Social cohesion & prosperity

Upper Clutha U3A

Wānaka
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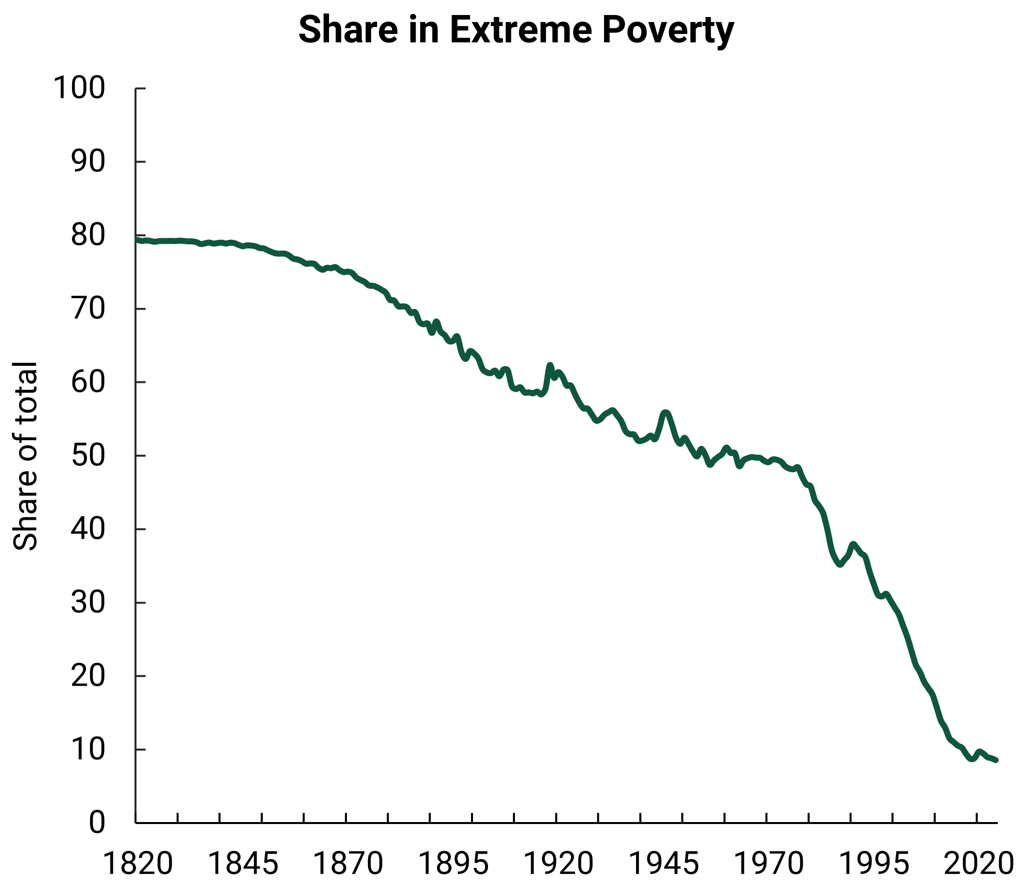
Key points

- What we did isn't working
- A failure of imagination & understanding
- Unicorns & short-termism
- Better is possible; requires paying it forward
- Actions: meaning, coordination, collective action.
- Cohesion is a necessary precondition for durable prosperity.

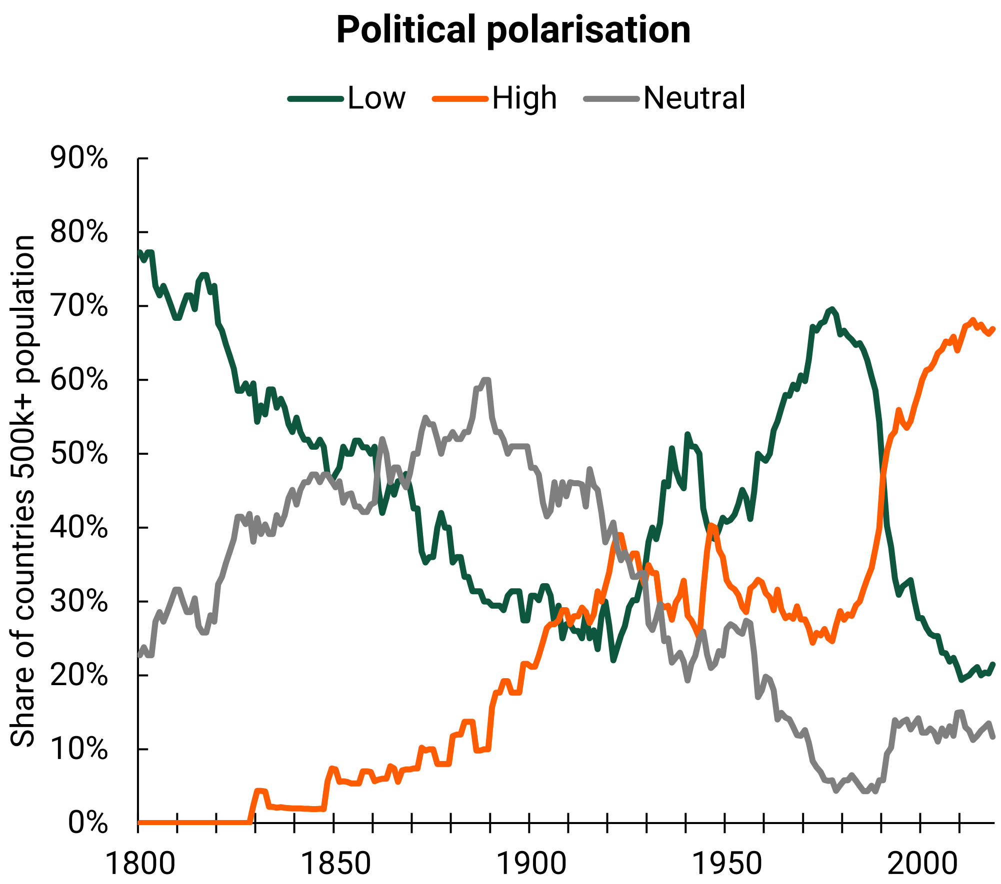
Global disorder

A long trend

The world is getting better & worse



Source: World Bank, Michalis Moatsos (2021), Simplicity Research Hub



Source: Polity Project, Simplicity Research Hub

Institutions really matter

Proximate

Capital

Labour

Technology

Fundamental

Culture

Institutions

Geography

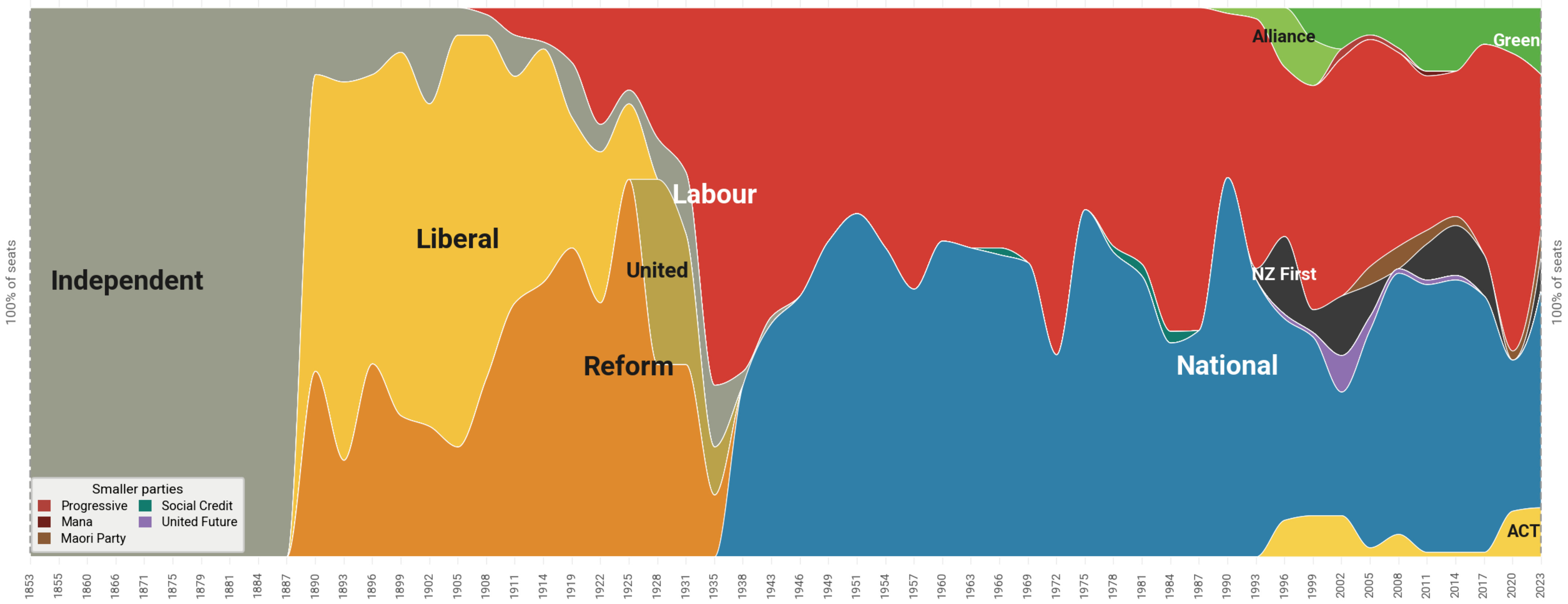
Luck

We aren’t immune

Fraying social cohesion

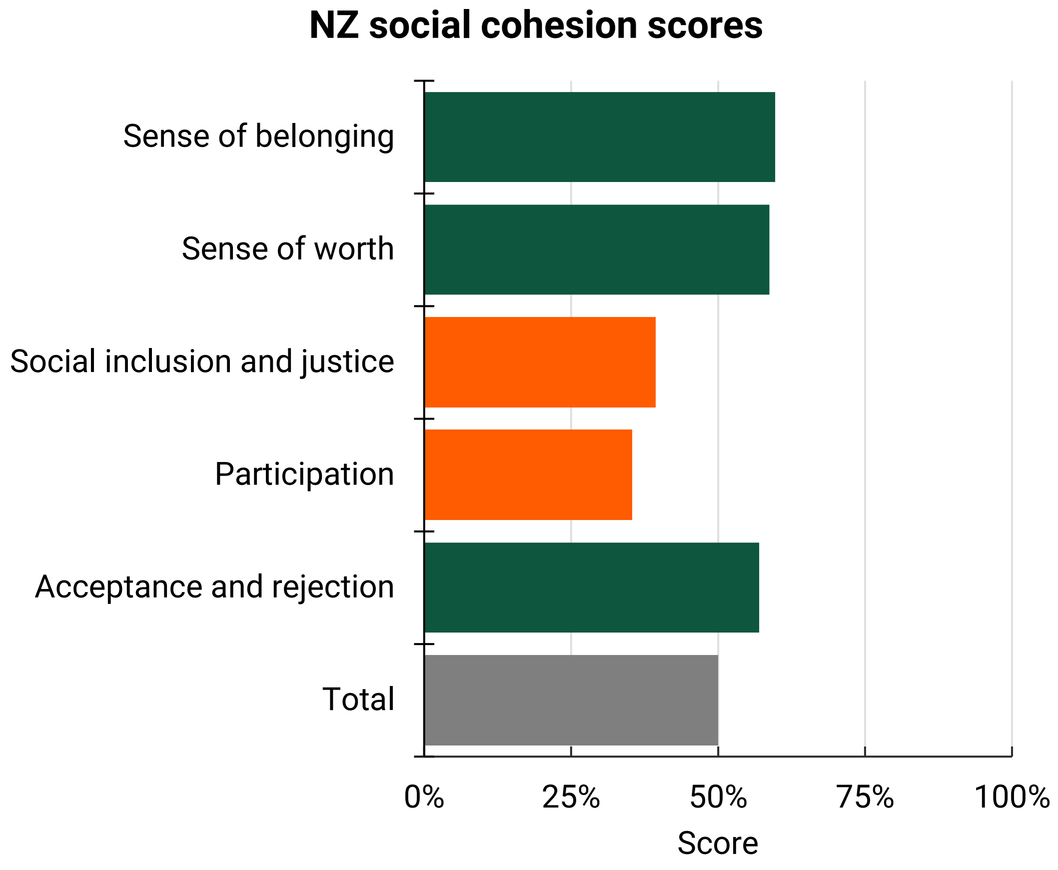
Where to?

A Visual History of New Zealand Parliaments

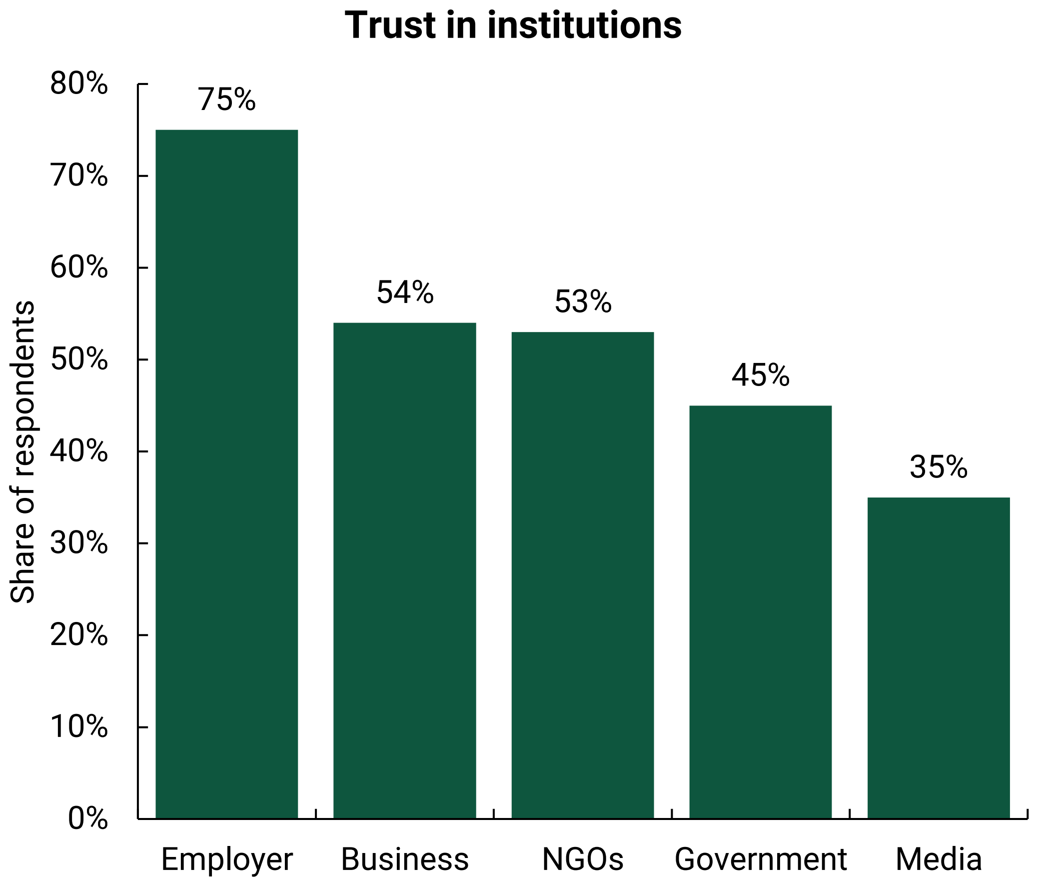


Source: Wikipedia, Simplicity Research Hub

Wider malaise

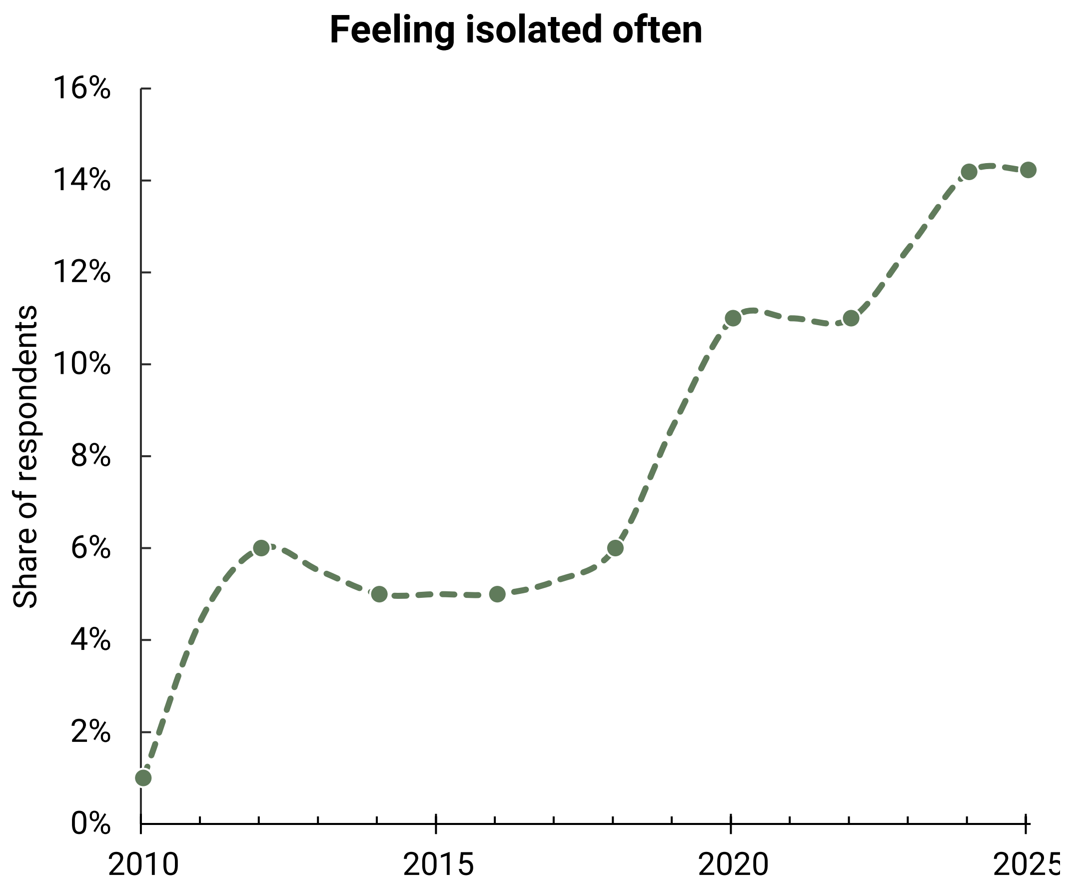


Source: The Helen Clark Foundation

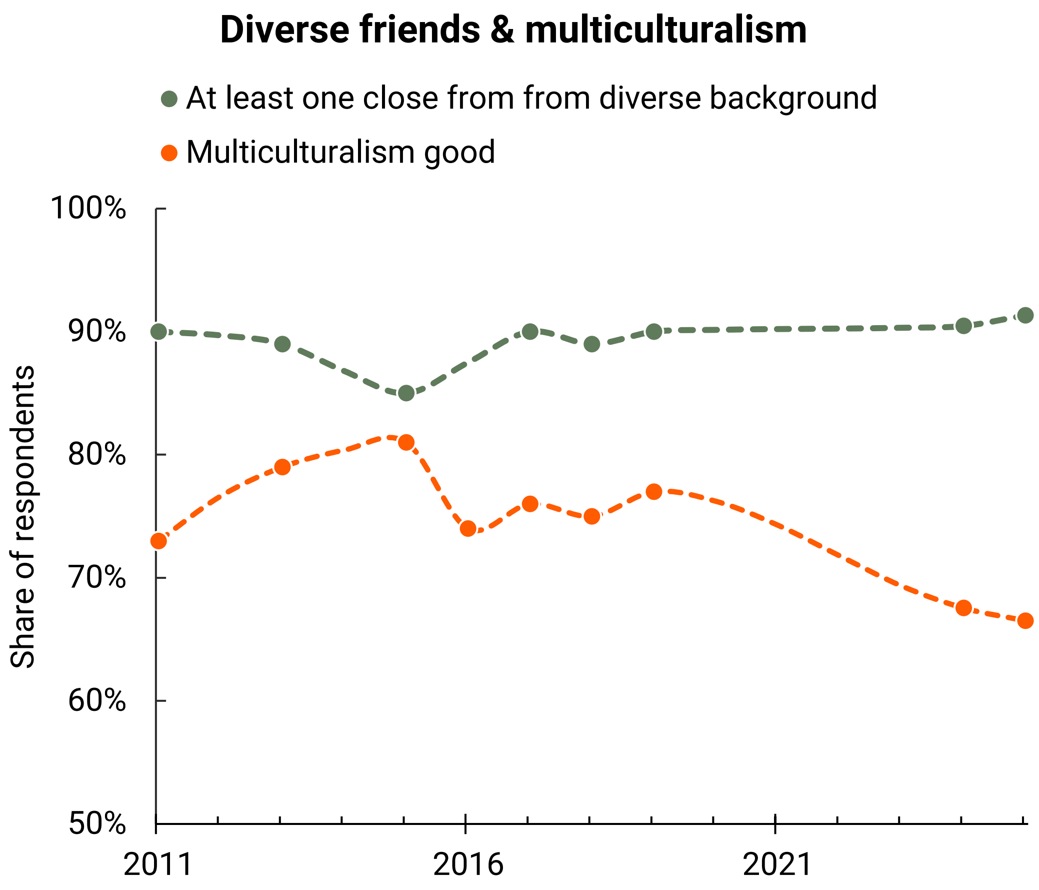


Source: Acumen-Edelmen Trust Barometer, Simplicity Research Hub

It is part of a broader trend

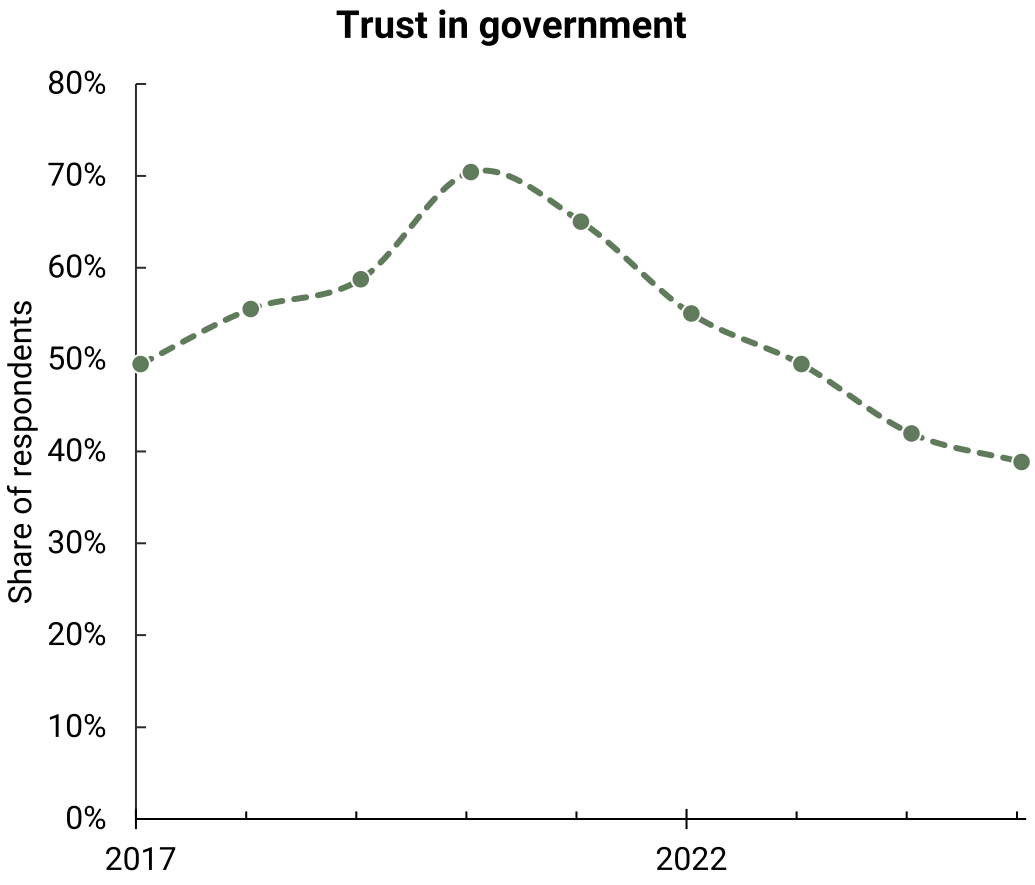


Source: The Helen Clark Foundation

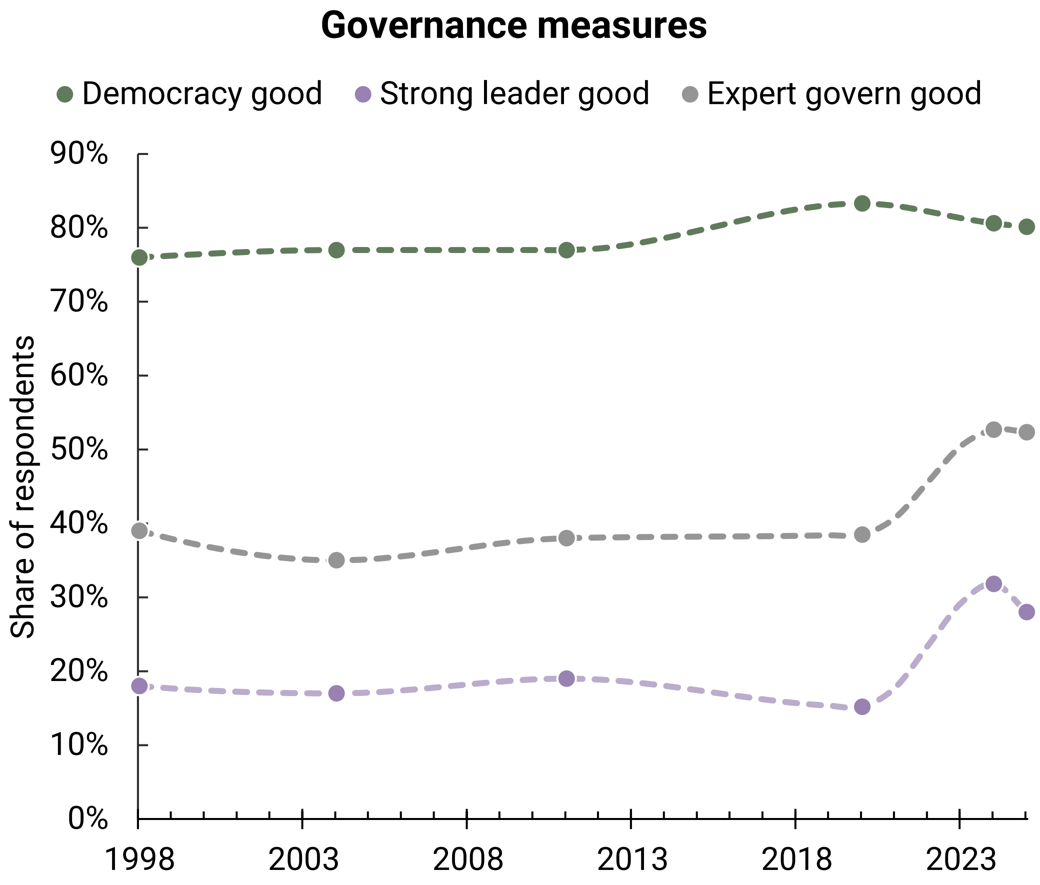


Source: The Helen Clark Foundation

With important consequences



Source: The Helen Clark Foundation



Source: The Helen Clark Foundation

Fragmentation themes

Inequality

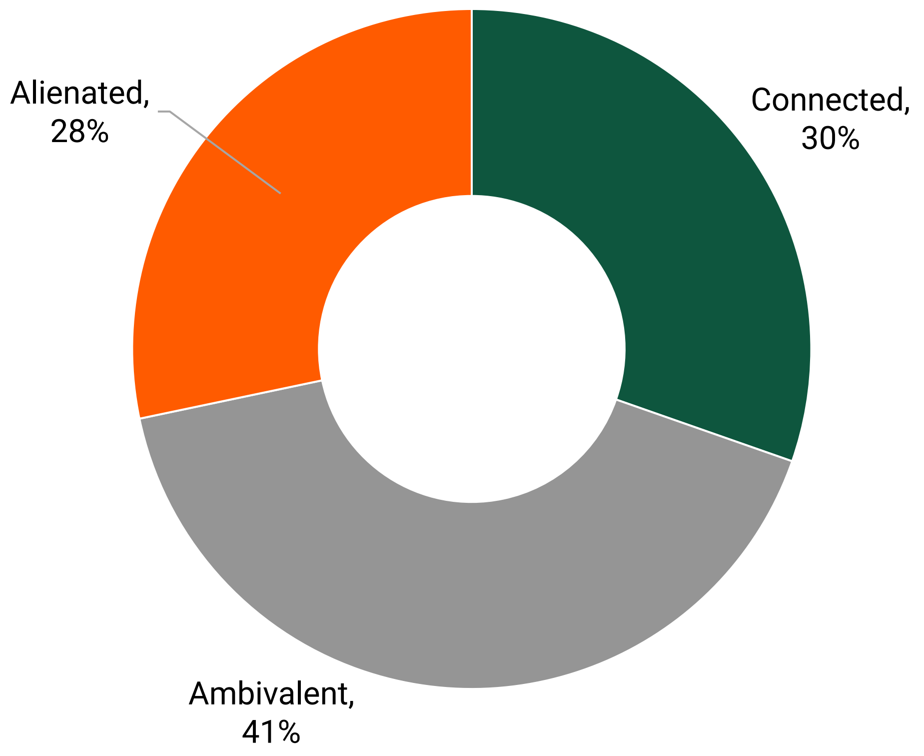
Politics

Age

Source: The Helen Clark Foundation

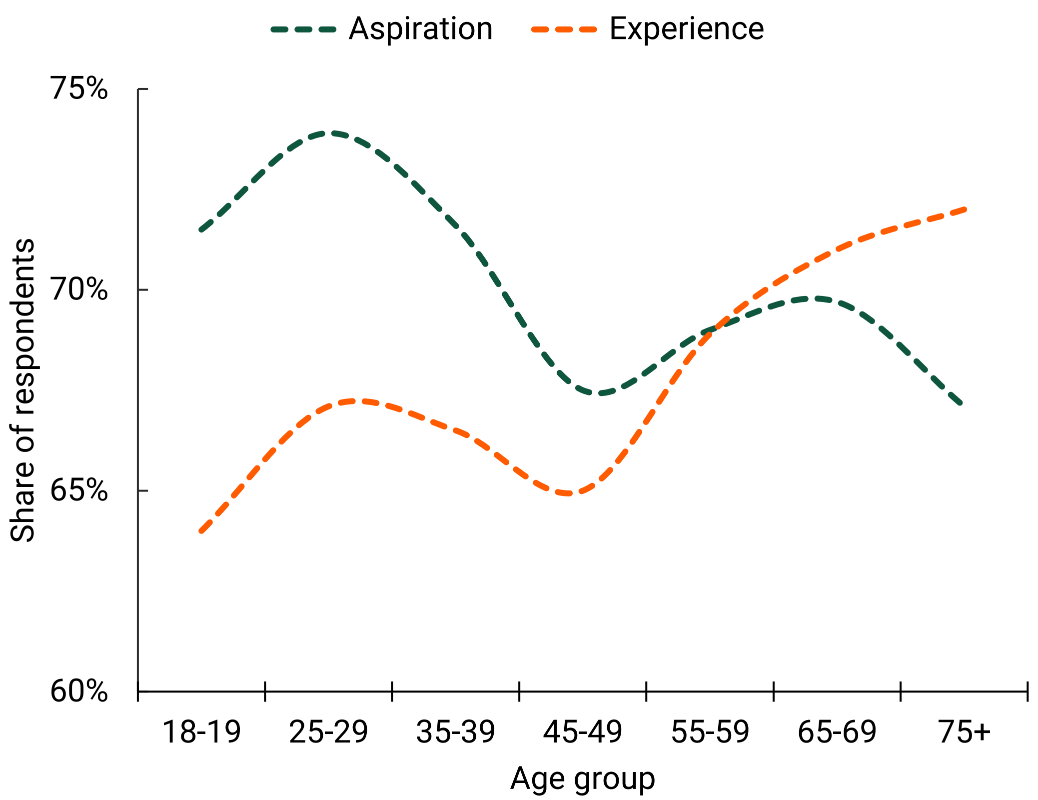
Three New Zealands

Social cohesion clusters



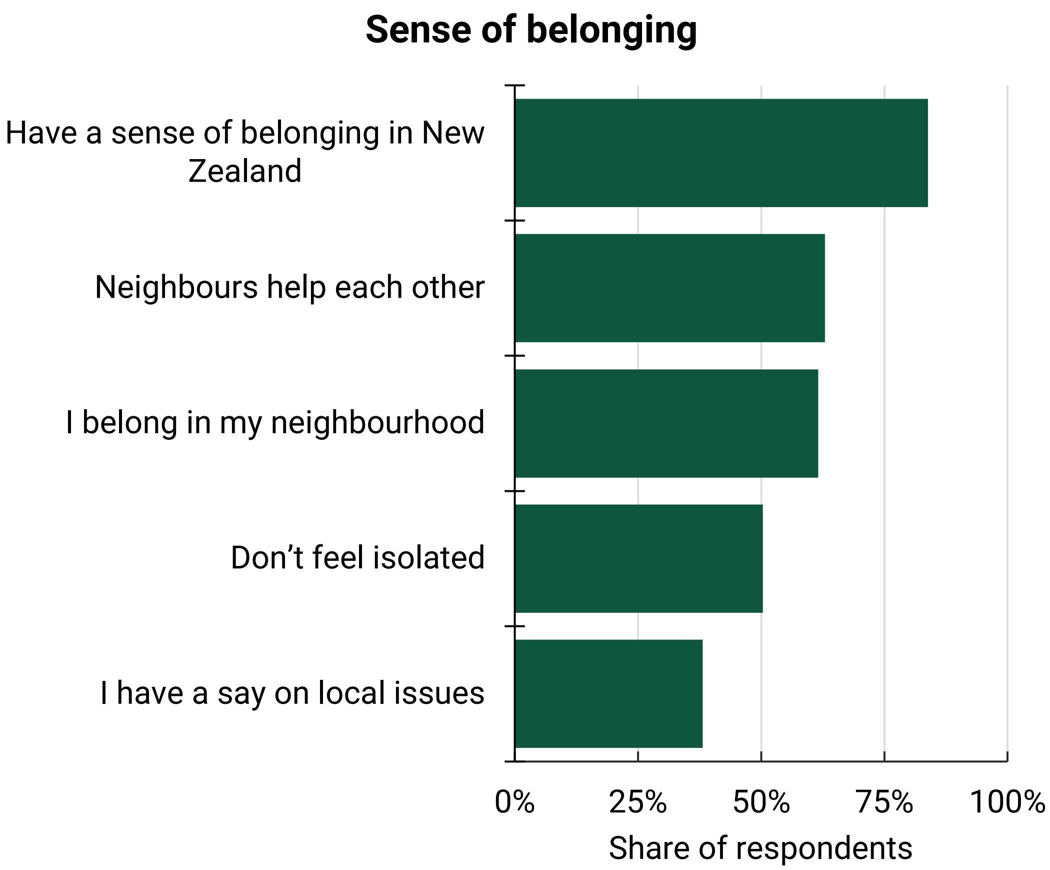
Source: The Helen Clark Foundation

Social cohesion aspiration vs experience by age

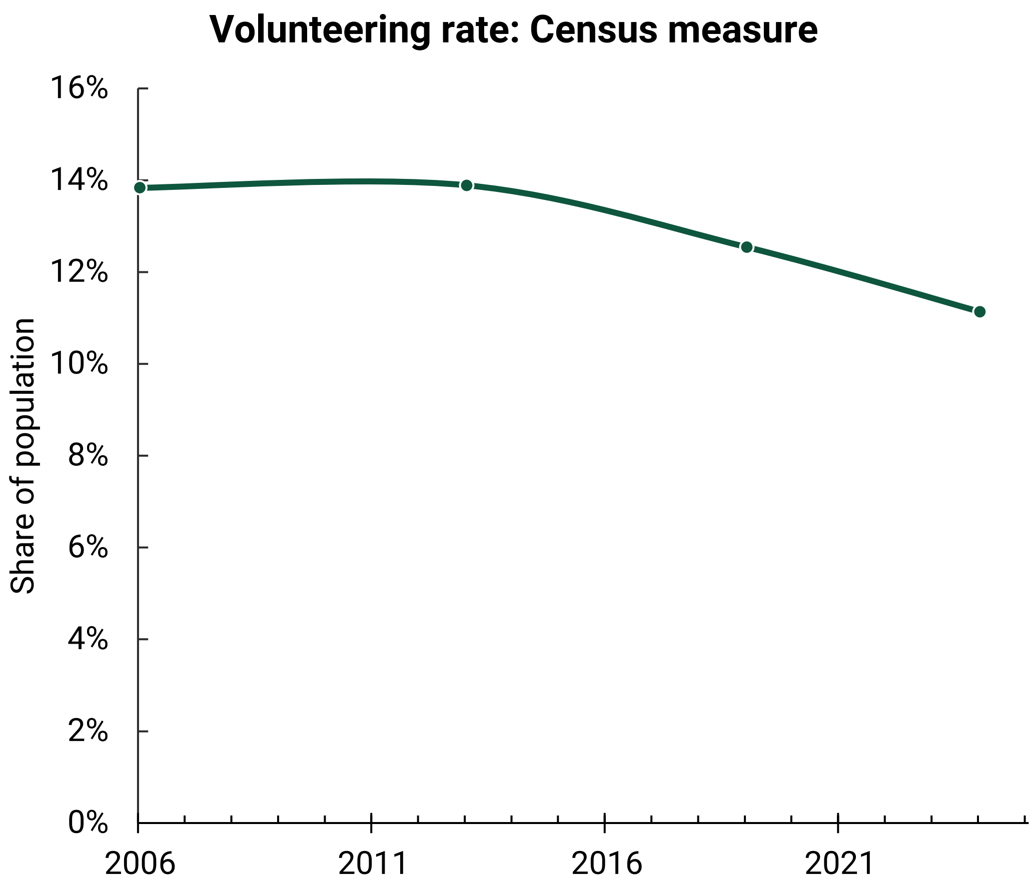


Source: The Helen Clark Foundation

Hopeful, risk & opportunity



Source: The Helen Clark Foundation



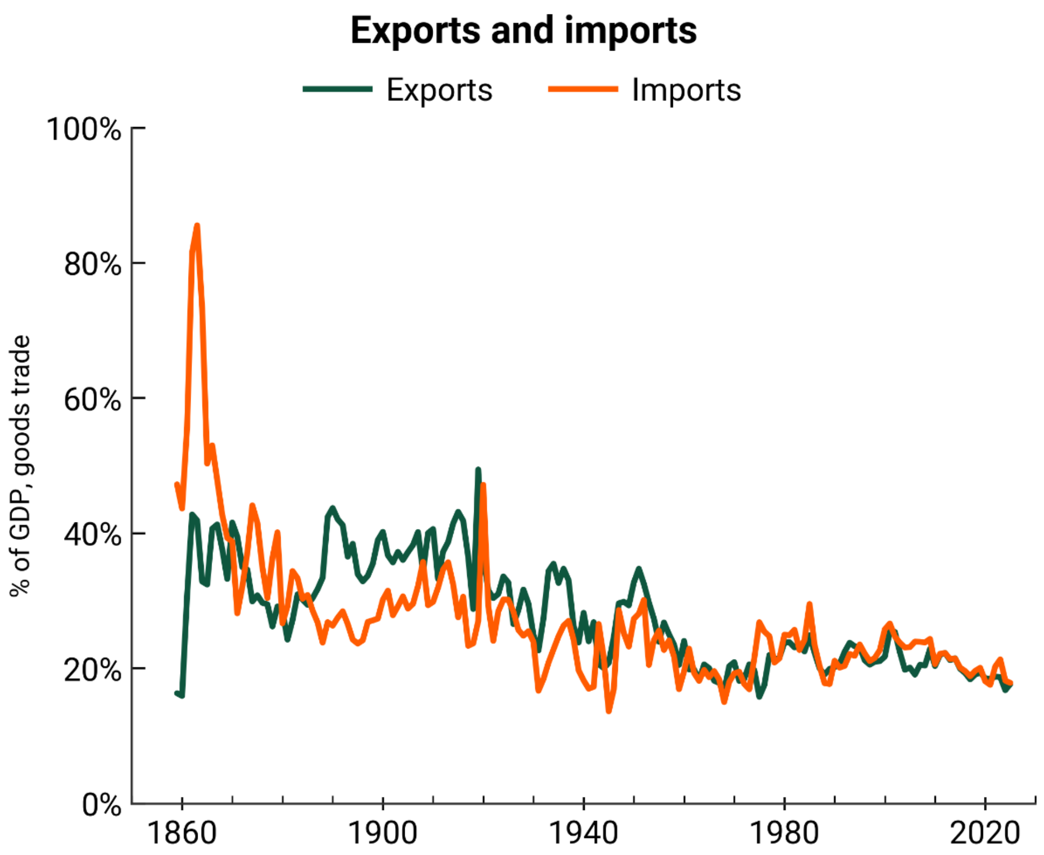
Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

We have issues & strengths

Safe harbour, if we invest

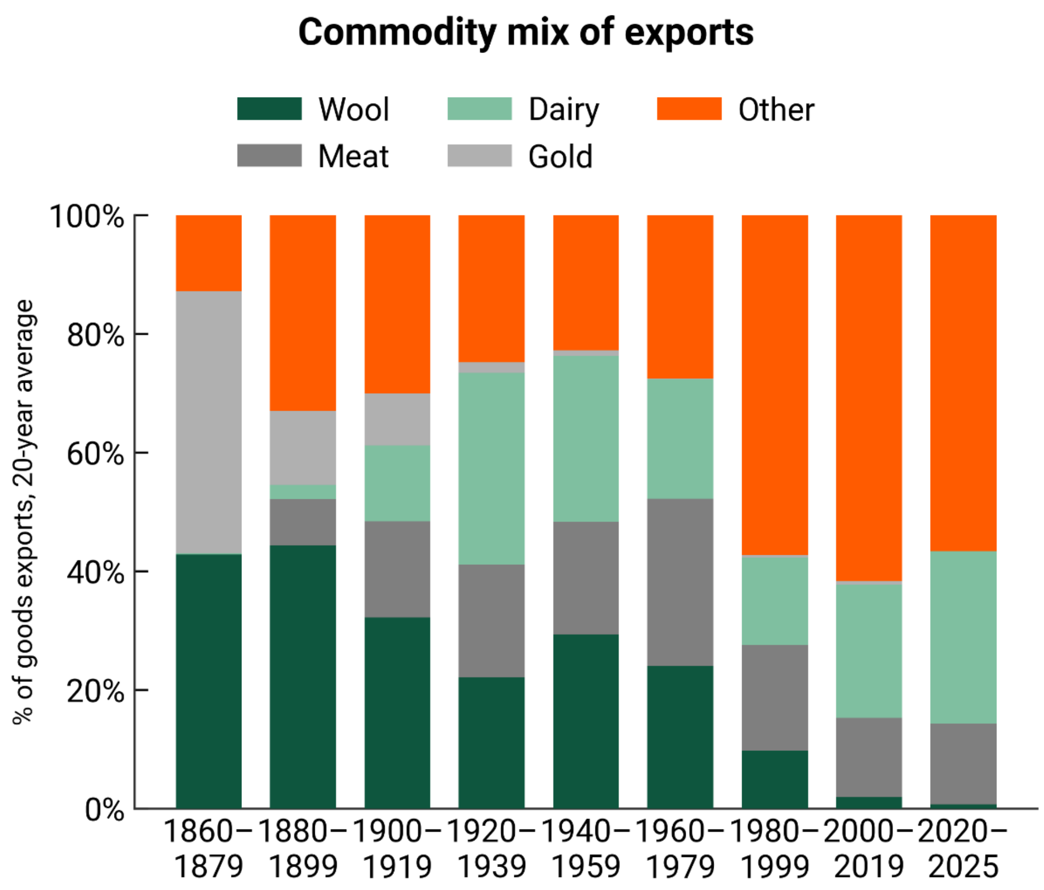
Globalisation is not dead

Source: Fouquin and Hugot; CEPII 2016; IMF, World Bank, Simplicity Research Hub

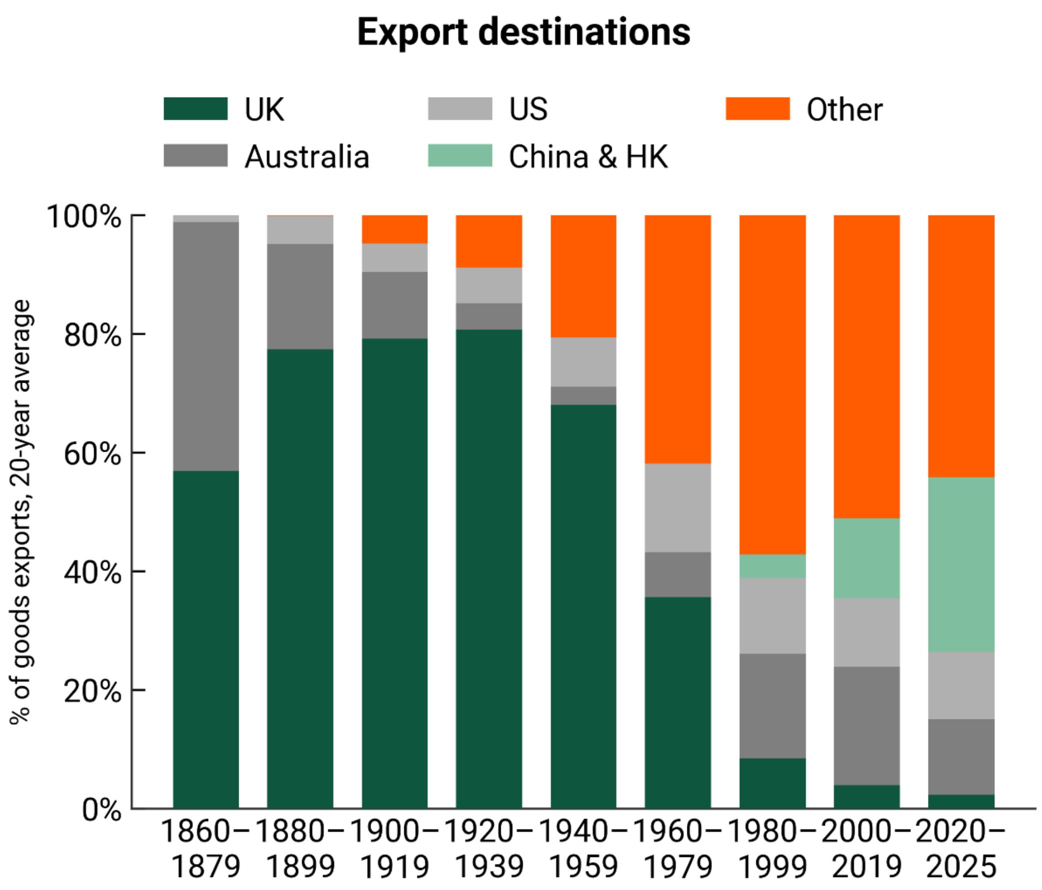


Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

Although changed



Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub



Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

Our place in the world…

New Zealand over Europe, to scale

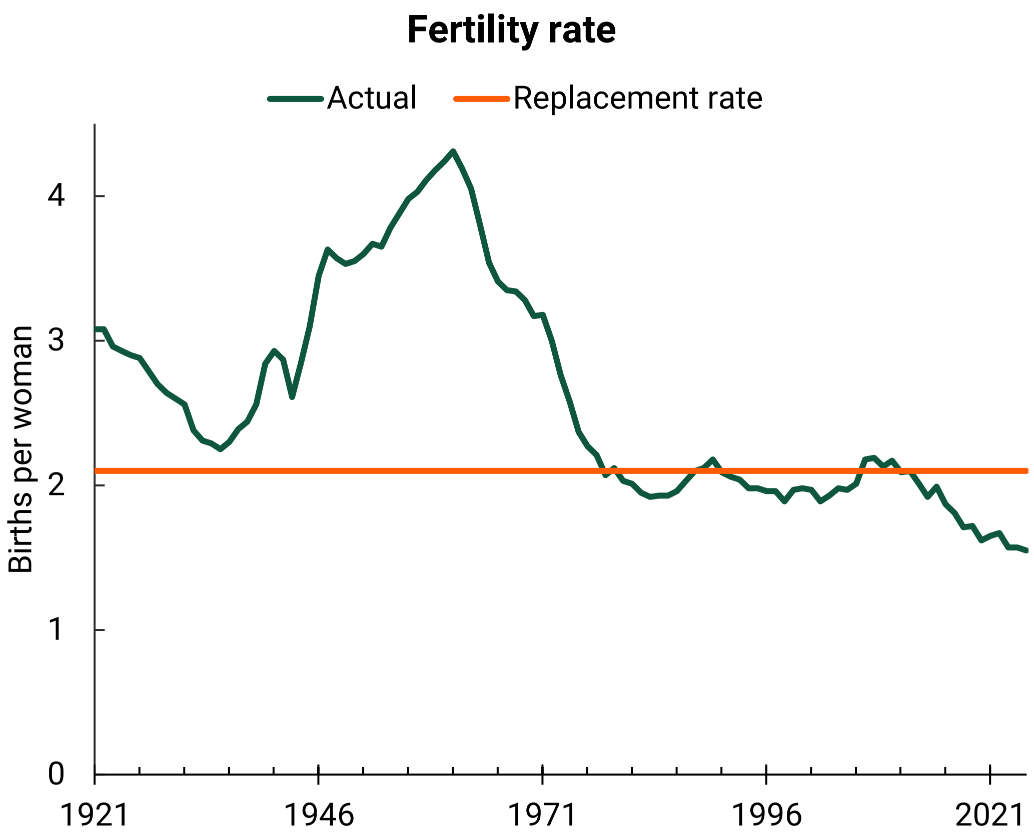
New Zealand over Japan, to scale

…and gloriously isolated

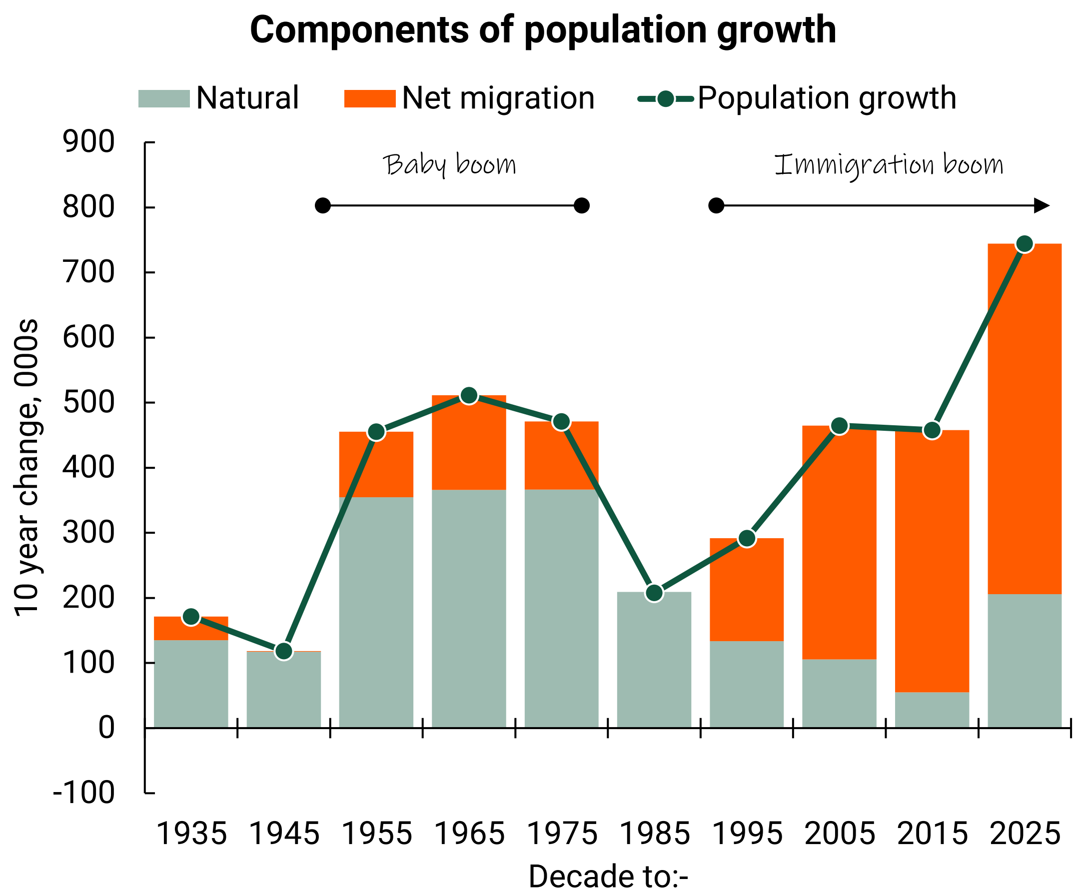
Within 2,000 km of Wellington

Within 2,000 km of Berlin

We are changing



Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

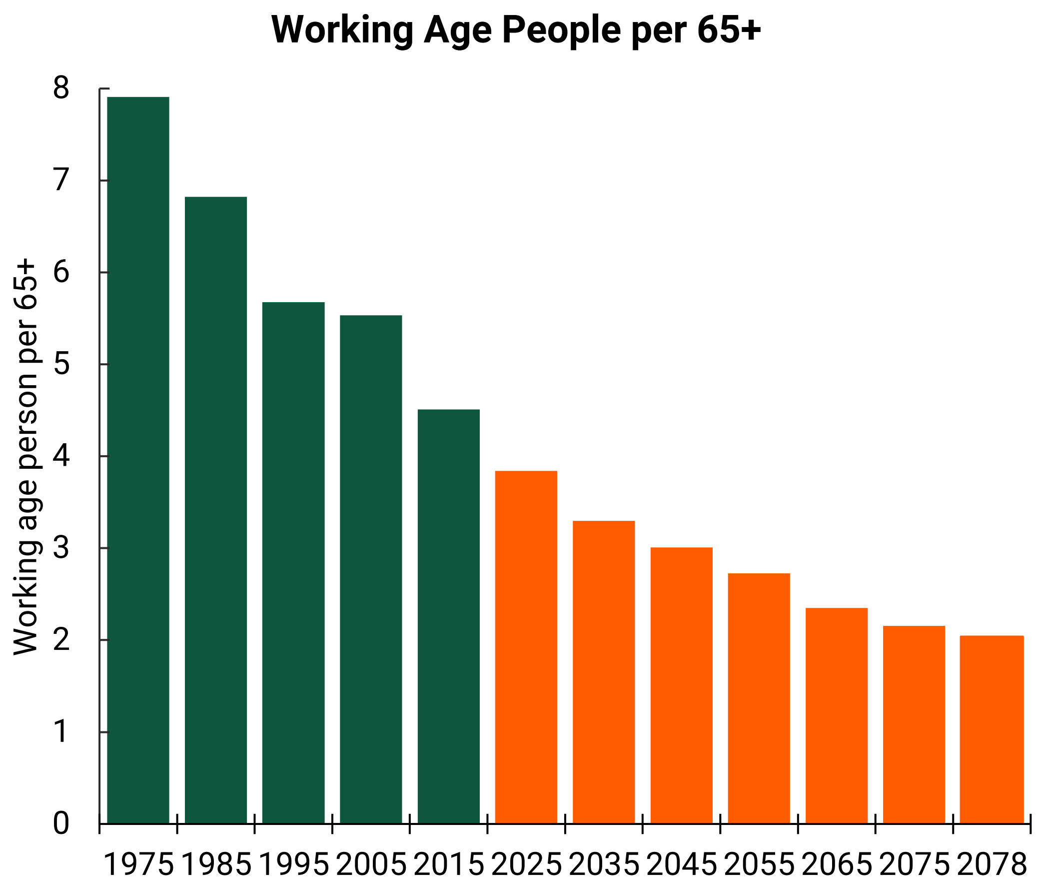


Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

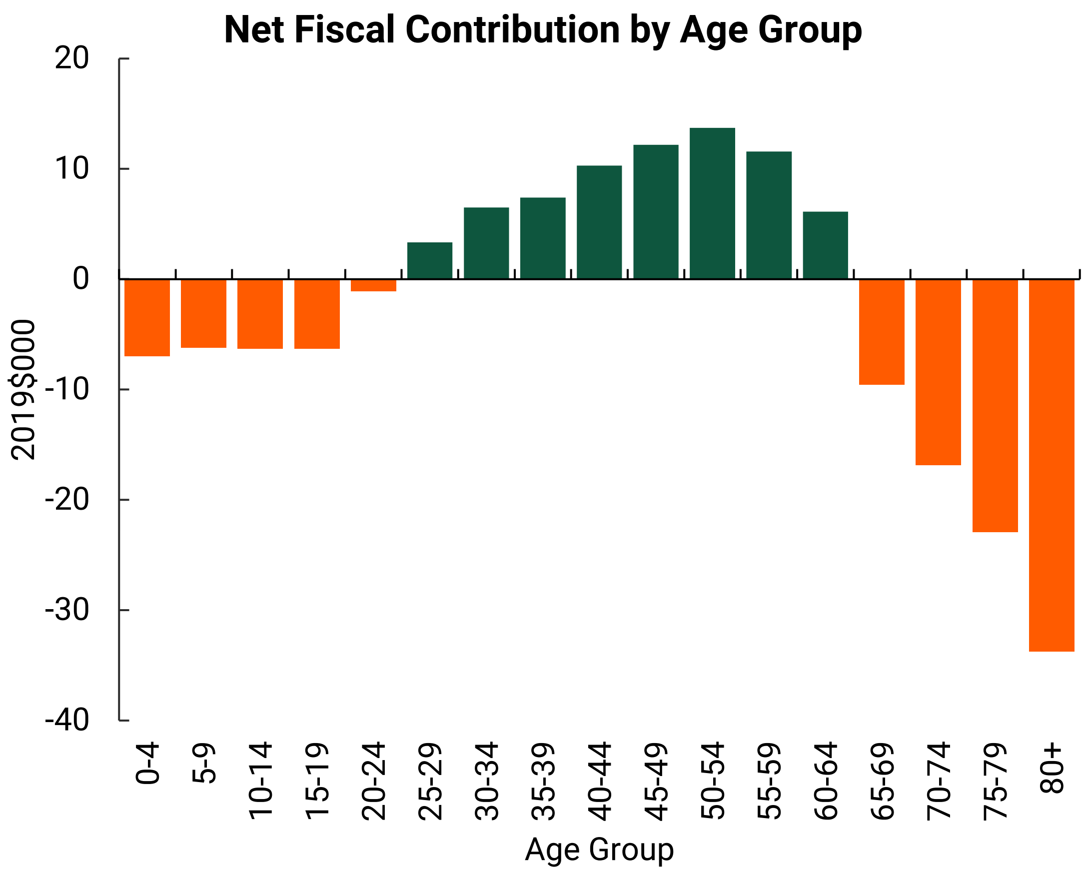
Diversity is place based & changing

Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

Demographics matter…

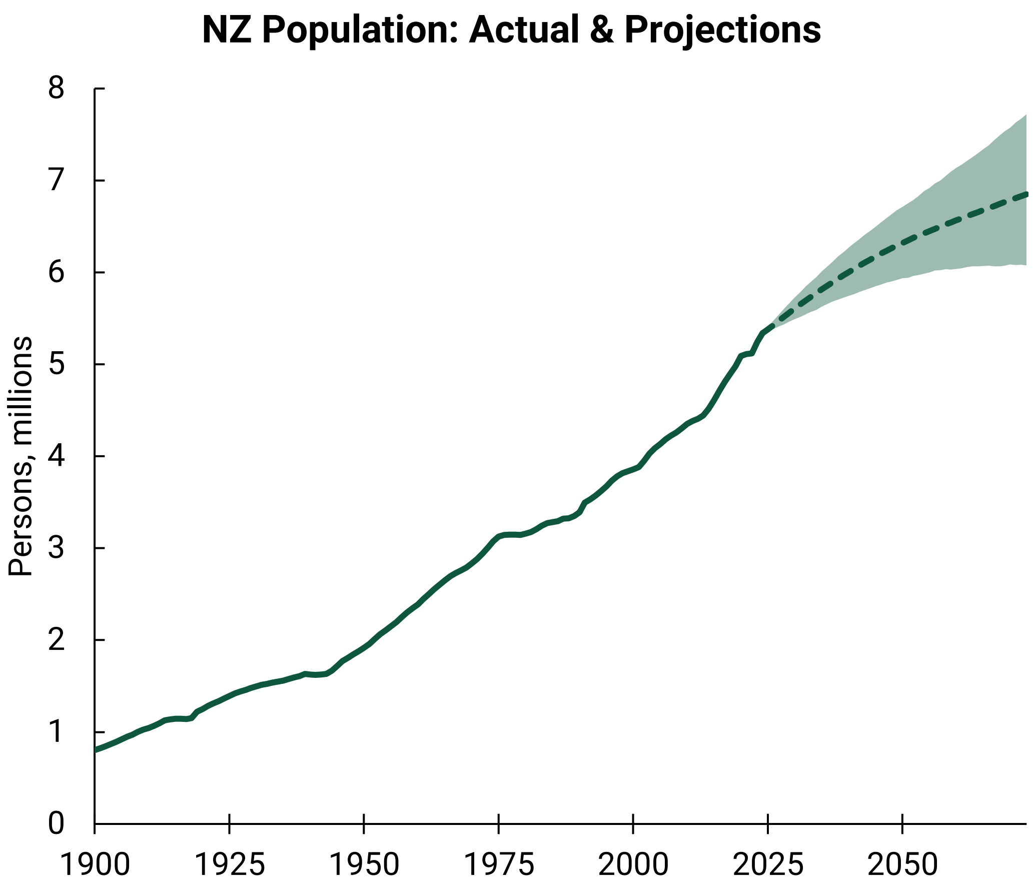


Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

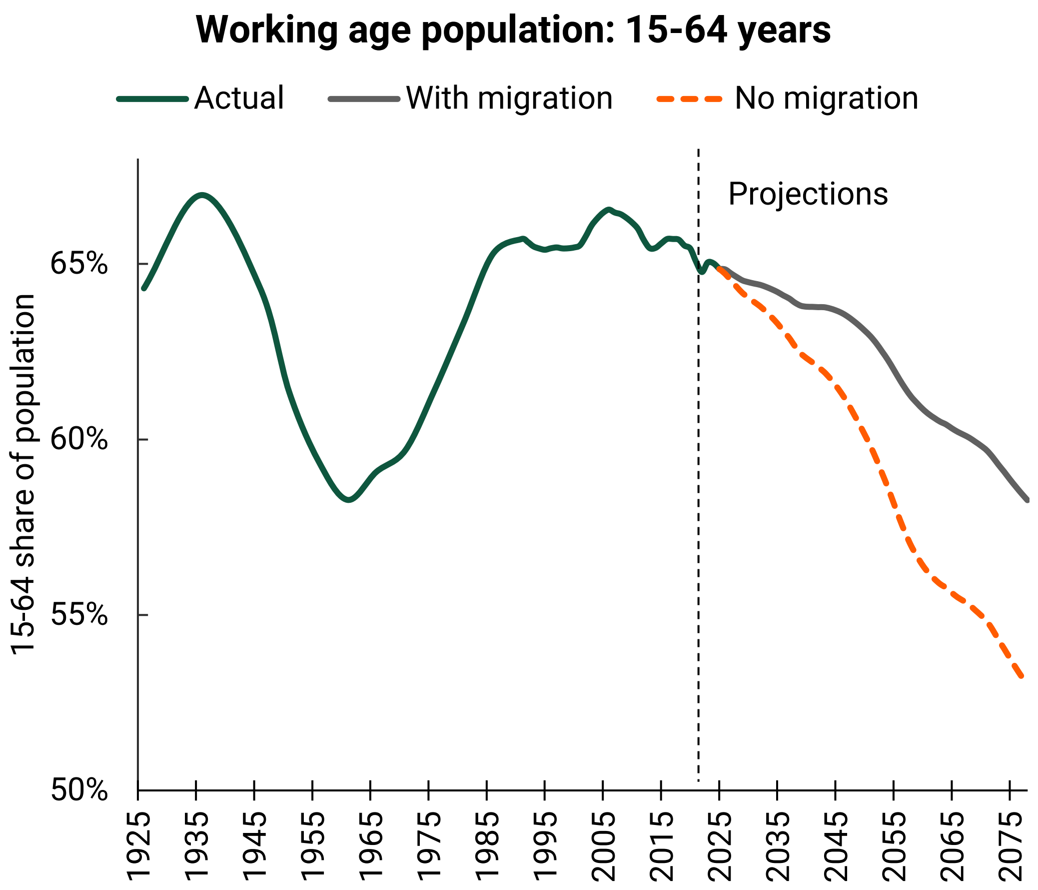


Source: NZ Treasury, Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

…even there a mixed blessing

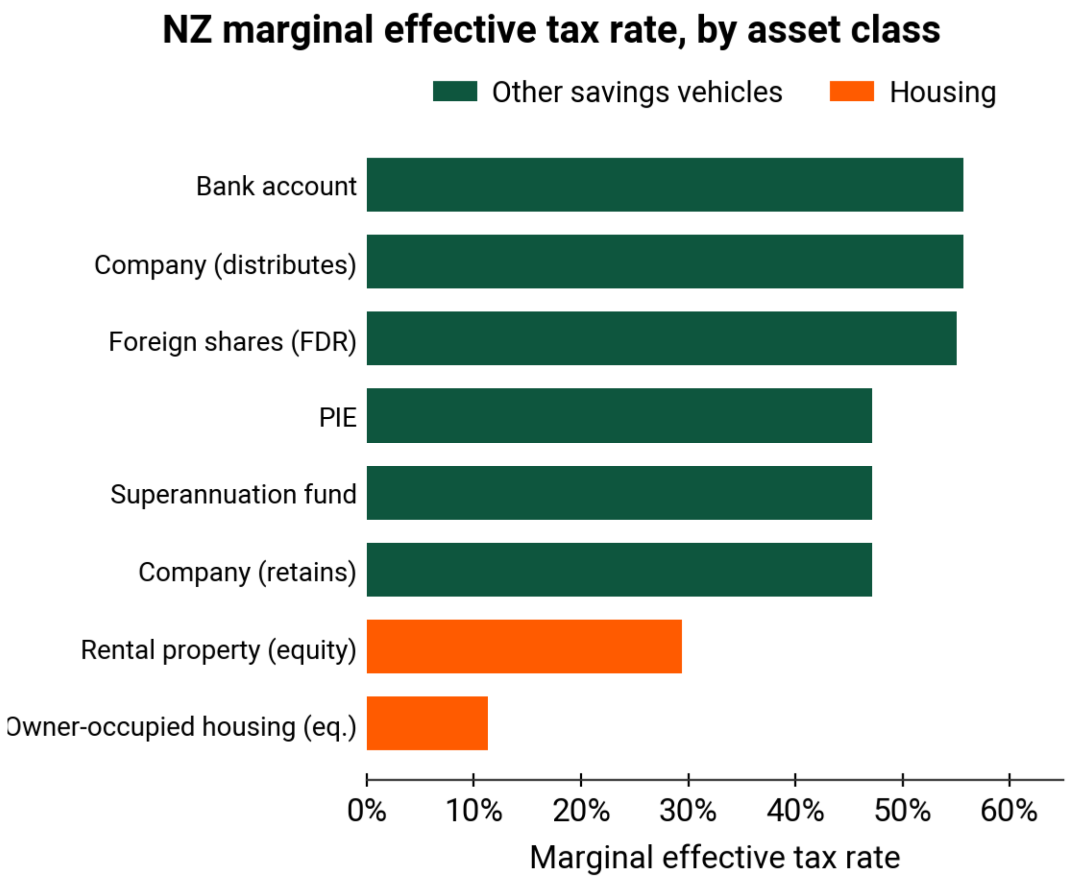


Source: Statistics NZ, S Eaqub

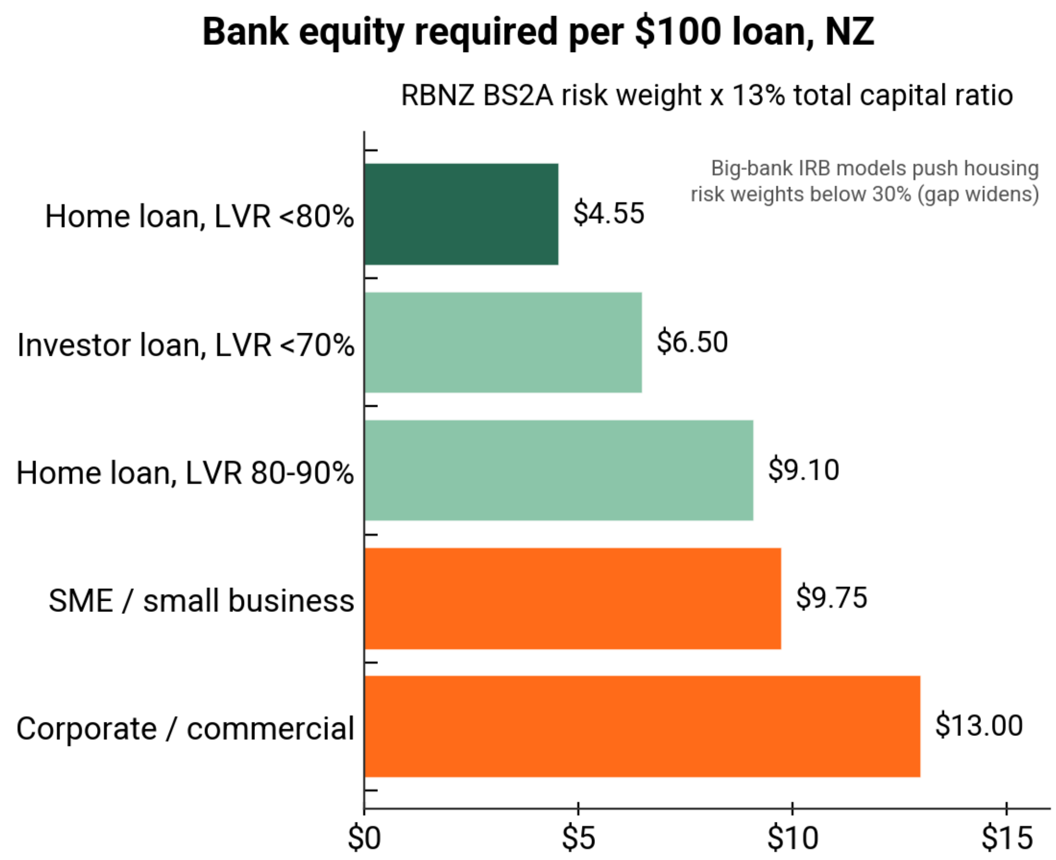


Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

We don't encourage investment



Source: Simplicity Research Hub

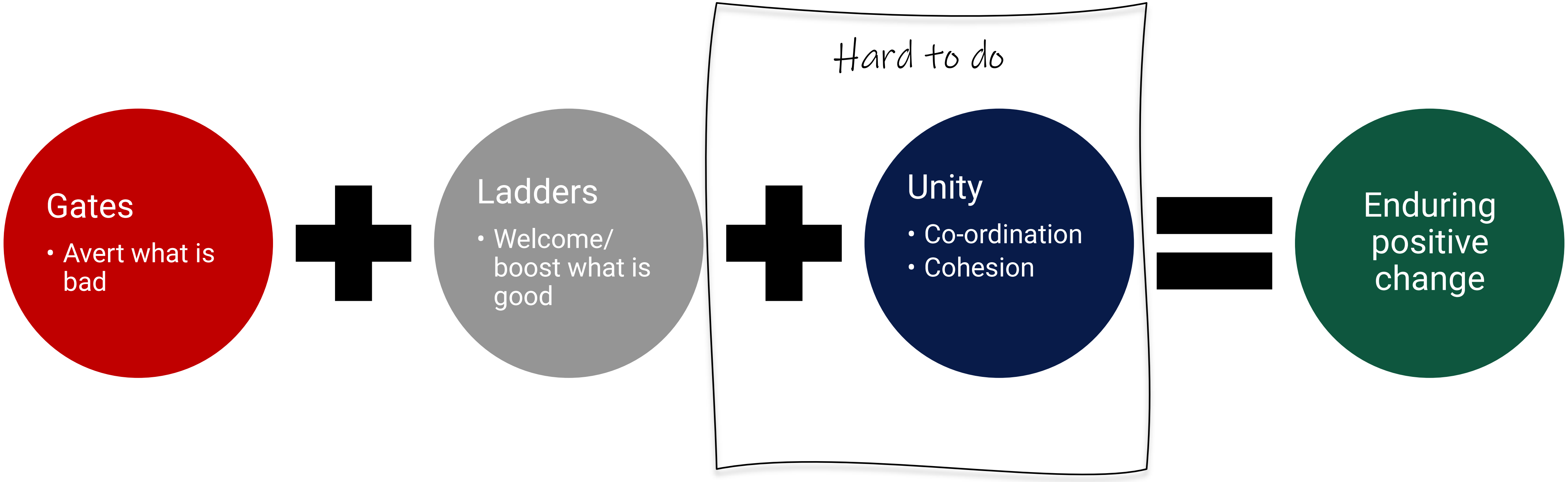


Source: Simplicity Research Hub

So what could work?

Invisible hand of the market vs the invisible fabric of society

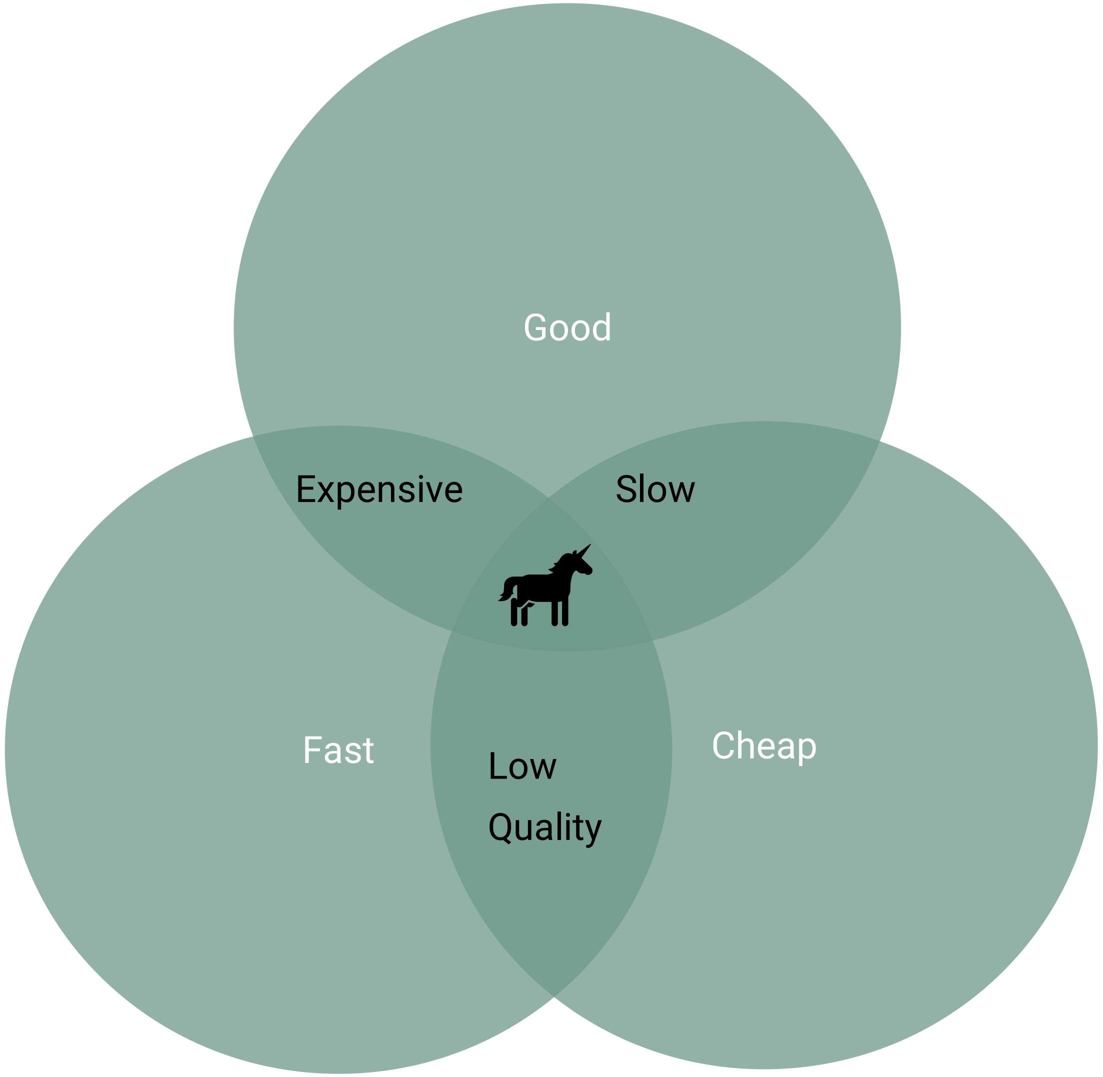
Theory of (enduring positive) change



How: Low stakes, responsibility, action.

Stages of deepening commitment

From unicorns...



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…to what actually works

Strategy	Long term goals	Consistent
Instruments	Tools to get there	Coherent
Processes	How we make decisions	Credible

Using all levers

Influence	Engage	Design	Develop	Resource	Deliver	Control
Advising	Listening	Connecting	Championing	Charging	Nudging	Devolving
Lobbying	Informing	Engaging	Agreeing	Incentivising	Educating	Providing assurance
Agenda setting	Consulting	Analysis	Partnering	Contracting	Building	Licensing
Role modelling	Convening	Forecasting	Planning	Co-funding	Providing	Regulating
Auditing	Collaborating	Modelling	Commissioning	Targeting	Reforming	Intervening
Governing	Negotiating	Testing	Interpreting	Investing	Safeguarding	Enforcing
Publishing	Running elections	Piloting	Drafting	Funding	Preventing	Sanctioning
Scrutinising	Setting standards	Evaluating	Legislating	Recovering	Protecting	Prosecuting

Theory of change: what?

Tinkering with existing ways

Introduce new ways

Change the goals of what we want to achieve

The big ideas are the same

Investing in our people

Lifting our gaze…

Investing in social infrastructure

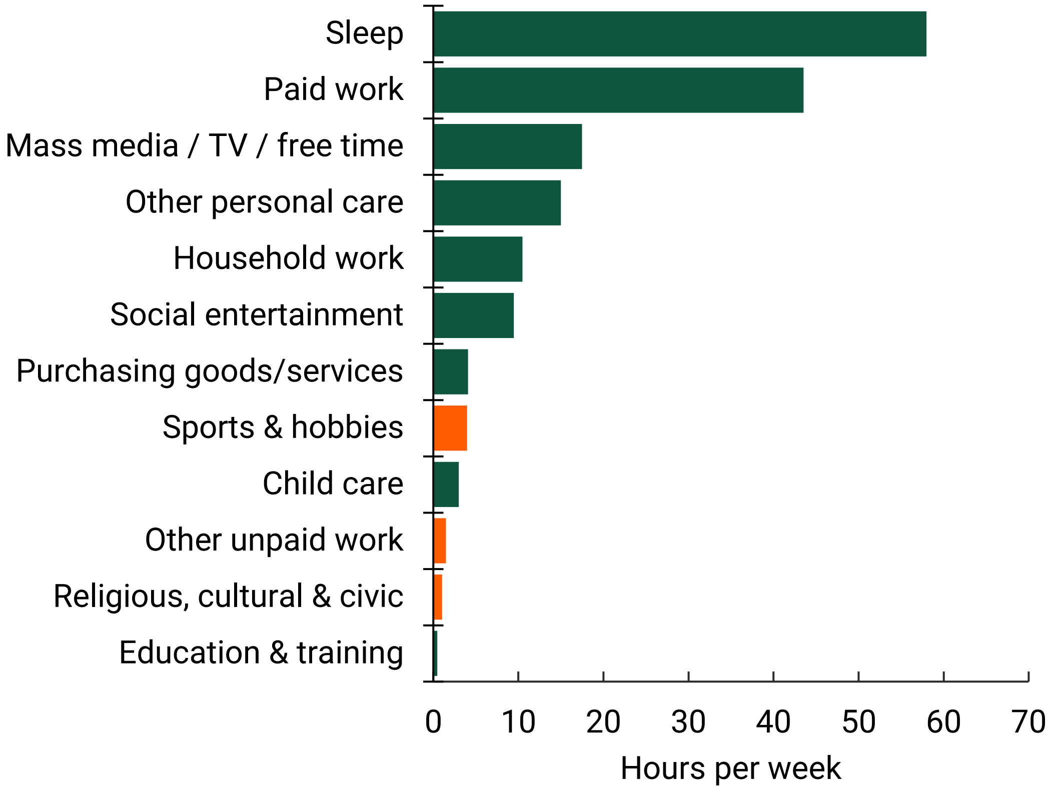
…bearing costs and…

Investing in physical infrastructure

…sharing benefits

Meet across difference

The average week of a worker

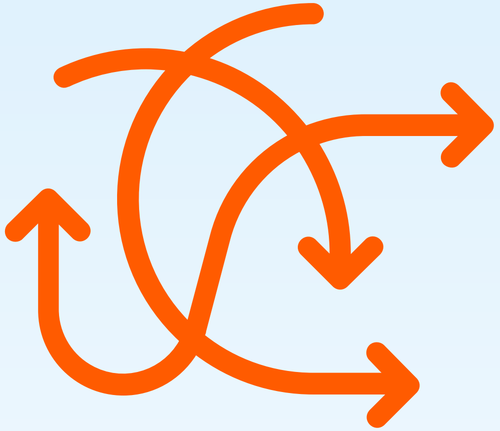


Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

Individual action

- Show up: sport, culture, faith, civic life
- Volunteer: time is a great equaliser
- Donate and bequeath
- Invest in impact
- Small actions ripple: none need be tectonic

Solidarity, stewardship & lifting our gaze



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