

May 2025

Minister Scott Simpson, National MP for Coromandel

This National-led Government is all about growth.

Across the country, including here in the beautiful Coromandel and across the Waikato, we are laying the foundations for a healthy, growing economy. We know the challenges faced by businesses, such as global uncertainty and inflation. But Nicola Willis and our team are determined to unlock opportunities for businesses, communities, and families through a responsible Budget focused on growth.

Closer to home, we've had plenty to celebrate over summer. Beach Hop is always a massive event on the Coromandel calendar, and it continues to deliver enormous value. This year alone, it's estimated to have pumped \$10 million into the Coromandel economy. A special shout out to Noddy Watts – Noddy has been the driving force behind this iconic event for 25 years. His vision has helped put the Coromandel on the map and filled our local motels, cafes, and shops, year after year.

Tourism is important for our region, and is a key part of the Government's Going for Growth plan – and it's great to see the Coromandel leading the way. Over the summer, ANZ's consumer spending data showed the Coromandel had the highest domestic tourist spend in New Zealand. This is a reflection of the strength and appeal of our communities. As we head into the autumn and winter shoulder seasons, new investment in Tourism New Zealand will help continue this momentum, encouraging more visitors to explore regional gems like ours year-round.

Progress on the roads has also been substantial, with the SH2 corridor between Katikati and Te Puna returning to a 100 km/h speed limit. This is an example of how we are putting common sense back into road management.

In fact, a lot of our work has been focused on delivering results through a common-sense approach. As Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, I've been busy working to make it easier to do business, increase competition, and better protect Kiwi consumers. This is because a stronger, healthier market benefits everyone.

One of my big priorities is leading an ambitious review of New Zealand's competition settings, as set out in the Commerce Act 1986. This Act hasn't been substantially reviewed for more than 20 years, so it's certainly time for a bit of modernisation. When competition is working well, New Zealand businesses, both big and small, can thrive, with flow-on benefits for consumers such as greater choice and lower prices.

I am also continuing reforms to invigorate New Zealand's capital markets. There are several streams to this work, including changes to make it easier for companies to list on the NZ Stock Exchange. We want to make it easier not only for great Kiwi companies to list, but also for people to invest in them.



Looking ahead, Nicola Willis' Budget next week is being built on a clear strategy: responsible management of money, a focus on the areas that matter, and economic growth.

This year's Budget will focus on the priorities: health, education, law and order, and business growth. We are focused on boosting the economy, creating jobs, and maintaining stability, without raising taxes that would only undermine recovery and drive investment offshore.

Already, we are seeing encouraging signs. Inflation is back under control. Export-led growth, critical for Waikato's agricultural and manufacturing sectors, is strengthening. Business confidence, while still recovering, is coming off its lows. Growth is happening, the Waikato will be at the heart of it, and we intend to accelerate it.

The Waikato, as one of New Zealand's most dynamic regions, will be a key driver of that future. Whether it's in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, construction, or new tech sectors, the region's hard work, innovation, and resilience will continue to lead the way.

In the Coromandel, in the Waikato, and across the country, the opportunities are there. We're backing you, the entrepreneurs, the employers, the innovators, and the workers who will shape the next chapter of New Zealand's bright future.

We are going for growth and together with your drive and determination, we will achieve it.

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