



Building the Future:

Backing Auckland to succeed



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National is excited for Auckland's future and, if re-elected, will spend the next three years continuing to back our largest city to grow and prosper.

We share Aucklanders' vision for a city where families can get ahead, businesses can succeed, and communities can be proud of where they live.

Auckland is New Zealand's largest economic centre and home to more than 1.8 million Kiwis, and contributes nearly 40% to our national GDP.

When Auckland succeeds, New Zealand succeeds.

Under National the economy is growing faster than the US, the UK, Canada, and Australia. Exports are up \$20 billion, inflation is down from a 32-year high, and 220,000 new jobs are expected with wages growing faster than prices.

We want to help Auckland capitalise on that opportunity.

National has a strong record of backing Auckland, from the Waterview Tunnel and City Rail Link to the new infrastructure and services being delivered today.

This term, we have opened the City Rail Link, funded 727 new classrooms, expanded cancer treatment in West Auckland, restored 24/7 urgent care in Counties Manukau, secured land in Drury for a future South Auckland hospital, signed the Auckland Regional Deal, and funded two Roads of National Significance that will benefit Aucklanders.

And the results are starting to show.

In Auckland, regular school attendance has risen to 66.7 per cent, while 85.3 per cent of school leavers now achieve at least NCEA Level 2 or above.

More patients are being seen sooner. The proportion of Auckland emergency department patients being dealt with within six hours has risen from 67.1 per cent in 2023/24 to 77.3 per cent in 2025/26.

Crime is also falling in Auckland. Between 2023 and 2025, burglaries fell 16 per cent, theft fell 11 per cent, and Police foot patrols have increased significantly.

Fewer Auckland families are living in emergency housing too, with the number of households falling from 885 in November 2023 to 81 in August 2026.

And household pressures are easing. Lower mortgage rates mean an Auckland household with an average sized mortgage could be paying more than \$9000 less a year than under mid-2023 rates, while rents are increasing at their slowest rate in around 25 years.

There is more to do. Auckland is still growing, and National's focus is on building the infrastructure, services and opportunities the city needs for the future.

A re-elected National Government will:

- **Plan ahead for Auckland's future**, working with Auckland Council through the Auckland Deal to align housing, infrastructure and economic growth.
- **Build the infrastructure Auckland needs to grow**, with better transport, more classrooms and health services that keep pace with new communities.
- **Back Auckland families with the cost of living**, by growing the economy, supporting more housing and keeping pressure off household costs.
- **Keep driving crime down**, with more visible Police, tougher consequences for serious and repeat offenders, and safer neighbourhoods and public spaces.
- **Keep lifting health and education performance**, so patients are seen and treated sooner, more children are in school, and more young Aucklanders leave with the skills and qualifications they need.

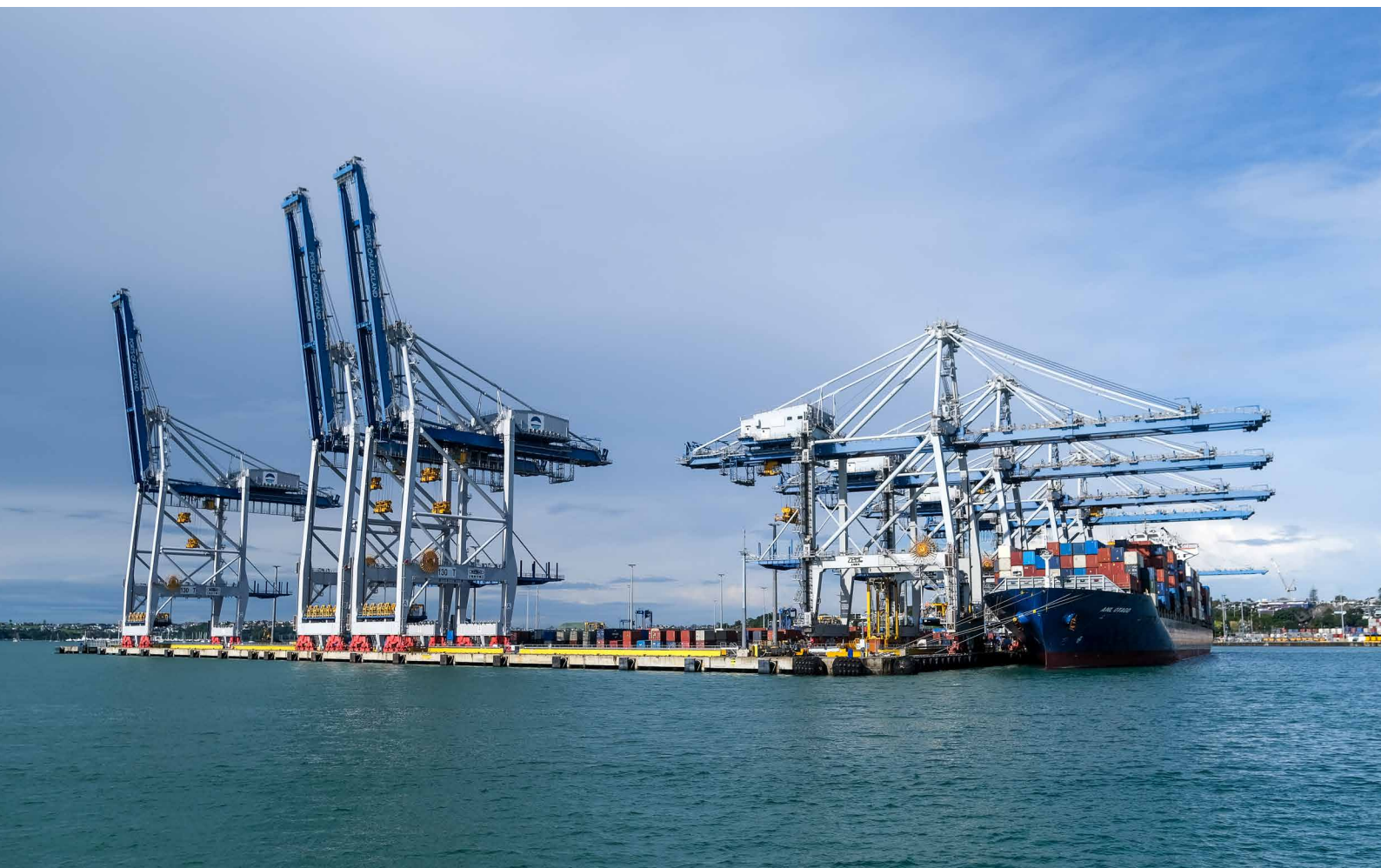
Growth and opportunity: unlocking Auckland's potential

Auckland's future is not just about building more roads, classrooms and hospitals. It is also about making better use of the infrastructure we already have, removing rules that hold the city back, supporting more homes and jobs, and backing the places and institutions that make Auckland attractive to live in, work in and visit.

National is making it easier for Auckland to grow in the right places and take advantage of the investment already going into the city.

Already delivering

- **Unlocking more homes around key City Rail Link stations**, enabling greater density in the places that make sense.
- **Unlocked Auckland's City Centre**, progressing the removal of planning restrictions that are holding the CBD back, potentially allowing for 17,000 additional dwellings and 37,200 more jobs.
- **Opening Eden Park up to more major events**, with planning restrictions eased for more concerts, sport and cultural events.
- **Keeping water infrastructure affordable**, saving Auckland households an estimated \$899 million over four years while enabling record Watercare investment.
- **Delivering more social housing**, with more than 3,000 net new social homes added across Auckland since November 2023.
- **Bringing more major events and visitors to Auckland**, with the New Zealand International Convention Centre now open. Next year's State of Origin match, alone, is expected to bring in more than 50,000 international visitor nights and \$17.4 million in economic activity.
- **Backing Auckland as a technology and innovation hub**, with the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Technology launched at GridAKL.
- **Scrapped the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax**, taking 11.5 cents a litre off the price of petrol and diesel for Auckland motorists.
- **Reformed the planning system**, ensuring that Aucklanders can do more with their property without having to battle red tape, which could remove the need for 45% of resource consents.
- **13 Fast-track projects approved**, including the Auckland Port Expansion – creating thousands of jobs and billions in investment.
- **Invested \$400m nationwide** to support councils with the costs of housing growth.





- **Saving Auckland building owners around \$4.5 billion through earthquake-prone building reforms**, removing more than 1,300 Auckland buildings from costly strengthening requirements that were disproportionate to the city's relatively low seismic risk.
- **Securing the future of the ASB classic**, contributing \$5 million towards a new centre court roof that will protect play from the weather and open the venue to more major events year-round.
- **Brought the Michelin Guide to New Zealand for the first time**, putting Auckland's food scene on the global stage, with 46 Auckland restaurants recognised, including five awarded a Michelin star.

Next, National will...

National backs growth and wants Auckland to grow further. But we know that some Kiwis are concerned about what growth means for them and their streets, especially in suburban Auckland.

The blanket ban on minimum car parking requirements has not worked and does not account for the reality of New Zealand's suburban streets. Many streets, especially in Auckland, are clogged and hard to get through, and people are now parking on berms and footpaths.

Aucklanders know all about the access and safety issues this policy has created. Some people are having to walk 10 minutes or more to get home from where they've parked. We're committing to fixed it.

A re-elected National Government will:

- Abolish the blanket ban on minimum car parking requirements.
- Allow councils to use minimum car parking requirements in suburban areas outside those identified for intensification (e.g. in city centres or around rapid transit stops).

This means councils will be able to set minimum car parking requirements in many suburban neighbourhoods, greenfield subdivisions, and business and industrial parks.

New homes should come with the parking residents need – in the right places. National will unclog our streets and make them safer and more manageable, enabling our suburbs to be more liveable.

Transport: connecting a growing Auckland

Getting around Auckland should not be one of the hardest parts of the day. But too many Aucklanders are still spending too much time sitting in traffic. For families, that is time lost at home. For tradies and small businesses, it means fewer jobs in a day. For exporters and freight operators, congestion adds cost every time goods have to move across the city.

Under this National-led Government, Auckland has started moving again. But there is more work to do. We have to keep investing in the state highway network that our growing city depends on.

A re-elected National government will allocate \$1.75 billion in Budget 2028 to start building Mill Road Stage One, connecting Manukau and Alfriston, with construction beginning in late 2028.

We will also invest \$100 million to protect the route for Stages Two and Three towards Drury, making sure future governments can continue the connection south as demand grows.

Already delivering

National has already made good progress on some of Auckland's biggest transport priorities, with major projects completed, funded or now underway.

- **City Rail Link is open**, giving Aucklanders a faster and more connected rail network.
- **The Eastern Busway is underway**, with funding approved and construction progressing on the final connection to Botany.
- **Auckland is receiving a record \$8.4 billion in transport investment** through the 2024–27 National Land Transport Programme.
- **The Auckland Deal has been signed**, creating a long-term framework for Government and Auckland Council to plan infrastructure, housing and transport growth together.
- **Transport decision-making has been reformed**, restoring democracy and accountability to transport in Auckland and laying the foundations for a joint Crown/Council 30-year transport plan.

- **Invested in critical new Roads of National Significance** in Northland and Waikato, to improve regional connectivity for people and freight heading to and from Auckland.
- **Improved the rail network**, with the Third Main Line, electrification to Pukekohe, and new stations at Drury and Paerātā now open, with a third to open at Ngākōroa next year.
- **Accelerated level crossing removals** in Takanini and Glen Innes, improving safety for pedestrians and efficiency for motorists in South and East Auckland.

Next, National will

- **Fund \$1.75 billion to construct Mill Road Stage One and \$100 million to route protect Stages Two and Three**, progressing this critical new transport connection for South Auckland.
- **Take the next steps on Auckland's future harbour crossing**, progressing the Detailed Business Case and the work needed to determine how this project can be funded and delivered.
- **Complete the Eastern Busway through to Botany**, giving East Auckland a faster and more reliable public transport connection.
- **Progress North-West Rapid Transit**, improving public transport along one of Auckland's busiest and fastest-growing corridors.
- **Progress CRL level-crossing removals**, improving connections and safety across South and East Auckland and making the rail network safer and more reliable.
- **Deliver the Auckland Deal**, including a coordinated 30-year transport strategy so Auckland can plan ahead rather than constantly play catch-up.
- **Explore options to speed up rapid transit projects** like the Botany to Airport Busway, through rescoping and cost saving measures.





Law and order: keeping crime coming down

Aucklanders should feel safe in their homes, walking through their neighbourhoods, running a business, heading into the city, or catching public transport.

For too long, too many Aucklanders saw crime becoming more common and more brazen. National has been focused on restoring consequences for offenders, putting Police back into communities and making public spaces safer.

The early results are encouraging, but there is much more to do.

Between 2023 and 2025, burglaries across Auckland fell by 16 per cent, theft fell by 11.0 per cent, and robbery, blackmail and extortion fell by 5 per cent. At the same time, there have been an increase in police foot patrols across Auckland, with a 203% increase in Waitemata, 156% in Counties Manukau, and 11% in Auckland City.

Ram raids have also collapsed from their 2022 peak. Across Auckland's three Police districts, recorded ram raids fell from 348 in 2022 to just 14 in 2025, a 96 per cent reduction.

What the figures show

Across three Auckland police districts	2023	2025	Change
Burglary	21,326	17,809	-16%
Theft	85,987	76,488	-11%
Robbery, blackmail and extortion	1,802	1,711	-5%

What we're doing next

The focus has been on getting Police back into communities, strengthening consequences for serious and repeat offending, and targeting the places Aucklanders should be able to use without fear of crime or intimidation.

National has also announced a dedicated Auckland Transport Police Team within New Zealand Police, adding a visible Police presence across buses, trains, ferries, stations and interchanges and supporting Auckland Transport's existing transport officers.

National will

- **Deliver the Auckland Transport Police Team and make public transport safer**, putting dedicated officers across buses, trains, ferries, stations and interchanges to protect passengers and staff.
- **Keep Police visible and focused on the places and offenders causing the most harm**, with a strong presence in neighbourhoods, town centres and other public spaces.
- **Keep driving down burglary, theft and violent offending**, with tougher consequences for serious and repeat offenders and a continued focus on reducing the number of victims.

Frontline services: healthcare closer to home

When you are sick, you should be able to get the care you need quickly and close to home.

That means knowing urgent care is available when your child gets sick at night. It means cancer patients spending less time travelling across the city for regular treatment. And it means making sure Auckland has the hospital capacity, specialist services and health workforce it will need as the city grows.

National inherited a health system from Labour where too many Aucklanders were waiting too long.

In Auckland district, the proportion of emergency department patients dealt with within six hours fell from 89.9 per cent in 2017/18 to 67.1 per cent in 2023/24, elective treatment within four months fell from 92.5 per cent to 65.6 per cent, and immunisation coverage for two-year-olds fell from 94.0% to 76.3%.

But under National, that decline is starting to turn around.

By 2025/26, 77.3 per cent of Auckland emergency department patients were dealt with within six hours, elective treatment to 69.3 per cent, and immunisation coverage for two-year-olds reached 88.2 per cent.

But there is still more to do.

National is already delivering

Improving the numbers matters, but so does what patients can see and experience on the ground. National is investing in more services, more capacity and better access to care across Auckland.

- **Cancer patients in West Auckland can now receive more treatment closer to home**, with infusion services opened at Waitākere Hospital and Te Whānau o Waipareira's Whānau Centre in Henderson.
- **Families in South and East Auckland once again have access to urgent care 24 hours a day**, after round-the-clock services were restored in Counties Manukau.
- **Land has been secured for a future South Auckland hospital**, with the purchase of a 13-hectare site in Drury.
- **A new 30-bed spinal rehabilitation centre is being built at Manukau Health Park**, backed by \$128.5 million of investment.
- **Auckland City Hospital is getting upgraded stroke and interventional radiology services**, with new investment increasing capacity and replacing ageing equipment used in some of the most complex procedures.
- **Cardiac services are being upgraded across the region**, with catheter laboratory improvements planned or underway at Auckland City, Counties Manukau, North Shore and Starship.
- **More care is being shifted closer to patients through primary care**, with a new Auckland and Northland workforce hub supporting more than 400 GP clinics and training clinicians to provide more procedures outside hospital.





What the results show

Auckland District Target	National (2017/18)	Labour (2023/24)	National (2025/26)
Patients in and out of emergency departments within six hours.	89.9%	67.1% ↓	77.3% ↑
Children fully immunised at 24 months of age.	94.0%	76.3% ↓	88.2% ↑
Patients waiting less than four months for elective treatment.	92.5%	65.6% ↓	69.3% ↑

Next, National will

The next step is to keep lifting performance while building the health services Auckland will need for the decades ahead.

- **Reduce waits and improve outcomes for Aucklanders**, continuing to deliver National's elective boost with more hip, knee and cataract surgeries, alongside a continued focus on emergency care, specialist assessments and childhood immunisation.
- **Catch cancer earlier and get more medicines to Aucklanders**, with a further \$604 million for Pharmac, free bowel screening from age 50, free breast screening extended to 74, free cervical screening for women aged 25 to 69, and new prostate and lung cancer screening pilots.
- **Build more care closer to home across Auckland**, through local hospitals, primary care, community providers and 24/7 urgent care in South and East Auckland, while continuing to invest in Auckland's specialist services and hospital capacity.
- **Progress the future South Auckland hospital at Drury**, now that the 13 hectare Karaka Road site has been secured, so planning can continue for the services Auckland's growing south will need.

Education: classrooms for growing communities

When families move into a growing community, they need to know there will be a place for their children at a good local school.

That means making sure new housing is matched by new classrooms, and that schools have the space and facilities they need as rolls grow. It also means investing in specialist education, so children with high and complex needs can learn in an environment designed for them.

Already delivering

National is building more classrooms across Auckland, with 727 new classrooms funded. Of these, 228 have already been delivered, 203 are under construction, and a further 296 are fully funded and ready to get underway.

That investment is creating more space in schools now, while preparing for the families who will move into Auckland’s growing communities in the years ahead.

- **Deliver more classrooms across Auckland**, with 228 already completed and another 499 funded and in the pipeline, including expansions at Ahutoetoe School, Scott Point School and Ormiston Senior College.
- **Build new schools in fast-growing communities**, with the new Flat Bush primary school already open, Massey Redhills Primary opening in early 2027, a new 30-classroom junior college under construction at Chapel Downs, and a new 14-classroom primary school planned for Pōkeno West.
- **Expand specialist education in South Auckland**, with Drury Specialist School under construction, providing six purpose-built classrooms for up to 54 students with high and complex needs and planned to open in Term 1, 2028.

- **Secure land now for the schools growing communities will need next**, with land acquired for a future secondary school in Kumeū and planning underway, alongside funding to secure a 3.2-hectare site for a future primary school in Drury East.

What the results show

More classroom capacity needs to be matched by better educational outcomes. Auckland is making progress on both attendance and achievement.

Auckland measure	Earlier result	Latest result
	49.2%	66.7%
Regular school attendance	(Term 2, 2023)	(Term 2, 2026)
School leavers with NCEA Level 2 or equivalent or above	81.7% (2023)	85.3% (2025)

Next, National will

The next step is to keep building the classrooms Auckland needs while lifting attendance and achievement across the city.

- **Deliver the remaining 499 funded classrooms**, completing the 203 already under construction and getting the next 296 underway.
- **Progress Drury Specialist School towards opening in Term 1, 2028**, delivering six classrooms for up to 54 students with high and complex needs.
- **Secure the Drury East primary-school site**, protecting the land needed for future school capacity as southern Auckland grows.
- **Keep lifting attendance**, so more Auckland children are in the classroom regularly and getting the benefit of every school day.
- **Keep improving achievement**, with a focus on making sure more students leave school with the qualifications they need for work, training or further study.

