

NZCIC 2020 Election Platforms

Our Election Platforms have been developed to articulate what NZCIC is looking for regarding key improvements or changes in building outcomes for New Zealanders to an incoming Government. Each election platform expresses the desire to see sensible and pragmatic change and or intervention to improve outcomes for both the sector and for the general public need.

Once the NZCIC Election Platforms are finalised, they will be circulated to all political parties and media. The platforms will also be shared with member organisations to allow them to develop their own subsets or similarly promote the NZCIC platform in its entirety. The platforms will provide our media spokesperson (President) with message continuity.

New Zealand Construction Industry Council (NZCIC) is a not-for-profit industry association of associations in the building, construction, design and property sectors. It is the cohesive voice driving industry well-being and performance for a better built environment for New Zealand and operates as an interface between government (central and local) and industry.

NZCIC members are also not-for-profit organisations and peak bodies for professions involved in the delivery of our built environment — designers and specifiers (architects, designers, engineers etc.), contractors and suppliers (manufacturers, distributors, contractors, builders etc.) and a range of other building professionals (compliance, research, surveyors, developers etc.).

The New Zealand construction industry contributes significantly to the country's economy with over 184 thousand people employed in this industry as at the first quarter of 2020, a significant increase from the prior decade prior. With over 61 thousand enterprises engaged in the sector the GDP contribution reached over 15 billion New Zealand dollars in 2019.

With a low productivity quotient compared with most other sectors, there is scope for improvement to deliver sustained capability, capacity and productivity.

NZCIC's members believe the following initiatives are integral to improving built outcomes for the betterment of New Zealanders.

1. Strong and ongoing Construction Sector Accord support

Ministerial and broad government support as well as a strong financial commitment to the principles of the Construction Sector Accord (CSA) are vital for transformational leadership and change in the construction sector. This includes appropriate resourcing (financial and time) from Ministers, MBIE and other government agencies with respect to engaging with the CSA and for continuing to implement and develop the Accord Transformation Plan. The six key workstreams of the CSA include:

- Leadership
- Business Performance

- People Development
- Health, Safety and Wellbeing
- Regulatory Environment
- Procurement and Risk.

2. Building Regulatory Improvement

There is a lot of room for improvement through the initiation of regular and appropriately funded ongoing reviews that produce appropriate “fit for purpose” changes to Building Regulations. Through elevated engagement between the regulator and industry (including NZCIC) we can ensure their ability to support a high conforming and quality built environment


. Areas of focus should be:

- Building Code System Review
- Building Levy – broadening levy use to enhance building practitioners’ capabilities to ensure an increase in the quality and productivity of a build
- Product Information and Product Assurance Regulations – the sector desperately needs an actively enforced product information and assurance scheme that will deliver consumer confidence. This should include a mandatory third-party certification programme for a small but appropriate number of critical building products
- Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) Legislation – that ensures manufacturers take responsibility for the compliance and quality of their products
- Building Standards – activation of a plan to review and strengthen agreed industry priorities
- Building Resilience/Climate Change – broader industry engagement on proposed building regulations.

3. Construction industry people capability and capacity investment

NZCIC wants to see better support for the construction industry so we can build with more capability and capacity. We want to see the establishment of programmes, systems, funding mechanisms and incentives to encourage employers and individuals to invest in careers, and improve skills in the construction industry. Additionally we want to:

- Ensure the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE) outputs result in an employer and business (as opposed to an education system) focused tertiary education system through
 - Retaining what works well
 - Managing changes in a way that retains and supports trainees and apprentices during the transition.
- Incorporate more *pro-trade and technology* content in schools’ curriculums
- Support and provide partnership funding for *Constructa Career*, NZCIC developed *construction industry career campaign that promotes the broad range of construction career opportunities to a broader range of audiences (such as women and minority communities) than those who traditionally undertake careers in the construction industry.*
- Support for employers who actively provide apprentice and upskill training with funding and resource incentives
- Improved training investment in pre-trade/introductory/foundation skill development by way of micro-credential courses
- Complete the Occupational Regulation review and implement ongoing reviews more regularly

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- Create a targeted and mandatory annual training programme for building practitioners to address skill and knowledge gaps in order to lift overall building performance
 - Continue supporting appropriate entry visas to fill short-term skill and capacity gaps
 - Provide direct funding for the Mates in Construction mental health initiative.

4. Construction's role in post-COVID-19 economic recovery

Continuing support for all areas of the construction and infrastructure sectors will drive post-COVID-19 employment and economic activity. It will also help address critical shortages of housing and further upgrading of our education, health, transport and three waters infrastructure. The support should include:

- Promoting consumer confidence to invest in housing
- Promoting confidence in commercial building investment
- Prioritising shovel/hammer-ready public infrastructure and building projects that are ready for construction in the short-term as well as projects that need engineering and design for construction development during 2021 and 2022
- Helping industry-displaced individuals transition into the construction industry through introductory and foundation training that lead to apprenticeships, further micro-credential uptake, and higher levels of training.

5. Progress key commercial construction industry law changes

It is vital that New Zealand progresses projects and law changes that support the intent of the Construction Sector Accord. Particularly in regards to the fair allocation of risk and liability in respect of the two laws below as quickly as possible:

- Progress changes to the Construction Contracts Act 2015 to better protect retentions
- Progress the Insolvency Law Reform to amend Voidable Transactions to shorten.

6. Sustainability and resilience

MBIE's *Building for Climate Change* provides a holistic vision for New Zealand's buildings in 2050. The end goals for MBIE are simple:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Improve New Zealand's resilience to climate change.

NZCIC supports the vision and notes that to actualise the vision and achieve the transition to a low-carbon, circular economy will require:

- Open and transparent consultation with the sector
- A systems approach which
 - Balances a pathway to low emissions with maintaining and improving the climate change and natural events resilience of our building stock
 - Transitions the sector from a linear to circular economy, where re-purposing, reusing and recycling are incentivised
 - Takes our professionals and trades on the journey.

