

Rebuilding NZ

Why the future can be better

Havelock North
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Key points



What we did isn't working



A failure of imagination & understanding



Unicorns & short-termism



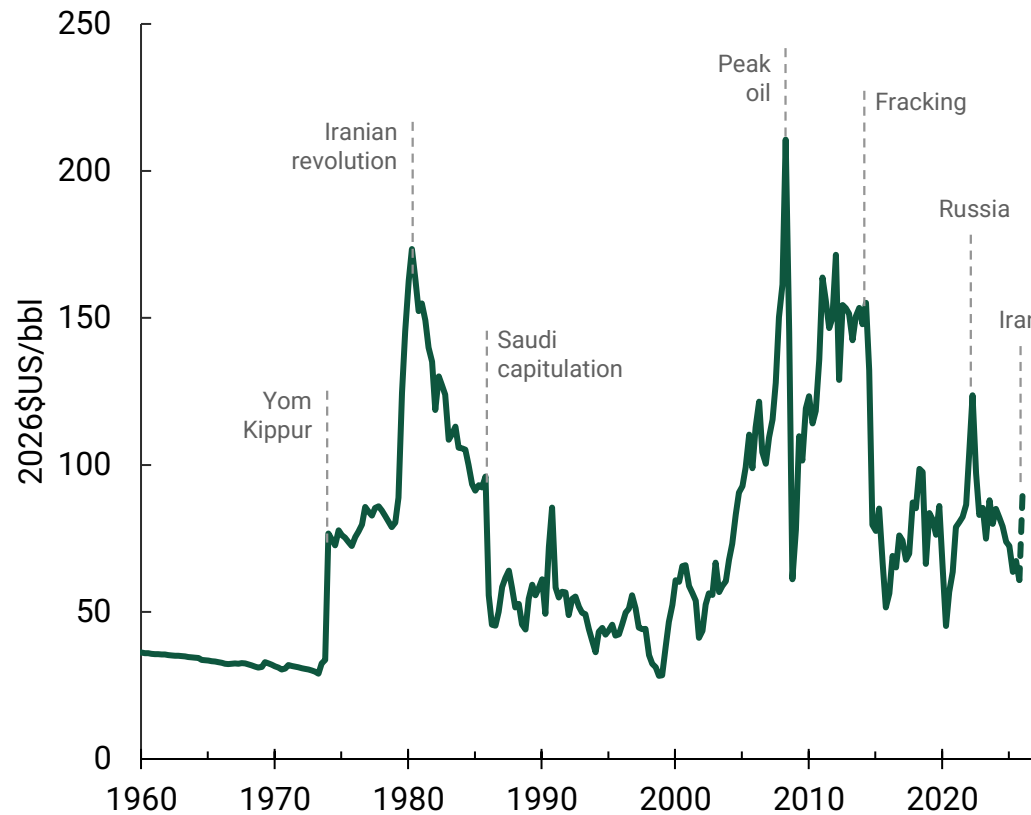
Better is possible; requires paying it forward.

Global disorder

A long trend

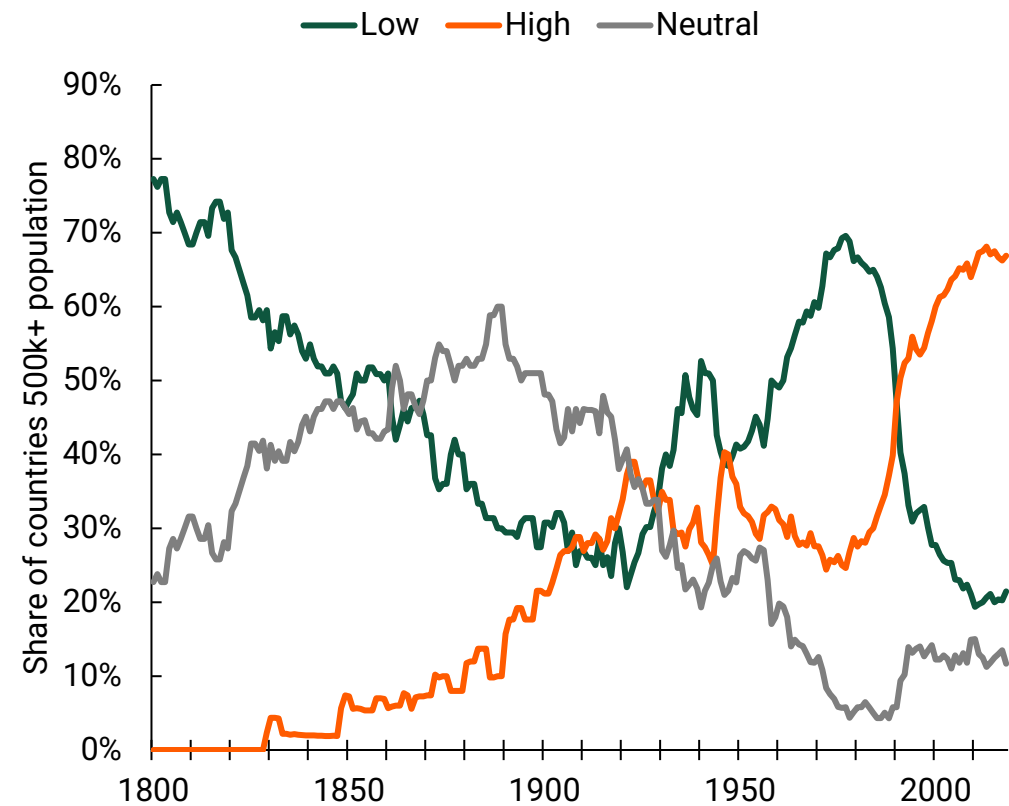
War, oil, security & economy

Brent Crude Oil Price



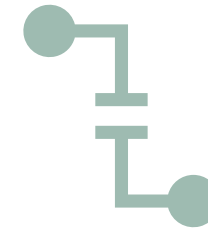
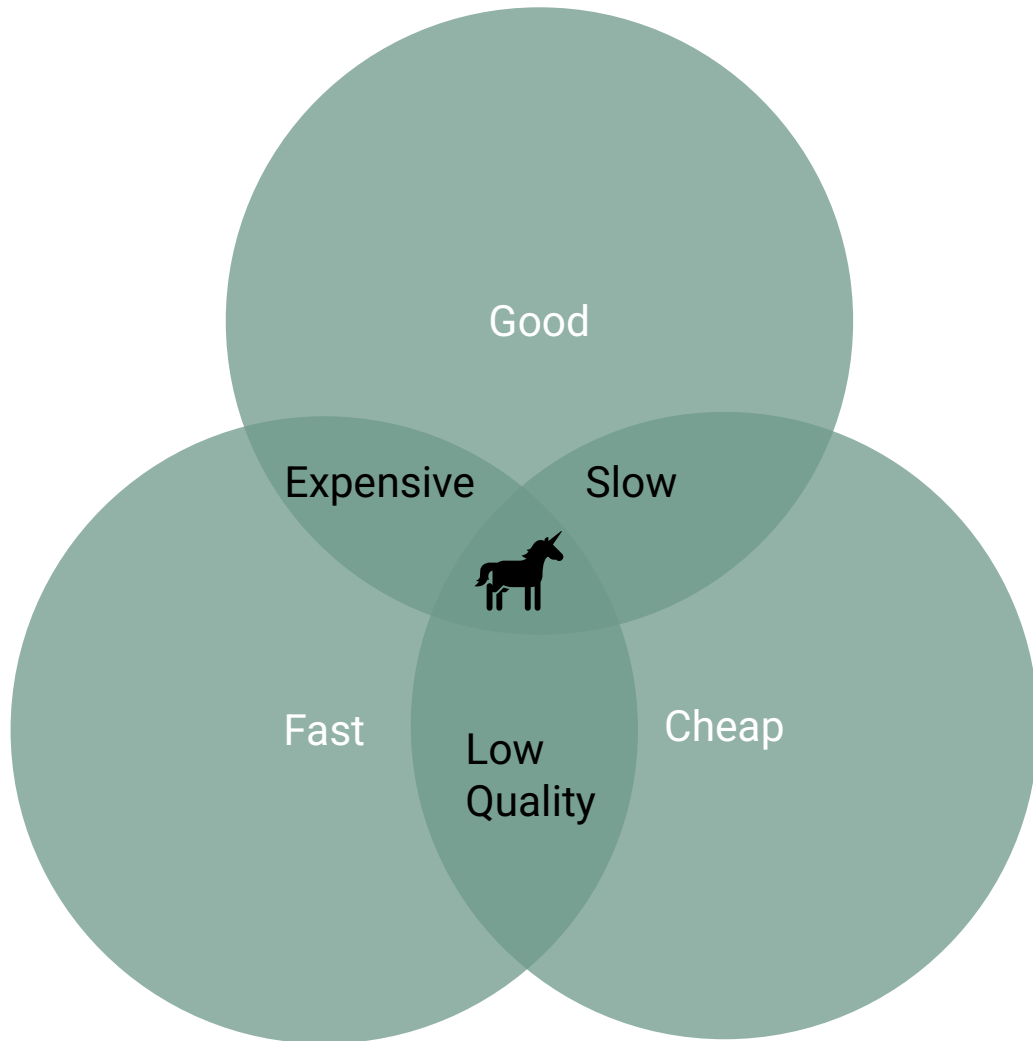
Source: MacroBond, Simplicity Research Hub

Political polarisation



Source: Polity Project, Simplicity Research Hub

Unicorns & consequences



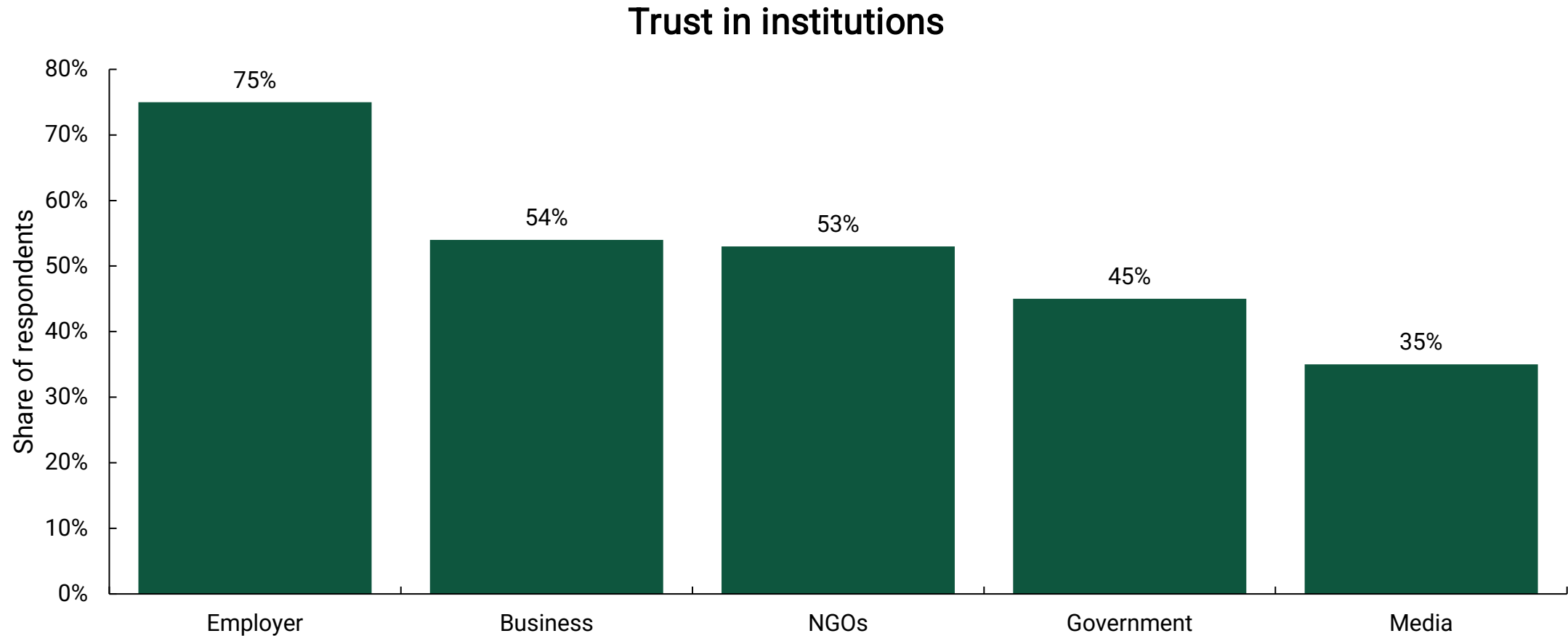
Politics

- Unorthodox/less durable policy
- Institutions under attack
- Fiscal pressures
- No centre/fractured

We aren't immune

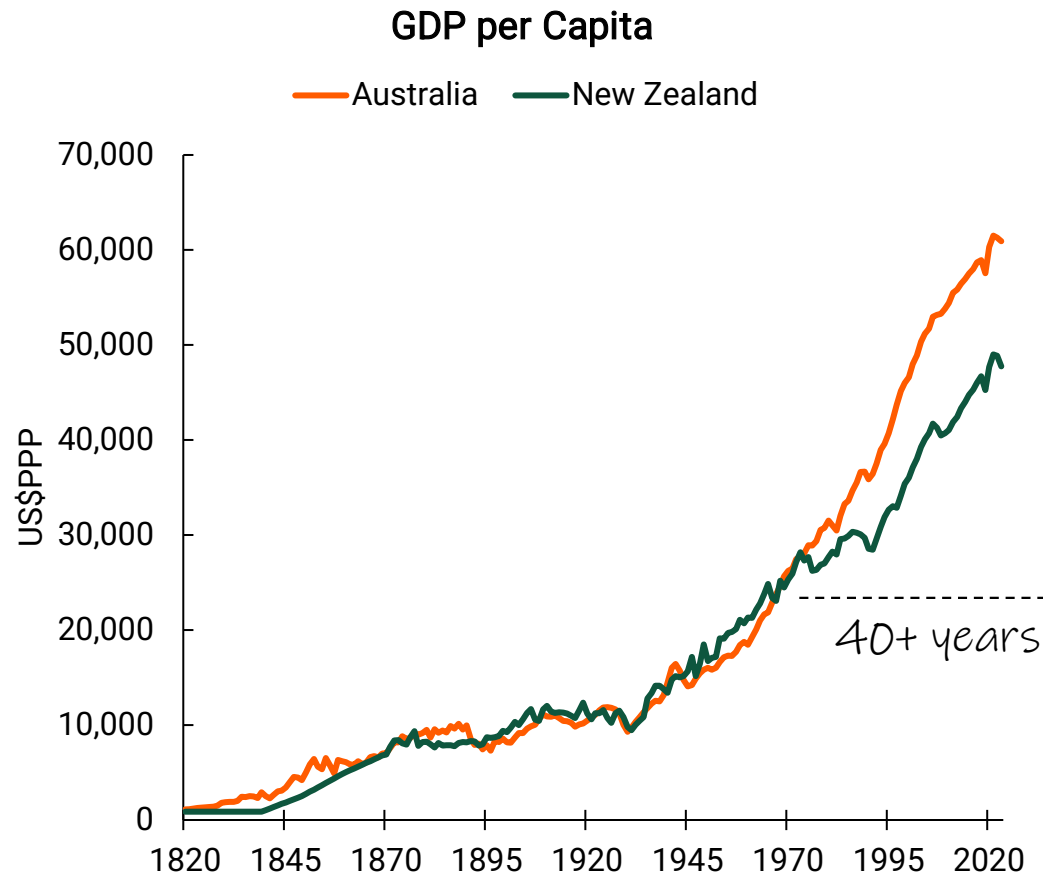
Fraying social cohesion

Rebuilding trust and cohesion?



Source: Acumen Edelman Trust Barometer 2025

What we did isn't working

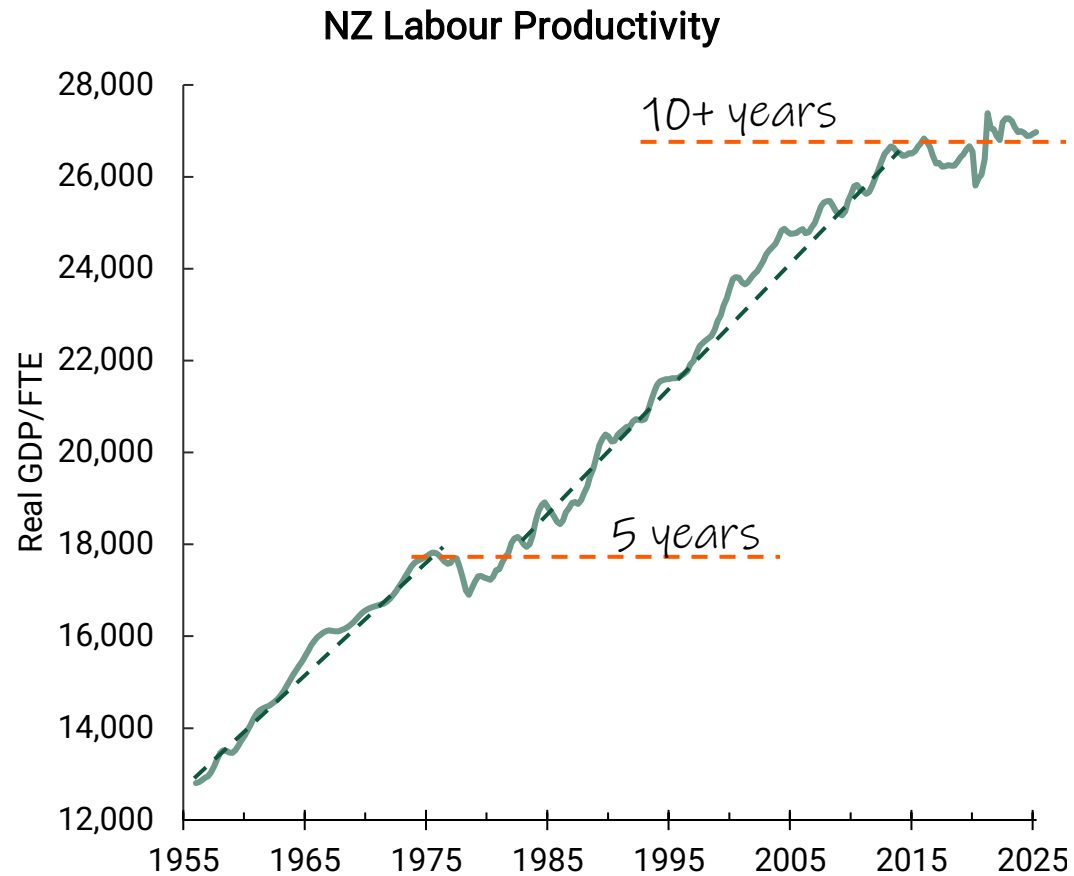


Source: Maddison Database, IMF, Simplicity Research Hub

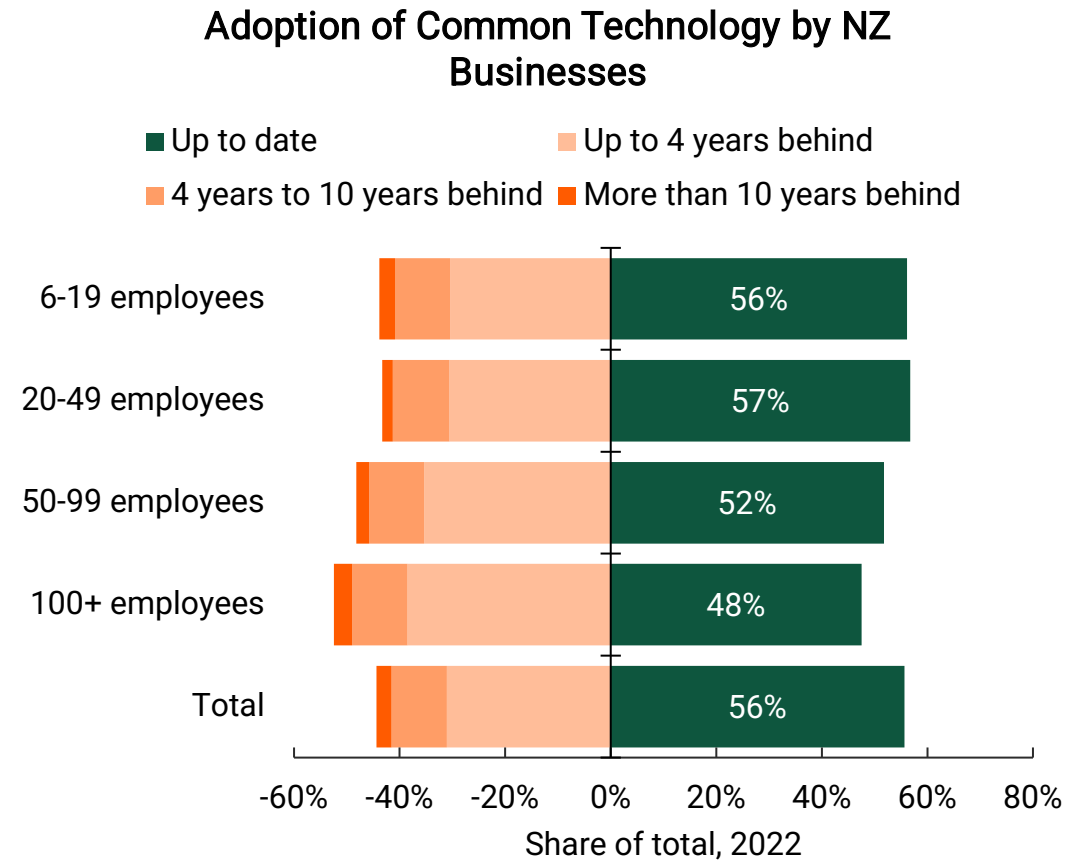


Source: MSD, NZIER, Statistics New Zealand, Simplicity Research Hub

We aren't getting smarter



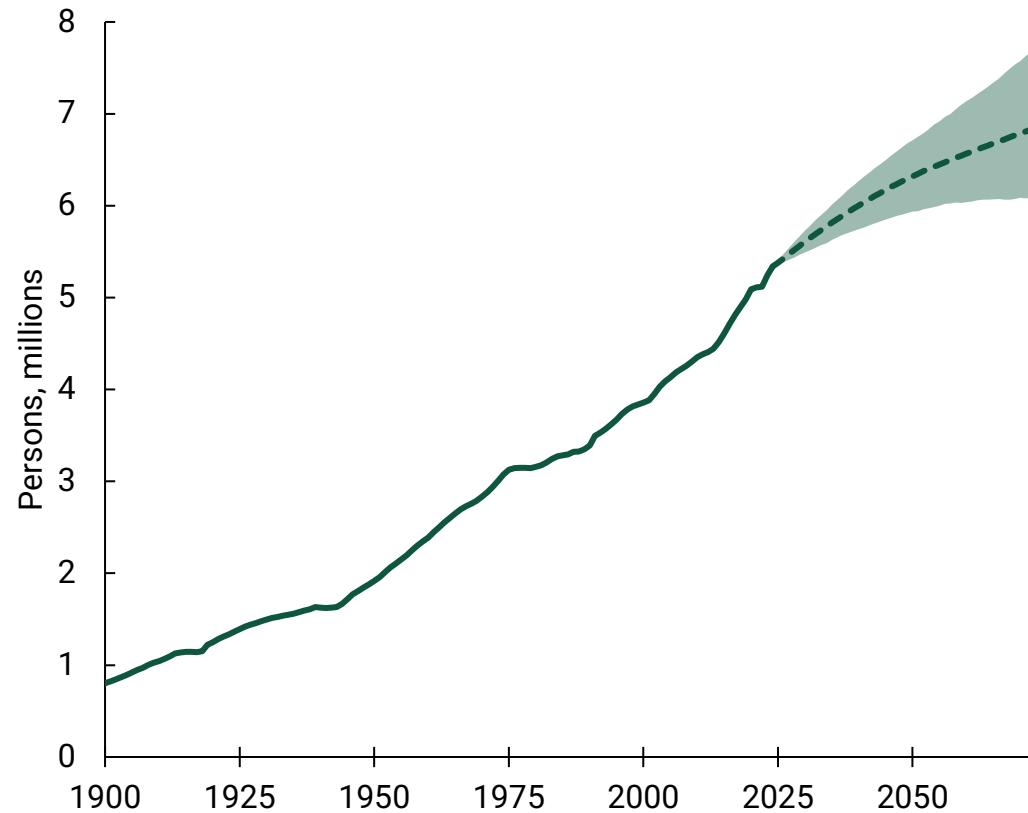
Sources: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub



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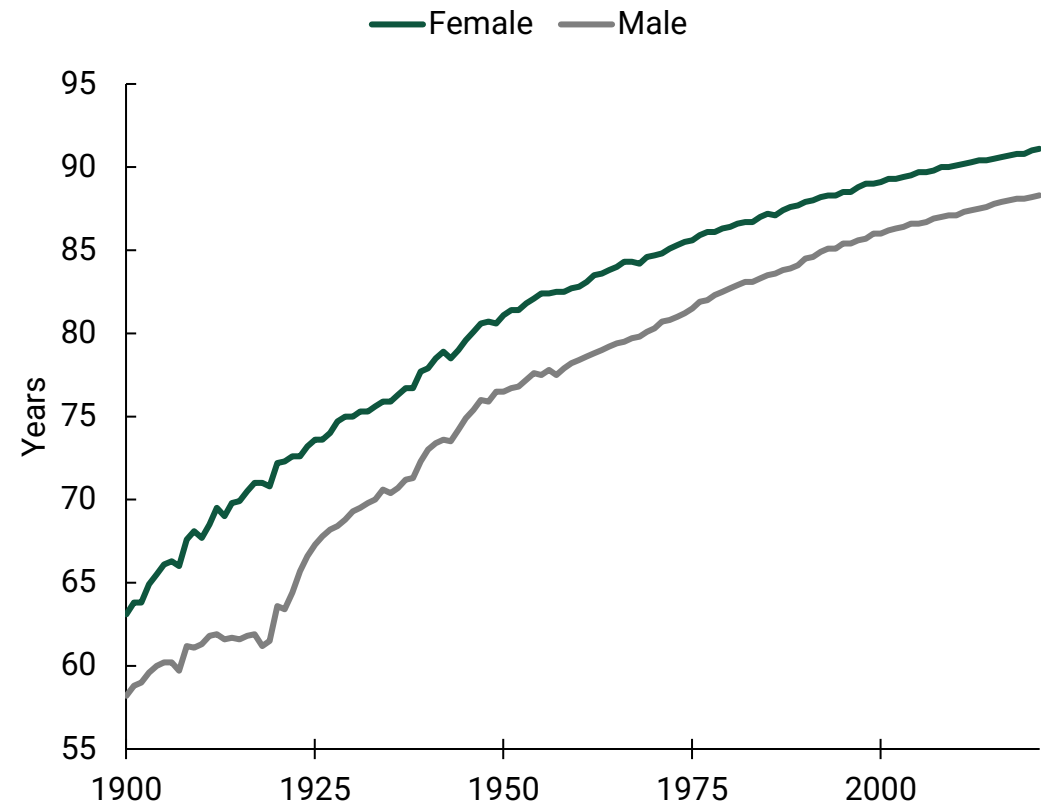
Good news

NZ Population: Actual & Projections



Source: Statistics NZ, S Eaqub

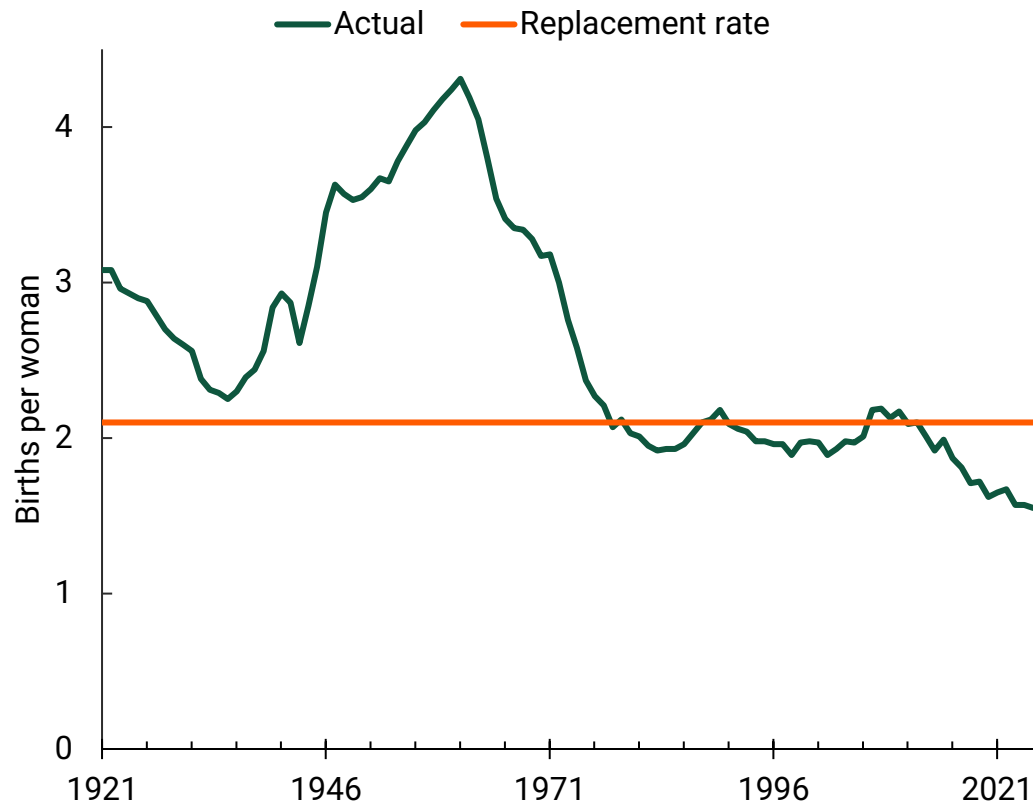
Life Expectancy at Birth



Source: Statistics NZ, S Eaqub

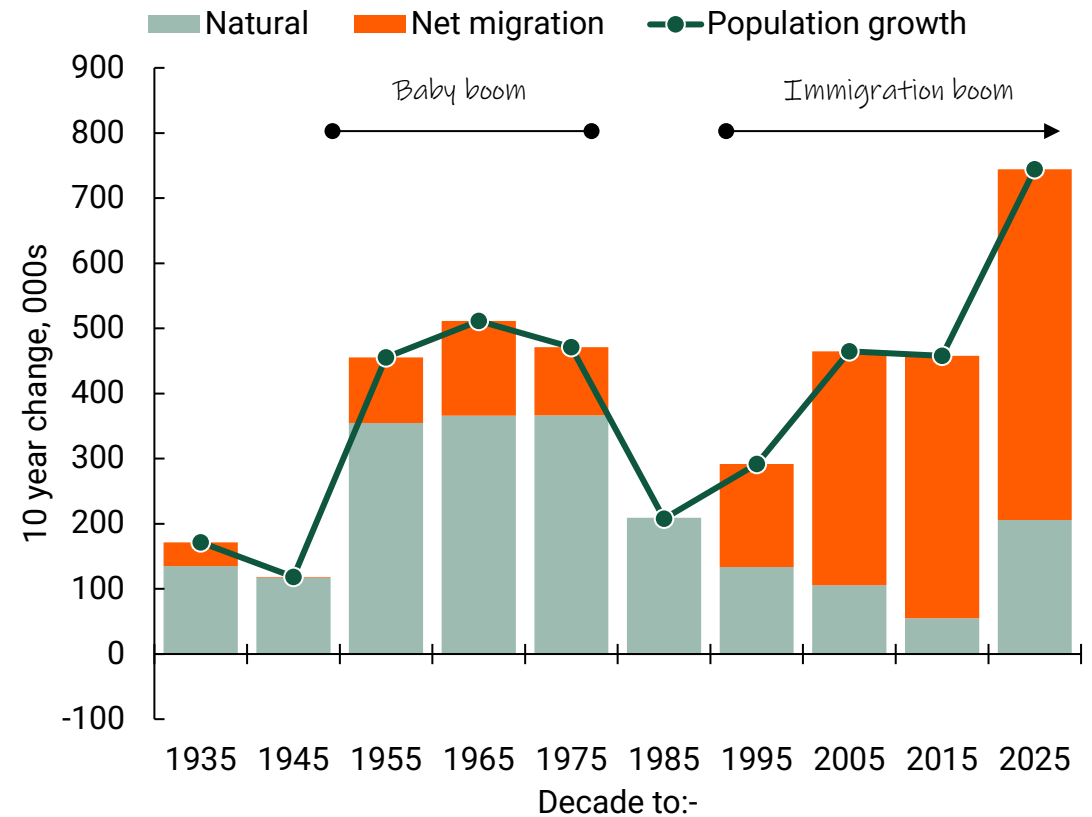
But some known shifts

Fertility rate



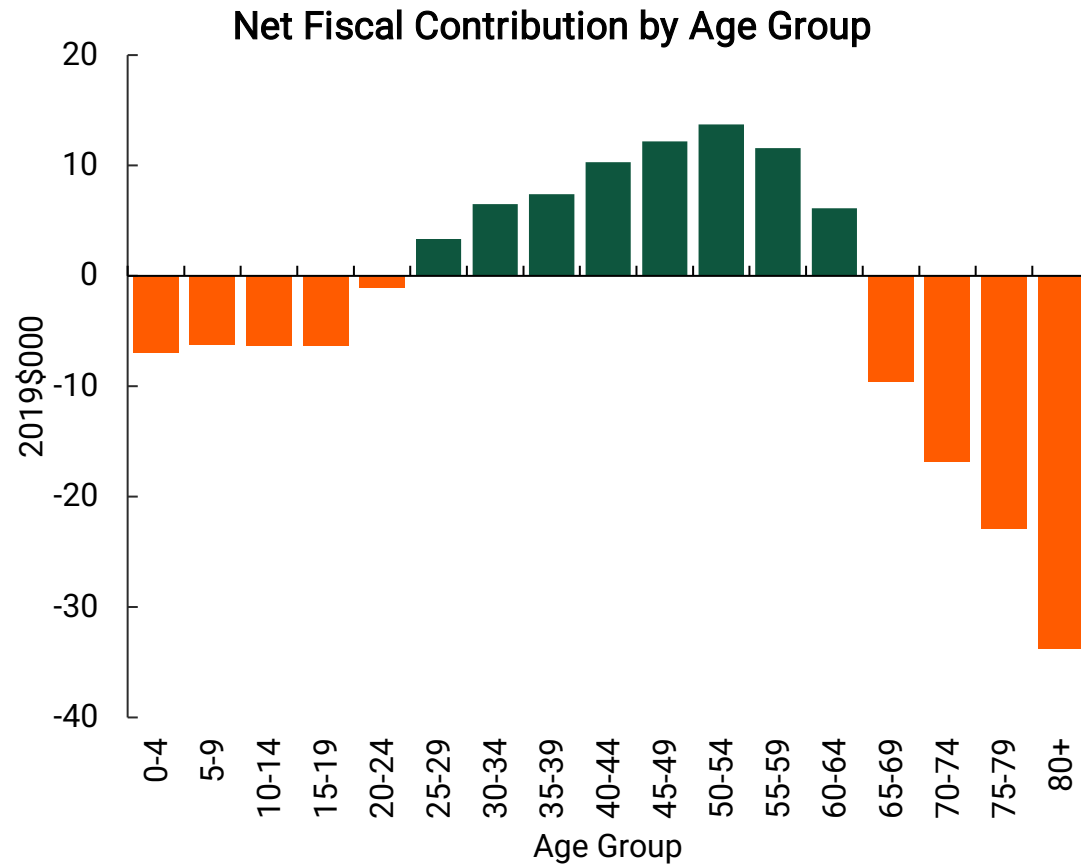
Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

Components of population growth

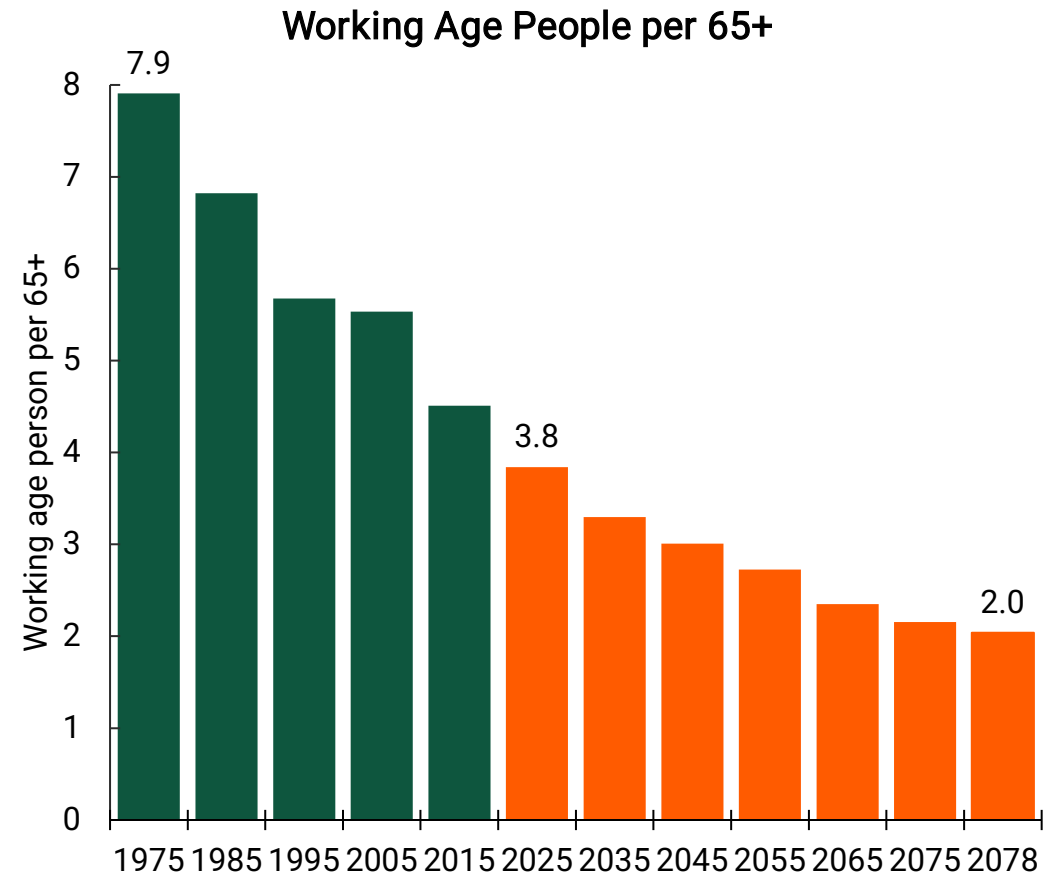


Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

We are set for a young population



Source: NZ Treasury, Simplicity Research Hub

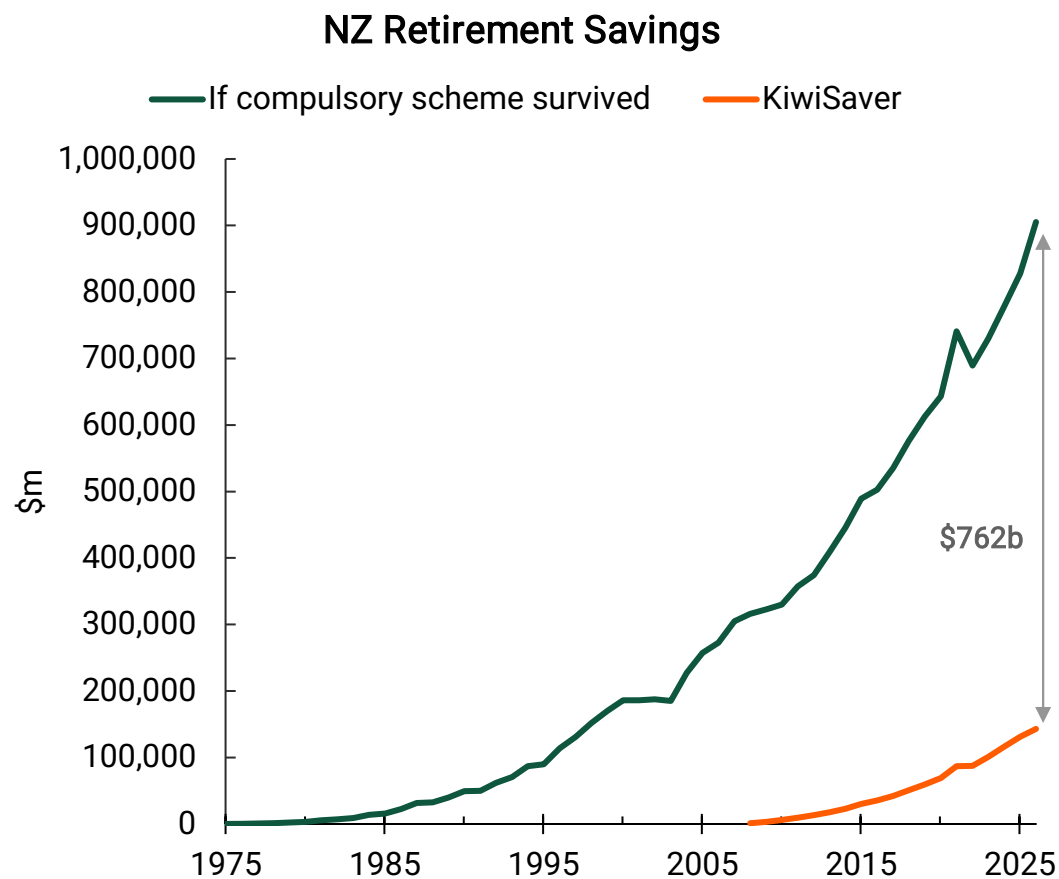


Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

KiwiSaver 2.0

Answer to many issues

Myth: current promises sustainable



Source: NZ Treasury, Simplicity Research Hub



We undid compulsory super in 1975. It would be \$1T today.



NZ Super is generous and fabulous



Also expensive and inequitable (rich people don't need it & live longer)



Ageing is not just NZ Super, also health, housing support, etc.

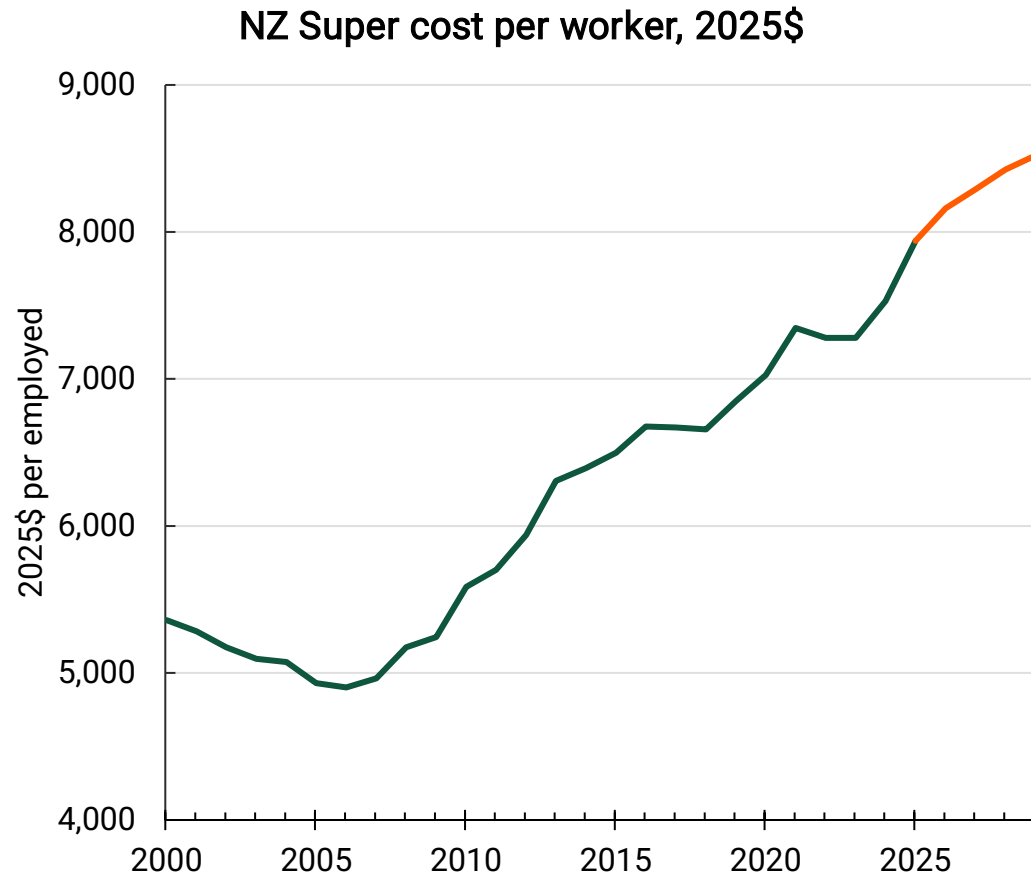


Public spend from taxes not GDP

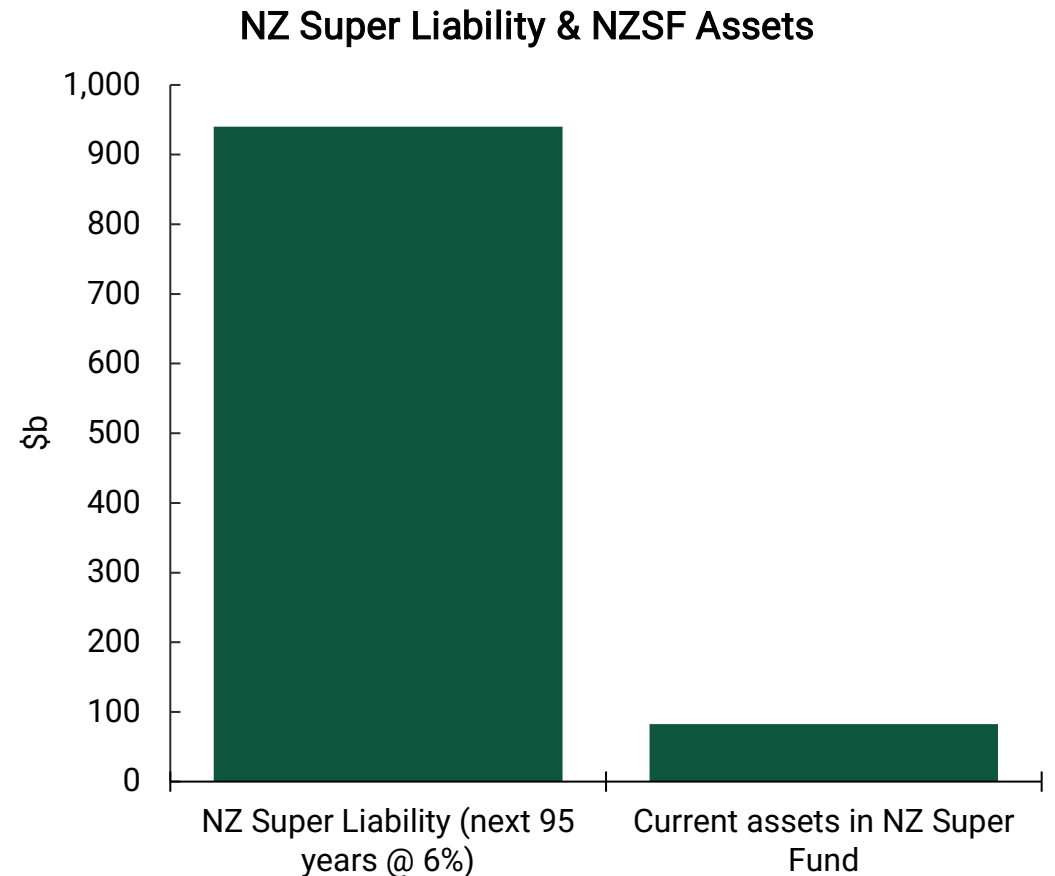


Choice: ~50% increase in labour taxes on future generations.

Pension costs are not transparent



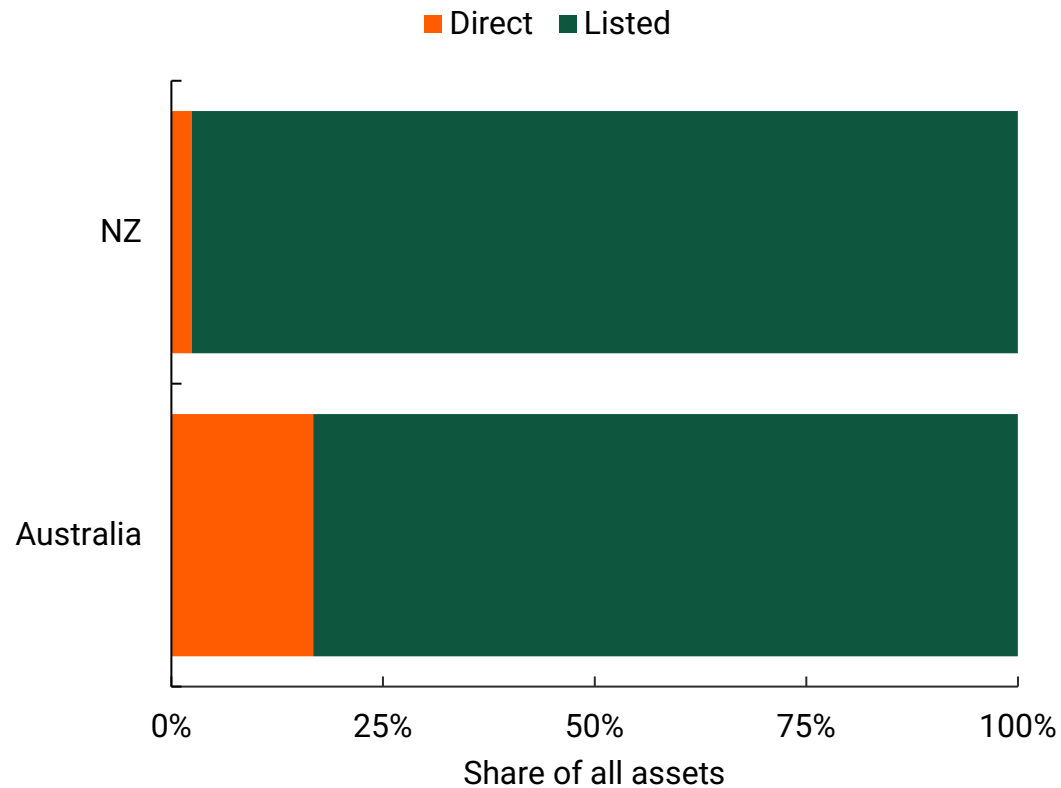
Source: NZ Treasury, Simplicity Research Hub



Source: NZ Treasury, Simplicity Research Hub

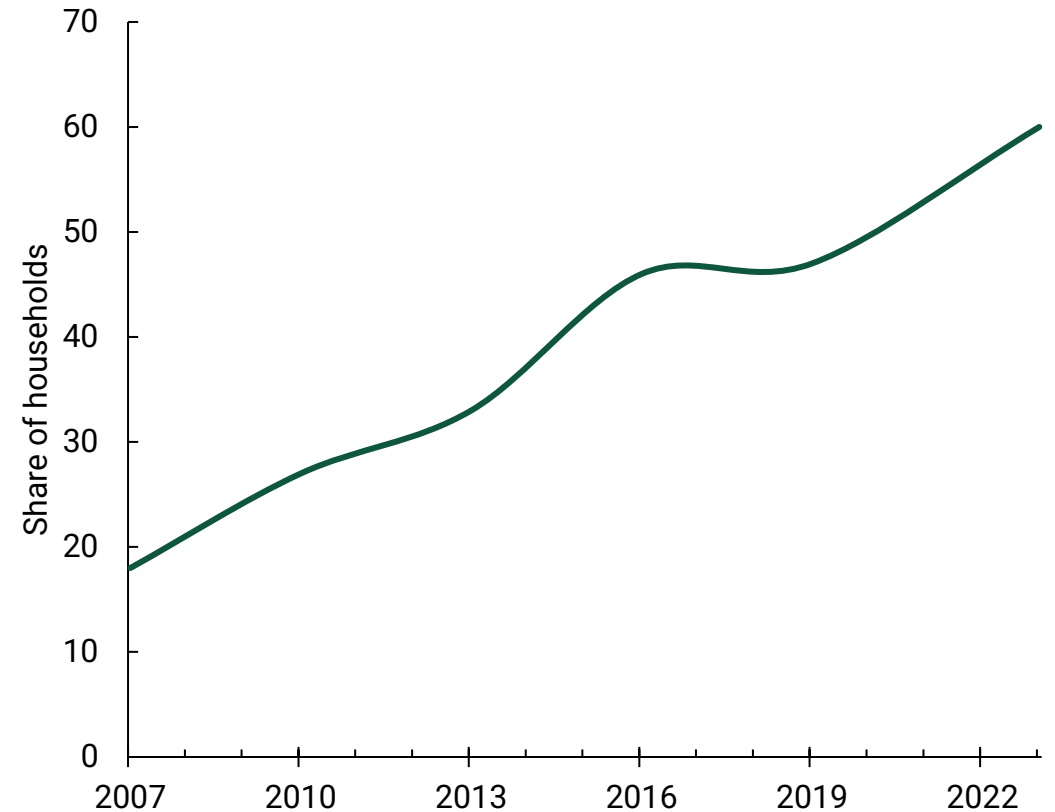
We can invest and save more

Direct vs Listed Asset Allocation



Source: RBNZ, ABS, Statistics NZ, APRA, Simplicity Research Hub

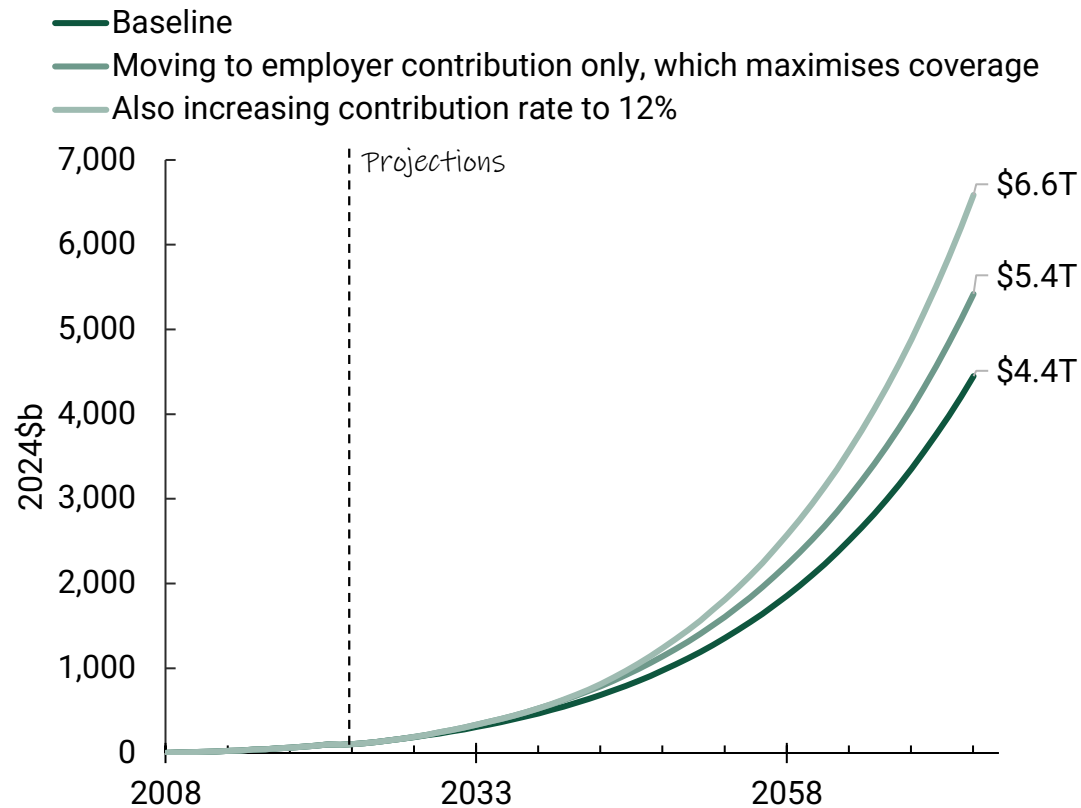
Share of households contributing to savings



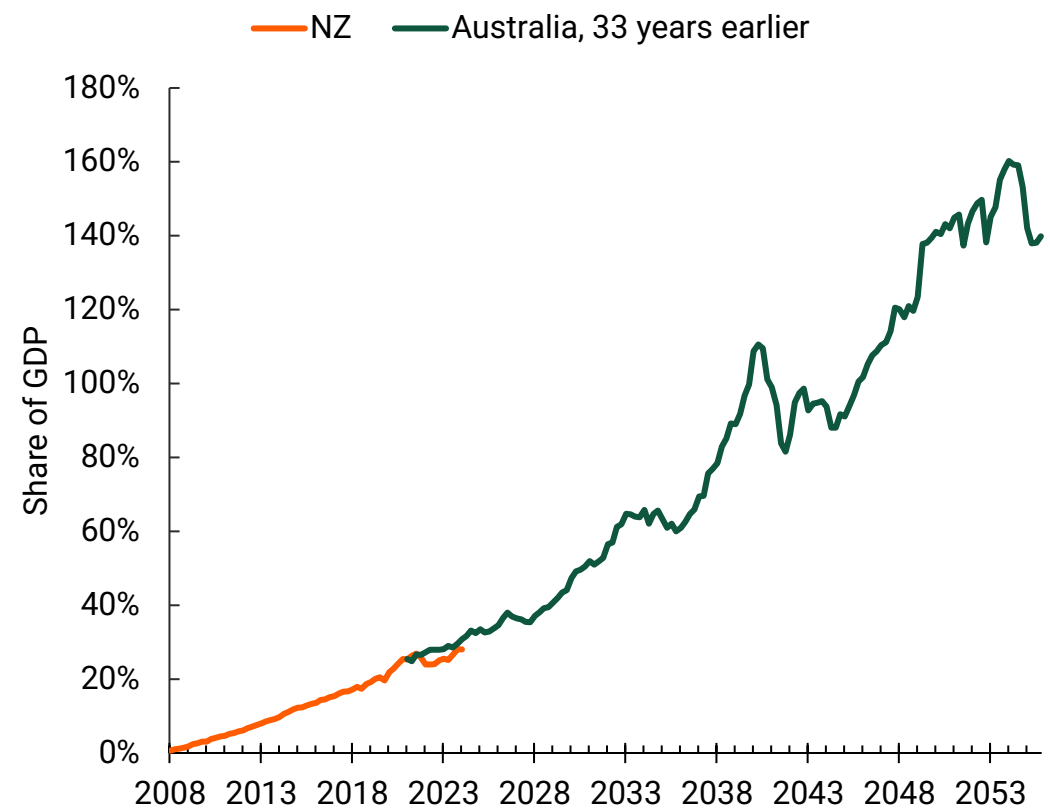
Source: Statistics NZ, Simplicity Research Hub

Better future (if we choose)

KiwiSaver assets under management



Superannuation assets



Source: IRD, RBNZ, Simplicity Research Hub

Source: RBNZ, ABS, Statistics NZ, APRA, Simplicity Research Hub

KiwiSaver 2.0

Ideas

Start at birth

Compulsion for employer contribution

Lift contribution rate to 12%+

Nation building

Effects

Centralise Collectivise private savings

Commitment device

Asset effect

Fairness across generations

Why it works

Consistency

- Alignment of goals over time.

Coherence

- Policy processes that don't contradict each other.

Credibility

- The system is believable and reliable.

Comprehensiveness

- Addressing all barriers, including systemic ones.

Key points



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A failure of imagination & understanding



Unicorns & short-termism



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Actions: meaning, coordination, collective action



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