



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

**THE
NEW ZEALAND
INITIATIVE**

www.nzinitiative.org.nz

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“The New Zealand Initiative does remarkable work in raising rational discourse and critical thinking. Its contribution is incredibly valuable for society, especially one which focuses on growth, development and prosperity. The provocation of ideas by the Initiative puts New Zealand on the map as a global thought leader and creates a breeding ground for important conversations to tremendously advance New Zealand as a whole.”

Suzi Jamil | Owner and Director, Think Inc.

Foreword

The Prime Minister called 2019 “the year of delivery”. Later this year, voters will deliver their verdict on that statement and promise.

At the Initiative, it was definitely a year of delivery for us. Over the year, we produced a record number of reports, research notes and submissions. Our team has continued to focus on the big issues that really matter to the prosperity of New Zealanders.

Our views on these coincide with Government’s goals.

Swimmable rivers, sustainable freshwater management, making housing affordable, better education for all our children, significant reductions in child poverty, reducing carbon emissions, improving transport and supporting regional economic development: These are neither left-wing nor right-wing, conservative or liberal, progressive or traditional objectives. These are the things all New Zealanders want and deserve.

Given these widely shared goals, we are most disappointed with the speed of reform in New Zealand. We can and should do much better.

To that end, in our published work over 2019, we highlighted practical solutions to some of New Zealand’s most pressing challenges. Our reports on energy policy showed how we can achieve a low-emissions future by using market mechanism. On transport policy, we laid out how congestion charging can un-clog our cities. Our analysis of education data revealed how our schools are performing and how they could learn from each other.

The Government has been receptive to our views. We can see that our ideas on competitive land markets are informing emerging reforms around the RMA. Meanwhile, the Government engaged with us on the use of school data to improve the performance of the education system.

We also organised our business delegation visit to Denmark and Sweden, which saw three dozen New Zealand business leaders learn about the Scandinavian economies. We hosted events with domestic and international experts, including former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and US psychologist Jonathan Haidt.

At the Initiative, we are proud of what our team has delivered. We look forward to informing New Zealand debates in this election year and in the future.



Roger Partridge

Roger Partridge
Chairman



Oliver Hartwich

Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director

What we stand for

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

We are a non-partisan think tank, we are an association of business leaders, we are an evidence-based research institute, and most of all 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 and who bring a wide range of interests, experiences and ideas.

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

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



A good education system



Affordable housing



An open economy



A free and democratic society



The protection of our natural resources and heritage



Sound public finances



A stable currency

Our principles

The challenge in public policy is often not to define what you want to achieve, but to find ways of achieving widely shared goals. Every good think tank needs solid foundations. These are ours:

We are credible.

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

We are evidence-based.

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

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.

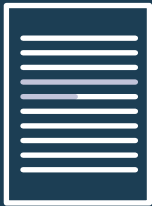


2019



277

opinion articles published
(including 140
Insights pieces)



269

direct media mentions



4,656

engaged
Insights
readers



71 radio and television appearances

1

business delegation to Denmark with

37

international speakers



33

speaking engagements



3

research interns



24

research reports & submissions published

12

Initiative events held, hosting

32

speakers



4,382

Facebook likes



2,642

Twitter followers

YouTube

210,045

YouTube video views



OUR RESEARCH & SUBMISSIONS

Our research



KiwiBuild: Twyford's tar baby **Dr Bryce Wilkinson**

In January, we released our first research note of 2019 written by **Dr Bryce Wilkinson**.

Bryce examined the public policy justifications for KiwiBuild – the government programme to build or deliver 100,000 homes in 10 years – to find they do not stack up.

KiwiBuild has no clear public interest rationale and it won't increase the housing stock enduringly. Bryce explained why it makes no sense for taxpayers to subsidise KiwiBuild homes, but neither does it make sense for the government to commission houses on an unsubsidised basis.

The report emphasised what is really needed to solve New Zealand's housing affordability problem: decisive action to increase land supply for residential housing and to reduce regulatory red tape to reduce construction costs across the board.

Our report restarted the discussion about KiwiBuild in various media outlets with headlines like "Phil Twyford defends KiwiBuild after damning report". Bryce spoke about his research on *TVNZ Breakfast*, and *Radio New Zealand*, *Newstalk ZB*, *Newsroom*, *Stuff*, and *The New Zealand Herald* also covered it extensively. The ACT Party supported the report with a press release.



The pitfalls of CGT **Dr Patrick Carvalho**

In February, we released our first policy point – a two-page policy analysis – on the Tax Working Group's proposed broad-based top rate of 33% capital gains tax (CGT).

Research Fellow **Dr Patrick Carvalho** argued in *The Pitfalls of CGT* that the headline rate would immediately push New Zealand to the top of the international CGT rankings among industrialised economies, just behind Denmark and Finland.

He found that the proposal was conspicuous by a lack of exemptions and concessions around business investment, so a full rate would arguably qualify New Zealand's CGT regime as one of the harshest in the world. And given New Zealand's recognisably low-income tax thresholds by international standards, a new CGT would disproportionately hit middle-income earners already struggling to invest for retirement.

Newstalk ZB and *Magic Talk* interviewed Patrick about his policy point. He also wrote about his findings in *The National Business Review* and our weekly *Insights* newsletter.



#localismNZ: Bringing power to the people **Ben Craven, Jack Goldingham-Newsom and Dr Oliver Hartwich**

With New Zealanders' attitudes towards devolved government shifting, many believe now is the time to explore localism.

Devolving New Zealand's government will enable us to deliver a programme

of services tailored to the citizens living in each city. It will allow the members of that city to determine their own affairs and govern their communities as they see fit. Our democracy will be kicked back to life and everyone will be able to fully participate in community affairs.

#localismNZ explained the rationale behind localism, responded to commonly heard objections, and outlined how unusual New Zealand's centralism is when compared internationally. New Zealand's councils have limited fiscal autonomy. Their mandate is also much more restricted than local government in other parts of the world.

Dr **Oliver Hartwich**, along with **Ben Craven** and **Jack Goldingham-Newsom**, made the case for localism by spelling out how much better New Zealand could be by adopting devolution and being closer to the people.



Switched On! Achieving a green, affordable and reliable energy future

Matt Burgess

The coalition Government has committed that by 2035, all our electricity shall be generated from renewables.

Since renewables already account for 83 percent of our electricity, achieving an additional 17 percent may not sound like a big challenge.

However, **Matt Burgess** showed in his report *Switched On!* why the 100 percent renewable target is an ambitious one. To achieve it while keeping energy affordable and reliable requires careful policy thinking.

The report identified what New Zealand should do – and avoid – to transition to a renewable energy future.

Matt discussed his findings with Mike Hosking on *Newstalk ZB*, in an opinion piece for *The National Business Review*, and in our weekly *Insights* newsletter. His report was referenced in several other interviews, including an endorsement from Fraser Whineray, Chief Executive of Mercury.

We further discussed our research after the Interim Climate Change Commission (ICCC) released its landmark report in July. The ICCC found that the government's 100 percent renewable electricity policy would hike power prices and potentially deliver worse environmental outcomes. The committee recommended that the government prioritise other more effective emissions policies.

When the government announced it had accepted the ICCC's recommendations, Matt said:

The Interim Committee is directly responsible for New Zealand avoiding an environmental and economic disaster in the 100% renewables policy. The Government's decision to allow an independent committee to evaluate its flagship environmental policy, then make changes in response to their findings, is exceptional.



Tomorrow's Schools: Data and evidence **Joel Hernandez**

A comprehensive and year-long econometric analysis of data for 400,000 students undertaken by Policy Analyst **Joel Hernandez** revealed there are no significant differences in school performance between schools of different deciles.

Adjusted for the different student populations they serve, the vast majority of New Zealand's secondary schools create the education outcomes we would expect from them.

This finding calls into question the assertion of the Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce, led by Bali Haque, which claimed that "quality of our schools varies significantly." There is no evidence for this statement in the data provided by Statistics New Zealand's via its Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI).

Our research also buried the old myth that school quality is linked to school decile. As Dr Oliver Hartwich said:

We know that excellence and underperformance exist in individual schools in both high and low deciles. Our tool, once employed by the Education Ministry, can identify how each school is doing. This could then be used by the Education Review Office, Boards of Trustees or even Education Hubs that the Taskforce wants to set up.

The Initiative will be releasing further results from its econometric study throughout 2020, and is making its model available to all researchers and government departments using Statistics New Zealand's IDI.



Refreshing Water: Valuing the priceless

Dr Eric Crampton

New Zealand deserves far better water management. Too much water is being drawn in some river basins (catchments) – to the detriment of aquifers and rivers. Scores of newspaper articles and rigorous reports have laid out the problems in the current system.

Fixing the problem requires reducing the amount of water drawn in those places.

The most promising way of reducing water use harnesses the same kind of policy New Zealand is developing to reduce carbon emissions: a trading scheme. Capping the total water take within a catchment, converting existing water rights consents into tradeable permits, and letting permit-holders trade their drawing rights allows New Zealand to do the most good in improving environmental quality.

The solution is well recognised. But progress has been stymied because successive governments have been unwilling to address iwi water claims. Resolving iwi water rights is important for its own sake. But it is also critical in enabling far better environmental

practice. The environmental costs of not resolving iwi claims are too great.

In *Refreshing Water: Valuing the priceless*, Dr **Eric Crampton** proposed a cap-and-trade system for managing water allocations that shares the burden of reducing water use between existing water users and the Crown, that embeds strong environmental bottom-lines into the trading system, and that recognises iwi rights in water. We believe this is the best way for the government to progress its agenda in improving freshwater quality.

In early 2020, Eric will examine in a second report the more technically challenging case for cap-and-trade systems for nutrient management.



Biting education bullets

Dr Eric Crampton

As teachers prepared to leave the classroom on strike, we proposed a potential solution to the seemingly impossible impasse in our policy point *Biting education bullets*.

Dr **Eric Crampton** argued that Education Minister Chris Hipkins is in a thoroughly unenviable position.

Providing a pay increase sufficient to attract and retain the best teachers would blow out the budget if offered to all 60,000 existing teachers. Every 10 percent increase in teachers' salaries costs about \$400 million; a 25 percent increase would cost a billion dollars and match the entire PHARMAC budget.

Paying more to attract new staff while allowing principals to award higher salaries to their best teachers could square the circle. It would also allow the salary increases needed to attract and retain the best teachers without requiring large cuts (or tax increases) elsewhere.

Eric was interviewed on *Magic Talk Drive*, and *The New Zealand Herald* also covered his findings.



Work in Progress: Why Fair Pay Agreements would be bad for labour

Roger Partridge and
Dr Bryce Wilkinson

In *Work in Progress*, **Roger Partridge** and Dr **Bryce Wilkinson** evaluated the recommendations of the Fair Pay Agreement Working Group (FPAWG) released in late 2018 in fulfilment of a Coalition promise to review New Zealand's deregulated labour markets.

The Initiative agrees with the government's goal of a highly skilled and innovative workforce and an economy that delivers decent, well-paid jobs and broad-based gains from economic growth. It is a laudable aim and it is what governments should strive for.

However, our research found that the case for the recommendations of the FPAWG in pursuit of the goal does not stack up.

Both the evidence and the academic literature suggest FPAs would be likely to harm productivity and be contrary to the interests of workers, the unemployed, consumers, and overall wellbeing. Rather than advancing the government's vision of a high-wage, high-productivity economy, FPAs would undermine it.

If we want a more productive, higher-wage economy, introducing compulsory collective bargaining across industries and occupations is not the way to achieve it.

Many factors have been blamed for New Zealand's poor productivity growth, including our small size and geographic



isolation. There is little we can do about either of these factors. But that makes it critical we get our policy settings right in the areas we *can* control. Areas like education, housing and planning, infrastructure, foreign investment, social policy, regulation and the allocation of regulatory decision-making powers between local and central government.

If we solve New Zealand's policy problems in these areas, the country can confidently look forward to a more productive, high-wage economy.

We had extensive media coverage and contributed to many debates with this report. Roger appeared on *TVNZ Breakfast* and Bryce spoke on *NBR Radio* and Radio New Zealand's *Nine to Noon* programme. Roger's opinion piece on the topic was published on *The New Zealand Herald* website.

The report was also covered on *Newshub*, *Stuff*, *The New Zealand Herald*, *Kiwiblog*, *Interest*, *BusinessDesk* and *Newsroom*. Supportive media releases were issued by the Employers and Manufacturers Association (EMA), the National Party, BusinessNZ, and the ACT Party.



**When the facts change:
How the ICCC saved
New Zealand from
a policy disaster**
Matt Burgess

Analysis by the Interim Climate Change Committee’s (ICCC) found that the Government’s 100 percent renewable electricity policy would hike power prices and potentially deliver worse environmental outcomes. They recommended the government prioritise other more effective emissions policies.

When the Government announced it had accepted the ICCC’s recommendations, **Matt Burgess** published this research note.

In the research note, Matt welcomed the quality of the process run by the Government and said their decision to allow an independent committee to evaluate its flagship environmental policy, and then make changes in response to their findings, is exceptional.

Emissions policies vary enormously in their effectiveness and New Zealand could achieve a step change in its efforts to lower emissions just by checking whether emissions policies work using the ICCC’s approach.

That is why we called the Interim Committee’s report historic.



**The Unreserved
Bank of
New Zealand:
Why unorthodox
monetary policy
needs boundaries**
**Dr Oliver Harwich,
Dr Eric Crampton
and Professor Robert
MacCulloch**

With the larger-than-anticipated cut to the OCR to 1 percent on 7 August 2019, the Reserve Bank of New Zealand surprised markets and sent a strong signal that unorthodox or unconventional monetary policy could be on the cards.

In a research note, Dr **Oliver Hartwich**, Dr **Eric Crampton** and macroeconomics Professor **Robert MacCulloch** argued that predictability of the Reserve Bank is needed to retain its credibility, independence and reputation, especially under unconventional circumstances. In our view, this would also require changes in the wording of the Remit of the Monetary Policy Committee.

As the Reserve Bank takes on fiscal functions, its political neutrality and commitment to monetary stability, as well as maximum sustainable employment, need to be re-emphasised.



**Living after
Midnight: For a
better night-time
environment**
**Natanael Rother with
Jenesa Jeram**

In *Living after Midnight*, **Natanael Rother** highlighted New Zealand’s antiquated way of restricting life after dark. Our current approach fails to make use of the social and economic opportunities a neatly managed nightlife can offer – while addressing existing concerns.

The report explained how cities, such as Melbourne and Amsterdam, have implemented very different, but successful, solutions to enable a thriving and safe nightlife.

We proposed some relatively modest policy changes for improving the night-time economy in New Zealand:

- Appoint night mayors to balance legitimate interests
- Improve local decision-making to implement processes that support resolution of difficulties
- Tackle public health issues with specific programmes to help those who need it the most. Targeted initiatives such as South Dakota’s 24/7 sobriety project are a valid inspiration.

In times of ever-increasing urbanisation, today’s problems will become even more

pressing for policymakers tomorrow. The proposals and the international experiences described in *Living after Midnight* will not solve every problem of New Zealand's nightlife. We believe, however, that they are the first steps towards a more balanced way of dealing with the nightlife.



Hands-on: New suggestions to reform the vocational sector in New Zealand

Natanael Rother

The opportunities of industry-based qualifications are highly underestimated in New Zealand. It is therefore laudable that Minister of Education **Chris Hipkins** proposed reforms to the vocational sector that include industry-based education.

In his analysis presented on 1 August 2019, Minister Hipkins rightly pointed out that the vocational sector in New Zealand today is overly complex and not attractive enough for neither students nor employers. His proposal to merge school-based and industry-based pathways under one monolith institution, however, not only fails to provide solutions to those problems but also undermines successful institutions within today's environment.

This research note, by **Natanael Rother**, provided new ideas for the ongoing reform project. To complement the Minister's all-embracing ambitions, Natanael included proposals for both the structure of vocational education in general and for the future of industry-based education in New Zealand:

1. Make Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs) self-sufficient to help them find matching partners, if necessary.
2. Clearly distinguish between industry-based and school-based vocational pathways to help students and employers alike to know what to expect from the respective courses.
3. Strengthen industry-based training in the sense of dual education where students split their time between work and education to increase the long-debated proximity between learning content and employer's needs.



In Fairness to our Schools: Better measures for better outcomes

Joel Hernandez

The evaluation of school performance presented in our report *In Fairness to our Schools* is unprecedented in New Zealand.

In 2011, Statistics New Zealand created what is now the country's largest research database, the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI). It contains data on more than 5 million people covering education, health, tax and income, social services, housing and much more.

Joel Hernandez used this world-leading database to create a school performance tool and analyse 400,000 students across 480 New Zealand secondary schools over the past ten years. Our tool was able to measure how much value each school added to their students independent of each student's family socioeconomic background.

The results indicated that the differences in school performance typically seen in NCEA league tables largely reflect the differences in the communities those schools serve, not large differences in school quality or effectiveness. Once family background has been separated, the large performance differences between deciles disappear; however, high- and underperforming schools still exist across all deciles.

Another noteworthy finding was that when evaluated on University Entrance results, 42 decile 1 and 2 schools outperformed 75% of every other secondary school in the country.

The purpose of our school performance tool is to show what can and should be

done with the world-leading data available in the IDI. We believe the insights gained from our tool should be provided to all schools, principals and boards of trustees by the Ministry of Education.

If used by the Ministry, our tool could provide annual reports to every secondary in the country to give fair and objective information on their performance, evaluate the work of the Education Review Office, inform boards of trustees and principals, monitor new teaching methods, and even give career advice.

New Zealand has the means to identify top-performing and poor performing schools using IDI data and learn lessons from their successes and failures.

This report, alongside the corresponding technical report, *Separating School and Family*, is the first of many future reports on improving school performance and education outcomes in New Zealand.



Seeing the problem, but missing the point: Decile dilemmas

Dr Eric Crampton

With the government's announcement that New Zealand's decile-based school funding system would be replaced, by 2021, by a funding formula tied to

student risk factors, Dr **Eric Crampton** responded with this research note saying the government is right to erase the stigma attached to lower decile schools.

While lower decile schools fare worse in league tables of NCEA performance, those performance differences are largely due to factors outside of the school's control. The Initiative's report, *In Fairness to our Schools*, shows that more than 40 percent of decile 1 and 2 schools are in the top 25 percent of overall school performance – once factors outside of the school's control are properly accounted for. There are excellent schools across the decile ranks, as is hidden underperformance in higher decile schools.

While it can make sense for funding to be linked to individual pupil characteristics rather than the neighbourhood characteristics, the proposals do little to solve the underlying problems. Eric highlighted how the Ministry of Education could (if allowed by the government) provide reports to school principals and Boards of Trustees of every secondary school in the country telling them how well their school is performing. It could detail the school's performance over time, both on average and for targeted and at-risk cohorts.

If this data were to be shared with parents, they would then be empowered

to look beyond deciles and NCEA league tables when deciding where to educate their child. They could quickly tell whether the local school is among the wide band of schools performing about as well as expected, one of the star performers or whether it needs to improve. This would not only end decile stigma, it would help teachers, leaders and school boards to govern and improve their schools.



The Price is Right: The road to a better transport system

Dr Patrick Carvalho

New Zealand needs a land transport system that is fit for purpose. That means a wide range of transport options that are safe, reliable, environmentally friendly and cost-effective. The current transport environment, however, fails to hit that mark.

We need to, and we can, do better.

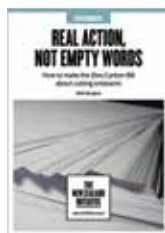
The Price is Right showed how a road pricing system – where users pay charges based on distance, time, location and vehicle type and weight – can promote transport funding transparency and accountability and address the increasing traffic congestion woes in New Zealand.

Road pricing enhances the mobility of commerce and community. It means higher productivity growth (i.e. higher wages and lower living costs): faster, safer and more reliable road trips, appropriate incentives for public transport and active travel modes, and lower carbon emissions.

In return, the public should expect the government to commit to a revenue-neutral system – whereby every net dollar raised through congestion charges would be offset by, say, a dollar less through property rate collection or lower fuel prices.

Congestion pricing is not a new concept, with close to 100 years of academic research and plenty of international case studies validating it. In New Zealand, politicians across the spectrum are in favour of congestion charges, and both the Tax Working Group and the Productivity Commission have proposed congestion charges as an efficient way to modify behaviour and improve environmental quality.

A brave new world awaits us – but only if we transport ourselves in the right direction.



Real action, not empty words: How to make the Zero Carbon Bill about cutting emissions

Matt Burgess

New Zealand could be a leader in global emissions reduction. We could lower global emissions by far more than we contribute. We could achieve net zero emissions sooner than 2050. We must simply be prepared to do what works by partnering with or funding the best sources of emissions reduction and removals wherever they are in the world.

But New Zealand is about close the door on global leadership.

Emissions must be reduced domestically “as far as possible,” says the Bill, regardless of how many more tonnes of greenhouse gases could be avoided offshore. Such parochialism has consequences: \$300 billion potentially added to the cost of reducing emissions to net zero; national income as much as 6 percent lower in 2050; a drastic reduction in New Zealand’s ability to influence global emissions; and the near-certain failure to achieve our emissions targets. In short, higher emissions and a material fall in living standards. Whatever the moral case for reducing emissions on this side of the border, it should be weighed against

the real impact of forgoing international cooperation on the environment.

Our report proposed three simple amendments to the Zero Carbon Bill that will give priority to emissions reduction and neutralise the Bill’s constitutional risk:

1. Require effective action by introducing an overarching objective for both the Minister and the Commission that requires **exercising their powers for “effective and efficient” emissions reductions and removals.**
2. **Remove section 5W** to eliminate the domestic preference, allowing emissions reduction through the most effective combination of domestic and offshore mitigation.
3. **Remove sections 5ZD–5ZF** to eliminate the requirement that the Minister for Climate Change plan emissions reduction. The Commission and the Minister will be free to prepare plans, and give effect to them by way of Acts of Parliament, the appropriate level of scrutiny for such far-reaching powers.

These three amendments can make the Zero Carbon Bill about cutting emissions, and increase New Zealand’s contribution to global emissions reduction by a factor of 20. Without them, the Zero Carbon Bill will be a costly but ineffective

exercise. It will amount to little more than empty words.



Ignorance is not bliss: Why knowledge matters (and why we may not have enough of it)

Briar Lipson

Although information is readily available nowadays, our basic knowledge of subjects like geography, history, and maths is low, according to *Ignorance is not bliss*.

To get a glimpse of the state of general knowledge in New Zealand, the Initiative commissioned a representative survey of 1,000 voting-age New Zealanders. Respondents were asked 13 general knowledge questions. The results provide a snapshot of Kiwis' general knowledge, and some of the results were surprising.

Though it is encouraging that 85 percent know New Zealand was the first country to give women the vote, and 90 percent that Winston Churchill was a real, not fictional, character, there are serious gaps in what Kiwis know:

- Three in ten adult New Zealanders do not know that dinosaurs had already died out before the first humans appeared.

- Just over half of adult New Zealanders know that the earth takes a year to circle the sun.
- Fewer than a third of adult New Zealanders know the year the Treaty of Waitangi was signed.

The survey also exposed significant gaps in basic mathematical, medical and scientific knowledge. This has implications for our political debates.

While there may be disagreement about the relevance of some of the survey questions, we hope there is a consensus that to participate meaningfully in society, some basic knowledge of the world is required, said **Briar Lipson**.

A subsequent research report, to be released in 2020, will further explore whether New Zealand's curriculum is fit for purpose.

Submissions

In 2019, the Initiative made submissions to:

- The Independent Expert Advisory Panel on Phase 2 of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand Act Review
- The New Zealand Productivity Commission on their Local Government Funding and Financing Issues Paper
- The Reserve Bank of New Zealand on The Review of the Capital Adequacy Framework for locally incorporated banks: How much capital is enough?
- The Environment Committee on the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill (one written submission and one oral submission to the Environment Select Committee)
- The Minister of Finance, the Minister of Revenue, and the Inland Revenue Department on the 'Options' for taxing the digital economy' discussion document
- The Independent Expert Advisory Panel on the second round of consultation on Phase 2 of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand Act Review
- The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on Designing a Fair Pay Agreements System Discussion Paper

A person in a dark suit is seen from the back, standing in a blurred crowd. The text "OUR ENGAGEMENT" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif font.

OUR ENGAGEMENT

Engagement with members

We held five members' meetings and hosted several other high-level speakers in 2019. These meetings provided members the opportunity to hear from and engage with politicians, industry experts and international speakers on a wide range of topics.

In 2019, we hosted the following guest speakers:



Mark Hauptmann
German MP for the Christian Democratic Union (CDU)



Barbara Oakley
Professor of Engineering at Oakland University in Michigan



Adrian Orr
Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand



Hon. Phil Twyford
Minister of Infrastructure and Economic Development



Jonathan Haidt
US psychologist and author



Hon. Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance



Kirk Hope
BusinessNZ CEO



Events

Localism Symposium (February)

On 28 February, we hosted a Localism Symposium alongside Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).

The symposium was attended by more than 130 delegates, who heard from local government, business and private sector leaders about how much better New Zealand's government could be by adopting localism.

Christchurch Mayor **Lianne Dalziel** spoke about the importance of localism. She said building resilience at the community level means trusting people to make their own

decisions. "Start with what you've got, harness that community energy before you look outside for solutions."

Attendees heard from panelists **Fraser Whineray** (Mercury Chief Executive), **Arapeta Tahana** (Bay of Plenty Regional Councillor), **Fran O'Sullivan** (Journalist), **Kirk Hope** (BusinessNZ Chief Executive), and **Geoff Simmons** (Economist) as they each shared their perspectives on localism.

Attendees were asked to review and provide feedback on the draft discussion paper on localism put together by the Initiative

and LGNZ. Once finalised, the paper was presented at LGNZ's annual conference in July. This paper discussed how localism could work in practice in New Zealand.

The symposium was the perfect place for Dr **Oliver Hartwich** to launch *#localismNZ: Bringing power to the people*. Written in an essay-style, *#localismNZ* discusses a localism where more public policy decisions are made locally, and both local and central government have incentives to do what is good for the country.





Members' Retreat (March)

Our seventh annual members' retreat was held at the Villa Maria Estate in Auckland on 21–22 March and attended by around 70 of our members.

This year's retreat had a strong focus on both national and international politics, with an impressive line-up of speakers sharing their views.

From an international perspective, we were joined by **Tom Switzer**, Executive Director of the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney, and **Jacqueline Maley** from *The Sydney Morning Herald*. They shared their views on the approaching Australian elections and gave their predictions.

The **Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper**, Canadian Prime Minister (2006–15), gave the retreat

dinner address. He provided his insights on politics in the age of disruption and answered questions from an audience of around 120 guests. The following day, Harper was joined by New Zealand's former Prime Minister **Rt. Hon. Sir Bill English** for a more informal conversation about their political careers and geopolitics.

On the local front, attendees heard from National's Education Spokesperson **Nikki Kaye** on how our world-leading education research could be used to shape education policy in New Zealand.

Leader of the Opposition **Simon Bridges** spoke to us about the National Party's plans for the remainder of the parliamentary term, and Housing Minister **Phil Twyford** joined

us to discuss planning reform and the new infrastructure finance models.

The members also heard about the slightly different perspective on the current state of New Zealand politics from two former Chiefs of Staffs (**GJ Thompson** and **Wayne Eagleson**) who have worked with three of our Prime Ministers.

Three of the Initiative's researchers spoke about their work on education, freshwater management and renewable energy. Executive Director Dr **Oliver Hartwich** gave an update on the Initiative and its research.



Tomorrow's Schools panel discussion (April)

On 1 April, along with the Faculty of Education at Victoria University of Wellington, we hosted a panel discussion on the Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce review.

During the panel discussion, chaired by Research Fellow **Briar Lipson** and Victoria University's Associate Dean (Economic) in the School of Education, **Dr Michael Johnston**, we explored some of the assumptions on which the taskforce has based its findings and some possible consequences of its recommendations – intended and otherwise.

The panelists included:

- **Gregor Fountain**, Principal of Wellington College
- **Gary Hawke**, retired Head of the School of Government and Professor of Economic History at Victoria University
- Professor **John O'Neil**, Taskforce member and Head of the Institute of Education at Massey University
- **Neil Paviour-Smith**, Board Chair of Wadestown School and Chancellor of Victoria University
- **Michele Whiting**, Principal of Corinna School, Porirua

Members' Lunch with Adrian Orr, Reserve Bank Governor (May)

On 10 May we hosted a Members' Lunch with Reserve Bank Governor **Adrian Orr** at Forsyth Bar.

Adrian has been the Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) for a year now. This period coincides with some of the most significant reforms to the RBNZ in decades. With this much change happening at the RBNZ, it was the perfect time for the more than

40 members who attended the lunch to hear from Adrian about his vision for the Bank's future role in the New Zealand economy.

The Initiative has been making a lot of noise about the dangers of the RBNZ's proposed new capital requirements, and naturally these issues were discussed in depth at the lunch.





Public Lecture with Professor Barbara Oakley (May)

We hosted Dr **Barbara Oakley** on 1 May at the University of Auckland. More than 200 people came to hear Barbara, a Professor of Engineering at Oakland University in Michigan, talk about her own inspiring life story, the science of learning, and her extraordinary success with the online course *Learning how to learn: Powerful mental tools to help you master tough subjects*, which has helped more than 2 million people worldwide.

Using science and her experience as a learner and teacher, Barbara has distilled the

ingredients of effective learning. They include finding the right balance between focused learning and time to digest new information. She recommends delivering knowledge in bite-size pieces instead of encouraging “binge-learning”. She stresses the importance of practice and rehearsal.

From a neuroscientific perspective, the challenge for learners is to ensure new information gets stored permanently in the brain. There is little point to learning things only to forget them quickly. Barbara’s

methods are geared towards hard-wiring new knowledge in the brain.

Like every good teacher, she knows how to convey her message in an engaging and even entertaining way. It is not often that a professor of engineering captivates and mesmerises a large audience, but she did just that in Auckland.

Before our event, Barbara spoke to Duncan Garner on *The AM Show* about the science of learning.

Denmark delegation (June)

After more than 12 months of planning, our Discover Denmark business delegation were thrilled to depart for Copenhagen. During the week, 37 of our members and the Initiative's leadership team got a first-hand look at what makes Denmark one of the most successful small countries in the world.

The delegates had the opportunity to meet and engage with local politicians, top business leaders, and officials across many industries to gain an understanding of what drives the country's success, to understand its weaknesses, and to see how their challenges were overcome.

Some of the organisations who hosted the delegation were the Danish

Chamber of Commerce, the Centre for Political Studies, LEGO, Maersk, and Carlsberg. Host industries included a technology and robotics cluster. One day was focused entirely on Denmark's renewable energy successes with visits to the Middelgrunden offshore wind farm and the Amager Resource Center.



Members' Lunch with Hon. Phil Twyford (July)

We held a Members' lunch at Bell Gully on 15 July with **Hon. Phil Twyford**. The Minister spoke to about 40 of our members and gave an overview of the government's development agenda.





Jonathan Haidt (August)

We were delighted to support renowned US psychologist Dr **Jonathan Haidt**'s visit to New Zealand in August.

Both *Foreign Policy* and *Prospectus Magazine* have listed Haidt among their World's Top 100 public intellectuals. Haidt rose to fame with his book *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided on Politics and Religion*. In its review, *The New York Times* called the book "a landmark contribution to humanity's understanding of itself." *The Righteous Mind* has gained widespread praise from commentators left, right and centre.

Haidt has since published extensively on threats to academic freedom and the polarisation of political debate on campus. His latest book (with Greg Lukianoff) is *The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure*.

At his lunchtime lecture in Wellington, hosted by the NZX, Haidt discussed the



grim reality of politics in the US, saying the polarisation between the Republicans and the Democrats has reached such levels that the two groups can barely talk to each other anymore.

Referring to the research in *The Coddling of the American Mind*, Haidt said Americans have forgotten how to deal with conflict and how to value constructive disagreement. Worse, the problem starts earlier than we might think. Children are being bubble-wrapped by their helicopter parents, they can't play without supervision, and they don't learn how to settle their differences with their peers. With the rise of social media and university students demanding protection from uncomfortable views, Haidt warned us about the psychological harm to the generation growing up like this, not to mention evidence of the alarming increase in mental health issues among young Americans.

Members' Lunch with Hon. Grant Robertson (October)

The Initiative, and our member NZX, hosted Finance Minister **Grant Robertson** in Wellington. He spoke to around 40 of our members about Labour's policy agenda and the party's plans ahead of the 2020 election.



Members' Lunch with Kirk Hope (November)

Our final members lunch of the year was held on 15 November and consisted of a conversation between BusinessNZ CEO **Kirk Hope** and the Initiative's Dr **Oliver Hartwich**. The pair, interviewed by journalist **Fran O'Sullivan**, discussed the state of politics, our economy, and the 2020 election in front of 40 of our members.

Media

In 2019, our team produced more research than any of the previous seven years. As the organisation, and our research team, became more widely known, and our research striking a chord with more people, we enjoyed many opportunities to discuss and debate the big policy issues across the media spectrum.

A change in the format of our research meant we were able to respond more quickly to policy announcements throughout the year. By introducing shorter reports – in the form of research notes and policy points, we have been able to provide commentary on the day of, or in the day's following important announcements. For example, we were able to comment on KiwiBuild, Capital Gains Tax, Tomorrow's Schools review, teachers' strikes, the response from the Interim Climate Change Committee, vocational education, the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's monetary policy, the school decile debate, and New Zealand's knowledge problem.

Along with our researchers appearing regularly in print, on air and on our television screens, our two international speakers were also popular with New Zealand's media. Ahead of her lecture in Auckland to 200 people, **Barbara Oakley**, a Professor of Engineering from Oakland University in Michigan, spoke on *The AM Show* about the science of learning and the extraordinary success of her online course, *Learning how to learn*.

In August, we supported renowned American psychologist **Jonathan Haidt's** visit to New Zealand. He spoke at events in Auckland and Wellington; for those unable

to attend his lectures, he spoke on Q+A, *The AM Show* and *The Project* about his research and books, *The Righteous Mind* and *The Coddling of the American Mind*.

We didn't slow down on our traditional in-depth research either, with the team writing reports on localism, renewable energy, freshwater management, Fair Pay Agreements, the night-time economy, school performance, road pricing, and the Zero Carbon Bill.

We enjoyed the opportunity to launch two of our education reports on popular current affairs shows. *In Fairness to our Schools* (school performance vs. family background)





on *Newshub Nation* and *Ignorance is not Bliss* (New Zealand's general knowledge skills) on Q+A, both started robust debates with the public and within the education sector. This was the aim of these reports, and we'll be releasing more research on these topics in 2020 that we believe will further the debates, and ultimately result in policy change and better education in New Zealand.

With weekly columns in *Newsroom* and *The National Business Review*, and Dr **Eric Crampton's** fortnightly column in *The Dominion Post*, the team have been able to reach a wide-ranging audience

and share their research on key policy issues and opinions on topical news stories. Opinion pieces were also published regularly in *The New Zealand Herald*, on *The Spinoff*, and in various industry publications – especially in the education and transport sectors.

Our media reach also extended internationally, with Dr **Oliver Hartwich** writing for Swiss news magazine, *Die Weltwoche*, and speaking on Australian-based news programmes about New Zealand politics, announcements made by our Treasury and the Reserve Bank, and Brexit. The Initiative had several

mentions in Danish newspapers when our delegation visited the country in June.

Our social media following has continued to grow throughout the year and continues to be another platform to share the research we are undertaking and what we are saying in the media. Our Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and You Tube followers grow each month, and we believe these platforms are another important engagement tool we can use to increase our visibility and explain how our research and recommendations are helping create a more prosperous New Zealand for all New Zealanders.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR

JAN

14 JANUARY

Briar Lipson's opinion piece in *The New Zealand Herald* said it is time for trustees, teachers parents and grandparents to speak up about the recommendations from the Tomorrow's Schools taskforce – before it is too late.

21 JANUARY

In an interview on *Newstalk ZB*, Dr **Oliver Hartwich** commented on Jacinda Ardern's meeting with her British counterpart, Prime Minister Theresa May, in London and said it is an important chance to discuss our post-Brexit trading relationship.

22 JANUARY

We released our first research note on KiwiBuild. Dr **Bryce Wilkinson** found that KiwiBuild is a massive distraction from what is really needed – direct action to reduce land values and construction costs. The report was covered on *Newstalk ZB*, *Radio NZ*, *Stuff*, *The New Zealand Herald*, and *TVNZ Breakfast*. The ACT Party also supported the report with a press release.

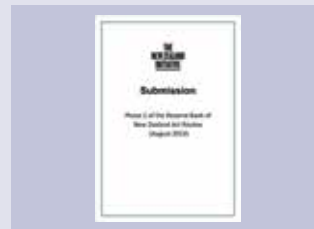


24 JANUARY

Dr **Eric Crampton's** opinion piece in *The Dominion Post* corrected Oxfam's misleading figures on global wealth inequality, saying that contrary to Oxfam's report, both rich and poor became less wealthy in New Zealand last year.

25 JANUARY

Roger Partridge and Dr **Bryce Wilkinson** prepared a submission to the Independent Expert Advisory Panel on Phase 2 of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand Act Review.



28 JANUARY

At a Rotary lunch event in Wellington, **Jenesa Jeram** spoke on the findings from her research on New Zealand Superannuation.



FEB

15 FEBRUARY

Dr **Bryce Wilkinson** and Dr **Patrick Carvalho** prepared a submission to the New Zealand Productivity Commission on its Local Government Funding and Financing inquiry.

19 FEBRUARY

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** participated in the "Post Brexit – New Trading opportunities in the EU" panel discussion hosted by the German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce.



21 FEBRUARY

The Tax Working Group's final report was released. To coincide with this, we released our first Policy Point, *The Pitfalls of CGT*. Dr **Patrick Carvalho** argued that this headline rate would push New Zealand to the top of the international CGT rankings among industrialised economies.



MAR

22 FEBRUARY

Dr **Patrick Carvalho** discussed the Tax Working Group's report proposals on a capital gains tax in an interview with Peter Williams on *Magic Talk*.

27 FEBRUARY

Dr **Eric Crampton** talked to *Newstalk ZB* about the rise of ticket scalping and shared his advice for those looking for tickets on the resale market.

28 FEBRUARY

In an opinion piece published in *The Dominion Post*, *The Press* and on *Stuff*, **Joel Hernandez** said school deciles are a blunt instrument for school choice.



28 FEBRUARY

The Initiative hosted a localism symposium alongside Local Government New Zealand. 130 attendees heard from local government, business and private sector leaders about the benefits of a more devolved society. Dr **Oliver Hartwich** also launched our report *#localismNZ: Bringing power to the people*. He spoke about the report on *Newstalk ZB*, and the report was covered in *The New Zealand Herald*, *Newsroom* and on *Māori Television*.



4 MARCH

Dr **Bryce Wilkinson's** column, "The mixed success of New Zealand's economic liberalisation", was published in the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) journal.

12 MARCH

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** spoke on *Newstalk ZB* about Brexit, following UK Prime Minister **Theresa May's** meeting with the European Commission President **Jean-Claude Juncker**.

18 MARCH

We released a special *Insights Extra* newsletter to acknowledge the Christchurch terror attack. Dr **Oliver Hartwich** said Prime Minister **Jacinda Ardern** beautifully captured why this was an attack on all New Zealand in just three words, "They are us".

20 MARCH

Following the devastating massacre in Christchurch, Dr **Eric Crampton's** opinion piece in *The New Zealand Herald* said when every fibre screams revenge, turn to aroha.



21-22 MARCH

We held our seventh Members' retreat at the Villa Maria Estate in Auckland and were joined by 70 of our members. Former Prime Minister of Canada Rt. Hon. **Stephen Harper** (2006-15) was our dinner speaker, with 120 members and business leaders listening to his views on politics in the age of disruption.



28 MARCH

We launched our report, *Switched On! Achieving a green, affordable and reliable energy future*. **Matt Burgess** found that New Zealand is well placed to achieve 100 percent electricity generation using renewable sources by 2035 but warned that we must learn from costly international policy failures. Matt discussed his report on *Newstalk ZB* and in *The National Business Review*.



1 APRIL

We hosted a Tomorrow's Schools panel discussion on the consequences of the Independent Taskforce's recommendations. The panel consisted of school principals, a Board of Trustee member, and academics. The event was co-chaired by Research Fellow **Briar Lipson** and Victoria University's Dr **Michael Johnston**.



8 APRIL

Ahead of her public lecture in Auckland on 1 May, Professor **Barbara Oakley** spoke on *Radio New Zealand* saying when children and teenagers understand how they learn, "we can blow open their sense of possibility."



8 APRIL

We released a research note on the Tomorrow's Schools review, *Tomorrow's Schools: Data and Evidence*. **Joel Hernandez** outlined our comprehensive, year-long data analysis of 400,000 students that revealed no significant differences in school performance between schools of different deciles. The media coverage was extensive with the report discussed on *The AM Show*, *Breakfast*, *Q+A*, *Newstalk ZB*, *Newshub*, and *Radio New Zealand*, and supported by a press release by Education Spokesperson Hon. **Nikki Kaye**.



9 APRIL

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** spoke at an event run by Presbyterian Support Northern, and discussed our education research and the current political landscape.

15 APRIL

The Initiative hosted a small lunch with **Mark Hauptmann**, a German MP, for several Wellington-based members and media. He shared his views on international trade and German politics.



18 APRIL

In an opinion article on *The Spinoff*, Dr **Eric Crampton** wrote about how an OIA laid bare the pork barrel shambles that is **Shane Jones'** Provincial Growth Fund.



18 APRIL

The Dominion Post published **Joel Hernandez'** opinion piece about the problems with the 2018 Census. He argued that good evidence-based policy depends on reliable and robust data. Having failed to count more than 700,000 individuals, the 2018 Census failed all New Zealanders.



30 APRIL

Dr **Eric Crampton** shared on the *Radio New Zealand Nights* his thoughts on the government's recent decision not to pursue a capital gains tax.

MAY

1 MAY

We hosted a public lecture with Professor **Barbara Oakley**, co-creator of the world's most popular online course: *Learning how to learn*, at the University of Auckland. She discussed the science behind how we learn, and how we can apply this research in the classroom to an engaged audience of 200 people.



1 MAY

Matt Burgess discussed on *Breakfast* the government's 100 percent renewables policy as we waited for the Interim Climate Change Committee's (ICCC) report to be released.

3 MAY

Professor **Barbara Oakley** contributed a column to our *Insights* newsletter. In *Keys, Please! Opening the door to New Zealand's future*, she wrote about the enormous advances that have been made to help people avoid frustration and learn more efficiently.

6 MAY

Dr **Eric Crampton** discussed the cannabis referendum, and legalisation, with **Mike Yardley** on *Newstalk ZB*.

7 MAY

We released the first of two reports on New Zealand's freshwater management. In *Refreshing Water: Valuing the priceless*, Dr **Eric Crampton** proposed a cap-and-trade system for managing water allocations. The report was covered by *Newstalk ZB*, *Radio New Zealand*, *Newshub*, *Ngati Porou radio*, and *Farmers Weekly*. Three expert commentators shared their supportive views on the report in the Science Media Centre's e-newsletter.



10 MAY

We hosted **Adrian Orr**, Governor of the Reserve Bank, for a Members' Lunch in Auckland, with more than 40 members attending.



13 MAY

We welcomed Education Minister **Chris Hipkins'** NCEA Change Package in a media release, as it mirrored many of the recommendations in **Briar Lipson's** 2018 report, *Spoiled by Choice: How NCEA hampers education*, and what it needs to succeed, for example, strengthening literacy and numeracy requirements.



16 MAY

Roger Partridge made a submission to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand on *The Review of the Capital Adequacy Framework for locally incorporated banks: How much capital is enough?*

20 MAY

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** wrote about the Australian election in an opinion article for Swiss magazine *Die Weltwoche*.

24 MAY

Victoria University of Wellington's Policy Quarterly published Dr **Oliver Hartwich's** essay, *From Localism Towards Localism: A personal journey of policy discovery*.



28 MAY

A day before the mega teachers' strike, Dr **Eric Crampton** proposed a potential solution in his policy point, *Biting education bullets*.

29 MAY

Roger Partridge argued in *The Australian Financial Review* that the Reserve Bank of New Zealand is a monetary policy setter and prudential regulator whose governor doesn't answer to its board.

31 MAY

In an opinion piece published in *The Dominion Post*, *The Press*, and on *Stuff*, Dr **Eric Crampton** wrote about Budget 2019 and the importance of evaluating outcomes.

JUN

4 JUNE

The New Zealand Herald published **Briar Lipson's** opinion article where she emphasised that school performance data is the key to collaboration as the Education Minister progresses the Tomorrow's Schools Review.



5 JUNE

Dr Patrick Carvalho wrote a column on road pricing in New Zealand for *The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport* magazine. He said if appropriately done, road charges based on distance, time and location are an effective tool to improve the lives of commuters, and the productivity of the economy. What we need now is the political will and courage to implement these changes.



7 JUNE

In an opinion piece for *The Spinoff*, **Dr Eric Crampton** wrote that Treasury needed a recovery, and a rebuild. He said the job facing the incoming Chief Executive will be exceptionally challenging, which is why it is so important to get the appointment right.



11 JUNE

New Zealand attracted global attention after unveiling a "world-first" wellbeing budget based on priorities such as mental health and child poverty instead of the usual growth and jobs. In an interview on Australia's *ABC Business News*, **Dr Oliver Hartwich** discussed how New Zealand's Treasury and Reserve Bank can implement such a budget.



12 JUNE

Dr Oliver Hartwich participated in a Brexit panel discussion at an event hosted by PwC. The panel share their thoughts on what the next steps might be, the implications and how it could affect trade between New Zealand, Europe and the UK.



13 JUNE

We announced the appointment of **Barbara Chapman** CNZM to Deputy Chair of the Initiative's Board of Directors.



19 JUNE

Matt Burgess presented the findings from his report on the government's proposed 100 percent renewable energy policy at an event run by the Energy Retailers' Association.



23-29 JUNE

Three dozen of our members, and the Initiative's leadership team, embarked on a business delegation to Denmark to get a first-hand look at what makes it one of the world's most successful small countries. The delegation met with a wide range of Danish companies and their leaders, including LEGO, Carlsberg and Maersk. They learned about Denmark's renewable energy generation and visited one of Europe's leading robotics clusters.



JUL

4 JULY

In a media release, we congratulated the Productivity Commission's draft report on local government funding and financing inquiry. We agreed with the Commission's conclusions that new funding mechanisms are needed to help local authorities fund growth-related infrastructure and additional responsibilities imposed on them by central government.

5 JULY

Joel Hernandez presented his research from *Separating school from family: Evaluating the effects of school and family background on student performance* at the New Zealand Association of Economists conference.



7 JULY

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) released their localism discussion paper at their annual conference. In a supportive media release, we highlighted our localism research, such as the 2015 report, *In the Zone*, that outlined ways of letting local government take up greater responsibility where building in both accountability and appropriate incentives.

9 JULY

We released *Work in Progress: Why Fair Pay Agreements would be bad for labour*. Co-authored by **Roger Partridge** and Dr **Bryce Wilkinson**, the report outlined how evidence and academic literature suggest FPAs would be likely to harm productivity and would be contrary to the interests of workers, the unemployed, consumers, and overall wellbeing.



15 JULY

Minister for Economic Development and Urban Development and Transport Hon. **Phil Twyford** attended a Members' Lunch in Wellington, hosted by Bell Gully. He discussed the government's development agenda to 40 of our members.



15 JULY

In an interview on *Newstalk ZB*, Dr **Eric Crampton** discussed the obstacles facing owners of heritage-listed buildings and the need to help them.

16 JULY

In a media release, we welcomed the government's decision to shift focus away from 100 percent renewable electricity to other more effective and less expensive emissions policies.

16 JULY

Matt Burgess made a submission to the Environment Committee on the Climate Change (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.

18 JULY

Dr **Eric Crampton** made a submission to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Revenue, and the Inland Revenue Department on the "Options for taxing the digital economy" discussion document.



22 JULY

As a regular commentator on *Radio New Zealand Nights*, Dr **Eric Crampton** discussed the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) database and how it might be best used to inform government policy.

22 JULY

Joel Hernandez wrote an opinion piece for *EducationCentral* on school choice and the National Education Plan (NEGP) following the announcement that in the next ten years, 100,000 more children are expected to enrol in New Zealand schools.

23 JULY

In an opinion piece for *Stuff*, Dr **Eric Crampton** wrote that unaffordable housing is holding New Zealand back.

25 JULY

We released our research note, *When the facts change: How the ICC saved New Zealand from a policy disaster*. **Matt Burgess** explained why he applauds the government's decision to follow the ICC's advice to put the 100 percent renewables policy on ice and prioritise other more effective emissions policies.

AUG

1 AUGUST

The Initiative supported US psychologist Dr **Jonathan Haidt**'s visit to New Zealand. His public lecture, "Moral Psychology in an Age of Outrage", in Auckland was attended by more than 600 people.



2 AUGUST

At a members' event in Wellington, Dr **Jonathan Haidt** spoke to 80 of the Initiative's members and invited guests about the grim reality of politics in the US, the value of constructive disagreement, and research from his latest book, *The Coddling of the American Mind*.



9 AUGUST

In an opinion piece on *Stuff*, Dr **Eric Crampton** argued if we make vaping regulation too strict, it will be easier to just keep smoking.

9 AUGUST

After the Reserve Bank dropped the official cash rate to 1 percent, Dr **Oliver Hartwich** discussed what this meant, and how it would affect people's savings, home loans, and credit card debt in an interview on *Newstalk ZB*.

12 AUGUST

As headlines about negative interest rates dominated the news, Dr **Oliver Hartwich** appeared on *Breakfast* to explain what negative interest rates are, and what they could mean for New Zealand's economy.



13 AUGUST

We released *The Unreserved Bank of New Zealand: Why unorthodox monetary policy needs boundaries*. Co-authored by Dr **Oliver Hartwich**, Dr **Eric Crampton** and macroeconomics Professor **Robert MacCulloch**, the research note argued that with the Reserve Bank signalling its preparation for unconventional monetary policies, such as negative interest rates, such a move required urgent clarification of the Remit given to the RBNZ's Monetary Policy Committee.

13 AUGUST

Dr **Eric Crampton** discussed where and how we need to raise the quality of our economic advice to policy decision-makers at a Government Economic Network (GEN) event.



16 AUGUST

Roger Partridge and Dr **Bryce Wilkinson** made a second submission on Phase 2 of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand Act Review.

16 AUGUST

Natanael Rother outlined his upcoming research note on dual education in a column for *The National Business Review*. He said it was laudable the government had put reforming our underachieving vocational sector on their agenda, but issues still needed to be addressed.

20 AUGUST

We launched *Living after Midnight: For a better night-time environment*. The report outlined New Zealand's current antiquated way of regulating nightlife, and highlighted international examples where cities have come up with successful ways to enable a thriving and safe nightlife. The report generated extensive media coverage in print and on radio and TV.



20 AUGUST

In a media release, we praised the government's announcement of an Independent Parliamentary Budget Office. It mirrored a recommendation we first made in our 2014 report, *Guarding the Public Purse: Faster growth, greater fiscal discipline*.

21 AUGUST

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** presented at the Infrastructure New Zealand “Building Nations” conference on localism and housing.



22 AUGUST

Following the announcement of a Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), Dr **Eric Crampton** wrote on *The Spinoff* that the PBO should be just the beginning. While the proposal was good, major work is still required to ensure the office is a success and achieves as much good as it can.

23 AUGUST

In his fortnightly *Stuff* column, Dr **Eric Crampton** continued to remind readers about the problems with BERL's decade-old measure of alcohol's social cost.



23 AUGUST

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** met with German MP **Ulrich Lechte**, a member of the Free Democrat Party (FDP). The pair discussed New Zealand's political system and the state of global trade.



27 AUGUST

An Australian Political Exchange Group visiting New Zealand met with Dr **Oliver Hartwich** to discuss the political, social, economic and cultural systems of our two countries.

29 AUGUST

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** spoke on *Newstalk ZB* about Brexit following UK Prime Minister **Boris Johnson's** plan to close parliament.



29 AUGUST

We released *Hands-on: New suggestions to reform the vocational sector in New Zealand* in response to the government's announcement to reform our vocational education sector. **Natanael Rother** said while the goal is laudable, there are still concerns that need to be addressed.



29-30 AUGUST

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** attended The Centre for Independent Studies (CIS) annual Consilium in Australia. He presented on localism, housing affordability, and Brexit.



30 AUGUST

Matt Burgess spoke to his submission on the Climate Change (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill in front of the Environment Select Committee.

5 SEPTEMBER

A member of The Heritage Foundation, based in Washington, D.C., visited our office to meet Dr **Eric Crampton** and Dr **Patrick Carvalho** and discuss our work. Eric recorded a podcast on our 2017 essay, *The Outside of the Asylum: A New Zealander's guide to the world* out there for their listeners.

11 SEPTEMBER

Dr **Eric Crampton** spoke on *Newstalk ZB* about New Zealand's education spend, following a report finding that New Zealand spends 5.5% of our national income on schooling the seventh highest in the OECD.

13 SEPTEMBER

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** chaired a session at the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF) on trans-Tasman economics.

17 SEPTEMBER

On a panel interview for *Radio New Zealand*, Dr **Eric Crampton** discussed a Universal Basic Income (UBI) and whether it would work in New Zealand.

OCT

18 SEPTEMBER

Dr **Eric Crampton** was invited to speak at Water New Zealand's annual conference in Hamilton. He discussed his report *Refreshing Water: Valuing the priceless* (May 2019) and his forthcoming report on nutrient management.



21 SEPTEMBER

We launched a new report, *In Fairness to our Schools: Better measures for better outcomes*, with an exclusive interview by Dr **Oliver Hartwich** on *Newshub Nation*. Oliver explained how our school performance tool could provide fair and objective information to every secondary school on their individual performance to make education in New Zealand fairer for all students.



23 SEPTEMBER

Dr **Eric Crampton** discussed the findings from our education report, *In Fairness to our Schools*, on TVNZ *Breakfast* and informed viewers about how we have used the country's largest research database to fairly and objectively compare low- and high-decile schools something that has never been done in New Zealand before.



25 SEPTEMBER

When the government announced that New Zealand's decile-based funding system would be replaced by a funding formula tied to student risk factors, Dr **Eric Crampton** published a research note, *Seeing the problem, but missing the point: Decile dilemmas*. He said the government had identified two real problems but missed a substantial opportunity for more effective reform.



1 OCTOBER

Joel Hernandez' report, *In Fairness to our Schools: Better measures for better outcomes*, was highlighted in the October issue of the *STA News* magazine, which goes to school trustees throughout New Zealand.



4 OCTOBER

In his column for *Stuff*, Dr **Eric Crampton** wrote about how a construction company tried to silence Whenuapai Air Base.



4 OCTOBER

The New Zealand Herald published **Joel Hernandez'** column on the better ways to measure school performance. The column showed findings from his report, *In Fairness to our Schools*, and explained how there are high-performing schools across all ten deciles.

7 OCTOBER

We held a Members' Lunch with Finance Minister **Grant Robertson**. The Minister spoke to around 40 of our members about Labour's policy agenda and the party's plans ahead of the 2020 election.



7 OCTOBER

Joel Hernandez presented the findings from his report, *In Fairness to our Schools: Better measures for better outcomes*, at a Government Economics Network (GEN) session in Wellington.



11 OCTOBER

Dr **Eric Crampton** spoke to *Newstalk ZB* about the Provincial Growth Fund and the \$50 million that has been spent on feasibility studies.

NOV

16 OCTOBER

Dr **Patrick Carvalho**'s opinion piece on Facebook's Libra and the new currency wars was published on *The New Zealand Herald*.



16 OCTOBER

At the Financial Services Federation conference, Dr **Oliver Hartwich** presented on economic policy in unsettling times.

22 OCTOBER

The Initiative and Mercury hosted a reunion dinner for our members who travelled to Denmark in June. The group discussed what they took away from the trip and the drafted paper from Dr **Oliver Hartwich** on the overall learnings.

23 OCTOBER

Kim Campbell, former EMA CEO, interviewed Dr **Oliver Hartwich** for his "Business at the speed of coffee" show. Oliver discussed why the work of the Initiative is so important and highlighted some of the challenges we face. He also provided insights into his upbringing in Germany, and his career path that brought him to Wellington and to the Initiative.

24 OCTOBER

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** met a group of students from Nelson College and discussed the importance of our work as a think tank, New Zealand politics, and our economy.

25 OCTOBER

On *Stuff*, Dr **Eric Crampton** highlighted our upcoming report on energy with a column on how the Government's Zero Carbon Bill will shut the door on New Zealand opportunities.



5 NOVEMBER

We released *The Price is Right: The road to a better transport system* by Dr **Patrick Carvalho**. The report made the case for road pricing and explained how it can promote transport funding transparency and accountability, while addressing the increasing traffic congestion on our roads. Dr **Oliver Hartwich** spoke about the report on *The AM Show* while Patrick spoke on *NBR Radio* and *Newstalk ZB*.



6 NOVEMBER

We released *Real action, not empty words: How to make the Zero Carbon Bill about cutting emissions*. **Matt Burgess** highlighted how New Zealand could be a leader in global emissions reduction, but the government is about to shut the door on global leadership. Matt spoke to *Newstalk ZB* and on *NBR Radio*.

8 NOVEMBER

In *The New Zealand Herald*, Dr **Patrick Carvalho** discussed how chronic road congestion is taking a toll on the mobility of goods, services and people in our urban centres, and costing us more than a billion dollars every year in wasted hours idling in traffic.



9 NOVEMBER

We released a special *Insights Extra* newsletter where Dr **Oliver Hartwich** marked the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, saying it remains the most important historical event of his lifetime. He followed this up with a column in *Newsroom* discussing idealism and the need for historical knowledge.



11 NOVEMBER

In a column for *The Dominion Post*, Dr **Eric Crompton** wrote how failing to get insurance prices right causes problems.

15 NOVEMBER

We held our final Members' Lunch of the year with a conversation between BusinessNZ CEO **Kirk Hope** and the Initiative's Dr **Oliver Hartwich**. The pair, interviewed by **Fran O'Sullivan**, discussed the state of politics, our economy, and the 2020 election.



18-20 NOVEMBER

Joel Hernandez presented at the New Zealand Association for Research in Education (NZARE) conference on his report, *In Fairness to Schools*, and how his school performance tool can, for the first time in New Zealand, fairly and objectively measure and compare low- and high-decile schools.

18 NOVEMBER

We released our research note, *Ignorance is not bliss: Why knowledge matters (and why we may not have enough of it)*.

Briar Lipson explained the results of a survey we commissioned, that tested the current state of general knowledge in New Zealand adults, and discussed the need for a more knowledge-rich curriculum in schools. Briar spoke on Q+A, *The AM Show*, *Newstalk ZB* and *Radio New Zealand*. The research was covered in *The New Zealand Herald*, *Stuff*, *The Spinoff* and on *Newshub*.



19 NOVEMBER

Following worrying comments from the President of the New Zealand Principals' Federation about knowledge in education, "*For a child in Bluff who might be interested in muttonbirds, they are not going to be interested in the fact that there are seven continents in the world...*" we responded with a media release saying these comments perfectly demonstrate the problem we want to highlight.

19 NOVEMBER

Dr **Eric Crompton** discussed the misery of a stifled housing market in his column for *Newsroom*. He says the government can pass whatever legislation it likes regarding the relationship between landlords and tenants. Some of it might make sense, but some of it might wind up harming the people it is intended to help.

22 NOVEMBER

Dr **Bryce Wilkinson** and Dr **Eric Crompton's** opinion piece, "It's not in our national interest to drive away investment from foreigners", on *Stuff* addressed Trade Minister **David Parker's** statements about tightening up New Zealand's foreign investment regime and explains the cause for concern.

25 NOVEMBER

Dr **Eric Crompton** wrote about why gender diversity in the boardroom won't always please investors in his fortnightly column for *The Dominion Post*.



26 NOVEMBER

Roger Partridge and Dr **Bryce Wilkinson** made a submission to MBIE on their "Designing a Fair Pay Agreements System" discussion paper. We issued a media release about the submission saying the Fair Pay proposals are too flawed to proceed. Roger spoke to *Newstalk ZB* about why FPAs are not the way to go in creating a highly skilled and innovative workforce.

27 NOVEMBER

The New Zealand Herald published **Roger Partridge's** opinion piece addressing worrying comments made by Education Minister **Chris Hipkins** and the President of the NZ Principals Federation, **Whetu Cormick**, about our research note, *Ignorance is not bliss: why knowledge matters*.

DEC

2 DECEMBER

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** spoke at an event hosted by the China Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand (CCCNZ). At the event, attended by New Zealand and Chinese business leaders, Oliver spoke about New Zealand's economy and the 2020 election.



3 DECEMBER

Following the release of the 2018 OECD PISA data on educational performance around the world that shows New Zealand's educational performance is continuing to slide, we issued a media statement saying we are selling our children short when we fail to confront the myths that underpin our national curriculum and lofty "learner-centered" ideals.

4 DECEMBER

Briar Lipson spoke on *Radio New Zealand's The Panel* to discuss the latest PISA results and what it shows about New Zealand's educational performance.

5 DECEMBER

In a media release, we called for the Reserve Bank of New Zealand to suspend its decision to increase banks' capital and re-open the public consultation process to enable comment on the RBNZ's assessment of the cost and benefits of its proposal.

8 DECEMBER

In a column for *The Dominion Post*, Dr **Eric Crampton** said addressing climate change is important, although it isn't a job for central banks but for carbon taxes or emissions trading schemes.



10 DECEMBER

Dr **Patrick Carvalho** spoke at the Intelligent Transport System (ITS) members event about his research on road pricing and his report, *The Price is Right*.



12 DECEMBER

On *Radio New Zealand's The Panel*, Dr **Eric Crampton** spoke about the government's announcement of allocating \$12 billion for infrastructure spending.

13 DECEMBER

In our last *Insights* newsletter for 2019, Dr **Oliver Hartwich** discussed the Initiative's year of delivery. He highlighted how the Initiative's research will continue to make the case for reforms in 2020.

16 DECEMBER

In our final *Newsroom* column of 2019, Dr **Eric Crampton** said it is understandable that the multi-billion-dollar infrastructure announcement took up a lot of media coverage, but if we are looking at the longer-term effects of housing affordability, the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Bill matters more.

18 DECEMBER

We issued a media release commending the proposed changes to the Reserve Bank's governance, saying these changes will provide much-needed improvements in accountability and performance.

What others say about us



The New Zealand Initiative does remarkable work in raising rational discourse and critical thinking. Its contribution is incredibly valuable for society, especially one which focuses on growth, development and prosperity. The provocation of ideas by the Initiative puts New Zealand on the map as a global thought leader and creates a breeding ground for important conversations to tremendously advance New Zealand as a whole.”

Suzi Jamil | Owner and Director, Think Inc.

“The New Zealand Initiative continues to build a reputation for progressing policy that will benefit generations of young people. Its work to progress both the importance of knowledge and curriculum reform is very important and will generate a healthy debate. The work that continues to develop around student achievement and data is crucial to ensuring we help more young people and resources get to the right places where we can lift the quality of teaching and learning. I see the Initiative as a leading light in education policy and challenging the status quo.”

Hon. Nikki Kaye | National Party MP for Auckland Central and Spokesperson for Education

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

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

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

Simon Bennett | Chief Executive, AWF Madison



“The New Zealand Initiative provides ASB with valuable policy insight to further help us support Kiwis build the financial future they want. We promote a productive, sustainable and inclusive New Zealand economy, and the Initiative’s national debates help inform positive changes for New Zealand.”

Vittoria Shortt
Chief Executive, ASB

Our team



Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director

Oliver is the Executive Director of The New Zealand Initiative. Before joining the Initiative he was a Research Fellow at The Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney, the Chief Economist at Policy Exchange in London, and an advisor in the UK House of Lords. Oliver holds a Master's degree in Economics and Business Administration and a Ph.D. in Law from Bochum University in Germany.



Chelsy Blair
Operations Director

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

She project manages the Initiative's events, including our annual members' retreat, and has organised two international delegations (Switzerland

in 2016 and Denmark in 2019) for 40 of our members, consisting of CEOs and Chairs of some of New Zealand's top companies. During these delegations, the group met with top business leaders and politicians in each country.

Chelsy holds a National Diploma in Business Administration.



Mangai Pitchai
Editor

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

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



Dr Eric Crampton
Chief Economist

Dr Eric Crampton is the Chief Economist at The New Zealand Initiative. As well as writing research reports, he is a regular contributor in the media – particularly on *Newsroom*, *The Dominion Post* and *Radio New Zealand Nights*. He served as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Economics at the Department of Economics & Finance at the University of Canterbury from November 2003 until July 2014. He is also the creator and author of the well-known blog "Offsetting Behaviour".



Dr Bryce Wilkinson
Senior Fellow

Dr Bryce Wilkinson is a Senior Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative. Bryce is also the Director of economics consultancy Capital Economics. Prior to setting this up in 1997, he was a Director of Credit Suisse First Boston (now First NZ Capital). Before moving into investment

banking in 1985, he worked at the New Zealand Treasury, reaching the position of Director. Bryce has a strong background in public policy analysis, including monetary policy, capital market research, and microeconomic advisory work. Bryce holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Canterbury and was a Harkness Fellow at Harvard University.



Dr Patrick Carvalho
Research Fellow

Dr Patrick Carvalho is a Research Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative. He has worked as the Head of the Economic Studies Division at the Federation of Industries of Rio de Janeiro, producing research on fiscal and monetary matters, and as a Research Fellow at The Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney, where he focused on industrial relations and competition policy. More recently, he was a Director at a Washington, D.C. consultancy advising the US Federal Administration on the challenges of demographic shifts to economic prosperity.

Dr Carvalho has a Bachelor of Law from Rio de Janeiro's State University, a Master's in Political Science from the University of Wollongong, and a Ph.D. in

Economics from the Australian National University, where he also worked as a Lecturer in macroeconomic policy.



Briar Lipson
Research Fellow

Briar Lipson is a Research Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative, specialising in education. Before joining the Initiative, she was a Maths teacher and Assistant Principal in London, where she also co-founded the Floreat family of primary schools. Briar has worked for International Education consultancy CfBT, and the Westminster think tank Policy Exchange. She holds a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Edinburgh.



Joel Hernandez
Policy Analyst

Joel is a Policy analyst at The New Zealand Initiative focusing on education. Joel joined the Initiative after completing his Master's degree in Economics at Victoria University where his work focused on productivity, competition,

labour economics, and game theory. Before this, Joel completed a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Otago, majoring in Microbiology.



Matt Burgess
Research Fellow
(May–October 2019)

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

Matt has a Master of Commerce degree in Economics with first class honours from the University of Canterbury and a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Economics and Mathematics.



Natanael Rother
Research Fellow
(May–August 2019)

Natanael Rother returned to The New Zealand Initiative in mid-2019 as a visiting Research Fellow. During his time here, he completed research reports on vocational education and New Zealand's night-time economy.

He hails from Switzerland and has previously worked at think tank Avenir Suisse, the European Policy Centre, a major Swiss bank, and the cantonal administrations of Lucerne and Zug.

Natanael holds a Master's degree in Political Economics from the University of Lucerne.



Toby Fitzsimmons
Research Assistant
(July–September 2019)

Toby Fitzsimmons was a Research Assistant at The New Zealand Initiative in 2019, focusing primarily on our road pricing research. He joined us from the UK, where he is completing an undergraduate degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Durham.

Prior to joining the Initiative, Toby had completed educational programmes at the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) in London and the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.



Luke Redward
Research Intern

Luke Redward joined The New Zealand Initiative team as a Research Intern in late 2019. He is a law student at Victoria University of Wellington in his fourth year of study. Previously, he worked in the office of the Shadow Attorney-General doing policy research on legal and Māori related issues. Luke's areas of interest are constitutional reform, Māori affairs, and LGBTQI+ advocacy.

Luke is working on a research paper alongside Dr Oliver Hartwich investigating the democratic systems of New Zealand.



Ali Gammeter
Research Intern

Ali Gammeter joined The New Zealand Initiative team as a Research Intern in late 2019. She is undertaking a Psychology and Criminology double-major at Victoria University of Wellington, and recently spoke in Parliament as a Youth MP about the importance of upholding the right to freedom of speech.

Ali is a coordinator for Students for Liberty New Zealand, as well as a core member of the YES 2020 campaign – the campaign to get the 2020 cannabis referendum over the line.

She is working on a drug reform project for The New Zealand Initiative, alongside Dr Eric Crampton, looking at the failure of prohibition and the societal benefits of reform.



Simone White
Communications Officer

Simone White is a Communications Officer at The New Zealand Initiative and the main contact for media queries. She writes media releases and manages the Initiative's social media channels. Simone also engages with the Initiative's members, collates our Annual Report and member updates, and works with the leadership team as they scope, write and publish research reports. She engages with the media to facilitate opportunities for the team to discuss their research across a variety of channels: TV, print and radio.

Simone has worked in communications at The Royal Australasian College of Physicians and New Zealand Post.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Media Studies and Classical History from Victoria University of Wellington.



Linda Heerink
Communications Officer

Linda Heerink is a Communications Officer at The New Zealand Initiative. She works closely with our research team as they scope, write and publish their research reports. Linda engages with stakeholders and media to facilitate opportunities for the research team discuss their reports across a variety of channels: TV, print and radio, and helps maintain the Initiative's social media channels and website.

Linda has worked in communications at the Dutch Postcode Lottery, BankGiro Lottery, and FriendsLottery in The Netherlands. She holds a Bachelor of Communications degree.



Helene Luey
**Office Administrator &
Event Coordinator**

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

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

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

Our board



Roger Partridge
**Chairman, The New
Zealand Initiative**

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



Barbara Chapman
(Deputy Chair)
Chair and Independent Director

Barbara Chapman served as Chief Executive and Managing Director of ASB Bank Limited from 2011 until 2018. Since 1994, she has held several diverse senior executive roles with the Commonwealth Bank Group of companies, having started her career with the Group as Chief Manager Marketing at ASB. Barbara is the Chair of Genesis Energy and an Independent Director of Fletcher Building, IAG and NZME. In 2019, she was appointed Chair of the CEO Summit Committee for APEC 2021. 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 serves as the Chief Executive Officer and Principal of Cooper and Company NZ. Prior to that, he spent 20 years at law firm Bell Gully, with the last five years as Chairman, specialising in construction, commercial property and major projects. He has been an independent Director of Tainui Group Holdings Ltd since 2011.



Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director, The
New Zealand Initiative

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



Stephen Jennings
CEO and Founder,
Rendeavour

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

As the leader of Africa's largest urban development company, Rendeavour, he now helps build city-scale developments in some of the fastest growing cities in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



John Judge
Independent Non-Executive Director

John Judge was formerly Chief Executive of Ernst and Young New Zealand, and former chairman of ANZ Bank, and Accident Compensation Corporation. He is also a former Director of Fletcher Building Limited and Fletcher Building Finance Ltd. John is a member of the Otago University School of Business Advisory Board.



Linda Meade
Lead Partner, Deloitte Access Economics

Linda Meade is Partner at Deloitte New Zealand. Since joining Deloitte 13 years ago, Linda has played a lead role in the delivery of public sector and infrastructure engagements, with particular emphasis on central government departments, the transport sector, education, and housing.



Neil Paviour-Smith
Managing Director, Forsyth Barr

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



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

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



Chris Quin
Chief Executive, Foodstuffs North Island

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

Prior to joining Foodstuffs, Chris was CEO of Spark Home, Mobile and Business and led the company through the very successful rebrand from Telecom to Spark. From 2008 to 2012 Chris was CEO of the then Gen-i Australasia (now Spark Digital), and in 2012 he spent three months as Acting CEO of Spark Group.

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

Our members

Acumen Republic

AIA

Air New Zealand

ANZ

ASB

Auckland Airport

AWF Madison

Bell Gully

BNZ

Boag Allan SvG

British American Tobacco

Cameron Partners

Chapman Tripp

Chartered Accountants
(Australia and New Zealand)

Chorus

Cityguard

Coca-Cola Amatil (NZ)

Contact

Cooper and Company

Countdown

Craig Stobo

Deloitte

Direct Capital

Downer

Duffy Books

EY

Fletcher Building

Foodstuffs North Island

Forsyth Barr

Freightways

Gallagher Group

Genesis

Google

Greymouth Petroleum

Grant Samuel

Heartland Bank

Infratil

Imperial Brands

Jarden

Janssen

Kiwibank

Kiely Thompson Caisley

Lego

Lion

Mainfreight

Mastercard

McKinsey and Company

Mercury

Meridian

Myers Family

NZX

Philip Morris (New Zealand)

PortfolioConstruction Forum

Presbyterian Support
Northern

PwC

Russell McVeagh

Service IQ

Southern Cross Health Society

Stephen Jennings

Tappenden Holdings Limited

Todd Corporation

Toyota

Trustpower

The University of Waikato

Uber

Vero

Vodafone

Watercare

Wellington Airport

Wellington City Council

Wesfarmers

Westpac

Not for Profit

Tainui Group Holdings

University of Auckland

Honorary Members

Tony Carter

Sir Roderick Deane

Bob Field

Catherine Isaac

Peter Shirtcliffe

Sir Robert McLeod

Alumnus Members

Paul Baines

Charles Bidwill

Dean Bracewell

Tony Falkenstein

Dame Jenny Gibbs

Murray Jack

Alan Judge

John Judge

Ian Kuperus

John La Grouw

Sir Chris Mace

Scott Perkins

Sjoerd Post

David Richwhite

Geoff Ricketts

Sir Gil Simpson

Mark Synnott

**THE
NEW ZEALAND
INITIATIVE**

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