

Auckland Indicative Central Government Work Programme



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

1 July 2025-30 June 2026

Scope for inclusion:

- › Initiatives planned to be initiated over the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026
- › 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	Franklin Workforce Development Supply Project - to address workforce supply gaps across major developments in Franklin.	Auckland	1	MBIE	Final report due Aug 28th 2025.	Franklin Workforce Development Supply Project to address workforce supply gaps across major developments in Franklin.
	Major Events planning progressed for: <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) Work progressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Bid prospects which would see major event content hosted in Auckland. › New events fund (Action 5 on the Quarterly Action Plan). This will support events across New Zealand including Auckland. 	Auckland	1	MBIE	Delivery planning for confirmed upcoming major events. Ongoing prospect work to secure new major events which would see content hosted in Auckland. Work to develop and launch a new one-off fund which will support Auckland based events.	
Ethnic Communities	Ethnic Xchange - a symposium to explore strategies to overcome barriers to economic growth and enhance New Zealand’s global competitiveness; gain insights into the latest business trends; explore tools to help businesses succeed; share information about the Government’s economic initiatives.	National	1	MEC	14 November 2025.	

Infrastructure and Economic Growth

PORTFOLIO	INITIATIVE	GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS*	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	NOTES
Foreign Affairs and Trade	NZ-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership - Agreement Entry into Force Event	National	1	MFAT	Scheduled for 28 August.	Attendance by Minister McClay, and United Arab Emirates Ambassador. Other participants include the Mayor of Auckland. 150 person Ministerial-level reception to celebration and inform business of opportunities under the recently signed free trade agreement.
	Auckland Trade and Economic Policy School (ATEPS)	Auckland	1	MFAT	Scheduled for 19 November.	Attendance by ministers and senior officials, academics and business leaders. Engagement will cover the uncertain geostrategic and trade policy environment and how New Zealand public and private sectors can increase operational and strategic resilience.
Infrastructure	Fast-track consenting - approved consents as at 11 September 2025.	Auckland	1	EPA	Bledisloe North Wharf and Fergusson North Berth Extension received approval from an expert panel on 21 August 2025. Milldale Development expert panel released its draft decision and conditions on 5 September 2025.	
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 Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 and the associated Local Government (Water Services) (Repeals and Amendments) Act 2025 received Royal assent on 26 August 2025. Under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 Auckland Council is required to submit a water services delivery plan for their stormwater services by 3 September 2025.	
	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 price-quality path set out in the Watercare Charter applies from 1 July 2025 and will ensure the average consumer bill will not increase by more than 7.2% for the 2025/26 year. Watercare is required to prepare a cost efficiency improvement plan, an infrastructure delivery and asset management improvement plan, and a review and redesign of infrastructure growth charges during the 2025/26 year.	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 of a Deal.	Regional	1	DIA	A Crown Negotiator (Wayne Eagleson) has been appointed and is supported by NIFFco and the Executive Director CRDs. Negotiations have commenced with AC with a view to a deal being agreed in principle prior to Cabinet and newly elected council approvals by early December and signing before the 23 December or in early 2026.	Crown negotiators have also been appointed for Western Bay of Plenty and the Otago Central Lakes regions and negotiations have begun. Aim is for one of the three Deals to be signed before 23 December and the other two as early as practicable in 2026. Negotiations for all three Deals are progressing concurrently.
Science, Innovation and Technology	New Zealand Institute of Advanced Technology - Establishment of the hub of the new Institute in Auckland, managing an investment of \$230 million over 4 years to: › Invest in science and technology that supports industries with the potential to shape New Zealand's future › Develop skills and grow expertise in new and promising technologies › Help boost New Zealand's economy by innovating and commercialising new technologies into real-world businesses and products.	Auckland	1	MBIE	Announcement of the establishment of the NZIAT Board and the location of the Hub in Auckland in July 2025. The Institute will initially be incubated while a Board is established. The Board will recruit senior staff and confirm the location of the Hub.	Science, Innovation and Technology.
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 Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee is expected to report back on the Land Transport Management (Time of Use Charging) Amendment Bill in September 2025. The Bill is expected to be passed in 2025.	

Infrastructure and Economic Growth

PORTFOLIO	INITIATIVE	GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS*	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	NOTES
Transport	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	The Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill has been introduced. Legislation is expected to be passed in early 2026. The Auckland Regional Transport Committee is expected to be in place shortly after enactment and there will be a six-month transition period for other changes to be made.	
	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 Takāanini between State Highway One and Phillip Road.	Auckland	1	NZTA	Early works on Stage One are expected to begin in mid-2026, with main construction expected to begin in mid-2027, subject to obtaining the required approvals. Planning work is underway on route protection for later stages of the project.	
	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	Construction is underway and on track for completion in 2028.	
	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	An Investment Case was completed and endorsed by the NZTA Board in August 2025.	The Government and NZTA will be releasing further details on the outcomes and recommendations of this investment case, including potential next steps over the coming months.
	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 is expected to be completed in June 2026.	
	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	Stage 1B (which extends the highway past the Drury Interchange) construction is underway and due for completion in 2030.	
	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 construction works tender is expected to be released in September 2025.	
	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	The CRL is expected to open at some point in 2026, although a date is yet to be confirmed. Over 9,000 tests will be completed before Day One operations. Testing and integrating a range of systems is underway, ranging from signalling to ensuring station air conditioning is fully operational to running the train with passengers through the system.	
	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	Construction is expected to begin in September for the Takāanini and Glen Innes level crossings. The scope of the Takāanini and Glen Innes package includes a total of eight level crossing removals or replacements: three new grade-separated road bridges, three new pedestrian access bridges, and the closure of two unsafe level crossings.	
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 focus of ongoing RNR works is mostly on priority areas of the Southern Line between Wiri and Papakura, including upgrading and renewing rail infrastructure around the Te Mahia, Homai and Takanini train stations. Later in the year, RNR teams will also be working on sections between Newmarket and Waitemata (Britomart) and on the Western Line between Newmarket and Avondale, and between Henderson and Swanson.	Rail closures are coming up in the September school holidays from 20 September to 5 October 2025. A closure is also likely in the Christmas period.	

Infrastructure and Economic Growth

PORTFOLIO	INITIATIVE	GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS*	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	NOTES
Transport	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	Drury Railway Station and Paerātā Railway Station are both expected to be operational in 2026. A legal challenge in the early stages of the Ngākōroa Railway Station project delayed design and building, meaning it will become operational later in 2026.	
	Northwest Busway - an 18km busway along State Highway 16 (SH16) between Brigham Creek in Northwest Auckland and the city centre.	Auckland	1	NZTA	Site investigations to inform statutory approvals are expected to be completed in September 2025, with the Notice of Requirement and other statutory approvals lodged in December 2025. Construction of Westgate Station is expected to be completed in mid-2026.	
	Waitematā Harbour Connections - progressing further investigations into a bridge and tunnel option, for an additional Waitematā Harbour crossing.	Auckland	1	MoT, NZTA	The investment case is expected to be presented to the NZTA Board in March 2026. NZTA will continue progressing geotechnical, environmental and utilities investigations.	
	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	All activities are on track for delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › CCTV trial – December 2025. › Toilet facilities - March 2026. › Safety screens - June 2026. 	
	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 Waitematā Station (Britomart), an important part of the region's rapid transport network.	Auckland	1	AT	The Rā Hihi flyover also known as Reeves Rd flyover will open to traffic in October 2025, seven months ahead of schedule. The flyover will provide a direct link between Pakūranga Road and Pakūranga Highway.	The project is being designed and consented in full and constructed in stages from Pakūranga towards Botany.

Table 2: Social

Social						
PORTFOLIO	INITIATIVE	GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS*	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	NOTES
Education	Attendance Services Reform - procurement of new localised Attendance Services across the country.	National	1, 2	MoE	Procurement process completed in September. New providers in place in October for delivery start in January 2026.	The purpose of the localised approach is for the service to work closely with schools, communities and MoE. Implementation of STAR tool provides framework for their stepped attendance response with ākonga and schools. This includes prosecution.
	Whānau Engagement Fund - \$1,017,654 across Auckland FY 25/26 (\$5.2M nationally) - to lift achievement and boost attendance of ākonga Māori by building and strengthening connections with whānau.	National	1, 2	MoE		Supports ākonga Māori and their whānau to reconnect with education services following COVID-19 and ensure they can access the full range of education and wellbeing services. Ākonga-led Initiatives Whānau-led initiatives Community-led initiatives
	Toikuranui Fund (\$3.74M nationally) – to focus on Māori learner outcomes in academic achievement and attendance while partnering with Iwi.	National	1, 2	MoE		Supports iwi partners to develop and implement education plans with a focus on strengthening educationally powerful connections so that Māori learner outcomes reflect participation, engagement and achievement as Māori.

Social

PORTFOLIO	INITIATIVE	GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS*	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	NOTES
Health	Urgent and after hours care clinic - 24/7 urgent and after hours care clinic in South Auckland through a tender process.	Auckland	2	Health NZ	Tender Process underway. Anticipated 24/7 clinic to be operational by December 2025.	South Auckland.
	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	Ongoing work continues in the three areas. Current contracts with lead providers end in June 2026.	There are 10 Healthy Families NZ locations. Of the 11 lead providers, three are in Auckland (Waitakere – led by Sport Waitākere and two in South Auckland – one led by Auckland Council and the other by The Cause Collective).
	Health & Education (HeEd) Collaborative – Health New Zealand, Ministry of Education and key health and education 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	Workplan for Jul 25 – Jun 26: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Deliver 8 HeEd hui to foster network connection & information sharing between agencies › Provide 16 jointly presented health & education webinars that address barriers to ECE & school attendance & engagement – providing regional delivery whenever possible › Support/pilot response to STAR (attendance framework) when absence related to health issues. 	Tailored Tai Tokerau and Auckland approaches.
	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	Ongoing provision of the peer support specialist service at Te Toka Tumai (Auckland City Hospital ED). The peer support specialist service at North Shore Hospital ED – to be implemented by the end of August 2025.	
	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	Ongoing delivery of services (mental health and wellbeing) to Asian pregnant women across Auckland. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Family support group › Peer support – cultural/language appropriate › Psycho education workshop for tangata/ family › More mental health-related training for the Asian workforce. 	Provided by Asian and Ethnic Health Services (Health NZ) exclusively in the Waitemātā district.
	Mental Health – Integrated Primary Mental Health Services for Asian People.	Auckland	2	Health NZ	Create Procurement Plan. Anticipated that services are operational by December 2025.	
Police	Opening RNZPC Auckland Campus in Albany.	National	2	Police	July 2025.	Albany Campus opened July 2025. First Wing to graduate in November 2025.
Social development and employment	Alo Vaka - supporting Auckland-based Pacific workers into higher skilled, higher quality employment.	Auckland	1	MBIE	Phase one contracts have been extended for a final six months with a focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 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.

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Approval of the MCH and Auckland Council jointly held Covenant over the property in the event that St James Holdings Ltd becomes financially unsustainable.</p>	<p>Co-funded between Crown and Auckland Council and private.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › A project governance group including MCH will be established in September 2025 when it is anticipated that physical works will commence. The project is estimated to take three years to complete Phase I. › Oversight to be provided by Auckland Council Governing Body (Mayor and Ward Councillors) on a monthly reporting cycle.
	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	<p>Site Selection ongoing.</p> <p>The focus for the National Erebus Memorial has been on progressing three potential sites in Christchurch.</p> <p>Christchurch City Council made a decision to offer two potential sites to the Ministry for consideration on August 20 2025 to allow further consideration by Erebus family members.</p>	<p>Along with the potential Christchurch sites, Takaparawhau / Bastion Point in Auckland is still under consideration, albeit mana whenua has not been able to reach consensus on supporting this location. No further viable sites have been identified in Auckland despite several additional potential sites being investigated.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Offer of potential Christchurch sites formally made to the Ministry. › Engagement with site stakeholders and families prior to a decision being made.
	Coates Memorial Church, Matakoho - maintenance project on a national memorial.	Regional	1	MCH	<p>Auckland based preferred supplier selected – contract negotiations underway.</p> <p>Estimated project start date 6 October 2025.</p>	<p>The aim of this project is to enhance and preserve the condition of Coates Memorial Church through a comprehensive program of maintenance tasks. The total cost of the project is estimated to be between \$600,000 and \$700,000.</p> <p>This is funded is from the Arts, Culture and Heritage vote, specifically the FY2526 Maintenance of War Graves, Historic Graves and Memorials appropriation.</p> <p>The Ministry is leading this work with a Senior Adviser, War Graves and National Memorials as Project Manager.</p>

Table 4: Environmental and Conservation

Environmental and Conservation						
PORTFOLIO	INITIATIVE	GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS*	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	NOTES
Conservation	Hauraki Gulf protected areas – new and extended marine areas proposed for protection.	Regional	2	DOC	Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill is scheduled to be passed into law in 2025.	Includes Coromandel.
	International Visitor Levy - Auckland visitor sites.	National	2	DOC	Upgrades proposed at several visitor sites in 2025-26.	Goat Island Marine Reserve, Rangitoto and Motutapu.