

November 2024.

MP Ryan Hamilton

MP for Hamilton East.

Hamilton is once again New Zealand’s fastest-growing city, outpacing both Tauranga and Auckland, with an estimated population of 192,000—already ahead of Council projections.

From my conversations with local businesses and community members, there’s a real sense of optimism. We’ve turned a corner, and economic indicators are moving in the right direction.



You may have seen that the Official Cash Rate (OCR) has dropped to 4.75%, with inflation down to 2.2%. This follows several challenging years with rising interest rates, high living costs, and significant economic uncertainty.

The latest announcement signals a turning point, offering businesses a clear opportunity to move forward with greater confidence. It’s a green light to invest, expand, and bring on additional staff.

The recent ANZ Business Outlook and Mood of the Boardroom reports show this shift, reflecting a rise in business confidence across the country—the highest levels recorded since 2016.

For families, the drop in OCR means lower mortgage payments and more disposable income—whether that’s going towards essential expenses like groceries, school fees, or setting aside savings for future needs. This increased consumer spending can have a positive ripple effect across all sectors, benefiting businesses throughout our region.

Additionally, we’re excited to welcome the return of Trans-Tasman flights to Hamilton Airport in June 2025. There’ll be three return flights per week between Hamilton and the Gold Coast, along with four return flights per week to Sydney. This opens valuable opportunities for businesses currently working across the ditch, as well as those looking to expand into the Australian market. Early feedback on this has been overwhelmingly positive.

I also want to mention the Government’s fast-track projects, which will be critical in supporting key industries. This initiative prioritises getting projects moving across renewable energy, housing, transport, and more, reducing costs and supporting essential infrastructure development.

While this isn’t an instant fix, it’s a much-needed step towards enabling essential projects to move forward more quickly and supercharging the economy.

There’s still more work to do, but our Government’s deliberate and careful approach to managing inflation and supporting economic growth is showing results.

We’re not entirely out of the woods yet, but I hope you feel, as I do, that we’re making solid progress here in Hamilton and across the wider Waikato.

Funded by the Parliamentary Service.

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