

# A MESSAGE FOR THE INCOMING GOVERNMENT...

The New Zealand Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NZCCI) **represents 30 regional Chambers** of Commerce, **supporting more than 22,000 businesses** across New Zealand.

Their role is to influence and inspire business, and deliver success. As not-for-profit membership organisations, NZCCI promote, support and encourage sustainable, profitable business growth.

The Chambers' do this by positively influencing the environment in which businesses operate, by providing advice, information, training, support and advocacy.

**WE ADVOCATE** on behalf of business for a Government that works constructively with businesses and Local Government, to define the direction and set the policies and priorities that will support economic growth across New Zealand.

**THIS REQUIRES** a Central and Local Government bureaucracy that has the willingness, capacity and capability to work with business and drive a game plan that will achieve common objectives.

As part of NZCCI's collective advocacy mandate; in April 2017, NZCCI commissioned a report to understand business needs across New Zealand ahead of the 2017 General Election.

## 992 NEW ZEALAND BUSINESS OWNERS FROM ACROSS NEW ZEALAND WERE SURVEYED, THE RESULTS HIGHLIGHT THEIR KEY NEEDS AS BEING:

### COLLABORATION

Central Government agencies to work together to design and implement cost-effective solutions to problems.

Collaboration between Central and Local Government to develop collective solutions to address local and regional economic growth constraints and to catalyse new growth opportunities.

### POLICY

Adaptable policy setting to meet fast changing business needs (eg guaranteeing labour skills' availability when required).

A fundamental reform of the planning environment to make it less burdensome.

Cost and time effective business compliance especially for small and medium sized businesses, especially Health and Safety legislation.

### REGIONAL FOCUS

Pathways and incentives to scale up and transfer local or regional "good ideas".

A national focus on regional priorities, to get the right services and infrastructure in the right place ahead of time to enable managed and manageable regional growth.

Better sustainable management of the negative impacts of urban and rural growth.

# NZCCI BELIEVE:



A well-educated, adaptive, skilled workforce is a prerequisite to sustainable, productive growth



Sustainable, productive, economic growth is the aim, incorporating social and environmental baselines



One-size does not fit all: regional business needs and opportunities are different



The planning framework should be clear in order to make doing business easier



Policy change should be based on evidence and insight

## THEREFORE, THE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT GOVERNMENT FROM NZCCI ARE:

### COLLABORATION

Make a deliberate effort to ensure **better collaboration across Government platforms** so that we can get better whole of Government solutions and opportunities.

- Ministries working better together on big issues.
- Ensure the Government is working positively and collaboratively with the business community to achieve good economic outcomes.

#### **Better Local Government.**

- Elevating responsibility for Local Government to a Senior Cabinet Minister and review where local governance sits within Central Government.
- Establish new ways to drive two way conversations between Central and Local Government.
- Ensure Local Government is adequately funded to deliver on roles delegated by Central Government and that accountabilities are clear.
- Hold Local Government to account for its collective action and spending against agreed baselines.

### POLICY

Provide democratic comprehensive support for **policy settings that will encourage and promote sustainable business growth.**

- Review the burden that health and safety compliance is having on small businesses.
- Reduce compliance costs deliberately and wherever possible.
- Continue to simplify and reduce the tax burden to businesses.
- Advance a fundamental reform of New Zealand's planning and resource management systems to reduce complexities and compliance costs.
- Continue to actively support research and development/ innovation and support pathways to market.
- Put more emphasis on educational reform and workforce skills development.
- Support immigration as a key driver to a prosperous future.

### REGIONAL FOCUS

Bring **focus and strength to regional development.**

- Recognise that our regions are all different and need Government support and leadership that is targeted differently region by region.
  - Incentivise the development of regional insights to drive fact based policy innovation and new investments.
  - Improve regional economic data and access to it.
  - Create new tools and initiatives for businesses and communities to work together and drive regional and local economic development.
- Continue to invest** in essential infrastructure to facilitate good and sustainable business outcomes.

NEW ZEALAND

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

*Business Vitality*