

April 2026

## **MP Ryan Hamilton**

### **MP for Hamilton East**

Hi, it's Ryan Hamilton, MP for Hamilton East. It's been busy as ever, both in my electorate and in Wellington where National is fixing the basics and building the future. And while we're facing uncertain times right now, there are some good news stories I'd like to share.

### **Big Events for Hamilton**

We've had some fantastic events in Hamilton lately. Homegrown was here for the first time, with about 30,000 people pouring into the city and filling up Claudelands as well as our local shops, bars and restaurants. Not only is it exciting to see more events coming to our city, it's also great news for the local economy. We've also had Balloons Over Waikato, with over 100,000 people taking part over the week. Always a staple event in Hamilton, it's going from strength to strength. Huge congratulations to the Balloons Over Waikato Trust and all the key sponsors who make the iconic event possible year after year. Not only does Hamilton have some great events, but National's investment in major events is also bringing big shows to cities across New Zealand and it's great for our economy. More visitors and tourists means more jobs and higher wages, with tourism contributing 7.7 percent of GDP and employing 1 in 9 people in New Zealand.

### **Building Hamilton's Future**

- It's official: the new medical school at the University of Waikato is now under construction. This is huge for Hamilton and for New Zealand. From 2028, the Waikato medical school will train an additional 120 doctors each year, on top of the 100 extra places being added at Otago and Auckland between 2024 and 2026. It's great to see this construction project underway in the Waikato. Even before it's opened its new creating jobs and opportunities. National worked tirelessly to make this happen, and I want to give a special mention to Shane Reti, who played a big part in it.
- The new Waikato Regional Theatre, also known as the BNZ Theatre, is now open. 1,300 people turned out for the opening and it's a fantastic example of collaboration between local and central government, business, community and philanthropy. I'm pleased to have played a small role in its journey during my five years on the Hamilton City Council. When shows are on, people are coming into town, eating out, staying the night and spending at local businesses.
- Southern Links will be a game changer for Hamilton. It's a planned network of new roads connecting the Waikato Expressway, Hamilton Airport and the city's southern

suburbs to ease congestion and support future growth. It's moved on to the next phase as part of National's Roads of National Significance. By 2048, an extra 224,000 people are expected to be living in the Waikato, so it's crucial we have transport networks that can keep Hamilton and the region moving.

### **National News**

At a national level, there are a few things I want to update you on.

- National's responsible economic management is more important than ever. We've been hustling on the world stage, concluding new trade deals with India and the UAE. Goods exports are the highest ever, New Zealand's two-way international trade has topped \$61 billion, and tourists are back in force, spending \$46.6 billion in the year to March 2025.
- We are also scrapping the RMA and replacing it, just like we promised. The new system will cut red tape, reduce costs and unnecessary delays, and unlock growth. The RMA tried to do everything at once and did none of it well. The new planning system will make it easier to build the homes and infrastructure our city needs.
- You might've also seen the Member's Bill I put in the biscuit tin to give Police new powers to crack down on anti-social behaviour, called move-on orders. Justice Minister Paul Goldsmith and Police Minister Mark Mitchell made the announcement in February, and I'm stoked to see my bill help get move-on orders across the line. Police will have the power to move people on for up to 24 hours and refer them to the support services they may need. We're reclaiming our city centres so everyone can enjoy them again, whether you're visiting, living or working there. This includes Hamilton.

No doubt lots more will happen this year. I'm looking forward to working as Hamilton East's local MP, as well as part of the National Party team, to make more good things happen for Hamilton.

*Authorised Ryan Hamilton , MP for Hamilton East.*