

Auckland Consolidated Central Government Work Programme



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

1 January 2025-30 June 2025

Scope for inclusion:

- › Initiatives started, advanced or completed over the period 1 January – 30 June 2025 (i.e. excludes proposals proposed but not yet underway)
- › Initiatives with a clear Auckland component and that specifically reference Auckland (i.e. excludes national programmes that are significant for Auckland only because of the city’s disproportionate size and scale)
- › Significant central government initiatives - as a general guide this could include initiatives requiring a Cabinet decision or where government has released a media announcement.

*Government’s overarching Goals:

1. Build a stronger, more productive economy that lifts real incomes and increases opportunities for New Zealanders.
2. Deliver more efficient, effective and responsive public services to all who need and use them - in particular, to restore law and order and improve health outcomes and educational achievement.
3. Get the government’s books back in order and restore discipline to public spending.

Table 1: Infrastructure and Economic Growth

Infrastructure and Economic Growth						
PORTFOLIO	INITIATIVE	GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS*	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	NOTES
Economic Growth	<p>Major Events delivered in Auckland during reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › New Zealand Sail Grand Prix 2025 › ASB Polyfest 2025 (Creative and Cultural Incubator support) › World Dance Crew Championship 2025. <p>Major Events planning progressed for the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › New Zealand Sail Grand Prix 2026 › ASB Polyfest 2026-2027 › The Ocean Race 2027 › Womens British Irish Lions 2027 (multi-city event). <p>Work progressed on bid prospects which would see major event content hosted in Auckland.</p>	Auckland	1	MBIE	Two events with Major Events Fund (MEF) investment successfully delivered in January and April. One event receiving Creative and Cultural Incubator funding (via the MEF) delivered in April. Planning for future events progressed alongside work to secure new major event content.	<p>Major events deliver benefits across multiple domains (social, cultural and environment).</p> <p>The New Zealand Grand Prix 2025 attracted 25,000 attendees to the event and showcased Auckland to a large international audience. Post event outcomes have not been publicly released.</p>
Energy	<p>Auckland Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) - This initiative takes a region-wide approach to addressing the barriers and opportunities faced by medium to large stationary energy users and renewable fuel suppliers.</p>	Auckland	1	EECA	Completed. Published in June 2025 on EECA website.	
	<p>Jet fuel stockholding for Auckland airport - Minimum stockholding obligation for jet fuel at or near Auckland Airport to safeguard jet fuel Supply to New Zealand’s largest and busiest airport.</p>	Auckland	1	MBIE	Regulations were gazetted in May 2025. Government will continue monitor other fuel resilience measures recommended by the 2019 Government Inquiry into Auckland Fuel Supply Disruption.	This is in response to the Government Inquiry to the 2017 pipeline disruption incident.

Infrastructure and Economic Growth

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Energy	NZ Steel electric arc furnace project - In May 2023, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority entered into a partnership with NZ Steel to deliver an electric arc furnace, with half of the coal being used at Glenbrook steel to be replaced with electricity to recycle scrap steel.	Auckland	1	MBIE	In progress.	The electric arc furnace is scheduled to be commissioned around April 2026. The conditional deal is part funded up to \$140 million - from the now-closed Government Investment in Decarbonising Industry (GIDI) Fund. The rest will be funded directly by NZ Steel.
Ethnic Communities	Ethnic Women in Business Roundtable - provided an opportunity to discuss specific issues faced by ethnic women entrepreneurs, practical strategies and actions, and to facilitate networking.	National	1	MEC	Completed.	Particularly significant for Auckland given most ethnic businesses are in Auckland.
	Research project - barriers ethnic businesses encounter in scaling up and navigating New Zealand's business environment.	National	1	MEC	Published.	An ethnic business demographics fact sheet provides a snapshot of ethnic business owners in NZ. Particularly significant for Auckland given most ethnic businesses are in Auckland.
Foreign Affairs and Trade	9th NZ-Saudi Arabia Joint Ministerial Commission.	National	1	MFAT	Held in April.	Attended by Minister McClay, Minister Peters, and Saudi Arabian Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture. Valuable opportunity to profile world-class Kiwi exporters, particularly following the successful conclusion of the free trade agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council; and highlight investment opportunities in New Zealand's fast-growing tech sectors.
Housing	Social Housing delivery – B25 (Auckland 550 places).	Auckland	1	HUD	Confidential advice to Government	
	Social Housing delivery – B24 (Strategic Partners).	Auckland	1	HUD		
	Social Housing delivery – B24 (Maintaining Momentum 500).	Auckland	1	HUD		
	Homelessness response – 300 additional social housing places.	National	1	HUD		
	Homelessness response – additional funding for support services.	National	1	HUD		
Infrastructure	Fast-track consenting – the Fast-track Approvals Act and processing of fast-track applications commenced from 7 Feb 2025 (as per Schedule 1(4)).	National	1	EPA	In this reporting period there were 13 fast-track applications accepted for projects in the Auckland Region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 5 referral applications were received. Of those, 3 were referred by the Minister for Infrastructure to the fast-track process as eligible to lodge a substantive application. › 8 substantive applications were received for projects listed in Schedule 2 of the Act. By 30 June 2025, 5 had panels appointed but no panel decisions had been made. 	The Act requires that relevant Ministers are consulted on applications.
Local Government	Local Water Done Well - to address New Zealand's longstanding water infrastructure challenges, while recognising the importance of local decision making and ensuring economic, environmental and water quality regulatory requirements are met.	National	2	DIA	The Finance and Expenditure Select Committee (the Committee) held hearings on submissions on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill (the Bill) during March 2025. The Committee reported back to the House on 17 June 2025.	The Bill contains specific provisions for Watercare reflecting its special status as an Auckland water organisation that has been in operation for over 10 years.

Infrastructure and Economic Growth

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Local Government	Watercare Charter – provides for an interim economic regulation regime to support the financial separation of Watercare from Auckland Council. The Charter is made under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024.	Auckland	2	DIA	The Order in Council making the Charter was gazetted on 6 March 2025. The Charter took effect from 1 April 2025. Watercare announced they had obtained an investment grade credit rating and achieved financial separation from Auckland Council from 1 July 2025.	The Charter includes a set of targets, standards, and a price-quality path for Watercare. The Commerce Commission has been appointed as the Crown Monitor to Watercare.
	City and Regional Deals – progression to Memoranda of Understanding for Auckland and two other regions.	Regional	1	DIA	In June 2025, Cabinet agreed to progress City and Regional Deal discussions with Auckland and two other regions (Otago Central Lakes, and Western Bay of Plenty). Memoranda of Understanding outlining each region's objectives for a Deal have been agreed.	This decision followed an invitation to all councils to submit light touch proposals to government with a deadline of 28 February 2025.
Māori Development	Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 – consultation on targeted changes to ensure the Act is working as it should to promote the development and retention of whenua Māori.	National	1	TPK	Consultation concluded on 23 May 2025. Options provided to Minister for Māori Development.	
Social development and employment	Franklin Workforce Development Supply Project - to identify workforce supply gaps across major developments in Franklin, supporting the region's economic growth.	Auckland	1	MBIE	Final report due Aug 28th 2025. SWEP commissioned MartinJenkins to deliver the Building Franklin summary report to evaluate Franklin's current and future workforce capability and capacity, identifying key roles required.	
Transport	Time of Use Charging - will improve traffic flows and shorten journey times by charging road users at certain times or locations, depending on how busy the roads are.	National	1	MoT	The Land Transport Management (Time of Use Charging) Amendment Bill is currently being considered by the Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee. Public submissions closed in April 2025, and the Select Committee is expected to report back in September 2025.	In April 2025, the Auckland Council Group provided a submission on the Bill emphasising the importance of local decision making, the need for scheme revenue to fund complementary measures including additional public transport services, and the importance of more flexible mitigation measures. They have also released key technical and background documents, their initial findings and emerging policy direction for Time of Use Charging.
	Auckland Transport Governance Reforms - focused on strengthening transport governance and planning arrangements by ensuring democratic accountability for transport decisions and facilitating joint planning between Government and Auckland Council.	Auckland	1	MoT	Cabinet has made key policy decisions, and a Bill is expected to be introduced in September 2025.	
	Mill Road - a 21.5km corridor from Manukau to south of Drury, going through Alfriston, Takanini and Papakura, to support the movement of people and freight. Stage One connects Manukau and Takānini between State Highway One and Phillip Road.	Auckland	1	NZTA	The Investment Case was endorsed by the NZTA in April 2025. The tender process for Stage One Early Contractor Involvement ran from May to June 2025. A Notice of Requirement for Stage Two (route protection) was lodged in June 2025. The referral application for Fast-track Approval for Stage One was lodged with the Environmental Protection Authority.	
	O Mahurangi – Penlink - a new 7km highway between Whangaparāoa Road and State Highway 1, that will reduce travel times and create a more resilient roading network for communities across Whangaparāoa, Hibiscus Coast and Silverdale.	Auckland	1	NZTA	Duck Creek Road Bridge has been completed. NZTA are continuing the future Duck Creek Road interchange construction as Auckland Transport has completed the widening works around 'turkey bend'.	
	East-West Link - a new road that aims to improve east-west connectivity, particularly for freight to Auckland's industrial belt (Onehunga / Penrose / Mt Wellington / East Tamaki) between SH1 and SH20.	Auckland	1	NZTA	Work has continued on developing the Investment Case. The consenting and staging strategy is complete.	

Infrastructure and Economic Growth

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Transport	Northwest Alternative Highway - a new route extending the existing Northwestern Motorway from Brigham Creek Road to SH16 east of Waimauku, supporting the upgrade of the current state highway in Kumeū-Huapai town centre.	Auckland	1	NZTA	Route protection and strategic property acquisition are underway.	
	State Highway 1 Papakura to Drury - upgrades to SH1 between Papakura and Drury Interchanges (in two parts). The first part, around the Papakura Interchange, was completed in 2024.	Auckland	1	NZTA	The Great South Road/SH22 intersection is now open to traffic. The Ngākōroa Road Bailey Bridge was completed in June 2025 with the approaches now under construction.	
	Waihoehoe Rd (Drury Upgrade) - The Waihoehoe Road upgrade project is located between the intersections of Waihoehoe Rd/ Great South Road and Waihoehoe Road/Kath Henry Lane. The improvements will provide access to the planned Drury East housing development area and Drury Railway Station to support long-term growth in the region.	Auckland	1	NZTA	The site has been set up in preparation for construction, with around 70m of hoarding walls installed along both sides of the rail tracks near Tui Street. Design is 85% complete. Most property acquisitions now have written agreement.	
	City Rail Link - the largest and most complex infrastructure project delivered in New Zealand to date. When completed, the project will enable the Auckland rail network to at least double its capacity over time and significantly improve journey times for Aucklanders.	Auckland	1	MoT, KiwiRail	Over 5,000km of test trains have travelled through the CRL tunnel to ensure the network can perform safely, reliably and efficiently on day one of the new network. The new 'Trains and Rapid Buses' map was launched in August 2025, showing the future rapid transit network.	
	Level Crossing Removal Programme - Auckland Transport, KiwiRail and NZTA are working together to remove all remaining level crossings in Auckland during the next 10 to 30 years. Before the CRL opens, 8 pedestrian level crossings and one road level crossing will be removed.	Auckland	1	KiwiRail, NZTA, AT	The Homai Station level crossing removal project is complete. The new access ramp to Homai Station was opened in January 2025. Investigations work at Glen Innes, Takaanini and Te Mahia stations have now started in preparation for construction of the station access bridges.	
	Rail Network Rebuild - a programme of upgrades across the 110km Auckland metropolitan network for a number of years, to deliver improved commuter service reliability and journey times prior to the opening of the City Rail Link in 2026.	Auckland	1	KiwiRail	The first four stages of the Rail Network Rebuild have been completed, including Newmarket to Westfield, Waitemātā (Britomart) to Westfield, Newmarket to New Lynn, Puhinui to Papakura and Papakura to Pukekohe.	
	Third Main line - provides a third rail line to ease the bottleneck between Wiri and Westfield. It increases capacity around Westfield Junction and improves rail access to the Ports of Auckland at Quay Park.	Auckland	1	KiwiRail	Construction and testing of the Third Main Line (Wiri to Westfield Junction on the Southern Line) and track upgrades around Quay Park are complete. Upgrades to Middlemore Station are complete.	
	Papakura to Pukekohe - electrification of 19km of rail track, including installation of overhead equipment, a new traction power feed, signalling upgrades and Pukekohe Station redevelopment.	Auckland	1	KiwiRail	The line was officially reopened for passenger trains in February 2025.	
	Drury Railway Stations - development of 3 new rail stations located at Drury, Paerātā, and Ngākōroa including park and ride facilities, cycle parking and car, bus, pedestrian, and cycle access.	Auckland	1	KiwiRail	Work is underway on the Drury and Paerātā Stations.	
	Northwest Busway - an 18km busway along State Highway 16 (SH16) between Brigham Creek in Northwest Auckland and the city centre.	Auckland	1	NZTA	The Investment case was endorsed by the NZTA Board in April 2025. Landowner engagement commenced in May 2025.	
Waitemātā Harbour Connections - progressing further investigations into a bridge and tunnel option, for an additional Waitemātā Harbour crossing.	Auckland	1	MoT, NZTA	Marine geotechnical drilling and other land based physical investigations are 30% and 36% complete, respectively.		

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Transport	Bus driver safety - safety screen program to install bus driver safety screens on 80% of bus fleet by June 2026, live CCTV trial on 30 buses, and installation of various driver toilets and rest facilities.	Auckland	1	NZTA, AT	As at 30 June 2025, 205 safety screens have been installed. For the CCTV trial, installation is complete on 24 buses. The service investigation was completed and design updated for the Sylvia Park driver toilet facility. An alternative location has been approved for the Nelson St driver toilet facility, and concept design completed for this location.	
	Eastern Busway - a busway from Pakūranga to Botany that will make local trips easier and more efficient by providing better connections and travel options. It will also create a reliable bus and train service between Botany and Waitemata Station (Britomart), an important part of the region's rapid transport network.	Auckland	1	AT	New vehicle lanes heading towards Pakūranga and a shared path for pedestrians and cyclists have opened on Tī Rākau Drive.	

Table 2: Social

Social						
PORTFOLIO	INITIATIVE	GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS*	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	NOTES
Auckland	Proceeds of Crime Fund – application for funding for the Waitemata Local Board and central city Business Improvement Districts over three years for initiatives to address crime and negative perceptions of safety in central Auckland.	Auckland	1 and 2	Police	On 19 February 2025 Cabinet approved funding of \$1.352 million.	Funds are held by Police and released to Auckland Council for disbursement to funded organisations for agreed initiatives.
Education	Cross Agency Collaboration - focused effort to provide wrap around support for youth and whanau through a place-based coordinated cross agency investment.	Regional	1 and 2	Varied	These are being developed for long term operational delivery and sustainable system improvement via coordination across agencies.	OMAC –Otago Multi Agency Collaboration went live on 3 June building on the success of existing MDCATs across Auckland. Utilising place-based assets within the community to focus on reengagement of youth back into education and de-escalation of students at risk of entering justice system.
Ethnic communities	Ethnic Advantage - sessions on foreign interference.	National	2	MEC	Completed.	This was the first time the New Zealand Government had publicly engaged with ethnic communities on the matter at this scale.
Health	Healthy Families NZ - a large-scale prevention initiative that is community-led and takes a systems approach to preventing chronic disease. A key focus on creating health promoting environments that increase physical activity, improve access to healthy food, reduce alcohol-related harm, address the negative impacts of smoking and improve mental wellbeing.	National	2	Health NZ	Healthy Families initiatives have established and expanded food hubs, community gardens, and kai rescue programmes in Waitakere and South Auckland, supporting food security and resilience. Strategic partnerships and plans have been implemented, with multiple local boards adopting the Food Hub Strategic Plan and contracts with lead providers extending to June 2026.	There are 10 Healthy Families NZ locations. Of the 11 lead providers, three are in Auckland (Waitakere – led by Sport Waitakere and two in South Auckland – one led by Auckland Council and the other by The Cause Collective).
	Health & Education (HeEd) Collaborative - Health NZ and Ministry of Education representatives and stakeholders from across the Northern Region/ Auckland are brought together to collaborate on improving outcomes for tamariki and engagement with learning.	Regional	2	Health NZ, MoE	HeEd Hui: Delivered 4 hui to foster network connection and information sharing between agencies. Webinars: Provided 8 jointly presented health and education webinars addressing barriers to school attendance and engagement. MMR immunisation Pilot: Delivered a pilot to test and promote vaccination in a high school community. Vaping Support: Continued support for schools with a restorative approach to vaping through education and access to cessation pathways for their ākonga.	Tailored Tai Tokerau and Auckland approaches.

Social

PORTFOLIO	INITIATIVE	GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS*	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	NOTES
Health	Provide timely access to the Peer workforce working in the Te Toka Tumai ED & North Shore Hospital ED - improving the pathway and flow through ED for those presenting with mental distress.	Auckland	2	Health NZ	Te Toka Tumai (Auckland City Hospital ED): Launched on 28 January 2025. Supported over 100 whanau members by June. Introduced a late shift trial to meet peak demand. North Shore Hospital ED: Progressed through key milestones. RFP released on 27 March 2025, contract signed by July. On track for implementation by end of August 2025, focusing on workforce readiness and service delivery logistics.	
	Development of a Crisis Café in one District of the Northern Region - providing an effective alternative to ED for those with mental health or addiction issues.	Auckland	2	Health NZ	An open procurement plan was developed, providers identified, and contract negotiations finalised. A provider has been confirmed for the South Auckland Crisis Café. Co-design for an operating model has commenced.	South Auckland.
	Healthy Mother Healthy Future – Asian Perinatal Wellbeing Programme: A mental health & wellbeing programme designed for Asian pregnant women and mothers with infants (up to 1 year old) to improve perinatal health outcomes by reducing psychological risks through culturally appropriate advice and support.	Auckland	2	Health NZ	The contracted provider supported 76 individuals, achieving 69 goals, including employment, driver's licenses, improved accommodation, and education certificates. Additionally, 35 participated in community programmes, and 8 practised culturally appropriate activities. Overall, 90 Asian women were supported across Mental Health services during this period.	Provided by Asian and Ethnic Health Services (HealthNZ) exclusively in the Waitemata district.
Police	Auckland City Centre Police Station – relocation of specified workgroups from College Hill to Federal Street.	Auckland	2	Police	Federal Street station formally opened.	Relocation of: › 24hr public counter › Public Safety Teams › Prosecutions To Federal Street.
	Additional police officers - Deployment of police officers.	Auckland	2	Police	September 2025.	Additional police officers increased Beat section in Auckland CBD in July 2024. Two additional teams have been established in Henderson, Waitemata District.
Social development and employment	Whanau Ora - putting whānau at the centre of the services and supports they need.	National	2	TPK	Four 'new' Commissioning Agencies procured, 700 navigators in place.	Two of the confirmed Commissioning Agencies will be active in Auckland.
	Alo Vaka - supporting Auckland-based Pacific workers into higher skilled, higher quality employment.	Auckland	1	MBIE	Phase one contracts were extended with a focus on: › Delivering micro-credentials; › Implementing the Good Employer Matrix; › Strengthening the labour market research evidence base.	The Alo Vaka programme moves to the Ministry of Social Development on 1 January 2026.
	Resilience to Organised Crime in Communities (ROCC) - a multi-agency work programme designed to combat domestic organised crime by combining social and economic intervention with targeted enforcement action to build local community resilience.	National	2	Police, MSD, RPS	In late 2024, the CRWS Fund received 11 applications, with 8 successfully approved in early 2025.	The ROCC Kaupapa commenced in 2023 in Counties Manukau where three communities were considered. In March 2024 Otara was selected as the launch site, chosen for both its high levels of social deprivation and its strong foundation of community resilience. The CRWS Fund supports community-lead responses by enabling wraparound social support to be delivered alongside targeted enforcement. This ensures that when harmful activities are disrupted, appropriate support is also provided to affected individuals and their whanau.

Table 3: Cultural

Cultural						
PORTFOLIO	INITIATIVE	GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS*	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	NOTES
Arts, Culture & Heritage	St James - Crown and Auckland Council partnership to structurally strengthen the theatre and upgrade its essential services.	Auckland	1	MCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed - Completion of the Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) and Letter of Variation with Auckland Council providing for a \$15m Crown contribution towards the Phase 1 Works of the restoration of Auckland's St James Theatre. A further \$1.5 million of contingency reserve funding (previously reserved for seismic strengthening of the Theatre, from the now concluded Heritage EQUIP Fund), was transferred to Auckland Council via a GFA variation. Approval of the MCH and Auckland Council jointly held Covenant over the property in the event that St James Holdings Ltd becomes financially unsustainable. 	Co-funded between Crown and Auckland Council and private Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A joint governance group will be established to carefully manage the Crown and Auckland Council's investment.
	National Erebus Memorial - project to create a National Memorial to remember the 257 people who died on the 28 November 1979 in this tragic event.	National	2	MCH	Site Selection underway.	The focus for the National Erebus Memorial has been on progressing three potential sites in Christchurch. While Takaparawhau / Bastion Point in Auckland is still under consideration, no further viable sites have been identified in Auckland despite several additional potential sites being investigated.

Table 4: Environmental and Conservation

Environmental and Conservation						
PORTFOLIO	INITIATIVE	GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS*	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	NOTES
Māori Development	<p>National Environment Standards – Papakāinga –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove barriers to papakāinga development to facilitate development of housing on Māori communally owned land Support the use of Māori land for improved cultural, economic and social outcomes Give owners greater decision-making authority over their whenua. 	National	1, 2	MfE, TPK	Consultation complete.	TPK supporting NES – Papakāinga.
Resource Management Reform	<p>Replacement Plan Change for Plan Change 78 (PC78) -</p> <p>Auckland Council's process to withdraw PC78 to better address natural hazards across the region, and to apply the National Policy Statement for Urban Development and requirements of the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025 across the whole urban area. It will involve a Special Planning Process (SPP) featuring a Hearing Panel, half of which can be appointed by the Minister for Resource Management Reform.</p>	Auckland	1, 3	MfE, HUD	<p>Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025 was passed on 20th August 2025 and Auckland Council voted to issue a draft replacement for consultation on 21 August and will make decisions on 24th September.</p> <p>The Council has until 10 October to request to Minister for an SPP to deliver the replacement plan change, the timing of which is still to be set.</p>	MfE\HUD will continue to work with Auckland Council to ensure that the process meets the requirements of the legislation and national direction.
Social Development and Employment	Temporary Accommodation Assistance (TAA) – to provide financial support to property owners impacted by the severe weather events in 2022 and 2023.	Regional	2	MSD	TAA programme expired 30 June 2025.	Auckland and other impacted regions.