Media Statement
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We've Found Common Ground, Now Let's Build on It

Infrastructure New Zealand says the next Parliament has an opportunity to turn shared political commitments into lasting improvements to the way New Zealand plans, funds and delivers infrastructure.

New Zealand's political parties agree on more about infrastructure than perhaps any other policy topic this election, according to a new scorecard released today by Infrastructure New Zealand (INZ).

The scorecard, developed as part of INZ's *Let's Build New Zealand* campaign, sets out where parties stand on eight infrastructure priorities and identifies areas of common ground that could help shape the next Parliament's work programme.

INZ Chief Executive Nick Leggett says the results should give New Zealanders confidence that there is an opportunity to make meaningful progress, regardless of which parties form the next Government.

"Better infrastructure means a stronger economy, more jobs and a better quality of life. That's why the decisions made in the next Parliament matter.

"We want to acknowledge the political parties for engaging constructively with our manifesto and answering important questions about New Zealand's future. New Zealanders interested in the position of political parties on infrastructure, can now look in detail at what the parties are standing for, and compare those positions.

The opportunity now is to build on the common threads and turn that into enduring system positions that last over the long term and improve the delivery and value for money we get from infrastructure."

Leggett says the recent exchange between Christopher Luxon and Chris Hipkins at the leaders' debate, where they signalled support for a cross-party approach to infrastructure, showed the issue has the potential to bring parties together.

But he says the real test of cross-party cooperation is what parties are prepared to achieve together after the election.

"Infrastructure takes years to plan and deliver. It can't be forced into a three-year election cycle, and the improvements we make to our infrastructure system need to survive changes of government.

"Cross-party cooperation isn't just about saying the right things before an election. It's about demonstrating that commitment through decisions that endure."

Leggett says three priorities stand out: a clear economic ambition for New Zealand, a funded and sequenced infrastructure pipeline, and a long-term plan for the country's energy future.

"These are fundamental to New Zealand's economic success. We can spend years debating the best way to achieve these things, or we can build on the areas where we already agree and get on with the work. That means settling on the tools to fund and finance, and then use those tools to deliver real projects that New Zealanders can enjoy the benefit of in their daily lives."

Leggett says the scorecard is not about identifying a political winner. It is about giving voters, industry and Parliament a shared reference point for what could be achieved.

"The scorecard isn't a conclusion. It's a beginning. Infrastructure New Zealand will work with every party willing to help make that happen. The solutions to our infrastructure challenges need to be met across all parties in a Parliament, and across different Governments so we don't get lurches in policy or stop-start projects. We'll keep asking the questions, tracking the commitments made during this campaign and measuring whether they translate into real progress for New Zealanders."

The Infrastructure New Zealand political party scorecard is available at https://letsbuild.nz/scorecard/

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The scorecard forms part of Infrastructure New Zealand's non-partisan **Let's Build NZ** campaign, which seeks to promote evidence-based infrastructure decisions and greater long-term certainty.

Infrastructure New Zealand is the nation's leading infrastructure member association. Our core purpose is to advance best practice development of world-class transport, energy, water, telecommunications, and social infrastructure for all New Zealanders. We do this through

research, advocacy, and public and private sector collaboration. Our membership is comprised of over 150 organisations, including central and local government agencies, consultants, contractors, financiers, utilities, and academics – collectively employing approximately 150,000 people in infrastructure-related roles. Together, we are committed to creating a better New Zealand through outstanding infrastructure.

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