



INDEPENDENT  
AOTEAROA

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By 2055, Aotearoa New Zealand is a more cohesive society, outward looking and confident as an independent global citizen with a distinctly Pacific character.



Government response to climate change, Peak Oil and other challenges is slow and deliberative - many take part, some get frustrated.



Shift made from a competitive growth economy to valuing 'genuine progress' in well-being above short term profits. Benefits of modest growth are shared equitably. Individualist entrepreneurs are not much fostered, so some emigrate. High quality life-long education helps retain others.



Unprocessed primary produce exports reduced, but high quality organics in demand. Production focus on waste avoidance, energy efficiency, solar technology, making more from less. These cleaner technologies and skills are exportable.



Housing is more social, both urban and rural. Advantages of Maori & Pacifica traditional housing re-discovered by wider population. More shared-use facilities exist alongside private spaces, driven both by need for affordable housing in a low wage economy and effect of capital taxation.



Values have shifted towards the eco-centric rather than techno-centric, and measures of your 'worth' to social rather than material wealth. Social decline observed in societies overseas, stressed by resource shortage and over-population. This has led to some de-coupling from the global economy, but not from global media, read and viewed skeptically.



Native bird song; children at play outdoors; waiata-songs within a workplace; fewer cars; people in street discussion near food market traders; background hiss of wind or water turbines.



# Landcare Research Manaaki Whenua

Future Scenarios-Urban Edition 2008  
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## LIVING ON N<sup>o</sup>8 WIRE

A	B
C	D



Sustainability awareness arrived, but late, in this scenario. By 2055, city life in Aotearoa-New Zealand is potentially less appealing than it was in their buoyant market economy back in 2025.



Government was initially low intervention (as in *New Frontiers* scenario C), then prompted to regulate in the 2030s by a rise in social concern over weather, resource and ecosystem dysfunctions. Action was taken, unpopular to business, to gradually disconnect NZ from the global economy, making space for local restoration efforts and a new social identity.



As resource depletions and pollution took their toll on commercial activity after 2025, there were trade-offs made between economic growth and quality of life. These made overseas investment and trade terms less attractive. Falling land values and rising unemployment resulted, in part from overseas capitals' retreat.



Rural exports fell as farming diversified to focus on national food and fuel demand, had to reduce inputs and employed low-wage labour displaced from the cities.



Settlement density fell, now that food growing is a daily activity for many, and urban infrastructure is becoming unreliable due to under-investment during the prosperous years. Energy generation is decentralising.



The neighbourhood is a stronger social focus than the nation. Local ingenuity (in 'Kiwi No.8 wire' inventor tradition), providing multiple responses to organisational and resource challenges. Varied success, but made in good humour.



Local radio station's news broadcast when on public transport; children reading out-loud from the latest picture walls; noisy but happy crowd walks by on its way to a sports game against next town's side; distant church bells.



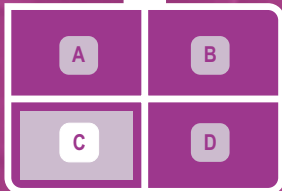
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## NEW FRONTIERS



By 2055, New Zealand society is an individualistic meritocracy - social position is defined by visible financial status and fashion, not social or cultural origins. The country is open to inward and outward migration based on wealth and educational achievement, and is increasingly multi-cultural. Recently, more have left than arrived.



Once-public services such as health, education and transport have for years been privatised, creating business opportunities. Efficiency gains benefit the owners, not users. The State's role is limited to governing markets and maintaining law and order; but little action on environmental protection, nor response to global issues of climate change.



The economy is a fast adopter of available technology, and an innovator, often applying these before impacts are assessed. There have been some local eco-disaster incidents and a cumulative pollution of air and water is now affecting rich and poor alike. When a crisis hits, NZ is unprepared.



Minerals from the seabed, dairy products, GE timber, high tech.



Aspiration to a resource-intensive personal lifestyle are reflected through expensive neighbourhoods of luxury houses on gated sections or high rise inner city apartments for the wealthy. The 'losers' rent homes from the 'winners', commute longer distances, and have less comfortable living conditions, but they do still aspire.



Established faith in technology as a problem solver, but it has not come up with 'fixes' to the resource shortages and pollution felt keenly since 2045. Increasingly desperate measures by business extend the extractive approach to resources, as there is little public regulation. Eco-terrorists emerge.



Distant explosion - might be a quarry blast, or not? Sirens. Radio adverts for training, health care products and the latest fashion in secure private transport.



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## FRUITS FOR A FEW

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By 2055, natural resources are being conserved and used in technologically innovative ways, with much recycling and bio-mimicry. Benefits of this are enjoyed by only a few, however. Once 'public' resources, such as coastline, national parks, water and fisheries are now privatised.



The need to adapt to climate change and Peak Oil led to 'smart' environmental controls, implemented at public cost, with benefits mostly felt in private sector. Elite business interests strongly influence policy. Government has reduced social, health and education responsibilities compared to the 2020's.



The economy remains globalised with free capital and staff movement and property rights dominant. New Zealand is doing well compared to the early industrialised nations which have exhausted their resource bases. Skilled wealthy people migrate here, attracted by a clean environment.



Commodity exporting volume has reduced, but added-value products are exported, and tourism continues, managed largely from overseas, with profits expatriated.



A few live in 'gated palaces' but most in overcrowded and aging housing, unable to repair or improve these on low wages, and are subject to high recurring costs for water, fuel, travel, healthcare, etc. There is no social housing provision or elderly care provided by the State - only the insured get access. People have to work into their old age unless their children care for them.



The public is excluded from decision-making affecting their lives. They know their family but not their neighbours and fear strangers.



Fast luxury vehicles passing a squeaking bicycle, street beggar's plea, supermarket lottery-ticket hawker, guard dog barking, loud factory machinery through open doorway, bus queue grumpy complaints.



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