

Auckland Indicative Central Government Work Programme



1 July 2025-31 December 2025

Scope for inclusion:

- › Initiatives started, advanced or completed over the period 1 July – 31 December 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	Major events delivered during reporting period: › Doc Edge: Life Unscripted Film Festival › Global Youth Sevens.	National including Auckland	1	MBIE	One event receiving Major Events Fund (MEF) investment successfully delivered in December 2025. One event receiving Creative and Cultural Incubator funding (via the MEF) successfully delivered in July 2025.	
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	Completed on 14 November 2025. Report capturing next steps for relevant stakeholders published on Ministry’s website.	Released an updated report on Economic contribution of ethnic minority communities 2001-2023, showing that Ethnic Communities contributed \$87 billion to the New Zealand economy in 2023.
	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 on 21 August 2025.	This resulted in a subsequent launch of a report, understanding the challenges of ethnic women entrepreneurs in NZ. Released at Ethnic Xchange Conference on 14 Nov 2025.

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Foreign Affairs and Trade	Auckland Trade and Economic Policy School (ATEPS) – Conference for trade policy discussions between government, academia, and the business community.	Auckland	1	MFAT	Completed 19 November.	The 2025 conference focused on resilience and how New Zealand can continue to navigate an increasingly complex and fractured global trading environment. Minister for Trade and Investment and Minister of State for Trade participated virtually. Other attendees included exporters, academics, the diplomatic corps, and ASEAN officials.
	New Zealand – Singapore: Celebrating 60 years of Partnership, hosted by PM Luxon for the PM of Singapore. Event celebrated the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations and marked the signing of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.	Auckland	1	MFAT	Completed 10 October.	150 person Leader-level reception during the visit of Singapore PM to New Zealand. Attendance by Prime Minister Luxon, Ministers McClay, Collins, Watts, Brownlee and Jones, and the Mayor of Auckland.
Housing	Confidential advice to Government					
	Homelessness response – 300 additional social housing places.	National	1	HUD	Auckland allocated 207 Housing First places. HUD contracting with existing Housing First providers.	Total funding of \$7M across 4 centres, Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch to allow providers to access redirects through available private market rentals.
	Homelessness response – additional funding for support services.	National	1	HUD	HUD contracting \$5M in-place services for providers.	Funding initiatives: › Housing Assistance Centres › Immediate Access housing › Youth mobile service.
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	In August 2025, Auckland Council submitted a water services delivery plan (WSDP) for the delivery of stormwater services only. The WSDP was subsequently accepted by the Secretary for Local Government on 3 November 2025 and has been published on the Council’s website. The WSDP outlines that Auckland Council is planning \$1.96 billion of capital expenditure over the next 10 years.	
	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	Watercare has submitted drafts of its Cost Efficiency Improvement plan, Infrastructure Delivery & Asset Management Improvement Plan (the final version was published in March 2026) and has been making quarterly reports on its Capital and Operating expenditure to the Crown monitor. Research and international comparisons for the redesign of infrastructure growth charges was commenced and further work, alongside a consideration of the Government proposed Development Levies regime, will continue.	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	Substantial negotiations were undertaken between the Crown Negotiator, Auckland Council and Government agencies on the Auckland Deal in the second half of 2025. Note: The Auckland Deal negotiations were completed in February 2026 and the 10 April is scheduled for the Deal to be signed (by the Prime Minister, Ministers Bishop, Watts and Brown and the Mayor of Auckland).	Negotiations were also undertaken for Western Bay of Plenty and the Otago Central Lakes regions and are scheduled to be signed in 2026.

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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	NZIAT moved from being in an MBIE-led establishment phase to being a Crown entity company. Cabinet appointed the NZIAT Board in December 2025.	
Transport	Time of Use Charging – this 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/ NZTA	The Land Transport Management (Time of Use Charging) Amendment Bill passed its third reading in November 2025.	Auckland is expected to be the first region to implement a time-of-use charging scheme, and preparatory work by Auckland Council and Government Officials is underway.
	Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill – aims to increase democratic accountability for local transport decisions by returning most transport functions to Auckland Council, and strengthen the role of Government and Auckland Council in long-term transport planning through the establishment of the Auckland Regional Transport Committee and development of a 30-year transport plan for Auckland.	Auckland	1	MoT	The Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill (the Bill) passed its First Reading in September 2025, and was referred to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee for consideration.	
	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 SH1 and Phillip Road.	Auckland	1	NZTA	Planning work was undertaken on route protection for later stages of the project.	
	O Mahurangi – Penlink - a new 7km highway between Whangaparāoa Road and SH1 that will reduce travel times and create a more resilient roading network for communities across Whangaparāoa, Hibiscus Coast and Silverdale.	Auckland	1	NZTA	Construction works have progressed. Key achievements over the June – December 2025 period are: Completion of Bridge 1 over SH1 at Redvale. Bridge 5 is now open to traffic, restoring full access to Stillwater. Two of the four piers on the Weiti River Bridge have been completed to road deck height.	
	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.	
	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	The Notice of Requirement process was completed and the designations are now operative.	
	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. Stage 1B extends the highway past the Drury Interchange, and is expected to be completed in 2030.	Auckland	1	NZTA	Significant progress has been made on erosion and sediment control, temporary works, earthworks, utilities, civil infrastructure, pavements, and structural components. The 1200mm Waikato watermain cutover was completed in December 2025. This milestone has removed a significant project risk.	
	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	Construction of the new Waihoehoe Road Bridge commenced, with bridge piling undertaken during the summer block of line.	

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Transport	City Rail Link (CRL) – 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, Auckland Council, Auckland Transport	Construction was largely completed for the CRL in this period, with the project moving into the testing stage. Around the new central city stations, upgraded streets, footpaths, bus stops, and bus lanes are being completed and opened for use.	
	Level Crossing Removal Programme - Auckland Transport, KiwiRail and NZTA are working to remove all remaining level crossings in Auckland over the next 10 to 30 years. Before the CRL opens, eight pedestrian level crossings and one road level crossing will be removed (see note).	Auckland	1	KiwiRail, NZTA, Auckland Transport	Construction began in September 2025 for the Te Mahia Station, 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, to deliver improved commuter service reliability and journey times prior to the opening of the City Rail Link in 2026.	Auckland	1	KiwiRail	KiwiRail has completed the five-year Rail Network Rebuild which has renewed tracks, foundations, and drainage across much of Auckland’s rail network.	
	Drury Railway Stations - the development of three 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	Early works on Ngākōroa Railway Station began in late 2025. Work continued on Drury Railway Station and Paerātā Railway Station.	
	Northwest Busway - an 18km busway along SH16, between Brigham Creek in Northwest Auckland and the city centre.	Auckland	1	NZTA	Site investigations to inform statutory approvals were completed in September 2025, with the Notice of Requirement and other statutory approvals lodged in December 2025.	
	Waitematā Harbour Connections - progressing further investigations into a bridge or tunnel option for an additional Waitematā Harbour crossing.	Auckland	1	MoT, NZTA	NZTA have progressed geotechnical, environmental and utilities investigations. They have also progressed the Investment Case.	
	Bus driver safety - a safety screen programme 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, Auckland Transport	As of 30 November 2025, 310 bus driver safety screens have been installed. Live CCTV has been installed on 110 buses, prioritising some high-risk routes.	The installation of CCTV to date significantly exceeds the original target of 30 buses due to cost efficiencies found during the installation process.
	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	Auckland Transport	The Rā Hihi flyover (also known as Reeves Rd flyover) opened to traffic in October 2025, seven months ahead of schedule. The flyover provides a direct link between Pakūranga Road and Pakūranga Highway.	The project has been designed and consented in full, and is being constructed in stages from Pakūranga towards Botany.

Table 2: Social

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	Completed.	Local Doctors Otara extended 24/7 from 19 January 2026. East Care Urgent Care Clinic extended to 1am from 1 March 2026. Telehealth is available 24/7 through multiple providers.
	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	The contract has now been extended through to 30 June 2027.	There are 3 Healthy Families initiatives 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 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	Ongoing collaboration between Health and Education progressing well.	Delivered 4 HeEd hui to maintain network connection & information sharing between agencies. Provided 8 jointly presented health & education webinars on anxiety, speech and developmental delays, and expert Q&A panels that address barriers to ECE & school attendance & engagement.
	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	Completed.	The Emergency Department roles are now well established, with strong uptake of the service and positive feedback from staff.
	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	› A Crisis Café in Hunters Plaza, Papatoetoe, has opened. › The Haven Crisis Café (previously located in Auckland CBD) will be relocated. The new location is yet to be confirmed.	The Hunters Plaza crisis cafe was developed through a community co-design process. The same approach will be undertaken with the relocation of the Haven Crisis Cafe.
	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	Permanent staff are being recruited following a successful pilot.	Provided by Asian and Ethnic Health Services (Health NZ). Services include: › Family support groups › Peer support (cultural/language appropriate) › Psycho education workshop for families › More mental health-related training for the Asian workforce.
	Mental Health – Integrated Primary Mental Health Services – Asian Pathway for Auckland.	Auckland	2	Health NZ	Asian Family Services are the Provider. Recruitment of Health Improvement Practitioners and Health Coaches is in progress.	The purpose of these services is to increase uptake of primary mental health service initiatives with the outcome of improving mental wellbeing outcomes for the Asian community by targeting Practices with high Asian population access.
	Mental Health – Outreach Mental Health Nurse.	Auckland	2	Health NZ	Auckland City Mission has been funded for a Mental Health Nurse to work in their Outreach team. This role will support cross-government efforts in connecting rough sleepers to Mental Health services.	
Police	Beat Policing 24/7.	Auckland CBD	2	Police		After a review period the CBD Police Beat team are now operating 24/7, realising that CBD uses are ever expanding their hours. CRL is coming, Impact on street community.
Social Development	Whānau Ora	National and Regional	2	Te Puni Kokiri	4 x Commissioning Agencies (CA's) contracted. 169 providers and 700 navigators in place and working.	2 x Commissioning agencies, 44 Providers and 34 navigators impact in Auckland. CA's have outcomes agreements. Data goes straight into the IDI.

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Social Development	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.
	Franklin Workforce Development Supply Project – to identify workforce supply gaps across major developments in Franklin, supporting the region’s economic growth.	Auckland	1	MBIE	Franklin Supply Report delivered and submitted to labour Market Ministers October 2025 Findings and recommendations from supply report informing stand up of a Franklin skills and employment co-ordination action plan involving government and private sector collaboration.	

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	St James Theatre restoration commenced. The St James Theatre project is currently in ‘enabling works’ and ‘design’ phase, and is progressing on schedule and on budget. 2 drawdown requests were paid to the Recipient in the period, totalling \$4.5m (\$3.5m in July, \$1m in October). A 3rd drawdown request for \$2.5m was received in December to be paid in the new year, bringing the total claimed to \$7m.	A Project Steering Group (the PSG) comprising MCH and Auckland Council representatives was established in October to manage and administer the Total Funding Amount of \$30m (made up of funding of \$15m each from Council and Crown). The PSG meets quarterly to facilitate regular updates on the ongoing progress of anything associated with the project’s Phase 1 Works.
	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	Memorial site selected. The focus for the National Erebus Memorial was on progressing potential sites. Christchurch City Council offered two potential sites to the Ministry for consideration on August 20 2025, to allow further consideration by Erebus family members In November 2025, MCH announced a preferred site: Cracroft Reserve in Cashmere, Christchurch, with an alternative site retained in the CBD.	Along with the potential Christchurch sites, Takaparawhau / Bastion Point in Auckland was still under consideration, noting that: › mana whenua had not been able to reach consensus on supporting this location. › No further viable sites were identified in Auckland despite several additional potential sites being investigated.
	Coates Memorial Church, Matakoho - maintenance project on a national memorial.	Regional	1	MCH	Auckland based preferred supplier selected, with works beginning towards the end of this period.	The aim of the project is to enhance the and preserve the condition of the Coates Memorial Church through a comprehensive programme of maintenance tasks. The work is funded from the Arts, Culture and Heritage vote, specifically the FY2025/26 Maintenance of War Graves, Historic Graves and Memorials appropriation.
	Matariki – National Hautapu-ā-Motu – Iwi and Crown partnership to host the national Matariki celebration	National	1	MCH	MCH has partnered with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei to host the nationally broadcast Hautapu-ā-Motu in Auckland on 10 July 2026. This was publicly announced, and planning is underway to host the event.	Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei have been welcoming the wider Auckland region to their public Matariki events for several years. It is estimated about 5,000 people attended in 2025, becoming the largest celebration in the country. The national broadcast will help showcase the wider Auckland region and what makes the Māori New Year unique for the area. The theme for this year’s event will be Matariki Herenga Waka – For Everyone. The theme reflects people coming together to celebrate Matariki 2026 in Auckland and across the country.

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 / Tīkapa 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 and 2026-27.	Goat Island Marine Reserve, Rangitoto and Motutapu.
Resource Management Reform	Replacement Plan Change for Plan Change 78 (PC78) 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.	Auckland	1, 3	MfE, HUD	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. 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.	MfE\HUD will continue to work with Auckland Council to ensure that the process meets the requirements of the legislation and national direction.