



Title: **Testing our thinking - Developing an enduring National Infrastructure Plan**

Reference: **NIPC24-0003057** | Submitted: **11/12/2024 12:10 pm** | Submitted by:

Summary of information submitted

Page 1 - Introduction

[NIPC24-0003057](#)

We're seeking feedback

Our Discussion Document, [Testing our thinking: Developing an enduring National Infrastructure Plan](#), sets out our thinking as we begin work to develop a National Infrastructure Plan. The Discussion Document sets out what we expect the Plan will cover and the problem it's trying to solve, as well as the approach we're proposing to take to develop it.

We're sharing this now to test our thinking and give you the chance to share your thoughts. Let us know if we've got it right or if there are issues you think we've missed.

We'll use your feedback as we develop the Plan. We'll be sharing our thinking by presenting at events around the country, hosting workshops and webinars, and sharing updates through our website, newsletter, and social media. We'll also seek feedback on a draft Plan before publishing the final Plan in December 2025.

Submission overview

You'll find 17 main questions that cover the topics found in the Discussion Document. You can answer as many questions as you like and can provide links to material within your responses. On the final page (6. Next steps) you can provide any other comments or suggestions that you would like us to consider as we develop the National Infrastructure Plan. Submissions are welcomed from both individuals and organisations.

A few things to note:

- You can save progress using the button at the top right of this form.
- A red asterisk (*) denotes a mandatory field that must be completed before the form can be submitted.
- We expect organisations to provide a single submission reflecting the views of their organisation. Collaboration within your organisation and internal review of your submission (before final submission), is supported through our Information Supply Platform. You'll need to be registered with an Infrastructure Hub account, and be affiliated with your organisation to utilise these advanced features. Many organisations will already have a 'Principal respondent' who can manage submissions and assign users at your organisation with access to the draft responses.
- Submissions will be published on our website after the closing date. The names and details of organisations that submit will be published, but all personal and any commercial sensitive information will be removed.

Further assistance

Each submission that is started is provided a unique reference identifier. These identifiers are shown in the top right of each application page. Use this identifier when seeking further assistance or communicating with us about this submission by using one of the following methods.

- Use info@tewaihanga.govt.nz to contact us with any questions relating to our Discussion Document and consultation.
- Use inform@tewaihanga.govt.nz for help managing roles and permissions of user accounts affiliated with your organisation in the Information Supply Platform (ISP).

Submission method

Our preferred method is to receive responses through this form. However, we anticipate some submitters will wish to upload a pdf document, especially where their submission is complex or long. If this submission method is necessary, please use [this word template](#) and save as a pdf. We ask that you retain the structure and headings provided in the template as this will support our processing of responses.

Select a submission method

To continue, select the method you will be using.

[Online form](#)

The Discussion Document includes five sections. Below we're seeking feedback on why we need a National Infrastructure Plan. We also want to test our thinking on our long-term needs and make sure we have a clear view of what investment is already planned.

Section one: Why we need a National Infrastructure Plan

A National Infrastructure Plan can provide information that can help improve certainty, while retaining enough flexibility to cancel or amend projects as circumstances or priorities change.

1. What are the most critical infrastructure challenges that the National Infrastructure Plan needs to address over the next 30 years?

I think Geoff Cooper's interview with Jack Tane was effective and focused. I want to clarify that my response is not a criticism of the Commission's work or the discussion document.

Geoff's comment about our struggle with "turning inputs into outputs" similarly applies to the Commission's work. Infrastructural services are essential for all societal activities; we face significant challenges without them.

Some may believe that the following is unrelated to the development of the National Infrastructure Plan. This perspective has contributed to our current infrastructure challenges over the last 30 years.

If your aim to physically achieve sustainable, resilient, reliable, and affordable infrastructure for future generations, that's commendable. However, if the result is merely another plan without actionable steps being implemented, it will join the many other strategies, plans, policies, and documents that gather dust in the fiction section of local libraries.

At a high level, I suggest that the Commission shift its focus from infrastructure assets to the services provided by those assets for individuals and businesses, aligning with what is best for NZ Inc. on behalf of future generations.

I would like to see the commission focused on ensuring a sustainable, resilient, reliable, and affordable future supply of essential infrastructural services.

To gain public support for the necessary and expensive remedial actions, we need to explain the potential consequences of inaction, such as what would happen if your water supply were to be disrupted for an extended period, such as in a prolonged drought, rather than try to convince people that their pipes need a lot more renewal money from rates.

Writer's background

From 1990 to 2002, I worked as a Council officer, focusing on addressing the issues that led to the Three Waters crisis. When I left Council, I had been the initial chair of the NAMS group, which developed the NAMS group manual titled "Creating Customer Value from Community Assets." This manual focused on the tools necessary for implementing the Local Government Act of 2002.

I was also a founding member and served one term as chair of the Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group until I left council in 2002.

How does the Commission's work contribute to the main issues facing NZ Inc?

The most critical issue facing New Zealand is social, economic, and environmental sustainability and the ability of my mokopuna's generation and their offspring to have the opportunities that previous generations have had.

Page 20 of the (2018) Auckland Plan 2050 outlines this issue well when it discusses our two-speed economy and the "divide between the rich and poor". These issues also apply to other cities.

Sir Peter Gluckman's "Sustaining Aotearoa New Zealand as a Cohesive Society" 2021 report addresses this issue.

The following excerpts from the report directly relate to outputs, such as making our infrastructure sustainable again. Unless we can agree on what we are doing, it will not happen

"A modern liberal democracy can only function effectively and act with integrity for the benefit of its citizens if there is trust and accountability between the structures and institutions that perform various governing functions,..."

"Social cohesion is critical to our well-being, both collectively and individually."

"One major challenge to social cohesion is the rapid emergence of the relatively ungoverned virtual world. The arrival of powerful and effective ways of anonymously transmitting ad hominem attacks has undermined the traditional institutions on which all societies rely to sustain cooperation and respect."

The institutions that assure vertical trust between State and citizen may need rethinking in the liberal democracies, including within Aotearoa New Zealand"

"Horizontal trust requires the enhancing of transcultural competencies and understandings, tackling disinformation, and returning civility to the public square. Our analysis of the threats to social cohesion identifies many other areas where proactive measures could help to sustain and enhance our sense of society."

<https://businessdesk.co.nz/article/policy/trust-and-cohesion-of-nz-society-in-peril-says-sir-peter-gluckman-and-others>

The NZ Treasury's recent report, "Wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand 2022," highlights various well-being issues facing individuals in New Zealand. The \$1 trillion needed to improve our infrastructure amounts to approximately \$200,000 for every man, woman, and child. This additional financial burden could potentially add to the challenges faced by those already struggling to put food on the table during a cost-of-living crisis.

We need to tackle the issues no one wants to discuss

Determining what is needed is relatively straightforward, and the document contains valuable information that better quantifies what we have known since the mid-1990s. The challenge remains in making it happen, now representing a \$1 trillion issue. How do we fairly apportion those costs between past, present and future generations?

The central government's hands-off neoliberal approach to the various councils' critical infrastructural assets has not worked. It will not work unless unpalatable changes are made to local government's key decision-making processes and accountability.

Greater emphasis needs to be placed on how we can change the cultures within councils, particularly in light of the hands-off approach taken by central government. I do not suggest that local councils should not be responsible for managing their infrastructure. I may be suggesting that commissioners may need to be used more often to address the lack of financial literacy of some councils.

The government's hands-off approach has resulted in the current situation – we need to change this.

For over 30 years, councils have been deferring the rising costs of renewing and upgrading our infrastructure to serve future generations by not funding depreciation. Funding depreciation in asset-heavy businesses has been a common practice for many generations.

This practice of Councils not funding depreciation goes against the expectations and requirements set by the 1996 Local Government No. 3 Amendment Act, despite the Act's original intention.

The key reasons for the 1996 Act were to.

- "to provide funds for the replacement of assets;*
- to facilitate inter-generational equity;*
- to achieve economic efficiency aims (such as "the level playing field"); and*
- to ensure that the users of the service pay the real cost."*

<https://oag.parliament.nz/1999/2nd-report/docs/part11.pdf>

None of these outcomes have been achieved.

Subsequent reports by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE), "Aging Pipes and Murky Waters" (2000) and "Beyond Aging Pipes" (2001), failed to generate any significant change, which was likely a key reason the 2002 Local Government Act became necessary.

The four major areas of challenge identified in the 2001 PCE's report remain even more important today and unaddressed than they were in 2001

https://www.pce.parliament.nz/media/pdfs/ageing_pipes.pdf

<https://www.pce.parliament.nz/publications/archive/1997-2006/beyond-ageing-pipes-urban-water-systems-for-the-21st-century>

“The key issue is that pipes do not vote” – We need to change this mindset

There are a number of ways this could be done, none of which are likely to be popular.

Jenny Brash former Mayor of Porirua from 1998 to 2010, said in the article referenced below:

“There is nothing very sexy about pipes and with insight from her more than 40 years in local government, she warns that politicians tend to vote for what will get them elected.”

“The key issue is that pipes do not vote. They are underground and no-one notices until they leak.”

The article also explains how funded pipe depreciation was spent on other projects.

Neither of Wellington's past Mayors, Justin Lester or Andy Foster, discussed this important issue during their successful mayoral campaigns.

<https://www.thepost.co.nz/nz-news/350157974/wellingtons-water-crisis-how-did-we-end-mess>

Popular decisions win elections; good decisions don't. We need to change this

The primary reason for our current \$1 trillion infrastructure gap is that our elected representatives tend to prioritise short-term electoral concerns over the long-term needs of their communities. For the past 30 years, maintaining low rates has consistently been popular with voters. When you are trying to reduce the annual rates increase, not funding depreciation, or alternatively using some of your previously funded depreciation, it seems a good idea

Over the past 30 years, we have produced an overwhelming number of reports, yet there are few tangible outcomes to show for it. If we don't fully understand how we ended up in this situation, creating outputs that avoid repeating the same mistakes will be challenging.

Popular decisions have shaped our infrastructure, often reflecting an unrepresentative segment of the community who bothered to submit. Often, vested interest groups submit standard templates to those who back their cause.

The Commission should be careful not to turn this submission process into a popularity competition.

Local and central governments need to regain the support and trust of their communities.

We need to understand how local and central governments have lost the support of those they serve so we can learn from it.

Lack of any real involvement in key decision-making processes is why most New Zealanders believe that our economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful and have little trust in their decisions

18 percent of Aucklanders have trust in their council's decisions.

The high-level issue is that we have been making popular rather than good decisions since the 1990s. This is justified by politicians by saying every eligible voter had the opportunity to vote, but most didn't.

https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2023-11/2023_GlobalTrustworthinessIndex.pdf.

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/performance-transparency/docscitizeninsightsmonitor/citizen-insights-monitor-2024-quarter-1.pdf>

Consultation processes need to change and consider all people, not just the squeaky wheels

How will the Commission's consultation process involve the increasing percentage of our population who see no point in voting?

A demographic study published by Auckland Council following the 2022 elections found:

- 1 Voter turnout was low around ages 26 to 30 years and peaked around age 76*
- 2 Voters of Māori descent were less likely to vote than voters of non-Māori descent*
- 3 Voter turnout is lower in socio-economically deprived neighbourhoods*

In New Zealand, the average turnout across all councils was 45.5%. For metropolitan councils, it was 39.8%:

Intergenerational equity

Future generations will bear the financial consequences of past generations' deliberate underinvestment in funding sustainable, resilient and reliable infrastructure.

The issue of funded depreciation was first highlighted as a critical concern in the 1996 Act. In theory, much of the \$1 trillion needed to upgrade our essential infrastructure by 2024 should largely come from backdated rates dating back to 1995. Today's individuals aged 50 to 80 have greatly benefited financially from this underinvestment.

It is morally wrong to suggest that this work be paid for by way of a long-term loan to be paid back mostly by future generations currently struggling in a cost-of-living crisis on the ground that they will benefit from the services also. There are no doubt some ways in which this could be done, with most of them unpopular.

For younger people today, many have lost faith in a system that doesn't work for their peers. Politicians know this and getting current older generations to pay for what they

should have paid for over the past 30 years will be challenging.

Getting younger people, Maori and low-income people, to participate in the discussion will also be a challenge.

General

I could say much more, and I would be happy to do so if you found the above helpful.

I haven't mentioned the electricity crisis—record profits for shareholders, a close call to running out of power in 2024, and record numbers of people struggling to pay their power bills. Consumer NZ estimates that about 140,000 households had to take out a loan to cover their power bills in the past year.

<https://www.consumer.org.nz/articles/the-scale-of-power-poverty-in-new-zealand>

My key message is that the commission's work should be driven by meeting the needs of all people and NZ Inc. by focusing on the sustainable, resilient, reliable and affordable supply of essential infrastructure for future generations. If anything is to happen, big and unpopular decisions will need to be made. I have several suggestions.

2. How can te ao Māori perspectives and principles be used to strengthen the National Infrastructure Plan's approach to long-term infrastructure planning?

I don't believe this activity will bring about any significant changes and may potentially serve as a distraction.

Section two: Our long-term needs

The National Infrastructure Plan will reflect on what New Zealanders value and expect from infrastructure. To do this, the Plan needs to consider New Zealanders' long-term aspirations and how these could be impacted over the next 30 years.

3. What are the main sources of uncertainty in infrastructure planning, and how could they be addressed when considering new capital investments?

We have lost the ability to make effective decisions for New Zealand Inc. and follow through on them. Many of our current decision-makers, (including those on the Commission's team????), do not fully understand the challenges faced by individuals struggling to secure a roof over their heads and food on the table. Consequently, their decisions often prioritize the interests of those they engage with most, including paid lobbyists.

The divide between the rich and the poor is growing, yet little action is being taken to remedy this issue, apart from providing financial assistance to those who, largely through no fault of their own, find themselves in such circumstances.

The current issue of housing affordability stems from inadequate planning policies that have overlooked the needs of low-income individuals.

Cancelled projects that were previously approved include the Three Waters initiative, the Auckland Light Rail, the interisland ferry contract, and many others. Not only was a lot of money spent on these project, but people's lives were also changed as they accepted positions within these projects.

At present, there is a waiting list of seven years.in Auckland for a sewer connection in some areas.

Section three: What investment is already planned

We already gather and share data on current or planned infrastructure projects through the National Infrastructure Pipeline. This data, alongside other information gathered by the Treasury or published by infrastructure providers, helps to paint a picture of investment intentions.

4. How can the National Infrastructure Pipeline be used to better support infrastructure planning and delivery across New Zealand?

Government and Council decision-making processes should be grounded in sustainability principles, utilising a more objective approach akin to the intentions behind better business cases, such as was the intention of better business cases.

All key decisions in the public and private sectors and, ideally, in our personal lives, should consider the social, economic, and environmental sustainability impacts of NZ Inc. Guidelines need to be produced. Many of us doo this in our personal lives by catching a bus instead of taking a car, etc.

We need to do this with our infrastructure planning.

Section four: Changing the approach

We have used our research and publicly available information on infrastructure investment challenges to identify key areas for change. The next question and the following three pages seek further detail on the three themes in section four of our paper. Within each of the three themes, we explore some topics in more detail, outlining the evidence, discussing the current 'state of play', and asking questions about where more work is needed.

5. Are we focusing on the right problems, and are there others we should consider?

Changing the approach — Capability to plan and build

Section four looks at changes that we can make to our infrastructure system to get us better results. We've broken these changes down into three themes: capability to plan and build, taking care of what we have, and getting the settings right.

For the first theme, we look at three key areas:

- Investment management: Stability, consistency, and future focus
- Workforce and project leadership: Building capability is essential
- Project costs: Escalation means less infrastructure services.

Investment management: Stability, consistency, and future focus

We're interested in your views on how we can address the challenges with government infrastructure planning and decision-making.

6. What changes would enable better infrastructure investment decisions by central and local government?

Appoint commissioners in the interim to Councils that do not have the necessary financial literacy or intellectual ability to make good decisions, such as was recently done in Wellington. This would apply to many Councils

Get all major decisions to demonstrate alignment with the social, economic, and environmental sustainability outcomes sought by NZ Inc. This should also apply to major private and government-owned/controlled organisations.

Private sector organisations should do this also.

Did Transpower, a government controlled organisation, consider the impact on those made redundant from paper mills due to high power prices in their decision-making processes?

7. How should we think about balancing competing investment needs when there is not enough money to build everything?

See 6 above.

Consider the needs of those at the lower end of the income scale more?

Workforce and project leadership: Building capability is essential

We're interested in your views on how we can build capability in the infrastructure workforce.

8. How can we improve leadership in public infrastructure projects to make sure they're well planned and delivered? What's stopping us from doing this?

There needs to be more accountability for obtaining the benefits from a project that lead to the business case's approval.

We need to learn from projects that do not succeed and stop using terms like "stretch the asset" and "value engineering."

9. How can we build a more capable and diverse infrastructure workforce that draws on all of New Zealand's talent?

Address the decline in competence and work attitude among school leavers.

Encourage universities to improve the teaching of essential professional planning, engineering, accounting, etc, skills necessary for sustainable infrastructure despite these topics being less popular than others.

For most civil engineering qualifications, it is important to significantly enhance the practical aspect of the curriculum.

Project costs: Escalation means less infrastructure services

We're interested in your views on further opportunities to improve our ability to deliver good infrastructure at an affordable cost.

10. What approaches could be used to get better value from our infrastructure dollar? What's stopping us from doing this?

A more back-to-basic approach.

Changing the approach — Taking care of what we've got

The second theme in section four looks at how we can get better at taking care of what we have. It looks at three areas:

- Asset management: Managing what we already have is the biggest task
- Resilience: Preparing for greater disruption
- Decarbonisation: A different kind of challenge.

Asset management: Managing what we already have is the biggest task

Asset management means looking after our infrastructure. We are interested in your views on how we can improve planning for this.

11. What strategies would encourage a better long-term view of asset management and how could asset management planning be improved? What's stopping us from doing this?

There is a lack of accountability for the long-term social, economic, and environmental outcomes of infrastructural services and how they contribute to NZ Inc's goals.

Resilience: Preparing for greater disruption

We are interested in your views on how we can better understand the risks that natural hazards pose for our infrastructure.

12. How can we improve the way we understand and manage risks to infrastructure? What's stopping us from doing this?

Complacency.

I have many suggestions if you want to hear them

Decarbonisation: A different kind of challenge

We're interested in your views on how we can improve understanding of the decarbonisation challenge facing infrastructure.

13. How can we lower carbon emissions from providing and using infrastructure? What's stopping us from doing this?

Stop the disinformation, misinformation, spin doctoring and just plain BS associated with carbon emissions.

Recognise that social and economic sustainability is more urgent than environmental sustainability and address the problem no one wants to address.

Page 5 - Getting the settings right

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Changing the approach — Getting the settings right

The third theme in section four looks at how we can get our settings right to get better results from our infrastructure system. It looks at three areas:

- Institutions: Setting the rules of the game
- Network pricing: How we price infrastructure services impacts what we think we need
- Regulation: Charting a more enabling path.

Institutions: Setting the rules of the game

We're interested in your views on what changes to our infrastructure institutions would make the biggest difference in giving us the infrastructure we need at an affordable cost.

14. Are any changes needed to our infrastructure institutions and systems and if so, what would make the biggest difference?

The current systems are failing. Minor adjustments are unlikely to bring about any real change; elected representatives will continue to prioritise popular decisions over what is needed. For the sake of my mokopuna, it may be best to take control of the critical infrastructure from councils that have demonstrated a lack of social and financial literacy in managing these resources in the past.

The government needs to ensure that service organisations are fulfilling their requirements. The historical hands-off approach has not been effective.

Improve institutions' accountability to the central government regarding the sustainability, resilience, reliability, and affordability of their essential services.

This should be guided by both leading and lagging indicators of output/ outcomes. Additionally, report ratios that compare proactive maintenance to reactive maintenance, expenditures on non-physical activities to expenditures on physical activities, etc.

Address the too many reports with not enough happening issue.

Encourage a positive "can-do" culture that emphasises the service provided rather than the resources used.

Network pricing: How we price infrastructure services impacts what we think we need

We're interested in your views on further opportunities to improve network infrastructure pricing.

15. How can best practice network pricing be used to provide better infrastructure outcomes?

By focusing on their services' sustainability, resilience, reliability and affordability.

By enhancing the effectiveness of regulators responsible for overseeing pricing key infrastructure services.

It is important to recognise and consider that lower-income individuals struggle to pay their power bills. Consumer NZ estimates about 140,000 households had to take out a loan to cover their power bill in the past year. The government owns and controls Transpower and three of the four gentailers and has a significant say in electricity pricing

<https://www.consumer.org.nz/articles/the-scale-of-power-poverty-in-new-zealand>

Regulation: Charting a more enabling path

We're interested in your views on further opportunities to improve regulation affecting infrastructure delivery.

16. What regulatory settings need to change to enable better infrastructure outcomes?

Assuming NZ Inc. is focused on social, economic, environmental, and affordable infrastructure services, develop guidelines that service providers must report against to demonstrate alignment with NZ Inc.'s direction.

These outcomes should align with the New Zealand Treasury's 2021 Living Standards Framework, which focuses on individual well-being.

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/higher-living-standards/our-living-standards-framework>

Include Councils and government agencies in this approach.

Additional information to support our development of the Plan

Section five in the Discussion Document is on the next steps. In this section, we're asking you for any additional comments, suggestions, or supporting documentation that we should consider in our development of the National Infrastructure Plan.

17. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions that you would like us to consider as we develop the National Infrastructure Plan?

Click 'Add another' to add multiple suggestions or comments.

Item 1

No response provided

18. Attach any documents that support your submission

Click 'Add another' to add multiple attachments in PDF format.

Document 1



Last modified 2024-12-10 17:34:28 pm, file size 1.46 MB

[see attachment](#)

Thank you for your response

Thank you for providing feedback on our Discussion Document. We'll use your comments as we continue to develop the Plan. This will not be the only opportunity for you to provide feedback, but it is an important way to test our emerging thinking on the development of an enduring National Infrastructure Plan.

If you have prepared a submission on behalf of an organisation, you'll need to be an authorised *respondent* to make the final submission. If you entered a new organisation during sign-up, or your organisation does not already have a *Principal respondent* assigned, you will have been asked to nominate yourself or someone else for this role as you started this submission. Our team will have worked to verify these accounts allowing *Principal respondents* to manage access and assignment of requests for information to people within your organisation.

If you require any assistance please reach out to our team at inform@tewaihang.govt.nz.

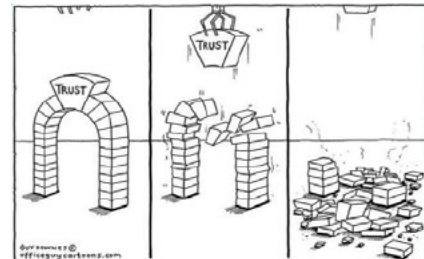
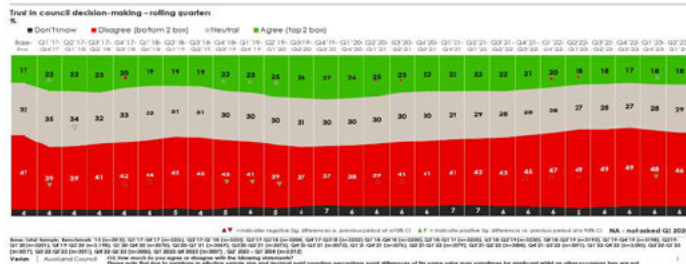
Considerations for Creating an Implementable National Infrastructure Plan

Trust- we need to regain it

Our decisions need to earn the broader trust of the community or nothing will happen. The following does not imply that Auckland Council at 18% trust is better or worse than other councils

Citizen Insights Monitor Q1 2024

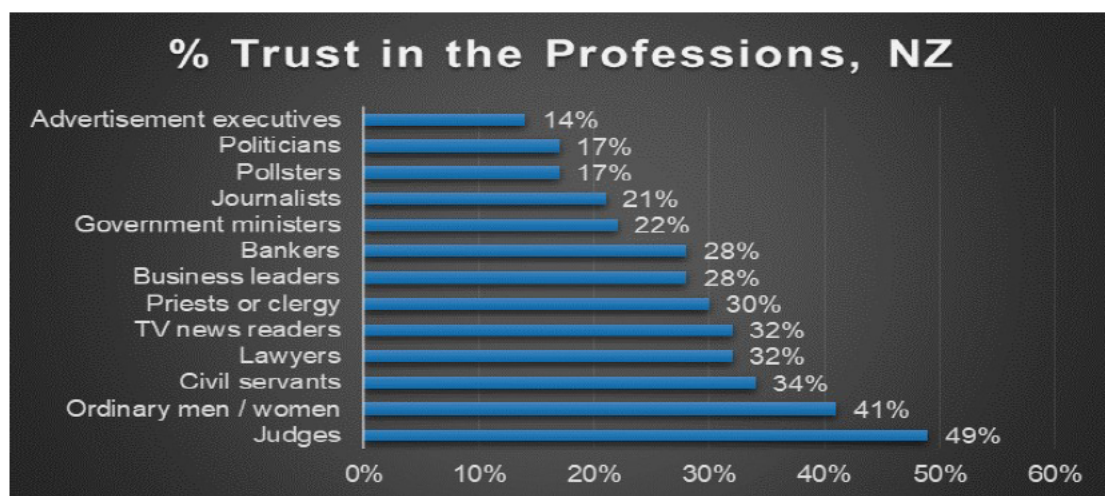
Trust in Auckland Council's decision-making.



<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/performance-transparency/docscitizeninsightsmonitor/citizen-insights-monitor-2024-quarter-1.pdf>

Agreement with the statements below	New Zealand	Developed World
Our economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful	65%	67%
Traditional parties and politicians don't care about people like me	55%	64%
we need a strong leader to take the country back from the rich and powerful	66%	63%
Experts in this country don't understand the lives of people like me	56%	62%
We need a strong leader willing to break the rules	54%	49%
The main divide in our society is between ordinary citizens and the political and economic elite	60%	67%

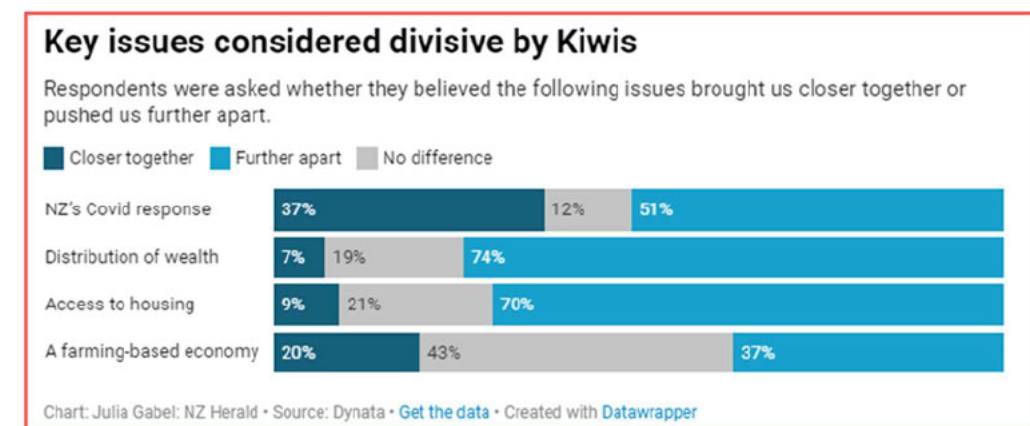
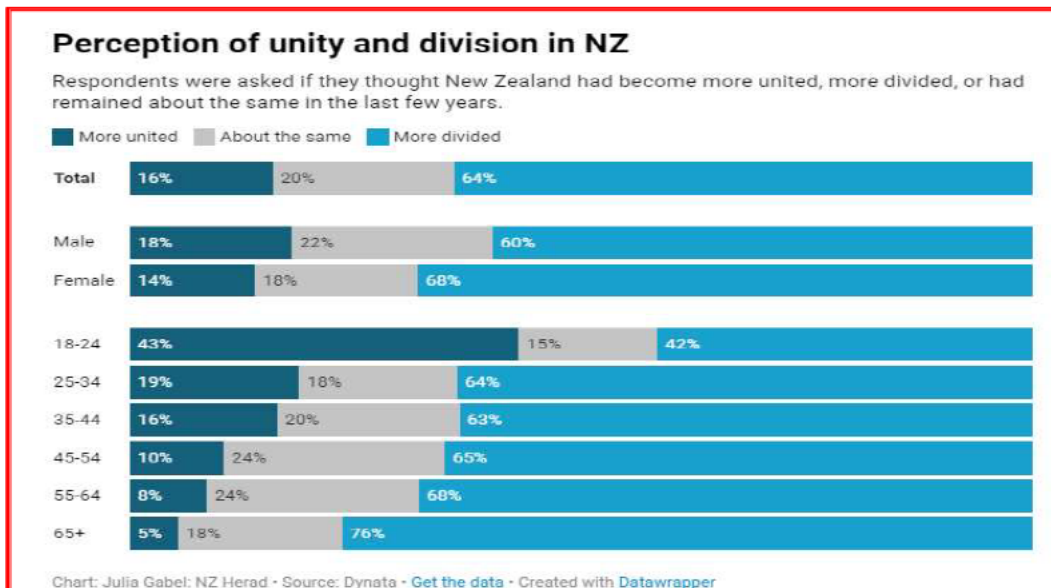
https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2023-11/2023_GlobalTrustworthinessIndex.pdf



<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2023/11/the-most-trustworthy-professions-in-new-zealand-and-other-countries.html>

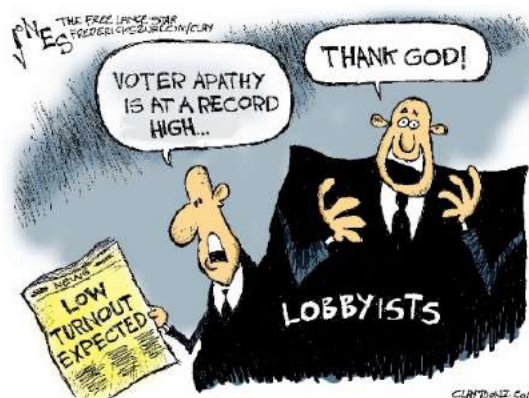
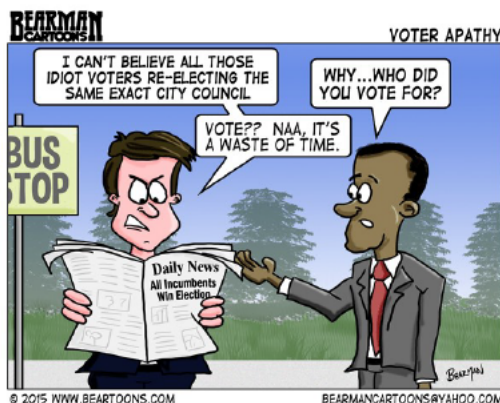
We need to come together and rebuild our society.

If we don't, nothing will happen



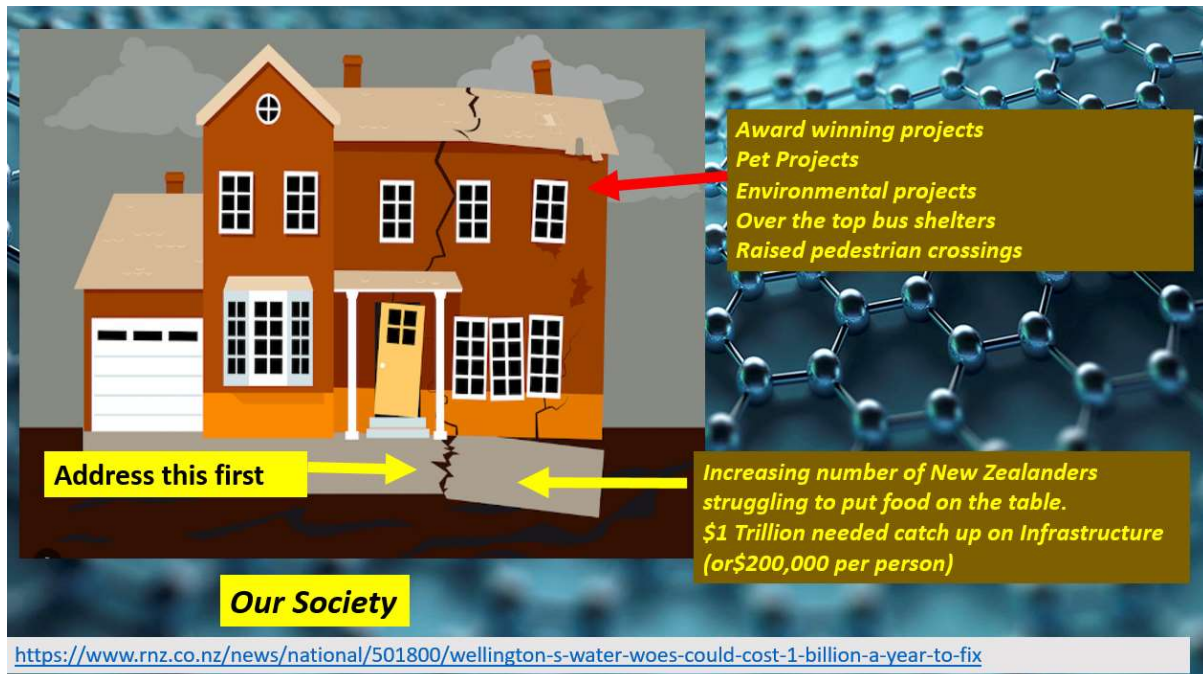
We need to include everyone in our community in our decision-making processes.

Young people, Maori and low-income people need to be better included as they will be the most affected.



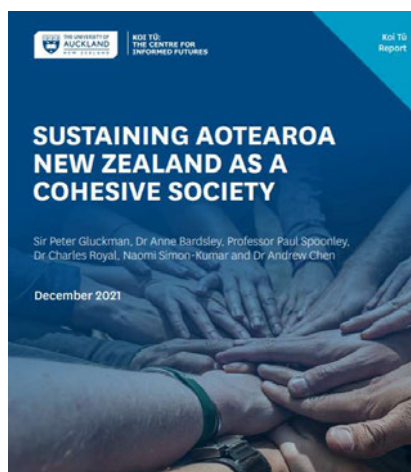
We need to start making good and fair decisions resulting in more sustainable infrastructure

How much will future generations have to pay to fix the underinvestment issues left by past generations?



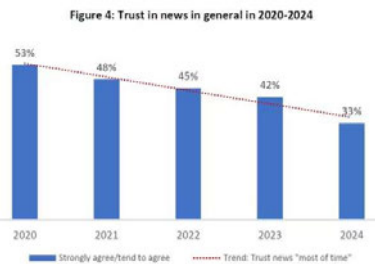
The plan must align with and support the outcomes outlined in key documents.

The National Infrastructure Plan is not about assets, it is about the sustainability of the services the assets provide that need to be paid for by people, both rich and poor.



We need to establish a reliable source of truth for important issues like this.

We have lost trust in our media, (and our politicians) and now don't know what to believe.



<https://www.aut.ac.nz/news/stories/trust-in-news-declines-rapidly-in-2024>

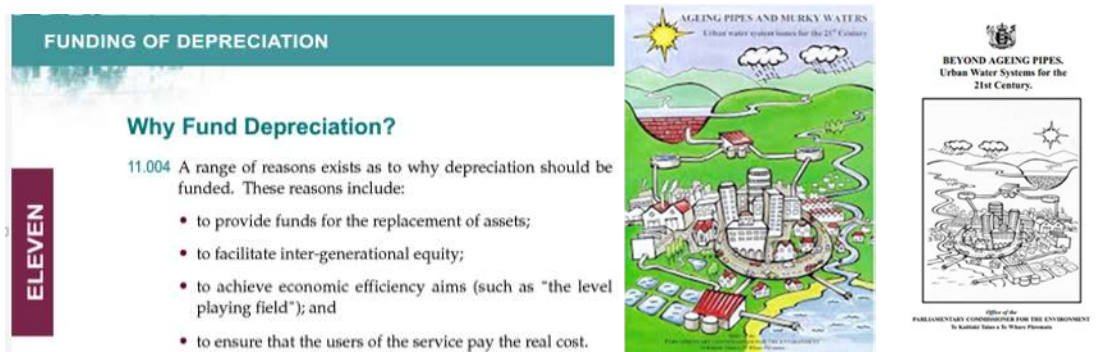
Our politicians should prioritise making sound decisions rather than simply choosing the ones that are most popular.

“The key issue is that pipes do not vote. They are underground and no-one notices until they leak.” Jenny Brash, 4 term mayor of Porirua CC. She “warns that politicians tend to vote for what will get them elected.”



<https://www.thepost.co.nz/nz-news/350157974/wellingtons-water-crisis-how-did-we-end-mess>

The recommendations from over 20 years ago are even more relevant today than they were then.



<https://oag.parliament.nz/1999/2nd-report/docs/part11.pdf>

https://www.pce.parliament.nz/media/pdfs/ageing_pipes.pdf

<https://www.pce.parliament.nz/publications/archive/1997-2006/beyond-ageing-pipes-urban-water-systems-for-the-21st-century>