



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**THE
NEW ZEALAND
INITIATIVE**

www.nzinitiative.org.nz

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FOREWORD

2021 was another year shaped by Covid for many New Zealanders, particularly in Auckland. Public life, politics, and the economy were all profoundly affected by the pandemic.

Like many businesses, Covid meant that The New Zealand Initiative had to continue to work differently. It also kept giving us extra policy challenges to address. We did so in many webinars, opinion pieces, and publications.

We also paid attention to other matters which are important for this country's long-term future. Having a high-quality education system, freeing up land for housing development, cutting carbon emissions efficiently, and maintaining sound public finances and monetary policy will be critical long after the pandemic has ended.

The Initiative's work has also changed the conversation in many policy areas. Our research has had a profound impact.

For example, we made the case for changing how we run our schools. We argued for a knowledge-rich curriculum, teacher-led learning, and structured literacy instruction. These ideas have become mainstream in 2021. The government is talking about a 'literacy reset' while the opposition is preparing for significant education reforms.

Similarly, the Initiative has been making a case for supply side housing reforms. Our research showed that New Zealand needs planning reform that strengthens property rights. We also explained that councils need better fiscal incentives for growth.

In 2021, Labour and National came together in a historic housing accord to simplify planning rules, giving landowners more control over their plots. Meanwhile, both National and ACT have signed up to the Initiative's plan on incentivisation for councils.



Another crucial area for the Initiative has been climate policy. A few years ago, ours was a lonely voice emphasising the importance of the Emissions Trading Scheme for cutting emissions. We warned against introducing other, often expensive, policies that are incompatible with our cap-and-trade emissions scheme.

This position, too, has gained traction in 2021. Organisations like BusinessNZ and the Taxpayers' Union have joined us in our concerns over policies that purport to reduce emissions but cannot under the ETS cap. Politically, too, this idea has gained traction. When economists like Professor Tim Hazledine and opposition politicians like National's Simeon Brown are making the same basic point on emissions policy, it shows how widely the idea has spread.



The examples above show what an influential think tank can achieve. It can shift debates in different directions. It can generate new ideas and concepts for the big questions of our time. And it can disseminate them widely so that they become commonplace and, finally, policy.

After nearly a decade, The New Zealand Initiative has established itself as New Zealand's leading think tank.

We are proud of what our team has achieved in 2021 – and indeed since we started in 2012. And we look forward to shaping the debates in the future.

Roger Partridge
Chairman

Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director

Having a high-quality education system, freeing up land for housing development, cutting carbon emissions efficiently, and maintaining sound public finances and monetary policy will be critical long after the pandemic has ended.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The New Zealand Initiative is a unique organisation, and not just by New Zealand standards.

We are a non-partisan think tank, we are an association of business leaders, we are an evidence-based research institute, and we are independent. We believe these are not contradictions.

What truly sets us apart is while most think tanks are only loosely affiliated with their donors, we take the opposite approach.

We are proud to have some of New Zealand's highest profile

business leaders among our diverse membership. Our members bring a wide range of interests, experiences and ideas.

Our vision is to contribute to a prosperous, free and fair society with a competitive, open and dynamic economy.

We believe our goals and values are similar - if not identical - to what most New Zealanders want to see achieved:



Affordable housing



An open economy



Sound fiscal oversight



A stable currency



A good education system



A sustainable natural environment and heritage



A free and democratic society

OUR PRINCIPLES

The challenge in public policy is often not to define what you want to achieve, but to find workable ways of achieving widely shared goals based on solid foundations. We pledge that:

We are credible.

Our research is based on a sound theoretical framework and is peer-reviewed.

We are non-partisan.

We engage with parties from across the political spectrum.

We are independent.

We promote good public policy, not the interests of individual businesses or industries.

We are committed.

Our members and the Initiative team share the vision to build a better New Zealand.

We are evidence-based.

Our recommendations are supported by empirical, and often international, evidence.

OUR RESEARCH AND SUBMISSIONS

The Need to Build: The demographic drivers of housing demand

Leonard Hong

New Zealand faces a severe housing crisis. House prices nationally have gone up by 37% since 2015, and cities such as Auckland and Wellington have become extremely unaffordable for most Kiwis.

Research Assistant **Leonard Hong** outlined in *The Need to Build: The demographic drivers of housing demand* why the worst of New Zealand's housing crisis is yet to come.

Leonard modelled 36 scenarios and found that New Zealand's population will get older and larger by 2038.

He calculated that the additional dwellings needed would reach between 26,246 and 34,556 annually under the most plausible scenarios. This excludes the annual housing replacement and demolition rate and the current 40,000 undersupply calculated by Infometrics.

Our report emphasised why it is imperative to build now and fast. Otherwise, future generations will have to deal with terrible housing affordability prospects.



Educational Performance and Funding in New Zealand: Are our children getting the education they deserve?

Dr David Law and Joel Hernandez

A well-functioning education system is vital to equip our children for life.

However, Senior Fellow **Dr David Law** and Policy Analyst **Joel Hernandez** demonstrated in a joint report that it is not clear whether the education system is serving our children as well as it should.

Educational Performance and Funding in New Zealand: Are our children getting the education they deserve? showed the results from three international education surveys; the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), the Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

The authors found that New Zealand's per-pupil spending on both primary and secondary students had increased substantially while our education performance declined. The growth rate was such that per-pupil spending on primary students increased from 76.9% to 93.9% of the OECD average between 2006 and 2017. For secondary students, spending increased from 75.5% to 105.4% of the OECD average over the same period.

OECD evidence suggested that the positive relationship between spending and educational performance one might expect is not universal. New Zealand does not appear to be an outlier in this case.

Our report demonstrated that our additional investment in education had not borne fruit in terms of greater achievement. Still, it also seems we should not necessarily expect that it will happen in the future.



A risky place to do business

Dr Eric Crampton and Dr Bryce Wilkinson

On Tuesday, 23 March 2021, the Government announced a set of housing policies that, among other things, would substantially change the tax treatment of interest payments on residential investment properties.

The process by which these policies are being legislated almost guarantees that they will have equally significant undesirable consequences.

The tax changes were not signalled ahead of time. Minister Robertson had promised, before the election, that no new taxes were being contemplated.

Normal business taxes are levied on profits: the revenue business earns after expenses. Excluding the most significant business expense for owners of investment properties indeed amounts to a new tax.

In this short paper, **Eric** and **Bryce** do not purport to assess the effects of the policies announced, with no details yet provided on its key features. It instead warns of the consequences of this approach of policy-making.

The Emissions Trading Scheme FAQ

Matt Burgess

The Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) uses prices to lower emissions. The scheme launched in New Zealand in 2008, and it is now one of the best-designed schemes in the world. But there are still a lot of misconceptions about how the ETS works.

In this paper, **Matt** answers some frequently asked questions with engaging and easy-to-understand content.

The four main areas cover:

- 1 A defense of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)
- 2 An overview (and a simple example) of the ETS
- 3 Evidence for the effectiveness of the ETS
- 4 Objections to the ETS

Rent controls: The next mistake in housing policy

Dr David Law

Pressure to intervene in the rental market is growing. The Government's new housing package, announced in March of this year, will increase rents and reduce the supply of rental accommodation to the detriment of many. Understandably, there is significant concern about this prospect.

The introduction of rent controls would only exacerbate problems in the rental market and are a recurring policy mistake. This paper explained why rent controls should be avoided, regarding some recent empirical studies on their effects. The paper then outlines some of the previous policy choices that have been made concerning housing, as well as their unintended but obvious consequences that risk leading to the introduction of rent controls.

To Graduation and Beyond

Joel Hernandez

The purpose of secondary schooling varies depending on who you ask. For many parents, educators, and education professionals, schooling is meant to transmit the most 'powerful' knowledge that exists. For others, it is to transform and prepare society for the ever-changing future.

But almost all would agree that they want students to be more than just proficient in English, history, maths, and science. They want students to be employable, lifelong learners, and participating citizens.

Results suggest that some low decile schools might be better at preparing their students for completing a tertiary qualification.

Using data on more than 500,000 students enrolled at nearly 500 secondary schools, **Joel** shows high-performing schools across all deciles.

Nothing Costs Nothing: Why unjustified dismissal procedures should not apply to the highly paid

Roger Partridge

New Zealand's productivity growth is being hampered by employment protection laws that constrain boards and business owners from firing poorly performing senior managers.

In *Nothing Costs nothing: Why unjustified dismissal procedures should not apply to the highly paid*, **Roger** found strong arguments for New Zealand adopting an Australian-style carve-out of high-income earners from the unjustified dismissal provisions of the Employment Contracts Act 2000.

What happened on Black Monday?

Carl Hansen

Former Chief Executive of the Electricity Authority, **Carl Hansen**, wrote a review of the events that led to the loss of power for 35,000 electricity customers on the evening of 9 August.

The paper argues for a sober and careful analysis of what went wrong and cautions against politically-motivated changes to the electricity system.

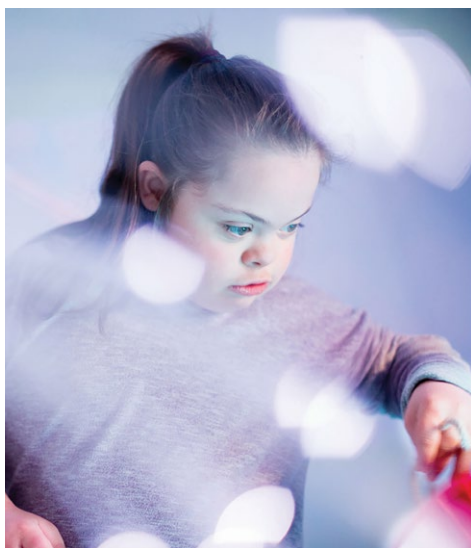
Fording the Rapids: Charting a course to fresher water

Dr Eric Crampton

Improving water quality requires more than short-term fixes. Any government committed to improving New Zealand's freshwater quality must build the institutions that can deliver it while withstanding changes in government.



Fording the Rapids: Charting a course to fresher water, builds on the Initiative's prior work on cap-and-trade systems for freshwater management. Our 2019 report, *Refreshing Water: Valuing the priceless*, argued that cap-and-trade systems form the most promising basis for bringing catchments within sustainable environmental limits.



The Power of Freedom: How personal budgets for social services are transforming lives

Matt Burgess

Matt Burgess's report describes a fundamentally different funding model for public services – Individualised Funding (IF) – which gives control and responsibility to recipients of support services.

New Zealand will spend more than \$1.8 billion to support 43,000 disabled Kiwis this year. Around 8,000 of these New Zealanders have adopted the IF model.

IF uses personal budgets to put the recipients of disability support in control. IF turns services recipients into paying customers. The result is a transformation in the quality of services and quality of life for recipients and their families. Spending must be within well-defined limits, giving individuals flexibility to tailor support to their needs with the confidence their needs will be met.

Illusions of History: How misunderstanding the past jeopardises our future

Dr Bryce Wilkinson

Closing his 2020 Budget speech, Finance Minister Grant Robertson looked back to the First and Fourth Labour governments for lessons on tackling New Zealand's current economic challenges. His first history lesson was that the way forward today lay in the "great traditions of the First Labour Government" (1935–49) that "rebuilt New Zealand after the Great Depression" under Prime Minister Michael Joseph Savage.

This report examines the accuracy of the Minister's representations of those two episodes in New Zealand's economic history.



Safer arrivals and the path to 2022

Dr Eric Crampton

In early October we released **Eric's** research on New Zealand's covid response, and the policies the Government should pursue now that the virus is established in Auckland.

Our recommendations would enhance safety during the current outbreak, reduce the costs of new outbreaks that emerge, and enable the country to open as much as is possible, as safely as is possible, early in the year ahead. It recommends options that enable flexible responses to changing circumstances and governance arrangements, resulting in better options being taken up.

Walking the path to the next global financial crisis

Dr Bryce Wilkinson and Leonard Hong

New Zealand's economy suffered less damage from the pandemic than analysts expected.



But new research warns, however, that just as we are emerging from the Covid-19, a new crisis is already on the horizon.

Bryce and Leonard's report highlights the danger of an economic crash which could see asset prices collapse, businesses fail, and KiwiSaver funds and investment portfolios destroyed. Recent homebuyers may find themselves owing more on their mortgage than their home is worth.

Climate of Fear: How the Reserve Bank is overstepping its mandate

Matt Burgess

This piece of research from **Matt** shows that the Reserve Bank of New Zealand has no legal or democratic mandate for climate change policy. The report documents serious breaches of the RBNZ's responsibilities as financial system regulator, including one instance of misconduct.

The Reserve Bank has threatened stricter regulations on companies if they do not follow its political agenda. It has overstepped its mandate.

Unemployment Insurance: A recipe for more unemployment?

Dr David Law

During Budget 2021, the Government confirmed they were designing a scheme that would replace around 80 percent of a workers' wages during periods of unemployment.

David's research shows that the scheme would be another tax on income, with little benefit, and increase unemployment. Based upon similar schemes overseas, the research shows each Kiwi worker could face a further 2-3% tax in the medium-term.

Reading with the light switched on

Steen Videbeck

The way children are taught literacy must fundamentally change to reverse New Zealand's poor literacy rates.



One in five of New Zealand's 15-year-olds do not have the reading competency to enter the workforce, further their education, or productively participate in society, according to the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

Steen's report shows:

- Māori and Pasifika students are particularly underserved. PISA 2018 showed 30% of Māori 15-year-olds are in the bottom category for reading. For Pasifika, it was 36%. These numbers represent an education system failing large numbers of students and show that the way schools teach literacy must change.
 - An evidence-based approach called Structured Literacy is needed to reverse New Zealand's decline in reading.
 - Schools must receive the professional development and support to improve teacher knowledge of language and evidence-based practice.
-

SUBMISSIONS

In 2021, the Initiative made submissions to:

- The Ministry of Health on Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990: Proposals for regulations
- The Commerce Commission on their market study into the retail grocery sector draft report
- The Climate Change Commission on the Draft Emissions Budget
- The Ministry for the Environment on designing a governance framework for the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme
- The Commerce Commission on its open letter, *"Ensuring our energy and airports regulation is fit for purpose"*
- The Ministry for the Environment on reforming industrial allocation in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme
- The Transport and Infrastructure Committee on the Inquiry into congestion pricing in Auckland
- The Ministry of Health on the COVID-19 Public Health Response Amendment Bill (No. 2)
- The Ministry for the Environment on Phasing out fossil fuels in process heat
- Parliament's Environment Committee on the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Bill
- The Ministry of Education on Aotearoa New Zealand Histories in the New Zealand Curriculum
- The Commerce Commission on issues raised at the Consultation Conference on the Commission's Market study into the retail grocery sector draft report
- The Ministry of Health on proposals for a Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 Action Plan
- The Ministry of Transport on Transport Emissions - Pathways to Net Zero by 2050
- The Ministry for the Environment on transitioning to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future
- Parliament's Environment Committee on the Natural and Built Environments Act exposure draft

OUR ENGAGEMENT

We held 5 members' dinners and lunches, and a further 4 member-exclusive webinars. We are proud to have hosted several high-level speakers in 2021. These meetings provided members the opportunity to hear from and engage with politicians, industry experts, and international speakers on a wide range of topics.

25 FEB

Members' dinner

Jarden hosted a dinner meeting for a small group of our Auckland-based members. The meeting provided attendees with an opportunity to discuss their business priorities for the year ahead and learn about The New Zealand Initiative's research agenda.

14 APR

Members' dinner

Precinct hosted a small dinner event that was attended by several of our Auckland-based members.

22 APR

Lunch with Hon Tony Abbott and Rt Hon Sir John Key

Cooper and Company kindly hosted a lunch for our members with former Prime Minister **John Key** and former Australian Prime Minister **Tony Abbott**. This was a great opportunity for our members to engage with two well-known senior political figures. Members enjoyed having the ability to learn from the two former prime ministers, in particular their assessment of geopolitical risks to trade, and business opportunities in domestic and overseas markets.



Members' dinner

A further small group of our Wellington-based members attended a dinner hosted by Infratil. Members discussed local and national issues of significance to their businesses.

8 APR

Members' dinner

We held a small members' dinner, hosted by PwC, to discuss topics of interest for a group of members working within similar industries.

21 APR

30 JUN

Members' dinner

Forsyth Barr kindly hosted a small group of our members for a dinner at their Auckland offices. Attendees enjoyed having the opportunity to network and discuss Auckland-specific issues of importance to their businesses.



30 AUG

Members' webinar with Prof. Des Gorman & Dr Murray Horn: Lowering the drawbridge

In the first phase of the pandemic, Australia and New Zealand have used simple solutions such as isolation and lockdown. The next phase of the pandemic will require better governance, management, and resources. We will also have to deal with the unintended consequences of pandemic management. This webinar was an excellent opportunity for members to ask questions of **Professor Des Gorman** and **Dr Murray Horn** about the long-term options for dealing with Covid-19.



Webinar: A new model for disability support

On Friday, 27 August, we hosted a webinar to launch **Matt Burgess's** report *The Power of Freedom: How personal budgets for social services are transforming lives*. We heard from **Lisa Holten**, whose daughter Sarah has Rett syndrome and requires specialist care, and **Philip Patston**, who has used the individualised funding model to live a more fulfilling life. Our guest speaker was **Rt Hon Sir Bill English**, Chair of Manawanui – the largest individualised funding support service.

27 AUG



23 SEP

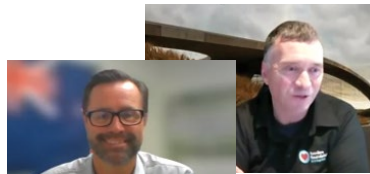
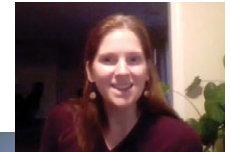
Members' webinar: Testing, vaccinations, and logistics – How Auckland Airport and Mainfreight are navigating the pandemic

Adrian Littlewood (Auckland Airport) and **Don Braid** (Mainfreight) explained how their companies approached the increased safety requirements of the global pandemic. Adrian and Don discussed what their companies did to test their staff, promote vaccinations, and handle the logistical challenges posed by Covid.

Webinar: Why New Zealand needs better Covid testing systems, with Dr Anne Wyllie

Saliva-based PCR tests are an efficient, less intrusive, and accurate alternative to Covid-19 deep nasal swabs. **Dr Anne Wyllie**, a New Zealand-born researcher at Yale University, led the development of Yale's SalivaDirect test authorised for use in the USA, and independently validated in Portugal, Mexico, Ireland and the Philippines. Dr Wyllie joined The New Zealand Initiative's **Dr Oliver Hartwich** and **Dr Eric Crampton** for a public Zoom webinar on New Zealand's Covid-19 response and how we can better manage the pandemic.

28 SEP



9 SEP

Members' webinar: Keeping the shelves stocked – Covid-19 and retail supply chains

The global pandemic and New Zealand's current lockdown present challenges for everyone, especially for the retail sector. Both Countdown and Foodstuffs North Island agreed to share their experiences in supply chain management in a webinar with our members. They told us how they keep their supermarkets' shelves stocked during Level 3 and 4 lockdowns. During the event, members heard from:

- **Chris Quin**, CEO, Foodstuffs North Island
- **Spencer Sonn**, Managing Director, Countdown
- **Jonathan Box**, GM Supply Chain, Foodstuffs North Island
- **Jason Stockill**, Director of Stores and Head of Supply Chain, Countdown



4 NOV

Webinar: Walking the path to the next global financial crisis, with Rt Hon Sir John Key



Former Prime Minister **Sir John Key** launched our new report *Walking the Path to the Next Global Financial Crisis* in conversation with the report's co-author **Dr Bryce Wilkinson**. As the world slowly emerges out of Covid-19, the next big crisis may already appear on the horizon. After bold fiscal and monetary packages to cushion the blow of the pandemic, inflation, stagflation and asset market disruption are dangers for the world economy.



2 DEC

Webinar: What central banks should and shouldn't do, with John Cochrane

John H. Cochrane, Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution joined us for an informative webinar on what central banks should and shouldn't do. Central bank independence in monetary policy was hard fought and desperately needed. The deal was simple. Central government would stay out of a Reserve Bank's way as it dealt with monetary policy, and the Bank would not abuse its independence in pursuing other agendas. That deal is fraying badly if it has not fundamentally broken. If central bank independence in monetary policy is lost as a consequence, rebuilding the institutions will be costly.



Members' Zoom meeting with Sir Ian Taylor

Sir Ian Taylor's recent *NZ Herald* columns have documented his experience returning to New Zealand and taking part in the Government's trial of self-isolation. In the members' Zoom meeting, Sir Ian detailed his experience with government bureaucracy. He also shared his insights of what has worked, what needs to improve and explained how partnering with the private sector could bring about better outcomes for returning Kiwis.

29 NOV



2021



383

opinion articles published
(including **143** Insights pieces)



414

direct media mentions



9

Initiative events held, hosting

17

speakers



43 radio and television appearances



5,755

Engaged Insights readers



37

research reports (including 18 written submissions)



37,200

Podcast plays



4,648

Facebook likes



3,476

Twitter followers

YouTube

27,000

YouTube video views

MEDIA AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The New Zealand Initiative exists to provide and promote sound public policy. Here are some of the areas where we succeeded in influencing policy:

Housing & local government

Incentives are at the root of the housing crisis. If local governments do not benefit from land opening up for housing development, they will be at odds with central government over housing.

Both the National and ACT parties endorsed our localist approach in 2021. Both opposition parties agree that local governments need to see a financial benefit from increasing housing development. Such incentives would lead to a pro-housing environment and more affordable homes for all New Zealanders.

Supported by National, the Government changed planning laws to allow landowners to build larger houses without resource consent. Removing this regulatory hurdle, will make it possible to build up to three three-story houses on a parcel of land, creating more housing in desired areas.

Reserve Bank

The government enacted our recommended changes to the Reserve Bank's governance in 2021. A new statutory Governance Board was introduced by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand Act 2021. The change followed our 2018 research report, *Who Guards The Guards? Regulatory Governance in New Zealand*, which found regulatory bodies perform best when governed by an independent board, and recommended changes to the Reserve Bank's governance arrangements.

Education

Our education research continued with the publication of Steen Videbeck's report, *Reading with the Light Switched On*. The report recounted Steen's journey from teacher's college to the classroom and beyond, highlighting how New Zealand's approach to teaching literacy is failing too many children. Steen's report built upon previous research from research fellow Briar Lipson, and called for adopting an alternative model, Structured Literacy. This model of literacy tuition has

begun to be introduced to New Zealand, following success overseas.

The National Party has endorsed structured Literacy after we championed the approach.

Competition

In our submission to the Commerce Commission market study on the grocery sector, we argued that land use restrictions prevented other grocery chains from setting up shop in New Zealand. Land covenants prevented developers from building supermarkets in otherwise ideal locations.

The Commerce Commission largely accepted the arguments in our submission. In their report to the Government, they recommended the removal of land use covenants that prevent new supermarket chains from entering New Zealand. They also urged Councils to zone enough land so supermarkets and other retailers would have a choice of sites for operation.

We hope that the Commission similarly focuses on barriers to entry in building materials supply – the focus of our initial submission in that area.



Economic experts

Unlike politicians, most economists agree on a large number of issues. And their consensus often varies from the Wellington policy consensus. Together with the New Zealand Association of Economists (NZAE), we developed the Economics Experts Survey to convey economic experts' views on public policy issues.

During 2021, we published 37 research reports, policy notes and submissions. Our commentary generated the equivalent of almost \$10 million in advertising spend. In 2021, we generated 414 media mentions, including 43 radio and television interviews. We held 8 webinars, 1 in-person event and hosted 17 speakers throughout the year for members and the public.

The panel of experts are now regularly surveyed on their views, and the Initiative distributes these to media to keep them informed of expert opinion. These surveys provide the media and the public with a better understanding of where policy strays from expert opinion.

Covid

New Zealand Initiative monitors international issues and policies to see how they can be applied here. In 2021, New Zealand needed to learn from other countries about how to contain and constrain the spread of Covid-19.

We urged the Government to rescind the import ban on Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) and adopt them as part of Covid testing. The Government eventually dropped the ban, and RATs are now widely used in New Zealand by businesses and individuals to monitor Covid-19 in communities.

Lockdown was a terrible time for New Zealanders. It was even worse if you were a recent migrant who lost their job and was ineligible for social assistance. We successfully pushed the government to give residency to workers who spent lockdown in New Zealand.

Unemployment Insurance

Dr David Law's research note, *Unemployment Insurance – A recipe for more unemployment?* pre-empted the Government's announcement of the Social Unemployment Insurance scheme. We found that the programme would be expensive both for employers and employees and that it would encourage people to stay unemployed for longer. Our targeted welfare assistance programme is the best way to support Kiwis back into work.

Along with this piece of research, our numerous opinion columns and podcasts helped convince opposition parties to oppose the scheme.

JAN

15 JANUARY

In our first media statement of the year, we welcomed the quarantine-free travel announcement to New Zealand from the Cook Islands.

18 JANUARY

Matt Burgess argued in his first *Newsroom* column of the year that President Donald Trump's use of about 100 pardons may have brought him protection from incriminating revelations.



22 JANUARY

We resumed our *NZ Herald* column with **Matt Burgess** writing about the Climate Change Commission's upcoming draft plan for how New Zealand will cut emissions over the next 15 years.



26 JANUARY

Eric Crampton explained why policy choices are to blame for high inflation that disproportionately affects the poor in his first *Stuff* column of the year.



31 JANUARY

In an opinion piece for *The Spectator*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote about the gap between people's impression of Jacinda Ardern and her actual performance as a leader.



ONE YEAR
IN REVIEW

2021

FEB

1 FEBRUARY

On *MagicTalk*, **Oliver Hartwich** shared his thoughts on the Climate Change Commission's report, which outlined a path to achieve more ambitious greenhouse gas reductions.

10 FEBRUARY

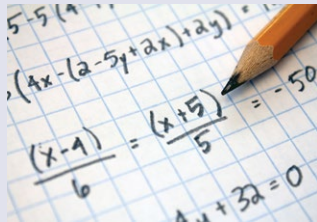
After the Government announced new planning laws, **Bryce Wilkinson** talked about the RMA reform with Jesse Mulligan on *Radio NZ*.

10 FEBRUARY

In his latest podcast on *Newstalk ZB*, Leighton Smith discussed the Climate Change Commission's report on emissions reduction with **Matt Burgess**.

11 FEBRUARY

Roger Partridge counts the cost of New Zealand's failed maths experiment in a column for the *NZ Herald*.



12 FEBRUARY

Leonard Hong's column for the *Centre of Independent Studies* explained how the upgrade to the China-NZ Free Trade Agreement was significant for our economic recovery. However, Minister O'Connor's public criticism of Australia's foreign policy was a diplomatic blunder.



19 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton and Rako Science's Executive Director **Leon Grice** discussed how saliva-based tests make daily testing for Covid-19 possible for those working at New Zealand's border.

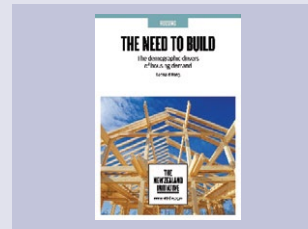


22 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton says in a *Stuff* column that it is time to stop councils' ability to stand in the way of growth when building more houses.

23 FEBRUARY

We released *The Need to Build: The demographic drivers of housing demand*. This report highlighted demographic changes in New Zealand and what this means for the country's housing supply over the coming years. Author **Leonard Hong** spoke on *The AM Show*, *NBR Radio*, *Newstalk ZB*, *Radio New Zealand* and a webinar organised by *The Kākā*. The *NZ Herald* and *Stuff* also covered the report.



24 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton talked to Bryan Crump on *Radio NZ Nights* about urban land-use planning systems and if they are fit for purpose.

25 FEBRUARY

Jarden hosted a dinner meeting for a small group of our Auckland-based members. The meeting provided attendees with an opportunity to discuss their business priorities for the year ahead and learn about the New Zealand Initiative's research agenda.

MAR

2 MARCH

David Law and **Joel Hernandez** demonstrated in *Educational Performance and Funding in New Zealand: Are our children getting the education they deserve?* how New Zealand's per-pupil spending on primary and secondary students had increased substantially, while our education performance declined. *The AM Show*, *Newshub*, *Newstalk ZB* and *EducationHQ* interviewed David about their research and findings.



2 MARCH

In an in-depth interview with Kathryn Ryan on *Radio NZ's Nine to Noon*, **Leonard Hong** explained why the nationwide housing shortage and soaring prices are only going to get worse.

2 MARCH

David Law answers the question, Does more money always buy better education? in his column for the *New Zealand Herald*.



2 MARCH

In a media statement, we welcomed the call from business leaders for greater clarity about the border. We urged the Government to further strengthen the testing regime at the border.

2 MARCH

Bryce Wilkinson said in a media statement that the Government's planned Pharmac review is a sideshow and does not focus on improving health outcomes or the well-being of New Zealanders.

2 MARCH

In his column on *Newsroom*, **Eric Crampton** asks the Climate Change Commission, an agency tasked with the government's most long-term project to be as open as possible about its modelling.

3-4 MARCH

Eric Crampton and **Matt Burgess** spoke at the *New Zealand Economics Forum*. Eric spoke on monetary and fiscal policy, and Matt spoke on economic policy and the environment, focusing on the ETS.



5 MARCH

With the Government's finances looking good, can we expect to see some big social spending in this year's Budget? **Dr Eric Crampton** and ANZ's chief economist **Sharon Zollner** discussed this on *Radio New Zealand's Morning Report*.

8 MARCH

Matt Burgess presented to Auckland Rotary (via Zoom) on the Climate Commission and the Emissions Trading Scheme.

11 MARCH

We made a submission to the Ministry of Health on the *Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990: Proposals for Regulations*.



13 MARCH

What is worse than the Climate Commission refusing to release its calculations on the largest reforms in decades? Not doing the calculations at all, said **Matt Burgess** in an opinion piece on *Stuff*.



17 MARCH

Leonard Hong gave a presentation on his housing research to staff at the Housing and Urban Development Agency.

19 MARCH

Eric Crampton spoke on a panel at the Otago Tourism Policy School conference in Queenstown. His keynote speech addressed the question, *Who pays? Implementation and Responsibilities.*

22 MARCH

During his attendance at the Otago Tourism School's conference in Queenstown, **Eric Crampton** found he wasn't the only one making the case for charging for access to places that suffer from overcrowding. He wrote on this topic in his regular column for *The Dominion Post*.

25 MARCH

Bryce Wilkinson outlines why the Government's housing policy is shambolic, in a column for the *New Zealand Herald*.



25 MARCH

Oliver Hartwich discussed housing reforms with a group of Horowhenua-based business leaders.



26 MARCH

Matt Burgess and Chair of the Climate Change Commission, **Rod Carr**, participate in a podcast hosted by the Taxpayers' Union on the Commission's draft emissions report.



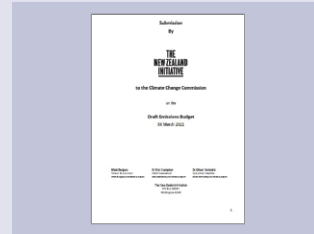
26 MARCH

Following the Government's housing package announcement, **Eric Crampton** and **Bryce Wilkinson** produced a policy point, *A risky place to do business*, which warned about the consequences of this style of policy-making.



26 MARCH

We submitted to the Climate Change Commission on their draft emissions budget. In the supporting media release, we said the Climate Change Commission shows economic transformation is unnecessary.

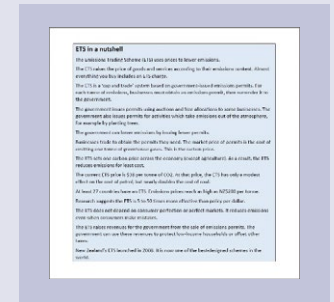


29 MARCH

Bryce Wilkinson participated on a panel discussing recommendations proposed in the *Resource Management Act review*.

30 MARCH

We published an *FAQ* paper on the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Prepared by **Matt Burgess**, the paper addressed key points of the scheme and explained why the ETS is the best path to a net zero carbon goal.



30 MARCH

In a column for the *NZ Herald*, **Roger Partridge** highlighted why it is time to tackle tourism infrastructures funding problem.

APR

5 APRIL

In *The Dominion Post*, **Eric Crampton** writes about how New Zealand could learn from Canada's experience of designating land for future roads, and why our current ad hoc system hampers urban growth.

7 APRIL

To support lower emissions, oppose the Climate Commission's plan, wrote **Matt Burgess** for an opinion column in the *NZ Herald*.



8 APRIL

Infratil hosted a dinner for a small group of our Wellington members, to discuss issues facing their industries and current topical affairs.

9 APRIL

Ahead of the trans-Tasman bubble starting, **Eric Crampton** discussed in a podcast the safety measures that should already be in place to make this a success and, hopefully, put New Zealand on track to open up bubbles with other low-risk countries.



12 APRIL

Joel Hernandez spoke on *The Project* about his report, *In Fairness to our Schools*, that used data to show better and fairer measures of school success – rather than relying on NCEA league tables and deciles.



13 APRIL

In our regular column for the *New Zealand Herald*, **Eric Crampton** writes about poor policy choices that build regime uncertainty are a choice – and a costly one.

14 APRIL

A small group of our Auckland members attended a networking dinner hosted by Precinct. Members discussed the effects of the pandemic on their businesses and how to plan for the months ahead given the uncertainty of supply chains.

14 APRIL

We welcomed the National Party's housing policy announcement in a media release, saying the proposals would deliver more housing.

16 APRIL

Oliver Hartwich spoke about participating in our democracy as part of a panel at the *Festival of Colour* event in Wanaka. Also on the panel was **Kathy Errington**, Executive Director at The Helen Clark Foundation, and **Max Rashbrooke**.



19 APRIL

Eric Crampton discusses if paramedic insurance – insurance that simply pays out the agreed amount if an event happens – could be the way of the future in his column for *The Dominion Post*.

19 APRIL

On *Newstalk ZB*, **Eric Crampton** criticised the Government's announcement of a film subsidy deal with Amazon for its upcoming Lord of the Rings TV series.

20 APRIL

Roger Partridge explains why the Ministry of Health's testing and vaccination systems are failing the cautionary principle in a column for the *New Zealand Herald*.



MAY

20 APRIL

Oliver Hartwich is joined by the Taxpayers' Union executive director **Jordan Williams** for a podcast discussing their views on fiscal incentives for councils as a way to encourage more houses to be built.

21 APRIL

PwC kindly hosted a dinner event for a small group of our members in Auckland. This was a good forum for business leaders to discuss current affairs and the big issues facing their industries.

22 APRIL

We were fortunate to host former Australian Prime Minister **Hon Tony Abbott** when he visited New Zealand. Our members listened to Mr Abbott and former New Zealand Prime Minister **Rt Hon Sir John Key** discuss a variety of topical trade and geo-political issues.



27 APRIL

Eric Crampton's Newsroom column highlights how pandemic preparedness and contagious disease more generally pose somewhat different risks that noncommunicable disease. He discusses why the proposed Public Health Agency should be split into two parts.



29 APRIL

We released a new research note, *Rent controls: The next mistake in housing policy*. Written by **David Law**, the paper outlined how introducing rent controls would only exacerbate problems in the rental market. He shared his views on *Radio NZ's Morning Report* programme and covered on *Stuff*.



property
Rent controls would be a mistake - think tank

Introducing rent controls would lead to tenants being worse off, a new research paper argues.

2 MAY

Briar Lipson was part of *Q+A's* education special episode. Along with other educators, academics, and the Associate Education Minister, they discussed why our children are slipping down the international maths rankings and what we can do about it.



3 MAY

Eric Crampton received a lot of support for his *Dominion Post* column that suggested looking back to the old Special Purpose Authorities as part of the upcoming Local Government Review.



7 MAY

Following the Government's Fair Pay Agreement proposals, we issued a media release saying the introduction of FPA's will harm workers and consumers.

7 MAY

Matt Burgess explained how Germany's dangerous precedent on climate could impact New Zealand in a column for the *NZ Herald*.



7 MAY

Matt Burgess wrote a submission to the Commerce Commission on its open letter "*Ensuring our energy and airports regulation is fit for purpose*". In it, we urged the Commission to act consistently with our statutory emissions targets as they worded in the legislation.



10 MAY

Oliver Hartwich and **Eric Crampton** were joined by **Damien Grant** on our podcast to discuss insolvencies and recessions in this new Covid-19 era – with a particular focus on Europe and New Zealand.



12 MAY

Matt Burgess presented at Wellington's New Zealand Wind Energy Association conference. He was part of a panel discussion on testing key opportunities and levels of ambition.

17 MAY

Eric Crampton highlighted why the Government needs to rethink its hostile approach to skilled migrants in his regular column in *The Dominion Post*.

Govt needs to rethink hostile approach to skilled migrants

Eric Crampton · 09:05, May 17 2021



17 MAY

Oliver Hartwich attended an event to hear the Government outline the priorities for immigration policy as it considers how to safely re-open to the world in this new Covid-19 era.

20 MAY

Eric Crampton submitted to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee on the *Inquiry into congestion pricing in Auckland*. He concluded that getting a practicable and durable version of congestion charging up and running soon is most important.



21 MAY

Matt Burgess submitted to the Ministry for the Environment on phasing out fossil fuels in process heat.



25 MAY

Roger Partridge submitted to the Ministry of Education on Aotearoa New Zealand Histories in the New Zealand Curriculum.



26 MAY

Oliver Hartwich attended the Retirement Villages Association of New Zealand conference and spoke on housing and demographic change and preparing for the next housing crisis.

26 MAY

Eric Crampton submitted to the Ministry of Health on its public discussion document, *Proposals for a Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 Action Plan*.



28 MAY

Oliver Hartwich discussed how the Reserve Bank is coming full circle in a column for the *NZ Herald*.



28 MAY

Eric Crampton recorded a podcast with **Professor Josh Gans** from the University of Toronto about the Covid-19 pandemic and strategies to deal with the response efforts.

31 MAY

Eric Crampton made a case for a congestion charge to reduce traffic in his regular *Dominion Post* column.



JUN

1 JUNE

Radio New Zealand's Jesse Mulligan spoke to **Eric Crampton** about New Zealand's next steps in the Covid-19 pandemic and how we can eventually open up to the world.

1 JUNE

In his *Newsroom* column, **Oliver Hartwich** explains why the fear of deeper integration into the bloc caused Switzerland to break off the latest treaty negotiations with the EU.

2 JUNE

Eric Crampton was interviewed by *Newshub* about the America's Cup and explained why spending a further \$100m to host the next event in New Zealand does not make sense.



8 JUNE

In his *New Zealand Herald* column, **Oliver Hartwich** explains the errors in Climate Change Commissioner **Dr Rod Carr's** thinking after he published an article that rejected a least-cost approach to limiting climate change.

8 JUNE

Eric Crampton detailed how the Government's Three Waters programme is squandering an opportunity for greater localism in his *Newsroom* column.



10 JUNE

We launched our policy note, *To Graduation and Beyond*, by **Joel Hernandez**. The research showed that low decile schools are doing better than their higher decile counterparts at preparing students for completing a tertiary qualification.



11 JUNE

Eric Crampton joined *Radio New Zealand's The Panel* to discuss a suggestion from Transport Minister Michael Wood that congestion charges could be made available to local councils.

11 JUNE

BusinessDesk published an op-ed by **Matt Burgess** that shows how the Climate Change Commission has fundamentally misunderstood how the Emissions Trading Scheme works.



14 JUNE

In the *Dominion Post*, **Eric Crampton** argues against taxpayer subsidies for the film *They Are Us*, and against films about politicians more generally.

15 JUNE

The European Central Bank's response to the Covid-19 recession has laid the groundwork for the next Euro crisis, warned **Oliver Hartwich** in *Newsroom*.



16 JUNE

Writing for the *New Zealand Herald*, **Bryce Wilkinson** explained that the Government's electric vehicle feebate policy was never justified on the grounds of a cost benefit analysis – because it would never pass one.

16 JUNE

Lyn McMorran from the Financial Services Federation joined **Oliver Hartwich**, **Eric Crampton**, and **Matt Burgess** to discuss the practicalities of the Government's new "feebate" scheme.



21 JUNE

Roger Partridge launched his research note, *Nothing Costs Nothing: Why unjustified dismissal procedures should not apply to the highly paid*. The research shows why it should be easier to remove highly paid managers who have become a burden to a company.



22 JUNE

In the *New Zealand Herald*, **Roger Partridge** wrote about his latest research and explains why Australia excludes high income earners from unfair dismissal laws. Roger was also interviewed about his research on *Radio New Zealand's The Panel* and *Mike Hosking Breakfast* on *Newstalk ZB*.



22 JUNE

Eric Crampton explains in *Newsroom* that government support for electric vehicle charging points, rather than subsidies for the vehicles themselves, would be a better tool to encourage uptake.

23 JUNE

We published **Matt Burgess's** submission to the Ministry of Transport, *Transport Emissions – Pathways to net zero by 2050*. In the submission, we urged the Ministry to reconsider its target for zero gross emissions from transport and recognise how the Emissions Trading Scheme could neutralise their strategy.



28 JUNE

Oliver Hartwich and **Eric Crampton** talk to Nelson-based immigration advisor **Carsten Hallwass** about New Zealand's immigration settings and the effect of Covid-19 for the NZ Initiative podcast.

28 JUNE

In his *Dominion Post* column, **Eric Crampton** outlined the steps the Government is taking to make the case for higher levels of debt for longer.

29 JUNE

For *Newsroom*, **Oliver Hartwich** details some of Russia's meddling in European affairs, including hidden political donations and using small countries' laws to establish footholds in Europe for its state-run news channel.

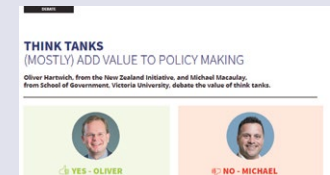
29 JUNE

Following the Government's announced changes to default KiwiSaver providers, **David Law** wrote in the *New Zealand Herald* that there is still little evidence of the programme's success.



1 JULY

Do think tanks add value to policy making? **Oliver Hartwich** and **Michael Macaulay** from Victoria University's School of Government debated the issue in the July edition of the *Journal of the Institute of Public Administration New Zealand*.



6 JULY

Oliver Hartwich talks to Lynn Freeman on *Radio New Zealand's Smart Talk* about voting and decision-making.

6 JULY

Writing for the *New Zealand Herald*, **Oliver Hartwich** recalled a time where central bank officials were not public figures and lamented the increasing politicisation of monetary policy.



6 JULY

In his *Newsroom* column, **Eric Crampton** details the types of policies the Government should be introducing to prepare for Covid-19.

7 JULY

Wallace Chapman interviewed **Eric Crampton** on *Radio New Zealand's The Panel* about the cost of New Zealand's aging population and debt levels.

12 JULY

Eric Crampton wrote for the *Dominion Post* about why the Government will soon have to release more New Zealand Units under the Emissions Trading Scheme.

13 JULY

On the NZ Initiative podcast **Oliver Hartwich** interviews **Mark Honeybone**, the founder and owner of Property Ventures, about the raft of new regulations affecting the housing market.



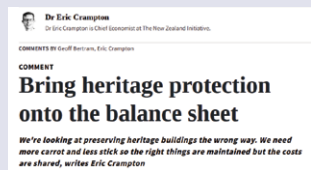
13 JULY

In the *New Zealand Herald*, **Roger Partridge** praises the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment for their frank analysis of the Government's proposed Fair Pay Agreements.



21 JULY

Eric Crampton wrote for *Newsroom* about why bringing heritage buildings onto the balance sheet, rather than using regulations, would be a better method for preserving heritage. He later joined *Radio New Zealand Nights* to discuss heritage preservation, regulations, and funding.



21 JULY

Matt Burgess explained in the *New Zealand Herald* why the so-called ute tax will not cut emissions.



21 JULY

On the NZ Initiative podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** interviewed Kiwi entrepreneur **Graham Rich** about covid, his charitable activities and life in challenging times.



26 JULY

Writing for the *Dominion Post*, **Eric Crampton** states why New Zealand is not the world's post-Covid future.

27 JULY

In his regular *Newsroom* column on European politics, **Oliver Hartwich** explained why 160,000 people recently took to the streets of France in protest.

28 JULY

Bryce Wilkinson details why New Zealand's housing market is overinflated and what policymakers can do about it, in his latest *New Zealand Herald* column.

30 JULY

With the Commerce Commission announcing a market study into supermarkets, **Eric Crampton** wrote for *BusinessDesk* about why opening a supermarket in New Zealand is so difficult.



AUG

3 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich wrote in the *New Zealand Herald* that in an industry with only two leading players, there can still be fierce competition, such as with Coca-Cola and Pepsi. The same is true for supermarkets.



3 AUGUST

In his latest *Newsroom* column, **Eric Crampton** explained why a proposal for a government-sponsored grocery chain would end up being like KiwiBuild.

4 AUGUST

We published **Matt Burgess's** submission on the Natural and Built Environments Act exposure draft. In the submission, we highlighted that this planning system reform would not make it any easier for Kiwis to build houses.



9 AUGUST

In his regular *Dominion Post* column, **Eric Crampton** laments the politicisation of transport projects.

10 AUGUST

If the Natural and Built Environments Bill is passed in its current form, it will effectively make the Minister for the Environment the Minister for Everything, warns **Matt Burgess** in the *New Zealand Herald*.



10 AUGUST

In his *Newsroom* column **Oliver Hartwich** highlighted how Belarus dictator Alexander Lukashenko is weaponizing migration by sending desperate people towards the EU border.

12 AUGUST

On the NZ Initiative podcast, **Eric Crampton** and **Oliver Hartwich** interviewed the University of Auckland's **Professor Des Gorman** about New Zealand's response to Covid-19 and discussed what could be done differently.



17 AUGUST

In the *New Zealand Herald*, **Oliver Hartwich** explained why the Government providing funding to decarbonise CentrePort makes little economic or environmental sense.

17 AUGUST

Eric Crampton wrote in *Newsroom* that political pull seems to be the allocation method for scarce MIQ spaces.



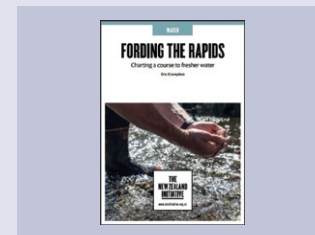
18 AUGUST

Former Chief Executive of the New Zealand Electricity Authority, **Carl Hansen**, drew upon his expertise and wrote a research note. *What happened on Black Monday?* details the events that led to 35,000 consumers experiencing power outages on one of the coldest winter nights.



23 AUGUST

We launched **Eric Crampton's** latest research report, *Fording the Rapids: Charting a course to fresher water*. Eric also wrote about the importance of establishing a politically durable system to improve New Zealand's freshwater quality in his *Dominion Post* column.



26 AUGUST

In *Newsroom*, **Oliver Hartwich** provided readers with an update on the absurdity of the upcoming German election that will mark an end to the Merkel era.

26 AUGUST

Carl Hansen and **Matt Burgess** publish a joint opinion piece in the *New Zealand Herald*. It argues that the recent power blackout does not make the case for electricity reform.

Carl Hansen and Matt Burgess: Power blackout no case for electricity reform



26 AUGUST

Eric Crampton and **Matt Burgess** co-authored the submission to the Commerce Commission on their *market study into the retail grocery sector draft report*. The submission argued that the Commerce Commission should focus in the first instance on easing barriers to entry.



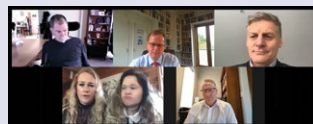
26 AUGUST

Matt Burgess joined the NZ Initiative podcast to discuss the 9 August blackout with former Chief Executive of the Electricity Authority **Carl Hansen**.



27 AUGUST

We launched **Matt Burgess's** research report, *The Power of Freedom: How personal budgets for social services are transforming lives*. The report was launched with a webinar. Attendees heard first-hand stories from disabled Kiwis using individualised funding "IF" and **Rt Hon Sir Bill English**, the Chair of one of the largest IF support agencies.



30 AUGUST

We were fortunate to host **Professor Des Gorman** and **Dr Murray Horn** for a members' webinar. They discussed the long-term options for dealing with Covid-19.



31 AUGUST

Eric Crampton talked to Wallace Chapman on *Radio New Zealand's The Panel* about whether a Universal Basic Income for young people would help get them started in life.

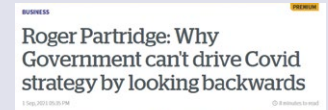
31 AUGUST

Writing for *Newsroom*, **Eric Crampton** slammed the Government for their ban on antigen testing.



1 SEPTEMBER

In the *New Zealand Herald*, **Roger Partridge** stated that the Government cannot base its Delta strategy on what appeared to work last year. Mike Hosking subsequently read out Roger's column the following day on *Newstalk ZB*.



2 SEPTEMBER

Following the release of his report *The Power of Freedom: How personal budgets for social services are transforming lives*, **Matt Burgess** spoke to **Rt Hon Sir Bill English** on the NZ Initiative podcast about the policy's transformative effects.

6 SEPTEMBER

In the *Dominion Post*, **Eric Crampton** explained that vaccination mandates could currently be illegal in New Zealand and why that should change.

7 SEPTEMBER

Writing for the *New Zealand Herald*, **Roger Partridge** asked whether the Ministry of Health has the right in-house competencies to be responsible for pandemic policy and suggested we need a standalone agency. Mike Hosking also read out this column on *Newstalk ZB*.

7 SEPTEMBER

In *Newsroom*, **Oliver Hartwich** unpacks new research that shows deep divisions in Europeans' experience with Covid-19.

9 SEPTEMBER

The pandemic and lockdown presented challenges for everyone, especially retailers. We hosted a members' webinar with Foodstuff's **Chris Quin** and Countdown's **Spencer Sonn** to learn more about their experiences in supply chain management.



14 SEPTEMBER

Eric Crampton highlighted the importance of openness in public policy. In his *Newsroom* column he highlighted how Kiwi research scientist Dr Anne Wyllie has been increasingly critical of New Zealand's Covid testing regime.

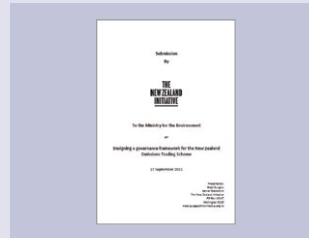
16 SEPTEMBER

In the *New Zealand Herald*, **Oliver Hartwich** questioned whether the Government's previous commitment to eliminating Covid-19 will prevent it from acting in ways that would allow us to better live with the virus.



17 SEPTEMBER

Matt Burgess submitted to the Ministry for the Environment on *Designing a governance framework for the Emissions Trading Scheme, and on Reforming industrial allocation in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme*.



17 SEPTEMBER

On the NZ Initiative podcast, **Eric Crampton** interviewed Medicines New Zealand CEO **Graeme Jarvis** about therapeutic medicines that can treat Covid-19 and when we might expect them to be available in New Zealand.

20 SEPTEMBER

We launched *Illusions of History: How misunderstanding the past jeopardises our future* by **Bryce Wilkinson**. This book-format report dispels the myths of the First Labour Government that are often drawn upon by our current politicians and warns against basing current policy on myths. Bryce also wrote about how these past illusions and future follies will mar Grant Robertson's economic strategy in the *New Zealand Herald*. Mike Hosking later reviewed the column on *Newstalk ZB*, who called it a "must read."



20 SEPTEMBER

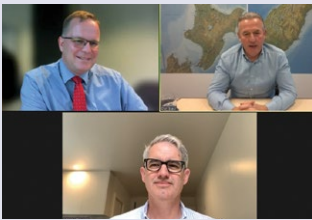
In the *Dominion Post*, **Eric Crampton** explained how Chinese officials pressured the World Bank to lift them up the Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index rankings how this has eroded economists' confidence in multilateral institution.

21 SEPTEMBER

Writing for *Newsroom*, **Oliver Hartwich** explained the emergence of the AUKUS security alliance and why Australia torpedoed their contract with France for diesel-powered submarines.

23 SEPTEMBER

Workplace testing has become increasingly important for business leaders. We held a members' webinar with Auckland Airport's **Adrian Littlewood** and Mainfreight's **Don Braid** to hear about their experiences with testing and the logistical challenges posed by Covid.



26 SEPTEMBER

In the *Australian Financial Review*, **Oliver Hartwich** explained that Angela Merkel governed Germany for 16 years but never really led the country.

27 SEPTEMBER

Matt Burgess labelled the Government's feebate policy a "reverse Robin Hood scheme" in the *New Zealand Herald*.



27 SEPTEMBER

Writing for *Newsroom*, **Oliver Hartwich** explained Germany's election results and what we can expect after 16 years of Angela Merkel. He later joined Mike Hosking on *Newstalk ZB* to discuss what the results will mean for Europe's largest economy.

28 SEPTEMBER

Oliver Hartwich and **Eric Crampton** hosted a public Zoom webinar with New Zealand born Yale University researcher, **Dr Anne Wyllie**. Anne led the development of Yale's SalivaDirect test authorised for use in the USA and independently validated in other countries. She discussed how New Zealand could better manage the pandemic.



28 SEPTEMBER

Eric Crampton joined Bryan Crump on *Radio New Zealand Nights* to discuss the history of libertarian attitudes towards vaccination.

4 OCTOBER

In the *Dominion Post*, **Eric Crampton** recounts how First Nations people in Canada could disregard council planning laws and build a large housing development on their tribal land. He contrasts this with the current impasse with development at Shelly Bay in Wellington.

5 OCTOBER

We launched our new research note, *Safer Arrivals and the Path to 2022*, by **Eric Crampton**. The research outlined the conditions New Zealand should meet before opening up to international travellers. Eric also wrote about his research in a *New Zealand Herald* column, published on 6 October.

7 OCTOBER

Roger Partridge and **Oliver Hartwich** provided extensive commentary for the New Zealand's Mood of the Board. As part of the *New Zealand Herald's* survey, Roger wrote a supplementary column detailing the importance of a well-educated workforce for New Zealand's future prosperity.

11 OCTOBER

Eric Crampton submitted to the Ministry of Health on the *COVID-19 Public Health Response Amendment Bill (No. 2)*. He highlighted the terrible consequences of this law in allowing government to take substantial control of Covid testing companies and labs.

12 OCTOBER

We followed up **Eric Crampton's** submission with a media release that showed how even having the law on the books would disincentivise private testing companies from increasing testing capacity. Eric also wrote about this issue in his regular *Newsroom* column.



13 OCTOBER

Roger Partridge used his *New Zealand Herald* column to highlight the policies other countries were employing to combat Covid-19 and called on the Government to adopt them. Mike Hosking enjoyed Roger's column and read out large tracts on *Newstalk ZB*.

14 OCTOBER

Emeritus Professor **Dr Gary Hawke** joined **Ben Craven** and **Bryce Wilkinson** on the NZ Initiative podcast to discuss Bryce's latest research report, *Illusions of History*.

18 OCTOBER

Writing in the *Dominion Post*, **Eric Crampton** outlined why it is so important that we fix New Zealand's broken model of local government.



18 OCTOBER

Eric Crampton spoke to Property Council New Zealand members as part of a webinar on the future of local government.

19 OCTOBER

In his *Newsroom* column, **Oliver Hartwich** explored the Austrian media funding scandal in which the Chancellor resigned after questions were raised over whether he had granted funding to journalists for favourable coverage.

20 OCTOBER

Oliver Hartwich joined *The Leighton Smith Podcast* to discuss a wide range of issues, including the economy, Covid-19, interest rates, centralism, education, and debt.



22 OCTOBER

In the *New Zealand Herald*, **Bryce Wilkinson** wrote that the Minister of Finance had not adequately explained how the Government will get back to prudent debt levels, which may make Budgets 2020 and 2021 illegal.

26 OCTOBER

In *Newsroom*, **Eric Crampton** highlighted the low ratio of ICU beds for New Zealand's population and explained how medical professionals will face terrible decisions about whose care to prioritise during the Covid-19 pandemic.



26 OCTOBER

Still locked down in Auckland, **Roger Partridge** took aim at the Government's Covid plan labelling it an impenetrable maze rather than a road map in his *New Zealand Herald* column.

27 OCTOBER

Eric Crampton joined Heather Du Plessis-Allan on *Newstalk ZB Drive*, where he made the case that vaccinated people should get hospital priority.

NOV

1 NOVEMBER

Writing in the *Dominion Post*, **Eric Crampton** explained how government agencies like to blame markets and the private sector for problems caused by Government policy. This is nowhere more evident than with climate policy.

2 NOVEMBER

In the *New Zealand Herald*, **Matt Burgess** outlined why the Government's Three Waters proposal misdiagnoses the problem. Matt explains that the best way to fix water infrastructure would be to place it on a commercial footing.

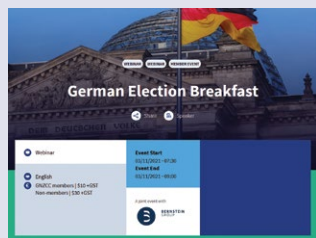


2 NOVEMBER

Europeans should expect even looser monetary policy after the resignation of Jens Weidmann as President of Germany's Bundesbank, warns **Oliver Hartwich** in his *Newsroom* column on European affairs.

3 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich joined the German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce for a virtual breakfast event to discuss the German election result and implications for New Zealand businesses.



4 NOVEMBER

We launched our latest research report by **Bryce Wilkinson** and **Leonard Hong**, *Walking the path to the next Global Financial Crisis*. We launched the report with a webinar with **Rt Hon Sir John Key**. The webinar was attended by over 400 members of the public, officials, politicians, and media. The event garnered a lot of media attention, and the video of the webinar has subsequently been viewed almost 4,000 times.



9 NOVEMBER

Bryce Wilkinson and **Leonard Hong** co-authored a column for the *New Zealand Herald* that summarised their latest report and warned that the world's major economies are walking into the next global financial crisis.



9 NOVEMBER

We launched *Climate of Fear: How the Reserve Bank is overstepping its mandate*. This research note by **Matt Burgess** shows how the Reserve Bank has begun meddling in climate change policy, despite misunderstanding New Zealand's emissions targets and how the government's emissions policies work.

9 NOVEMBER

Eric Crampton also highlighted the importance of central bank independence in his *Newsroom* column.



10 NOVEMBER

Bryce Wilkinson spoke to Lloyd Burr on *Magic Talk* about his research report *Walking the path to the next Global Financial Crisis*.

10 NOVEMBER

The *New Zealand Herald's* Wellington Business Editor **Hamish Rutherford** spoke at length to *Newstalk ZB's* **Heather Du Plessis-Allan** about our latest research note, *Climate of Fear: How the Reserve Bank is overstepping its mandate*.

11 NOVEMBER

On *Newstalk ZB*, Mike Hosking reviewed **Eric Crampton's** recent *Newsroom* article on the importance of central bank independence.

11 NOVEMBER

We launched *Unemployment Insurance: A recipe for more unemployment?* by **David Law**. This research note shows why the Government's proposed scheme will add a significant new tax to waged and salaried workers.



15 NOVEMBER

In the *Dominion Post*, **Eric Crampton** highlights the Auditor General's damning report on the Ministry of Health's Covid testing procurement process. He warns that the Ministry's approach to Covid testing is going to kill people.

16 NOVEMBER

We published **Eric Crampton's** submission to Parliament's Environment Committee on the *Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Bill*. Our submission was supportive of the Bill but noted that councils also needed financial incentives to encourage development.



16 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich wrote in *Newsroom* how the last dictator of Europe is cynically exploiting the EU's divisions.



18 NOVEMBER

Writing in the *New Zealand Herald*, **Matt Burgess** highlighted the numerous politicised blunders from across the public service and stated that a political public service will lose its social licence.

19 NOVEMBER

We published our submission to the Commerce Commission on *Issues raised at the Consultation Conference on the Commission's Market study into the retail grocery sector draft report*. The submission by **Eric Crampton** shows why the Government should reduce regulatory and legislative barriers to entry into the grocery market.



23 NOVEMBER

In *Newsroom*, **Eric Crampton** echoed the concerns of **Professor Robert Beaglehole** that further reducing access to legal cigarettes risks fuelling the black market for illicit tobacco.

24 NOVEMBER

Matt Burgess wrote a further submission to the Ministry for the Environment on *Transitioning to a low-emissions and climate resilient future*. Matt's submission showed why the Government's Emissions Reduction Plan cannot reduce emissions under a binding Emissions Trading Scheme.



24 NOVEMBER

In his *New Zealand Herald* column, **Matt Burgess** continued the theme of his recent submission and implores Climate Change Minister James Shaw to explain how his Emissions Reduction Plan will reduce emissions while we have an Emissions Trading Scheme.

26 NOVEMBER

We launched **Steen Videbeck's** literacy report, *Reading with the Light Switched On*. The research details Steen's experience as a teacher and calls for changes to the way teachers instruct children how to read.



29 NOVEMBER

Writing in the *Dominion Post*, **Eric Crampton** asks why New Zealand needs drug approval agency Medsafe and questions why we cannot approve medicines based upon their approvals in other jurisdictions.

DEC

29 NOVEMBER

Sir Ian Taylor's recent *New Zealand Herald* columns have documented his experience returning to New Zealand and taking part in the Government's trial of self-isolation. We held a members' Zoom meeting with Sir Ian where members could ask him questions about his experience and the Covid technologies he had used overseas.



30 NOVEMBER

In *Newsroom*, **Oliver Hartwich** described the 177-page long coalition agreement that is the centrepiece of the new centre-left, green, and free-market German Government.

30 NOVEMBER

Matt Burgess's research on the Emissions Trading Scheme was quoted extensively in Energy Resources Aotearoa's latest *Perspectives Series* paper.



1 DECEMBER

Roger Partridge wrote for the *New Zealand Herald* about the country's poor literacy rates and what should be done to reverse our decline.

2 DECEMBER

We hosted a public webinar with the Hoover Institution's **John H. Cochrane** about the importance of central bank independence. The event was attended by more than 150 people.



7 DECEMBER

In the *New Zealand Herald*, **Oliver Hartwich** explained Germany's experience with social unemployment insurance and explained why New Zealand should be cautious about starting down the same path. The following day, Mike Hosking praised the article and read out much of the content on *Newstalk ZB*.

7 DECEMBER

Eric Crampton joined *Radio New Zealand Nights* and talked to host Bryan Crump about why it is so difficult for new entrants to set up supermarkets in New Zealand.

8 DECEMBER

New Zealand needs to find a way to safely accommodate a greater number of travellers in 2022, wrote **Eric Crampton** in *Newsroom*.

13 DECEMBER

Writing in the *Dominion Post*, **Eric Crampton** raises the prospect of media acting as a cartel by taking collective action against Facebook and Google.

When does collective become cartel?

Opinion
Eric Crampton

“W”hen does collective become cartel? It’s a question that has been asked in many contexts, from labour unions to professional associations. In the case of the media, the question is whether a group of journalists can act collectively to demand better pay and conditions without crossing the line into cartel behaviour. The answer, I believe, lies in the nature of the industry and the power of the players involved. The media industry is a natural candidate for cartelisation because of its high barriers to entry, its high fixed costs, and its high sunk costs. These factors create a natural barrier to entry for new entrants, which gives existing players a significant degree of market power. This market power can be used to demand better pay and conditions, but it can also be used to engage in cartel behaviour. The key to avoiding cartelisation is to ensure that the industry remains competitive and that the players involved are not too powerful to act in concert. This can be achieved by promoting competition and by ensuring that the industry remains open to new entrants. Only then can the industry avoid the pitfalls of cartelisation and continue to serve the public interest.

14 DECEMBER

In his final *Newsroom* column of the year, **Oliver Hartwich** highlights Turkey's economic turmoil, where political mismanagement has led to huge inflation.

14 DECEMBER

Eric Crampton joined Wilhelmina Shrimpton on *MagicTalk* to discuss bracket creep, the high cost of living, and the types of poor-value government spending that could be abolished to allow tax cuts.

15 DECEMBER

In the *New Zealand Herald*, **Roger Partridge** outlines the significant public policy issues other than the pandemic that will define 2022.

Business

Roger Partridge: Government starting new year with a litany of headaches

15/12/2021 05:04:14

Next year poses plenty of non-Covid challenges for the Ardern Government. Photo: Mark Mitchell

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT US



"The team at NZ Initiative are true to their word; they embrace debate, encourage us to challenge their research and ideas, and genuinely reach out, not just to the like-minded, but the unlike-minded too. They're not afraid to test their ideas with people like me. Whether in my media roles or running the Council for International Development, debates and events with NZI are always enjoyable, robust, and fun. Long may this willingness to model a good old fashioned contest of ideas continue. We need it more than ever today."

Josie Pagani
Consultant and commentator



"In the last two years, The New Zealand Initiative has stood up as an advocate for policies based on rigorous analysis. It is all the more important because the Wellington policy environment is seriously underperforming and there is less contestable advice and waning transparency and accountability. The New Zealand Initiative's analysis and advocacy on the pandemic has challenged sloppy thinking. The New Zealand Initiative people are well connected to expert public health advisors in New Zealand and overseas. Its work has put pressure on the New Zealand system to respond in more sophisticated ways and hopefully those in the high towers of power have at least listened."

Leon Grice
Executive Director, Rako Science



"Thank goodness for The New Zealand Initiative. I am grateful for the innovative ideas, excellent research and the ensuing policy recommendations that help lead informed debate. The Initiative is building strong credibility with successive governments who are becoming more open to ideas.

The Initiative seeks to challenge the status quo in the pursuit of better outcomes for future generations, with excellent research linking to strong and clear policy options for government to consider.

I have enjoyed engaging with Oliver and his team on sector-specific legislative submissions, where we have been able to influence legislation on the floor during the year. It is one thing to criticise, but more powerful to offer solutions."

Simon Bennett
Chair, Accordant NZ



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

Des Gorman
Professor of Medicine,
University of Auckland



“There’s an old saying that practical people who think they’re immune to ideology are usually slaves to some dead economist. Some politicians think it fashionable to be a pragmatist with no philosophical luggage, only to discover what they are carrying after it’s too late.

Over the past couple of decades, we’ve seen a divisive and surreal philosophy move from the universities to the schools to the public service, media and politicians. The idea that there is no universal human reality, just a multitude of narratives and perspectives is one of the most dangerous ideas we have.

The New Zealand Initiative is one of the few bulwarks against this trend. The Initiative publishes rigorous and timely analyses of the challenges New Zealand faces, making it an invaluable resource for politicians who want to problem solve and improve policy outcomes everywhere from infrastructure to education.”

David Seymour
Leader, ACT New Zealand



“New Zealand is very lucky to have The New Zealand Initiative as an independent policy think tank and particularly so in terms of the quality of the team Oliver has gathered around him. The FSF appreciates the Initiative’s support of the need for a robust non-bank lending sector and the value it adds to the New Zealand economy.”

Lyn McMorran
Executive Director,
Financial Services Federation

OUR TEAM



Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director

Oliver is the Executive Director of The New Zealand Initiative. Before joining the Initiative he was a Research Fellow at the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney, the Chief Economist at Policy Exchange in London, and an advisor in the UK House of Lords.

Oliver holds a Master's degree in Economics and Business Administration and a Ph.D. in Law from Bochum University in Germany.



Chelsy Killick
Operations Director

Chelsy is the Operations Director of The New Zealand Initiative. She works closely with the Board on governance matters and is responsible for membership, human resources, and the Initiative's finances.

She project manages the Initiative's events, including our annual members' retreat, and has organised two international delegations (Switzerland in 2016 and Denmark in 2019) for 40 of our members, consisting of CEOs and Chairs of some of New Zealand's top companies. During these delegations, the group met with top business leaders and politicians in each country.

Chelsy holds a National Diploma in Business Administration and has over 25 years' experience providing support at top management level in New Zealand and Britain.



Dr Eric Crampton
Chief Economist

Eric is the Chief Economist at The New Zealand Initiative. With the Initiative, he has worked in policy areas ranging from freshwater management to policy for

earthquake preparedness, and from local government to technology policy. He has recently focused on policy related to Covid-19 response.

He served as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Economics at the Department of Economics & Finance at the University of Canterbury from 2003 through 2014.

Eric's columns and commentary appear regularly in New Zealand's major media outlets, as well as on his blog, *Offsetting Behaviour*.



Dr Bryce Wilkinson
Senior Fellow

Bryce is a Senior Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative, and also the Director of the Wellington-based economic consultancy firm Capital Economics.

Prior to setting this up in 1997 he was a Director of, and shareholder in, First NZ Capital. Before moving into investment banking in 1985, he worked in the New Zealand Treasury, reaching the position of Director.

Bryce holds a PhD in economics from the University of Canterbury and was a Harkness Fellow at Harvard University. He is a Fellow of the Law and Economics Association of New Zealand.



Matt Burgess
Senior Economist

Matt is a Senior Economist at The New Zealand Initiative. He was Senior Economic Advisor to the Minister of Finance, Chief Executive of iPredict, and a Senior Associate at consultants Charles River Associates.

He has a Master of Commerce in economics with first class honours from the University of Canterbury and a Bachelor of Commerce in economics and mathematics.



Leonard Hong
Research Assistant

Leonard joined The New Zealand Initiative as a Research Assistant. In 2019, Leonard completed his BA/BCom Conjoint degree at The University of Auckland. He majored in Politics & International Relations, History, Economics, and International Business.

Previously he has worked as a research intern at The Centre for Independent Studies on economic, cultural, and global affairs. Leonard is also a current member of the National Unification Advisory Council within the Korean Consulate in Auckland.



Ben Craven
External Relations
Manager

Ben is the External Relations Manager for the New Zealand Initiative. He works closely with media and stakeholders to increase awareness of the Initiative's research and thought leadership.

He has more than a decade of experience working in public relations, communications and campaign management. Before joining the team, Ben worked as a public relations consultant where he advised multinationals, cooperatives, charities and NGOs on how to attain their objectives.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in politics and philosophy from Victoria University of Wellington, and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Communication from Massey University.



Mangai Pitchai
Editor

Mangai is The New Zealand Initiative's editor. She has worked as an editor and publications manager in think tanks for nearly a decade, particularly at the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney. Before that, she had worked in legal publishing in Australia, journalism in California and India, and teaching in India.

Mangai has an M.Phil in archaeology from India and she studied journalism in California.



Helene Luey
**Office Administrator
& Event Coordinator**

Helene Luey looks after the day-to-day running of the Initiative's office. She works closely with our Operations Director to plan our in-house and external events and helps keep the website content updated. She also is responsible for collating the Initiative's weekly newsletter, *Insights*.

Helene has worked for many years in event coordination, administration and marketing for Oticon New Zealand, and more recently as an administrator for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

She has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Victoria University of Wellington.



Karen Ewart
**Accounts and Payroll
Administrator**

Karen works part-time with The New Zealand Initiative and is responsible for the accounting and payroll functions.

She holds a New Zealand Diploma in Business and Accounting and has over 20 years working experience in finance and administration for various companies in New Zealand and abroad.



In the past two years, companies have had the hardest time figuring out what matters to New Zealanders and the businesses serving them. As we deal with the most uncertain times many of us have ever faced, The New Zealand Initiative and its thoughtful research has been an enormous help to our decision-making.

Chris Quin

Chief Executive Officer, Foodstuffs North Island



OUR BOARD



Roger Partridge
Chairman, The New Zealand Initiative

Roger Partridge is Chairman and a Co-founder of The New Zealand Initiative, and is a senior member of its research team. He led law firm Bell Gully as Executive Chairman from 2007 to 2014, after 16 years as a commercial litigation partner. Roger was Executive Director of the Legal Research Foundation, a charitable foundation associated with the University of Auckland, from 2001 to 2009, and was a member of the Council of the New Zealand Law Society, the governing body of the legal profession in New Zealand, from 2011 to 2015. He is a chartered member of the Institute of Directors, a member of the editorial board of the *New Zealand Law Review* and a member of the Mont Pelerin Society.



Barbara Chapman
(Deputy Chair)
Chair and Independent Director

Barbara Chapman was appointed as Deputy Chair on The New Zealand Initiative's Board of Directors in June 2019. Barbara served as Chief Executive and Managing Director of ASB Bank Limited from 2011 until 2018. Since 1994, she has held several diverse senior executive roles with the Commonwealth Bank Group of companies, having started her career with the Group as Chief Manager Marketing at ASB. Ms Chapman is the Chair of Genesis Energy and an Independent Director of Fletcher Building, IAG and *Herald* publisher, NZME. She was named the New Zealand Business Leader of the Year in 2017 and made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2019 New Year's Honours Roll for services to business.



Matthew Cockram
Chief Executive,
Cooper and Company

Matthew Cockram serves as the Chief Executive Officer and Principal of Cooper and Company NZ. Prior to that, he spent 20 years at law firm Bell Gully, with the last five years as Chairman, specialising in construction, commercial property and

major projects. He has been an independent Director of Tainui Group Holdings Limited since March 2011.



Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director,
The New Zealand
Initiative

Oliver Hartwich is the Executive Director of The New Zealand Initiative. Before joining the Initiative, he worked for leading think tanks in London and Sydney as well as in the UK House of Lords. His research covers a broad range of policy issues, and his articles have been widely published.



Stephen Jennings
CEO and Founder,
Rendeavour

Stephen Jennings is one of New Zealand's most successful entrepreneurs. For more than 20 years, the Taranaki-born economist and investor has been living and working in emerging markets. A pioneer of capital markets in Central and Eastern Europe and Africa, he is responsible for more than \$200 billion worth of investment into these regions.

As the leader of Africa's largest urban development company, Rendeavour, he

now helps build city-scale developments in some of the fastest-growing cities in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



John Judge
Independent
Non-Executive Director

John Judge was formerly Chief Executive of Ernst and Young New Zealand, and former chairman of ANZ Bank, and Accident Compensation Corporation. He is also a former director of Fletcher Building Limited and Fletcher Building Finance Limited.

John is a member of the Otago University School of Business Advisory Board.



Neil Paviour-Smith
Managing Director,
Forsyth Barr

Neil Paviour-Smith is the Managing Director of Forsyth Barr, a leading New Zealand share-broking firm and investment bank. He is a Director of the New Zealand Exchange (NZX) and of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, and a Council Member of Victoria University of Wellington.



Scott Perkins
Non-Executive Director,
Woolworths Limited and
Brambles Limited

Scott Perkins is a Non-Executive Director of Brambles Ltd, Origin Energy Ltd, Woolworths Ltd. He is an active participant in the not-for-profit communities in Australia and New Zealand and has an extensive career in financial services. He was head of corporate finance for Deutsche Bank Australia and New Zealand.



Chris Quin
Chief Executive,
Foodstuffs North Island

Chris Quin was appointed as CEO of Foodstuffs North Island Ltd in May 2015. Chris has since immersed himself in the unique world of grocery and works with the Foodstuffs Co-operative team and its 350 store owners to create a leading supermarket experience for New Zealand shoppers.

Prior to joining Foodstuffs, Chris was CEO of Spark Home, Mobile and Business and led the company through the very successful rebrand from Telecom to Spark.

OUR MEMBERS

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