

Media Release

**For immediate release
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IAONZ calls for pre-election certainty on Warmer Kiwi Homes to avoid delivery gap

The Insulation Association of New Zealand, IAONZ, is calling for certainty on the future of **EECA Warmer Kiwi Homes** before the election, warning that a funding gap after **30 June 2027** could damage the delivery network New Zealand will need for the next phase of home energy improvement.

Warmer Kiwi Homes is currently funded to 30 June 2027. Beyond that date, there is no confirmed continuation pathway.

IAONZ General Manager Nick Hall says the issue is not only whether the programme continues, but whether the decision is made early enough to protect the people, suppliers, service providers, local funders and regional delivery systems that make the programme work. “Warmer Kiwi Homes is not just a grant scheme. It is a proven, well-oiled national delivery system,” Mr Hall says.

“The high-quality programme relies on trained installers, service providers, product suppliers, assessors, logistics, administration, quality systems, community referral pathways and local funders. That system cannot simply be paused and restarted without cost.”

IAONZ’s survey of appointed service providers and product suppliers identified approximately 700 people directly involved in Warmer Kiwi Homes delivery across responding organisations. Mr Hall says the risk starts well before the programme’s formal end date.

“Businesses and community providers need to make decisions about staffing, subcontractors, training, vehicles, equipment, stock, regional coverage and future investment well before June 2027,” he says. “Without certainty before the election, some parts of the delivery network may begin planning for wind-down, redeployment or exit in the lead-up to Christmas 2026.”

IAONZ says Warmer Kiwi Homes has delivered warmer, drier and healthier homes, reduced energy demand, supported local employment and helped households who could not otherwise afford insulation and efficient heating upgrades. It is estimated that a further 140,000 homes are eligible for improvement.

The programme also attracts wider local and community support. Councils, trusts, energy companies, lines companies, charities and community funders often help households meet the remaining cost of upgrades. “Government funding opens the door. Local funders help get the job finished,” Mr Hall says.

IAONZ supports future home energy upgrades, including solar, batteries, efficient heating, hot water, ventilation, electrification and finance options. However, it says insulation and the thermal envelope must remain central.

“The cheapest energy generation is the energy saved,” Mr Hall says.

“Solar and electrification are important, but they deliver better value when the home itself performs well. For many older homes, insulation, draught reduction, moisture control and quality installation are still the foundation.”

IAONZ is asking all political parties and decision-makers to support a practical no-gap pathway for EECA Warmer Kiwi Homes, or an equivalent targeted programme, with future settings confirmed before the election.

IAONZ is calling for:

1. continuation to be confirmed before the election;
2. no delivery gap after 30 June 2027;
3. targeted insulation and heating support to be protected for New Zealanders in older, colder homes;
4. future home energy upgrades to be built from the existing Warmer Kiwi Homes delivery platform; and
5. the full delivery ecosystem to be recognised, including service providers, installers, product suppliers, community organisations, third-party funders and regional partners.

“Warmer Kiwi Homes can evolve, but it should not be allowed to lapse,” Mr Hall says.

“The next phase should build from the platform New Zealand already has. Finish the job. Avoid the gap. Protect the value.”

ENDS

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About IAONZ

The Insulation Association of New Zealand, IAONZ, is the voice of New Zealand’s insulation industry. IAONZ represents the interests of insulation manufacturers, suppliers, installers and sector participants committed to quality insulation, better installation practice and warmer, drier, healthier homes.

The full IAONZ position statement is available at:

<https://www.iaonz.co.nz/article/warmer-kiwi-homes-continuity>
