What do these words mean?

There are lots of **words** used to talk about things to do with the **government** and the **election**.

Here are some words and what they mean.

You can read **them all**. Or you can just **check** a word you are not sure of.

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| Parliament | New Zealand **parliament** is where the **laws** get made.  **Laws** are **rules** we all have to follow.  People who get **voted** into parliament are called **members of parliament** - they’re usually called **MPs**.  There are **120 members of parliament** (MPs).  They go to work at **Parliament Building**, and the **Beehive**. This is in **Wellington**. |
| Government | The **government** means the **people and ways** of deciding **how things happen in New Zealand.**  All the **members of parliament** (MPs) work for the **government**.  You might hear people say - ‘**form a government’.** This means having half the seats in **parliament**.  The **people** and **parties** who **form government** get to make most of the laws.  They get to **decide** who has the most **important** **jobs** - like:   * Prime Minister * Deputy Prime Minister * Ministers – they are people in charge of an area (like health, education, police, and lots more).   There are places called **Government Departments.**  **Government Departments** do the work the **governments decided** should happen.  There are lots of people who work **for** the **government**. They are **not** MPs.  Some examples are:   * Ministry of Health * Ministry of Education * Ministry of Disabled People (Whaikaha) * Ministry of Justice |
| Party | A **party** is a **group of people** who have **similar ideas** about how New Zealand should work.  They decide to be a **party member**.  They work together to **make a plan** about how they think things should work in New Zealand.  You can **vote for a party.**  When a party gets **lots of votes**, it is easier for them to make **their ideas happen**. |
| Policy | A policy is like a **plan** about what a **party** says it **wants** to do.  Parties have **lots of policies** on different things.   * For example: transport, education, money and tax.   Policies **can** become law. Not every policy will become law.  To become the law:  policies need to be **checked** by **lots of people** and **agreed** by MPs. |
| Coalition | A **coalition** is when two or more **parties** agree to **work together**.  **Half** the **members of parliament** need to agree to work together to **form a government.**  Usually, that means **more than 1 party** need to agree to work together. |
| Electorate | An **electorate** is an area.  For example:   * a city * a suburb * a region.   You get to have **two votes**.  One for a **party**.  One for a **person** in your **electorate**.  You can vote for an **electorate MP** based on where you live.  You can [check your electorate here](https://vote.nz/maps/find-your-electorate/). |
| A group of people posing for a photo  Description automatically generatedTax  $$$$ | Tax is **money** that goes to the **government**.  Tax can come from things like:   * Your **pay** from working. * When you **buy** things, a little bit of money goes to the government. * **Business** pay tax.   The **Government uses** this money to **pay** for things like:   * Doctors, hospitals and health * Building roads * Public transport * Schools and education * Helping the environment * Police * Benefits (money) for people who need some extra help:   + For example people who don’t earn very much money   + people with disabilities   + people who don’t have jobs   + families/whanau   There are **lots of other** things the **government spend money** on to help New Zealand. |
| Economy | Economy is the way **all the people** in New Zealand **spend and make money**.  It’s made up of lots of things like:   * how much **money** New Zealanders have * how much it **costs** to buy food * how much it costs to **buy or rent a house** * how much money the **government** has * how many people have **jobs** |
| Climate change | Climate means:   * what the **weather** is like, but over a long time. For example the weather for a **whole year**, not one day at a time. * How often there are **storms.** * How high up the sea comes onto land. * How much water is in lakes and rivers.   **Climate change** means in the future the world is getting **hotter**. This means:   * The **weather** is changing * More **very hot days**. This sometimes means there are **fires**. * Less drinking **water** * More **storms** * More **flooding** * **Plants** and **animals** might die.   There are **lots of things** people and the government can do which can make climate change **better** or **worse**.  Political parties have **different ideas** about what New Zealand should do. |