MANIFESTO

COOK ISLANDS PARTY

2026–2030

Mou tamou i te Tu Oe

Steady Hands on the Tu Oe

STRONG FAMILIES

STRONG COMMUNITIES

STRONG ISLANDS

STRONG FUTURE

STRONG ECONOMY

Working for the community and country.

LEADERSHIP

Mou tamou i te Tu oe

Kia tae rangatu te vaka tangata ki Avaiki ; hold the steering oar steady, so our people arrive at our Islands homes strong.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COOK ISLANDS PARTY LEADER

Hon. Mark Brown

Leader, Cook Islands Party

Kia orana tatou katoatoa i te aro'a ma'ata o te Atua.

I love our country. I believe this is the best place in the world to live and to raise a family. Everything in this manifesto begins from that belief.

Look at what we have built together. Our economy has recovered and is growing again and our debt has been halved. Pensions are rising, the child benefit also rising for every child through to 17. The minimum wage is rising. And we now stand tall in the world, having signed a Declaration with New Zealand as equals, in our own name. These achievements do not belong to a party or a government. They belong to every Cook Islander.

But steady hands do not mean closed eyes. Families feel the pressure of rising prices. Young people find it hard to buy a home. Our Pa Enua want the same opportunities and services as Rarotonga, and they deserve them. The world around us is changing quickly, and it will not wait for us.

That is why this manifesto carries the name Mou tamou i te Tu Oe, steady hands on the steering oar. Our ancestors crossed the greatest ocean on earth by reading the stars and holding their course. That is what we offer you now: a Government with a proven track record, a clear plan, and the steady hands to carry it through. Strong families. Strong communities. Strong islands. A strong economy. A strong future.

Papa Arapati said, let us begin. Sixty years on, I say again: let us go forward, together.

Working for the community and country.

Meitaki ma'ata e kia manuia.

Hon Mark Brown - Leader Cook Islands Party

LEADERSHIP

Cook Islands Party President

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COOK ISLANDS PARTY PRESIDENT

Hon.Henry Puna

The Cook Islands Party was founded on a simple but enduring principle: service to our people. For generations that principle has guided our movement and our commitment to a stronger Cook Islands. Through the satbility of four Leaders of the Party since 1965 we have led the Cook Islands government and executive.

We are one people connected by shared history, culture, language, faith, and family. Whether we live in Rarotonga, the Pa Enua, New Zealand, Australia, or elsewhere, we remain connected by a common identity and a shared responsibility to our nation's future.

This manifesto is built on the values of unity, service, partnership, and opportunity. No single organisation can build the future alone. We must and will continue to work together for the common good of all our people .

Meitaki ma'ata e kia manuia.

Henry Puna

Hon Henry Puna - President Cook Islands Party

Working for the community and country.

Our Legacy of Leadership 1964 - 2026

Sir Albert Henry
1964 - 1979

Sir.Geoffrey Henry KBE
1979 - 2006

Hon.Henry Puna
2006 - 2020

Hon.Mark Brown
2020

The Journey so far

In 2022 your vote meant we could...

Build a Strong Economy

- Build Economic Recovery and Improve the Credit Rating
- The Cook Islands recovered from the COVID-19 economic shock, restored tourism and fiscal surpluses, reduced debt and secured an S&P credit-rating upgrade to BB- in 2026.
- Protect Jobs, Businesses and Families through COVID-19
- Early border controls protected public health, while economic support helped businesses retain workers and positioned the country for a strong reopening and recovery.
- Restore Tourism and International Air Connectivity
- Strategic airline support maintained and restored essential routes, diversified visitor markets and helped visitor arrivals reach a record 187,018 in 2025.

Build better Infrastructure

- Build Major National Infrastructure
- Sustained investment supported roads, bridges, drainage, airports, harbours, public buildings, hospitals, schools, water systems and essential infrastructure across Rarotonga and the Pa Enua.
- Build Reliable Water Infrastructure through Te Mato Vai
- The country completed its largest modern infrastructure project, upgrading Rarotonga's water intakes, filtration, storage and trunk-main network.

Care more for our People

- Expand Support for Children, Older People and Vulnerable Families
- Government increased Child Benefit coverage, pensions, caregiver assistance, disability support, hardship assistance, maternity support and electricity subsidies.
- Invest in Health and Access to Specialist Treatment
- Government continued to fund medical evacuations, overseas referrals and specialist care, while strengthening disease prevention, vaccination and responses to non-communicable diseases.

Protect Our Future

- Protect Our Ocean, Expand Renewable Energy and Strengthen Climate Resilience
- Marae Moana established a national ocean-management framework, while renewable-energy systems, cyclone shelters, water storage and resilient infrastructure strengthened the security and resilience of the Cook Islands.

Our journey together

In 2026 your vote means we can continue to...

Provide Support for Children and Families - Child Benefit will increase from $100 to $125 per month from 1 July 2026, with eligibility extended from children aged 0–16 to children aged 0–17 years.

Grow a Higher Pensions for Our Older People - The monthly pension will increase from $520 to $550 for people aged 60–69, and from $720 to $750 for people aged 70 and over.

Lift a Higher Minimum Wage - The minimum wage will increase from $10.00 to $10.50 per hour, providing additional support to workers and families facing rising living costs.

Maintain Cost-of-Living, Transport and Energy Support - Government will continue free public transport and targeted energy assistance to help families and vulnerable households manage global fuel, freight and electricity pressures.

Grow More of Our Own Food - New investment will support local agriculture and food production, reduce dependence on imported food and strengthen food security across Rarotonga and the Pa Enua.

The Journey ahead

Going forward, together we will...

Build stronger Pa Enua Communities - Investment will continue in Pa Enua government buildings, essential services, cyclone resilience, heavy machinery, ports, airfields and reliable transport connections.

Ensure reliable Roads, Bridges, Airports and Harbours - we will continue upgrading roads, replacing and repairing bridges, improving airports and harbours, and strengthening the infrastructure that connects communities and supports economic growth.

Provide cleaner and More Secure Energy - Continued investment will support renewable-energy systems, battery replacement, electric-vehicle charging stations and electric buses, reducing fuel dependence and improving long-term energy security.

Ensure better Health Services Closer to Home - Funding will improve health services and replace essential medical equipment, including a new endoscopy machine, so more diagnosis and treatment can be provided locally while overseas referrals remain available when necessary.

Sustain strong Finances, Economic Recovery and National Resilience - The Cook Islands will build on its recovery from COVID-19, stronger public finances, lower debt, restored tourism and the 2026 sovereign credit-rating upgrade, while maintaining disciplined and transparent management of public money.

...through our five promises.

Our FivePromises

Building our Future Together

The Cook Islands has never been defined by its size. It has always been defined by the strength of its people. The decisions we make now will shape the nation our children and grandchildren inherit.

This manifesto is our commitment to building that future, where opportunity is shared, families are supported, communities are strengthened, and every island has the chance to prosper. Built around our five priorities for 2026 to 2030

OUR FIVE PROMISES

- **A Home for Every Family.** Safe, secure, affordable, and resilient housing.
- **Healthcare Close to Home.** Prevention, accessibility, and community wellbeing.
- **Every Child Starts Strong.** Every **Child Foundation Fund** for now and our future generations.
- **Clean Water, Renewable Energy & Resilient Communities.** Energy security ,water security, climate reslience
- **Jobs, Growth and Opportunity.** Employment, enterprise, innovation, and partnership.

Strong Families. ***Strong Communities.*** ***Strong Economy.***

Strong Future ***Strong Islands.***

COOK ISLANDS PARTY MANIFESTO 2026–2030

Our Five Promises

Ta tatou e tuatua rima — our five undertakings to our people.

Five promises, carried together in one vaka - each one steering our families, communities, and islands toward a stronger future.

01
A Home for Every Family

02
Healthcare Close to Home

03
Every Child Starts Strong Child Foundation

04
Clean Water, Renewable Energy

05
Jobs, Growth and Opportunity

building a government that is transparent, accountable and focused on delivering results.

No voyage succeeds because of one person alone. The future of the Cook Islands belongs to all of us, and our vaka teaches that no one aboard is left behind.

COOK ISLANDS PARTY

"Our team, your candidates for 2026
that will build our 5 promises"

Mark Brown
Takuvaine-Tutakimoa

Albert Nicholas
RAPPA

Vaine (Mac) Mokoroa
Nikao Panama

Tukaka Ama
Ngatangiia

Sonny Williams
Titikaveka

Tingika Elikana
Pukapuka Nassau

Akaiti Puna
Manihiki

Teokotai (Tango) Herman
Amuri Ureia / Aitutaki

Tereapii Maki Kavana
Arenikau / Aitutaki

Toanui Isamaela
Vaivaitau /Aitutaki

Tuakeu Tangatapoto
Nukuroa / Mitiaro

Vaine Wichman
Tongareva / Penrhyn

Arama Wichman
Ruaau

Nooroa Baker
Murienua

Aneru Tautu
Matavera

Tex Tangimetua
Akaoa

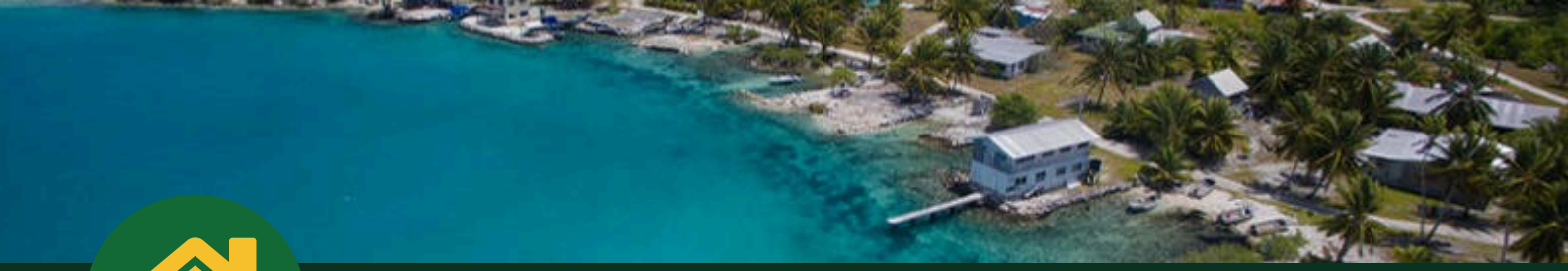
Maru Willie
Tupapa Maraerenga

Levi Teinaki
Rakahanga

Ngatamaroa Ngatokorua
Tamarua Mangaia

Teina Tearii
Oneroa Mangaia

Working for the community and country.



Promise 1: A Home for Every Family

E Are no te Iti Tangata katoatoa

Every Cook Island family deserves a safe, secure, affordable, and resilient place to call home.

THE NEED

A home is more than four walls. It is where children grow, families gather, and communities are built. Yet for many Cook Islanders, finding an affordable home, building on family land, or securing accommodation near work remains a real struggle.

On Rarotonga the pressure is the shortage and cost of housing. In the Pa Enua the barrier is finance, because customary land cannot be mortgaged in the usual way. One housing policy cannot answer both, so we will deliver one promise through two tracks.

OUR COMMITMENT

TRACK TWO: A Pa Enua track that will establish a Pa Enua Housing and Affordable Credit scheme. This will be for new builds, home improvements, solar power, water storage and resilience upgrades on customary land.

Long term land-use rights give lebders certainty while the land stays with the familys. And any enforcement applies to the homes and improvements - but never the land.

OUR COMMITMENT

TRACK ONE: A National Housing Strategy 2030 will align housing with population, workforce, infrastructure, and climate resilience, bringing together government, lenders, developers, landowners, and the private sector. Across the country **We will:**

- Expand affordable homes and rentals, including low-cost pre-cut starter models families can build on their own land.
- Support first home buyers through deposit assistance, shared equity, and affordable financing - priority for young families and returning Cook Islanders.
- Provide workforce housing for teachers, nurses, police, health workers, and tradespeople so every Island can staff its services.
- Bring vacant and underused homes back into use to lift supply quickly.

OUR HOUSING PROMISE

A home for every family – built to fit your land, your income, and your island.

Home ownership does not have to start big. It starts with getting your foot in the door. We finance the home. The land stays with the family, always.

BY 2030 WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

- More affordable homes
- Climate-resilient housing
- Higher home ownership
- Stronger Pa Enua communities
- Workforce housing

Promise 2: Healthcare Close to Home

Te Oraanga Meitaki no te Katoatoa

Healthcare close to home — focused on prevention, wellbeing, and quality of life.

THE NEED

Good health is the foundation of a thriving nation. Families face growing pressure from non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, alongside concerns about specialist care, mental health, and workforce shortages. For those in the Pa Enua, distance makes access harder still. Quality healthcare should not depend on where you live.

OUR COMMITMENT

We will put people at the centre of healthcare and shift the focus toward keeping people well. **We will**:

- Strengthen prevention through community wellness, nutrition, physical activity, and early screening working with churches, schools, and sporting groups
- Tackle non-communicable diseases as a national priority.
- Train and retain Cook Islands health workers, and give them reasons to stay.
- Bring care closer through telehealth and stronger Pa Enua clinics.
- Strengthen mental health support and care for healthy ageing and our elders.

OUR HEALTH PROMISE

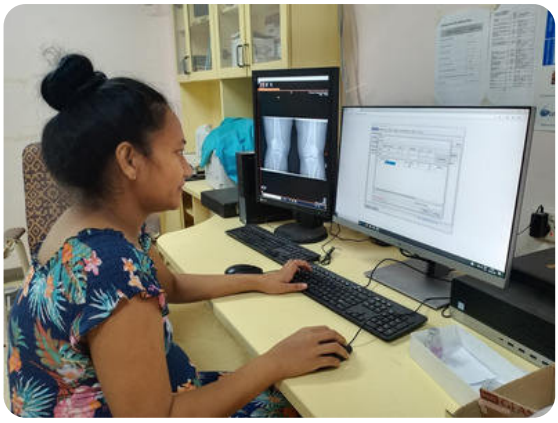
Healthcare close to home, on every island, for every generation.

No family should have to leave their island to stay well.
We train our own, we keep our own, we care for our own.

BY 2030 WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

- Lower preventable illness
- Better Pa Enua services
- Healthier ageing
- Stronger health workforce

Improved mental health support



Promise 3: Every Child Starts Strong

Te Akamata'anga Puapinga no te au Tamariki

Every child deserves the strongest possible start, and every family the support to provide it.

THE NEED

Too many young people begin adult life already behind — some taking unsecured loans simply to get going — while the cost of raising children stretches young families and solo parents most of all. A child's future should not be left to chance. It begins at birth.

OUR COMMITMENT

Our signature commitment is a **Child Foundation Fund**, opened by Government for every child at birth and built up over the years, so that every Cook Islander reaches adulthood - and one day retirement with something behind them. **We will:**

- Open the fund at birth with a Government contribution, with further contributions over a child's early life.
- Allow parents and family to add to the fund, and protect it for long-term benefit.
- Improve access to affordable childcare and early learning so parents can work, study, and build.
- Strengthen youth opportunity, leadership, and pathways from education into work.

OUR PROMISE TO EVERY CHILD

Every child born with a foundation — a fund from birth, security for life.

We start our tamariki strong, so none arrive at adulthood empty-handed. Back the parent, lift the child, secure the future.

BY 2030 WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

- A **Child Foundation Fund** for every child
- Affordable childcare
- Stronger early learning
- More youth in work and training

Promise 4: Clean Water & Renewable Energy

Te Mana o te Ao Ou e te au Korero no Apopo

Clean Water, Reliable energy. Resilient communities. Sustainable islands.

THE NEED

The Cook Islands remains exposed to global fuel prices and supply shocks, and climate change is already felt through extreme weather and changing rainfall. We have invested well in solar and battery systems across Rarotonga and the Pa Enua. The next stage is to keep those investments working and to prepare every community for what lies ahead.

BY 2030 WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

- ✓ Greater energy security
- ✓ Improved water security
- ✓ More local technical skills
- ✓ Less reliance on imported fuel
- ✓ Stronger climate resilience

OUR COMMITMENT

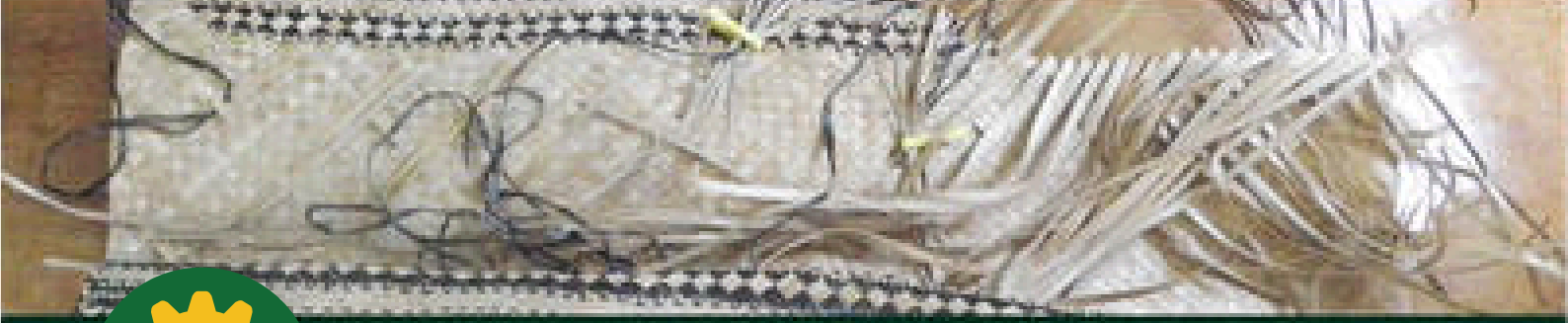
We will launch a Renewable Energy Rejuvenation Programme and strengthen resilience across the motu. **We will:**

- Maintain and upgrade existing solar and battery systems so they keep delivering reliable, affordable power.
- Free Water Check for Every Home No family should pay for water they never used. Helping families detect leaks, reduce water bills and protect one of our most valuable natural resources.
- Build local technical capacity so Cook Islanders can manage and maintain our own energy systems.
- Strengthen water security through long-term planning and reliable safe water for households.
- Invest in coastal protection, disaster preparedness, and community resilience.
- Give particular attention to renewable energy and resilience throughout the Pa Enua.

OUR ENERGY AND RESILIENCE PROMISE

Reliable energy, resilient communities, sustainable islands.

Every island deserves power it can count on. We prepare today, so our children inherit stronger islands.



Promise 5: Jobs, Growth and Opportunity

Angaanga, Turanga Meitaki e te au Tuatua Ora

More jobs. More opportunity. More prosperity.

THE NEED

The strength of an economy is measured by the opportunity it provides its people. Over the coming decade the Cook Islands will face rising competition for workers, investment, and talent. Prosperity is created through partnership: businesses create jobs, workers build industries, families build communities, and government creates the conditions for all of them to succeed.

OUR COMMITMENT

We will implement a National Employment Policy that aligns education, training, and economic growth, and grow opportunity across our economic strengths: tourism, agriculture and food security, fisheries and the blue economy, renewable energy, digital services, and trade. **We will:**

- Build a future-ready workforce through apprenticeships, trades, and stronger links between employers and education.
- Open clear pathways for young people from education into work and enterprise.
- Support small and medium businesses and local entrepreneurship to grow good ideas into good jobs.
- Encourage skilled Cook Islanders overseas to bring their skills home.
- Strengthen tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and the blue economy as engines of jobs and income.

BY 2030 WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

- ✓ Higher household incomes
- ✓ Stronger business growth
- ✓ A more diverse economy
- ✓ More apprenticeships
- ✓ More skilled people returning home

OUR JOBS AND GROWTH PROMISE

More jobs, more opportunity, more prosperity.

Good ideas should grow into good jobs, right here at home. Bring our skills home, and build the future here.

Every Island at the Centre

Te Akatuatua'anga i te katoatoa—every island connected,every family included,every opportunity accessible.

THE NEED

The Cook Islands is one nation spread across a vast ocean, connected by history, culture, and family. Yet geography still shapes the cost of living and access to services. For too long, national delivery has leaned toward Rarotonga.

The Pa Enua hold our culture and much of our future, and no island should be disadvantaged because of its location.

OUR COMMITMENT

We will place the Pa Enua at the centre of national investment and connect every island through reliable transport and communications. **We will:**

- Strengthen shipping and aviation so people, goods, and services move reliably between islands.
- Improve digital connectivity so every island can reach health, education, government, and banking services.
- Begin island-by-island investment planning with island governments, traditional leaders, and communities.
- Support island-based opportunity in agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and renewable energy where it fits each island's strengths.
- Carry Pa Enua housing, water and energy commitments through from Promises One and Four.

OUR PROMISE TO EVERY ISLAND

The Pa Enua at the centre, not the edge.

No island left behind, no one in the vaka left behind.

Invest where our people are, so our people can stay.

BY 2030 WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

- ✓ Better island connectivity
- ✓ Stronger island economies
- ✓ Reliable shipping and aviation
- ✓ Locally led development plans

Working for the community and country.

Looking Beyond the Horizon

Our Six key digital areas of growth

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The future will belong to nations that make the best use of information, technology, and knowledge.
For a small island, large ocean nation, our ability to make informed decisions is one of our greatest advantages.

A Cook Islands Party government will strengthen the systems behind decision-making, service delivery, and national development, and prepare our mapu, the digital generation, to lead in a connected world.

We will build a smarter, more connected Cook Islands - ready for the digital generation.

Our Six key digital areas of growth

01 Data
Providing access to better data decisions and decision making

02 Digital Government
Providing Services in your hand

03 Artificial Intelligence
Providing new tools for a new age

04 Data Sovereignty
Our data, in our hands

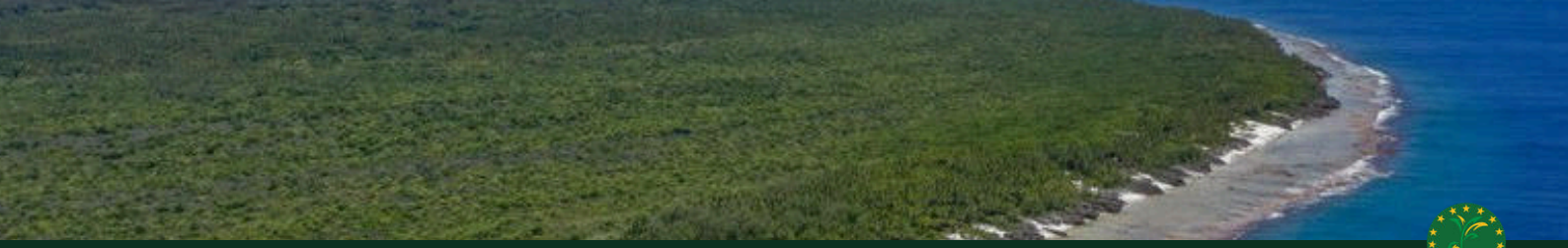
05 Communications
Providing protected and trusted digital communications

06 Capability & Partnership
Providing a Skilled & connected digital workforce

Our digital generation

LOOKING BEYOND 2030

- Better data and economic intelligence
- Stronger digital infrastructure
- Cook Islands data sovereignty
- Stronger partnerships across sectors
- More accessible government services
- Responsible use of AI and technology
- A more AI skilled public service
- Better outcomes for people and communities



From Day One to 2030

Teaurave'angamua,tearaki 2030—the first steps,and the path to 2030.

TE ARA KI 2030

Charting the Path to 2030

Our vaka sets its course through the first 100days,milestoneto milestone, while the four phases stand at the compass points carrying us from 2026 to 2030.

NW 2026–2027

Building the foundations

Planning and the first programmes: housing, jobs, Child Fund, energy, island plans.

NE 2027–2028

Expanding opportunity

Growth and delivery: housing, apprenticeships, early learning, energy, connectivity.

01 — DAY 1

National Housing Programme

Launch it, and plan the Pa Enua Housing & Affordable Credit Scheme.

02

National Employment Policy

Begin with a national workforce assessment.

03

Child Foundation Fund

Develop the framework, governance and funding design.

04

Renewable Energy Rejuvenation

Launch the programme across the motu.

05

Island Investment Planning

Commence island-by-island with each island.

06

Cost-of-Living Review

Identify practical relief for families.

07 — DAY 100

Digital Services & Data Review

For better, more accessible government.

SW 2029–2030

Securing the future

Embedding the gains so they last, and preparing for the years beyond 2030.

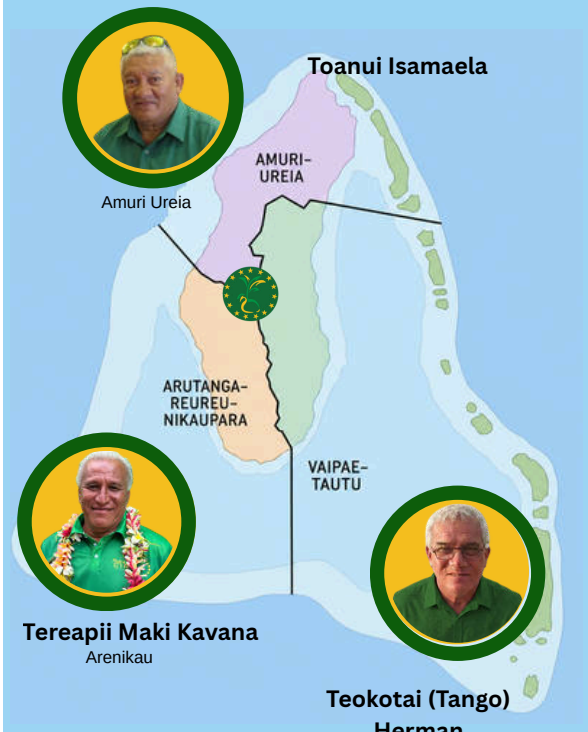
SE 2028–2029

Delivering results

Scaling what works - more homes and jobs, healthier communities, stronger islands.

Rarotonga / Tumutevarovaro

Pa Enua



Toanui Isamaela
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Pukapuka / Nassau

Akaiti Puna
Manihiki

Vaine Wichman
Tongareva Henua

Levi Teinaki
Rakahanga

Mitiaro

Tuakeu Tangatapoto
Nukuroa / Mitiaro

'Au'au Mangaia

Teina Tearii
Oneroa / Mangaia

Ngatamaroa Ngatokorua
Tamarua / Mangaia

Tereapii Maki Kavana
Arenikau

Teokotai (Tango) Herman
Vaivaitau

Araura Enua / Aitutaki