

DIGITAL ECONOMIC UPGRADE

LABOUR WILL:



Elevate ICT to the highest level of Government.

By:

- establishing the position of Chief Technology Officer in Government, reporting directly to the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- mandating the Chief Technology Officer to produce an annual 'Digital Technology Roadmap' and a 'National Digital Architecture' for New Zealand
- charging the Chief Technology Officer to undertake a wide-ranging inquiry and stocktake of the way that information technology projects are managed by government agencies



Encourage ingenuity and creativity in the ICT sector.

By:

- establishing 'Garage Grants' to support entrepreneurs in taking the first step in transforming a big idea into a successful business
- mandating the Chief Science Advisor and the Chief Technology Officer to develop 'X prizes' to encourage "radical breakthroughs" in technology



Enhance and strengthen New Zealand's digital workforce.

By:

- establishing a clearer pathway for careers in the Information Technology field by funding 1,200 ICT apprenticeships
- reviewing the points system of the migration skills shortage list, to more accurately recognise the value of Information Technology work experience
- working with industry to establish a new industry-governed body to oversee Information Technology training



Reduce costs and increase the transparency of government ICT procurement.

By:

- supporting Open Software standards
- implementing a whole-of-Government approach to Open Software
- reforming ICT project management across Government departments
- creating a government 'App Store'
- aspiring to wider use of open software



Boost growth in New Zealand ICT jobs and businesses.

By:

- supporting ICT manufacturing with an accelerated depreciation regime
- strengthening innovation with research and development tax credits
- backing Kiwi businesses, ensuring that government Kiwi agencies buy more Kiwi-made products, keeping thousands of jobs in New Zealand
- improving access to capital for businesses by increasing the national savings pool
- directing more capital investment into the productive economy, rather than speculation in housing by changing tax settings
- containing or reducing structural costs to businesses, starting with electricity prices
- working to lower unnecessary compliance costs for businesses