food products, and a strong advocate of a rules-based international trade system aimed at ensuring people have affordable access to that food. New Zealand also actively engages in international fora and through multilateral research to raise on-farm productivity (including through the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases) and international cooperation on food supply chain efficiency and integrity.

Food security is a global challenge and New Zealand is a small country. But this does not mean our role is a small one: through international collaboration we can share our expertise with the world in areas such as productive and resilient food production systems, supply chain integrity and biological greenhouse gas emissions research. This, combined with strong advocacy for the removal of harmful barriers to trade, can allow New Zealand to play a significant and positive role in global food security and sustainable agriculture.

### **Challenges**

New Zealand’s food production challenge is to stay at the forefront of global consumer demand for safe and sustainably produced food while developing innovative ways to assure consumers of the safety and integrity of our products.

A major challenge for agriculture systems is climate change. We need to find ways to reduce the greenhouse gas footprint of food production to support New Zealand's transition to a low-carbon economy and commitments under the Paris Agreement, whilst also ensuring that food production systems have the built-in resilience and adaptive capacity to deal with a changing climate.

How we tackle agricultural emissions is perhaps New Zealand's most challenging climate change issue. The agriculture sectors are an intrinsic part of our economy, communities and identity. Emissions from agriculture also make up almost half of our annual greenhouse gas emissions. Decisions about agricultural emissions need to be based on good science that supports effective adaptation and a just transition, and present opportunities for other countries to follow our lead.

While the vast majority of New Zealanders have secure access to safe and nutritious food, obesity is a major health concern for New Zealand, particularly for Māori and Pacific peoples. There is an ongoing focus on reducing obesity rates and increasing the quality of New Zealanders' diets, especially for the most vulnerable such as children and youth.

Māori-owned land productivity is reported to be at 60 to 70 percent of the national average with the Māori economy facing unique challenges due to the legislative system Māori land operates under. Decision making can be more complex and take more time given communal ownership, land blocks may be small and fragmented hindering profitable development and access to capital investment can be difficult, as Māori land cannot be used as collateral.

### **Initiatives underway**

New Zealand has committed under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce emissions on an economy-wide basis to 30 percent below 2005 levels over the period 2021 to 2030 (11 percent below 1990 levels by 2030). We are also committed to making decisions that show global leadership, and enable the transition to a low-emissions economy. We have established an Interim Climate Change Committee. Part of its scope is to progress work on agricultural emissions, before we pass legislation to establish an independent Climate Change Commission. The partnership between our agricultural industry groups and government officials coupled with international collaboration through the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases and other partners have enabled us to establish an evidence base that will support decisions on what actions farmers can take now, and in the future, to reduce emissions, and assess the costs, opportunities and benefits of doing so. These efforts have benefited both domestic sustainable food production as well as assisting global food security.

New Zealand takes a leading role in addressing agriculture subsidies in the WTO. This includes our strong advocacy for a meaningful agreement in the WTO to address harmful fisheries subsidies by the deadline of 2020 set in Goal 14. New Zealand not only does not

subsidise its fisheries sector, but it also levies the commercial sector for the costs of fisheries management and operational research to establish sustainable catch limits.

Our *Fisheries Change Programme* is working to ensure the sustainable economic, social, and cultural value of New Zealand's fisheries. This programme is set to ensure sustainable fisheries for every New Zealander, applying new digital tracking, reporting and monitoring of commercial activity, and developing innovative trawl technologies.

We are developing a population-based approach to obesity policy. The overall aim of this approach is for the population to achieve and maintain a weight in the healthy range, as measured by population body mass index. The approach will recognise the importance of creating healthy environments across a range of settings, for example in work places and education locations. There will be a focus on children and young people, as well as on achieving equity for Māori and Pacific people by designing and tailoring actions together with them where feasible.

We provide funding to a number of programmes in schools that provide access to food in order to improve nutritional intake and reduce food insecurity amongst students. The government funds a Fruit in Schools programme (which provides children at eligible primary schools with a free piece of fresh produce daily) and provides funding support to other programmes, such as *KickStart Breakfast* and *KidsCan*.

Our Māori Agribusiness programme seeks to support Māori to make informed decisions to increase the sustainable productivity of Māori primary sector assets. The programme provides access to information and expertise to increase Māori participation across the primary industries and delivers economic, social and environmental outcomes to New Zealand.

Finally, New Zealand has also taken action to expand international cooperation and capacity-building through partnerships and aid provided to numerous Pacific island countries. Much of this cooperation focuses on increasing the economic and food security benefits derived from agriculture, renewable energy and building resilience.



## Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases

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Greenhouse gas emissions associated with agriculture are a significant contributor to climate change, making up 14 percent of all emissions. In New Zealand's case they make up half of our total emissions. Tackling these emissions whilst maintaining adequate and secure food supply is a global challenge.

In 2009 we led the establishment of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) to promote an increase in cooperation and investment in research to mitigate greenhouse gases from food production, while maintaining food security and resilient production systems. Today the GRA has 56 member countries from all regions of the world, and maintains partnerships with key international and regional organisations involved in agricultural development, research and agribusiness.

The GRA has a dual research strategy to demonstrate the mitigation benefits of improved farm productivity and efficiency and promote basic/discovery phase research. New Zealand has invested significant resources to build capability in developing countries. Globally, improved productivity will be where the greatest emissions reductions can be achieved while maintaining global food security. Developing countries are increasingly seeing how the work of the GRA relates to their own national agricultural development priorities and the development of nationally determined contributions under international climate change agreements; this is reflected in that nine of the last ten countries to have joined the GRA are from Africa.

So far New Zealand has committed \$65 million to fund research in the area of greenhouse gas mitigation in pasture-based temporal livestock systems. This funding supports research and development, and capacity building in developing countries to improve their ability to understand, measure and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from pastoral livestock agriculture.

## The Māori Economy: a major force in food production

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Māori are significant owners of land and primary sector assets and drivers of economic activity in New Zealand's food production sectors. However, Māori face unique challenges in increasing the productivity of their land and assets.

About five percent (1.3 million hectares) of total land in New Zealand is collectively owned by Māori under the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993. There is an average of 100 owners per land block and land blocks are typically small (averaging 21 hectares). Approximately 20 percent of this land is highly productive.

Where formal management is established on this type of collectively owned Māori land it is through elected trusts or governance structures specified in legislation. Māori are kaitiaki of their land, meaning this land is unlikely to be sold, with a general understanding that it be managed sustainably to protect it for future generations.

Assisting Māori to improve the productivity of their primary sector assets in a manner consistent with cultural and other priorities will lead to positive outcomes for New Zealand and is a priority for New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries.

The Ministry delivers Māori agribusiness support that expands Māori ability to make informed decisions to increase the sustainable productivity of their primary sector assets. This work helps provide long-term access to primary sector expertise and initiatives to build knowledge and capability amongst Māori across the primary industries. It also aligns with wider primary sector direction and initiatives to deliver positive economic, social and environmental outcomes to New Zealand.

## Goal 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing

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“We want all New Zealanders to live full, independent and healthy lives and to have greater access to universal health care and disability services.”

### **New Zealand context**

New Zealand is committed to improving health and wellbeing across all our population. We have already achieved a large number of Goal 3's targets at the aggregated level and we are well placed internationally.

We also recognise that achieving health and wellbeing for all requires a comprehensive approach. Making progress across the breadth of the Agenda will be necessary as many of the Goals contribute to the broad determinants of health. Similarly, a healthier population will be better placed to support the achievement of the SDGs as a whole.

We have four key health priorities which closely align with Goal 3: achieving equity; child wellbeing; mental health; and primary health care. In addition to these priorities we are pursuing a set of health system enhancements that will also support implementation of this Goal.

### **Challenges**

While New Zealand is relatively well-placed in terms of achieving Goal 3 by 2030, this is at the total population level. At the disaggregated level strong inequities still exist between sub-populations. This is particularly so for Māori and Pacific peoples and for low socio-economic groups, who bear a greater burden of health problems and disease.

Achieving equity across population groups is therefore a major priority for the health sector. This will be New Zealand's greatest challenge in ensuring healthy lives and wellbeing for all, particularly for non-communicable diseases, mental health, and tobacco use where substantial inequities exist. These examples cause a large burden of disease, and reducing the inequities here has the potential to produce large health gains for New Zealand. As we work towards achieving Goal 3's vision, we will need to make sure that all relevant measurements are able to be disaggregated by sub-populations to ensure all populations in New Zealand are able to enjoy healthy lives.

Another particular challenge for New Zealand is achieving universal health care coverage. Although all New Zealand citizens are covered by a public health system, challenges still remain in accessing primary care and dental care, with a fee-for-service structure presenting a barrier to many. Recent New Zealand Health Survey data reports that approximately 15 percent of adults did not visit a general practitioner in the previous year due to cost. This problem is particularly acute for Māori and low socio-economic families.

### **Initiatives underway**

Achieving equity is a priority goal for the government. A strategic framework is being developed to guide this work and better understand equity problems. It is expected that the equity focus will overlap with other strategic priorities, such as improving child health, primary health care and mental health.

Our primary health care work programme aims to provide people with greater access to primary care. Some changes have already taken place that have improved access, including extending access to low-cost and zero-fee general practice visits, and reducing prescription charges for children under the age of 14. These changes have seen the cost of visiting the doctor fall for up to 540,000 New Zealanders, while an additional 56,000 13 year olds now receive free primary care visits. This is a step towards improving universal health care coverage.

More generally, child and youth wellbeing is a cross-government priority, with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet leading development of a strategy to improve the wellbeing of children and young people. Our Ministry of Health is contributing to initial policy work, with a focus on children experiencing optimal development in their first 1,000 days and on children's mental wellbeing being supported.

In December 2018 we completed an inquiry into mental health and addiction, with the purpose to identify unmet needs and develop recommendations for a better mental health and addiction system. This has resulted in a wide-ranging set of recommendations aimed to provide real and enduring change. We expect that there will be improvements for mental health outcomes (including those emphasised in Goal 3) as a result of implementing the recommendations.

A new National Cancer Action Plan is being developed by the Ministry of Health in close partnership with Māori leaders, communities and other sector representatives. Currently, cancer is unevenly experienced in New Zealand. Māori, Pacific people and those living in rural areas who suffer from cancer generally have poorer health outcomes than the rest of the population. Māori women and Pacific women continue to suffer high rates of breast and cervical cancer. The plan will bring the Māori world view to strategic decision-making and service delivery by ensuring all work is undertaken as a partnership, and embed Māori leadership in the design of health programmes. Through previous, similar initiatives, New Zealand has already achieved equity in survival outcomes for children and adolescents with cancer. We have demonstrated that integrated, persistent focus can increase Māori participation in screening and outcomes.

The Ministry of Health is also developing a new Pacific Health Action Plan with the aim of improving health equity for Pacific peoples. It will provide the strategic direction and new actions to improve Pacific health outcomes by addressing the social determinants of health and collaborating with other government agencies. Initial contact has been made with relevant agencies to explore cross-sectoral opportunities, and engagements with the health sector and Pacific communities are planned. The Pacific Aotearoa Vision, led by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, articulates Pacific aspirations for the future across a range of social and economic domains. A key goal of the vision is having resilient and healthy Pacific

communities and the development of the new Pacific Health Action Plan will closely align with this priority area.

New Zealand has a number of other priority initiatives underway that support the targets of Goal 3. We are pursuing a set of health system enhancements including drinking water regulation, improving maternity care and midwifery, strengthening our District Health Board performance framework, road safety planning, and enhancing capital asset management.

New Zealand is currently undertaking a Health and Disability System Review, with the purpose of future-proofing New Zealand's health and disability services. It will conclude in 2020 and provide a set of recommendations on how to achieve better health and wellness outcomes for all New Zealanders, improve health outcomes for Māori and other population groups, reduce barriers to access to health and disability service to achieve more equitable outcomes for all parts of the population.

On the international front, New Zealand's international development cooperation for health seeks to ensure access to essential and quality health services so that Pacific people can achieve their potential, and to contribute to prosperity, safety, and stability in the region. Our focus is on improving health outcomes through increasing the capacity of country systems. Our priority areas are prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health and rights, child health and nutrition, and prevention and control of communicable diseases.

## Bringing sustainability to the health care sector

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The health sector is aware of its significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions in New Zealand and is working to improve its sustainability.

In New Zealand District Health Boards (DHBs) are responsible for providing or funding the provision of health services in their district. A growing number of DHBs employ sustainability officers and also measure and take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. For example, two leading DHBs in the country have managed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 28 percent and 18 percent over four years and six years respectively. At one DHB in 2017/18, 2.8 million kWh of energy was saved. This is equivalent to the annual consumption of 395 average New Zealand households. The driver behind these reductions has been energy savings from simple changes such as installing LED lights and computer sleep software, to larger changes such as elevator upgrades and air-conditioning plant optimisation.

There have also been initiatives at many DHBs that encourage the use of active transport: a win-win, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving individual health. Initiatives include changing parking arrangements at hospitals to incentivise carpooling, public transport use and active transport use. DHBs are also considering greener transport options such as transitioning their vehicle fleets to hybrid and electric vehicle options, as well as making e-bikes available for use by employees.

Supporting this work is the Sustainable Health Sector National Network, an association of New Zealand health professionals working to embed carbon reduction and sustainability into the New Zealand health sector. They hold regular meetings in order to encourage collaboration and the sharing of ideas. National-level forums on sustainable healthcare have raised the profile of this important work. The Ministry of Health is also supporting and encouraging the health sector to take action to become more sustainable.

## Eliminate Viral Hepatitis C by 2030

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Hepatitis C affects approximately 50,000 New Zealanders. It is estimated that more than 20,000 people do not know they have hepatitis C, with about 1,000 new cases each year.

In line with the World Health Organization's Global Hepatitis Strategy, New Zealand has a goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a major public health threat by 2030. To achieve this goal the Ministry of Health is leading a cross-government response, including key partnerships with our pharmaceutical funding agency (PHARMAC) and the Department of Corrections. A pan-genotypic treatment, which is a potential cure for hepatitis C, is now publicly funded in New Zealand.

A National Hepatitis C Action Plan is being developed to help focus resources on key priorities that will have the greatest impact on improving outcomes for people with hepatitis C. This includes improving access to hepatitis C treatment in the community, improving prevention and harm reduction and increasing awareness and understanding.

The cross-sector working group developing the National Hepatitis C Action Plan will be made up of representatives from district health boards, primary health organisations, government agencies, labs, needle exchange services, community alcohol and drug services, addiction services, consumer representatives, the hepatitis C workforce (including hospital specialists, general practitioners and nurses), the Māori and Pacific workforce, and other national organisations.

The Ministry of Health has also been working in partnership with the Hepatitis Foundation of New Zealand and the Health Promotion Agency on a national hepatitis C campaign, which commenced 25 February 2019. The focus of the campaign is on identifying the more than 20,000 people in New Zealand who do not know they have hepatitis C and encouraging them to get tested.

## Goal 4 – Quality Education

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“We want to shape an education system that delivers equitable and excellent outcomes.”

### **New Zealand Context**

New Zealand has a quality, high-performing education system that reflects our unique and diverse society. It is modern and responsive, combining traditional principles with innovation, creativity and fresh thinking. Young people in our system are taught how to put knowledge to work in the world and are equipped for the 21st century. We focus on maximising students’ participation, progress and achievement, responding to the identity, language and culture within their family or whānau context.

We want a public education system that provides all New Zealanders with lifelong learning opportunities so that they can discover and develop their full potential, engage fully in society, and lead rewarding and fulfilling lives. We are in the top half of OECD countries for participation in early childhood education and schooling is compulsory from ages 6 to 16. Schooling is free between the ages of 5 to 19 at state schools for New Zealand citizens and permanent residents. Amongst OECD comparators, we are above average for adults with a tertiary degree or higher, and have the highest rate of participation in adult learning.

Our schools are self-managing enabling them to develop locally-relevant learning programmes, based on our National Curriculum. There are two statements of this: one for English-medium schools and one for Māori-medium schools. They are designed to be non-sexist, non-racist, and non-discriminatory. The National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA) are outcomes-based qualifications for secondary school students that can be achieved in a variety of settings. For early childhood education our curriculum framework (*Te Whāriki*) provides clear and empowering learning outcomes.

### **Challenges**

Although many of our young people achieve at high levels in some areas, evidence shows that our education system is not delivering for all. Inequity remains a persistent and serious issue, with insufficient progress toward equity of educational outcomes, particularly for Māori and Pacific students and those with disabilities and learning support needs.

Our education system is facing increasing pressure on teacher supply in certain locations, subjects and parts of the sector. As this hinders our ability to plan for the future, comprehensive workforce planning tools and an education workforce strategy are being developed.

Our devolved school governance system enables strong community ownership and decision making but can also lead to challenges with collaboration, alignment and coherence within the education system. We recognise the need to strengthen connections between parents, whānau, families, employers and communities and to focus on supporting educationally



powerful partnerships. Our comprehensive reform programme intends to address these challenges and aims to create an end-to-end pathway from early learning through to tertiary study.

### **Initiatives underway**

To further lift our performance, we are undergoing a process to fundamentally reshape our education system. We aim to build a shared vision amongst stakeholders of a system that serves all learners. We are undertaking this through wide-reaching engagement as part of an ongoing national Education Conversation (*Kōrero Mātauranga*).

These inputs will inform our major reform programme, which includes a number of significant reviews. We are reviewing our school governance model and the way administration and management of the schooling system works. Our secondary school qualifications are being reviewed so they provide meaningful pathways, give personalised learning and build capability for lifelong learning. The reform of vocational education aims to ensure we have effective public regional vocational education, which is adaptive and supports the changing world of work. School property management is also being reviewed. New strategies are in development, including long-term approaches for Māori and Pacific learners, a plan for early learning, and an education workforce strategy. The reforms will shape a 30 year strategic plan for New Zealand education to support learners, deliver improved outcomes and meet the needs of the modern world. The changes will also link closely with cross-government work to develop a strategy to improve the wellbeing of children and young people, which has a strong focus on education.

We acknowledge that our education system has underserved Māori learners and work is ongoing to support equitable access, inclusion and outcomes. We are committed to continuing efforts to support Māori to participate, achieve and enjoy education success as Māori.

While there are 'pockets of excellence' supporting Māori to succeed, *Ka Hikitia* (Māori Education Strategy) and *Tau Mai Te Reo* (Māori Language in Education Strategy) have not been consistently implemented as intended and will be refreshed in 2019. We have developed a number of measures to strengthen the engagement between schools and whānau. Better partnerships can help the achievement and wellbeing of Māori students by strengthening the cultural responsiveness of teachers, embedding Māori identity, language and culture into local curricula, and supporting families to engage.

The work we do must have explicit consideration for Pacific learners. The *Pasifika Education Plan* sets out our strategic direction for improving Pacific student outcomes. It acknowledges that the education system has not always served Pacific people well and is being updated to outline actions to ensure that Pacific learners and their families are valued, safe and equipped to achieve their education aspirations. We are working to ensure teaching is more culturally responsive and we have recently released *Tapasā*, a framework for teachers to strengthen their Pacific cultural competencies.

Almost all children in New Zealand have participated in early childhood education (ECE), with providers including Māori immersion services, services run by parents, and services provided in private homes. We help reduce the cost barrier to ECE in a variety of ways, including by funding 20 Hours of ECE per week for three to five year olds. ECE participation rates for Māori and Pacific children are slightly lower than the national average, so we run targeted programmes to raise participation in these communities.

Teachers in New Zealand are well-placed to educate students for the future, and we are working to address the pressure on teacher supply. We are developing a future-focused *Education Workforce Strategy 2032* that aims to achieve our vision of a quality, trusted, and respected teaching profession. It focuses on attracting, recruiting and retaining a high quality education workforce, which will ensure that every learner achieves education success.

We are strengthening digital competencies in the curriculum to prepare students to meet the demands of an evolving digital world. Teachers need to understand digital tools and weave them into their teaching, which requires a fundamental re-think of how we train teachers, and support their ongoing professional development. Almost all schools are connected to ultra-fast broadband via a fully-funded and managed connection. We are upgrading school buildings and facilities to ensure they are fit-for-purpose, adaptable, and well-maintained.

It is crucial to the future of education that we not only make the best use of technology but that we have students with soft skills who are empathetic, adaptive, able to think critically, and ready to learn. We focus on the progress and achievement of all learners across the curriculum. This acknowledges the different ways and pace at which children learn, and supports teachers to provide more learning opportunities including a focus on soft skills.

Teaching sustainable development and global citizenship is important for New Zealand's future. Our curriculum supports holistic teaching programmes and pathways that enable engagement with the environment and sustainability. NGOs work directly with schools to enhance this learning. One of the desired outcomes of the *New Zealand International Education Strategy 2018-2030* is that all students develop the skills, knowledge and capabilities they need to live, work and learn across national and cultural boundaries.

We recognise there should be equal and affordable access to tertiary education and that workers will need to be adaptable with a diverse range of skills. Over \$4 billion is currently allocated each year for tertiary study financial support. We provide allowances for low-income students and interest-free student loans. One of the aims of our tertiary *Fees-Free* policy is to make starting study or training more affordable for first-time tertiary students.

Secondary-tertiary programmes provide learning opportunities for students (aged 15–18) who might otherwise disengage with education. We support young people who have left school without qualifications and adults with low literacy or numeracy to re-engage in

learning. We are also reforming vocational education and training to achieve an even more responsive system, and are updating our approach to careers guidance.

Adult and community education contributes to people being able to find better and more rewarding work and participate more fully in society. We support lifelong learning opportunities, including universal literacy and numeracy achievement through the *Workplace Literacy and Numeracy Fund* and Adult Community Education programmes.

In New Zealand, one in five young people need some kind of additional learning support. We want those with learning support needs or disabilities to be present, safe and included in their learning environments. A *Disability and Learning Support Action Plan* is due to be finalised in 2019 and will set out first steps towards improving learning support. More than \$1 billion is spent each year on learning support. A new *Learning Support Delivery Model* will be in place by the end of 2019 with schools and communities collaborating with local education offices. In addition, we will be employing approximately 600 new dedicated Learning Support Coordinators to work alongside classroom teachers.

Goal 4 expressly addresses the need to eliminate gender disparities in education. In New Zealand, women are gaining qualifications at a higher rate than men. However, there is still a disparity in tertiary-level STEM fields, where only a third of all students are women. Targeted scholarships have been introduced to help address this, and a cross-government initiative aims to encourage better STEM engagement, including for girls and women. We also acknowledge the need to address discrimination experienced by LGBTQI+ students and have developed guidelines to ensure inclusivity.

Finally, our education system needs to continually adapt in a rapidly changing and increasingly globalised context. Our comprehensive Education Work Programme will continue to drive us forward toward a quality, lifelong, inclusive and equitable education system for all in New Zealand.

## The Education Conversation | Kōrero Mātauranga

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We have set out an ambitious work programme for our education system. At the core of this work programme is our long term vision for education in New Zealand to meet the needs of all learners, no matter who they are, or where they come from. To build a shared vision amongst stakeholders of a system that serves all learners, we are undertaking wide-reaching engagement as part of an ongoing national Education Conversation.

The Education Conversation | *Kōrero Mātauranga* is a collaboration between government and New Zealanders across the education sector and community to make education fit-for-purpose and build the world's best education system. It aims to provide a unique opportunity to hear from those most affected by how our education system performs.

Learners from all ages, needs, abilities and cultural backgrounds have engaged with the Education Conversation. We have received feedback from teachers, principals, parents, caregivers, school support staff, social workers, employers, children and youth, iwi, Māori and Pacific people, the LGBTQI+ community, and people with disabilities and learning support needs. We have also heard from teenagers in the Corrections system, community leaders, refugees, migrants, public policy experts and education scholars. The Minister of Education appointed several advisory groups, an independent taskforce and a 'Guardians' group, who are responsible for drawing on the feedback received to produce a 30-year vision for education in New Zealand.

As part of the Education Conversation, two Education Summits took place in 2018. The events were attended by over 1,400 people, including children and youth, with the reach being extended through social media. Important lessons in collaborative design were learnt from the Summits. The dialogue, themes and materials from these are being applied to all of the key education reviews and consultations.

Alongside the Summits, the Ministry of Education engaged with diverse stakeholders, as well as conducting an online survey. A conversation with Māori whānau and communities highlighted what matters most in the education of Māori learners. A series of well-attended engagements were also held with Pacific peoples and migrants, where they provided views on what education should look like in New Zealand. Three workshops were held in 2018, focused on co-designing the future of our secondary school qualifications. We have been forging new ground in how we work with the education sector and leading the way towards best practice engagement.

We are continuing to partner with the sector and community to bring together the expertise and views of a diverse range of people to make meaningful improvements and co-design the future of New Zealand education.

## Global Citizenship Education

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The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO has identified Global Citizenship Education as a target area to support New Zealand's efforts to achieve the SDGs. In 2018 the Commission launched a national Award in Global Citizenship Education, recognising education sector or community groups who were doing outstanding work to encourage New Zealanders to become responsible and active global citizens. The award also encourages the sharing of good practice in the global citizenship education space.

The 2018 school sector award was won by Pātea Area School, which has established a learning model that embeds global citizenship in the whole school's curriculum delivery, rather than as a one-off project. The school developed an inquiry programme focused on different local and global challenges, selecting a different theme for each school term. Students can choose a specific area of interest under that theme, which then forms that basis of the student's personalised learning pathway.

The model is embedded into the school curriculum, learning assessment and everyday operations. For example, in one school term the inquiry topic was "How do I make a difference?" Five-year old students researched and raised funds for their chosen local charities; 13-year old students researched and sourced sponsorship for care packs for the homeless; and 15-year old students chose inquiry topics such as seabed mining and its impact on the local environment.

The school's initiative is reflected in its vision statement of *Growing good people for a changing world*. It has led to an overall rise in students' learning outcomes, with the model ensuring that everything they do as a learning community is empowering, experiential, authentic and connected to the wider world around them.

## Goal 5 - Gender Equality

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“We want to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls so they can contribute to and benefit from growing New Zealand’s prosperity”

### **New Zealand context**

In 1893, New Zealand led the world as the first country where women won the right to vote. Since then, progress towards women’s full participation at all levels has continued. New Zealand women enjoy the protection of full and equal rights under the law. We have come a long way, however challenges remain.

We are aiming to develop an economy that is growing and working for all of us, to improve the wellbeing of New Zealanders and their families, and to make New Zealand proud. We want New Zealand to be a great place to be a woman or girl in all their diversity, where wāhine Māori succeed as Māori, and where gender is not a barrier to success and wellness. We also want New Zealand to be a place where the contribution of all women and girls is valued, that all women and girls are financially secure and can fully participate and thrive, and that all women and girls are free from all forms of violence and harassment.

As a matter of priority we are working to address gender inequalities that exist around pay equity, the gender pay gap, family and sexual violence, and economic outcomes for women, particularly Māori and Pacific women.

### **Challenges**

While the gender pay gap has narrowed over the past 20 years, it is persistent. We have a national gender pay gap of 9.2 percent. Some population groups, such as Māori, Pacific and migrant women, face greater gender pay gaps.

New Zealand women continue to suffer from high levels of domestic and sexual violence and we continue to rank high in OECD statistics on violence against women. Family violence is the largest driver of violent crime in New Zealand. Current data shows that one in three women experience physical, emotional and or sexual violence from a partner in their lifetime – twice the rate for men. Women are also more likely to be killed. Women living with a disability, young women, Māori women, queer and transgender women experience higher rates of violence and are also more likely to be re-traumatised by our current systems.

While New Zealand has made good progress towards equal representation on state sector boards, women remain underrepresented on private sector boards. Women hold only 19 percent of board positions and senior leadership positions in New Zealand Stock Exchange (NZX) listed companies. More generally, women of Māori, Pacific and Asian ethnicities remain under-represented in the top tiers of management and over-represented in lower paid occupations.

In 2018, the United Nations Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee's concluding observations on New Zealand set out 78 recommendations for improvement. The concerns ranged from improving women's access to justice, implementing pay equity, developing a gender budget, and initiating a national action plan for the advancement of women.

### **Initiatives underway**

One significant step we are taking in order to address the gender pay gap is the Equal Pay Amendment Bill, currently before Parliament. This will enable employees, including from the community and NGO sector, to take pay equity claims to address the historical and continued under-valuation of female-dominated jobs.

We also have a *Gender Pay Action Plan* that includes a range of targets for public service agencies to meet which will accelerate progress towards gender equal employment standards. Under this plan all government agencies are to close gender pay gaps in the same roles and offer flexible working arrangements by default by the end of 2020. In addition, 50 percent of senior leadership roles in the public service are to be held by women.

Women spend a greater proportion of their time on unpaid and/or caring work and this contribution is not widely understood, recognised, or acknowledged as 'real' work. We are therefore working to better understand the contribution and value of women's unpaid work in New Zealand society. We are also examining whether there are specific barriers to women's participation in the tradable sector, and how these might be addressed through our trade agreements. Gender equality and women's empowerment is also embedded in policy and programming for New Zealand's development cooperation.

We have multiple initiatives underway to reduce family and sexual violence. The Government established the Joint Venture for Family Violence and Sexual Violence, a new approach which will aim to transform responses to and prevent violence by working across multiple agencies. The Government has also created a new political position of Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Domestic and Sexual Violence) to support the coordination of cross-government work. The Joint Venture is preparing a draft national strategy and action plan on family violence and sexual violence, and a design process to enable public input. A Māori non-governmental group, Te Rōpū, has been established to work with Māori and the government to develop the national strategy and action plan.

From 1 April 2019 employees affected by domestic violence are entitled to up to 10 days of paid domestic violence leave per year. In addition, proposed legislative amendments will modernise the Domestic Violence Act 1995 and introduce new offences including assault on a person in a family relationship. These laws aim to improve New Zealand's high rates of family and sexual violence, by enabling more effective responses to instances of violence.

We are continuing to push for greater participation of women in leadership positions across political, business and public life. At present 41 percent of New Zealand Members of Parliament are women, the highest proportion of women ever represented. The representation of women in the Public Service workforce continues at a high level, with 60.9 percent of employees being female at 30 June 2018. The percentage of women in the top three tiers of senior management was 48.8 percent, up from 38.4 percent in 2008. As of December 2018, half of the public service chief executives were women.

In the most recent stocktake of state sector boards 45.7 percent of ministerial appointees to state sector boards were women. This was the second-highest total since the stocktake began in 2004. The government has announced a target of achieving 50 percent women on state sector boards and committees by 2020.

To help grow the pathway of women leaders, a *Future Directors* programme has been introduced to the public sector. Future Directors gives talented young people the opportunity to observe and participate on a company board for a year.

In the private sector, initiatives to address women's low participation in the boards and senior leadership of New Zealand Stock Exchange (NZX) listed companies include the annual YWCA Equal Pay awards and the new Gender Tick accreditation programme, which helps businesses to show their commitment to providing a fair workplace for all employees regardless of gender.



## The Equal Pay Amendment Bill

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Around half of New Zealand women and men work in occupations where at least 70 percent of workers are of the same gender. In female-dominated workforces there have been pay equity issues arising from historical and current under-valuation of women-dominated jobs. Many low-paid, female-dominated workforces include many Māori and Pacific women, and women who work multiple jobs.

In 2014 the union representing care and support workers, who were paid at or near the minimum wage and were predominantly female, brought a case against their employer Terranova, under the Equal Pay Act 1972. The union successfully argued that the Act entitled them to pay equivalent to a different, male-dominated job with an equal skill-level. As a result, care and support workers received a \$2 billion pay equity settlement, securing higher wages.

Following the case, pay equity claims have been raised by various predominantly-female state sector workforces, resulting in increased remuneration for many groups of low-paid women. In response, the government established the Joint Working Group on Pay Equity Principles to develop recommendations on how to best address pay equity claims. In 2018 the Group was reconvened to provide further recommendations, which were used to formulate the Equal Pay Amendment Bill, currently before Parliament.

The purpose of this new legislation is to improve the process for raising and progressing pay equity claims, and to eliminate and prevent discrimination on the basis of sex in the remuneration and employment terms and conditions for work done within female-dominated jobs. It aims to settle pay equity claims through a bargaining-based framework, correcting historic under-valuation while avoiding litigation. The government has also worked with representatives of employers and employees to develop principles to guide pay equity settlements.

## Gender-based Violence Hotline in Papua New Guinea (submission from ChildFund)

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Gender Based Violence (GBV) affects about two-thirds of women in Papua New Guinea. With funding from the New Zealand Development Programme, ChildFund operates Papua New Guinea's first nationwide free telephone counselling and referral service, with a goal of providing coordinated and effective services for survivors of gender-based violence. 1Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain has received more than 15,000 calls in its third year of operation.

The service aligns with the Papua New Guinea Government's National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender Based Violence 2016-2025. The intended long-term goal is to enable a socio-political environment in Papua New Guinea that is more responsive to the needs of survivors of GBV.

Trained counsellors are on call from 7am to 7pm everyday providing free confidential counselling services, information and support for anyone experiencing family and sexual violence in the country. The hotline has provided crisis counselling for over 4,000 clients, safety planning for over 1,500 clients, suicide intervention for over 50 clients, and information to over 10,000 callers. More than 7,000 callers have been referred to on-the-ground services, including police, welfare agencies, and counselling services.

The top presenting issues for callers in the past year were: family violence, both physical and emotional; safety and security issues; and child welfare and child abuse. Over half (56 percent) of callers were male, and called the hotline not as survivors, but mostly as witnesses of gender-based violence or individuals seeking information or relationship advice. A small proportion of male callers identified as perpetrators.

The hotline has also served as an unexpected lifeline for traumatised survivors of the 2018 earthquakes in the Southern Highlands, with over 2,000 calls fielded in the aftermath as many earthquake survivors have limited options for face-to-face counselling or mental health support.

## Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

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“We want all New Zealanders to continue to access and enjoy clean water in their homes, rivers, lakes and beaches.”

### **New Zealand context**

Improving the sustainable management of freshwater resources and improving water services for communities are clear priorities for New Zealand. New Zealanders highly value clean and healthy water ecosystems, with *kaitiakitanga* or the responsibility to provide good environmental stewardship being a defining tenet for Māori and the wider community. While New Zealand is blessed with many exceptional freshwater ecosystems, some are also degraded or at risk. Many significant community and iwi-led initiatives are taking direct action to protect and restore these ecosystems alongside projects led by the government.

Existing regulation under the Resource Management Act (RMA), Health Act and several pieces of new policy under development will make New Zealand well-placed to meet many of Goal 6’s targets. However, it is worth noting that New Zealanders’ expectations of freshwater management are higher than what is required to meet the SDGs in many cases, and we are seeking improvements that exceed the SDG targets for both ecosystem health and the management of drinking water, sanitation and stormwater services.

Key targets that New Zealand is taking action on relate to water quality, sustainable use and support for community engagement in water management – all of which are being progressed by amendments to the *National Policy Statement (NPS) for Freshwater Management*, other regulation under the Resource Management Act and our national Environmental Reporting Programme. This regulatory approach is somewhat unique internationally in the degree to which it requires localised integrated catchment planning, and participatory democracy. This creates a relatively strong role for local government in environmental management. In addition, a significant policy project is underway to improve the national regulation of *Three Waters* services (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater) to ensure high-quality services that are consistent with community expectations and international best practice.

### **Challenges**

While New Zealand already meets or exceeds many of the indicators related to Goal 6, indigenous communities and the wider public, government and industry bodies all have high ambitions for improving stewardship of freshwater ecosystems and resources. The biggest task for New Zealand is related to reducing key sources of pollution, which will protect the health of water ecosystems and provide many ecosystem services that New Zealanders value, such as recreation and traditional food sources.

Another key goal is to create a system in which well-informed communities are able to meaningfully engage both in integrated catchment planning and the management of water services. New national monitoring metrics related to both environmental health and the

quality of water services are being considered that might help both inform communities as well as track progress over time.

There are two main areas where New Zealand risks falling short of expectations. Firstly, there are challenges in relation to protecting and restoring water ecosystems by 2020. National monitoring indicates that we are far from meeting this target, due to historic degradation and a high proportion of threatened aquatic species. Ongoing policy development is aimed at preventing further degradation and improving ecosystem health to meet this Goal, however it may take decades to restore some ecosystems to meet domestic expectations.

Wetlands are one of the habitats at greatest risk. New Zealand has lost 90 percent of our natural wetlands and the remaining areas continue to decline. Some of the degradation is relatively recent with significant losses occurring within the last decade.

Secondly, in relation to the achievement of universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, there are currently some inequities in the performance and cost of rural and urban water supplies in New Zealand. Compliance information indicates that small and rural water supplies do not meet the Drinking Water Standards as consistently as large supplies, and for small communities, affordability is a common challenge.

There are also some specific challenges where New Zealand is not currently capturing data in line with some internationally recommended methods. Both our national environmental reporting programme and Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand are currently working to define a core set of indicators that will ensure we can better meet our international and domestic reporting requirements.

### **Initiatives underway**

A key government initiative to ensure access to drinking water and adequate sanitation is the ongoing review of Three Waters service regulation. This programme is working to strengthen the existing regulatory framework to enhance transparency and accountability and promote proactive risk management. While existing data suggests that New Zealand service providers already largely meet the Goal 6 targets, regulatory improvements are being considered to ensure that there is appropriate oversight over the system.

As part of our efforts to improve environmental outcomes related to water management by 2030, we established a taskforce to develop policy that will halt further degradation of water quality and seek rapid improvements in catchments at risk. This *Essential Freshwater* policy programme is seeking to strengthen many aspects of our existing water policy, some of which are highlighted below.

In line with Goal 6, New Zealand also has an ongoing policy project to improve water use efficiency and fair allocation. Some water resources are currently over-allocated in New Zealand and significant efforts are underway in both government and with private sector groups to improve resource use efficiency and the adoption of Good Management Practices,

particularly regarding irrigation in the agricultural sector. While the current allocation system aims to set catchment limits to preserve environmental values, this system operates on a first-in first-served principle that creates some inefficiencies. We are exploring ways to amend the allocation framework to improve dynamic efficiency and reduce levels of water stress.

New Zealand is on track to implement integrated water resources management at all levels by 2030. Since 2011 New Zealand has had a requirement for integrated catchment management through the NPS for Freshwater Management. This national regulation requires that all regions should have integrated and collaborative water management plans in place by 2025.

This same piece of regulation is also driving the protection and restoration of water ecosystems; however for many waterbodies it will be impossible to restore them by 2020 due to legacy impacts and hydrological lag times. That said, many restoration projects are underway all over the country, with some financed by our \$100 million Freshwater Improvement Fund and others being championed by industry and community groups.

The NPS for Freshwater Management also has secured a strong role for public participation in setting freshwater policy. Through this regulation, local governments are required to work with communities to identify their values and aspirations related to waterbodies and establish plans based on this input. Through these planning processes, New Zealanders have become increasingly engaged in water governance issues. In one survey, 82 percent of respondents indicated that it was very or extremely important to improve New Zealand's water quality.

In order to address the impact that nutrient runoff has on fresh water quality, we have established new rules that require local governments to set limits to manage nutrient pollution. The Living Water partnership between the Department of Conservation and Fonterra (New Zealand's largest dairy cooperative) is working with farmers, scientists, councils, mana whenua and communities to design and test scalable solutions to accelerate sustainable dairying (reducing nutrient pollution), restore freshwater habitats, and build ecosystem resilience.

Outside of the *Essential Freshwater* policy programme, New Zealand also has a strong environmental reporting programme in place that provides robust and independent information at regular intervals, improving transparency and supporting decision-making. The latest information on a wide range of metrics for freshwater ecosystems can be found in the 2017 report *Our Freshwater*, and a new synthesis *Environment Aotearoa* report which covers all environmental domains was released in April 2019.

New Zealand has also taken action to expand international cooperation and capacity-building on water- and sanitation-related activities, in particular through partnerships and aid provided to numerous Pacific island countries.

## Partnering for Freshwater Improvement

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Improving freshwater quality is a priority for New Zealand. In recent years we've seen an uptick in public interest in the safety of those swimming in our rivers, streams, lakes and at beaches and overall water quality improvement. The government is working with stakeholders across various sectors that contribute to freshwater quality through a range of initiatives that focus on stopping future degradation, reverse past damage and address water allocation issues.

One such initiative is the Freshwater Improvement Fund which committed \$100 million over 10 years from 2017 to facilitate partnerships that generate on the ground action for the management of New Zealand's lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater and wetlands.

The Fund supports 34 partnership projects around New Zealand, totalling \$47 million in government funds which are matched by project partners. Projects demonstrate co-benefits for ecosystem services and involve Māori cultural perspectives and input. The majority are run by local council and involve the community, industry bodies, Department of Conservation where needed, and a range of expertise in cross-sectoral approaches to freshwater improvement. Projects are also expected to involve communities in the restoration of the health of their rivers, streams and wetlands.

To make the best use of available resources, we take an (investment) data driven approach to identify strategic opportunities to improve environmental outcomes. In the case of Freshwater Improvement, we are targeting vulnerable catchments, where pressures such as land use are increasing but water quality had not yet crossed the 'tipping point' where restoration becomes more difficult or expensive.

A variety of interventions specific to each project are supported through these projects. This includes on-the-ground community initiatives such as planting, monitoring and implementing mātauranga Māori principles in water management, and also technical based solutions such as sediment traps, constructed wetlands and wastewater management systems. These freshwater improvements are expected to have positive effects downstream into the estuarine, coastal and marine environments.

## Taranaki Regional Council Riparian Management Programme (submission from Taranaki Regional Council)

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Taranaki Regional Council's Riparian Management Programme is transforming the landscape on a scale not seen elsewhere in New Zealand; and improving freshwater health and native habitat.

National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) scientists confirm the voluntary restorative programme is likely one of the biggest and longest-running restorative freshwater projects in the world. Covering over 15,400 kilometres of streambanks, the \$100 million programme been built on hard work and investment, largely funded by landowners, with 10 percent public funding.

Freshwater is valued culturally and socially and is a driver of Taranaki's economy. More than 300 rivers and streams flow from Mount Taranaki to the sea, across the Taranaki ring plain, which is covered by intensive dairy farming. Stream health in the region was deteriorating due to pressures from diffuse pollution from pasture run-off, along with industrial and municipal wastewater discharges.

In the early 1990s, the Council identified the need to protect and enhance the region's many waterways in a comprehensive and integrated way, and developed the riparian programme. The Council has worked with landowners on the ring plain and coastal terraces to develop free riparian management plans, recommending fencing and planting streambanks, and supplying suitable native plants to plan holders at-cost (around 500,000 plants per year in recent years).

Fencing riparian margins prevents stock access, and planting traps and filters silt and nutrients from pasture run-off, provides shading, reducing water temperature and improving instream and streambank habitat.

At June 2018, 99.9 percent of Taranaki dairy farms have riparian plans. More than 5.1 million plants have been planted along streambanks, with this number set to reach 6 million by completion of programme. 13,207 km (86 percent) of streambank on the ring plain is now protected by fencing, with an additional 8,399 km (72 percent) of streambank requiring vegetation protected by riparian vegetation.

An independent NIWA study (March 2018) found the programme has correlated with improved ecological health and reduced bacterial levels in some Taranaki streams and rivers.

## Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

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“Having access to a reliable, modern and sustainable source of energy helps us deliver better wellbeing for all.”

### **New Zealand context**

New Zealanders have near universal access to modern energy. Apart from rare outages, supplies of electricity and fuel are secure and reliable, although ongoing investments in infrastructure development will be needed to ensure future energy security and sustainable energy for all.

New Zealand is undergoing a transition towards a low-emission, inclusive and productive economy. Improving the sustainability of New Zealand’s energy supply and meeting our international commitments under the Paris Agreement go hand-in-hand. We intend to introduce and pass the legislation, which will include a goal to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This will strengthen New Zealand’s overall domestic policy alignment with Goal 7.

Whilst the majority of our electricity is already generated from renewable sources of supply, there are opportunities for improving energy efficiency and increasing reliance on low-emission energy sources, particularly in relation to transport and process heat. For example, New Zealand’s transport-related greenhouse gas emissions are higher than many other OECD countries, and over half of process heat demand is met by burning coal, natural gas, and liquid fossil fuels (e.g. diesel).

In New Zealand energy affordability has become more of an issue in recent years. For example, our inflation-adjusted residential electricity prices are 79 percent higher than in 1990, and have risen faster than most other OECD countries since 2000. Also, there appears to be a trend of steadily rising importer petrol and diesel margins since 2008. We are actively monitoring these developments and looking into ways to address them. An Electricity Price Review is underway, and the Commerce Commission is undertaking a market study into the supply of retail petrol and diesel used in land transport in New Zealand.

### **Challenges**

Whilst the New Zealand population primarily depends on clean fuels and technology for household needs, such as cooking, lighting and heating, there is not a high reliance on clean fuels and technology across all sectors. In 2017, only 11 percent of New Zealand’s total final energy consumption came from renewable sources, and our overall energy intensity is high (almost 20 percent higher than the OECD average).

The majority of industry, manufacturing and agriculture continue to rely on fossil fuels such as natural gas and coal for process heat applications. This is our second largest source of



energy-related greenhouse gas emissions behind transport. Recent analysis shows that some process heat users are not making decisions that maximise energy efficiency.

Though viable opportunities for process heat users to reduce emissions already exist and can be deployed in a relatively short timeframe, these users often face barriers to the adoption of new technology. Historically, low-emissions prices in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) have had a small or negligible impact on the economics of firm-level decisions regarding the renewable and efficient use of process heat.

Additional challenges include gaining access to capital, with renewable energy or efficiency improvement projects having to compete with other private sector capital investment projects. Users may also have an aversion to disrupting their production. A lack of information about efficient or low-emissions technologies, their costs and benefits, as well as users' own energy use, are also important challenges to increasing access to more sustainable energy in the process heat sector.

The transportation sector is still dominated by fossil fuel use and contributes the most greenhouse gas emissions across New Zealand's energy sector. This stems from a heavy dependence on road vehicles across our sparsely populated country. There are 792.5 light vehicles per 1,000 people in New Zealand, which is among the highest levels of light vehicle ownership per capita worldwide. In addition, public transport use is low and the vehicle fleet is old with poor fuel economy when compared to other countries.

We face a number of challenges related to the decarbonisation of our transport sector. The NZ ETS plays a very limited role in encouraging emissions reductions as the emission price only comprises a small component of fuel prices. Historically, this has skewed land transport investment decisions in favour of roading, instead of public transport infrastructure investments.

The price of electric vehicles, as well as their limited travel range, also remains a barrier for many New Zealand consumers, though uptake is rising. We risk inheriting high-emissions vehicles from other countries due to our lack of vehicle emissions standards. We are investigating including vehicle fuel efficiency standards as part of the low-emissions vehicles programme.

### **Initiatives underway**

Our electricity supply is dominated by hydro-power, which along with wind and geothermal power generation, contributes to ensuring our supply is 85 percent renewable. Domestic policymakers and the Interim Climate Change Committee are investigating pathways to achieve our 2035 goal to make electricity supply 100 percent renewable.

As we transition towards a low-emissions economy and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels in the energy sector, New Zealanders will need to adapt. A Just Transitions Unit has been set up to ensure that the transition is fair, equitable and inclusive in partnership with iwi, communities, households, regions and sectors. This approach seeks to ensure that energy

remains affordable, reliable and modern in New Zealand as we move towards a more sustainable, low-emissions future.

With respect to energy affordability, an Electricity Pricing Review is currently underway to assess the affordability of electricity for all New Zealanders. At present, industry standards apply to assist vulnerable or medically dependent consumers in order to minimise and avoid disconnection as a result of non-payment for electricity. A Winter Energy Payment is also available to help vulnerable consumers with the cost of heating their homes in wintertime. In the transport sector, the Commerce Commission is undertaking a market study into the supply of retail petrol and diesel used in land transport in New Zealand.

Poorly insulated housing stock creates significant demand for relatively inefficient and expensive electrical heating. In 2018, we launched a four-year Warmer Kiwi Homes programme which will provide grants to low-income New Zealanders for improved insulation and heating.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) is currently working with the government on a joint action plan called *Process Heat in New Zealand*. The aim is to understand the opportunities for increasing process heat efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its use. EECA also actively works with large energy- and heat-users to support efficiency improvements and emissions reduction, including administering grants and loans.

In order to reduce fossil fuel use in the transport sector, significant investment into public transport, cycling and electric vehicle charging infrastructure will be required. Some freight transport could also be affordably shifted from roads to rail or shipping, although there is limited potential in this direction as most freight is carried over small distances. Further advances in technology will be necessary to enable the decarbonisation of heavy transport and aviation.

In 2018, the Ministry for Transport announced an updated Government Policy Statement on land transport, which increased spending on public transport, rapid transit for cities, as well as walking and cycling infrastructure to shift New Zealanders towards less emissions-intensive modes of transportation. To support this there was also an increase in Petrol Excise Duty and Road User Charges.

In the future, the electrification of industry and electric vehicle uptake are expected to improve the share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption and improve energy intensity in New Zealand. In addition, a Hydrogen Strategy is currently under development to assess the potential for the use of hydrogen as a fuel in the transport and electricity sectors in the future.

New Zealand also has an on-going commitment to facilitate access to clean energy, energy efficiency and related infrastructure and technologies through development cooperation, with a particular focus on the Pacific region and Small Island Developing States.

## Electricity Price Review

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In April 2018 New Zealand's Minister of Energy and Resources commissioned an independent review into New Zealand's electricity market. The review is investigating whether New Zealand's current electricity market delivers a fair and equitable price to end consumers. It is also considering how to future-proof the sector and its governance structures to help ensure the electricity sector functions well during New Zealand's transition away from carbon-based fuels – a consideration that will become increasingly important as electricity meets more of New Zealand's energy needs, and as new technologies are utilised.

Such reviews are not new. Since the 1970s, New Zealand has reviewed its electricity sector roughly every decade – each time substantial changes have been made to improve or correct the sector's performance. In the 1980s and 1990s, the sector was privatised to improve commercial performance, and a light-handed regulatory regime was developed. By the 2000s, concerns about industry performance and self-governance arrangements resulted in further improvements being made, including developing new regulations and improving market competition to restrain retail prices to efficient levels.

However, the current review is unique as it addresses the need for electricity prices to be fair and affordable, not just efficient or competitive. Another novel element is the review's focus on the consumers' point of view and their say in the direction of the sector.

The review was split into two phases. The first phase of work focused on determining facts and building evidence of problems within the sector. These were published in the First Report for discussion in September 2019. The second phase of work has focused on developing possible improvements to the problems identified in the first report. In February 2019, the review published an Options Paper which contains 41 early ideas for improvements across the entire electricity sector. The options are grouped into seven key themes: strengthening the consumer voice; reducing energy hardship; increasing retail competition; reinforcing wholesale market competition; improving transmission and distribution; improving the regulatory system; and preparing for a low-carbon future.

These early ideas have been tested through a second round of stakeholder engagement. Written and oral feedback from the public, industry representatives and consumer groups will inform the review's final recommendations, which be delivered to the Minister of Energy and Resources in mid-2019. From there the government will consider which of the review's recommendations it will action, including those that industry and the public sector should progress as a high priority.

## Vector Urban Forest (submission from Vector)

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The Vector Urban Forest is an Auckland based initiative from electricity distribution business Vector that aligns with its commitment to creating more sustainable cities and communities.

Under the initiative, the company plants two native trees for every one tree removed to protect the region's power lines. The planting targets existing restoration schemes to maximise both the ecological and social value of the trees, including riparian planting and focusing on areas of the city where existing canopy cover is low.

Managing tree risk is especially important given the extensive network damage that occurs during storms and other high wind events. Vector's climate modelling projects a significant increase in the number of hours with sustained wind speed in excess of 70km/h – the point where damage to the power network is historically high.

Aucklanders love their trees but unfortunately there is a real lack of awareness of the issues they can cause to network resiliency if they are not maintained or planted with consideration to power line proximity.

The Vector Urban Forest is an example of the action Vector is taking to raise awareness of the issue. Each year the Vector Urban Forest Initiative aims to plant at least 20,000 new seedlings to make up for the approximately 10,000 trees removed from near the electricity network. The trees Vector removes are first identified as a risk by an expert and then removed with permission from the landowner.

The Vector Urban Forest plays a key role in educating the public about the importance of proper tree management and what their responsibilities are as a tree owner. Vector has published a planting guide that shows what trees and plants are safe to plant near power lines. This guide promotes the planting of species native to New Zealand and those that provide habitat for birds and bees.

The Vector Urban Forest also provides a positive initiative for Vector to engage with local communities and work together on creating a future legacy for generations to come. As part of the initiative Vector involves local school groups to provide them an opportunity to connect with nature and create their recreation spaces of the future. More information can be found at: [www.vector.co.nz/articles/planting-smart-to-help-prevent-power-outages](http://www.vector.co.nz/articles/planting-smart-to-help-prevent-power-outages).

## Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

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“We want to build a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy that delivers for everyone.”

### **New Zealand context**

New Zealand’s economic goal is to build a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy. Our plan for a modern and prosperous New Zealand is supported by a comprehensive whole-of-government work programme, which includes four key economic priorities that support our economic goal: growing and sharing more fairly New Zealand’s prosperity; supporting thriving and sustainable regions; delivering responsible governance with a broader measure of success; and transitioning to a clean, green carbon-neutral New Zealand.

To deliver higher wellbeing for New Zealanders, we are working to overcome some significant challenges to productivity, sustainability and inclusiveness. Like the rest of the world, we are also at the beginning of a period of significant change driven by our demographics, technology, the sharing economy and climate change. We also need to respond to changing financial and trade policies of major economies around the world. Our government and our people are working together to shape our economy for the future so that we can make the most of the opportunities that arise from these changes and address key challenges.

In line with Goal 8, we want to transform our economy. In doing so, we will ensure the transition to the new economy is fair for our people, our places and our businesses. Our partnerships with our businesses, our people, Māori, local government and non-government organisations will ensure we plan and manage the economic transition so that it happens in a way that is fair and just.

We want a productive economy that has productive and sustainable cities and regions, businesses that are innovative and internationally competitive, and people that are highly skilled working in fair, productive and meaningful employment relationships. Our aim is to grow our productivity levels so that New Zealanders are positioned to take advantage of the productivity gains from the internet of things, automation and renewable energy.

We want a sustainable economy that will be clean, green and carbon neutral. Our economy should be environmentally, fiscally, economically, socially and culturally sustainable. It must be resilient to economic and natural disasters and economic growth should be enduring and created within ecological limits. We aim to reverse much of our existing environmental damage and effectively protect our natural capital, including our native species and habitats.

We want an inclusive economy that delivers higher wellbeing and living standards for all our people. They should have a safe place to live and the opportunity to participate in meaningful and decent work and share in our prosperity. We want our people to have

access to meaningful pathways into education, training and work, social support, healthcare and rehabilitation when they need it, and to be protected from unsafe, unfair and oppressive behaviour. We want to address gender inequalities that continue to exist around pay equity and the gender pay gap.

## **Challenges**

The New Zealand economy is growing at a solid rate, our unemployment rate remains low and the outlook continues to be positive. Ongoing economic growth is expected to be supported by strengthening wage growth, low interest rates and accelerating residential investment growth.

Nevertheless, we are preparing for a period of significant change in light of major developments that will have impacts on our economy, now and for decades to come. These include digitalisation, the internet of things, clean energy and the sharing economy, as well as global disruptions associated with policies such as quantitative easing and state control of trade surpluses that can distort markets and trigger protectionist responses.

We can expect these developments to transform our economy and our jobs on a similar scale of impact as globalisation, the internet, market-based reforms and removing subsidies did over the past 30 years. Achieving this transformation will take time and its impacts will not always be felt evenly across our country. Therefore, as our economy transforms, fairness throughout the process will be important.

Technologies such as artificial intelligence, the internet of things and renewable energy may help New Zealand in overcoming the productivity challenges of size and distance and improve our international competitiveness. To make the most of the opportunities arising from these changes, we want to take action now to support change and technology uptake in areas where New Zealand has comparative advantage.

New Zealand's productivity levels are low relative to the OECD average. Some of the critical challenges for lifting New Zealand's productivity performance include the small size and scale of many of our businesses, adding greater value and diversity to the goods and services we produce, overcoming geographic distance to key markets, lifting low levels of research and development, and improving trends in the availability and efficient use of capital.

In terms of sustainability, our economy's input driven growth in recent years has put pressure on our biophysical limits, infrastructure and social outcomes. We also face the risks of climate change, natural disasters and economic shocks.

In addition, some population groups and some regions have persistently experienced lower wellbeing as a result of our economy failing to deliver equal opportunities or equitable outcomes. Some key challenges to realising an inclusive economy include reducing inequality and material deprivation, improving education, health and housing outcomes, and protecting vulnerable people.

## Initiatives underway

Rather than measuring progress in purely economic terms, we are developing a broader set of success measures that will put the notion of sustainable intergenerational wellbeing at the centre of our thinking and decision making.

We are establishing new, comprehensive measures of national achievement and redefining what success looks like, in a way that is complementary to the vision encapsulated in the SDGs. We are developing new statistical tools (*Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand*) which will contain wellbeing indicators tailored to New Zealanders by incorporating cultural and Te Ao Māori perspectives. These will align with our *Living Standards Framework* and its accompanying Dashboard, which puts sustainable intergenerational wellbeing at the centre of decision making processes for policy advice, government expenditure and long term management of our assets. Where appropriate, these new tools and frameworks will also assist us in evaluating our future progress towards implementing Goal 8.

Beyond the development of new tools to measure and assess progress, we have a range of initiatives underway to build a more productive, sustainable and inclusive economy and ensure the transition to this economy is fair and just for all of our people, places and businesses.

We are taking a number of steps to grow and share more fairly New Zealand's prosperity. We are partnering with business to encourage innovation, productivity and build a skilled workforce. This includes work to improve productivity by reforming our tax, central banking, overseas investment and commerce regulatory systems. We are also aiming to grow exports through our small business strategy and trade for all agenda, and to build a skilled workforce through reforms to vocational education and training systems, and reforms to our immigration system.

We acknowledge the opportunities that are being progressed to increase the productivity of Māori-owned primary sector assets and agribusinesses. We are unlocking new growth through major infrastructure programmes in our roads, rail, schools and hospitals. We also have a number of initiatives under way to strengthen the Māori and Pacific contribution to the economy, including the Crown-Māori Economic Growth Partnership and national Māori economic development strategy, He kai kei aku ringa, which means 'providing food by my own hands', and employment and business support services for Pacific communities.

To meet the challenges and take the opportunities of a rapidly changing world of work we need to support workers and businesses to be inclusive, resilient and adaptable. We have tasked the New Zealand Productivity Commission with undertaking an inquiry into technological change, disruption and the future of work. Further, we have established the *Future of Work Tripartite Forum*, a partnership between government, business and workers, to investigate our institutions and programmes to ensure we are prepared to meet challenges and take the opportunities as our economy transforms.

In order to ease financial pressure on families we are taking steps to increase wages, increase parental leave, improve early childhood education, and address the gender pay gap through an Equal Pay Amendment Bill and a gender pay action plan in the public service. We are also aiming to reform employment relations law to protect vulnerable workers.

For New Zealand, a key aspect of promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth entails supporting thriving and sustainable regions outside of our major cities. We are creating new opportunities for regional economies to grow, including by investing in them through the *Provincial Growth Fund*, enhancing supply chain efficiency, accelerating the rollout of rural broadband internet, better supporting the racing industry, and improving the benefits that regions receive from tourism. We are also working to boost the international value and reputation of primary sector exports from the regions, including through improved freshwater and fisheries management, strengthening biosecurity measures, and by developing partnerships between the government and food producers on key policies.

Finally, we are working to transition our economy to a clean, green carbon neutral New Zealand with a sustainable future. We are aiming to set clear emission reduction targets, improve our Emissions Trading Scheme, and develop a low emission vehicle programme. We are also looking at ways to more sustainably manage the extraction of our natural resources, and to support our people, places and businesses transition to a low emissions economy.



## Future of Work Tripartite Forum

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Like the rest of the world, New Zealand faces a period of significant change which will impact our economy now and for decades to come. Our changing demographics, new technologies and climate change are amongst a wide range of factors that will shape the future of work. Indeed, many jobs that exist now will cease to exist in the decades to come.

The Future of Work Tripartite Forum (the Forum) is a partnership between the Government, Business New Zealand and the Council of Trade Unions (CTU) which aims to support New Zealand businesses and workers to meet the challenges and take the opportunities presented in a rapidly changing world of work. While it is difficult to know the full extent of change that is coming, we can act now to respond to the change that is already here.

This collaborative approach will be critical to developing a holistic response to the challenges we face and maximising the opportunities for change. Ultimately we want to avoid the mistakes of the past where economic shocks damaged communities all over New Zealand, and to ensure that we adapt effectively to changes in technology or processes that our businesses and workers rely on.

The Forum has a current work programme that focuses on four themes. First we want to ensure that our transition to a low emissions economy is just. We want to understand how we can embrace opportunities and challenges brought about by rapid change and respond to new technologies, globalisation and demographic shifts in a way which is fair and equitable.

Second, we want to ensure that New Zealanders continually engage in learning to be able to adapt to, and make the most of, technological and economic change. Third, we aim to improve technological capability in New Zealand to help people and business adapt to disruption caused by emerging technologies that are changing the nature of work. And finally, the Forum is considering initiatives to build productive and inclusive work places.

## New Zealand Tourism Industry

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Tourism has contributed significantly to growth in the New Zealand economy over recent years, and is important to the vibrancy and vitality of many regional economies. Tourism is also a driver of New Zealand's international connections.

International visitor arrivals to New Zealand have grown 42 percent in the last six years. This has led to a range of challenges for infrastructure, overcrowding at particular sites at particular times, and environmental impacts. It can also have adverse impacts on other parts of economy (for example housing and labour markets) and a hardening of attitudes of some New Zealanders towards visitors and the tourism sector more broadly.

The government plays an important role in making sure the tourism system delivers the best results for all, including visitors, tourism businesses, our regions and communities and all New Zealand. To address the challenges brought about by increasing tourism we have initiated a number of responses.

We established the Tourism Infrastructure Fund, which supports small communities with high visitor numbers to fund basic tourism infrastructure. We also introduced an international visitor levy that will ensure visitors can contribute to some of the public infrastructure and conservation land that they use on their trips.

To address problems associated with 'freedom camping' we set up a 'responsible camping working group' made up of industry, local government and central government to better manage this practice and the disruption and environmental harm it can cause.

We also developed a tourism strategy and regional investment framework, which will help government decide when, where and how it invests in the tourism system to ensure better co-ordination at both the central and regional level. Alongside the strategy, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is developing a sustainability dashboard based on economic, social, cultural and environmental attributes of sustainability. These will align with the SDGs and be internationally comparable. The Dashboard will also provide a framework for evaluating the implementation of the Strategy.

## Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

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“We want to deliver transformation and growth for all. We will do this by investing in infrastructure, research and development and our regional economies.”

### **New Zealand context**

Broadly speaking, New Zealand has a good national infrastructure base. We are focused on bolstering our infrastructure over the next 10 years to help us keep pace with our growing population and as part of an economic transition that we are going through to move towards a more sustainable, lower-emissions economy.

This investment will also help us to address challenges including ageing infrastructure, ongoing affordability constraints, regional growth and decline, infrastructure pinch-points (especially in our largest city of Auckland), an ageing population, and increased pressure on our natural resources.

Investment in resilient infrastructure will enable our communities to be safe, inclusive, and interconnected through reliable transport and communication networks. This will also ensure our infrastructure is robust in the face of climate change, and help New Zealand achieve our economic goals of building a more productive, sustainable and inclusive economy.

To support a thriving nation in the digital age, we are working to make digital connectivity part of daily life. This improvement in connectivity will lead to significant economic and social benefits, and improve wellbeing. It will also drive productivity in our provinces, enable innovation, and keep us connected to the rest of the world.

We want to better digitally connect our more remote, rural communities and decrease the barriers that geographic isolation may create, thereby lowering the barrier to the prosperity of individuals and businesses. We want to ensure any connectivity gaps in relation to telecommunications infrastructure are addressed, and that digital infrastructure is future-proofed to keep pace with technological changes.

We want to support our businesses to thrive and be innovative through greater investment in research and development (R&D). Approximately 97 percent of all businesses in New Zealand employ less than 20 employees, and we want these businesses to be agile and responsive to grow, thrive and be innovative.

We want to support business innovation because it supports economic diversity, raises productivity, creates high-value jobs, and improves social and environmental wellbeing. Currently, R&D expenditure by businesses is 1.26 percent of New Zealand GDP. To raise this to 2 percent of GDP over the next 10 years, a R&D tax credit has been introduced to support the combination of grants that are currently in place.

## **Challenges**

New Zealand has relatively low levels of productivity growth and investment in large-scale infrastructure. We are continuing to work on improving the incentives in New Zealand's infrastructure sector because we believe New Zealand's infrastructure investment decisions could be more outcome focused than they are now.

New Zealand's institutional arrangements for managing infrastructure investments have strengthened in recent years. However, the system is not consistently delivering good infrastructure outcomes at a local level. The institutional settings that support infrastructure planning and delivery need to work well together to make a material difference to outcomes.

The poor management structures in New Zealand's infrastructure system result in ad-hoc and short-term investment decisions that are often focussed on the asset solution. In part, this is because planning and funding decisions are not linked to an overarching vision and strategy.

This lack of coordination means that evidence does not always inform decisions. There are also inconsistencies in the approaches that central and local government take to the planning, marketing, procurement and delivery of infrastructure.

The cumulative effect of these weaknesses is a lack of visibility and certainty in the pipeline of infrastructure projects that are likely to occur in the future. This is inhibiting investment in New Zealand and its labour force. As such, a step change is required in the infrastructure sector.

In terms of information and communication technologies, extending mobile and broadband coverage further into rural New Zealand is particularly challenging because remaining areas are characterised by their remoteness and rugged terrain. The government has therefore been intervening in the market where the terrain, combined with low population numbers, makes it uneconomic for commercial companies to invest in infrastructure.

New Zealand's science and innovation system is notably small, both in terms of private and public expenditure. Despite significant recent increases in public funding, this expenditure is still below comparable international averages, as is our number of people engaged in research.

The number of businesses that currently receive growth grants from the government for R&D is low, at approximately 300. This is partly due to the large number of small companies in New Zealand, and the average age of these businesses. For example, one third of all New Zealand companies have been in business for less than five years.

## **Initiatives underway**

We have a range of initiatives underway to ensure our investment in infrastructure improves wellbeing and living standards, and grows and shares more fairly New Zealand's prosperity. As part of this, we are working to improve the incentives in New Zealand's infrastructure system to ensure we deliver good infrastructure outcomes at a local level.

To support investment intentions and create opportunities for greater collaboration in infrastructure project delivery, we are establishing the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission, Te Waihanga. Through the Commission we want to foster partnerships across central and local government, private infrastructure owners, and the market. This will assist us to successfully deliver new infrastructure, and undertake maintenance and renewal activities on our existing infrastructure.

This Commission will develop a 30-year infrastructure strategy, and provide advice and best practice support to infrastructure initiatives throughout New Zealand. This strategy will work in partnership with industry to deliver resilient, sustainable infrastructure that improves the wellbeing of all New Zealanders and better enable industry to invest in physical and human capital. It will help guide our future infrastructure investment decisions, and ensure that these decisions support productivity and business growth, and create reliable and resilient networks, including our transport, energy, water, and communications networks.

The government and industry are collaborating to lift the capability and capacity of the construction workforce to ensure we have the right people at the right time in the right place with the right skills to meet our current and future construction needs. Development of human capital is essential to ensure we are able to build, maintain and replace the infrastructure we require to prosper.

Under our *Urban Growth Agenda*, we aim to remove barriers to the supply of land and infrastructure and make room for cities to grow up and out. It brings together five focus areas: infrastructure funding and financing; urban planning; spatial planning; transport pricing; and legislative reform to support the programme's objectives

We are also undertaking a major upgrade of our telecommunications infrastructure. This will boost broadband and mobile services throughout New Zealand and significantly contribute to making New Zealand a world-leading digital nation. Ultra-fast internet access will be improved, and by the end of 2022 we estimate 87 percent of New Zealanders in around 390 towns and cities will be able to access broadband through fibre-to-the-premises. This will place New Zealand in the top five countries in the OECD in terms of the proportion of the population that has access to fibre.

New Zealanders in rural locations have usually been limited to slower internet speeds and expensive satellite broadband. Under a new *Rural Broadband Initiative*, by the end of 2023, more than 85,000 rural households and businesses will be able to access improved broadband services. Additional funding will also extend mobile phone coverage to more remote areas of the country, including on approximately 1,400 km of state highway and in 168 key tourism locations.

We see research, science and innovation (RSI) as driving the changes necessary to achieve its goal of a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy. The government has set a goal of lifting New Zealand's spending on research and development (R&D) to two percent of GDP by 2027. It is also developing a RSI strategy that sets out a vision for what it wants to achieve through RSI, and a planned pathway for achieving the lift of R&D.

The key challenges to the RSI system are growing business R&D and improving connections between publicly funded science and domestic and international partners. One of the most significant recent initiatives to address this is the commitment to implementing an R&D Tax Incentive with the aim of lifting private sector R&D. This is intended to form a significant portion of the increase in total R&D that is required to reach the government's two percent goal.

The design of the Tax Incentive will ensure that a broader range of firms are incentivised to do R&D, including early-stage companies. This initiative is being designed in collaboration with New Zealand's dedicated innovation agency, Callaghan Innovation. Callaghan Innovation supports science and technology-based innovation and its commercialisation to improve the growth and competitiveness of businesses.

## Growing our regions

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### *The Provincial Growth Fund*

We have allocated \$3 billion over a three-year term to invest in regional economic development through the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF).

Provincial New Zealand is the heartland of New Zealand, and home to some of our most creative and innovative people. Much of New Zealand's economy rests on the successes of the regions, with tourism, forestry and the primary industries all strong contributors to New Zealand's export economy.

However, some regions are challenged with higher unemployment, lower productivity, finding skilled workers, and people who are struggling economically. Through the PGF, the government seeks to ensure that people living all over New Zealand can reach their full potential by helping build a regional economy that is sustainable, inclusive and productive. The PGF is administered by the Provincial Development Unit, part of the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment.

Many of the projects and initiatives being funded through the Provincial Growth Fund will create jobs, now and into the future. This represents a major opportunity to grow the skills and capability of working people in regions and to equip them for sustained work and pathways to higher incomes.

The Sector Workforce Engagement Programme (SWEP) is a cross government initiative that aims to improve employers access to skilled labour - working across industries like horticulture and viticulture, dairy farming, road freight transport, construction, tourism, hospitality and aged residential care.

SWEP works by partnering with industry to develop solutions to improve their access to labour and create training pathways for local people to enter into local industry.

Since SWEP was established as a pilot in 2016, 950 New Zealanders have been placed into employment through SWEP facilitated initiatives, with more than 3,000 people supported into recognised training whilst in employment, and 50 people into apprenticeships.

More information is available at: [www.growregions.govt.nz](http://www.growregions.govt.nz)

## The Construction Skills Action Plan

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Nearly 10 percent of the New Zealand workforce is currently engaged in construction-related occupations. Our goal is to lift the capability and capacity of this workforce, and increase the number of people who work in construction in the future. This increase in skills and capability is important to building and maintaining our health, education, and transport infrastructure. It will also be important for the Kiwibuild programme, which aims to increase home ownership by increasing the supply of affordable homes, particularly in areas of New Zealand where there is a shortage.

The government and industry agree that New Zealand needs safer, more durable and affordable buildings and infrastructure, and to achieve this we need a resilient construction sector. To this end, the Construction Skills Action Plan was launched in October 2018. The Action Plan was co-developed by government agencies and an industry group made up of industry leaders from across the sector. It signals a new way for the New Zealand government and construction industry to work together to build resilient infrastructure, and to create a more productive, capable workforce.

To address skills and labour shortages in the construction industry the government and the sector have worked together to devise a plan to deliver the right people at the right time with the right skills to meet our construction needs. This Action Plan has six initial priority areas: leveraging government procurement; establishing job and skills hubs; growing construction careers and credentials; expanding skills for industry; mana in mahi – strength in work; and further changes to immigration settings. The Action Plan will increase the number of apprenticeships that are offered in construction, create new job and skill hubs to assist people to enter the industry, and focus on increasing the skills of the existing workforce.

This Plan arose from a series of workshops, with input from over 140 individuals, organisations and industry on what was missing and what else Government and the sector needed to do to address workforce issues. Building a sustainable construction workforce will take a sustained effort over time. This Plan therefore feeds into a much broader economic objective and plan that focuses on sustainable economic growth and improving the wellbeing of all New Zealanders.



## Goal 10 – Reduce Inequalities

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“We want to build a fairer and more inclusive New Zealand that we can all be proud of.”

### **New Zealand context**

We believe that a sustainable, inclusive and productive economy provides all citizens with opportunities to engage in economic activities and social discourse to achieve their full potential. While New Zealand prides itself on having a fair society, inequalities persist. We are committed to reducing inequality and supporting and empowering all citizens to achieve their potential.

Our goal is to ensure that our economic and social systems work hand in hand. We want the social system to deliver equal access to opportunities for people to participate in the economic, social, cultural and political life of the community, and the economic system to ensure that people can take advantage of the opportunities, and benefit from equitable outcomes. We are also committed to maintaining well-managed immigration policies.

### **Challenges**

Since the Global Financial Crisis, New Zealand’s real GDP per capita growth has averaged 0.8 percent per annum. The national income share of the bottom 40 percent of the population has been nearly constant at 20 percent since 1996. We recognise that our policies and strategies will need to continue to have a strong focus on raising the real incomes of lower income earners at a faster rate than the national average if we are to increase their national income share.

The make-up of the bottom 40 percent of the population varies significantly by household type, one of a number of measures that are useful to inform policy responses. Over 70 percent of sole parent households (84 percent of which are headed by women), and households of the elderly who live on their own, have incomes in the bottom 40 percent. By contrast, less than 25 percent of families with no dependent children and couples under 65 have incomes in the bottom 40 percent of incomes.

Māori and Pacific peoples are over represented in the bottom 40 percent of household incomes. Our annual household income survey data indicates that about 60 percent of Māori and Pacific peoples incomes were in the bottom 40 percent, compared to 34 percent of European/Pākehā households. Median household income trends indicate that on average there may be an income gap of about 25 percent for Māori and about 32 percent for Pacific peoples below that of European/Pākehā household incomes.

Temporary migrants in New Zealand have the same employment protections as citizens and residents. However, there have been some instances of temporary migrant worker exploitation. We are working to better understand the extent of this issue and to identify proposals for policy change.

## Initiatives underway

We are committed to supporting people to move into and remain in employment through a suite of active labour market programmes and policies. These include employment readiness and job placement services, wage subsidies, work readiness training, and job creation. These programmes and policies are intended to prepare job seekers for the labour market and help them to find secure and suitable employment. The Social Security system provides specific support for young people to obtain full-time work and to achieve a formal industry qualification. Parents' labour market participation is universally supported by 20 hours per week of free early childhood education for children aged three to five years old.

Our investments in increasing skills and raising productivity are contributing to reducing income inequality in lower income populations. This is being progressed by working with businesses to foster innovation, productivity and building up the skilled workforce. As an example, we are aiming to lift the capacity and capability of our construction workforce under a *Construction Skills Action Plan* in order to drive higher skilled and better paid jobs, with a particular focus on increasing the participation of under-represented groups including Māori and Pacific peoples.

We are also strengthening employment law to further improve working conditions and fair wages. The Employment Relations Amendment Act 2018 is designed to improve workplace conditions and help deliver decent work conditions and fair wages. The Act will help to achieve these outcomes by improving protections for workers, especially vulnerable workers, and strengthening the role of collective bargaining. In addition, new equal pay legislation aims to address systemic sex-based pay discrimination.

Under our *Provincial Growth Fund* we will invest \$3 billion over 2018 to 2020 to enhance economic development opportunities, create sustainable jobs, enable Māori to reach their full potential, boost social inclusion and participation, build resilient communities, and help meet New Zealand's climate change targets. The Fund has a strong focus on helping deprived communities which should also help to reduce income inequalities. Areas with a high index of socioeconomic deprivation have been prioritised for early investment.

The Crown-Māori strategy for Māori economic development (*He kai kei aku ringa*) provides a blueprint for a productive, innovative, and export-orientated Māori economy that will support better paying jobs and higher living standards. It sets targets for Māori economic development progress from 2017 to 2021 – with the overarching goal of increasing Māori median income by 20 per cent.

As part of our efforts to address historic Māori grievances, a permanent commission of inquiry, the Waitangi Tribunal, was established to hear claims made by Māori against the Crown for breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi. Over the last three decades, following inquiries into historical Treaty breaches in each geographic district, the Crown has entered into negotiated settlement processes with Māori groups. These settlements aim to resolve historical claims and provide some redress to claimant groups.

Since the first settlement in 1998 there have been 87 settlements negotiated with different Māori groups and the Crown is working to complete a further 50 settlements with remaining groups. The total value of completed settlements so far is \$2.24 billion. Settlements include an acknowledgement and apology for breaches; commercial redress, in the form of cash and property; and cultural redress, which helps to reconnect Māori to sites of spiritual and cultural significance. Settlements have been used to culturally and economically revitalise Māori through commercial investments and direct investment in tribal members through education and training.

As for other countries, an aging population and rising rates of long-term conditions means that there is a growing demand for families to contribute to the care and support of family members. Changes to funded family care are being introduced that will provide increased financial support to households where a spouse or parent provides unpaid care to a family member with high care needs.

We are also developing a new *Disability Action Plan* which will address issues posing significant challenges to disabled people, including education, employment, accessible information, housing, seclusion, and restraint. By tackling these issues we aim to increase the incomes and wellbeing of disabled people, reduce the inequalities they face, and build a more inclusive and productive economy.

Many of the initiatives described in other Goals, in particular Goals 1, 4 and 5, will also make a substantial contribution to achieving this goal. Overall, these initiatives and investments will contribute to increasing the incomes of lower income earners at a faster rate than the national average, build a more inclusive and productive economy, and reduce inequalities.

## New Zealand Disability Strategy

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We have a vision to make New Zealand a non-disabling society - a place where disabled people have an equal opportunity to achieve their goals and aspirations, and all of New Zealand works together to make this happen.

The New Zealand Disability Strategy was developed in consultation with disabled people, their families and whānau to help achieve this vision and to progress realisation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in New Zealand. The Strategy guides the work of government agencies on disability issues from 2016 to 2026. It is governed by the principle that disabled people be involved in decision-making that impacts them, as well as the Treaty of Waitangi and the CRPD.

The Strategy is implemented through Disability Action Plans. An Action Plan covers a four-year period and is updated every two years to ensure that priorities remain relevant and in line with the Strategy and recommendations from the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Strategy recognises the need for a long-term approach to invest in disabled people's whole lives using a twin-track approach to deliver outcomes via specific and mainstream services.

For example, the Strategy places a high priority on all disabled people realising: an excellent education; security in their economic situation; the highest attainable standards of health and wellbeing; and that they feel safe, understood and are treated fairly and equitably by the justice system.

An Outcomes Framework including indicators is being developed to measure, monitor and publicly report on progress against the Strategy. To address data gaps, indicators based on the Washington Group Short Set of questions have been included in the national census and a number of government surveys. This information will facilitate comparisons between disabled and non-disabled people, when available.

As a practical example of the impact of the Action Plan, all public sector Chief Executives have committed to signing an accessibility charter to ensure public information is increasingly accessible to disabled people.

## Red Shirts in the Community (submission from The Warehouse Group)

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Since 2016, The Warehouse's Red Shirts in the Community programme has helped more than 1100 young people who are not currently in employment, education or training, gain retail skills and experience the workforce.

The programme is operated by The Warehouse in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Development, which recommends and provides the participants. Skills Organisation, operates as the navigator or 'mentor' for the participants, and also assesses adherence to New Zealand Qualification Authority standards.

Each participant is mentored through the programme by Skills Organisation, which also provides 90 days of pastoral support to the participants, with the aim of finding paid employment within three months of graduating. Participants are generally made up of young people (aged 16 to 24 years) not engaged in employment, education or training.

The programme was developed over a period of 18 months, with three pilots taking place across a range of The Warehouse stores. The third pilot resulted in a 76 percent success rate in assisting the participants into paid employment within three months of programme completion. Alongside the hard skills learnt by the participants, an unanticipated benefit was the soft skills gained such as increased teamwork, self-esteem, respect for others, engagement in conversations and self-confidence.

The Red Shirts in the Community programme is now the largest public-private partnership of its kind working on social inclusion and youth development in New Zealand. This year it is being rolled out to 57 stores nationwide.

Most recently the programme has been included in a digital platform known as Accelerator. Young people can access the platform for workplace training programmes and connect with potential employers in a blended learning environment that incorporates gamification of content and a mentoring component.

From late 2019, Accelerator will recruit participants through online platform Youth Hub, provide access to training modules needed during their three weeks in store at The Warehouse. It will also offer 90 days further follow up and pastoral care support to participants as they complete their training and prepare work-ready documents such as CVs and references.

Red Shirts in the Community will be the first training module on Accelerator. Once it has been successfully delivered as a digital programme, it will be extended to other sectors and employers who can offer on-the-job training opportunities for young people.

## Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

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“We want all New Zealanders to work, live and play in safe, affordable and resilient communities where spaces and materials are used in ways that preserve value and conserve natural resources.”

### **New Zealand context**

The vast majority of New Zealanders live in cities and urban settings. We are therefore focused on a range of housing and urban development policies that address how cities and other urban areas deal with and adapt to change. We are seeking to end homelessness, increase housing supply (both public and private) and improve the effectiveness of urban planning systems.

Through our *Urban Growth Agenda (UGA)*, we are seeking to increase housing affordability and create thriving communities by developing policy now that will have an effect across the medium to long-term. Beyond housing affordability, other objectives of the UGA include improved living standards and housing choices, improved access to employment, education and services, reduced emissions and increased climate resilience, improved infrastructure, and to provide quality built environments that avoid urban sprawl. All of these policies strongly reflect Goal 11, which seeks to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

We are seeking to make longer-term changes that will see an end to homelessness, better integration of transport and urban development, climate change and disaster resilience, and improving freshwater quality in our urban areas. New Zealand’s policies on urban planning, environmental management, and emergency management are also evolving to ensure that our cities are fit for purpose in the future, are sustainable, and resilient.

Aspects of Goal 11 relating to risk and resilience are being addressed in the policy and monitoring spheres through New Zealand’s implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Alignment between Goal 11 and New Zealand’s transport policy is also strong, with focus on the areas of transport safety, sustainability, and accessibility – including public transport being features in both. Sustainable environmental management and public participation are fundamental parts of New Zealand’s resource management legislation.

### **Challenges**

Perhaps the biggest obstacle for New Zealand to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable are the competing challenges that these goals can present, such as accommodating population growth, managing urban expansion, and preserving the natural environment. New Zealand’s legislative framework seeks to balance these competing priorities, with the UGA pursuing improvements to how both local and central government plan long-term and how they work together to achieve the right balance.

New Zealand also faces a range of hazards and risks from natural disasters, including earthquakes. Many of these risks can be readily identified, and planning to manage them and ensure effective response and recovery from emergencies can mitigate their impact. However, we also recognise that the future is uncertain and significant, unexpected, and hard-to-predict events in New Zealand are inevitable.

We are also undertaking further work to better monitor and understand issues related to Goal 11's aspiration of better cities. Collection and reconciliation of data relating to a number of the Goal's targets has proved difficult. Suitable data is unavailable or data that is collected locally has yet to be standardised to produce a national dataset, making reporting on how we are tracking towards some of the goal's targets difficult. Work on data collection and reporting is ongoing, particularly around the state of housing, transport accessibility, and natural and cultural heritage.

### **Initiatives underway**

In the area of housing, we aim to ensure affordable housing that is healthy and appropriate for need, and to take steps to end, not just manage, homelessness. Work is also underway to measure and evaluate the quality of existing housing stock. In addition, new minimum standards to create warmer, drier rental homes have been put in place along with improved building standards for housing being built under the government's KiwiBuild house construction programme.

The 2018 Government Policy Statement on land transport prioritises both transport safety and access to transport, including public transport. This sits alongside the 2010-2020 Road Safety Strategy that seeks affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems as well as improved safety and public transport. National measures for transport accessibility, including access to public transport, are currently being developed.

Goal 11 seeks inclusive and sustainable urbanisation through participatory urban planning and management. Our approach is strongly aligned with this vision, with our Resource Management Act requiring the sustainable management of resources as well as regulating urban planning. As such, all cities and local government areas have robust direct public participation in urban planning processes.

New Zealand takes very seriously the need to protect our unique cultural and natural heritage. We have two government agencies tasked with the preservation, protection and conservation of cultural heritage and one for natural heritage. These agencies, along with a wide range of policies that support them, evidence our strong desire to preserve New Zealand's heritage for future generations.

New Zealand has comprehensive alignment between national and local disaster resilience planning which is based on a reduction, readiness, response and recover framework. We aim for cities to adopt and implement policies that support mitigating and adapting to climate change, and resilience to disasters. New Zealand's monitoring of adoption and

implementation of climate change and resource efficiency policies and plans is a relatively recent development. Current baseline reporting shows some local authorities are well advanced in comprehensive planning, with many others continuing to develop their plans. On assessing the effects of disasters we are already collecting data on our progress towards the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, and we are also currently establishing a National Loss Database which supports Sendai Target reporting.

Local authorities have completed an assessment of the amount of underground and above ground infrastructure that will be affected by sea level rise, based on three different scenarios. Discussions between local and central government are underway to identify options for meeting the cost involved and providing councils with the powers to halt development in areas likely to be affected by sea level rise in the future.

New Zealand's waste management policy is aligned with Goal 11, with a particular recent focus on strategy to reduce waste sent to landfill. New Zealand's approach to waste collection and its disposal is set out under the Waste Minimisation Act and the Resource Management Act. All household waste is disposed of at sanitary landfills and commercial waste is disposed of at landfills appropriate for the waste type. We want to move towards circular economy thinking so that resources are kept in the system for as long as possible and diverted from landfills.

The *National Environmental Standards for Air Quality* have set thresholds to manage the population's exposure to ambient pollutants particularly in towns and cities. Interventions to improve air quality in our cities and reduce the effects of poor air quality are having an effect. Modelling shows that estimated premature deaths associated with air pollutant exposure decreased by eight percent between 2006 and 2016.

Universal access to green and public spaces is a target within Goal 11. In line with this, we have a national programme supporting cities and communities to become age-friendly and a number have already achieved Age Friendly Communities' accreditation. We are also commencing a work programme to achieve a fully accessible New Zealand for persons with disabilities. In addition many local authorities have their own plans and strategies relating to public open space and how to make those spaces safe, inclusive and accessible.

Internationally, New Zealand's aid policy aims to deliver sustainable development and reduce poverty in developing countries and contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world, and strongly supports the SDG target in this area.



## Building our Disaster Resilience

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New Zealand is exposed to a range of significant hazards and threats, including earthquakes and extreme weather. In addition to natural hazards, we face a number of other threats which could cause disasters or major disruptions. Our economy relies heavily on primary production and is vulnerable to adverse impacts from pests and diseases. Heavy reliance on technology and just-in-time supply chains means we are vulnerable to disruption from a wide range of domestic and international sources. The shifting global geopolitical environment means threats to our trading environment, security and economy are complex and often unpredictable.

To better prepare ourselves to tackle these hazards and threats, the government, in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, has developed the framework for a National Disaster Resilience Strategy. The Strategy is made under the mandate of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, but has broad intent to strengthen the resilience of New Zealand, so that the hazards, crises, and emergencies we will inevitably face do not become disasters that threaten our wellbeing and prosperity.

The Strategy proposes a three-pronged approach to improve our nation's resilience to disasters. First it aims to minimise the risks we face and limit the significant impacts to be managed in a crisis. Second, it seeks to build the capability and capacity to manage emergencies when they do happen. Finally, it aims to enable, empower and support communities to act for themselves and others when faced with risk or disruption.

The Strategy takes a whole-of-society approach, promoting a strong message that 'everyone has a role in a disaster resilient nation'. It describes a model of a resilient nation, as a blend of bottom-up, grassroots, community initiatives, and an enabling, empowering, and supportive policy environment at a local and central government level.

Ensuring cities and districts are more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable is a key part of the Strategy. Our towns and cities are where most New Zealanders source their everyday services, and it is where they live, work, and play. Given that our towns and cities are a critical support system for individuals, families, and communities, the Strategy promotes a series of actions to improve their resilience.

Building resilience at this level is about understanding risk through assessment and mapping, reducing exposure and vulnerability through risk-sensitive economic development and growth planning, risk-informed asset and financial management, and building capacity through community development, emergency preparedness activities, and planning for recovery.

## Living Lightly and FutureFit (submission from Auckland Council)

Charged with shifting Aucklanders to a low carbon path, Auckland Council's Low Carbon Living team has developed a science-based programme called 'Live Lightly – Noho Māmā'. Based around six climate action themes (Move, Shop, Eat, Energy, Grow and Talk) Live Lightly quantifies consumption carbon emissions linked to over 90 lifestyle actions. It provides guidance on how Aucklanders can identify and adopt the lifestyle actions that will yield the greatest material impact, in terms of carbon reduction, and lead to improved health, wellbeing and financial savings.

A crucial part of the programme has been to identify the barriers and triggers to climate action. A key finding of the programme is that 44 percent of Aucklanders feel overwhelmed when confronted with issues relating to climate change; that often people feel that "it's too late", "too big a problem", or "somebody else's problem to deal with". The research also found that by deconstructing the 'climate change' issue to the household level, individuals are better able to understand, relate to, and take action. Furthermore, when the benefits of taking climate action are articulated in terms of monetary savings, convenience and health benefits, individuals are far more receptive and prepared to participate. The most powerful message that Live Lightly sends is that every individual action taken, no matter how small, yields a significant collective result, and that Aucklanders, as individuals and as a collective, do play a substantial and positive role in addressing climate change.

With the understanding that different messaging and tools work for different segments of the population, the Live Lightly Programme has been designed to use language and calls to action that resonate with each target segment of Auckland's population. One example is the FutureFit initiative, co-developed by Auckland Council and Wellington City Council. FutureFit is New Zealand's first gamified carbon footprint tool, which creates a fun, team challenge environment to drive collective action on climate change. FutureFit guides users to make small, meaningful changes to their lifestyles that will reduce their daily consumption-related carbon emissions.

This unique online tool is designed to empower New Zealanders to act on climate change by quantifying the carbon emissions associated with their daily lifestyle actions; and challenging individuals to reduce their carbon footprint.

FutureFit enables individuals to view and understand their personal carbon footprint; it provides a benchmark for users to track their individual footprint against that of the average New Zealander and the rest of the world; and it sets a FutureFit target for New Zealanders to work toward.

More information can be found at: [www.livelightly.nz](http://www.livelightly.nz) and [www.futurefit.nz](http://www.futurefit.nz).

## Goal 12 – Sustainable Consumption and Production

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“Doing more and better with less is in our DNA. It is part of our culture of ingenuity and resourcefulness.”

### **New Zealand context**

New Zealand’s ambition is to lead the world in environmental guardianship. Sustainable production and consumption is a key element for this ambition. Our credentials as a significant net food producer and major international tourism destination are both heavily dependent on sustainable production and consumption.

We aim to transform how we manage resources, significantly reducing waste and greenhouse gas emissions and laying the groundwork to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. This will take a coordinated national effort of central government, local government, the business sector, and the public.

New Zealand’s legislative and regulatory settings, and the absence of production or trade-based subsidies, are intended to promote and incentivise innovation and efficiency of production. Efficient production means a more efficient use of resources, limiting post-harvest loss and driving a greater appreciation for the value of natural resources and the environment throughout the supply chain. An example is the success New Zealand companies have had when, faced with large distances to market, they have developed innovative ways to keep food fresh, and of high quality, for longer.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) New Zealand’s natural and physical resources are managed in a sustainable framework. The RMA is based on the principle of sustainable management which involves considering effects of activities on the environment now and in the future when decisions are made about the use of natural resources.

The New Zealand tourism sector has experienced exceptional growth in recent years. As New Zealand’s environment and scenery are the primary attraction for international visitors, it is imperative to preserve New Zealand’s unique environment. Genuine sustainable development outcomes are key to ensuring the long-term success of the tourism industry.

### **Challenges**

New Zealand’s farming, forestry, and horticulture sectors are an intrinsic part of our economy, communities and identity, and they depend on the resources provided by biological systems. Particular challenges being tackled by government, communities and industry include maintaining community-agreed ecological limits for freshwater quality and mitigating agricultural greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining our export-led economy, which is driven by the efficient production of high quality, nutritious food. Emissions from agriculture also make up almost half of our annual greenhouse gas

emissions, although to put this into context, New Zealand's total contribution to global emissions is less than 0.2 percent. Contaminant losses attributed to intensive farming practises and urban storm water and wastewater outflows are too high in many monitored freshwater catchments around New Zealand.

The amount of waste disposed to levied landfills per capita rose by 20 percent in the three years between 2014 and 2017, and the upward trend is set to continue. We appear to be among the highest generators of household waste per capita in the OECD. A work programme is in place to upgrade the national database for waste to get a more accurate picture of commercial and industrial waste streams and recycling rates.

New Zealand's clean green image is a key attractor of international visitors and the foundation of our tourism sector. A key challenge is to ensure that tourism activity is carried out in harmony with our sustainable development objectives.

### **Initiatives underway**

New Zealand intends to transition to a circular economy by transforming how we manage resources, reduce waste and improve environmental outcomes.

We are stepping up our waste minimisation efforts using tools that have not been used before. New Zealand is in a unique position as it can draw on Māori knowledge systems and values that influence the progress of its transition to *Ōhanga Āmiomio* (a circular economy).

In June 2018 the New Zealand Plastic Packaging Declaration was launched in which local and international businesses commit to using 100 percent reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging in their New Zealand operations by 2025.

With a similar purpose, New Zealand became a signatory to the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and UNEP in October 2018. The commitment targets eliminating problematic plastic, innovating in packaging design and infrastructure and promoting the circulation of materials within the system. We are developing a Plastics Action Plan that builds on the aims of the Global Commitment.

New Zealand also banned the sale and manufacture of certain products containing microbeads in June 2018, and after public consultation, single-use plastic shopping bags will be banned from 1 July 2019.

With respect to waste management, specific tools that we are looking at in the short to medium term are an expansion of the waste disposal levy to more landfills and a large increase in the levy rates, more strategic investment in waste management, and promoting product stewardship schemes for more product groups.

Under the Resource Management Act, the key regulatory tool used for improving freshwater quality is the *National Policy Statement (NPS) for Freshwater Management*. This

requires regional councils to set objectives and limits that reflect their communities' desired state for fresh water. Councils are at different stages in meeting NPS for Freshwater Management requirements.

The current freshwater quality reform work programme is wide ranging. It will consider options for: stopping and reversing damage in at-risk catchments; embedding good farm management practice such as riparian planting and stock exclusion; better managing high risk activities such as winter grazing, hill country cropping, feedlots and intensification; protecting ecosystem health, wetlands and estuaries; fair and efficient allocation of water take and nutrient discharge, addressing Māori rights and interests and regulating new attributes (sediment, copper, zinc, dissolved oxygen). This work is likely to lead to changes to the NPS for Freshwater Management, a new National Environmental Standard for freshwater, and possibly changes to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

In the primary industries sector, a good farming practice *Action Plan for Water Quality* was recently released. It commits to supporting all farmers and growers to implement good practice principles that will reduce their impact on New Zealand's fresh water. The aim is that all farmers and growers develop and implement a farm environment plan that identifies the risk areas for downstream water quality on their property and sets out actions needed to address those risks. This Action Plan is expected to accelerate the uptake of good farming practices across the country. The dairy industry has also established a Water Accord, committing the industry to a set of national good practice benchmarks aimed at lifting environmental performance on New Zealand dairy farms.

The New Zealand Stock Exchange (NZX) has updated its Corporate Governance Code to require more specific reporting around non-financial performance, including on environmental, social and economic sustainability issues. This has contributed to the rise in the frequency of business reporting in New Zealand, and over time will likely act as a catalyst for better business practice by raising the bar on what is expected. In addition, New Zealand's Sustainable Business Council (SBC) has 91 member organisations, which represent 29 percent of New Zealand's private sector GDP. When joining SBC, members sign up to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and introduce annual reporting practices, which outline their progress on environmental, social and economic issues.

Our new Tourism Strategy is proposing a more deliberate and active role for government in tourism, to make sure that growth is productive, sustainable and inclusive. It sets out the government's aim for tourism, to enrich New Zealand through sustainable tourism growth, working across central government as well as with local communities to achieve this. The tourism industry has also launched the New Zealand Tourism Sustainability Commitment, which aims to see every New Zealand tourism business committed to sustainability by 2025, with a vision of leading the world in sustainable tourism.

We have been a leading advocate for Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR). The drivers for progressing this work are compelling; fossil fuel subsidies encourage wasteful consumption and production, disadvantage renewable energy, and depress investment in energy efficiency.

New Zealand's advocacy has been primarily through avenues such as the Friends of FFSR, launching the FFSR Communique at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference and the FFSR Ministerial Statement at the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in December 2017. We have also been pushing for wider participation in the voluntary peer review process led through the Group of Twenty (G20) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). In 2015, New Zealand was amongst the first APEC economies to volunteer for a FFSR peer review to identify inefficient fossil fuel subsidies leading to wasteful consumption.

We are continuing to promote FFSR, raising the profile of reform as a trade issue amongst WTO members and challenging them to consider how establishment of effective subsidy disciplines could contribute to the key climate change objective of phasing out wasteful fossil fuel subsidies.

## Beef and lamb production

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New Zealand sheep and beef farmers have been producing more from less and reducing their environmental footprint since the 1990s. Roughly the same amount of lamb is produced today, but from half the number of ewes. At the same time, the sheep and beef sector's contribution to GDP has doubled from \$2.5 billion to \$5 billion. The reduced animal numbers have meant that the sector's greenhouse gas emissions profile has significantly shrunk, and the amount of nitrogen per kilogram of saleable product has declined.

Nevertheless, the sector knows that there is more to be done, especially around reducing sediment losses, reducing phosphorus loss to water and reducing greenhouse gas emissions further.

Industry bodies are taking steps to address these ongoing challenges. Beef + Lamb New Zealand Ltd is a farmer levy-funded industry organisation representing New Zealand's sheep and beef farmers. Their 2018-2022 Environment Strategy and implementation plan lays out a progressive long-term vision for the sector based around four priority areas – healthy productive soils, thriving biodiversity, reducing carbon emissions and cleaner water.

As part of the plan, Beef + Lamb New Zealand has identified two key goals – every sheep and beef farm having a tailored and active environment plan by the end of 2021, and the sheep and beef sector as a whole moving towards carbon neutrality by 2050. Through achieving these goals the sector will become even more environmentally sustainable.

## Minimising and managing waste in NZ's largest city

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Reducing the environmental impact of cities by improving waste management practices and decreasing the amount of solid waste produced are a key part of making cities more sustainable. Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, has been taking an active approach to ensure that it both better minimises and manages the waste that is produced in the city.

Auckland's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018 has a vision for the city to have zero waste by 2040. Importantly the zero waste strategy embraces Māori perspectives and aligns with the tradition of kaitiakitanga to sustain and restore our collective resources. Three goals sit under the plan: to minimise waste generation, maximise opportunities for resource recovery, and reduce harm from residual waste.

Waste minimisation efforts in the city have already seen improvements in the amount of waste being generated. Across the city, standardised domestic waste and recycling services are being rolled out to create an efficient collection service, and help Aucklanders minimise their waste and reduce their waste disposal costs. This has been in conjunction with new region-wide services, such as onsite inorganic collections and Community Recycling Centres, which have begun diverting useful materials away from landfills. So far these efforts have reduced household kerbside waste by 10 per cent between 2010 and 2016. Given household waste makes up a small fraction of total waste disposed to landfill (around 15 percent), Auckland is also focused on diverting commercial waste streams from landfill – such as waste from construction and demolition.

The benefits of having a zero waste city include increased resource efficiency, innovation and productivity gains for businesses, changes in household purchasing, and reducing expenses as well as waste.

For Auckland to be a zero waste city, the Plan outlines that it will need to ensure waste minimisation is integrated into design, manufacturing, retailing, and consumer choices. Materials should be used in ways that preserve value, minimise environmental impacts and conserve natural resources, and products should be designed and used according to the waste hierarchy, staying as high on the hierarchy as possible. Some waste can be eliminated before it is even made, by being designed out of products and processes, and resources can be used and reused, through better systems for repurposing and remanufacturing materials into other goods. On-shore processing capacity for recyclables needs to be developed given the impacts of recent global restrictions in recycling markets.



## Goal 13 – Climate Action

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“We want to enhance our leadership in climate change by becoming carbon neutral by 2050 - a challenge to be achieved by all New Zealanders, together.”

### **Current picture**

New Zealand has an extensive climate policy agenda, that sees action on climate change embedded with our broader economic strategy. We are committed to making decisions that show global leadership, enable a productive, sustainable and climate resilient economy, and support a just and inclusive society. New Zealand has ratified the Paris Agreement and committed to reduce our emissions to 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. We have also announced an intention to become a net-zero carbon economy by 2050.

The Resource Management Act 1991, New Zealand’s principal environmental statute, entrenches in law sustainable management and the concept of intergenerational equity. In application, both the legislature and local decision makers must consider the concept of sustainable management, and sustaining natural resources for the use of future generations, to which climate change mitigation is a key concern. Further, the Resource Management Act is prescriptive for New Zealand’s responses to natural hazards. At present, the legislation takes a risk based approach that allows for adaptive creativity where the effects of climate change will be felt.

Additionally, New Zealand has one of the highest shares of renewable electricity in the world, with up to 85 percent from renewable sources such as hydroelectric, geothermal or wind. By comparison, the 2015 OECD average is 22.98 percent. New Zealand has an abundance of unused sources of renewable electricity, particularly wind and geothermal, which will experience growth as the country moves towards its 2030 targets.

In order to accomplish our ambitious emission reduction goals, the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and a set of supporting policies will be used to drive emissions down. Reforms will also see the establishment of an independent Climate Change Committee and a Zero Carbon Bill to ensure that mitigating and adapting to climate change remains at the forefront of New Zealand’s policy, which supports the pursuit of Goal 13.

### **Challenges**

New Zealand has one of the most productive and competitive agricultural sectors in the world. Agriculture and other agriculture-related manufacturing are a key economic sectors providing over 10 percent of GDP.

We are a small, trading nation whose economy is driven predominantly by pasture-based livestock agriculture and the efficient production of high quality, nutritious food including dairy, sheep meat, beef, horticulture, and seafood. This means that almost 50 percent of

our greenhouse gas emissions come from the agricultural sector with our contribution to global emissions of less than 0.2 percent. One of the challenges for agricultural nations, including New Zealand is how to continue to produce food efficiently for a growing global population, reduce emissions and, as the climate continues to change, how to enable rural communities to adapt.

Transport is New Zealand's second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, contributing nearly 20 percent of gross emissions; it is New Zealand's fastest growing source of emissions. Between 1990 and 2016, New Zealand's gross emissions grew by 20 percent. Comparatively, transport emissions grew by 71 percent. The primary source of transport emissions are from private vehicles, with high private vehicle use and low public transport use. Uptake of electric vehicles has so far been slow. However, as we electrify our vehicle fleet, there will be a further challenge in meeting the increasing demand for electricity. The dynamism of the problems represented in the transport sector - and the cultural and technical shifts they pose - exemplify a challenge to urgent action currently being undertaken to combat climate change and its impacts.

Māori enjoy a special relationship with the environment and exercise *kaitiakitanga*, or stewardship, over the natural environment. As with many indigenous groups globally, the effects of climate change will exacerbate the difficulties already faced by vulnerable Māori communities. The country has made significant gains in legislative reform that better facilitate Māori interests in the environment more widely, such as reform to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1991. Adequately safeguarding Māori cultural interests in land and natural resources as we move into an era defined by climate change presents a challenge when allocating finite resources. Difficulties will include creating a system that is more reflective and representative of Māori interests to help preserve and mitigate the impacts felt by Māori.

### **Initiatives underway**

New Zealand has made substantial progress in initiatives to combat climate change and its current and anticipated impacts. April 2018 saw the establishment of the Interim Committee on Climate Change, a group that is tasked with working on the nuances of future reform. The Interim Climate Change Committee will transition into the Climate Change Commission in the near future.

At the sub-national level local government leaders have launched a Local Government Leaders' Climate Change Declaration. The Declaration commits members to support initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases undertaken by central government and to make local commitments to respond to climate change.

An exciting future lies ahead for the electricity industry. The Interim Climate Change Committee will oversee possible system changes in the electricity sector, which will be especially pertinent where there are changes across the transport sector to lower emissions. There is potential to enhance this by further harnessing our geothermal and wind power.

The New Zealand Productivity Commission released a final report in September 2018 on the opportunities and challenges for New Zealand in becoming a low emissions economy. The Commission identified a range of policies and institutional settings to set New Zealand on a path to a low emissions economy. The government published its response to these recommendations in March 2019 outlining its climate change plan for the medium term. This response will also help inform our long-term low emissions development strategy.

As identified by the Productivity Commission and international examples, it is important that this transition to a low emissions economy is managed in a just and inclusive way, that does not exacerbate the impacts felt by vulnerable communities. A just transition ensures environmental sustainability as well as decent work and social inclusion while moving equitably towards environmental sustainability. This is also a requirement under the Paris Agreement. At present there is inter-agency collaboration in creating pathways to ensure a just transition nationwide.

As part of Budget 2018 we announced our intention establish a \$100 million Green Investment Fund. The Fund will be formally established as a company, which means it will operate independently from government and allow it to work in a market responsive way. We are also considering mandatory climate-related financial disclosure requirements that could encourage investment in low-emissions ventures, as recommended by the Productivity Commission.

New Zealand has a strong relationship with the Pacific, and developing island nations; in supporting developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation to climate change, New Zealand has contributed approximately \$455 million in climate change related funding during 2013 to 2016. In addition, New Zealand extended the ratification of the Paris Agreement to Tokelau. Tokelau's low-lying atolls remain extremely vulnerable to climate change, and serve as an important reminder of New Zealand's obligation to developing Pacific nations.

New Zealand led the establishment of the *Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases* (GRA) in 2009 to promote an increase in cooperation and investment in research to mitigate greenhouse gases from food production, while maintaining food security and resilient production systems. Today the GRA has 55 member countries from all regions of the world, and maintains partnerships with key international and regional organisations involved in agricultural development, research and agribusiness.

We want every New Zealander to have robust and trusted information on the state of their environment. Environmental reporting, conducted by the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics NZ, on atmosphere and climate enables transparency of information to the public. The upcoming synthesis report, *Environment Aotearoa 2019*, will focus on environmental cross domain issues, providing robust, accurate information in an accessible way.

Other initiatives include a strong emphasis on climate change policies that will see New Zealand introduce a Zero Carbon Act. Enhancements to the ETS will be made to strengthen

New Zealand's carbon pricing. Additionally, there will be continued demand-side management of energy usage through energy efficiency programs and renewable energy programs, including converting coal-fired heating to biomass and electric heating. Together, these initiatives will work towards a low-carbon economy.

New Zealand uses a multi-year emissions budget approach for setting and measuring progress towards our targets. New Zealand will meet its future targets through a mix of reducing emissions domestically, planting forests to absorb carbon dioxide and offsetting our emissions by buying emission reductions from overseas where appropriate. It is these initiatives and reform which will aid in the transition towards a low-emissions economy, and contribute to the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal 13.

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

## Climate Leaders Coalition

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We believe that New Zealand businesses can play a significant role in tackling climate change. The Climate Leaders Coalition (CLC) was launched in July 2018 to promote business leadership and collective action on the issue of climate change. Nearly 80 New Zealand Chief Executives have so far signed the joint statement, which commits each of their organisations to take voluntary action on climate change.

This includes measuring and publicly reporting their greenhouse gas emissions, setting a public emissions reduction target, and working with suppliers to reduce their emissions.

The Coalition also represents a unique opportunity for business to work together and learn from each other to reduce their emissions. Organisations from all sectors of the economy are represented in the Coalition and together the signatories make up more than half of New Zealand's gross emissions.

The Coalition has explicitly supported the Paris Agreement as well as New Zealand's commitment to it. It also supports the introduction of a Climate Change Commission and carbon budgets enshrined in law. The Coalition's goal is to help New Zealand transition to a low emissions economy and, in doing so, create a positive future for New Zealanders, business and the economy.

As one example, The Warehouse Group, a member of the CLC, recently announced that it is only the third major retailer worldwide to go carbon neutral – earning official CarboNZero certification. Together, The Warehouse Group says it emits approximately 40,000 tonnes of carbon a year. This will be reduced through an internal active emissions reduction programme throughout The Warehouse Group's operations and supply chain, with more than 25 energy and emissions saving projects.

The Warehouse Group's carbon emissions will be offset with carbon credits and through the planting of 2.7 million trees. The Group will also switch to LED lighting to reduce electricity use in stores, and ambitious waste recycling targets have been set by The Group. Additionally, 30 percent of the company's vehicle fleet will be electric by 2019.

The CLC is a positive example of private sector leadership in meeting the challenges presented by a changing climate.

## Reserve Bank of New Zealand Climate Change Strategy (submission from the Reserve Bank of New Zealand)

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The Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) is the central bank of New Zealand and the prudential supervisor of the domestic banking and insurance sectors. It has developed and published a climate change strategy (available at: [www.rbnz.govt.nz/financial-stability/climate-change/strategy](http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/financial-stability/climate-change/strategy)). One of the primary objectives of this strategy is to integrate climate risks directly within the various functions of the RBNZ, including monetary policy settings, financial stability analysis, prudential supervisory requirements and market operations.

The RBNZ is also seeking to mitigate directly its own impact on the environment by calculating and reporting on its own carbon footprint and steps to reduce it. This will include focus on its energy use, waste management and staff travel, as well as longer-term consideration around how it sources and distributes currency. It is intended that this disclosure will act as a model for other entities in New Zealand.

Within the strategy, RBNZ explicitly recognises that no single institution working alone can achieve meaningful progress on a global challenge such as climate change, and that appropriate action on a national or global level can only be achieved if individuals and entities are able to take action on a micro level. For this to occur, two conditions need to be met. First, there has to be proactive and effective leadership to drive our collective understanding of climate risks and to establish robust strategies to respond to those risks. Second, there has to be effective and timely dissemination of those assessments and strategies. Appropriate information will be vital in enabling entities and individuals to price and manage risks, facilitating the broader transition to a low-carbon economy, and ultimately contributing to both the soundness and efficiency of the financial system.

RBNZ is working domestically and internationally to help meet these conditions. At the domestic level, it is engaging with other public and private groups to drive national strategies and planning. This includes efforts to develop and disseminate detailed hazard models to drive risk informed investment that contribute to enhanced resilience to climate change nationally and help identify the needs of vulnerable communities.

On an international level, RBNZ is an active member of the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) and the Sustainable Insurance Forum. In joining the NGFS, it explicitly identified a desire to act as a global voice for the broader Pacific region, which sits on the frontline in terms of the physical effects of climate change.

## Goal 14 – Life Below Water

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“We want to protect our unique marine ecosystems and ensure a healthy ocean that delivers social, environmental and economic benefits for future generations.”

### **New Zealand context**

As an island nation with close affinity to the ocean, New Zealand is a strong supporter of Goal 14. We played a significant role in the development of its targets and we invest in national, regional and global action to progress towards achieving them.

There is strong domestic alignment between government policy and most of Goal 14's targets, for example on sustainable fishing, fisheries subsidies, general implementation of international law of the sea, and fishers' access to marine resources and markets. New Zealand's marine and coastal ecosystems are managed and protected through a range of legislative instruments and policies implemented by multiple agencies.

Ensuring that our fisheries remain sustainable and profitable remains a priority. Our *Fisheries Change Programme* will ensure that we have increasingly accurate and timely information about commercial fishing activity to inform fisheries management decisions and the right policy settings to protect and grow the economic, social, and cultural benefits of fisheries to all New Zealanders. New Zealand also periodically reviews its various programmes to address the impact of fishing on the marine environment, including Threat Management Plans for Hector's and Maui dolphin and New Zealand sea lion, and National Plans of Action for seabirds and sharks.

A wide range of practical activities that respond to Goal 14 are under way, for example activities related to ocean acidification and marine pollution from land-based sources. Such activities are supported by our significant investment in marine science and technology. Supporting the Small Island Developing States of the Pacific region to realise the benefits from their blue economies is a priority for our Official Development Assistance (ODA). We are also focused on tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing particularly in the Pacific and Southern Oceans

Working with international partners, New Zealand will continue to support global action to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and marine resources, with a strong focus on sustainable fishing, tackling ocean acidification and marine plastic pollution and the elimination of harmful fisheries subsidies. Supporting Pacific island countries to sustainably manage their natural resources and protect the environment will remain an enduring priority.

### **Challenges**

At this point in time New Zealand cannot confidently report on progress toward all aspects of Goal 14, notably on restoring and strengthening the resilience of marine and coastal

ecosystems. Cross-jurisdictional management precludes easy assessment of the proportion of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that is managed using ecosystem-based approaches. However, ecosystem considerations are evident in New Zealand legislative and regulatory frameworks, including for fisheries management, resource management and for activities in the EEZ.

Data paucity and the scale of polluting activities (for example farming and forestry) also make it difficult to assess potential progress on preventing and reducing marine pollution by 2025. However, we are committed to progress in this area, including through investments in addressing pollution from land-based activities to improve water quality (including in rivers, lakes and coastal marine areas) and through reform of the waste management system.

### **Initiatives underway**

New Zealand is making significant efforts to reduce marine pollution from land-based sources for example through banning single-use plastic bags and the sale of products containing plastic microbeads. We have also adopted a circular economy programme of work aimed at improving product stewardship, identifying changes in supply chains that can reduce waste, and decreasing the amount of waste going to landfills.

We are undertaking a number of steps to tackle ocean acidification. New Zealand has an expanded set of measuring sites, and ocean acidification is a national indicator in our environmental reporting series on the marine domain. We have funded a four-year research project that will provide new knowledge on ocean acidification to enhance protection and management of coastal ecosystems. Policy developments also take into account the risks and opportunities for the seafood industry, with researchers having developed risk assessments for key fisheries and drafted a compendium of changes observed in New Zealand waters. Our ODA supports work in the Pacific to build resilience to ocean acidification through practical adaptation actions and capacity building. Internationally New Zealand champions action on ocean acidification as part of its support for the Commonwealth Blue Charter.

In terms of fisheries management, New Zealand has had a rights-based system in place for over 30 years. Currently, 97 percent of all commercially harvested catch comes from stocks that are managed at or above target reference points. Our *Fisheries Change Programme* is working to ensure the continued sustainable economic, social, and cultural value of New Zealand's fisheries.

New Zealand does not subsidise its fisheries sector and we are an active proponent for an agreement in World Trade Organisation (WTO) to discipline harmful fisheries subsidies, including those that support illegal fishing, subsidies to fishing of overfished stock, and subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing. We are committed to achieving an agreement that can be adopted by WTO members by 2020.



New Zealand currently has 44 no-take marine reserves and another 1.26 million km<sup>2</sup> under a variety of protection measures. Further work is required to achieve a network of marine protected areas and reserves that are representative of all our ecosystems. Activities are underway to provide background, analysis, and recommendations for expanding marine protection in New Zealand. Work will continue on improving national coordination, the integration of protected areas into broader ecosystem management, and improving information on the social, cultural, economic and ecological values associated with the marine environment.

Two significant regional marine protected area planning processes are underway – the *South East Marine Protection* process and *Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari* process. *Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari* is New Zealand's first marine spatial plan. It has 181 proposals developed through a stakeholder-led process, covering a wide range of issues: marine protection, habitat restoration, biodiversity, commercial fishing, environmental and cultural issues.

Our ODA provides ongoing support to Small Island Developing States (with a focus on the Pacific) through a range of development assistance activities and technical expertise, including for fisheries management, aquaculture and tourism. There is a special focus on support to help increase the economic benefits to the Pacific from sustainable fishing, including by supporting regional institutions that provide fisheries management, development and compliance advice and services to the Pacific.

Finally, in terms of research, we spend approximately \$1.6 billion per year on science and innovation investments and a significant amount of this budget has recently been dedicated to marine science and technology. For example, under a multi-year programme (*the Marine Environment Platform*) we are investing more than \$100 million into research which aims to deliver benefits such as increased economic returns from marine resources while maintaining marine ecosystem integrity and biodiversity.

## Commonwealth Ocean Acidification Action Group

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As a result of absorbing around 525 billion tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere since the beginning of the industrial era, the ocean has increased its acidity by 30 percent. Ocean acidification has adverse effects on the health of shelled marine organisms, coral and possibly even fish. It will impact economies that depend on fisheries and marine tourism, coastal communities that rely on coral reefs for protection, and on marine biodiversity and conservation more broadly. Goal 14 seeks to minimise and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.

In April 2018 leaders of the 53 Commonwealth countries adopted the Commonwealth Blue Charter, committing to actively cooperate to solve ocean challenges. As part of our support, New Zealand is championing an Action Group on ocean acidification, which seeks to improve the Commonwealth membership's capability to effectively address its impacts.

New Zealand hosted the first Commonwealth Ocean Acidification Action Group workshop in February 2019. A large number of participants, including leading international science and NGO experts and officials from many Commonwealth countries, came together to share knowledge, experience and best practice in ocean acidification monitoring, mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

Through the workshop, participants identified practical activities that the Action Group could collectively advance to drive progress in various areas, including engaging political leadership at national levels to elevate ocean acidification into national policy. As champion for the Action Group, New Zealand will lead Commonwealth cooperation to develop a strategy to implement these activities.

## Global Litter Database and Solutions Platform

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The growing problem of waste plastics and other waste materials poses a significant threat to our marine environment and the biodiversity that it supports. This is a global challenge affecting all coastal states. As part of our efforts to address this problem it is important to be able to measure it and track our progress.

Sustainable Coastlines, a New Zealand based NGO, has developed a programme to train "citizen scientists" across the country to collect litter data from their local beaches in order to generate a database and solutions platform. It is delivering a large-scale project collecting open, scientific and long-term data on litter in coastal waters, which will support the scaling up of solutions.

The data collection methodology uses a localised adaptation of internationally recognised marine litter survey guidelines developed by the UN Environment Programme and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. It was co-developed in partnership with government agencies, and Sustainable Coastlines is collaborating on the project with the Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation, and Statistics New Zealand. By working together in the project design phase with New Zealand's official statistics agency, it has been able to accept the data at its highest standard for quality assurance and interoperability. The data collected by citizen scientists can now be utilised for reporting on litter in any government body nationwide, as well as for international reporting including on the SDGs.

In early 2019 Sustainable Coastlines submitted its initial data set; 29 detailed litter surveys and meta data collected by trained citizen scientists from 21 official beach monitoring sites around the country between October 2018 and March 2019. This data will be included in the Ministry for the Environment / Statistics New Zealand Marine 2019 Report, making it the first time that marine litter datasets and citizen science data have been included in official New Zealand government reporting.

## Goal 15 – Life on Land

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“With New Zealand’s many unique species and ecosystems, guardianship or kaitiaki is in our nature and at the heart of what it means to be a Kiwi.”

### **New Zealand context**

Conservation and sustainable use of New Zealand’s unique habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity is at the heart of our culture. For many New Zealanders, the natural environment is part of our identity.

Our rich indigenous biodiversity is unique, with a high number of endemic species: 100 percent of New Zealand’s reptiles, 70 percent of our birds, and 80 percent of our vascular plants are found nowhere else on Earth. Our biodiversity shapes and sustains our society and is a major attraction for international tourists.

New Zealand’s forests are part of our identity; they are a defining feature of our landscapes, house our endemic taonga (treasured) species, and provide socio-economic value to our people and regional economies. New Zealand is committed to the achievement of sustainable management of forests. Sustainable forest management is about maximising the environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits from forests and forestry.

New Zealand has multiple frameworks designed to protect the land and ecosystem services, which are framed by our *New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy* and a range of tools and legislation such as including *National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry* to manage the environmental effects of forestry, and a *National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health*.

New Zealand’s current vision for biodiversity management at a national level is set out in the *New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2000-2020*. Key aspects of this vision are to ensure that New Zealanders value and better understand biodiversity, and work together to protect, sustain and restore it, allowing everyone to enjoy and share in its benefits as the foundation of a sustainable economy and society. We want the full range of New Zealand’s indigenous ecosystems and species to thrive from the mountains to the ocean depths, with Māori iwi and hapū as kaitiaki as active partners in managing biodiversity.

### **Challenges**

Pressures from human activity have caused a rapid decline of our native ecosystems and species, and this decline continues. Environmental reporting shows that there has been a significant shift in land use in the past two decades and indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems continue to be under threat. There are now over 4,000 species at risk of extinction and many natural ecosystems are in decline. The most significant pressures come from changing land use and the impacts of invasive species, particularly mammalian

predators and herbivores, and exotic weeds. Redressing the damage, and re-building ecosystems to support our native species remains a significant challenge.

Around 37 percent of New Zealand's land area is covered in forests. The majority of this forest is made up of indigenous species in protected areas, which are actively managed by our Department of Conservation. The remaining approximately 2 million hectares of forest is exotic, privately owned production forest, which are the source of over 99 percent of harvested volumes. The clear separation of production and conservation forests allows for New Zealand's native tree species and the native biodiversity within to be protected, while the forestry sector can utilize fast-growing exotic species which support our export-based economy and provide broader socio-economic and environmental benefits to regions and broader ecosystems. A challenge that New Zealand faces is to maintain this balance in outcomes from our forests.

One of the other challenges we face is the large number of statutes governing terrestrial conservation management, many of which are dated. This creates a complex system which hinders our ability to implement the objectives of Goal 15.

### **Initiatives underway**

New Zealand is developing a new Biodiversity Strategy to address the challenges of biodiversity loss. Our current National Biodiversity Strategy, adopted in 2000, expires in 2020. The new Strategy will address emerging pressures such as climate change and look at new ways of valuing our biodiversity in its role underpinning ecosystems, natural capital and wellbeing. A new strategy is also an opportunity to align related initiatives that are existing or in development.

The *New Zealand Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2020* provides an update to the Biodiversity Strategy and includes five updated goals to achieve the Strategy's vision. Each goal includes national targets to ensure progress, which are linked to the global strategic goals set by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Our sixth National Report to the CBD in 2018 shows that New Zealand has made good progress on actions taken to raise awareness of biodiversity, integrate biodiversity into planning processes, and increase covenant protection on private land. However, it also makes it clear that much more work needs to be done in the face of significant pressures including changing land use and invasive species.

We are also developing a *National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity*, which will set out objectives and policies to improve how regional councils and territorial authorities manage and protect indigenous biodiversity on both public and private land.

Our *Predator Free 2050* initiative is the world's most ambitious predator management programme. Its goal is to rid New Zealand of introduced predators, the most significant of which are rats, stoats, and possums, by 2050. Other major initiatives are focused on weeds, aiming to rid New Zealand of wilding conifers and 12 other problem weeds.

A broad range of initiatives are being undertaken by local government and communities. For example, Wellington City Council's biodiversity strategy *Our Natural Capital* is designed to reduce predators and protect threatened species through mobilising community action. Since 2015 the city has experienced a material increase in native bird life including a 600 percent increase in the native kākāriki parrot population and an average of 45,000 native trees planted annually.

New Zealand has recently launched a *National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry* under our Resource Management Act. These Standards allow local councils to better maintain or improve the environmental outcomes associated with plantation forestry activities nationally, and to increase certainty and efficiency in the management of plantation forestry activities.

We have set a goal to plant one billion trees over 10 years, called the *One Billion Trees Programme*. The tree planting programme will benefit regional economies, the environment and the people. It will support the commercial forestry sector, and create more jobs and training opportunities in regions where unemployment is high and there are social challenges. It will also support New Zealand's climate change objectives as a sustainable and effective contribution towards our transition to a zero carbon economy. New planting will include both exotics and natives species, in a mix of permanent and harvestable forestry, on private, public and Māori-owned land.

In 2018, we also provided our Department of Conservation with an additional \$182 million in operational funding over four years – the largest budget increase since 2002. This includes \$76 million for biodiversity initiatives across land, freshwater and marine ecosystems aimed at ecological restoration and threatened species recovery.

Finally, New Zealand seeks to move to a stage where there is widespread, informed and effective community action to achieve biodiversity outcomes. The *Predator Free 2050* programme brings together communities and wider organisations to eradicate New Zealand's most damaging introduced predators, and initiatives such as the Department of Conservation *Community Fund* supports community-led conservation efforts.

## One Billion Trees

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Trees offer a wide range of benefits to landowners, communities, catchments, regions and New Zealand. Benefits include helping to improve land productivity and water quality, tackle erosion, and reduce the effects of climate change. Trees enhance our natural landscape and provide important habitats for a range of native species, as well as support wellbeing and jobs by providing income from timber, honey and carbon credits.

The government has developed the One Billion Trees Programme to increase current rates of tree planting to reach at least one billion trees over the next decade. The Programme will deliver improved social, environmental and economic outcomes for New Zealand.

The programme is funded by the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) which aims to realise the remarkable potential of the regions of Aotearoa New Zealand. The programme is led by Te Uru Rākau – Forestry New Zealand within the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and supports landowners to grow both native and exotic trees to create employment and workforce development, optimise land use, mitigate climate change, support Māori values and aspirations, protect the environment and support New Zealand's transition to a low-emissions economy.

There is a focus on lowering the planting barriers currently faced by landowners and improving incentives to support the right trees, in the right place, for the right purpose, and create wider social, environmental and economic benefits across New Zealand. The government is looking to partner with New Zealanders to achieve this goal through research, innovation and sector development initiatives.

The programme will harness and build on the afforestation and land management work already underway with landowners, Māori, regional councils, researchers, community organisations, and local communities.

## Predator Free 2050

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New Zealand's wonderful birds, reptiles, insects and bats have evolved in isolation over millions of years to develop characteristics unique to these islands. Most of these precious, beautiful - sometimes quirky - species are found nowhere else in the world but their existence is under serious threat.

Over the last few hundred years, introduced predators especially rats, stoats and possums, have decimated the populations of New Zealand's indigenous wildlife. Many native species are now extinct and 82 percent of remaining species are in serious trouble because every year millions of eggs, chicks and adults are killed and eaten by these ground-based predators.

In response to these threats, the New Zealand government has adopted the vision of achieving a predator free New Zealand by 2050.

Predator Free 2050 is a step change programme, driving co-ordinated, progressive, eradication nationwide. Achievement of a predator free New Zealand relies on 'collective impact' - concerted effort by various parties towards a collectively owned goal. The parties collectively develop a co-operative plan to solve it.

In 2018 the New Zealand government approved \$81 million over four years to suppress predators in priority ecosystems, protect and increase biodiversity on off-shore islands, and develop more effective and efficient predator control methods.

Predator Free 2050 Ltd, established by the government as one of the parties to deliver on the Goal, has invested in large-scale predator free projects in Waiheke, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Wellington and Dunedin. Alongside these projects are over 1,200 community projects assisting with predator control. In its first few years of operation, the area of mainland New Zealand where predators are suppressed through predator control projects has increased to over one million hectares. Alongside the operational components, the programme is conducting research to extend and develop tools and methodologies to deliver a predator free New Zealand.



## Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

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“We know that people, places and economies thrive when a country is free from violence and when trust and transparency are high.”

### **New Zealand context**

New Zealand has a strong and independent system of justice. We perform well on transparency and accountability, as well as the promotion of the rule of law and equal access to justice. Transparency International has ranked New Zealand as one of the least corrupt and most trustworthy countries in the world. We are well aligned on participatory and representative decision-making, legal identity and ensuring public access to information, and have policies and practical actions in these areas. We are committed to significantly reducing the flow of illicit finances and arms, and have specific policy, legislation and practical actions in place.

The Treaty of Waitangi is central to New Zealand’s constitutional arrangements and the government’s obligation of active partnership with Māori. This is vital to ensure that our society is inclusive and our institutions are legitimate and accountable.

We aim to make New Zealand the best place in the world to live and raise a family, which cannot be achieved without transformational change to our justice system. We are determined to ensure that New Zealanders can live free from violence and abuse and are committed to working with Māori and communities to reduce offending and introduce safe and effective justice for all.

### **Challenges**

We face several challenges in order to fulfil the vision encapsulated in Goal 16. We know that some New Zealanders face more barriers accessing justice and participating in democracy than others. Māori and Pacific peoples have experienced longstanding disparities. Our LGBTIQ+ community, new migrants to New Zealand, and the many New Zealanders with disabilities also face discrimination and challenges that many others do not. We also have work to do to ensure there is active partnership between the government and Māori, consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi.

New Zealand has amongst the highest reported rates of family and sexual violence in the developed world, which remains a major human rights challenge. Around 12 percent of New Zealanders – over half a million people – are directly affected by family violence each year. Violence disproportionately affects some parts of New Zealand society. Women are seven to ten times more likely to be seriously injured by partner violence than men, and women also experience more repeat incidents of interpersonal violence by family members. Māori are disproportionately represented as people who are harmed and who cause harm.

In addition, Māori are and have been severely overrepresented in New Zealand’s prison population for several decades. Māori make up only 15 percent of our population, but

approximately half of New Zealand's prison population. Māori are also 38 percent of the people proceeded against by the Police and 42 percent of the people convicted. Other challenges facing our justice system include high rates of imprisonment and reoffending.

### **Initiatives underway**

New Zealand is focused on the wellbeing of children and whānau and is dedicated to a long term and systemic approach to end family violence and sexual violence. We acknowledge that responses to family and sexual violence have been inadequate, and we are committed to making improvements for victims, perpetrators and their families.

We are creating a joint-venture tasked with building a cohesive, whole-of-government response to family violence and sexual violence. We are also aiming for significant improvements through the implementation of new laws and policies, a national strategy for the prevention of family and sexual violence, an investment strategy for family violence and sexual violence services, better cross-government coordination and improved data.

Since 2015, the National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges has delivered *Whānau Protect*, New Zealand's nationwide home safety service. *Whānau Protect* supports victims of family violence who experience repeat victimisations, are at high risk of serious assault or death, and are leaving an abusive relationship. Practical safety improvements are made to houses, leading to a greater sense of security.

*E Tū Whānau* is a long-standing national whānau violence prevention programme. It is a Māori response, supported by government, to unacceptably high levels of violence within whānau. It utilises a strengths-based approach to increase protective factors (such as cultural identity, social capital, family stability and community cohesion) and decrease risk factors for family violence.

Frontline social services working with families impacted by family violence have benefitted significantly from increased funding, as have sexual abuse and treatment services to better support victims, deliver medical treatment, forensic services and referrals.

The Family Violence Act 2018, which takes effect from July 2019, introduces new offences, supports new ways for collecting evidence, enables judges to refer people to broader services and makes changes to civil orders to improve safety. The Act also criminalises coerced marriage or civil union. New resources will help victims of sexual violence understand the justice process.

Beyond the issue of family and sexual violence, we have commenced a comprehensive and ambitious programme of reforming the criminal justice system. Our goal is to reduce the prison population by 30 percent in the next 15 years and address the disproportionate representation of Māori. Achieving this ambitious target will require widespread public buy-in for a new purpose for the criminal justice system. We are undertaking an extensive national public conversation about the justice system, including local and national engagement events, and significant opportunities for Māori and victims to share their

perspectives. The goal of this engagement is to establish a sustainable public mandate for significant change.

In 2018, a new agency, The Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti was established. Part of the role of this agency is to increase government capability in engaging and partnering with Māori, with the intention of improving shared outcomes such as over-representation in the justice system.

We are working on ways to deliver a safe and effective justice system including greater use of alternatives to imprisonment and therapeutic and restorative justice processes to reduce imprisonment. A specific kaupapa Māori rehabilitation and reintegration pathway for wāhine Māori has been established for all women's prisons. We are also investing in improving social outcomes, for example addressing socioeconomic disadvantages experienced by children, which will have long-term benefits for Māori children.

New Zealand is committed to combatting people trafficking in all its forms and at all levels. Victims of trafficking are treated as people in need of protection and provided with a range of support services through a whole-of-government approach. Our response to people trafficking is outlined in a *Plan of Action to Prevent People Trafficking*, which aims to prevent people trafficking, protect the human rights of trafficking victims and prosecute people traffickers. Recent legislative changes have strengthened our ability to prosecute those responsible for exploiting people through forced labour, slavery and like practices, and servitude, with New Zealand's first conviction for people trafficking occurring in 2016. Internationally, New Zealand is an active participant in the *Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime*.

We know that democracies thrive when people trust and participate in their government. To promote greater public access to information, transparency and open government, we have committed to proactively releasing all Cabinet papers and minutes, which record the decisions of New Zealand's senior ministers and key policy directions. From 2019, all Cabinet material must be released and published online within 30 days of the decision being made, unless there are good reasons not to. This recognises that achieving public accountability and transparency requires constant effort and not only making information publicly available, but also easily accessible. Proactive release of information will work to promote good government and transparency, and will foster public trust and confidence in our institutions.

Improving access to justice is one of the key challenges facing our justice system. Access to justice is fundamental to the rule of law and protected by our Bill of Rights Act. We know some New Zealanders are less likely to seek help when they have a problem that would benefit from legal services. In 2018, we reviewed the legal aid system to assess whether the current settings were appropriate. The review included examining the income thresholds for eligibility and the need to repay legal aid. The review specifically looked at the impacts on different population groups, including women. The government is considering what changes to implement based on the outcome of this review.

New Zealand is dedicated to putting in place practical measures to protect businesses and make it harder for criminals to fund and profit from illegal activity. Legislation was passed in 2009 to assist in detecting and deterring money laundering, contributing to public confidence in the financial system and upholding our reputation as a good place to do business. This law was amended in 2017 to extend its reach to cover more businesses, who are required to conduct extensive due diligence on customers and report suspicious activities to the Commission of Police.

New Zealand is committed to contributing to peace and promoting cooperation, transparency and responsibility in the international arms trade. We are a leading supporter of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which we ratified in 2014. We have undertaken initiatives to support universalisation and implementation of the ATT, including the production of model implementing legislation and a model 'export control list' for Pacific Island countries. In 2018, New Zealand hosted the Pacific Conference on Conventional Weapons Treaties to promote uptake and implementation of the ATT in the Pacific region. We also enacted legislation in 2018 to support our commitments under the ATT and introduce more comprehensive controls around global weapons brokering.

## Te Arawhiti

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In late 2017, the government established a new ministerial portfolio, the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti. This portfolio will grow and support the unique relationship between Māori and the Crown that arises out of the Treaty of Waitangi. Shortly after the establishment of the portfolio, the Minister undertook 33 hui to seek input from around the country on the portfolio's areas of focus.

One suggestion from those hui was for a standalone agency to support the Minister's work. A new Office for Māori Crown Relations - Te Arawhiti was established and became operational on 1 January 2019. The office incorporated some existing functions, such as completing historical Treaty of Waitangi settlement negotiations, as well as new areas of work.

The new work areas of the office largely reflect the other key themes heard through the hui, in particular that the Crown has to build its capability for engaging and partnering with Māori to better enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the Treaty, and foster a strong Māori Crown relationship. Therefore, a key focus of the office is assisting agencies to build capability across a number of areas: Māori language, tikanga Māori and Māori worldviews; New Zealand history and the Treaty of Waitangi; understanding institutional racism; how to engage effectively with Māori on policy and other proposals, and making the most of opportunities to partner with Māori.

These work areas reflect the Crown's intention to build a forward-looking relationship with Māori and shift away from the grievance-focused approach of the historical Treaty of Waitangi settlement process.

A strong relationship will help ensure that responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making occurs at all levels. It will also mean that in areas where Māori interests are significant, the Crown and Māori will partner to determine the issue and develop solutions together. Māori and the Crown can then work to maximise future opportunities for wider New Zealand through true partnerships.

Ultimately the Crown's goal is to create a thriving, sustainable and future focused economy and environment for all New Zealanders. The Crown recognises that it must honour its Treaty of Waitangi obligations and, in partnership with Māori, increase the wellbeing, community connection, health and educational outcomes of Māori people in order to achieve this. Te Arawhiti is a new vehicle to assist government agencies to make this happen.

## Integrated Safety Response to Family violence

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New Zealand has unacceptably high levels of family violence. Due to the high number of incidents, there is a real risk that families will slip through the cracks and not receive all of the support available to them through the multiple agencies that deal with the consequences of family violence. Those affected by family violence are required to navigate a complex system made up of many agencies in order to receive support such as child counselling, alcohol or drug interventions, or employment and budgeting support.

To combat this, in 2016 the government committed funding to pilot a new Integrated Safety Response (ISR) model for an enhanced response to family violence episodes and high-risk prison releases. ISR aims to ensure victims, perpetrators, families and whānau receive appropriate and tailored responses according to risk levels. Eighty percent of funding is spent on service provision for families and whānau. The pilot currently operates in two major districts.

ISR is a multi-agency project hosted by New Zealand Police to ensure the immediate safety of victims and children and to work with perpetrators to prevent further violence. It aims to put families and whānau at the centre by listening to the victim's voice and creating Family Safety Plans based on individual risks and needs. Information is shared efficiently with relevant agencies to facilitate improved outcomes for families while respecting their privacy and dignity. ISR aims to coordinate all relevant agencies to enable them to work together to ensure that those effected by family violence receive a co-ordinated and tailored response that addresses their individual risks and needs.

The ISR process is initiated in two ways: by the Police referring a Family Harm episode to ISR following an emergency callout, or by the Department of Corrections identifying and referring a high-risk prison release. A multi-agency group made up of a team from *Oranga Tamariki*, the Police, the Department of Corrections, Ministry of Health, specialist NGOs and Māori service providers hold a Safety Assessment Meeting, triage and risk assess all family violence episodes and allocate responses to agencies. Agencies work with the family to provide help and support so that they can stay safe. Features include specialist services for victims and perpetrators (including independent victim specialists and perpetrator outreach for high risk cases), daily risk assessment, family safety plans, and an electronic case management system.

As at February 2019, ISR had 75,500 individuals and 31,381 family safety plans in its case management Family Safety System. To date, \$26 million has been allocated to continue funding the pilot, and over half this funding went to Māori providers, who supply key support services to families to address violence among their whānau.

## Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

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“We are open and engaged in the world; we have a part to play and partnership is just the way we work”.

### **New Zealand context**

New Zealand and New Zealanders are open and outwardly engaged in the world and in our region. As a small independent country and trading nation our own sustainable development relies on this engagement. As a Pacific country we are invested in the sustainable development of our region. As a global citizen we have a deep stake in global progress on the 2030 Agenda for people, planet, prosperity and peace.

We are committed to playing our part as a reliable, principled and trusted partner.

New Zealand partners widely for sustainable development – we partner with Pacific and developing countries, with the regional organisations we are members of, and with the multilateral system. We partner with New Zealand public, private sector, civil society and academic organisations to draw on the full spectrum of expertise and to increase our impact. We coordinate closely with other development partners.

### **Challenges**

Goal 17 commits countries to a partnership that strengthens the means by which the SDGs can be implemented globally and in developing countries. It calls for commitments to finance, technology, trade, a stronger global system and policy coherence.

These face headwinds. Development finance efforts have yet to yield the scale up of the finance required by developing countries. The contribution of trade is hindered by a rise in protectionist policies. A real global partnership is constrained by political and economic uncertainty. New Zealand is active in addressing these challenges on which much progress hinges.

### **Initiatives**

New Zealand's development assistance is focussed on the Pacific where we have deep connections and where we can have the greatest impact. We have long advocated for greater recognition of the unique development finance challenges faced by Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS), something that is strongly reflected in the 2030 Agenda. In 2018, we increased our Official Development Assistance (ODA) in response to the 2030 Agenda and to the sustainable development finance needs of developing countries, particularly in the Pacific. We allocated an additional \$714 million over a four year budget cycle, representing a 30 percent increase, lifting ODA to a projected 0.28 percent of GNI.

In 2018, we also significantly increased our contribution to the Global Environment Facility. This was in recognition of the need to increase funding for developing countries to respond to environmental challenges.

We provide a range of support to drive sustainable economic development in the Pacific. We assist partners to strengthen their private sector, both through activities that use our aid money to leverage private sector finance and expertise, and through technical assistance to improve the business enabling environment. We support initiatives that aim to improve public financial management and boost domestic revenue mobilisation efforts, including through technical assistance and support to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre, and we provide technical advisory support for Pacific to attract foreign direct investment and grow exports.

New Zealand's development-friendly migration policies, such as the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) work policy, are a valued part of New Zealand's relationship with Pacific Island countries. New Zealand has recently (2017) increased funding to expand labour mobility opportunities, and is developing a strategy to support Pacific women to access employment opportunities. Remittances generated from labour mobility schemes like RSE make significant contributions to the economy in most Pacific states.

New Zealand recognises that trade is a powerful catalyst for development. We champion a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO). Small and developing countries in particular rely on this system to protect and advance their interests. New Zealand continues to work constructively at the WTO to achieve agricultural reforms, increased market access, and elimination of export subsidies and trade-distorting domestic support policies which we view as the best means of delivering the development potential of trade. We are also an engaged and active participant in efforts to reform and strengthen the WTO.

We have taken a number of trade measures to support development. We have provided 100 percent duty-free, quota-free market access for least-developed countries (LDCs) since 2001. We provide reduced tariffs for a number of less-developed countries, and are an active contributor to Aid-for-Trade initiatives. We have also notified the LDCs Services waiver, and ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

New Zealand's trade agreements have included significant Aid-for-Trade support, including the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus), a trade and development agreement between Australia, New Zealand and nine Pacific Island countries. New Zealand (together with Australia) has provided funding to assist Pacific Island countries' to enact the agreement, including through technical legislative and customs support. Once PACER Plus enters into force, New Zealand and Australia have committed to support a five year work programme that aims to address barriers to trade in the region, with a view to increasing exports from developing countries and to invest at least 20 percent of our total ODA in support of 'Aid for Trade' in the Pacific.



New Zealand played an active role in the Pacific SDG Taskforce working with Pacific partners to produce the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development. The Roadmap guides regional responses for the achievement of the SDGs within the context of national plans and priorities, the 2015 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. We support a range of regional institutions in advancing SDGs in the Pacific. We are also working with NGOs in the region to better deliver sustainable development and effective implementation of the SDGs, recognising the particular skills and expertise non-government organisations have to offer.

We fund the strengthening of statistical systems in the Pacific, including through support to Pacific organisations, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank. This builds their capacity for both domestic and international information gathering, reporting and planning. Capacity building is always central to the way we work with partner countries.

Policy coherence, and ensuring our policy settings enhance development, is a necessary and enduring theme in our development approach.

## Understanding the needs of Small Island Developing States

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Fifty-eight countries and territories are considered Small Island Developing States (SIDS), scattered mainly across the Pacific, Caribbean and Indian Oceans. These countries and territories vary in population, income, remoteness and natural resources, but share the common challenge of being at the forefront of the impact of climate change. This means that they are vulnerable to rises in sea level and are at risk of tropical cyclones.

New Zealand has long advocated for greater recognition of the unique development challenges faced by SIDS. Raising the profile of the challenges that SIDS experience also benefits our Pacific neighbours. Indeed, Pacific SIDS have benefited from increased multilateral financing as a result of sustained advocacy by New Zealand and other partners.

SIDS have unique development funding requirements. To increase understanding of the funding challenges and explore solutions, we helped design and fund two studies on SIDS. The studies were co-financed with Australia and published by the UN and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The report produced by the OECD is the most comprehensive report ever undertaken of development funding in SIDS. It analyses 35 countries, providing a comparative analysis of all Official Development Assistance, bilateral and concessional funding over a period of five years, and identifies how development partners can better support SIDS.

The UN report examines the particular development funding challenges for Pacific SIDS, drawing on input from 15 Pacific countries. It identifies key financing opportunities and innovations that SIDS and their partners can use to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Both reports have attracted considerable international interest for the way they strengthen research on development funding and offer new ideas on how to respond. This puts both SIDS and New Zealand in a stronger position to influence relevant international policy.

## Bridging the Technology Gap

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The geography of the Pacific is such that populations are scattered across vast distances of ocean. Many Pacific countries comprise small land masses within huge economic zones; the Cook Islands population of 18,000 is spread across 15 small islands in an area of 1.8 million km<sup>2</sup>; Kiribati's 100,000 people are spread across 32 atolls in an area of ocean the size of continental United States.

This presents a unique set of challenges to Pacific governments seeking to provide essential services to citizens. Economies of scale, possible in other developing economies, do not exist and access to basic services such as power or telecommunications is often constrained by very high per-capita cost of service provision, particularly in areas outside the capital or main island.

New Zealand has partnered with the University of the South Pacific (USP), which has 14 campuses and ten centres across its 12 Pacific countries, to upgrade the satellite connections at each campus across all 12 countries, including the main hub on the Fiji campus. It is also upgrading IT networking systems in all campuses to bring modern IT services to the entire staff and student base across the Pacific.

These new services will enable USP to transform the delivery of its learning curricula, ensuring that students across the campus network are able to engage in a variety of learning methods. For the first time, all students across the USP network will have a comparable digital experience regardless of the geography they are based in. This includes participation in virtual classroom learning delivered from the main Fiji campus, ensuring that students in remote learning centres have access to the same quality of learning experience as any student on a main campus.

In line with the theme of joining forces to leave no-one behind, the project has highlighted the value of partnering with existing institutions, which can bring efficiency in delivery and sustainability, and improve access to essential services for remote or rural populations.



# HE WAKA EKE NOA TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE, TOGETHER

NEW ZEALAND'S PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGs — 2019



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Cover image: Zena Elliott, Guidance

In 2013 Zena Elliott held an exhibition entitled 'Glokool' - a name she coined from two words, 'global' and 'local'.

Her art is all about the clash of cultures in New Zealand today - Māori and Pākehā, local and global - and the challenge of retaining an individual voice. She celebrates her many influences in her vibrant, richly-patterned paintings.

Elliott's work draws on both popular culture and 'fine' art: the imagery of computer graphics, video gaming, and street art, as well as that of abstract painting and customary Māori art. In Guidance she brings a Pop art aesthetic to the colourful kowhaiwhai patterns which decorate the rafters in the Māori wharehau (meeting house).

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# FOREWORD WĀHINGA KŌRERO

THE RT HON JACINDA ARDERN  
PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND

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Jacinda Ardern  
Prime Minister of New Zealand

Placeholder for photo of PM



# SDG15 – LIFE ON LAND

With New Zealand's many unique species and ecosystems, guardianship or kaitiaki is in our nature and at the heart of what it means to be a Kiwi.



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## NEW ZEALAND CONTEXT

Conservation and sustainable use of New Zealand's unique habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity is at the heart of our culture. For many New Zealanders, the natural environment is part of our identity.

Our rich indigenous biodiversity is unique, with a high number of endemic species: 100 percent of New Zealand's reptiles, 70 percent of our birds, and 80 percent of our vascular plants are found nowhere else on Earth. Our biodiversity shapes and sustains our society and is a major attraction for international tourists.

## WE WANT THE FULL RANGE OF NEW ZEALAND'S INDIGENOUS ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES THRIVE FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE OCEAN DEPTHS, WITH MĀORI IWI AND HAPU AS KAITIAKI – GUARDIANS – AS ACTIVE PARTNERS IN MANAGING BIODIVERSITY.

New Zealand's forests are part of our identity; they are a defining feature of our landscapes, house our endemic taonga (treasured) species, and provide socio-economic value to our people and regional economies. New Zealand is committed to the achievement of sustainable management of forests. Sustainable forest management is about maximising the environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits from forests and forestry.

New Zealand has multiple frameworks designed to protect the land and ecosystem services, which are framed by our New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and a range of tools and legislation such as including National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry to manage the environmental effects of forestry, and a National Environmental Standard for

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Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health.

New Zealand's current vision for biodiversity management at a national level is set out in the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2000-2020. Key aspects of this vision are to ensure that New Zealanders value and better understand biodiversity, and work together to protect, sustain and restore it, allowing everyone to enjoy and share in its benefits as the foundation of a sustainable economy and society. We want the full range of New Zealand's indigenous ecosystems and species to thrive from the mountains to the ocean depths, with Māori iwi and hapū as kaitiaki – guardians – as active partners in managing biodiversity.

## CHALLENGES

Pressures from human activity have caused a rapid decline of our native ecosystems and species, and this decline continues. Environmental reporting shows that there has been a significant shift in land use in the past two decades and indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems continue to be under threat. There are now over 4000 species at risk of extinction and many natural ecosystems are in decline. The most significant pressures come from changing land use and the impacts of invasive species, particularly mammalian predators and herbivores, and exotic weeds. Redressing the damage, and re-building ecosystems to support our native species remains a significant challenge.

Around 37 percent of New Zealand's land area is covered in forests. The majority of this forest is made up of indigenous species in protected areas, which are actively managed by our Department of Conservation. The remaining approximately 2 million hectares of forest is exotic, privately owned production forest, which are the source of over 99 percent of harvested volumes. The clear separation of production and conservation forests allows for New Zealand's native tree species and the native biodiversity within to be



# SDG 15 — LIFE ON LAND

protected, while the forestry sector can utilise fast-growing exotic species which support our export-based economy and provide broader socio-economic and environmental benefit to regions and broader ecosystems. A challenge that New Zealand faces is to maintain this balance in outcomes from our forests.

One of the other challenges we face is the number of statutes governing terrestrial conservation management, many of which are dated. This creates a complex system which hinders our ability to implement the objectives of Goal 15.

## INITIATIVES UNDERWAY

New Zealand is developing a new Biodiversity Strategy to address the challenges of biodiversity loss. Our current National Biodiversity Strategy, adopted in 2000, expires in 2020. The new Strategy will address emerging pressures such as climate change and look at new ways of valuing our biodiversity in its role underpinning ecosystems, natural capital and wellbeing. A new strategy is also an opportunity to align related initiatives that are existing or in development.

The New Zealand Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2020 provides an update to the Biodiversity Strategy and includes five updated goals to achieve the Strategy's vision. Each goal includes national targets to ensure progress, which are linked to the global strategic goals set by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Our sixth National Report to the CBD shows that New Zealand has made good progress on actions taken to raise awareness of biodiversity, integrate biodiversity into planning processes, and increase covenant protection on private land. However, it also makes it clear that much more work needs to be done in the face of significant pressures including changing land use and invasive species.

We are also developing a National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity,

which will set out objectives and policies to improve how regional councils and territorial authorities manage and protect indigenous biodiversity on both public and private land.

Our Predator Free 2050 initiative is the world's most ambitious predator management programme. It has the goal to rid New Zealand of introduced predators, the most significant of which are rats, stoats, and possums, by 2050. Other major initiatives are focused on weeds, aiming to rid New Zealand of wilding conifers and 12 other problem weeds.

A broad range of initiatives are being undertaken by local government and communities. For example, Wellington City Council's biodiversity strategy "Our Natural Capital" is designed to reduce predators and protect threatened species through mobilising community action. Since 2015 the city has experienced a material increase in native bird life including a 600 percent increase in the native kākāriki parrot population and an average of 45,000 native trees planted annually.

New Zealand has recently launched a National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry under our Resource Management Act. These Standards allow local councils to better maintain or improve the environmental outcomes associated with plantation forestry activities nationally, and to increase certainty and efficiency in the management of plantation forestry activities.

We have set a goal to plant one billion trees over 10 years, called the One Billion Trees Programme. The tree planting programme will benefit regional economies, the environment and the people. It will support the commercial forestry sector, and create more jobs and training opportunities in regions where unemployment is high and there are social challenges. It will also support New Zealand's climate change objectives as a sustainable and effective contribution towards our transition to a zero carbon economy. New planting will include both exotics and natives species, in a mix

of permanent and harvestable forestry, on private, public and Māori-owned land.

In 2018, we also provided our Department of Conservation with an additional \$182 million in operational funding over four years - the largest budget increase since 2002. This includes \$76 million for biodiversity initiatives across land, freshwater and marine ecosystems aimed at ecological restoration and threatened species recovery.

Finally, New Zealand seeks to move to a stage where there is widespread, informed and effective community action to achieve biodiversity outcomes. The Predator Free 2050 programme brings together communities and wider organisations to eradicate New Zealand's most damaging introduced predators, and initiatives such as the Department of Conservation Community Fund supports community-led conservation efforts.

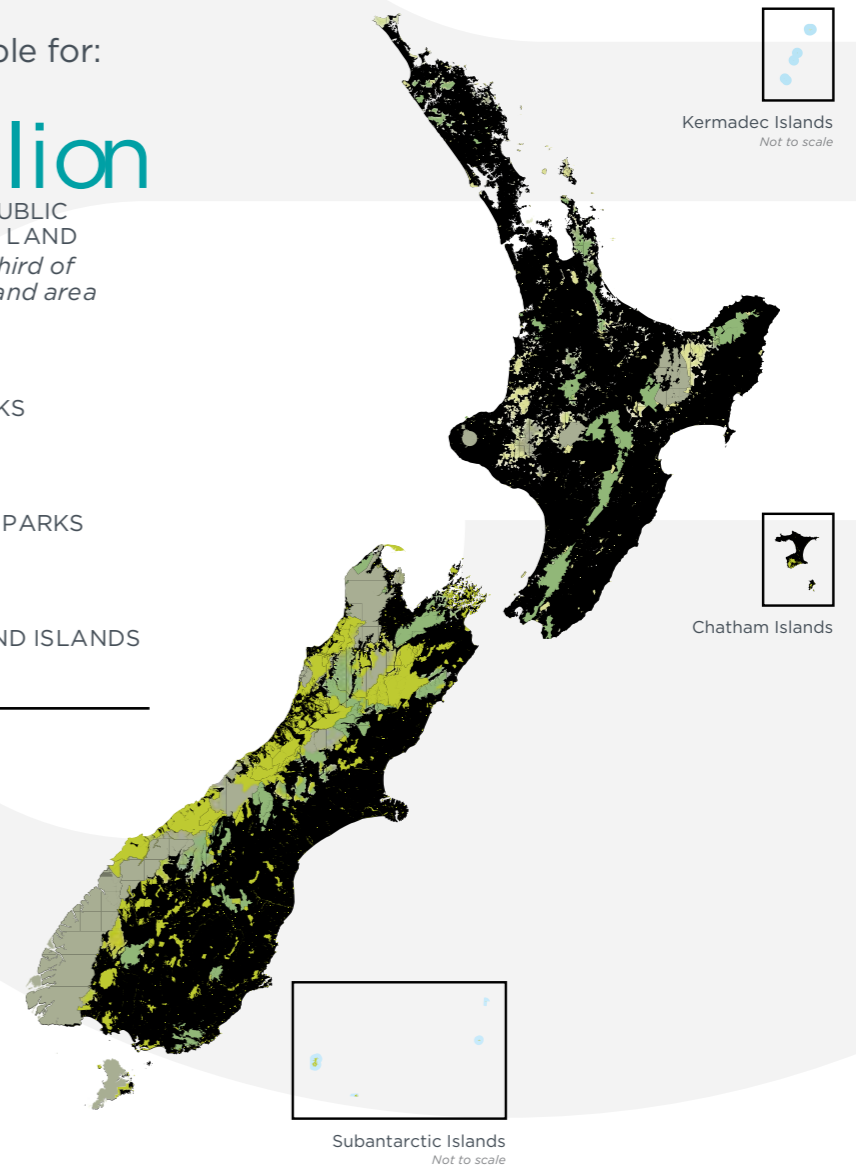
We're responsible for:

OVER  
→ **8 million**  
HECTARES OF PUBLIC  
CONSERVATION LAND  
*More than one-third of  
New Zealand's land area*

■ **13**  
NATIONAL PARKS

■ **36**  
CONSERVATION PARKS

■ **100s**  
OF RESERVES AND ISLANDS



Kermadec Islands  
*Not to scale*

Chatham Islands

Subantarctic Islands  
*Not to scale*





# ONE BILLION TREES PROGRAMME

Trees offer a wide range of benefits to landowners, communities, catchments, regions and New Zealand. Benefits include helping to improve land productivity and water quality, tackle erosion, and reduce the effects of climate change. Trees enhance our natural landscape and provide important habitats for a range of native species, as well as support wellbeing and jobs by providing income from timber, honey and carbon credits.

The New Zealand Government has developed the One Billion Trees Programme to increase current rates of tree planting to reach at least one billion trees over the next decade. The Programme will deliver improved social, environmental and economic outcomes for New Zealand.

The programme is funded by the Provincial Growth Fund

(PGF) which aims to realise the remarkable potential of the regions of Aotearoa New Zealand. The programme is led by Te Uru Rākau - Forestry New Zealand within the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and supports landowners to grow both native and exotic trees to create employment and workforce development, optimise land use, mitigate climate change, support Māori values and aspirations, protect the environment and support New Zealand's transition to a low emissions economy.

There is a focus on lowering the planting barriers currently faced by landowners and improving incentives to support the right trees, in the right place, for the right purpose, and create wider social, environmental and economic benefits across New Zealand. The Government is looking to partner with New

Zealanders to achieve this goal through research, innovation and sector development initiatives.

The programme will harness and build on the afforestation and land management work already underway with landowners, Māori, regional councils, researchers, community organisations, and local communities.

**WHAKAPŪPŪTIA MAI Ō MĀNUKA, KIA KORE AI E WHATI.**

**CLUSTER THE BRANCHES OF THE MĀNUKA, SO THEY WILL NOT BREAK.**

# PREDATOR FREE 2050



New Zealand's wonderful birds, reptiles, insects and bats have evolved in isolation over millions of years to develop characteristics unique to these islands. Most of these precious, beautiful - sometimes quirky - species are found nowhere else in the world but their existence is under serious threat.

Over the last few hundred years, introduced predators especially rats, stoats and possums, have decimated the populations of New Zealand's indigenous wildlife. Many native species are now extinct and 82 percent of what remains is in serious trouble because every year millions of eggs, chicks and adults are killed and eaten by these ground-based predators.

**IN RESPONSE TO THESE THREATS, THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT HAS ADOPTED THE VISION OF ACHIEVING A PREDATOR FREE NEW ZEALAND BY 2050.**

Predator Free 2050 is a step change programme, driving co-ordinated, progressive, eradication nationwide. Achievement of a predator free New Zealand relies on "collective impact" - concerted effort by various parties towards a collectively owned goal. The parties collectively develop a co-operative plan to solve it.

In 2018 the New Zealand government approved \$81 million over four years to suppress predators in priority ecosystems, protect and increase biodiversity on off-shore islands, and develop more effective and efficient predator control methods.

Predator Free 2050 Ltd, established by the government as one of the parties to deliver on the Goal, has invested in large-scale predator free projects in Waiheke, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Wellington and Dunedin. Alongside these projects are over 1200 community projects assisting with predator control. In its first few years of operation, the area of mainland New Zealand where predators are suppressed through predator control projects has increased to over one million hectares. Alongside the operational components, the programme is conducting research to extend and develop tools and methodologies to deliver a predator free New Zealand.

## STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Increased tree planting will occur through a variety of mechanisms.



### ONE BILLION TREES FUND

- 1. Direct landowner grants**
  - providing incentives and reducing the barriers to planting.
- 2. Partnership projects**
  - supporting increased planting by considering the role of innovation and workforce initiatives;
  - looking at options to scale up some native regeneration projects.



### MATARIKI TU RA-KAU

Planting living memorials to honour our New Zealand Defence Force members, past and present.



### CROWN FORESTRY

Entering into joint ventures or leases with landowners (such as farmers) to plant commercial forestry.

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