



# Our 2011 Priorities

## A Stronger Economy

STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT - FEBRUARY 2011

National is building the foundations for a stronger economy. That's the only way we will provide New Zealanders and their families with the better jobs, higher incomes, and improved living standards they aspire to and deserve.

### Stronger government accounts

Rebalancing the economy away from debt-fuelled consumption and government spending towards savings, investment, and exports.

- Reducing new spending in Budget 2011 so we can return to surplus sooner.
- Getting better value for taxpayer money, including considering ways to streamline and improve performance of bureaucracy.

### Building savings and investment

Reducing our reliance on foreign lenders and building Kiwi-owned savings and investment.

- Considering advice on extending the mixed public-private ownership model to four energy state-owned enterprises.
- Considering the Savings Working Group's options to increase national savings.

### Helping families get ahead

Keeping the cost of living down and raising after-tax wages.

- Supporting stable and predictable monetary policy.
- Building a stronger economy that can deliver higher incomes.

## Building Infrastructure

Building world-class infrastructure to help businesses compete.

- Rolling out Ultra-Fast Broadband and our Rural Broadband Initiative.
- Developing the State Highway Network and Roads of National Significance, and improving public transport including rail and bus.
- Helping KiwiRail become more competitive.
- Investing in schools with new technology that's affordable to maintain.
- Providing financial help for owners of leaky homes.

## Building Skills

Building skills and knowledge for future-proofed jobs.

- Getting the basics right with National Standards in literacy and numeracy.
- More responsive secondary schools that give all young people opportunities to build their skills and talents.
- Building a high-quality tertiary education system.

## Building Exports

Helping exporters sell more of their goods to the world at a better price.

- Bringing greater discipline to government spending to keep pressure off interest rates and the exchange rate.
- Progressing new free trade agreements.
- Promoting and supporting businesses overseas - particularly in China and India.
- Making the most of the opportunities offered by the Rugby World Cup, including showcasing our products and services.

Helping businesses develop more efficient ways of working and better, more valuable products to sell to the world.

- New Ministry of Science and Innovation to lead a leaner, more responsive support system.
- Making the most of increased investment in science and innovation.

## Reducing Business Costs

Giving businesses confidence and certainty to invest in and create new businesses, take on more workers, and pay them more.

- Working to improve business productivity.
- Cutting red tape and progressing regulatory reform legislation.
- Reviewing the Emissions Trading Scheme to make sure it is working well.
- Extending the 90-day trial to larger employers.