



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



A Future We Build Together

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Mou tamou i te Tu Oe

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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 LEADER

Hon. Mark Brown

Leader, Cook Islands Party

Over the past generation, the Cook Islands together, have strengthened our economy, improved our infrastructure, expanded opportunities, and built resilience through global uncertainty and the impacts of a global pandemic. These achievements belong to all Cook Islanders.

But, our true strength has never been measured by statistics alone. It lies in our families, our communities, our culture, and our ability to work together. Together, we can continue steering our nations vaka forward.

Yet we must be honest about the challenges that still remain. Many families feel the pressure of rising living costs. Housing is increasingly difficult for young families and first home buyers. Businesses face workforce shortages. Communities across the Pa Enua seek greater opportunity, stronger services, and better connectivity.

At the same time, climate change, technological disruption, and global uncertainty are reshaping the world around us.

This manifesto is our plan to keep the Cook Islands strong, resilient, and confident: to help more families own a home, support every child from the beginning of life, strengthen healthcare and wellbeing, create jobs and grow businesses, resilient communities, and ensure every island shares in our nation's success.

We must invest in renewable energies, provide shipping confidence, food security and as the current global crisis has shown, energy security for our people and country.

***The question before us is not whether change is coming.
The question is whether we are prepared for it.***

Meitaki ma'ata e kia manuia.

Hon Mark Brown - Leader Cook Islands Party

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 PRESIDENT

President, Cook Islands Party

Hon. Henry Puna

President of the Cook Islands Party.

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 Enea, 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.

Hon Henry Puna - President Cook Islands Party



Sir Albert Henry
1964 - 1979



Sir Geoffrey Henry KBE
1979 - 2006



Hon. Henry Puna
2006 - 2020



Hon. Mark Brown
2020



OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR ITI TANGATA

A Future We Build 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.

OUR FIVE PROMISES

- 1 A Home for Every Family.** Safe, secure, affordable, and resilient housing.
- 2 Healthcare Close to Home.** Prevention, accessibility, and community wellbeing.
- 3 Every Child Starts Strong.** Children, families, education, and future generations.
- 4 Renewable Energy & Resilient Communities.** Energy security, water security, and climate resilience.
- 5 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

1 PART ONE The Journey Ahead

E ngaru tu, e ngaru papa – wave upon wave, the swell and the steady ground beneath it.



The Journey Ahead

Our ancestors were master navigators. They understood that success depended on reading the changing conditions around them and responding with skill, preparation, and courage. Today we face a different ocean of change.

New technologies and artificial intelligence are transforming economies. Climate change is affecting our communities and environment. Global conflict and economic uncertainty are reshaping trade, investment, and supply chains. For a small island nation, these changes bring both challenge and opportunity.

The Pa Enua seek stronger services and better connectivity. And climate change continues to test us. The purpose of this manifesto is not simply to name these challenges - it is our commitment and responsibility to offer practical solutions that improve the lives of our people.

The Challenges We Must Address

While our nation has made real progress, many families still face pressures that affect daily life. The cost of food, fuel, housing, utilities, and freight weighs on household budgets. Housing is hard to find and harder to afford. Businesses cannot find the workers they need.



The Course We Choose

Throughout our history, the people of the Cook Islands have never defined themselves by the challenges they face. We have defined ourselves by the choices we make. We can let uncertainty, rising costs, and climate pressures define our future, or we will do as we have done for centuries, and choose a different course: one built on confidence, on opportunity, and on investing in our people.

That course builds on foundations already laid. A stable economy that has weathered global shocks. Infrastructure delivered across the country. Real progress in renewable energy. International standing on climate resilience. And strong partnerships between families, communities, churches, traditional leaders, island governments, businesses, and our global diaspora.



Popoki, oea, oea te vaka kia tere ki mua.

The course we choose ...on strong foundations, steered together.

2

PART TWO

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



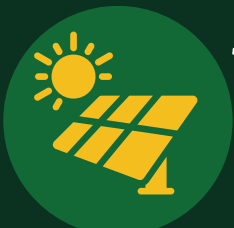
03

Every Child Starts Strong



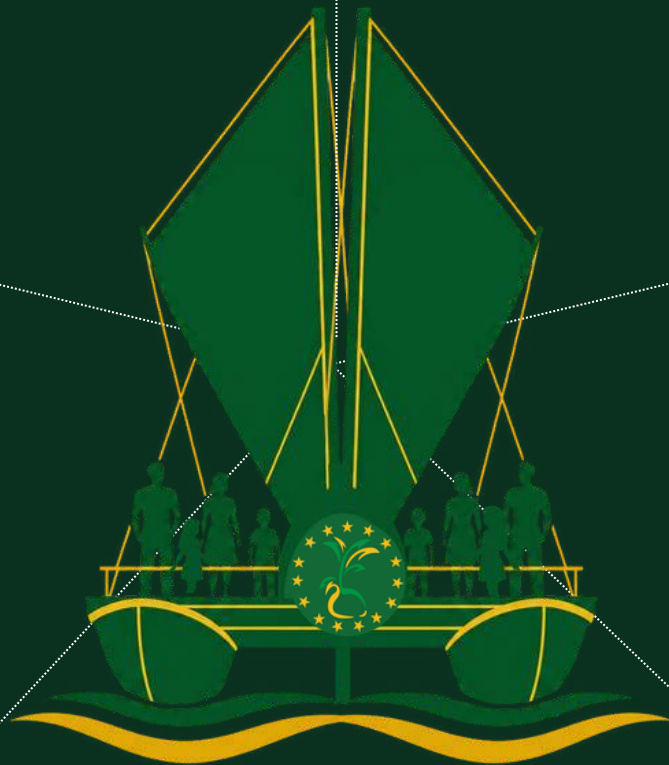
05

Jobs, Growth and Opportunity



04

Renewable Energy & Resilient Communities



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.



3 PART THREE 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 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

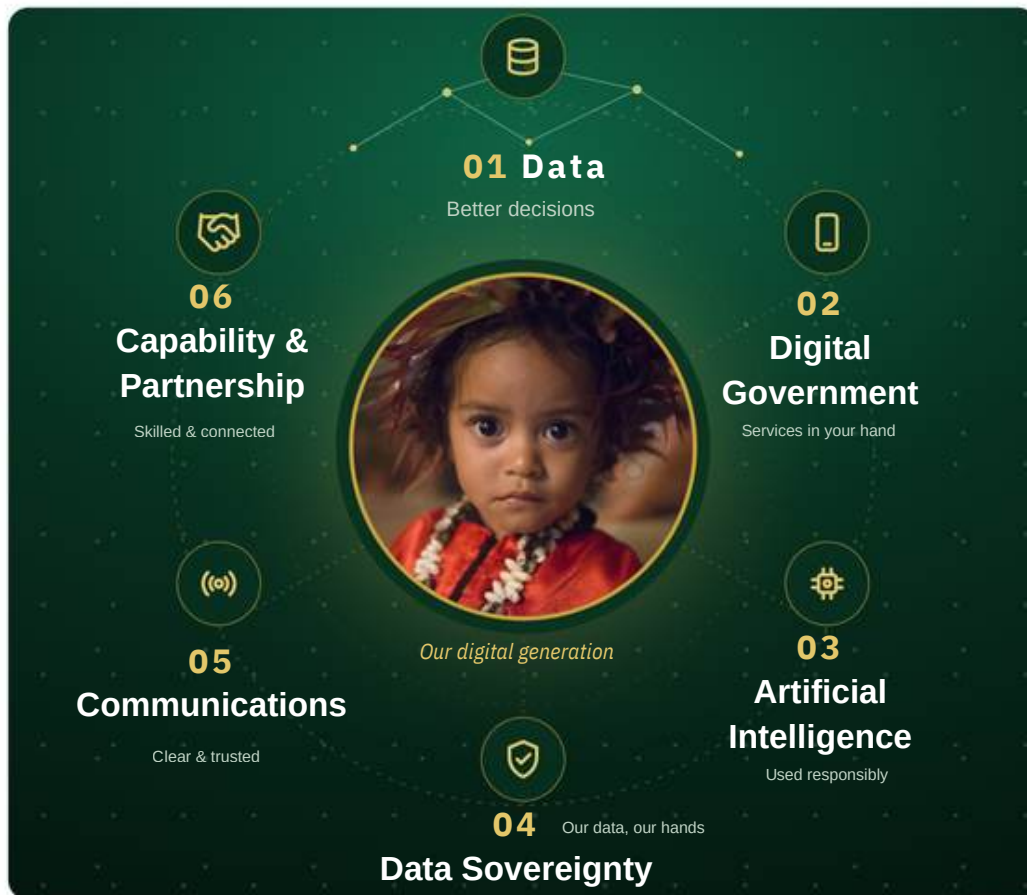
4 PART FOUR

Looking Beyond the Horizon

Better Information. Better Decisions. Better digital Outcomes.

Building a smarter, more connected Cook Islands – ready for the digital generation.

The future will belong to nations that make the best use of information, technology, and knowledge. For a small island 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 young people, the digital generation, to lead in a connected world.



BY 2030 WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

- ✓ 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 skilled public service
- ✓ Better outcomes for people and communities

LOOKING BEYOND 2030

The nations that succeed will be those that learn, adapt, innovate, and work together.

The world will keep changing. By investing in knowledge, innovation, capability, and our digital generation today, we prepare the Cook Islands to thrive tomorrow.

5 PART FIVE 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 100 days, milestone to 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.

National Housing Programme

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

Child Foundation Fund

Develop the framework, governance and funding design.

Island Investment Planning

Commence island-by-island with each island.

Digital Services & Data Review

For better, more accessible government.

NE 2027–2028

Expanding opportunity

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

National Employment Policy

Begin with a national workforce assessment.

Renewable Energy Rejuvenation

Launch the programme across the motu.

Cost-of-Living Review

Identify practical relief for families.

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.





1 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



2 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.

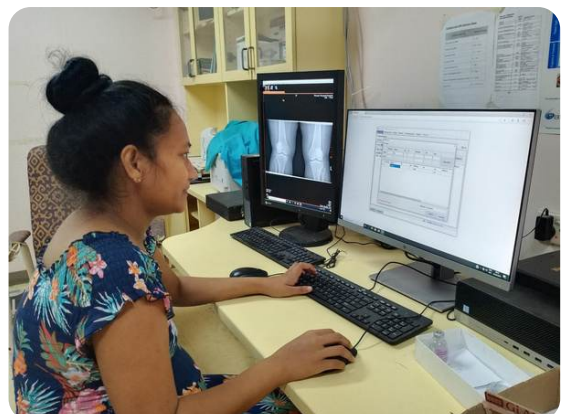
OUR HEALTH PROMISE

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





3 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





4 Promise 4: Renewable Energy & Resilient Communities

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

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.
- ✓ 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.



5 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.



BY 2030 WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

- ✓ Higher household incomes
- ✓ Stronger business growth
- ✓ A more diverse economy

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.

- ✓ More apprenticeships
- ✓ More skilled people returning home

OUR JOBS AND GROWTH PROMISE

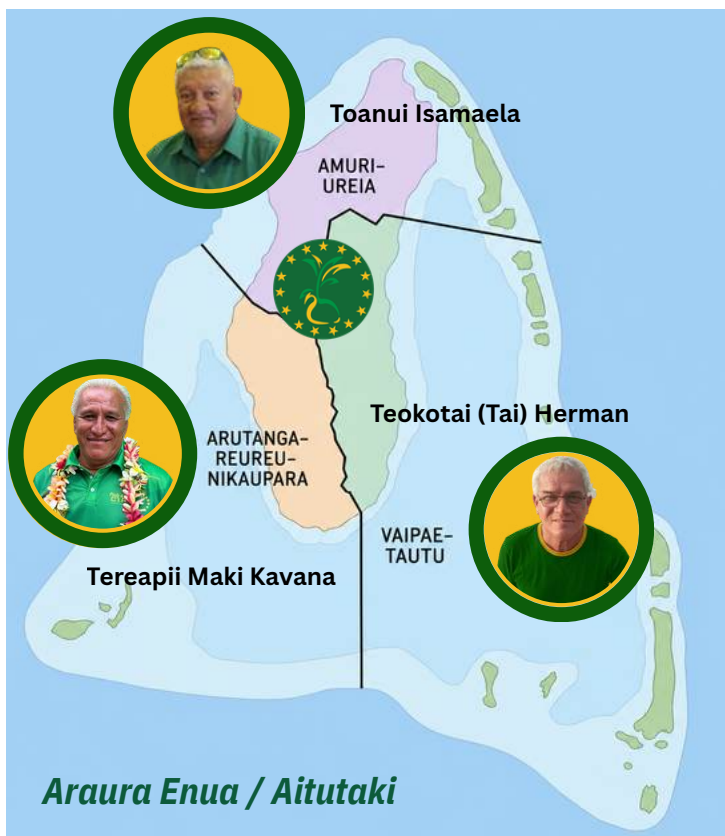
More jobs, more opportunity, more prosperity.

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

Our team, our candidates for 2026



Rarotonga / Tumutevarovaro



Araura Enua / Aitutaki

Pa Tokerau



Pa Tonga

"Au'au Mangaia

Teina Tearii
Oneroa / Managaia