

The background of the cover is a scenic landscape photograph. It features a clear blue sky at the top, with tree branches and leaves in shades of green and yellow framing the top and right sides. Below the sky, a range of dark, rugged mountains stretches across the horizon. In the middle ground, a line of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in orange, red, and yellow stands in front of the mountains. The foreground is a wide, open grassy field with some fallen leaves scattered on it. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**THE
NEW ZEALAND
INITIATIVE**

www.nzinitiative.org.nz

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FOREWORD

2022 marked a turning point in New Zealand's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The country reopened to international visitors in the middle of the year, and by the year's end, most sectors of the economy got back to something close to business as usual.

The end of Covid restrictions also meant the Initiative returned its focus to more "normal" public policy concerns and to a more normal modus operandi.

We resumed in-person members' meetings; held a very successful annual members' retreat in Queenstown; and traded the Zoom screen for regular face-to-face meetings with politicians and officials, the media, members and other thought leaders.

However, the end of Covid restrictions did not mean an end to the after-effects of the pandemic. Inflation and the cost-of-living

crisis, labour shortages, and an unprecedented crime wave all contributed to 2022's post-pandemic hangover.

And they added to an already long list of public policy challenges facing the country.

Rebuilding our once world-leading system. Freeing up land for housing development. Addressing the challenges of climate change efficiently. Ensuring rigorous cost-benefit assessments of regulatory reform proposals and government spending decisions. These were the country's most important challenges prior to the pandemic.

None of them has been solved during the Covid years, and several of them, especially educational outcomes and housing affordability, have worsened.

However, the Initiative's research during the year has had a significant impact on how politicians, the business community, and the media discuss many of these issues. And our work has pointed to evidence-based solutions to several of them and to the pursuit of evidence-based solutions for some of them.

High among the list of our successes in 2022 was contributing to the new literacy strategy



announced by the Government in August 2022. Successive Initiative reports have highlighted that the Ministry of Education's approach to teaching literacy is unsound and is contributing to appalling – and declining – educational outcomes for Kiwi school leavers.

In May 2022, the Initiative hosted an important literacy symposium with local and international speakers. In July 2022, we published a report detailing low student achievement in a trail of new literacy standards for NCEA. One of the recommendations was that structured literacy be adopted as a pedagogical approach in primary schools. A month later, Associate Minister of Education Jan Tinetti announced a new literacy strategy for schools, of which structured literacy will be a part.



While this is just one example of the Initiative's impact last year, no area of public policy is more important to lifting the living standards of ordinary Kiwis than education. And no educational outcome is more important than achieving high levels of literacy. The change in Government policy is one that the Initiative team can be justifiably proud of.

As detailed in this report, the range of the public policy areas the Initiative has influenced in 2022 is wide. From monetary policy to the emissions trading scheme, and from infrastructure bonds to Pharmac's approach to procuring pharmaceuticals, there is almost no area of public policy immune to the Initiative's scrutiny.

We are proud of our achievements in 2022, and we look forward to adding to the debate in the year ahead.

Roger Partridge
Chairman

Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The New Zealand Initiative is unique, 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, 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.

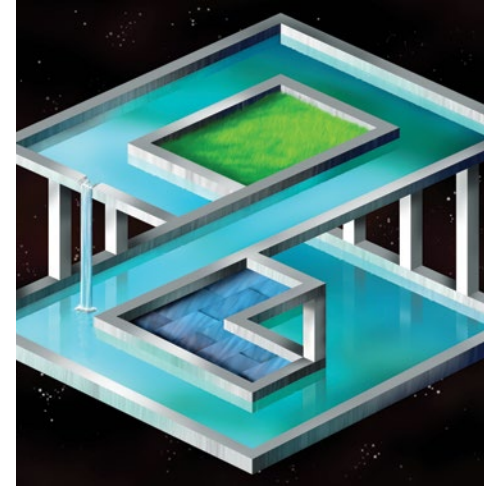
We are committed.

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



Pretence of necessity

Matt Burgess

The Government's budget for addressing climate change, which includes \$4.5 billion in new spending, is based on a misunderstanding of the policies already in place. New Zealand is already on track to meet its emissions targets due to existing policies, including the Emissions Trading Scheme and offsets. The new policies, including levies, subsidies, and regulations, are not necessary and will not effectively reduce emissions. The Government's new spending on climate change policies could be ineffective and could cause more harm than good. The report concludes that the Government's climate change strategy is a failure due to the lack of cost-benefit analysis, ineffective policies, and disregard for the impact on the public.

The rising cost of living for Kiwis

Matt Burgess

Kiwi households are paying over \$3,000 more for essentials than a year ago due to policies from the Government and the Reserve Bank. New Zealand has the second-highest inflation rate among major trading partners after the US. The Government's solution to a supply-side crisis during the pandemic with a demand-side solution has resulted in the highest inflation in 30 years. A third of the increase in cost of living is due to higher transport costs, housing costs, food prices, and interest payments.

The upcoming Budget with \$6 billion in new spending will likely lead to more inflation and pressure on household expenses. The Government should reconsider its spending commitments due to high inflation and its impact on households.

Reassessing the Regulators: The good, the bad and the Commerce Commission

Roger Partridge

Commercial regulatory agencies have significant power over businesses, including the ability to revoke licenses, impose restrictions, and take enforcement action. Good regulators can improve regulations, while bad regulators can make them ineffective. Poor regulatory decisions can



harm innovation and increase prices for consumers. However, legislators often focus on giving regulators powers rather than ensuring they use those powers wisely. According to a survey by The New Zealand Initiative, many of the country's regulators do not have the respect of businesses they regulate, while others are highly respected. Regulators should not always be popular, but should also not be captured by the businesses they regulate. The results of a repeated survey four years later raised serious concerns.

Minister hopelessly ill-informed on labour market statistics

Dr Bryce Wilkinson

The Minister of Workplace Relations and Safety appeared before Parliament's Education and Workforce Committee to support the Government's Fair Pay Agreement Bill. The New Zealand Initiative disputes the Minister's claims that there was a decline in employees' share of income and poor labor productivity growth since 1991.

The Initiative argues that the Minister's claims are based on myths and not facts, and that the decline in labor's share is contestable. The Initiative suggests that the Minister's bald claim of a 46% decline in productivity growth is misleading and that official statistical information should be taken seriously if the Government values employees' wellbeing. The Minister's failure to acknowledge the facts suggests that the Government's interests lie elsewhere.

Faster trend Labour productivity growth after the ECA 1991

Dr Bryce Wilkinson

The New Zealand Initiative refutes the Minister of Workplace Relations and Safety's claim that New Zealand's labor productivity growth rate was 46% below Australia's since 1991. According to recent figures from the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment, the difference was actually 30%. The Initiative's own analysis shows the difference to be 23%. The Minister's aim is to discredit the Employment Contracts Act 1991 and push for a return to trade-union-dominated wage negotiation regulations. The Initiative concludes that New Zealand's labor productivity growth was 54% below Australia's between 1964 and 1990. The Government should focus on improving productivity instead of hindering it with the Fair Pay Agreement Bill.

A way ahead for NCEA literacy and numeracy

Dr Michael Johnston

A pilot of the new NCEA literacy and numeracy assessments shows alarmingly low results, with only one-third of students passing the writing assessment and two-thirds passing reading and numeracy.

The Initiative calls for urgent reform in teaching literacy and numeracy in New Zealand schools and recommends implementing structured teaching. A way forward is suggested to balance political reality while ensuring a strong credential for literacy and numeracy.

How central bank mistakes after 2019 led to inflation

Dr Bryce Wilkinson and Graeme Wheeler

In July, the Initiative published a research note that claims that central bank mistakes are the main cause of inflation in many economies. The paper argues that central banks were too confident in their policies, models, and ability to control output and employment, lost focus on price stability, faced conflicting mandates, and were distracted by political objectives. The foreword by Dr William White agrees that central bankers have misread the system they are trying to control, leading to serious

consequences worldwide, especially for the poor and vulnerable. To restore credibility, central banks must acknowledge their mistakes and inform the public on steps taken to rebuild confidence.

The false “inflation versus jobs” narrative

Dr Bryce Wilkinson

In 2022, the Initiative published an essay pointing out six mistakes made by central banks in response to COVID. The media in New Zealand took this as an attack on the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) but the Initiative intended to highlight threats to global prosperity and financial stability, not to single out the RBNZ. However, the RBNZ followed the actions of other central banks and so also made similar mistakes. This report responds to recent media narratives in New Zealand that tend to support the RBNZ’s decisions.

Every life is worth the same - The case for equal treatment

Dr Bryce Wilkinson

This paper argues that taxpayers expect governments to spend their hard-earned money wisely, and that the value for money from pharmaceutical spending depends on

the accuracy of diagnosis. The report focuses on the poor health outcomes for Māori, and critiques the dominant political and official diagnosis that racism is a significant cause. The report evaluates the evidence provided by the Ministry of Health and finds it lacking in both causation and significance. We argue that there can be no serious interest in the quality of the outcome without a serious interest in rigorous evidence-based diagnosis. The report uses the case of Pharmac to illustrate how the current remedies depart from the principle of equal treatment for equal need. The report concludes that taxpayers and Māori and non-Māori deserve better, and that better health outcomes for all New Zealanders will require a serious policy interest in problem diagnosis and remedy evaluation.





No Evidence, No Evaluation, No Exit – Lessons from the 'Modern Learning Environments' experiment

Dr Michael Johnston

In 2011, the Ministry of Education launched a 10-year strategy to update classrooms. Part of this plan involved creating large open-plan classrooms with more students. However, the Ministry failed to research the impact of these “Modern Learning Environments” on student learning and did not evaluate their effects after implementation. Despite no evidence supporting the effectiveness of team teaching and student-centered learning, the policy has left a lasting impact on the country’s classrooms. Future education policy should not be implemented without evidence of effectiveness and plans for evaluation.

SUBMISSIONS

In 2022, the Initiative made submissions to:

- The Commerce Commission on the Residential Building Supplies Market Study Preliminary Issues Paper;
- The Future of Work Tripartite Forum on a New Zealand Income Insurance Scheme;
- The Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Primary Industries on the discussion document “Managing Exotic Afforestation Incentives”;
- Wellington City Council on the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy;
- The Employment and Workforce Select Committee on the Fair Pay Agreement Bill;
- The Ministry for the Environment on the discussion document “Transforming Recycling: Container Return Scheme”;
- The Environment Committee on The Emissions Reduction Plan (including a supplementary submission);
- The Reserve Bank of New Zealand on its Consultation Paper on the Monetary Policy Remit;
- The Health Select Committee on the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Smoked Tobacco) Amendment Bill.

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT US

“ The New Zealand Initiative's education portfolio is highly credible with respected educationalist Dr Michael Johnston providing the scholarship for the Initiative's comprehensive proposals to reform the country's education system. Based on sound logic and verifiable evidence, the proposals are in clear contrast to the government's current ideologically driven education policies. Significantly, the Initiative's work goes beyond insightful analysis to the comprehensive plan of action described in its Manifesto for Improving New Zealand's School System.

The Manifesto is an outstanding achievement. Its comprehensive coverage of the education system includes proposals for the qualification system, teacher training and career structure, the curriculum, and school management. Importantly, the practical recommendations for each area are underpinned by a philosophical commitment to education's liberal democratic vision. The Manifesto's forthcoming publication will position The New Zealand Initiative as the country's leading education think tank and ensure widespread and deserved interest and support.”

Elizabeth Rata
Professor, Critical Studies in Education,
The University of Auckland



2022



297

opinion articles
published
(including **138**
Insights pieces)



1,100

direct media
mentions



11

Initiative events
held, hosting

24

speakers



87 radio and
television
appearances



6,869

Insights readers

235

Executive Summary
recipients



20

research reports
(including 10 written
submissions)



64,621

Podcast plays



4,975

Facebook followers



3,640

Twitter followers

YouTube

27,893

YouTube video views

OUR ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT WITH MEMBERS

We held six members' dinners and lunches and two member-exclusive events. We are proud to have hosted several high-level speakers in 2022. These meetings allowed members to hear from and engage with politicians, industry experts, and international speakers on a wide range of topics.



MEMBER EVENTS

Members' webinar: The Government's proposed unemployment insurance (March)

Kirk Hope, Chief Executive at BusinessNZ joined us for an informative webinar discussing the Government's proposed unemployment insurance.

Social Unemployment Insurance evokes compassion and a desire to help those in need. It promises to ease the fear of falling into a hole if ever laid off. It gives us all the assurance that we can count on our community in times of need. What could be wrong with any of that? Well, there is a lot more to it than first meets the eye. It is not just the economics; it is the politics as well.

Kirk and Dr Oliver Hartwich answered questions about what this will mean for our members' businesses.



Members' Retreat (April)

Our ninth annual Members' Retreat was held at Millbrook Resort in Arrowtown and attended by around 80 members. At the retreat, members heard from leading figures across the media, academia, and policymakers, as they discussed ideas to revitalise New Zealand in the post-pandemic world and the emerging new world order.

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** spoke to our members about where New Zealand stands post-pandemic, and what The New Zealand Initiative has contributed to policy debates.

The old-world order came to an end on 24 February 2022. When Putin's troops invaded Ukraine, it marked the final assault on the international rules-based order established after the fall of communism in 1989/90. Iron Duke Partners' **Phil O'Reilly** and the Initiative's Dr Oliver Hartwich discussed geopolitics in 2022. Leader of the Opposition **Christopher Luxon**, spoke to our members about the National Party's policy priorities.

Since the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, central banks worldwide have dramatically increased their money supply. In doing so, they have driven interest rates to their lowest levels since records began. At the same time, asset prices have increased substantially – as has government debt. Interest.co.nz journalist **Jenée Tibshraeny** and the Initiative's Dr **Bryce Wilkinson** make sense of developments.

The Initiative's Deputy Chair **Barbara Chapman** hosted a members' forum where members shared their perspectives on doing business in New Zealand, and in particular what the Government's immigration reset really means for business.

Professor **Des Gorman**, University of Auckland, gave the first Retreat Dinner address. He shared his views on what Covid-19 revealed about New Zealand's health system.

Cato Institute analyst **Marian Tupy** shared entertaining access to surprising facts everybody needed to know about how the world is faring. Former finance minister **Steven Joyce** and senior Herald business journalist **Kate MacNamara** assessed the political landscape.

Financial challenges for many media organisations, exacerbated by Covid, have led to direct government funding of journalism. The Platform's **Sean Plunket** and Massey University's Dr **Catherine Strong** discuss whether New Zealand new outlets are unevenly spread across the political spectrum and if this new status quo is sustainable.

Members heard from former comedian and mental health advocate **Mike King** about raising awareness for mental health and how to help educate vulnerable groups on dealing with life challenges.

New Zealand's universities face many challenges, financial and organisational. But a more fundamental question is; are they still the places of free discourse, committed to excellence, and aiming for constant intellectual challenge? Dr **Michael Johnston** and Dr **Dennis Wesselbaum** shared their observations on the state of academia in New Zealand.

Distinguished Māori business leader Sir **Rob McLeod** gave the closing Retreat Dinner address. He discussed the role that Māori play in the success of society and the economy, and explained how Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles can be integrated into social and political life and contribute to a cohesive society.



Members' Lunch with David Seymour, Leader, ACT Party (June)

We held a Members' lunch at Forsyth Barr on 27 June with the Leader of the ACT Party, **David Seymour**. David spoke to about 40 of our members and discussed ACT's policy platform, including the party's recently released Alternative Budget.



Members' Dinner with Peter Williams (September)

The Initiative, and our member Cooper and Company, hosted former TV news host and radio presenter **Peter Williams** in Auckland. He spoke to around 40 of our members, who all appreciated Peter's openness to discuss co-governance and the health of our democracy.

Members' Dinners (September and October)

In September and October, we organised networking events for our members in Auckland.

Bell Gully hosted a dinner meeting for a small group of Auckland-based members. They discussed local and national issues of significance to their businesses.

EY New Zealand hosted a members' dinner, to discuss topics of interest for a group of members working within similar industries.

Members' Lunch: A Return to World-Class Education (November)

Education is a key area of work for The New Zealand Initiative and there is indeed much work to do. Years of failed policies have left our once great education system teetering. Our literacy and numeracy rates are plummeting. Our young people are truant in record numbers. Our classrooms are being transformed into massive barns to enable dubious and ideological teaching practices.

On 18 November, PwC New Zealand hosted members at a lunch to discuss the Initiative's draft education manifesto for election year, to save school education in New Zealand. The manifesto will bring

together the Initiative's research on education over the last decade, covering curriculum, qualifications, teachers' training and career structure and school quality and choice, and will be made available to all political parties in 2023, with an invitation to use it in forming their education policies.

During the lunch, Dr **Michael Johnston** spoke to the issues the manifesto covers and collected members' thoughts to inform the final version. We believe that the collective wisdom of our members can make a strong contribution to this important document.



Members' Lunch with Mayor Wayne Brown (November)

Our final members' lunch of the year was held at Forsyth Barr on 23 November with the newly elected Mayor of Auckland, **Wayne Brown**. In addition to discussing Auckland-specific issues of importance to their businesses with the Mayor, attendees heard what they could expect from him in the next three years.



PUBLIC EVENTS

Public Literacy Workshop (May)

On 12 May, The New Zealand Initiative hosted a symposium on literacy education practice and policy. The attendees numbered about one hundred and included teachers, representatives of literacy advocacy groups and a representative from the Ministry of Education. Education spokespeople from all political parties represented in parliament were invited, and Erica Stanford (National) and Chris Baillie (ACT) were in attendance.

Emeritus Professor **James Chapman** (Massey University) opened the day with a history lesson. He explained that there has been a clear scientific consensus for more than two decades, that a focus on word-level decoding skills, including the systematic teaching of phonics, lays the strongest possible foundation for children's literacy.

Professor Chapman's colleague, Dr **Christine Braid**, runs professional development programmes for teachers across the country, training them to use literacy teaching methods based on the scientific consensus. She explained that 'constructivist' methods of teaching literacy remain dominant in New Zealand, leaving many children struggling to develop literacy. Dr Braid explained that it is often difficult for teachers to let go of these methods. "Unstitching, teaching practice is painful", she commented, "but we need to start with the phonics".

We were joined by two Australian guests, literacy expert Dr **Jennifer Buckingham** and **John Gardner**, who, until recently, was the Education Minister in South Australia. They talked about the political process of reforming literacy teaching. In South Australia, an approach emphasising phonics has been implemented, with national testing data now showing its benefits.

Dr **Helen Walls**, a consultant Cognition Education, spoke about the teaching of writing. She echoed the necessity of moving away from constructivist ideology in literacy teaching and argued for a stronger focus on technical skills in writing. "It's a false dichotomy to pit a technical focus against the view that writing ought to be creative. Writing is a creative act, but without the technical skills, creativity cannot be expressed".

Olwyn Johnston, Deputy Principal at Tawa School, and **Jan Johnstone** from the Southern Institute of Technology, spoke about research and practice with older students who have not successfully learned to read. They both emphasised the importance of strengthening understanding of phonics and showed data evincing the success of their approaches.

Finally, **Helena McAlister** from the New Zealand Graduate School of Education spoke about her methods of training new teachers to be effective in literacy.

The day added to a growing momentum for change in our approach to the teaching of literacy. There is a clear consensus amongst our experts that using ineffective methods would be both ignorant and unethical. The Initiative will be keeping up pressure for evidence-informed change for the sake of our young people.

Public Webinar: Every Life is Worth the Same (August)

Are Māori dying earlier because they are Māori? Do Māori lead less healthy lives because they are being discriminated against? And how much racism is there in the New Zealand health system?

These are the questions at the heart of a new report by Dr **Bryce Wikinson**, *Every life is worth the same - The case for equal treatment*. Bryce researched claims made by the Government that systemic racism is to blame for poor Māori health outcomes. And he also analysed the Government's prescription to remedy the situation by prioritising health spending for Māori, especially in Pharmac's medicine procurement.

On 30 August, we hosted a webinar with guest speaker Professor of Medicine at University of Auckland **Des Gorman** (Ngapuhi), who authored the foreword. Together, Bryce and Des discussed if, as the title of the report states, "Every life is worth the same".



Report Launch: No Evidence, No Evaluation, No Exit (September)

In 2011 New Zealand's Ministry of Education decided that open plan classrooms are the way of the future. They embarked on a policy to replace the country's classrooms with Modern Learning Environments in which large groups of children are expected to learn in a 'self-directed' way.

On 20 September, we hosted a public in-person event at Forsyth Barr to launch our report *No Evidence, No Evaluation, No Exit: Lessons from the 'Modern Learning Environments' experiment*.

At the launch and in the report, Dr **Michael Johnston** questioned the assumptions on which Modern Learning Environments are based. Is the future likely to be so different from the past that such an educational revolution is justified? What is the role of digital technology in the classroom? Is there any evidence that children learn better in Modern Learning Environments than in traditional classrooms? He also laid out the Initiative's agenda for forthcoming reports on education.



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:

Modern Learning Environments

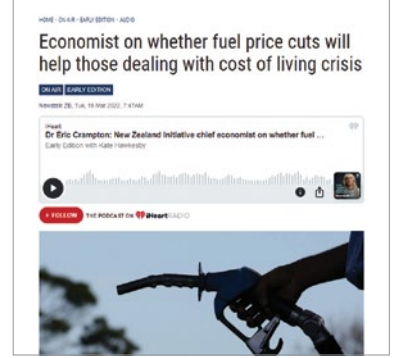
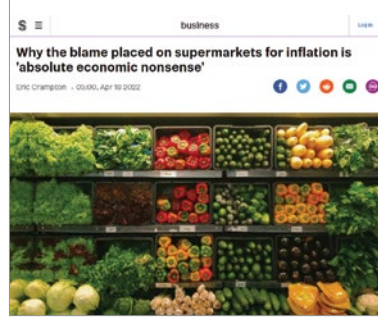
Soon after our report *No Evidence, No Evaluation, No Exit*, was published, ACT's education spokesperson Chris Baillie asked Minister of Education Chris Hipkins in the house whether he agreed that "the Ministry conducted no research on the effects of these 'Modern Learning Environments' on students' learning prior to compelling schools to adopt them." (Hansard, Oral Question #8, 20 September 2022). The Minister said schools are not compelled to adopt Modern Learning Environments. This amounted to an explicit reversal of the previous Ministry of Education position, under which schools could attain funding for new classroom builds only if they were prepared for those builds to be Modern Learning Environments.

Structured Literacy

On 12 May 2022, the Initiative hosted a literacy symposium. Speakers included Professor James Chapman and Australian literacy expert Jennifer Buckingham. There were about 100 attendees, mostly teachers. The consensus of the meeting was that New Zealand schools urgently need to adopt a structured literacy approach to reduce the ongoing decline of these skills in our young people. On 19 July 2022, the Initiative published a report on low achievement in a trail of new literacy standards for NCEA. One of the recommendations was to adopt structured literacy as a pedagogical approach in primary schools. In August 2022, Associate Minister of Education Jan Tinetti announced a new literacy strategy for schools, of which structured literacy would be a part. A taskforce has now been established to advise on that strategy. Professor Chapman is a member.

Housing and Local Government

The Initiative has long held incentives as the root cause of local government dysfunction. Local councils experience growth as a balance-sheet cost to be mitigated, rather than a benefit to be sought. Meanwhile, central government receives the increase in income tax, company tax, and GST when councils enable growth. We have advocated that councils should receive a share of those benefits. Both the ACT Party and National picked up the idea. In 2021, National proposed giving Councils \$50,000 for every dwelling consented above that council's historic average. In 2022, ACT proposed grants to councils equivalent to half the GST on new builds. Both options would enable more building. A decade ago, only the Initiative pointed to the incentives facing councils as an underlying reason for a looming housing crisis. Now, it is common knowledge.



Resource Management

While our work favouring cap-and-trade systems for freshwater abstraction and water quality management has not resulted in policy change, the ideas, including compensating those affected by tighter pollution standards, have now become far more mainstream.

ACT has picked up other ideas that the Initiative has advocated in reports and columns, including tradeable permits for freshwater management; enabling street-level upzoning; protecting biodiversity by paying property owners rather than through regulatory mandate; a carbon dividend from Emissions Trading Scheme revenues; providing incentive for first-mover developers to bear infrastructure cost by allowing them to recoup contributions from later-comers; shifting road funding from fuel taxes to road pricing; and, revenue bonds for infrastructure funding. The "Review into the Future for Local Government"

also noted the potential for revenue bonds as an infrastructure funding solution.

Surveys of members of the New Zealand Association of Economists and of an expert panel of economists showed strong agreement with the Initiative's views on carbon pricing and emissions trading.

The Local Government Business Forum's submission on Three Waters was broadly aligned with the Initiative's work in the area; the Initiative is a member of the Forum, which brings together business organisations that deal with local government.

The Government pulled back on proposals to use the Emissions Trading Scheme to devalue carbon stored in non-native forests. We have urged that if government wished to encourage greater biodiversity in planting, it should use a separate instrument rather than the ETS.

Competition Policy

The Commerce Commission's final report on the grocery market echoed large portions of our submissions on the topic, highlighting the importance of legislative, regulatory and zoning-based barriers to entry. Its draft report on building materials, in contrast to its draft report on groceries, began by looking at barriers to entry - in line with our submission on the Commission's preliminary issues paper.

ONE YEAR IN REVIEW

2022

JAN

18 JANUARY

In his first *Newsroom* column of the year, **Eric Crampton** argued that fixing the housing crisis depends on breaking the building supplies deadlock.



24 JANUARY

In an opinion piece for *Stuff*, **Eric Crampton** wrote about New Zealand's failure to prepare for Omicron.



25 JANUARY

On *ABC Sydney*, **Oliver Hartwich** shared his thoughts on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

25 JANUARY

In his first *Newsroom* column for the year, **Oliver Hartwich** writes about Putin's military threat to Ukraine.



26 JANUARY

We resumed our *NZ Herald* column with **Bryce Wilkinson** writing about the train wreck that is government policymaking.



28 JANUARY

In our first podcast of the year, **Oliver Hartwich** spoke more about his column on the Russia/Ukraine conflict.

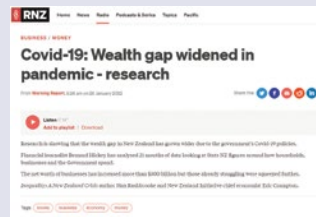
FEB

28 JANUARY

Oliver Hartwich and **Matt Burgess** discussed understanding New Zealand's high inflation in the Initiative's podcast.

28 JANUARY

On *Radio NZ*, **Eric Crampton** spoke about the growing wealth gap during the pandemic.



28 JANUARY

Oliver Hartwich spoke about New Zealand's high inflation figures on *The Dubai Eye* radio show.

1 FEBRUARY

Energy and emissions policies were the podcast topic of the day with **Matt Burgess**.

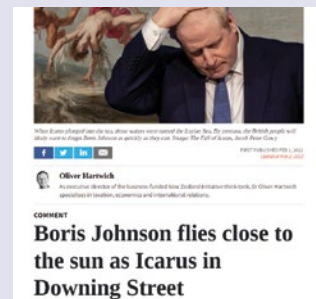
1 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton wrote in his *Newsroom* column that the government's response to Omicron over the summer break had too little method and too much madness.



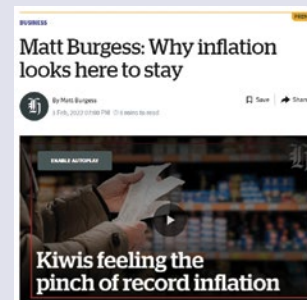
1 FEBRUARY

In an opinion piece for *Newsroom*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote about the tumultuous leadership of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.



1 FEBRUARY

Matt Burgess said in an *NZ Herald* column that inflation is here to stay if the Reserve Bank keeps its focus on climate change.



3 FEBRUARY

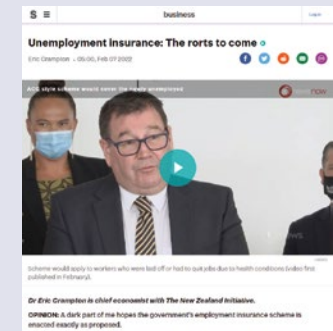
Oliver Hartwich joined BusinessNZ's **Kirk Hope** on *Newstalk ZB* with Mike Hosking to explain the perils of the government's social unemployment insurance policy.

4 FEBRUARY

We submitted to the Commerce Commission on the *Market Study into Residential Building Supplies Preliminary Issues Paper*.

7 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton outlined the problems with the government's proposed employment insurance scheme in a column for *Stuff*.



8 FEBRUARY

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote that Europe's power players are driving the EU to declare nuclear power and gas as environmentally sustainable and thus supportable.



8 FEBRUARY

Roger Partridge wrote in the *NZ Herald* about how the proposed unemployment insurance scheme creates more problems than solutions.



9 FEBRUARY

Oliver Hartwich and BusinessNZ's **Kirk Hope** continued their discussion about the government's social unemployment insurance policy in the Initiative's podcast.

10 FEBRUARY

In our first media statement of the year, we welcomed the results of the inaugural *New Zealand Economics Experts Survey*, which found remarkable consensus among the country's top economists on critical policy issues.

11 FEBRUARY

In the Initiative's podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** discussed what led to the European Union labelling nuclear energy and natural gas as environmentally sustainable energy sources and what it means for Europe's energy future.

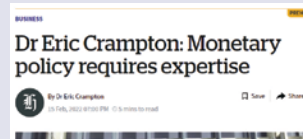
15 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton wrote in his column for *Newsroom* that the failure of the outdated NZ Stats database has worrying health and wellbeing impacts.



15 FEBRUARY

Monetary policy is a specialist field requiring expert knowledge and PhD level training. **Eric Crampton** wrote in his *NZ Herald* column that the Monetary Policy Committee requires the same expertise.



16 FEBRUARY

In the Initiative's podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** joined **Lyn McMorran**, executive director of the Financial Services Federation, to discuss the effects of the *Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act*.

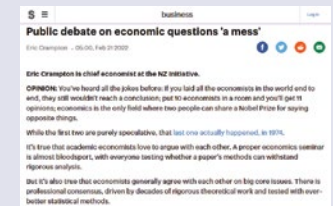


17 FEBRUARY

Two weeks on from the last International Outlook podcast on the Russia/Ukraine conflict, **Oliver Hartwich** discussed whether the meetings between Emmanuel Macron, Olaf Scholz and Vladimir Putin were constructive.

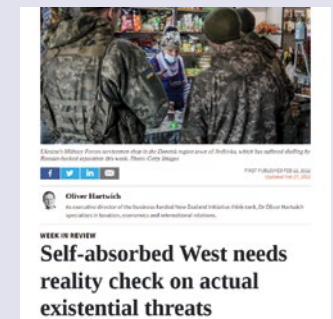
21 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton wrote in his column for *Stuff* that economics enjoys strong consensus on core matters and that the ongoing expert survey will help bring that consensus to the fore.



22 FEBRUARY

Racism, discrimination and crime are all worth worrying about – but, unlike Russia, they hardly have the potential to cause a major (and potentially nuclear) war, wrote **Oliver Hartwich** in his *Newsroom* column.



MAR

22 FEBRUARY

In his column for *NZ Herald*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote that New Zealand's inflation crisis is of the government's own making.

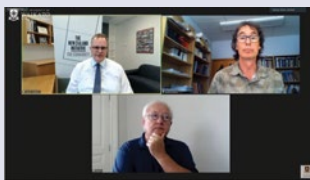


23 FEBRUARY

Life has become grotesquely unaffordable for many Kiwis, so who is to blame? **Oliver Hartwich** explained in the Initiative's podcast, why prices are so high, how politicians will try to take advantage of the cost-of-living crisis, and why we can soon expect to lose more Kiwis to Australia.

24-25 FEBRUARY

Oliver Hartwich, **Matt Burgess** and **Michael Johnston** spoke at the Waikato Economics Forum.



1 MARCH

In his *Newsroom* column, **Eric Crampton** wrote that in a world of known unknowns about Covid, New Zealand seems to have wilfully neglected to know what it needed on testing and the prevalence of the virus.



3 MARCH

Eric Crampton guest lectured on economic regulation and competition policy for the University of Auckland's School of Law's paper on Economic Regulation.

4 MARCH

In an opinion piece for the *Australian Financial Review*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote about how Berlin's post-Cold War foreign policy was rich in moralism but poor in morality, leaving Germany defenceless, Eastern Europe weak, and Vladimir Putin expecting an easy victory in Ukraine.



7 MARCH

On *Radio NZ*, **Eric Crampton** discussed whether tax is a drag on the economy or vital for the redistribution of wealth.



7 MARCH

Eric Crampton joined the debate on *Newstalk ZB* over National's plans to reverse all tax increases.



7 MARCH

In his column for *Stuff*, **Eric Crampton** argued the Government should let the Emissions Trading Scheme do the work it is supposed to do, rather than introduce additional policies.



8 MARCH

In a media statement, we welcomed the results of the second *New Zealand Economics Experts Survey*, which found consensus among the country's top economists on climate policy.

8 MARCH

In a media statement, we applauded the Commerce Commission for their final report into supermarket competition and said the regulator was right to take issue with the red tape that hinders competitors entering the market.

8 MARCH

In his *Newsroom* column, **Eric Crampton** wrote that the Government should seriously consider the Commerce Commission's recommendation to remove barriers that hinder new entry.



9 MARCH

Oliver Hartwich wrote in *Newsroom* that Putin's attack on Ukraine was a complete miscalculation and that if he concludes, he is cornered with no way out.

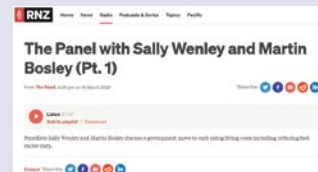


9 MARCH

Oliver Hartwich spoke at the CAANZ Wellington Capital CFO Committee meeting about his thoughts on the significant economic challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for New Zealand.

14 MARCH

On *Radio NZ*, **Eric Crampton** shared his thoughts on the Government's move to reduce fuel excise duty.



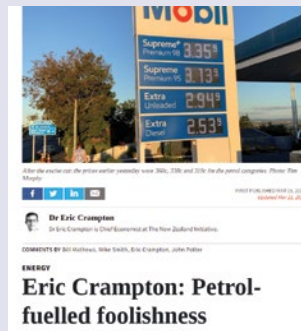
15 MARCH

Eric Crampton spoke on *Newstalk ZB* about whether petrol price cuts would help combat rising prices.



15 MARCH

Cutting the petrol excise and road user charges is not a good policy, wrote **Eric Crampton** in *Newsroom*, and nor will it be as good for households as other measures.



15 MARCH

Roger Partridge posed questions for the Covid-19 Royal Commission of Inquiry in his column for *NZ Herald*.



15 MARCH

Michael Johnston wrote about teaching children to participate in the contest of ideas in his first column for *Stuff*.



18 MARCH

Oliver Hartwich and **Eric Crampton** are joined by Victoria University of Wellington's Associate Professor **Xavier Marquez**, an expert in dictatorship, authoritarianism, and non-democratic politics, to discuss how Putin's regime has changed over the years.

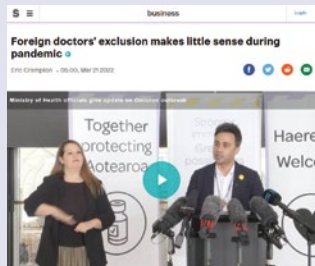
21 MARCH

We released *Pretence of Necessity: Why further climate change action isn't needed and won't help*. Despite the government's climate change strategy, this report illustrated how policymakers are misunderstood about how the ETS and other policies interact. Author **Matt Burgess** spoke on *Today FM* and *Newstalk ZB*, and the Initiative's podcast.



21 MARCH

In his column for *Stuff*, **Eric Crampton** argued the foreign doctors' exclusion makes little sense during a pandemic.

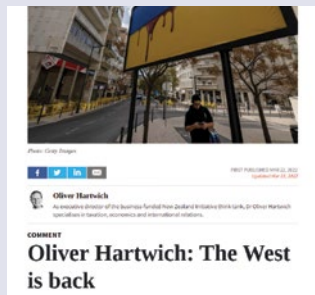


21 MARCH

Oliver Hartwich spoke at the Oceania Health board meeting. Following this, he joined as member.

22 MARCH

The weakened West might now have found a cause to unite strongly around liberal democracy, wrote **Oliver Hartwich** in his column for *Newsroom*.



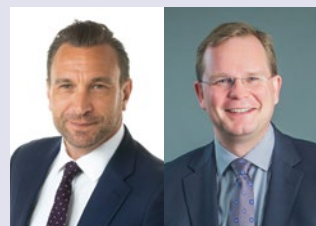
22 MARCH

Michael Johnston wrote in *NZ Herald* about bringing the science of learning to maths education.



22 MARCH

Oliver Hartwich and BusinessNZ's **Kirk Hope** spoke at a joint Initiative/BusinessNZ webinar on Social Unemployment Insurance.



23 MARCH

We made a submission to the Future of Work Tripartite Forum on the *New Zealand Income Insurance Scheme*.

23 MARCH

On *Radio NZ*, **Eric Crampton** spoke about the war in Ukraine and proposed libertarian policy prescriptions.



24 MARCH

We released a new research note, *The rising cost of living for Kiwis*. This report shows New Zealand has the second-highest inflation rate among our major trading partners, besides the US, and this is possibly the result of excessive government stimulus. Author **Matt Burgess** spoke on the Initiative's podcast. *Newstalk ZB* also covered the report.



24 MARCH

Climate Change Minister **James Shaw** made some dubious claims during an interview about our report, *Pretence of Necessity: Why further climate change action isn't needed and won't help*. Report author **Matt Burgess** sat with **Oliver Hartwich** to address each of the Minister's points to clear up his confusion.

29 MARCH

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Eric Crampton** explained why the capital city's misguided attempt to take over emissions reductions highlights the poor understanding of the Emissions Trading Scheme and how that's not surprising when even the Ministry for the Environment is rushing things without understanding.



29 MARCH

In a column for the *NZ Herald*, **Bryce Wilkinson** said the International Monetary Fund's latest staff statement on the New Zealand economy, unfortunately, falls into the cringeworthy praise category.

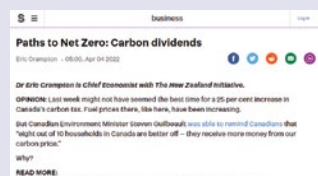


1 APRIL

In this special podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** reflected on 10 years of The New Zealand Initiative and discussed highlights over the years, described the Initiative's influence on policy debates, and shared with listeners a few hard-case stories along the way.

4 APRIL

Eric Crampton explained in his *Stuff* column how carbon dividends can support higher emission prices.

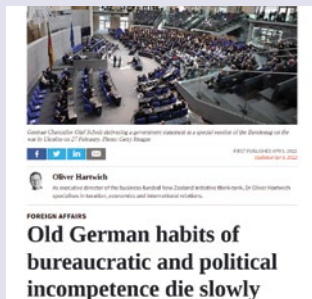


5 APRIL

In the Initiative podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** discussed Germany's response to the war in Ukraine and how Chancellor Olaf Scholz recently threw out three decades' worth of German foreign policy dogmas.

5 APRIL

The new German Chancellor Olaf Scholz faces the pain and uncertainty of implementing his new foreign and defence policy as he throws out three decades' worth of German policy dogmas, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote for *Newsroom*.



5 APRIL

Oliver Hartwich spoke at CPA Australia about the challenges facing the New Zealand economy and how to tackle them.



6 APRIL

Eric Crampton spoke on a panel at the Infrastructure Funding & Financing Conference. The panel discussed *National prioritisation of projects - What are we funding.*

7 APRIL

In his column for *NZ Herald*, **Eric Crampton** wrote about councils, carbon prices and tackling emissions.



7 APRIL

Our ninth annual Members Retreat was held at Millbrook Resort in Arrowtown and attended by around 80 members. During the Retreat, members heard from leading figures across media, academia and public policy. They discussed ideas that would revitalise New Zealand in the post-pandemic world and the emerging new world order.

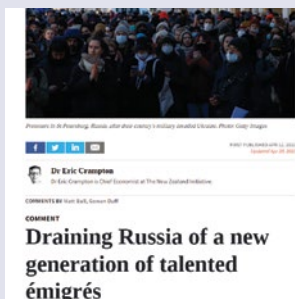


12 APRIL

In the Initiative's podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** talked to **Alex Sundakov** from Castalia Advisors about his experiences in Russia and Ukraine, the Soviet era's impact on their national identity, and why there might be some small positives to come out of the terrible conflict in Ukraine.

12 APRIL

Eric Crampton wrote in *Newsroom* that if anything good could come from continuing diplomatic relations with Russia, it's our embassy in Moscow helping skilled Russians to flee the Putin regime.



12 APRIL

In his column for *NZ Herald*, **Michael Johnston** wrote that many academics appear reluctant to challenge dominant views or speak their minds.



14 APRIL

In the Initiative's podcast, **Sean Plunket** from *The Platform* and **Dr Catherine Strong** from Massey University presented their views of the media.

18 APRIL

Placing the blame on supermarkets for inflation is 'absolute economic nonsense', wrote **Eric Crampton** in his column for *Stuff*.



19 APRIL

Marine Le Pen's political activities have been funded by Russia and she has consistently supported Russian positions. **Oliver Hartwich** wrote in *Newsroom* that a Le Pen victory in the French election would be a blow to the EU and Nato, and thus a victory for the Kremlin.



21 APRIL

In the Initiative's podcast, **Michael Johnston** talked about the disturbing trends of cancel culture and the erosion of academic freedom. He also touched on the troubling mental health issues becoming increasingly common among university students.

21 APRIL

In his column for *NZ Herald*, **Bryce Wilkinson** argued the fair pay agreement is a gargantuan imposition on worker and employer freedoms.

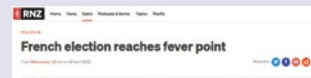


22 APRIL

We made a submission to the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Primary Industries on the discussion document *Managing Exotic Afforestation Incentives*.

22 APRIL

On *Radio NZ*, **Oliver Hartwich** discussed the significance of the 2022 French election.



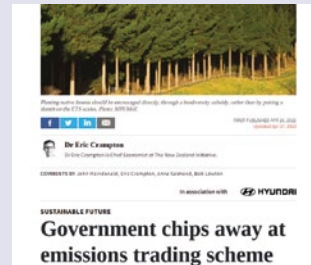
26 APRIL

Michael Johnston talked on *Newstalk ZB* about how we've seen a continuing decline in Kiwis who, at 15, can do basic literacy tasks.



26 APRIL

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Eric Crampton** wrote about how the Government keeps chipping away at the emissions trading scheme and asks if a tree is planted in the forest, should it be taxed or subsidised?



28 APRIL

In the Initiative's podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** discussed the recent French election, Putin's wide-ranging meddling in Europe, and what the West should do to counter foreign influence in domestic politics.

28 APRIL

Eric Crampton participated in a panel discussion at the New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering annual conference, discussing earthquake building standards and regulation. Eric participated as an interviewee in the report launched at the conference.

29 APRIL

Several large companies received hefty government handouts to install new boilers and heaters. This was all under the guise of decarbonisation, using money earmarked for the country's Covid recovery. In the Initiative's podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** talked about this blatant corporate welfare and BusinessNZ's poor response.

MAY

2 MAY

The government's Te Hurihanganui sketches a radically different version of education in New Zealand. But what is it based on? And what would be its implications? **Michael Johnston** discussed the document with **Oliver Hartwich** in the Initiative's podcast.

2 MAY

In an opinion piece for *Stuff*, **Eric Crampton** explained how Wellington could improve its economic wellbeing.



2 MAY

Roger Partridge presented at the Institute of Directors Leadership conference setting out reasons for opposing reforms to directors' duties as proposed in Government back-bencher **Duncan Webb's** Directors' Duties Amendment Bill 2022.

2 MAY

Bryce Wilkinson participated in a Massey University seminar. He outlined classical liberalism to students studying government planning.

3 MAY

We made a submission to Wellington City Council on the *Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy*.

3 MAY

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote that Vladimir Putin has knocked over the European Central Bank's house of cards with his war against Ukraine, and Europe will face difficult monetary conditions for years to come.



3 MAY

Oliver Hartwich spoke at the German New Zealand Chamber of Commerce CEO Forum.

4 MAY

In an opinion piece for *NZ Herald*, **Roger Partridge** explained why the Directors' Duties Bill is means well but is harmful.



6 MAY

Bryce Wilkinson was interviewed on *Newstalk ZB* about the transparency of the Covid response fund.

9 MAY

Eric Crampton spoke on a panel with *Radio NZ* on raising the superannuation age.

10 MAY

Sean Plunket from *The Platform* interviewed **Eric Crampton** about taxes and Auckland congestion charges.



10 MAY

Eric Crampton's *Newsroom* column explained how inflation gives you a hidden tax hike, and the government pockets the proceeds.



11 MAY

In the Initiative's podcast, **Chelsy Killick** talks to **Oliver Hartwich** about his new column in *The Australian* and what New Zealand should learn from Germany's foreign policy mistakes.

11 MAY

In his column for *NZ Herald*, **Michael Johnston** wrote that far too many Māori and Pacifica young people are not thriving in our education system, despite the Ministry of Education undertaking numerous initiatives over many years to turn this around.



11 MAY

In an opinion piece for *The Australian*, **Oliver Hartwich** outlined the foreign policy lessons New Zealand should learn from Germany.



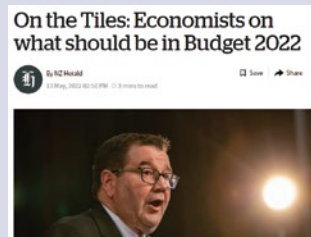
12 MAY

We were privileged to bring together some of our country's leading experts in literacy education as well as Australian education policy practitioners for a one-day event. The workshop, run by **Michael Johnston**, connected these experts with policymakers and politicians and contributed to developing a pathway to urgently needed reform. *TVNZ Breakfast* covered the event.



13 MAY

Eric Crampton joined *NZ Herald's* On the Tiles host and senior political journalist **Thomas Coughlan** and **Craig Renney**, economist and policy director with the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions, to discuss Budget 2022.



16 MAY

Eric Crampton addressed rumours of a car trade-in scheme in an opinion piece for *Stuff*.



17 MAY

In the Initiative's podcast, **Chelsy Killick** talks with **Eric Crampton** and **Oliver Hartwich** on the government's Emissions Reductions Plan and what it will mean for transport.

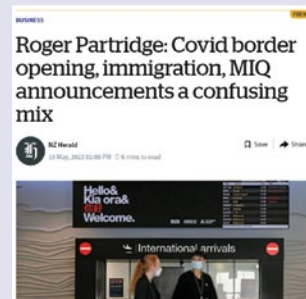
17 MAY

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote how the changes on the left of the German political spectrum are arguably even more striking than Sweden's and Finland's historic moves – especially the Greens, whose roots are in pacifism.



18 MAY

Roger Partridge wrote in the *NZ Herald* about how the Covid border opening, immigration and MIQ announcements are a confusing mix.

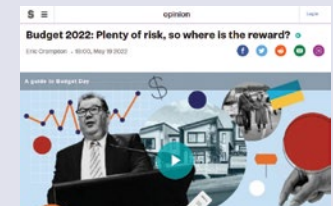


19 MAY

We made a submission to the Employment and Workforce Select Committee on the *Fair Pay Agreements Bill*.

19 MAY

Eric Crampton wrote in his *Stuff* column that there is plenty of risk in Budget 2022 but wonders where is the reward.

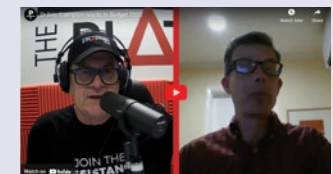


20 MAY

We made a submission to the Ministry for the Environment on the discussion document *Transforming Recycling: Container Return Scheme*.

23 MAY

Sean Plunket from *The Platform* interviewed **Eric Crampton** about Budget 2022.

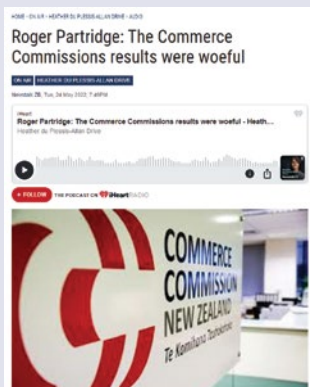


23 MAY

Bryce Wilkinson gave a seminar to Massey University students on the Initiative's 2016 report on Economic Inequality.

24 MAY

Roger Partridge provided the results of a 2021 survey of New Zealand's most prominent businesses on the country's commercial regulators in *Reassessing the Regulators: The good, the bad and the Commerce Commission*. It raised serious concerns and proved that reform is needed as the Commerce Commission suffers an alarming slide in regulatory performance. *Newstalk ZB* and *BusinessDesk* covered the report. Roger spoke about it in the Initiative's podcast.



24 MAY

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Eric Crampton** wrote that the Ministry for the Environment's proposed plan to impose a 20-cent deposit on almost every beverage container sold doesn't add up.



24 MAY

Roger Partridge outlined in a column for the *NZ Herald* his recent report's findings and why time is up for the Commerce Commission.



25 MAY

In an opinion piece for *The Australian*, **Oliver Hartwich** asked whether the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's spiritualism will help it fight the stagflation monster.



26 MAY

Michael Laws interviewed **Oliver Hartwich** on *The Platform* about housing in New Zealand.



26 MAY

In an opinion piece for *The Australian*, **Michael Johnston** showed that instead of mixing Māori knowledge and science, we would do better to represent each knowledge system in its own right.



26 MAY

Oliver Hartwich, Bryce Wilkinson and **Stephen Franks**, Director at Franks Ogilvie, in the affirmative, won a debate at the Wellington Club on the motion "that this House believe the free market has failed us".

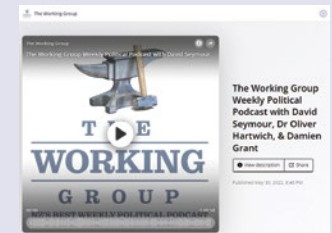


27 MAY

In the Initiative's podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** and **Eric Crampton** interviewed Foodstuffs North Island's CEO **Chris Quin** and Independent Director **Peter Schuyt** about the Commerce Commission's inquiry into the grocery retail sector.

27 MAY

Oliver Hartwich joined **David Seymour** and **Damien Grant** on *The Working Group* podcast, hosted by **Martyn Bradbury**.



JUN

30 MAY

Eric Crampton made a case for owning an SUV in the city in an opinion piece for *Stuff*.



30 MAY

Eric Crampton – along with **Geoff Cooper** from the Infrastructure Commission, **Antonia Robertson** from PwC, and **Fiona Docherty-Wright**, Auckland Council Head of Infrastructure Funding & Development Strategy – were on the Leader's Panel on national infrastructure funding and prioritisation for the Infrastructure Funding & Financing Conference.

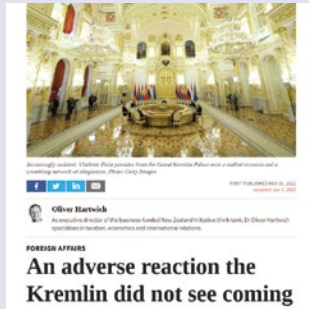
31 MAY

On *Radio NZ*, **Eric Crampton** talked about his favourite economist, **Gordon Tullock**.



31 MAY

Oliver Hartwich wrote in *Newsroom* that Putin's invasion of Ukraine is backfiring on every front, as countries on which he thought he could rely now seek the security of the European Union and Nato.



31 MAY

In an opinion piece for *NZ Herald*, **Roger Partridge** explained why the Fair Pay Agreement reform remains a lemon.



7 JUNE

In the Initiative's podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** talked to **Bryce Wilkinson** about the state of the global economy and fears of a major recession.

7 JUNE

Ending the housing shortage and improving supermarket competition could do a lot more for family budgets than tweaking transfers to middle-income families, wrote **Eric Crampton** for *Newsroom*.



9 JUNE

In the *NZ Herald*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote that the 1970s global stagflation crisis was overcome by genuine supply-side oriented reforms and we should aim to do the same today.



9 JUNE

Oliver Hartwich questioned whether there an ethno-segregation agenda behind NZ's water policy in an opinion piece for *The Australian*.



13 JUNE

In his column for *Stuff*, **Eric Crampton** explained why revenue bonds could be a better option than Three Waters reform.



14 JUNE

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote about the future of European monetary policy and the parallels between Mexico 1982 and Italy 2022.



15 JUNE

Oliver Hartwich discussed the most significant economic issues of the week with **Eric Crampton** and **Bryce Wilkinson** on the Initiative's podcast.

16 JUNE

In the *NZ Herald*, **Michael Johnston** suggests we open a front door to residency through education.



17 JUNE

Bryce Wilkinson discussed New Zealand's economy on *Newstalk ZB's* Early Edition.

21 JUNE

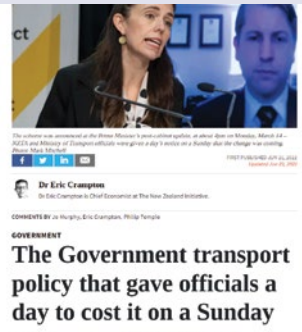
In the Initiative's podcast, **Eric Crampton** spoke with **Len Cook** on the Initiative's podcast about changes to the *Statistics Act*.

21 JUNE

In the Initiative's podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** spoke with **Eric Crampton** about the government's rushed policymaking.

21 JUNE

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Eric Crampton** told the story of the Government transport policy that gave officials a day to cost it on a Sunday.



21 JUNE

Oliver Hartwich, in an opinion piece for *The Australian*, suggested that the Reserve Bank focuses on its core function of providing stability rather than virtue signalling and cultural appropriation.



22 JUNE

In the Initiative's podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** and **Professor James Allan**, an external commentator, discussed the latter's valuable critique of the He Puapua Report and how this impacts our democracy.

22 JUNE

Heather Du Plessis-Allan on *Newstalk ZB* interviewed **Eric Crampton** about why we should care that the fuel tax policy was written in under a day.



23 JUNE

In a column for the *NZ Herald*, **Bryce Wilkinson** said we need less hubris from central banks and more focus on excelling at their core task – preserving the value of money.



24 JUNE

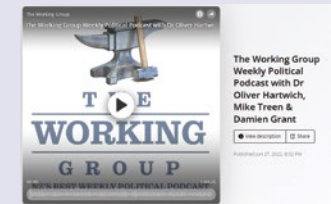
We introduced the Executive Summary, our first "members only" weekly newsletter.

27 JUNE

We made a submission to the Environment Committee on the *Emissions Reduction Plan*.

27 JUNE

Oliver Hartwich joins **Mike Treen** and **Damien Grant** on The Working Group podcast, hosted by **Martyn Bradbury**.



27 JUNE

Forsyth Barr hosted a lunch meeting for our members with ACT New Zealand leader **David Seymour** to discuss ACT's policy platform, including the party's Alternative Budget.



JUL

28 JUNE

In our regular *Newsroom* column, **Oliver Hartwich** explained why Europe's next war could be between Greece and Turkey.



28 JUNE

In his column for *Stuff*, **Eric Crampton** said if Medsafe won't lead, it should get out of the way.



29 JUNE

In a column for the *NZ Herald*, **Oliver Hartwich** explained the inflation lesson we failed to learn from.



29 JUNE - 1 JULY

Eric Crampton attended the 62nd annual meeting of the New Zealand Association of Economists.

30 JUNE

John Law was a gambling, womanising, dualist, murderer and fugitive. He was also an economic visionary. **Oliver Hartwich** shared the story of the father of modern economics on the Initiative's podcast.

1 JULY

In one of the Initiative's most popular articles of the year, **Oliver Hartwich** explained in *The Australian* how New Zealand lost its mojo. Soon after, Oliver was also interviewed by **Peta Credlin** on *Sky News Australia*.



4 JULY

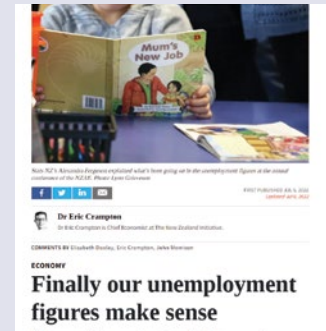
In the Initiative's podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** and **John McDermott**, Executive Director of Motu and former Assistant Governor and Chief Economist at the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, discussed winding back the overhang of monetary stimulus.

5 JULY

We launched our policy note, *Minister hopelessly ill-informed on labour market statistics*, by **Bryce Wilkinson**. The research suggests Minister Wood's assertions about wage rates are based on myths rather than facts.

5 JULY

Eric Crampton asked in his column for *Newsroom* why despite record-low unemployment numbers, more people are receiving the Jobseeker Work-Ready Benefit than before Covid.



6 JULY

Eric Crampton discussed single-use plastic bottles with **Tova O'Brien** on *Today FM*.

6 JULY

In his opinion piece for *NZ Herald*, **Bryce Wilkinson** gave a more structured approach to raising regulatory quality.



6 JULY

Menzies Research Centre Executive Director **Nick Cater** and **Oliver Hartwich** discussed New Zealand's domestic policy and what that could mean for Australia. The recording has been viewed 67,626 times since it was published on 24 July and remains one of *Menzies'* most popular videos. There were also 489,797 impressions of the video, which converts to a 4.8% click-through rate. Total watch time in hours is 14,928.5.



11 JULY

Oliver Hartwich talked about the work of The New Zealand Initiative with **Rachel Smalley** on *Today FM*.

11 JULY

SBS Radio Australia interviewed **Oliver Hartwich** about how Australia and New Zealand are getting closer.



12 JULY

Oliver Hartwich wrote in his regular column for *Newsroom* why the sorry state of the British Conservative Party is a cautionary tale of what can happen when politics is driven by marketing and when economic analysis becomes a nice-to-have.



12 JULY

In an opinion piece for *NZ Herald*, **Michael Johnston** said the new NCEA literacy requirements will improve long-run productivity.



13 JULY

Declining literacy contributes to low productivity, and New Zealand's students have been let down by the education system. In this podcast, **Michael Johnston** discussed the Ministry of Education's plan to introduce new NCEA requirements and what this means for students, schools and businesses.

14 JULY

On *Newstalk ZB*, **Oliver Hartwich** discussed how the Euro is now worth less than the US dollar.



15 JULY

We made a submission to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand on its *Consultation Paper on the Monetary Policy Remit*.

18 JULY

We launched our policy note, *Faster trend Labour productivity growth after the ECA 1991* by **Bryce Wilkinson**. The research rebuts the Minister of Workplace Relations and Safety's claim to a select committee that New Zealand's labour productivity growth rate since 1991 was 46% below that of Australia.

19 JULY

Michael Johnston's policy point, *A way ahead for NCEA literacy and numeracy*, said the pilot demonstrates an urgent need to reform the teaching of literacy and numeracy in New Zealand's schools.

19 JULY

In the Initiative podcast, **Eric Crampton** spoke with **Chris Snowden** on making New Zealand a smokefree nation.

19 JULY

On *Newstalk ZB*, **Michael Johnston** discussed the alarming results from a pilot of new literacy and numeracy assessments for NCEA.

19 JULY

In his *Newsroom* column, **Eric Crampton** said unspent Covid funds that could have brought critical medical staff into the country will instead provide a continued discount for using the roads – and will have no long-term impact on inflation.



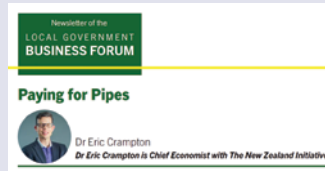
20 JULY

Oliver Hartwich discussed the bleak economic outlook for New Zealand on *The Bolt Report*, *Sky News*.



20 JULY

In an opinion piece for the *Local Government Business Forum*, **Eric Crampton** wrote that forced amalgamations and messy governance structures are a rather poor solution to Three Waters infrastructure funding and financing.



20 JULY

Oliver Hartwich wrote for *The Australian* that New Zealand's full employment isn't the success story some claim.



22 JULY

Michael Laws from *The Platform* interviewed **Michael Johnston** about the NCEA pilot assessment on literacy and numeracy.

22 JULY

In his *NZ Herald* column, **Bryce Wilkinson** wrote that awareness of the grounds for gloom is a positive if it strengthens the focus on value for money in.



25 JULY

In his column for *Stuff*, **Eric Crampton** wrote that a 'prohibition' approach to smoking is unlikely to succeed.



26 JULY

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote about how the economic situation in Germany does not look good, its defence capacity must be rebuilt after decades of neglect, and there are signs of fragmentation and polarisation in the political system. Oliver was joined by **Dennis Wesselbaum** in the Initiative's podcast to discuss Germany's outlook.



26 JULY

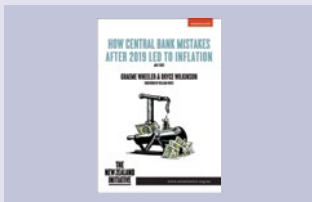
In the Initiative podcast, Director of Economics for the Infrastructure Commission, **Peter Nunns**, spoke with **Eric Crampton** about his research on the size and scope of local government, as well as funding and financing mechanisms.

26 JULY

Oliver Hartwich spoke to an audience of about 250 people at the Aorangi Club in Auckland.

26 JULY

Bryce Wilkinson released a new research note, co-authored by **Graeme Wheeler**, former Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, titled *How central bank mistakes after 2019 led to inflation*. The report mainly attributes the outbreak of inflation in many economies to central bank mistakes and suggests that to begin restoring their damaged credibility, central banks must assess and acknowledge why their models and judgments were so inaccurate and inform the public on what steps they are taking to rebuild public confidence. Bryce had interviews with *Radio NZ*, *Newstalk ZB*, *Today FM* and *The Platform*. He also wrote an article for the *Australian Financial Review* and spoke about the report on the Initiative's podcast. The report was picked up by media across the world, including *The Telegraph* (UK), *The Washington Post* (US), *The Star* (Malaysia), *Central Banking* (UK), *The Australian* (Australia) and *The New Daily* (Australia).



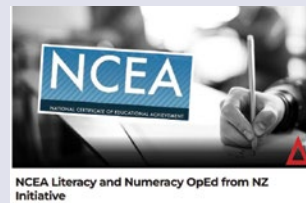
27 JULY

Eric Crampton was interviewed on *Newstalk ZB* about why interest should be reinstated for student loans as the current scheme no longer works.



27 JULY

Michael Johnston was interviewed on *The Platform* about why we need an urgent review of how literacy and numeracy are taught in primary schools.



28 JULY

In a media statement, we responded to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance's accusations of applying 'hindsight economics' and put the record straight. The New Zealand Initiative has been consistent in its warnings of loose monetary policy, the RBNZ losing its focus on price stability, and its preference for stimulus.

28 JULY

In a column for *NZ Herald*, **Bryce Wilkinson** explained how central banks need to lift interest rates a great deal to make their commitment to low inflation credible but that doing so risks recession, high unemployment, and many bankruptcies.



28 JULY

Eric Crampton gave the keynote address at the Animal and Plant Health New Zealand's Annual Conference on the state and outlook of economic policy.

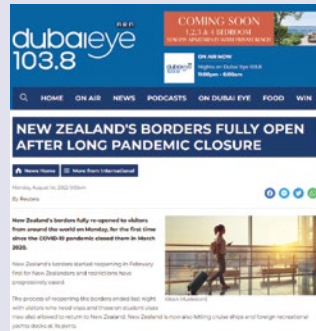
AUG

1 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich and **Michael Johnston** discuss New Zealand's education emergency on the Initiative podcast.

1 AUGUST

On *Dubai Eye's* breakfast show, **Oliver Hartwich** discussed what it means for New Zealand's economy now that the country's borders are fully open after an extended pandemic closure.



2 AUGUST

In the Initiative's podcast, **Eric Crampton**, **Matthew Birchall** and **Scott Wilson** discussed funding and financing New Zealand's roads.

2 AUGUST

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Eric Crampton** asked why the Government is centralising services like Three Waters, against the advice of an Infrastructure Commission report that found no evidence of economies of scale in council services and suggested countries do better when local councils have more responsibility for infrastructure provision.



3 AUGUST

Eric Crampton spoke with **Mike Hosking** on *Newstalk ZB* about how unemployment is expected to fall from its current 3.2%.



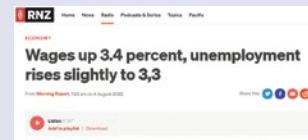
3 AUGUST

In his regular column for *The Australian*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote about how New Zealand children face an education tragedy.



4 AUGUST

Bryce Wilkinson and New Zealand Council of Trade Unions chief economist **Craig Renney** spoke to **Corin Dann** on *Radio NZ* about the ideal jobless rate.



5 AUGUST

In an opinion piece for *NZ Herald*, **Michael Johnston** asked who should pay for tertiary education, everyday taxpayers or the primary beneficiaries who hold the qualifications?



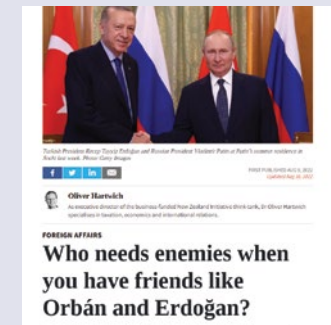
7 AUGUST

Eric Crampton wrote about the irony of the RMA review chair opposing the construction of a much-needed hospital in his neighbourhood during the pandemic in an opinion piece for *Stuff*.



9 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich wrote in his column for *Newsroom* that despite the threats of Russia, China, and stagflation, Hungary and Turkey are backstabbing the organisations they belong to - Nato and the EU.



11 AUGUST

In the *NZ Herald*, **Eric Crampton** closely examined the Commerce Commission's market studies.

Dr Eric Crampton: Taking a closer look at Commerce Commission's market studies



11 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich spoke at an Energy Resources Aotearoa event on energy security.



12 AUGUST

In the Initiative's podcast, **Michael Johnston** discussed improving our children's reading and writing.

12 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich was interviewed on **Nick Cater's** Battleground for *ADH TV* about the structure of failings of the New Zealand electoral systems.



13 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich and **Michael Johnston** attended a Scots College Board meeting to present issues in primary and secondary education.

15 AUGUST

Eric Crampton was on the hunt to find the cheese in his *Newsroom* column as he discovered that the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority had withheld advice it received on the value of low-carbon tech subsidies.



15 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich spoke to the Rotary Club of Whanganui.

16 AUGUST

Eric Crampton discussed the Auckland transport emissions reduction plan on *Newstalk ZB*.

17 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich interviewed **Professor David Rozado** on sentiment words from news media outlets on the Initiative's podcast.

17 AUGUST

Roger Partridge called for a 21st-century reset in his column for *NZ Herald*.



18 AUGUST

Bryce Wilkinson released *The false "inflation versus jobs"* narrative in response to sympathetic narratives to the RBNZ's decisions that emerged in New Zealand's media following the release of his recent paper. He shared his views on *Newstalk ZB*.



18 AUGUST

In his regular column for *The Australian*, **Oliver Hartwich** suggested alternative role models for New Zealand's National party.



22 AUGUST

Eric Crampton reminded readers that age differences account for a portion of inequality in his column for *Stuff*.



23 AUGUST

European monetary policy has previously smashed the fragile plates of the Greek economy to the floor; 12 years on, they've finally pieced it all back together, wrote **Oliver Hartwich** in *Newsroom*.



24 AUGUST

We made a submission to the Health Select Committee on the *Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Smoked Tobacco) Amendment Bill*.

25 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich was joined by Retail NZ CEO **Greg Harford** to discuss the pressures retailers face in the current economic climate – crime, inflation, fair pay agreements, increasing costs of doing business, labour shortages, and Covid.

25 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich wrote about AI technology's potential to disrupt society, even if used legally and ethically, in his column for *NZ Herald*.



25 AUGUST

In his column for *The Australian*, **Michael Johnston** wrote about the rift developing amongst scholars and why the Royal Society of New Zealand science body needs serious reform.



25 AUGUST

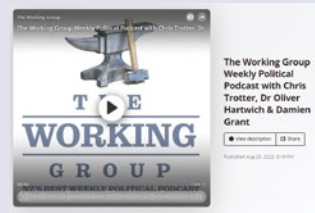
Oliver Hartwich spoke at a Craigs IP client event.

26 AUGUST

On *Today FM*, **Michael Johnston** discussed whether student loan debt should be cancelled.

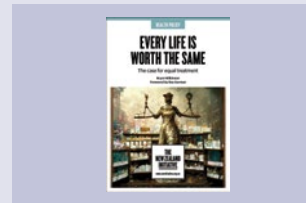
29 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich joined **Chris Trotter** and **Damien Grant** on The Working Group podcast, hosted by **Martyn Bradbury**.



30 AUGUST

Bryce Wilkinson released a research report, *Every life is worth the same – The case for equal treatment*. The report uses the case of Pharmac to show how the prescribed remedies depart from the principle of equal treatment for equal needs, regardless of race or ethnicity. A webinar was held to discuss the report findings in depth with our guest speaker **Professor Des Gorman** (Ngapuhi), a University of Auckland health expert and author of the report's foreword. Interviews were conducted by *Today FM* and *Newstalk ZB*.



31 AUGUST

In his column for *The Australian*, **Oliver Hartwich** discussed how New Zealand's workplace relations have been flexible and decentralised for the past three decades and how the New Zealand government is pursuing the opposite approach.



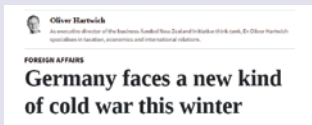
5 SEPTEMBER

In his column for *Stuff*, **Eric Crampton** wrote that New Zealand's Government shows every sign of needing restraint and no willingness to consider any. *Newstalk ZB* covered the article, and Eric was interviewed on *The Platform*.



6 SEPTEMBER

Neither technical difficulties nor economic sanctions are to blame for the lack of gas from Russia. Putin is deliberately making gas scarce as part of his war against Europe, wrote **Oliver Hartwich** in his column for *Newsroom*.



7 SEPTEMBER

Eric Crampton interviewed Client Service Lead for Milestone Solutions **Scott Wilson** in this follow-up podcast to discuss transport funding and getting roads built. In this episode, they talk about how New Zealand funded and financed roads and the structures of getting roads approved.

7 SEPTEMBER

Michael Johnston was interviewed on *Newstalk ZB* about the worryingly low pass results in an NCEA literacy and numeracy trial. Michael says that the tests were designed to reflect real world usage of reading, writing and numeracy, and students are underperforming due to teaching methods.



7 SEPTEMBER

Roger Partridge wrote, in his column for *NZ Herald*, that the flawed RBNZ board appointment process is a symptom of wider malaise.



7 SEPTEMBER

Michael Johnston and **James Kierstead** wrote an opinion piece for *The Platform* about the decline of academic freedom in New Zealand's universities.

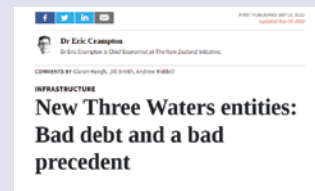


12 SEPTEMBER

We made a supplementary submission to the Environment Committee on the Emissions Reduction Plan.

13 SEPTEMBER

Eric Crampton explained in his column for *Newsroom* how taxpayers could wind up footing the bill for the new Three Waters service entities.



14 SEPTEMBER

In his opinion piece for *The Platform*, **Bryce Wilkinson** examined the case for "priority populations" and found the evidence lacking and largely ignoring the 'fair process' concept of equity.



15 SEPTEMBER

In the Initiative's podcast, **Michael Johnston** talked to leadership coach **Kate Morton** of Transformation Space about leadership in organisations and self-leadership as an antidote to anxiety. They also discussed the implications of Kate's work for addressing rising anxiety levels in teenagers and young people.

15 SEPTEMBER

In his column for *NZ Herald*, **Bryce Wilkinson** outlined the unfolding public policy mess the incoming government of 2023 will have to tackle.



15-16 SEPTEMBER

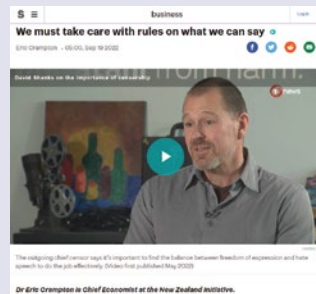
Michael Johnston attended an education summit in Cambridge, where he spoke about structured literacy and numeracy. **Erica Stanford** (National) and **Chris Baillie** (ACT) were in attendance.

15 SEPTEMBER

Bell Gully hosted a dinner meeting for a small group of our Auckland-based members. They discussed local and national issues of significance to their businesses.

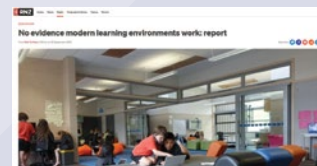
19 SEPTEMBER

In *Stuff*, **Eric Crampton** looked at the Content Regulatory Review and said we should be careful how any proposed framework draws lines. Even if the framework sets a high bar on forbidden misinformation, the effect could be more broadly chilling.



20 SEPTEMBER

We hosted a public in-person event to launch **Michael Johnston's** report *No Evidence, No Evaluation, No Exit: Lessons from the 'Modern Learning Environments' experiment*. At the launch and in the report, Michael questioned the assumptions on which Modern Learning Environments are based. He also laid out the Initiative's agenda for forthcoming reports on education. Michael was interviewed by *Newstalk ZB*, *Radio NZ* and *Newshub*. **Oliver Hartwich** interviewed Michael for the Initiative's podcast.



Dr Michael Johnston: School classrooms experiment has been based on ideology



20 SEPTEMBER

As Italy is about to go to the polls, Fratelli d'Italia leader **Giorgia Meloni** looked to have the best chance of becoming prime minister. **Oliver Hartwich** wrote in his *Newsroom* column that it's likely to mean business as usual than heralding a fascist revolution.



Italy faces threat of its most right-wing government since Mussolini

21 SEPTEMBER

In his regular column for *The Australian*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote about how the New Zealand Government's "Public Interest Journalism Fund" blurs the boundaries and challenges journalism's ethics. *Newstalk ZB* covered the article.



22 SEPTEMBER

In his column for *NZ Herald*, **Roger Partridge** examined the 'hocus pocus' of large tracts of the protected so-called highly productive land on the peripheries of growing urban areas. *Newstalk ZB* also covered Roger's opinion piece.



22 SEPTEMBER

Peter Williams, host of the *Taxpayer Talk* podcast, interviewed **Eric Crampton** on Three Waters and the ETS.



23 SEPTEMBER

Eric Crampton spoke at the Financial Services Council NZ about growing financial confidence and wellbeing in New Zealand.

24 SEPTEMBER

Michael Johnston participated in a webinar panel on writing education run by Stylefit, an educational software producer.

27 SEPTEMBER

In an opinion piece for *Newsroom*, **Eric Crampton** wrote that getting inflation back under control may be painful.



27 SEPTEMBER

Roger Partridge spoke to the Auckland Rebus Club on the state of New Zealand's education system.

27 SEPTEMBER

Cooper and Company kindly hosted a lunch for members with former TV news host and radio presenter **Peter Williams**. Peter discussed co-governance and the health of our democracy.



28 SEPTEMBER

In a media statement, we welcomed the results of the latest survey of members of the New Zealand Association of Economists. It showed that New Zealand's economists strongly supported the Emissions Trading Scheme and strengthening it through a carbon dividend.

28 SEPTEMBER

Eric Crampton was featured on *Radio NZ* to discuss economics, particularly competition and antitrust laws.



28 SEPTEMBER

In his column for *NZ Herald*, **Michael Johnston** asked whether the Ministry of Education is fit for purpose.



28 SEPTEMBER

In an opinion piece for *The Australian*, **Oliver Hartwich** wondered why, when so much is wrong in New Zealand, the Government wants to 'fix' a welfare system that works.



29 SEPTEMBER

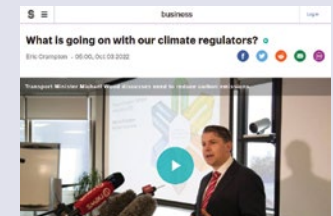
In this podcast episode, **Michael Johnston** hosted **Oliver Hartwich** and **Eric Crampton** to discuss various European crises and how New Zealand should learn from and not repeat European mistakes.

3 OCTOBER

On the Initiative's podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** chatted with ACT's Transport and Climate Change spokesperson **Simon Court** about the Clean Car Scheme and how it's adding bureaucracy and not reducing emissions.

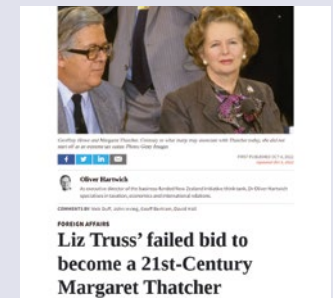
3 OCTOBER

Eric Crampton asked in his regular column for *Stuff* what is going on with our climate regulators.



4 OCTOBER

Oliver Hartwich wrote about **Liz Truss'** failed bid to become a 21st-century Margaret Thatcher in his column for *Newsroom*.



5 OCTOBER

Eric Crampton discussed New Zealand's low productivity and Russian intellectual **Alexander Dugin** with **Leighton Smith** on *Newstalk ZB*.

6 OCTOBER

In his column for *NZ Herald*, **Eric Crampton** asked why voting in local government elections isn't simpler.



11 OCTOBER

In the Initiative's podcast, **James Kierstead** talked to **Salvatore Babones** about how Australia's universities might be reformed, and what lessons there might be for our universities in New Zealand.

11 OCTOBER

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Eric Crampton** dove into poverty data to reveal that policies enabling more housing – in places where people want to live – would improve housing affordability and make more choices possible.



12 OCTOBER

In an opinion piece for *The Australian*, **James Kierstead** asked why won't New Zealand defend academics' right to freedom of speech.



13 OCTOBER

In his opinion piece for *NZ Herald*, **Matthew Birchall** asked whether Auckland's rail gloom will ever end?



17 OCTOBER

In his regular column for *Stuff*, **Eric Crampton** tried to make sense of the growing set of National Policy Statements affecting land use.



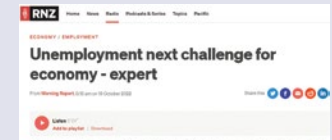
18 OCTOBER

Eric Crampton joined **Karyn Hay** at *Radio NZ* to discuss inflation and central bank policy, the housing shortage and how we got here, and the Future for Local Government Forum's report.



19 OCTOBER

Eric Crampton and Council of Trade Unions economist **Craig Renney** were interviewed on *Radio NZ* about how rising unemployment is a new pain set to hurt New Zealand's economy.



20 OCTOBER

In this podcast episode, **Oliver Hartwich** and **Eric Crampton** discussed how the Government prevents overseas supermarkets from entering the New Zealand market.

20 OCTOBER

Supermarket competition is in the national interest, but the Government isn't communicating that to the Overseas Investment Office. **Eric Crampton** asked them why in his column for *NZ Herald*.



21 OCTOBER

Oliver Hartwich was interviewed on *95bFM* about **Liz Truss** resigning after just six weeks as UK Prime Minister.



25 OCTOBER

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Eric Crampton** wrote that dodgy statistical work to generate headlines supporting higher taxation risks eroding the credibility of Oxfam's aid work.



27 OCTOBER

Sean Plunket interviewed **Eric Crampton** on *The Platform* about New Zealand's tax system.



27 OCTOBER

Roger Partridge told **Kate Hawkesby** on *Newstalk ZB* that the Fair Pay Agreements Bill is highly undemocratic.



27 OCTOBER

Roger Partridge wrote, in a column for *NZ Herald*, why RBNZ Governor **Adrian Orr** should be in Finance Minister **Grant Robertson's** sights.



27 OCTOBER

In an opinion piece for *The Australian*, **Oliver Hartwich** said Prime Minister **Jacinda Ardern** has changed the nature of the New Zealand state and its relationship with citizens, but hasn't improved its most pressing economic and social problems - making New Zealand worse off than ever.



27 OCTOBER

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

28 OCTOBER

James Kierstead and **Michael Johnston** discussed the results of a second pilot for literacy and numeracy assessments, and an upcoming survey on the extent to which university students are willing to express their ideas.

28 OCTOBER

Oliver Hartwich spoke at the New Zealand Association for Migration & Investment (NZAMI) Conference 2022 on *Economics and Immigration in 2023: A perspective from The New Zealand Initiative*.



30 OCTOBER

In his regular column for *Stuff*, **Eric Crampton** wrote that bracket creep is a stealthy and dishonest form of taxation.



31 OCTOBER

In a new column for *National Business Review*, **Christoph Schumacher** wrote about the philosophical purpose of tax and the redistribution of wealth, adding some economics to the tax system debate.



NOV

1 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich wrote in *Newsroom* that Germany's energy policy has seen it overly reliant on Russia and its foreign policy ignored concerns about Putin's increasing belligerence. Now its political leaders appear to be making the same mistakes as China.



3 NOVEMBER

In the *NZ Herald*, **Michael Johnston** said university students are now reluctant to share their views in the classroom.



6 NOVEMBER

Michael Johnston participated in a panel discussion at the AGM of the Free Speech Union.

8 NOVEMBER

Josie Pagani interviewed **Oliver Hartwich** about the state of the nation in the Initiative podcast.

8 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich was interviewed by **Fred Pawle** for *ADH TV* about whom to blame for high inflation.



8 NOVEMBER

Under the Government's proposed rules to set very low nicotine content for tobacco and cigarettes, the illicit market will be the only place to find a real cigarette, said **Eric Crampton** in his column for *Newsroom*.



8 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich wrote about inflation and the smoking gun in New Zealand's central bank in his column for *The Australian*.



9 NOVEMBER

We released a media statement supporting ACT's Member's Bill proposing sharing half of the GST on new housing with councils where new housing is built.

9 NOVEMBER

Victoria University's **Associate Professor Martien Lubberink** specialises in banking regulation and warned of the unintended consequences of setting extra taxes on current bank profits. He talked about bank profitability, regulation and taxes with **Eric Crampton** and **Bryce Wilkinson** on the Initiative's podcast.

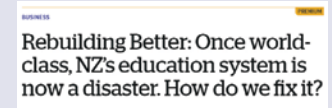
9 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich was interviewed on *Today FM* about **Adrian Orr's** reappointment as Reserve Bank Governor for five more years.



9 NOVEMBER

In his column for *NZ Herald*, **Oliver Hartwich** suggested how we might fix New Zealand's now disastrous but once world-class education system. *Newstalk ZB*, *Radio NZ* and *The Platform* also covered his article.



10 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich spoke at the launch of *GDPLive* in Auckland. Created by Adjunct Senior Fellow **Christoph Schumacher**, *GDPLive* is an incredible real-time tracker of New Zealand's GDP, OCR and inflation.

13 NOVEMBER

When fuel prices rise in a crisis, consumers go a little crazy. **Eric Crampton** wrote in his column for *Stuff* that fuel shortages can be avoided.



15 NOVEMBER

In the Initiative's podcast, **Oliver Hartwich** chatted with **Christoph Schumacher** about the Official Cash Rate, inflation, the Taylor Rule, and the new GDP Live tool which provides real-time New Zealand GDP tracking. Christoph was also interviewed on *The Platform* about GDP Live.



15 NOVEMBER

To make the Eurozone more stable, it needs stricter and enforceable rules. But because it is so unstable, no such rules can ever be introduced, wrote **Oliver Hartwich** in his *Newsroom* column.



16 NOVEMBER

In New Zealand, we talk a lot about big-ticket projects such as cycleways and convention centres. But we don't focus nearly enough on infrastructure security, said **Matthew Birchall** in his column for *NZ Herald*.



18 NOVEMBER

PwC New Zealand hosted members and guests to lunch to discuss the Initiative's draft education manifesto.

21 NOVEMBER

New Zealand's immigration system is cracking under pressure. A lack of staff, a shambolic IT system, and new government policies that bamboozle applicants are creating unnecessary stress for migrants. Long delays around simple work visa applications that once made their way through the system with ease are causing issues for employers. **Oliver Hartwich** and **Eric Crampton** spoke with **June Ranson**, CEO of Woburn International, on the Initiative's podcast to find out what is going on and what could be done to fix it.

22 NOVEMBER

In the Initiative's podcast, **Michael Johnston** sat down with **Emma Chatterton**, Strategic Project Lead at ImpactLab, to discuss her experience gaining registration and certification as an overseas-trained teacher. In addition, they discussed how New Zealand might improve teacher supply through immigration and the country's growing truancy rate.

22 NOVEMBER

By and large, governments reap benefits from urban growth, but councils don't – they just have to spend more. Solving this growth-stymying conflict will need more than RMA reform, wrote **Eric Crampton** in his column for *Newsroom*.



23 NOVEMBER

In a media statement, we supported a recent survey's findings that New Zealand's economists warn that inflation expectations are unhinged and that government deficits are worsening the problem.

23 NOVEMBER

Forsyth Barr hosted a lunch for members with the newly elected Mayor of Auckland, **Wayne Brown**. Attendees enjoyed discussing Auckland-specific issues of importance to their businesses, and hearing about what they could expect from him over the next three years.



24 NOVEMBER

Eric Crampton spoke with **Sean Plunket** on *The Platform* about the OCR increase.



24 NOVEMBER

Eric Crampton discussed New Zealand's Official Cash Rate increase on *Newstalk ZB*.

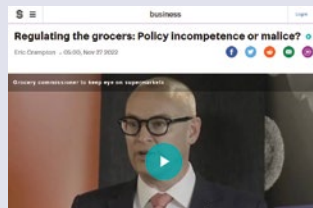
24 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich wrote, in an opinion piece for *The Australian*, that New Zealand has more in common with Orwell than Magna Carta, as two new bills take the integration of Māori custom into the New Zealand legal system to a new level – one that negates equality before the law.



27 NOVEMBER

Legislation for a new grocery regulation framework was released this week. **Eric Crampton** wrote in his regular *Stuff* column that hasty legislative drafting from a Government trying to get too many things done simultaneously is more likely to blame than a deliberate effort to prevent new grocers from entering.



28 NOVEMBER

Josie Pagani interviewed **Oliver Hartwich** about the state of the nation on the Initiative's podcast.

28 NOVEMBER

In a column for *NZ Herald*, **Roger Partridge** said that the new planning regime is a worse monster than the *Resource Management Act* it is trying to replace. *Newstalk ZB* also covered the article.



28 NOVEMBER

In his column for the *National Business Review*, **Christoph Schumacher** tried to make sense of the OCR and asked whether it was too little, too late.



29 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich joined **Matthew Hooton** and **Damien Grant** on *The Working Group* podcast, hosted by **Martyn Bradbury**.



29 NOVEMBER

The European continent ends 2022 with a war in its east, grappling with political uncertainty, and plagued by high inflation. It has been a year many Europeans would prefer to forget, wrote **Oliver Hartwich** in his column for *Newsroom*.



30 NOVEMBER

Holly Gooch is part of the KiwiNet Emerging Innovator programme to progress a project to help twice-exceptional secondary students. **Michael Johnston** sat down with Holly to talk about her PhD research project on the Initiative's podcast.

DEC

1 DECEMBER

In his column for *NZ Herald*, **Oliver Hartwich** wrote that the Three Waters bill and the Covid fund allocation may be legal but are not in the spirit of democracy.



5 DECEMBER

Jacinda Ardern's Government set out to be the most open, honest and transparent in history – but often fell short of its own ideals, wrote **Oliver Hartwich** in an opinion piece for *The Australian*. *Newstalk ZB* also covered the article.



6 DECEMBER

Oliver Hartwich told *2GB Drive* that the Ardern Government campaigned on leading a transparent government, but has been the complete opposite.



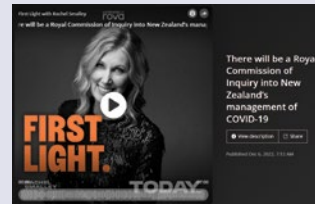
6 DECEMBER

Roger Partridge told *1News* that the “lessons learnt” through the Government’s Royal Commission of Inquiry into Aotearoa’s Covid-19 response will be essential.



6 DECEMBER

Roger Partridge spoke with *Today FM* about the Royal Commission of Inquiry into New Zealand’s management of COVID-19.



6 DECEMBER

In his column for *Newsroom*, **Roger Partridge** said the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the Bill of Rights on the matter of the minimum voting age is just plain wrong.



8 DECEMBER

In his column for *NZ Herald*, **Roger Partridge** said the Covid-19 Royal Commission scope is not enough. *Newstalk ZB* and *The Platform* also covered the article.



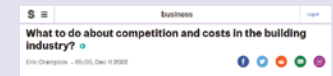
9 DECEMBER

Oliver Hartwich wrote in the *NZ Herald* that whoever takes over from this Government will inherit an economic mess in 2023.



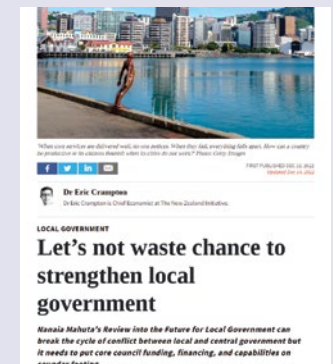
11 DECEMBER

In his column for *Stuff*, **Eric Crampton** suggested shifting liability from councils to insurers or warranty guarantors who would have stronger reasons to weigh both the costs and benefits of new materials, making them easier to use and resulting in lower building material costs and better buildings.



13 DECEMBER

Nanaia Mahuta's Review into the Future for Local Government can break the cycle of conflict between local and central government, but it needs to put core council funding, financing and capabilities on sounder footing, wrote **Eric Crampton** in an opinion piece for *Newsroom*.



14 DECEMBER

In this podcast episode, **Eric Crampton** chatted with **Jonathan Alve**, National Operations Manager at Hospitality New Zealand, about proposed amendments to the *Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act* and the challenges these may hold for licence holders.

14 DECEMBER

The Platform's **Sean Plunket** spoke with **Eric Crampton**, who gave an economic wrap-up of 2022.



14 DECEMBER

James Kierstead wrote an opinion piece for *The Australian* that New Zealand's free speech laws may turn out to be a blessing in disguise.



15 DECEMBER

In an article for *NZ Herald*, **Eric Crampton** suggested a managed retreat that would let owners of vulnerable property decide whether they wished to stay there, at their own cost, or leave.



20 DECEMBER

As the next election year approaches, voters want to be fed (bigger) hand-outs, and the Government wants to appease them while appearing fiscally responsible. The trouble is the latest Budget Policy Statement appears anything but, especially on debt, wrote **Bryce Wilkinson** in an opinion piece for *Newsroom*.



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, members 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 the top management level in New Zealand and Britain.



Dr Eric Crampton
Chief Economist

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

preparedness, and from local government to technology. 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 up his consultancy 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.



Dr Michael Johnston
Senior Fellow

Michael is a Senior Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative. He has held academic positions at Victoria University of Wellington for the past 10 years, including the Associate Dean (Academic) of the University's School of Education for the past three years.

Prior to his time at Victoria, Michael was the Senior Statistician at the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, a position he held for six years. Before that, he held positions at Melbourne and Latrobe universities.

Michael holds a PhD in Cognitive Psychology from the University of Melbourne.



Dr James Kierstead
Research Fellow

James is a Research Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative and a Senior Lecturer in Classics at Victoria University of Wellington, where his research focusses on ancient Greek democracy.

His main focus at the Initiative is on higher education policy, including academic freedom.

James holds a BA in Classics from Oxford, an MA in Ancient History from the University of London, an MA in Political Science from Stanford, and a PhD in Classics from Stanford.

He is also the co-host (with Michael Johnston) of Free Kiwis!, a podcast dedicated to free speech in a New Zealand context.



Dr Matthew Birchall
Research Fellow

Matthew is a Research Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative, and focuses on infrastructure and the housing market.

A historian by training, Matthew's writing on the British Empire has been published in the *Journal of Global History and Global Intellectual History*. He was awarded the Royal Historical Society's prestigious Alexander Prize in 2021 for the best scholarly article based on original historical research.

Matthew holds an MA (Hons) in International Relations & Modern History from the University of St Andrews, an M.Phil. in Political Thought & Intellectual History from the University of Cambridge, and a PhD in History, also from the University of Cambridge.



Benjamin Macintyre
Research Assistant

Benjamin is a Research Assistant at The New Zealand Initiative, and focuses on education research.

Benjamin joined the team in February 2023 and holds a BA (with honours) in Politics, International Studies and Italian and an MA (with merit) in International Security from the University of Warwick. During his time at Warwick, he was also awarded Club Colours for his time with the University's rugby league club.



Amanda Boyd
Marketing & Communications Manager

Amanda is the Marketing & Communications Manager of The New Zealand Initiative. She is responsible for increasing awareness of the Initiative's research and thought leadership, with a particular focus on communications, social media, website, and brand management.

Amanda is an events, marketing and communications generalist, often changing industry when changing roles. As the Events Marketing Manager at Local Government New Zealand, Amanda specialised in events, sponsorship, marketing, and communications.

Amanda has also worked for a print production company, an intellectual property law firm, a retirement village owner operator, and a well-known Wellington hotel.

Amanda holds a Bachelor of Commerce & Administration, majoring in Marketing and Electronic Commerce & Multimedia from Victoria University of Wellington.



Mangai Pitchai
Editor

Mangai is The New Zealand Initiative's editor. She has worked as an editor and publications manager in think tanks since 2009, 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 has studied journalism in California.



Katrin Eickhorst
Office Administrator & Event Coordinator

Katrin is the Office Administrator and Event Coordinator responsible for smooth workings in the office. She enjoyed a varied career

in Germany, Scotland and New Zealand, initially in classical music performance and education, including teaching contracts at the New Zealand School of Music, Victoria and Massey universities, and several secondary schools. More recently, she was executive assistant in a not-for-profit organisation and trainer/coordinator in an educational programme working with people transitioning through life crises.

Katrin holds a Bachelor of Music, a Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Victoria University), a Diploma in Religious Studies/Religious Education (Catholic Institute of Aotearoa NZ), and a Diploma in Christian Studies/Christian Leadership (Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College).



Jennifer Watt
Accounts and Payroll Administrator

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

Her experience as a Practice Manager in the accounting industry over the past 10 years has given her great experience and understanding in partnering business performance with financial reporting requirements.

OUR BOARD



Roger Partridge
Chairman, The
New Zealand Initiative

Roger Partridge is Chairman 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
CNZM
Deputy Chair, The
New Zealand Initiative

Barbara Chapman is the Deputy Chair on The New Zealand Initiative's Board of Directors. She has 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 there as Chief Manager of Marketing at ASB. Barbara 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 Years Honours Roll for services to business.

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Matthew Cockram
Chief Executive,
Cooper and Company

Matthew Cockram is 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 past past years as Chairman, specialising in construction, commercial property and major projects. He has been an independent Director of Tainui Group Holdings Limited since 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
Director,
John Judge Ltd

John has served as a chief executive of Ernst and Young New Zealand, chairman of ANZ Bank, a director of Fletcher Building Limited and Fletcher Building Finance Limited, and chairman of the Crown Organisation, Accident Compensation Corporation. He is a member of the Otago University School of Business Advisory Board.



Liz Naylor
Head of Market Access
and Government Affairs,
Janssen, Pharmaceutical
Companies of Johnson
& Johnson

Liz is Head of Market Access and Government Affairs at Janssen, the Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson and lead for Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine team in New Zealand. She is chair of the Policy Solutions Working Group and past Board Member of Medicines New Zealand.

Liz is passionate about delivering improved health and social outcomes by creating effective public-private partnerships and improving access to transformational pharmaceutical innovation and disease

interception, especially in curative and life extending cancer medicines. She has led Janssen's work in Social Impact Bonds and development of Social Investment programmes for Mental Health patients.

Liz is particularly interested in health policy, whole of government efficiencies, and developing the role of the private health sector.



Neil Paviour-Smith
Managing Director,
Forsyth Barr

Neil is the long-serving Managing Director of Forsyth Barr, a leading New Zealand wealth management, sharebroking and investment banking business. He has extensive experience in New Zealand capital markets. He is a Director of The New Zealand Initiative and NZ Art Show Ltd. Neil has significant governance experience having been Chancellor of Victoria University of Wellington and a Director of NZX and Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand (CAANZ) as well as chairing the NZ Regulatory Board for CAANZ. He was an inaugural recipient of a Sir Peter Blake Trust Leadership Award in 2005.



Scott Perkins

**Non-Executive Director,
Brambles, Origin Energy
and Woolworths**

Scott is a Non-Executive Director of Brambles Limited, Origin Energy Limited, and Woolworths Limited. He is an active participant in not-for-profit communities in Australia and New Zealand and has had 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 took office as the CEO of Foodstuffs North Island Limited in 2015. He 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. He was accountable for the performance of the company's consumer and SME markets, which deliver around half of Spark's revenue and earnings. From 2008 to 2012, Chris was CEO of the then Gen-i Australasia (now Spark Digital); in 2012, he spent three months as Acting CEO of Spark Group.

Chris relishes his role as Chairman of business incubator The ICEHOUSE and is on the Board of Directors for Loyalty NZ. In 2010, Chris received an Emerging Leader Award at the annual Sir Peter Blake Leadership Awards, and the Chairman's Award at the 2010 TUANZ Innovation Awards.

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