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MEDIA RELEASE

CBS CO-OPERATIVE RELEASES 2026 ELECTION MANIFESTO

A Builder-Led Blueprint for a Fairer, Faster and More Certain Building System

23 July 2026

CBS Co-operative has today released its 2026 Election Manifesto, setting out a practical blueprint to improve New Zealand's building system, increase housing supply and create a more productive environment for the thousands of builders delivering homes across the country.

Developed following extensive consultation with builders, suppliers and industry stakeholders, the manifesto outlines practical recommendations to reduce unnecessary costs, improve certainty and ensure New Zealand's regulatory settings better support both homeowners and the construction sector.

Representing more than 2,200 builders and tradies across New Zealand and Australia, CBS says the manifesto focuses on delivering constructive, evidence-based reforms that improve productivity while maintaining strong consumer protection.

Supporting Positive Reform

CBS has welcomed the Government's proposed Resource Management Act (RMA) reforms, describing them as an important step towards improving housing affordability and reducing unnecessary barriers to development.

CBS Co-operative Chief Executive Carl Taylor said the proposed reforms demonstrate that meaningful change is possible when Government and industry work together.

"We commend the Government for progressing the proposed RMA reforms. Simplifying New Zealand's planning system is essential if we are serious about increasing housing supply, improving affordability and giving builders greater certainty."

"Our role isn't to oppose reform—it's to help shape good reform. We support changes that reduce unnecessary red tape, improve productivity and make it easier to build quality homes. Where reforms move the industry forward, they deserve our support."

Mandatory Building Warranties Require Further Refinement

While supporting many of the Government's broader reform initiatives, CBS believes the proposed mandatory residential building warranty framework requires further refinement before implementation.

Taylor said everyone supports stronger consumer protection, however any new framework must strengthen the industry rather than unintentionally reducing competition.

"This manifesto isn't a wishlist. It's a blueprint built from what builders across New Zealand are telling us every day. They want a building system that is fairer, faster and more certain."

"Everyone supports protecting homeowners, but we cannot create a system that unintentionally locks good builders out of the industry simply because they can't access a warranty provider."

CBS believes mandatory warranty products should remain independent of industry membership organisations and commercial groups.

Builders should be free to choose which organisations they belong to without that decision affecting their ability to obtain the mandatory warranty cover required to continue operating.

"Consumer protection should never depend on which membership group a builder belongs to. Mandatory warranty products must be available through an independent, transparent and nationally consistent system that treats every builder fairly."

CBS also believes New Zealand should look to proven international models, including Queensland's long-established government-backed home warranty framework.

"Australia has shown there is a better way. Government-backed and government-underwritten warranty arrangements provide independent oversight, long-term stability and fair access for builders while giving homeowners confidence that consumer protection is not tied to a commercial membership decision."

"New Zealand does not need to reinvent the wheel. We should adopt the same principle by ensuring warranty products remain independent, accessible and supported by a framework that serves the entire industry—not the commercial interests of individual organisations."

Builder-Led Priorities

- Faster and nationally consistent building consenting.
- Accountability for unnecessary consenting delays.
- Full implementation of proportionate liability.

- A competitive and independent building warranty market.
- Reduced compliance costs and increased productivity.
- Policies that retain skilled builders and apprentices in New Zealand.
- Greater certainty for small and medium-sized building businesses.

Taylor said the construction industry remains one of New Zealand's largest employers but continues to operate under significant economic pressure.

"Builders aren't asking for special treatment. They're asking for certainty. Every unnecessary delay, every layer of compliance and every poorly designed policy ultimately adds cost to the homes New Zealanders are trying to buy."

"Our manifesto is designed to start a constructive conversation with all political parties. We believe New Zealand can build faster, better and more affordably if we get the policy settings right."

CBS is encouraging all political parties to consider the recommendations and work alongside the industry to deliver reforms that improve housing affordability, strengthen consumer confidence and support the businesses building New Zealand's homes.

Download the CBS Co-operative 2026 Election Manifesto

<https://combinedbuildingsupplies.com/nz/advocacy/>

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