



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

**THE  
NEW ZEALAND  
INITIATIVE**

[www.nzinitiative.org.nz](http://www.nzinitiative.org.nz)







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# FOREWORD

2024 has brought substantial progress in The New Zealand Initiative's mission to build a more prosperous country. Our evidence-based policy recommendations have influenced reform across multiple sectors.

After years of persistent advocacy, we have seen breakthrough progress on foreign direct investment reform. The government's reform programme closely aligns with our longstanding recommendations. A new ministerial directive has halved processing times at the Overseas Investment Office, marking a decisive shift from New Zealand having the OECD's most restrictive FDI regime.

Education reform also advanced significantly. Our Senior Fellow, Dr Michael Johnston, chaired the Ministerial Advisory Group on curriculum reform, directly shaping teaching practices in schools. Our research on artificial intelligence in education has contributed to one of the big education debates of our time.

Our research programme examined critical economic and social challenges. Studies ranged from monetary policy and government effectiveness to academic freedom and judicial reform. These publications have informed policy development and public debate.

Direct engagement with decision-makers reached new levels. We hosted Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters, Finance Minister Nicola Willis, and senior cabinet ministers, including David Seymour, Judith Collins, and Matt Doocey, at member events throughout the year.

Our Health Innovator's Summit connected politicians with healthcare professionals to advance practical solutions. The Universities Symposium, featuring Minister Penny Simmonds, facilitated crucial discussions about academic freedom and institutional reform.

The Initiative's research and analysis reached broad audiences through our growing podcast, newsletters and media commentary. This broader engagement helped ensure evidence-based policy discussions on crucial national issues.



Roger Partridge  
Chairman



Dr Oliver Hartwich  
Executive Director

Looking towards 2025, several major projects are underway. These include studies of public service reform, vocational education and primary healthcare. Each aims to provide practical solutions to pressing national challenges.

We thank our members for their continued support. Their engagement enables our independence and impact in promoting policies for a more prosperous New Zealand.

The year demonstrated what focused, evidence-based advocacy can achieve. Much work remains. Yet, thanks to the Initiative's work, the path to a more productive and prosperous nation is clearer than ever.

Handwritten signature of Roger Partridge in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Dr Oliver Hartwich in black ink.

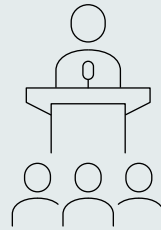
# 2024



**306**  
opinion articles  
published  
(including  
*Insights* pieces)



**2,210**  
direct media  
mentions



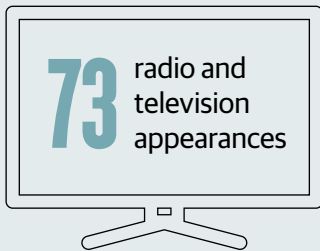
**19**  
Initiative  
events held



**9,548**  
*Insights* readers

**268**

*Executive Summary*  
recipients



**73** radio and  
television  
appearances



**29** research reports  
(including 12 written  
submissions)



**119,303**

Podcast plays



**5,417**

Facebook followers



**4,125**

LinkedIn followers



**4,097**

Twitter followers



**19,019**

YouTube video views



# WHAT WE STAND FOR

**The New Zealand Initiative is unique,  
not just by New Zealand standards.**



**Affordable  
housing**



**An open  
economy**



**Sound fiscal  
oversight**



**A stable  
currency**



**A good  
education  
system**



**A sustainable  
natural  
environment**



**A free and  
democratic  
society**



**Equitable  
and accessible  
healthcare**

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.

# OUR PRINCIPLES

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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.**

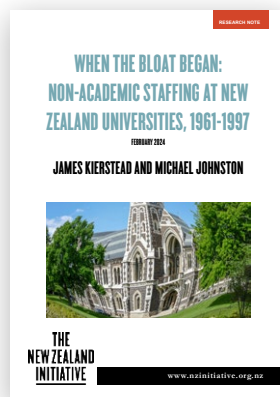
Our recommendations are supported by empirical, and often international, evidence.

# OUR RESEARCH & SUBMISSIONS





The Initiative produces accessible, evidence-based research with a focus on policy areas we believe are vital for a free and prosperous New Zealand.



### When the Bloat Began: Non-Academic Staffing at New Zealand Universities over the long run, 1961-1997

**Dr James Kierstead and  
Dr Michael Johnston**  
**Research Note**  
**February 2024**

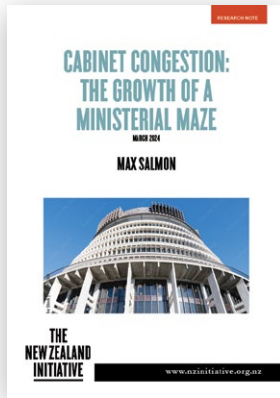
This research note explores the historical shift in New Zealand university staffing patterns, focusing on the period when non-academic staff first outnumbered academic staff in 1991, a change driven primarily by a sharp decline in academic positions (especially part-time roles) rather than an expansion of administrative personnel. The study builds upon previous research and suggests that contrary to common assumptions, the market-oriented reforms of the late 1980s did not immediately lead to bureaucratic expansion. However, they may have influenced changes in non-academic staffing composition observed after 2000.



### The mystery of the \$52 billion gift: Does New Zealand have a fairy godmother?

**Dr Bryce Wilkinson**  
**Research Note**  
**March 2024**

This research note examines the puzzling disconnect between New Zealand's persistent current account deficits and its relatively stable net international investment position (NIIP). It highlights that while the country has accumulated a \$158 billion deficit since 2009, its NIIP has only declined by \$32 billion. The analysis identifies overseas reinsurance payments as one significant funding source. Still, it raises concerns about the \$52 billion attributed to "errors and omissions" in official statistics, with the author calling for greater clarity from Statistics New Zealand on this substantial discrepancy.



## Cabinet Congestion: The Growth of a Ministerial Maze

**Max Salmon**

**Research Note**

**March 2024**

This research note examines the problematic expansion of New Zealand's Executive Branch, documenting that it has 44% more ministers, triple the portfolios, and one and a half times more departments than comparable nations. The analysis reveals significant inefficiencies stemming from overlapping responsibilities and overstretched ministers, with the report recommending streamlining of portfolios, enhanced ministerial coordination, and the introduction of non-parliamentary ministers to address these structural challenges.

Scaled down copy of the Initiative's infographic from *Cabinet Congestion: The Growth of a Ministerial Maze*

This report featured an infographic revealing New Zealand's ridiculously convoluted system of government. This graph has since gone viral.

BusinessNZ CEO Katherine Rich's post of our ministerial maze reached over 250,000 views on LinkedIn, while the UAE government requested their own version from our researcher.

Closer to home, Australia's Opposition Leader Peter Dutton commissioned a similar analysis from the Menzies Research Centre. Dutton was photographed sitting in front of it at an event and gave the Initiative credit for it.



### TIER 1 Sectors

- Agriculture
- Culture
- Economic
- Education
- Environment
- Foreign Policy and Trade
- Health
- Infrastructure
- Justice
- Labour
- Minority Support
- National Security
- Social
- State
- Technology

## TIER 2 Departments

Cancer Control Agency  
 Crown Law Office  
 Department of Conservation  
 Department of Corrections  
 Department of Internal Affairs  
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
 Education Review Office  
 Government Communications Security Bureau  
 Independent Children's Monitor  
 Inland Revenue Department  
 Land Information of New Zealand  
 Ministry for Culture and Heritage  
 Ministry for the Environment  
 Ministry for Ethnic Communities  
 Ministry for Pacific Peoples  
 Ministry for Primary Industries  
 Ministry for Women  
 Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment  
 Ministry of Defence  
 Ministry of Education  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 Ministry of Health  
 Ministry of Housing and Urban Development  
 Ministry of Justice  
 Ministry of Social Development  
 Ministry of Transport  
 National Emergency Management Agency  
 New Zealand Customs Service  
 New Zealand Defence Force  
 New Zealand Police  
 New Zealand Security Intelligence Service  
 Office for Māori Crown Relations - Te Arawhiti  
 Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children  
 Parliamentary Counsel Office (New Zealand)  
 Public Service Commission  
 Serious Fraud Office  
 Social Wellbeing Agency  
 Statistics New Zealand  
 Te Puni Kōkiri - Ministry for Māori Development  
 The Treasury  
 Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People

## TIER 3 Portfolios

ACC  
 Agriculture  
 Arts, Culture and Heritage  
 Attorney-General  
 Auckland  
 Biosecurity  
 Building and Construction  
 Child Poverty Reduction  
 Children  
 Climate Change  
 Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
 Community and Voluntary Sector  
 Conservation  
 Corrections  
 Courts  
 Customs  
 Defence  
 Digitising Government  
 Disability Issues  
 Economic Development  
 Education  
 Emergency Management and Recovery  
 Energy  
 Environment  
 Ethnic Communities  
 Finance  
 Food Safety  
 Foreign Affairs  
 Forestry  
 Government Communications Security Bureau  
 Health  
 Housing  
 Hunting and Fishing  
 Immigration  
 Infrastructure  
 Internal Affairs  
 Justice  
 Land Information  
 Local Government  
 Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti  
 Māori Development  
 Media and Communications  
 Mental Health  
 Ministerial Services  
 National Security and Intelligence  
 New Zealand Security Intelligence Service  
 Oceans and Fisheries  
 Pacific Peoples  
 Police  
 Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence  
 Prime Minister  
 Public Service  
 Racing  
 Regional Development  
 Regulation  
 Resources  
 Revenue  
 RMA Reform  
 Rural Communities  
 Science, Innovation and Technology  
 Seniors  
 Small Business and Manufacturing  
 Social Development and Employment  
 Social Investment  
 Space  
 Sport and Recreation  
 State Owned Enterprises  
 Statistics  
 Tertiary Education and Skills  
 Tourism and Hospitality  
 Trade  
 Transport  
 Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations  
 Veterans  
 Whānau Ora  
 Women  
 Workplace Relations and Safety  
 Youth

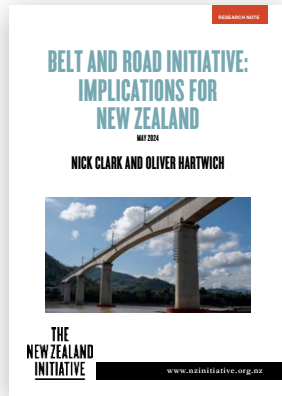
## TIER 4 Ministers

Hon Andrew Bayly  
 Hon Chris Bishop  
 Hon Simeon Brown  
 Hon Karen Chhour  
 Hon Judith Collins  
 Hon Casey Costello  
 Hon Matt Doocoy  
 Hon Paul Goldsmith  
 Hon Nicola Grigg  
 Hon Andrew Hoggard  
 Hon Shane Jones  
 Hon Melissa Lee  
 Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
 Hon Todd McClay  
 Hon Nicole McKee  
 Hon Mark Mitchell  
 Hon Mark Patterson  
 Hon Chris Penk  
 Rt Hon Winston Peters  
 Hon Tama Potaka  
 Hon Dr Shane Reti  
 Hon David Seymour  
 Hon Penny Simmonds  
 Hon Erica Stanford  
 Hon Louise Upston  
 Hon Brooke van Velden  
 Hon Simon Watts  
 Hon Nicola Willis

### Key

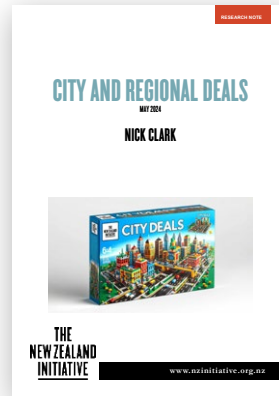
- Minister
- - - Associate Minister
- Minister Outside Cabinet
- - - Minister Outside Cabinet, Associate Minister





## **Belt and Road Initiative: Implications for New Zealand** Dr Oliver Hartwich and Nick Clark Research Note May 2024

This research note examines China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its potential implications for New Zealand, warning that while the program offers infrastructure investment opportunities, it carries significant risks to national sovereignty and economic independence based on the experiences of other participating nations. The authors recommend focusing on domestic reforms to attract alternative infrastructure investment and suggest collaboration with other liberal democracies to develop a counter-initiative that better aligns with international best practices.



## **City and regional deals** Nick Clark Research Note May 2024

This research note explores how city and regional deals – formal partnerships between central and local government, businesses, educational institutions, and iwi – could transform New Zealand's approach to local development by enabling communities to address their specific challenges through devolved powers and funding. The analysis draws on international examples to demonstrate how such deals can stimulate growth and improve living standards while emphasising the need to rebuild central-local government trust and address capability gaps for successful implementation in the New Zealand context.



## **Welcome to the Machine: Opportunities and risks of generative Artificial Intelligence for education** Dr Michael Johnston Research Report June 2024

This research report examines the role of artificial intelligence in education, emphasising that while AI offers valuable opportunities for enhancing teaching through improved feedback and progress tracking, it should complement rather than replace traditional teaching approaches. The analysis underscores that core subject knowledge remains essential for critical thinking and warns that premature AI use could impede learning. It recommends a science-based approach to AI integration that preserves the crucial student-teacher relationship.



## The Future of Our Universities

**Dr James Kierstead**

**Research Note**

**July 2024**

This research note examines the mounting challenges facing New Zealand's university sector, highlighting critical issues, including unprecedented financial deficits, declining international rankings, excessive bureaucratisation, and concerns about academic freedom. Based on findings from the Initiative's 2024 tertiary education symposium, the analysis emphasises the need for innovative solutions to address these systemic problems threatening the sector's sustainability and academic quality.



## Driving Change: How road pricing can improve our roads

**Dr Matthew Birchall**

**Research Report**

**July 2024**

This research report presents a proposal to overhaul New Zealand's transport funding system by replacing the current fuel tax with a "Smart Road User Charges" model that would price road usage based on distance travelled, timing, and vehicle type. The analysis draws on international examples to demonstrate how such a system could address growing congestion, infrastructure maintenance, and funding challenges while ensuring more equitable cost distribution across users.



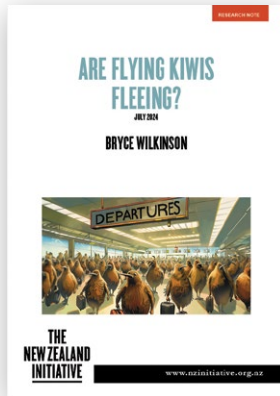
## The Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill

**Dr Eric Crampton**

**Research Note**

**July 2024**

This research note critiques New Zealand's proposed Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill, arguing that forcing digital platforms to pay for news content could backfire by reducing news availability and stifling media innovation, as demonstrated by similar legislation in Canada. The analysis recommends abandoning the bill in favour of more direct and transparent approaches to supporting journalism, such as targeted subsidies for public interest reporting.



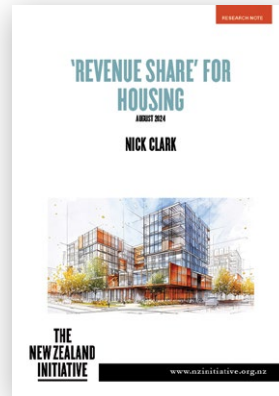
## Are flying Kiwis fleeing?

**Dr Bryce Wilkinson**

**Research Note**

**July 2024**

This research note examines New Zealand's recent migration patterns, revealing that while a record 60,100 citizens departed for Australia and elsewhere in the year to May 2024, this was counterbalanced by an even larger inflow of 82,800 typically highly-qualified migrants. The analysis suggests this trend serves as an "orange light" warning that New Zealand must address multiple challenges, including wage disparities with Australia, housing affordability, and infrastructure to improve long-term retention of its citizens.



## 'Revenue Share' for housing

**Nick Clark**

**Research Note**

**August 2024**

This research note explores the implementation of revenue-sharing between central and local government to incentivise housing development in New Zealand, showing that redirecting just 1.4% of central government tax revenue could increase council budgets by 11.3%. The analysis, endorsed by Local Government New Zealand, demonstrates how sharing GST from new residential builds with councils could create a self-reinforcing cycle where housing development funds local infrastructure while reducing the burden on existing ratepayers.



## Local Cures: A Travelogue

**Dr Eric Crampton**

**Research Note**

**August 2024**

This research note examines Canada's approach to First Nations health service devolution, particularly through British Columbia's First Nations Health Authority, as an alternative model for localism in New Zealand. The analysis highlights how Canadian First Nations can opt into self-governance for health services and local taxation, suggesting that New Zealand's discussions about decentralisation should extend beyond the traditional central-local government dichotomy to consider similar opportunities for iwi-led service delivery.





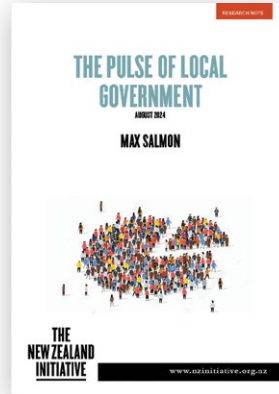
## Unpopular Opinions: Academic Freedom in New Zealand

**Dr James Kierstead**

**Research Report**

**August 2024**

This research report examines the current state of academic freedom in New Zealand universities, drawing on 72 academic testimonies, five surveys, and 21 documented incidents to identify three major threats: progressive radicalism within universities, Chinese Communist Party interference, and universities' increasing focus on brand management. The analysis, endorsed by AUT Professor Grant Schofield, reveals growing concerns about the prioritisation of perceived safety over intellectual discourse and recommends measures including annual academic freedom audits and enhanced administrator training.



## The Pulse of Local Government

**Max Salmon**

**Research Note**

**August 2024**

This research note analyses findings from a comprehensive survey of New Zealand's local government officials, revealing overwhelming support for increased localism, with 94% of respondents believing central government exercises excessive control over councils. The study highlights a strong preference for moderate devolution while acknowledging significant challenges, including ratepayer resistance to infrastructure development and anticipated reluctance from central government to transfer power to local authorities.



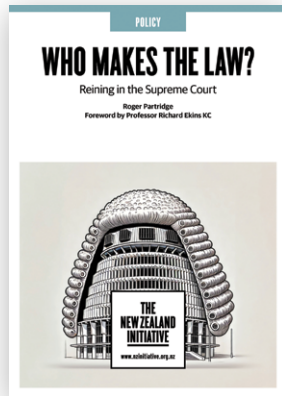
## Demystifying the State

**Dr Tony Burton**

**Research Report**

**September 2024**

This research report examines the fundamental constraints affecting New Zealand's state sector, challenging idealised views of public service by documenting how hierarchical structures, motivational issues, and information limitations impair governmental performance. The analysis argues that recent reforms, including the 2020 Public Service Act, have further weakened accountability and suggests that understanding these systemic constraints is essential for developing effective reforms.



## Who makes the law? Reining in the Supreme Court

**Roger Partridge**  
**Research Report**  
**October 2024**

This research report examines growing concerns about judicial overreach in New Zealand's Supreme Court, arguing that recent decisions have shown a pattern of judges exceeding their interpretative role to effectively make law based on their own views of social values. Drawing on analysis from legal scholars, the report warns this trend risks politicising the judiciary as has occurred in the US Supreme Court and recommends legislative reforms to reinforce parliamentary sovereignty and judicial restraint.



## Making Local Government Work

**Nick Clark**  
**Research Report**  
**December 2024**

This research report examines the fundamental problems in New Zealand's local government system, identifying the power imbalance between elected officials and unelected bureaucrats as the root cause of council dysfunction. Drawing on the successful reforms implemented in Germany's North Rhine-Westphalia, the analysis proposes several solutions, including strengthened mayoral authority and direct community voting on major projects to enhance democratic accountability and improve local government performance.

# SUBMISSIONS

In 2024, the Initiative made submissions to:

- The Misuse of Drugs (Pseudoephedrine) Amendment Bill
- The Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport
- Fast-Track Approvals Bill
- The Auditor-General's Report, Making Infrastructure Investment Decisions Quickly
- Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill
- Consultation on the Scope of the Treasury's Long-term Insights Briefing
- Consultation Paper Retail Payment System
- Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Amendment Bill (No 2)
- Inquiry on Banking Competition
- 2024 ACC Levy Consultation
- Have your say on Work Health and Safety
- Developing an Enduring National Infrastructure Plan Discussion Document



## IN THEIR WORDS



"Over the last year, Dr Michael Johnston has made valued contributions to the Government's education work programme. He chaired the Minister of Education's Ministerial Advisory Group making recommendations on the curriculum refresh. He is now providing advice to the Ministry of Education on embedding the science of learning across the curriculum as part of the Curriculum Coherence Group. I am grateful to Michael for his expertise in this area and dedication to education."

**Hon Erica Stanford,  
Minister of Education**



"The New Zealand Initiative provides valuable thought leadership that helps us engage in the big conversations about our country's future. Their research and insights about creating good regulatory outcomes for consumers encourage us as an industry to play a role in meaningfully shaping New Zealand's economic direction."

**Chris Quin, Chief Executive  
of Foodstuffs North Island**





# OUR ENGAGEMENT

## MEMBER EVENTS

We held 11 members' dinners and lunches and member-exclusive events. We are proud to have hosted several high-level speakers in 2024. These meetings allowed members to hear from and engage with politicians, industry experts, and international speakers on various topics.



Members' Retreat, April, Queenstown

## Members' Retreat April, Queenstown

**Dr Oliver Hartwich** spoke to members about New Zealand's new political and policy journey under a fresh government, highlighting how many of The New Zealand Initiative's ideas help shape government policy. He looked at the challenges ahead, the Initiative's engagement with the new Government, and expectations for the coming three years.

New Zealand's transport challenges include the need for new infrastructure, the introduction of road user charging, and the ongoing electrification of the vehicle fleet. Dr Oliver Hartwich discussed transport policy with new Transport Minister **Hon Simeon Brown** and Toyota NZ's chief executive **Neeraj Lala**.

Having led his ACT party to its best-ever election result, we heard from the new Minister of Regulation, **Hon David Seymour**, as he set out to reduce the burden of red tape for the New Zealand economy. He spoke about his priorities for the coming three years and his other responsibilities as Associate Minister of Finance, Health and Education, and other key areas of Government policy.

Together with **Tony Smale**, an expert in national culture, we explored how New Zealand's unique cultural landscape

influences business strategies and interpersonal dynamics. We looked at the critical role of cultural understanding in managing a multi-cultural workforce and enhancing business relationships.

Dr Oliver Hartwich hosted a members' forum with **Lewis Mills** and **Neil Paviour Smith** as they shared their perspectives on doing business in New Zealand.

New Social Development and Employment Minister **Hon Louise Upston** discussed social development and welfare policies. Also joining this discussion was **Rangimarie Hunia**, whose Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei is engaged in multiple projects to increase the wellbeing of her community through social investment.

In history, empires and ideas come and go. So, where does the model of liberal democracy under the rule of law stand? *The Australian's* **Greg Sheridan** discussed the future of liberal democracy with Dr Oliver Hartwich and Roger Partridge.

Education Minister **Hon Erica Stanford** addressed the challenges in meeting literacy and numeracy standards and shared her strategies for curriculum redesign, emphasising the importance of foundational

skills in reading, writing, and maths. The Initiative's education expert, **Dr Michael Johnston** assessed the Government's education policies.

**Associate Professor Allan Scott** is leading the way in a simple yet powerful approach to combat climate change. He has developed an innovative method that uses common stones found in New Zealand to help remove carbon from the air. He discussed this breakthrough with **Dr Eric Crampton** and how this could be a game-changer in our fight against climate change, offering a practical and sustainable solution.

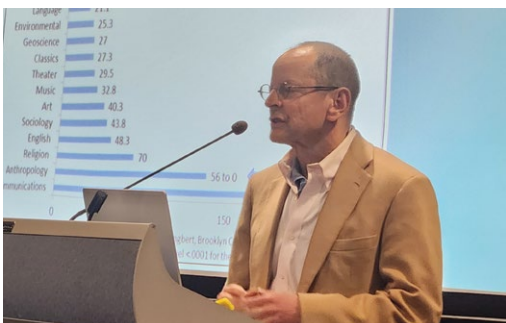
The Resource Management Act, having only just been abolished under the previous Government, is back – but only for the time being until a new law is passed. We heard from the **Hon Chris Bishop** about the principles guiding the new legislation.

Greg Sheridan gave the address of the closing Retreat Dinner. In his presentation he explored the turbulent geopolitical landscape of this decade, focusing on the US-China relationship, the pivotal role of the Indo-Pacific, and the impact of cultural changes in Western countries.









## The Future of Our Universities: Education Symposium

May, Wellington

**Dr Oliver Hartwich** opened the Education Symposium with introductory remarks emphasising the importance of intellectual prosperity as a driver of economic growth and social wellbeing. He drew on historical examples, particularly Wilhelm von Humboldt's vision of universities as bastions of free enquiry.

The first panel on the state of New Zealand universities featured **Mr David Heatley**, **Dr Martien Lubberink**, and **Prof Natasha Hamilton-Hart**, chaired by **Dr Michael Johnston**. They discussed the financial challenges facing universities, with Heatley presenting data showing how domestic fee revenues have lagged behind rising costs. At the same time Lubberink offered a contrasting view on universities' financial stability.

**Hon Dr Deborah Russell**, Labour's Associate Spokesperson for Education (Tertiary), addressed the symposium about her vision for tertiary education, drawing on her extensive experience as both an academic and politician. Her presentation sparked discussions about the balance between academic freedom and institutional accountability.

The session on university purpose featured **Em Prof Peter Walls**, **Em Prof Anne Noble**, and **Prof Elizabeth Rata**, exploring fundamental questions about the role of universities in modern society. They examined the tension between traditional academic values and contemporary pressures for more practical, career-focused education.

**Hon David Seymour**, Associate Minister of Education, presented the government's perspective on charter schools and broader education reform. His address focused on increasing choice and competition in the tertiary sector while maintaining high academic standards.

The academic freedom panel featured **Dr James Kierstead**, **Dr Sandra Grey**, **Prof Kendall Clements**, and **Jonathan Ayling**, examining challenges to free speech and intellectual diversity on campus. They discussed survey data showing significant concerns about academic freedom in New Zealand universities.

**Distinguished Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger** shared insights about the German university system in conversation with Dr Oliver Hartwich, offering valuable comparative perspectives on research funding and academic culture.

The research funding panel included **Prof Michele Governale**, **Prof Garth Cooper**, and **Associate Prof Nokuthaba Sibanda**, addressing New Zealand's relatively low R&D spending and debating the future of the Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF).

**Hon Penny Simmonds**, Minister of Tertiary Education, outlined the government's plans for addressing university funding challenges and reforming the tertiary education sector. She emphasised the need for both excellence and efficiency in university operations.

The symposium concluded with a keynote address by **Jonathan Rauch**, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, on "Defending the Constitution of Knowledge." Rauch discussed the importance of preserving Enlightenment values in universities and protecting academic freedom from various contemporary threats.

**Dr David Lillis** provided closing remarks, synthesising the day's discussions and highlighting key themes about the future of New Zealand universities. The symposium successfully brought together diverse perspectives on critical challenges facing the tertiary education sector, from funding and governance to academic freedom and research excellence.



## Members' Lunch with Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (April), Auckland

We held a members' lunch with Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, with over 50 members in attendance. Luxon acknowledged the Initiative's contributions to policy development and encouraged our members to channel their policy ideas through us.



## Members' lunch with Rt Hon Winston Peters (May), Auckland

We held a members' lunch with Rt Hon Winston Peters in May hosted by Deloitte, where he talked about the challenges of charting New Zealand's foreign policy course in a fractious world and the intricacies of our relationship with China.



## Members' lunch with Hon Tama Potaka (May), Auckland

In May, Russell McVeagh hosted a members' lunch in Auckland with the Minister of Conservation, Māori Development and Whānau Ora. The Minister discussed his policy priorities and how these overlap with those of our members and the Initiative. This lunch was hosted in Auckland by Russell McVeagh.



## Members' dinner with Microsoft's Dee Templeton (June), Auckland

In June, Microsoft hosted a members' dinner with their Vice President of Partnerships and Operations in the Technology & Research division, Dee Templeton.

We are proud to have hosted several high-level speakers in 2024.



### Members' lunch with Hon Nicola Willis (June), Auckland

PwC hosted a members' lunch with Hon Nicola Willis in June, where she discussed the recently delivered budget and the Government's broader reform agenda, thanking The New Zealand Initiative for our contributions to education and housing.



### GDPLive Launch of new Inflation Tracker with Hon David Seymour (July), Auckland

Foodstuffs North Island welcomed us to their Auckland headquarters for a high-profile event unveiling GDPLive's latest iteration - the world's first real-time GDP and inflation tracker. This was an opportunity to hear from some of New Zealand's economic and research experts and Hon David Seymour about the platform's advancements.



### Members' lunch with Hon Judith Collins KC (July), Auckland

In July, we hosted a members' lunch with Minister of Defence Hon Judith Collins KC, sponsored by Bell Gully. Minister Collins discussed the critical challenges facing New Zealand's defence policy in an increasingly complex global security environment.

### Members' lunch with Hon Paul Goldsmith (November), Auckland

Chapman Tripp kindly hosted our final members' lunch of the year. We were joined by Hon Paul Goldsmith, who spoke to our members about his many portfolios, including his role as Minister for Media and Communications, and discussed the Initiative report, *Who Makes the Law?*





The Health Innovators' Summit: Using localism to improve health outcomes was a day event that brought together politicians, our members and researchers, professional health associations and senior journalists to be inspired to act and improve the current healthcare system in New Zealand.

Keynote speakers shared their thoughts and ideas with over 100 attendees to encourage innovative ways to improve our health system.

**Rob Hennin**, CEO of nib, gave the welcome to our Health Innovators Summit, focusing on the importance of "Innovating to change outcomes".

**Lester Levy**, Commissioner of Health NZ Te Whatu Ora, held the Keynote Opening Address, sharing his vision for Health NZ. He spoke about the current issues with our health system, with too long wait times for essential services, poor productivity, and compassion often missing in patient care. Lester, highlighting these key issues in the current system, made it clear that things needed to change, which set the scene for our other speakers to show their ideas and reasons for hope.

**Hon Matt Doocey**, Minister for Mental Health, highlighted how relevant the ideas of localism and subsidiary are in health. He explained that it is crucial to tailor services to specific communities and that centralisation has done damage to the health service.

**Dr Eric Crampton**, Chief Economist, The New Zealand Initiative, followed this by presenting his new report on the Canadian First Nations Health Authority. This report describes how their indigenous-led healthcare initiatives work for them and the lessons this holds for New Zealand in moving away from our current centralised model.

**Cecilia Robinson**, Founder and Co-CEO of Digital Health start-up Tend Health, offered her insights into innovative models in digital health, including virtual consultations, the nib "symptom checker" and cell phone use to improve access for rural communities.

**Dr Haemish Crawford**, Orthopaedic Surgeon, discussed the benefits of combining the works of Private and Public health structures to improve the delivery of Surgical services.

**Dr Prabani Wood**, Research Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative, spoke on the importance of GPs in our health system and on her upcoming report with the Initiative, The Heart of Healthcare.

**Dr Oliver Hartwich**, Executive Director of The New Zealand Initiative, and concluded the conference in a session with Rob Hennin.

# PUBLIC EVENTS

## Webinar: Cabinet Congestion (March)

This webinar was the launch of our research note, *Cabinet Congestion: The Growth of a Ministerial Maze*, written by Research Fellow Max Salmon. Max discussed his report with our Executive Director, Dr Oliver Hartwich, and Hon Stuart Nash.

They discussed the way New Zealand's political executive has expanded into a morass of portfolios, ministers, and departments and the impact on ministerial workloads and departmental resource management.



## Webinar: AI in Education (June)

In June, we released our research report, *Welcome to the Machine: Opportunities and risks of generative Artificial Intelligence for education*. We hosted a webinar with Dr Michael Johnston to discuss how AI can enhance education under the guidance of

skilled teachers. The webinar was moderated by Dr Oliver Hartwich, along with special guest Adjunct Senior Fellow Professor Barbara Oakley.



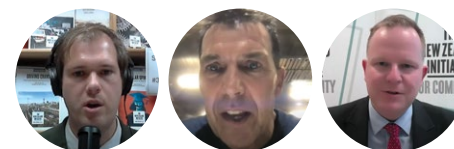
## Webinar: Driving Change: How Road Pricing Can Improve Our Roads (July)

This webinar launched our research report, *Driving Change: How Road Pricing Can Improve Our Roads*, authored by Dr Matthew Birchall. Matthew and Dr Oliver Hartwich, discussed the report and its proposed novel solution to transport funding; a road pricing scheme called Smart Road User Charges (Smart RUC).



## Webinar: Unpopular Opinions: Academic Freedom in New Zealand (August)

This webinar launched our research report, *Unpopular Opinions: Academic Freedom in New Zealand*, authored by Dr James Kierstead. The author, AUT Professor Grant Schofield and Dr Oliver Hartwich discussed the report's evidence and the themes of political imbalance in universities' the reliance on the Chinese market and grown brand concerns.



## Webinar: Demystifying the State: The Human Reality Behind Government Institutions (September)

This webinar launched the research report, *Demystifying the State*, by Research Fellow Dr Tony Burton.



The session examined how government functions, assumptions about public service motivation, and the realities of hierarchy, disengagement, and lack of accountability in state institutions. Dr Burton was joined by Dr Oliver Hartwich, and guest Andrea Black, who has experience working within government, including as a Senior Ministerial Advisor in the Ardern/Hipkins Government.



### Reflections on American Democracy with Alexander Heffner (September)

In September, we hosted US broadcaster Alexander Heffner at Parliament. He discussed American democracy ahead of the 2024 Presidential elections. Politicians, media, and business and academic leaders attended to engage on global democratic issues.

### Webinar: Who Makes the Law?: Reining in the Supreme Court (October)

In October, we launched our research report, *Who Makes the Law?* by Senior Fellow Roger Partridge. Joined by our guest, Jack Hodder KC, and Dr Oliver Hartwich they discussed the growing concern over judicial overreach in New Zealand.



### Webinar: Making Local Government Work (December)

In December, we held our final webinar to launch the research report, *Making Local Government Work*, authored by Senior Fellow Nick Clark. Nick was joined by guest Dr Victor Luca, Mayor of Whakatāne, and Dr Oliver Hartwich, as they discussed transforming our local government system. They highlighted how the gap between voter expectations and reality contributes to council dysfunction.







# ACHIEVEMENTS



## Deloitte Top 200 recognises the Initiative's leader

Executive Director Dr Oliver Hartwich received the prestigious Deloitte Top 200 Judges' Recognition Award, acknowledging his significant contribution to New Zealand's public policy landscape.

The judges highlighted The Initiative's role in producing thought-provoking, independent research and policy recommendations that are freely available to the public. They particularly praised Oliver's ability to not only identify key national issues but also propose practical solutions to address them.

His extensive media engagement and willingness to advocate publicly were specifically commended. The judges noted The Initiative's growing influence in critical policy areas, especially education reform. They recognised Oliver's unique combination of personable communication style and impressive international experience in public policy development from his work in the United Kingdom and Australia.

## New Year's Honours

Dr Bryce Wilkinson, one of New Zealand's leading economists, was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2025 New Year's honours.

As a major contributor to Treasury's briefing paper in 1984 for the transformative reforms that followed, Bryce helped navigate New Zealand through significant financial challenges. His contributions to public policy have been extensive, including proposals for a Taxpayer Bill of Rights and a Regulatory Responsibility Act.

A valued senior research fellow at The New Zealand Initiative since 2012, Bryce previously served as President of the New Zealand Law and Economics Association and has contributed to three government taskforces. His work consistently emphasises the importance of sound economic policy and regulatory quality in promoting national prosperity.

## Eric's appointment as MPS Director

Dr Eric Crampton was elected as a Director of the Mont Pelerin Society (MPS) at its 2024 General Meeting; he has been a member since 2010. The Society was founded in 1947 by scholars in the liberal tradition,

including Karl Popper and Friedrich Hayek, in hope of strengthening the principles and practice of a free society, and to study the workings, virtues, and defects of market-oriented economic systems. Members have included Ludwig Erhard, George Shultz, Ruth Richardson, Milton Friedman, Gordon Tullock and Ronald Coase.

The Society gathers at biennial general meetings, and at annual regional meetings, to discuss developments in liberal thinking and application of liberal principles to pressing policy problems.

## Housing Economic Advisory appointment

Dr Eric Crampton was appointed in 2024 as a member of the Housing Economic Advisory Group. The group of economists with experience in housing and urban economics was brought together at the request of Minister Bishop. It provides a stream of independent expert advice to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development on resource management reform issues pertaining to urban environments and on the government's Going for Housing Growth agenda. Eric had previously served on Minister Twyford's Urban Economics Research Group.

## Transforming education through national curriculum reform

In early 2024, Dr Michael Johnston chaired the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) for Education Minister Erica Stanford, focussing on curriculum reform for English and mathematics in primary, intermediate, and early secondary education.

The group's recommendations emphasised creating a knowledge-rich curriculum guided by learning science principles, particularly the importance of consolidating foundational knowledge in long-term memory.

Key recommendations included developing a carefully sequenced curriculum with selected essential knowledge and merging the curriculum with the common practice model to ensure effective teaching methods.

The Minister approved most recommendations. A new English curriculum for Years 1-8 and a new mathematics curriculum for Years 1-6, based on the MAG's recommendations were implemented at the beginning of the 2025 school year. The new curriculum will be implemented in its entirety in 2026.

# ONE YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2024

A snapshot of our work published throughout the year. Visit our website to read the full versions of our work.

# JAN FEB

## 23 JANUARY

Dr Eric Crampton on RNZ about Wellington Water issues  
[RNZ](#)

## 25 JANUARY

Public service cuts needed to help rein in government spending  
[NZ Herald](#)

## 26 JANUARY

Europe's precarious security could invite Putin to expand war  
[Newsroom](#)

## 27 JANUARY

A shift to smoking harm reduction  
[The Post](#)



## 30 JANUARY

Ratcheting up govt in a crisis goes just one way  
[Newsroom](#)

## 30 JANUARY

Dr Eric Crampton on New Zealand's economic challenges  
[The Platform](#)

## 31 JANUARY

How Wellington has become a NZ tragicomedy  
[The Australian](#)

## 1 FEBRUARY

Increased working-age welfare dependency is a problem – Bryce Wilkinson  
[NZ Herald](#)

## 2 FEBRUARY

Michael Johnston: The battle for free speech rages on  
[ZB Plus](#)

## 7 FEBRUARY

Europe's impossible nuclear option  
[Newsroom](#)



## 8 FEBRUARY

The incapacity of development capacity – Eric Crampton  
[NZ Herald](#)

## 9 FEBRUARY

Priced out: Why New Zealand will not join AUKUS  
[Navy League Essay Competition](#)

## 9 FEBRUARY

The independent Hearing Panel's review of Wellington's District Plan  
[Podcast](#)

## 10 FEBRUARY

New localist approach can be more responsive to local needs  
[The Post](#)

## 13 FEBRUARY

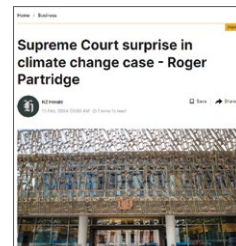
O,Canada... what have you done to news platforms?  
[Newsroom](#)

## 14 FEBRUARY

Dr Eric Crampton talks to Sean Plunket about the potential consequences of NZ's Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill  
[The Platform](#)

## 15 FEBRUARY

Supreme Court surprise in climate change case – Roger Partridge  
[NZ Herald](#)



## 15 FEBRUARY

Mike Hosking discusses Dr Eric Crampton's latest column about the Fair Digital Use Bargaining Bill  
[Newstalk ZB](#)

## 15 FEBRUARY

Absurd: NZ courts can now decide on climate change  
[The Australian](#)

### Absurd: NZ courts can now decide on climate change

The NZ Supreme Court has allowed a climate activist to sue seven companies for causing him – and the climate – harm with their emissions. The decision sends a troubling signal.

## 16 FEBRUARY

Dr Oliver Hartwich on the Implications of Climate Change Litigation for New Zealand  
[The Platform](#)

## 20 FEBRUARY

How to explain the right's Putin mania  
[Newsroom](#)



## 20 FEBRUARY

Mike Smith climate change case  
[Podcast](#)

## 21 FEBRUARY

James Kierstead: The Sub-Postmasters' Tale  
[ZB Plus](#)

# MAR

## 22 FEBRUARY

Deficit obsession ignores abysmal state of Kiwi infrastructure delivery - Matthew Birchall  
*NZ Herald*

## 23 FEBRUARY

Competition and land-use planning  
*Podcast*

## 24 FEBRUARY

This is why Wellington should be called Lowerer Hutt  
*The Post*



## 26 FEBRUARY

The Misuse of Drugs (Pseudoephedrine) Amendment Bill  
*Submission*

## 27 FEBRUARY

Uncompetitive urban land markets at root of housing problems  
*Newsroom*

## 28 FEBRUARY

NZ uni's bold bet on a political Vice-Chancellor  
*The Australian*

## 28 FEBRUARY

New research reveals the start of excessive non-academic staffing in New Zealand Universities  
*Media Release*

## 28 FEBRUARY

The rise of non-academic staff in NZ universities  
*Podcast*

## 29 FEBRUARY

Talkfests and Nimbyism the nemesis of good roads and housing - Bryce Wilkinson  
*NZ Herald*

## 29 FEBRUARY

James Kierstead: The Greek Miracle  
*ZB Plus*



## 5 MARCH

The Paris-Berlin axis has become dysfunctional at the worst time  
*Newsroom*



## 5 MARCH

What's going on with Wellington?  
*Podcast*

## 7 MARCH

New Zealand's highest court could be facing a turning point - Roger Partridge  
*NZ Herald*

## 7 MARCH

Dr Eric Crampton on RNZ about rates and potential alternatives  
*RNZ*

## 8 MARCH

New Zealand's infrastructure deficit  
*Podcast*

## 9 MARCH

A Canadian housing development shows how the value of indigenous land can be unlocked  
*The Post*



## 11 MARCH

We need to talk about the gender pay gap and motherhood penalty  
*NZ Herald*

## 11 MARCH

The New Zealand Initiative calls for immediate action to retain and expand the GP Workforce following recent study  
*Media Release*

## 12 MARCH

Emeritus Professor Des Gorman on RNZ about GP shortage crisis  
*RNZ*

## 12 MARCH

Localism - A Swiss perspective  
*Podcast*

## 12 MARCH

Road pricing debate shrouded in smoke and (rear-view) mirrors  
*Newsroom*

## 13 MARCH

Emeritus Professor Des Gorman on RNZ news discussing the GP shortage crisis  
*RNZ*

## 13 MARCH

Fast-Track Approvals Bill  
*Policy Point*

## 13 MARCH

NZ's fiscal hole leaves dire mess for Luxon to clean up  
*The Australian*



## 13 MARCH

The New Zealand Initiative supports Fast-Track Approvals Bill with suggested improvements  
*Media Release*

## 13 MARCH

Has the Government actually made fiscal progress?  
*The Platform*



# APR

## 14 MARCH

The mystery of the \$52 billion gift: Does New Zealand have a fairy godmother?

[Research Note](#)

## 14 MARCH

Trade between China and the West has failed to make it more liberal

[NZ Herald](#)

## 14 MARCH

The mystery of the \$52 billion gift: Does New Zealand have a fairy godmother?

[Media Release](#)

## 14 MARCH

The problem with the vice-chancellor's 'free speech' column

[Kiwiblog](#)

## 15 MARCH

Fast-Track Approvals Bill

[Podcast](#)

## 15 MARCH

Dr James Kierstead talks to Micheal Laws about trade between China and the West

[The Platform](#)

## 19 MARCH

Shift to the right threatens existence of European Union

[Newsroom](#)

## 19 MARCH

Opponents and supporters of fast-track bill want changes

[National Business Review](#)

## 19 MARCH

New Zealand's fairy godmother

[Podcast](#)

## 21 MARCH

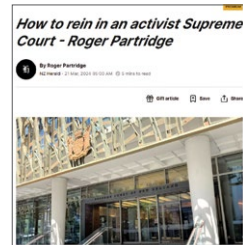
Oliver Hartwich on whether New Zealand is at risk of entering a technical recession

[Newstalk ZB](#)

## 21 MARCH

How to rein in an activist Supreme Court

[NZ Herald](#)



## 26 MARCH

New Zealand's a-maze-ing government structure

[Podcast](#)

## 26 MARCH

Cabinet Congestion: The growth of a ministerial maze

[Research Note](#)

## 27 MARCH

Cabinet Congestion with Stuart Nash

[Webinar](#)

## 27 MARCH

Anti-money laundering laws hurt competition and vulnerable groups

[Newsroom](#)

## 27 MARCH

Eric Crampton Talks Tax Cuts & Uber vs Taxis

[The Platform](#)

## 27 MARCH

Max Salmon discusses 'Cabinet Congestion' with the NBR

[National Business Review](#)

## 27 MARCH

Luxon's challenge: fiscal discipline or tax cuts

[The Australian](#)

## 27 MARCH

Nick Clark discusses the Government's fast-track legislation

[National Business Review](#)

## 28 MARCH

Dr Eric Crampton on New Taxes

[Newstalk ZB](#)

## 28 MARCH

Government departments, ministerial roles a tangled forest

[NZ Herald](#)

## 2 APRIL

Luxon's Leap: New Zealand after Ardern

[Quadrant Magazine](#)

## 2 APRIL

More beef with the European Union

[Newsroom](#)



## 3 APRIL

The Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport

[Submission](#)

## 4 APRIL

Fast-tracking for infrastructure fix is needed now

[NZ Herald](#)

## 4 APRIL

Dr Oliver Hartwich talks to Nick Cater on Reality Bites

[ADH TV: Reality Bites with Nick Cater](#)

## 5 APRIL

Dr Eric Crampton talks state spending and the need to reduce to pre-Covid levels on RNZ

[RNZ](#)

## 5 APRIL

Oliver Hartwich Discusses issues with NZ beef exports

[Newstalk ZB](#)

## 8 APRIL

The only real tax cut is a spending cut

[The Post](#)

## 9 APRIL

Broad-stroke regulations for buildings must not stand

[Newsroom](#)

## 10 APRIL

Kiwi minister shows the world how to solve housing crisis

[The Australian](#)

## 11 APRIL

Education for neurodivergent students

[Podcast](#)

## 11 APRIL

Is congestion charging the answer to Auckland's traffic woes?

[NZ Herald](#)



## 16 APRIL

Swiss climate ruling full of holes

[Newsroom](#)

# MAY

**16 APRIL**

Are councils debt constrained?

*Podcast*

**17 APRIL**

Mike Hosking talks in-depth about Dr Oliver Hartwich's column on judicial overreach in the Swiss climate case

*Newstalk ZB*

**18 APRIL**

A crisis of ambition

*NZ Herald*



**18 APRIL**

Fast-Track Approvals Bill

*Submission*

**18 APRIL**

Germany's dual education system

*Podcast*

**19 APRIL**

Roger Partridge on RNZ about the increase in public servants

*RNZ - The Detail*

**20 APRIL**

Competition in building consents would help the housing market

*The Post*

**22 APRIL**

Roger Partridge talks about New Zealand's ambition problem

*The Platform*

**23 APRIL**

A new kind of city deal

*Newsroom*



**24 APRIL**

New Zealand's education revolution

*The Australian*

**25 APRIL**

Evaluating global policies on safer nicotine

*Podcast*

**25 APRIL**

Boosting our cities and regions

*NZ Herald*

**30 APRIL**

Europe will not be able to fight the return of conscription

*Newsroom*

**30 APRIL**

Victoria University's postponed free speech event

*Podcast*

**1 MAY**

Beware the university seeking to limit the freedom of speech

*The Post*

**1 MAY**

New Report Warns of Hidden Risks in China's Belt and Road Initiative

*Media Release*

**2 MAY**

Belt and Road Initiative: Implications for New Zealand

*Research Note*

**2 MAY**

Mike Hosking talks to Dr Oliver Hartwich about China's Belt and Road risks

*Newstalk ZB*

**2 MAY**

What activist kids should know about productivity growth

*NZ Herald*



**2 MAY**

China's Belt and Road Initiative

*Podcast*

**6 MAY**

New Zealand's budget faces its biggest test since the 1980s

*The Australian*

**6 MAY**

Coming to terms with the hard realities of tackling the deficit

*The Post*

**7 MAY**

The economic case against conscription

*Newsroom*

**8 MAY**

The Auditor-General's Report, Making Infrastructure Investment Decisions

Quickly

*Submission*

**9 MAY**

New Zealand should be wary of China's Belt and Road Initiative

*NZ Herald*

**9 MAY**

Protecting free speech in UK universities

*Podcast*

**14 MAY**

Humboldt's gift: what a Prussian aristocrat can teach us about education

*Newsroom*

**16 MAY**

Efficiency first in road pricing case

*NZ Herald*



**16 MAY**

Murray Horn and New Zealand's fiscal challenges

*Podcast*

**20 MAY**

As America turns to protectionism, the world turns to China

*The Post*

**21 MAY**

Restoring fiscal discipline - and trust

*Newsroom*

**22 MAY**

China's bullyboy tactics set to backfire with Wellington

*The Australian*

# JUN

**23 MAY**

Banking study reveals familiar regulatory pitfalls  
*NZ Herald*

**23 MAY**

Dr Oliver Hartwich discusses localism in Switzerland and lessons for NZ  
*Reality Check Radio*

**23 MAY**

Jonathan Rauch and the Constitution of Knowledge  
*Podcast*

**27 MAY**

Dr Oliver Hartwich talks about the upcoming Budget Day  
*The Platform*

**28 MAY**

Unlocking New Zealand's Potential: The Power of Localism Through City and Regional Deals  
*Media Release*

**28 MAY**

A far-right falling out in Europe  
*Newsroom*



**28 MAY**

City and regional deals  
*Research Note*

**29 MAY**

Time for a tune-up as New Zealand's economic engine sputters  
*NZ Herald*

**30 MAY**

Dr Eric Crampton discusses what he would like to see in the upcoming Budget  
*1News*

**31 MAY**

Budget 2024: Entrenching Labour's big-spending approach to government  
*The Post*



**31 MAY**

Dr Bryce Wilkinson gives his reaction to Budget 2024  
*The Platform*

**31 MAY**

Challenges and solutions in NZ education  
*Podcast*

**31 MAY**

Dr Eric Crampton breaks down the 2024 Budget  
*The Platform*

**5 JUNE**

The Platform: Dr Eric Crampton talks to Sean Plunket about the accuracy of alcohol and meth harm estimates  
*The Platform*

**5 JUNE**

Dr Oliver Hartwich talks to Leighton Smith about Budget 2024  
*Newstalk ZB*

**6 JUNE**

Why NZ Reserve Bank's role is ripe for review  
*The Australian*

**7 JUNE**

Fixing New Zealand's university funding  
*Podcast*

**7 JUNE**

Charting the Budget  
*Newsroom*



**10 JUNE**

The young stand to suffer as ageing population bites  
*The Post*

**11 JUNE**

The big eurozone gamble  
*Newsroom*

**13 JUNE**

Capital Markets Report: Opening the door to investment  
*NZ Herald*

**13 JUNE**

A response to Sir Roger Douglas on Budget 2024 challenges  
*NZ Herald*

**14 JUNE**

City and Regional Deals  
*Podcast*

**14 JUNE**

A Long-Overdue Review of Health and Safety  
*Media Release*

**17 JUNE**

How police alcohol activism risks overstepping the mark  
*The Post*



**17 JUNE**

New Research on the Opportunities and Risks of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Education  
*Media Release*

**17 JUNE**

Welcome to the Machine: Opportunities and Risks of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Education  
*Research Report*

**18 JUNE**

The troubling rationale behind liquor levy review  
*Newsroom*

**19 JUNE**

Time to escape NZ's health and safety mad house  
*The Australian*

**20 JUNE**

Why we need a user-pays model to fund transport infrastructure  
*NZ Herald*

**20 JUNE**

AI in Education: Navigating the opportunities and risks  
*Webinar*

**20 JUNE**

Will artificial intelligence enhance or undermine human intelligence?  
*NZ Herald*

**21 JUNE**

The teaching profession straying from university capture  
*Newsroom*



# JUL

## 21 JUNE

AI in Education: Navigating the opportunities and risks  
[Podcast](#)

## 24 JUNE

Dr Michael Johnston talks to Michael Laws about Teacher Training and Education Reform  
[The Platform](#)

## 25 JUNE

Macron's electoral gamble to see off the far-right  
[Newsroom](#)



## 26 JUNE

AI in Education with Prof Barbara Oakley  
[Webinar](#)

## 27 JUNE

Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill  
[Submission](#)

## 27 JUNE

Unlocking New Zealand's international education opportunity  
[NZ Herald](#)

## 1 JULY

As the AI power scramble takes hold, is NZ aware of the part it could play?  
[The Post](#)

## 2 JULY

Pharmac's free ride won't last for ever  
[Newsroom](#)

## 3 JULY

A tale of two energy futures  
[The Australian](#)

## 4 JULY

Charting a course for meaningful RMA reform  
[NZ Herald](#)



## 4 JULY

Free Speech, Education, and Democracy - A Conversation with Toby Young  
[Podcast](#)

## 4 JULY

New Report Sounds Alarm on the Future of New Zealand Universities  
[Media Release](#)

## 4 JULY

The Future of Our Universities  
[Research Note](#)

## 8 JULY

The conservative void at the heart of British politics  
[Newsroom](#)

## 9 JULY

Driving Change: How road pricing can improve our roads  
[Research Report](#)

## 9 JULY

The New Zealand Initiative Releases Major Report on Transport Funding Reform  
[Media Release](#)

## 10 JULY

The Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill  
[Research Note](#)

## 10 JULY

Dr Matthew Birchall proposes reform on how drivers pay for roads in his new report  
[RNZ](#)

## 10 JULY

The New Zealand Initiative Warns Against Misguided Media Legislation  
[Media Release](#)

## 10 JULY

Driving Change: How road pricing can improve our roads  
[Podcast](#)

## 11 JULY

Driving Change - How road pricing can improve our roads  
[Webinar](#)

## 12 JULY

A smarter way forward for New Zealand's roads  
[NZ Herald](#)



## 15 JULY

Media bill isn't a change for the better  
[The Post](#)

## 16 JULY

Consenting, carbon, and councils  
[Newsroom](#)

## 17 JULY

Misguided: New Zealand's media gambit is unlikely to work  
[The Australian](#)

## 17 JULY

Government right to rely on the Emissions Trading Scheme  
[Media Release](#)

## 18 JULY

The myth of New Zealand's business-friendly reputation  
[NZ Herald](#)

## 19 JULY

Reforming New Zealand's Curriculum  
[Podcast](#)

## 23 JULY

Launch of GDPLive's new Inflation Tracker with Foodstuffs North Island  
[Event video](#)

## 23 JULY

Europe is now on its own  
[Newsroom](#)



## 23 JULY

Are flying Kiwis fleeing?  
[Research Note](#)

## 24 JULY

Health Innovators' Summit 2024 - Using localism to improve health outcomes  
[Press Statement](#)

## 25 JULY

Replacing Health NZ board offers glimmer of hope  
[NZ Herald](#)

## 26 JULY

Consultation on the Scope of the Treasury's Long-term Insights Briefing  
[Submission](#)

# AUG

**26 JULY**

Transforming education: Lessons from England's school reforms with Nick Gibb

[Podcast](#)

**26 JULY**

Dr Bryce Wilkinson talks to Sean Plunket about Health NZ's recent restructure

[The Platform](#)

**29 JULY**

Putting a universal basic income to the test

[The Post](#)



**30 JULY**

The case for user charges on NZ's favourite conservation destinations

[Newsroom](#)

**31 JULY**

Pervasive myth of centralisation unravels in NZ

[The Australian](#)

**31 JULY**

Dr Oliver Hartwich on tax cuts coming into play

[The Platform](#)

**1 AUGUST**

Rethink needed on council funding

[NZ Herald](#)

**2 AUGUST**

Dr Eric Crampton talks about Universal Basic Income on The Panel

[RNZ](#)

**2 AUGUST**

Debunking education myths: A response to Prof Peter O'Connor's critique of curriculum reforms

[Podcast](#)

**6 AUGUST**

Dictators conspire: Oil, assassins, exploitation

[Newsroom](#)



**7 AUGUST**

'Revenue share' for housing

[Research Note](#)

**7 AUGUST**

New research shows modest investment could significantly boost housing development

[Media release](#)

**8 AUGUST**

The curious case of competition law and Foodstuffs

[NZ Herald](#)

**9 AUGUST**

Boosting housing development through revenue sharing

[Podcast](#)

**9 AUGUST**

Hey, innumerate teacher, leave them kids alone!

[Newsroom](#)

**12 AUGUST**

How politicians undermined the energy market

[The Post](#)

**13 AUGUST**

Don't be squeamish about devolution – be Squamish

[Newsroom](#)

**13 AUGUST**

A health system on the brink of failure

[The Post](#)



**14 AUGUST**

Local Cures: A travelogue

[Research Note](#)

**14 AUGUST**

Localism in health service delivery

[Media Release](#)

**14 AUGUST**

Isn't it time for an ANZAC Common Market?

[The Australian](#)

**16 AUGUST**

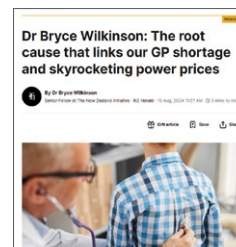
Health Innovators' Summit 2024 – Lester Levy presentation

[Event video](#)

**16 AUGUST**

The root cause that links our GP shortage and skyrocketing power prices

[NZ Herald](#)



**16 AUGUST**

Unpacking New Zealand's \$9 billion alcohol cost

[Podcast](#)

**19 AUGUST**

Dr Oliver Hartwich on the OCR Reduction

[The Platform](#)

**20 AUGUST**

Voter anger threatens to bury Germany's traditional party-political system

[Newsroom](#)



**21 AUGUST**

New research shows that New Zealand universities have a significant problem with academic freedom

[Media Release](#)

**21 AUGUST**

Unpopular Opinions: Academic Freedom in New Zealand

[Research Report](#)

**22 AUGUST**

Unpopular Opinions – Academic Freedom in New Zealand

[Webinar](#)

# SEP

**22 AUGUST**

Localism Enjoys Council Support

[NZ Herald](#)



**22 AUGUST**

Dr James Kierstead talks about his latest report on Academic Freedom

[The Platform](#)

**23 AUGUST**

The Pulse of Local Government

[Research Note](#)

**23 AUGUST**

The Pulse of Local Government: Insights from New Zealand's Councils

[Podcast](#)

**23 AUGUST**

Local councils want more say in how they run their communities, survey finds

[Media Release](#)

**25 AUGUST**

Q+A with Jack Tame: What emissions prices will mean for petrol costs

[TVNZ](#)

**26 AUGUST**

'Career suicide': the price of dissent in NZ universities

[The Australian](#)

**26 AUGUST**

Difficult to see method in the Government's moves to tackle youth vaping

[The Post](#)

**27 AUGUST**

A prescription for better regulation

[Newsroom](#)



**27 AUGUST**

Germany's political shift and its global impact

[Podcast](#)

**29 AUGUST**

Localism: NZ needs a better system

[NZ Herald](#)

**29 AUGUST**

Dr James Kierstead talks to Cam Slater about free speech in New Zealand'

[Reality Check Radio](#)

**30 AUGUST**

'Academic freedom is now seriously under threat in New Zealand'

[The Post](#)

**2 SEPTEMBER**

Consultation Paper Retail Payment System

[Submission](#)

**3 SEPTEMBER**

Shades of 1933 in German state elections

[Newsroom](#)



**4 SEPTEMBER**

The state of geopolitics and liberal democracy

[Podcast](#)

**6 SEPTEMBER**

Health Innovators' Summit 2024

[Event video](#)

**6 SEPTEMBER**

Eastern German state elections reshape political landscape

[Podcast](#)

**6 SEPTEMBER**

We are better off when the state is less fun

[NZ Herald](#)



**9 SEPTEMBER**

New report demystifies the state sector and calls for reform

[Media Release](#)

**9 SEPTEMBER**

Court ruling on Uber drivers undermines the ride-share model

[The Post](#)

**10 SEPTEMBER**

Youth vaping is bad policy and bad politics

[Newsroom](#)

**10 SEPTEMBER**

Demystifying the State

[Research Report](#)

**10 SEPTEMBER**

Security report shows NZ returning to traditional allies

[The Australian](#)

**12 SEPTEMBER**

Auckland University's controversial new courses

[Podcast](#)

**12 SEPTEMBER**

Demystifying the State

[Webinar](#)

**12 SEPTEMBER**

Health Innovators' Summit 2024: Keynote Sessions

[Event video](#)

**13 SEPTEMBER**

Spending cuts versus wealth taxes

[NZ Herald](#)

**13 SEPTEMBER**

Rethinking the Government's role in competition

[Podcast](#)

**17 SEPTEMBER**

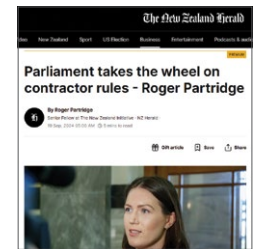
Brussels sprouting same old stale economic plans

[Newsroom](#)

**19 SEPTEMBER**

Parliament takes the wheel on contractor rules

[NZ Herald](#)



**20 SEPTEMBER**

Reflections on American democracy with Alexander Heffner

[Event video](#)

**20 SEPTEMBER**

American Democracy at a Crossroads: The 2024 Election and Beyond

[Podcast](#)



# OCT

## 24 SEPTEMBER

Uber clarity: NZ's bold move on gig economy workers  
[The Australian](#)

## 24 SEPTEMBER

Monkeypox, Medsafe, and monkey business  
[Newsroom](#)

## 25 SEPTEMBER

Inquiry on Banking Competition  
[Submission](#)

## 27 SEPTEMBER

The economics behind Auckland's planned parking revolution  
[The Post](#)



## 27 SEPTEMBER

Why the RBNZ's 'gold-plating' may be costing you  
[NZ Herald](#)

## 27 SEPTEMBER

Unpopular Opinions: Academic Freedom in New Zealand  
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## 1 OCTOBER

Russia winning war against Europe, one election at a time  
[Newsroom](#)

## 3 OCTOBER

John Macdonald discusses Nick Clark's opinion piece on strengthening mayoral powers  
[Newstalk ZB](#)

## 3 OCTOBER

Do we need more powerful mayors?  
[NZ Herald](#)



## 4 OCTOBER

Learning, Behaviour, and the Future of New Zealand Classrooms  
[Podcast](#)

## 7 OCTOBER

Christchurch's food trucks a 'problem' Wellington would love to have  
[The Post](#)

## 8 OCTOBER

Stephanie Martin on flawed academic freedom policy rejected by Auckland University  
[Rhema](#)

## 8 OCTOBER

Dr Eric Crampton on media challenges and Google's threat to leave NZ news sites  
[The Platform](#)

## 8 OCTOBER

Canada's example shows how 'link tax' bill will fail  
[Newsroom](#)



## 9 OCTOBER

2024 ACC Levy Consultation  
[Submission](#)

## 9 OCTOBER

Luxon runs NZ like a listed company - and he's getting results  
[The Australian](#)

## 9 OCTOBER

Mike Hosking discusses Dr Eric Crampton's article on digital news legislation  
[Newstalk ZB](#)

## 10 OCTOBER

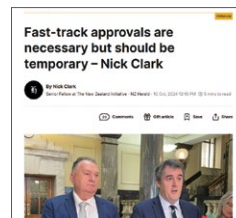
Stephanie Martin Auckland University's rejection of academic freedom policy  
[The Platform](#)

## 10 OCTOBER

Dr Michael Johnston on the university rankings decline  
[The Platform](#)

## 10 OCTOBER

Fast-track approvals are necessary but should be temporary  
[NZ Herald](#)



## 11 OCTOBER

Is Luxon's corporate leadership style working?  
[ADH TV: Reality Bites](#)

## 14 OCTOBER

One year on: Analysing Luxon and the Government's first year  
[The Platform](#)

## 14 OCTOBER

Dr Oliver Hartwich talks to Mike Hosking about foreign investment reforms in NZ  
[Newstalk ZB](#)

## 14 OCTOBER

The New Zealand Initiative urges swift action on bold FDI reforms  
[Press Statement](#)

## 15 OCTOBER

Who makes the law? New report challenges Supreme Court's expanding role  
[Media Release](#)

## 15 OCTOBER

Who Makes the Law? Reining in the Supreme Court  
[Research Report](#)

## 15 OCTOBER

Who Makes the Law? Reining in the Supreme Court  
[Webinar video](#)

## 15 OCTOBER

Who makes the law? Reining in the Supreme Court  
[Podcast](#)

## 15 OCTOBER

New Nato leader arrives at a crunch time  
[Newsroom](#)



## 16 OCTOBER

Stephen Franks talks to Ryan Bridge about the Initiative's latest report on the Supreme Court  
[Newstalk ZB](#)

## 16 OCTOBER

Emile Donovan talks to Roger Partridge about how the Supreme Court is overstepping its bounds  
*RNZ*

## 16 OCTOBER

Who makes the law? Reining in the Supreme Court  
*LawNews*

## 16 OCTOBER

Leighton Smith has an in-depth discussion with Roger Partridge about his latest report  
*Newstalk ZB: The Leighton Smith Podcast*

## 16 OCTOBER

John MacDonald discusses Roger Partridge's latest report with his listeners  
*Newstalk ZB*

## 16 OCTOBER

Mike Hosking talks to Roger Partridge about the Supreme Court moving out of its lane  
*Newstalk ZB*

## 17 OCTOBER

German lessons for NZ councils: How merging mayor and CEO roles transformed local government  
*Podcast*

## 18 OCTOBER

Parliament should rein in our runaway Supreme Court  
*NZ Herald*

## 21 OCTOBER

The barriers to breeding that governments can build  
*The Post*

## 21 OCTOBER

Simon O'Connor talks to Steph Martin about Auckland University's attempt to limit academic freedom  
*Reality Check Radio*

## 22 OCTOBER

First rule of govt club: The state protects the state  
*Newsroom*

## 22 OCTOBER

Who makes the law? Judicial activism and NZ's Supreme Court  
*The Australian*

## 24 OCTOBER

Tools to rein in judicial overreach  
*NZ Herald*



## 24 OCTOBER

Mike Hosking discusses Roger's latest article in NZ Herald  
*Newstalk ZB*

## 24 OCTOBER

Dangerous: Peterson's rhetorical sleight of hand  
*The Australian*

## 24 OCTOBER

Dangerous: Peterson's rhetorical sleight of hand  
*The Australian*

## 24 OCTOBER

Tools to rein in judicial overreach  
*NZ Herald*

## 24 OCTOBER

Victoria University stands up for academic freedom - with a few caveats  
*The Post*



## 25 OCTOBER

What NZ and Australia learned from handling COVID  
*Podcast*

## 29 OCTOBER

Why it's dangerously misguided to ignore threat of new axis  
*Newsroom*

## 29 OCTOBER

Rodney Hide talks to Roger Partridge about his latest Supreme Court research report  
*Reality Check Radio*

## 30 OCTOBER

Paul Brennan discusses NZ's drop in birth rates with Dr Eric Crampton  
*Reality Check Radio*

## 31 OCTOBER

Have your say on Work Health and Safety  
*Submission*

## 31 OCTOBER

Wellington's woes show need for local Government reform  
*NZ Herald*



## 31 OCTOBER

Trump or Harris, how the US election matters to New Zealanders  
*The Post*

## 1 NOVEMBER

Defending academic freedom on NZ university campuses  
*Podcast*

## 1 NOVEMBER

Defending academic freedom on NZ university campuses  
*Podcast*

## 4 NOVEMBER

The price to pay for a better heritage  
*The Post*



## 5 NOVEMBER

Simon O'Connor talks to Roger Partridge about who makes the law in NZ  
*Family Matters*

## 5 NOVEMBER

John Macdonald discusses Dr Eric Crampton's article about the cost of heritage  
*Newstalk ZB*

## 6 NOVEMBER

Taxing people unfairly just isn't cricket  
*Newsroom*

## 7 NOVEMBER

Heated tobacco excise – some heat, and some light too  
[NZ Herald](#)

## 8 NOVEMBER

An Accidental Berliner  
[Podcast](#)

## 8 NOVEMBER

Empire, Ethics, and Academic Freedom: A Conversation with Nigel Biggar  
[Podcast](#)

## 8 NOVEMBER

NZ deepens ties with Delhi – it's about time  
[The Australian](#)

## 12 NOVEMBER

Germany's traffic light coalition gets stuck on red  
[Newsroom](#)



## 13 NOVEMBER

Sean Plunket talks to Dr Eric Crampton about whether social media bans for kids actually work  
[The Platform](#)

## 13 NOVEMBER

Dr Oliver Hartwich suggests German solution for local government reform  
[Reality Check Radio](#)

## 14 NOVEMBER

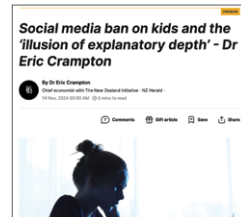
Breaking Down Healthcare Supply Barriers  
[Podcast](#)

## 14 NOVEMBER

Dr Eric Crampton discusses prediction markets with Emile Donovan  
[RNZ](#)

## 14 NOVEMBER

Social media ban on kids and the 'illusion of explanatory depth'  
[NZ Herald](#)



## 15 NOVEMBER

Dr Michael Johnston warns of concerning decline in New Zealand education  
[Reality Check Radio](#)

## 16 NOVEMBER

A pathway to indigenous autonomy  
[The Post](#)

## 19 NOVEMBER

Lessons for Australia in NZ's polarising Treaty debate  
[The Australian](#)

## 19 NOVEMBER

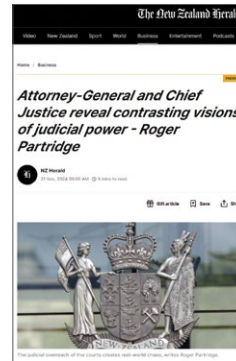
Finally, proposals to set access charges  
[Newsroom](#)

## 20 NOVEMBER

Dr Eric Crampton on Australia's Under-16 Social Media Ban  
[Reality Check Radio](#)

## 21 NOVEMBER

Attorney-General and Chief Justice reveal contrasting visions of judicial power  
[NZ Herald](#)



## 22 NOVEMBER

How would age limits for social media work?  
[Podcast](#)

## 26 NOVEMBER

Merkel's 16 years of tactical drift  
[Newsroom](#)



## 27 NOVEMBER

Dr Eric Crampton reacts to health bureaucrats fighting against McDonald's in Wānaka  
[The Platform](#)

## 27 NOVEMBER

Dr Michael Johnston calls for review of NCEA system  
[RNZ](#)

## 27 NOVEMBER

Dr Eric Crampton and Dr Ganesh Nana debate government spending cuts  
[NBR](#)

## 27 NOVEMBER

Mike Hosking discusses Dr Eric Crampton's take on Public Health Service submission for Wānaka McDonald's  
[Newstalk ZB](#)

## 28 NOVEMBER

Why are our health system priorities so out of whack, and officials so obsessed with McDonald's?  
[NZ Herald](#)

## 29 NOVEMBER

Dr Murray Horn says COVID report overlooks how government politicisation hampered pandemic response  
[Newstalk ZB](#)

## 29 NOVEMBER

The New Zealand Initiative welcomes employment law reform for high-income earners  
[Media release](#)

## 29 NOVEMBER

The Long Road to Better Regulation  
[Podcast](#)

## 30 NOVEMBER

The House That Luxon Built  
[Quadrant](#)





# DEC

## 2 DECEMBER

Another offering in the underwhelming history of economists' open letters  
[The Post](#)

## 3 DECEMBER

Supreme Court matters: charities law and judicial social engineering  
[LawNews](#)

## 3 DECEMBER

Trump Presidency will do more harm than good to NZ – bar one tech-nicality  
[Newsroom](#)

## 3 DECEMBER

Rate cuts mask New Zealand's productivity crisis  
[The Australian](#)

## 5 DECEMBER

High-income dismissal reform is a win for workers and productivity  
[NZ Herald](#)



## 6 DECEMBER

NZ's ETS Forest Controls  
[Podcast](#)

## 6 DECEMBER

Dr Oliver Hartwich receives the Deloitte Top 200 Judges' recognition award  
[NZ Herald](#)



## 9 DECEMBER

Dr Michael Johnston on Massey University's stance against Treaty Principles bill  
[The Platform](#)

## 10 DECEMBER

Developing an Enduring National Infrastructure Plan Discussion Document  
[Submission](#)

## 10 DECEMBER

Making Local Government Work  
[Research Report](#)

## 10 DECEMBER

Like Ardern, Angela Merkel was adored overseas but hopeless at home  
[The Australian](#)

## 10 DECEMBER

Making Local Government Work  
[Podcast](#)

## 10 DECEMBER

Macron stuck in a constitutional dead end  
[Newsroom](#)



## 10 DECEMBER

New Research Shows How to Fix New Zealand's Local Government  
[Media release](#)

## 11 DECEMBER

Why Doubt Makes Democracy Stronger  
[Podcast](#)

## 12 DECEMBER

The real reasons for the gender pay gap  
[NZ Herald](#)

## 14 DECEMBER

Nick Clark talks about his latest report urging for local government reform  
[Newstalk ZB](#)

## 16 DECEMBER

Targets the Commerce Act review should have in its sights  
[The Post](#)

## 17 DECEMBER

Trump's declaration of war on universities  
[Newsroom](#)



## 17 DECEMBER

NZ's ferry farce is proof politicians are out of depth in business  
[The Australian](#)

## 17 DECEMBER

Dr Bryce Wilkinson talks to Heather du Plessis Allan about the Treasury's half-year economic update  
[Newstalk ZB](#)

## 18 DECEMBER

From Dependency to Development: A First Nations Governance Success Story  
[Podcast](#)

## 18 DECEMBER

Universities must be neutral  
[Newsroom](#)

## 18 DECEMBER

Government's budget plan is lacklustre and possibly illegal  
[The Post](#)

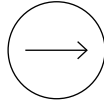


## 20 DECEMBER

2024: A year of hard truths  
[Podcast](#)

## 20 DECEMBER

Dr Michael Johnston talks to Heather du Plessis Allan about new university free speech legislation  
[Newstalk ZB](#)



# 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 PhD in Law from Bochum University in Germany.



**Chelsy Killick**  
**Deputy Director,**  
**Organisation**

Chelsy Killick is the Deputy Director, Organisation. She brings over three decades of extensive experience in both corporate and government sectors, with a solid background in public policy.

In her role, Chelsy is responsible for overseeing operations, finances, human resources, communications, and event management. This includes our annual members' retreat and international delegations (previously to Switzerland in 2016, Denmark in 2019 and Ireland in 2023) for members, consisting of CEOs and Chairs of some of New Zealand's top companies.

Additionally, Chelsy collaborates closely with the Board on governance matters, manages membership and ensures the efficient operation of the organisation.

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**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 the 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.

In 2024, he also joined the Board of Directors of the Mont Pelerin Society.

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

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**Dr Bryce Wilkinson**  
**ONZM**  
**Senior Fellow**

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

Prior to setting up his consultancy in 1997, he was director, 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 held academic positions at Victoria University of Wellington from 2011 until he commenced work at The New Zealand Initiative in 2022. From 2020-2022 he was the Associate Dean (Academic) of the University's Faculty of Education.

Before Victoria University, 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.

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**Nick Clark**  
**Senior Fellow**

Nick is a Senior Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative, focusing on local government, resource management, and economic policy.

Nick brings 30 years of policy and advocacy experience on the inside and outside of government. He joins us after 19 years at Federated Farmers, as the National Policy

Manager. Nick managed a team of policy advisors, and led work on economic policy, including fiscal, tax, monetary, banking, competition, and overseas investment policies.

He also worked extensively on local government policy issues and has been the administrator of the Local Government Business Forum, a grouping of national business organisations interested in local government policy issues.

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**Dr James Kierstead**  
**Research Fellow**

James is a Research Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative focusing 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, along with Michael Johnston, of Free Kiwis!, a podcast dedicated to discussing free speech in a New Zealand context.

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**Dr Tony Burton**  
**Research Fellow**

Tony is a Research Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative. He acquired a PhD in economics and philosophy from the University of East Anglia, researching game theory and choice under uncertainty. Following his academic tenure, he transitioned to policy work, initially at the UK Ministry of Health, and subsequently within the Ministry of Social Development and Treasury.



**Dr Prabani Wood**  
**Research Fellow**

Prabani is a Research Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative, focusing on Health. She has over fourteen years of experience as a GP, with extensive postgraduate experience in medicine, surgery, anaesthetics, and public health. She holds a Master's in Public Health from the University of Auckland, providing her with in-depth knowledge of both general public health and New Zealand's health system.

Prabani established a new GP practice in 2015, serving around 8,500 patients. This gave her extensive experience in health policy, strategic planning and healthcare

management. She now works in medical advisory roles to improve the planning, delivery and maintenance of quality healthcare for all New Zealanders.



**Jamuel Enriquez**  
**Marketing and Communications Manager**

Jamuel is the Marketing and Communications Manager of The New Zealand Initiative. He oversees increasing awareness of the Initiative's research and thought leadership, focusing on communications, social media, website, and brand management. Jamuel holds a Bachelor of Commerce & Administration majoring in Marketing and International Business and a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Film from Victoria University of Wellington.



**Lottie Evans**  
**Office Administrator and Events Coordinator**

Lottie serves as the Office Administrator and Events Coordinator for The New Zealand Initiative, ensuring the efficient management of events and office operations. Prior to joining the Initiative, Lottie gained experience in the Public Sector, specialising

in administration and events coordination. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Auckland, with a double major in Politics and Sociology.



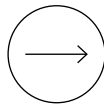
**Jennifer Watt**  
**Accounts and Payroll Administrator**

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.



**Nicole Gibson**  
**Executive Support**

Nicole works part-time with The New Zealand Initiative in Executive Support. She has experience in executive administrative support, sales and marketing support, human resources, event management, health and safety regulation across various sectors including law, aviation, tourism, and the gas industry. She provides Executive Support to Oliver, Chelsy, and our Fellowship.



# OUR BOARD



**Roger Partridge**

**Chairman, The New Zealand Initiative**

Roger Partridge is chairman and a co-founder of The New Zealand Initiative and is a senior member of its research team. He is a regular commentator in the media on public policy and constitutional law. He led law firm Bell Gully as executive chairman from 2007 to 2014, after 16 years as a commercial litigation partner. He is an honorary fellow of the Legal Research Foundation, a charitable foundation associated with the University of Auckland and was its executive director from 2001 to 2009. He is a member of the editorial board of the New Zealand Law Review 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 former chartered member of the Institute of Directors, a member of the University of Auckland Business School advisory board, 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.



**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 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.



**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.



**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.



**Mark Synnott**  
Executive Chairman,  
Colliers

Mark Synnott is the Executive Chairman for Colliers in New Zealand. Mark has been with Colliers for 35 years, initially joining as an Office Leasing Manager, and Broker in 1989, before being appointed as Chief Executive Officer in 1994. Mark has been awarded the RICS Lifetime Achievement Award (2023), and both the Rider Levett Bucknall Outstanding Leadership Award & the Barker and Associates Supreme Excellence Award (2023) from the Property Council of NZ. Mark alongside wife Sally, run the Michael

Synnott Charitable Trust, in memory of Mark's brother Michael. The trust aims to support young people from South Auckland to achieve their potential and provides sponsorship with other organisations such as the Tania Dalton Foundation, The Graeme Dingle Foundation and Outward Bound. Mark is also an independent Director of FMT and Outward Bound.

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**Sara Tucker**  
**External Relations**  
**Director, Lion**

Sara Tucker has been the External Relations Director for Lion New Zealand since 2015, responsible for government relations, corporate communications, and sustainability. Prior to that she was the Deputy CEO of Hospitality New Zealand, one of New Zealand's largest trade associations, representing the hotel and hospitality industry. She sits on the boards of the Brewers Association of NZ and Spirits NZ and represents Lion's parent company Kirin on the board of IARD, the international organisation representing global beer, wine and spirits producers. She is a chartered member of the Institute of Directors, and in 2020 was inducted into the Hospitality New Zealand Hall of Fame for services to the Hospitality industry.

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# OUR MEMBERS

## Full Members

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Deloitte  
Downer  
EY  
Fletcher Building  
FNZ  
Fonterra  
Foodstuffs North Island  
Forsyth Barr  
Freightways  
Gallagher Group  
Genesis  
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IAG  
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Meridian Energy  
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Port of Tauranga  
PwC  
Rank Group  
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Vector  
Wellington Airport  
Wesfarmers  
Westpac  
Woolworths  
Xero

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Acumen Republic  
Bell Gully  
Channel Infrastructure  
Chapman Tripp  
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Douglas Pharmaceuticals  
Duffy Books in Homes

First Mortgage Trust  
Google  
Habit Health  
Imperial Brands  
Mastercard  
NZX  
Russell McVeagh  
Southern Cross Health Society  
Stephen Jennings  
Tappenden Holdings  
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