



ALENZ

Aluminium Extruders
Association of New Zealand

POLITICAL PARTY MANIFESTO

Manifesto 2026





ALENZ is the peak body representing New Zealand's aluminium extrusion industry.

Our members have a joint manufacturing capacity of 60,000 tonnes per year of aluminium extruded products, representing all product manufactured in New Zealand.

We engage with decision makers to promote the superior quality and outstanding properties of New Zealand extrusions, support a thriving local industry and optimise our products' contribution to a low-carbon, circular and resilient Aotearoa New Zealand.



Contents

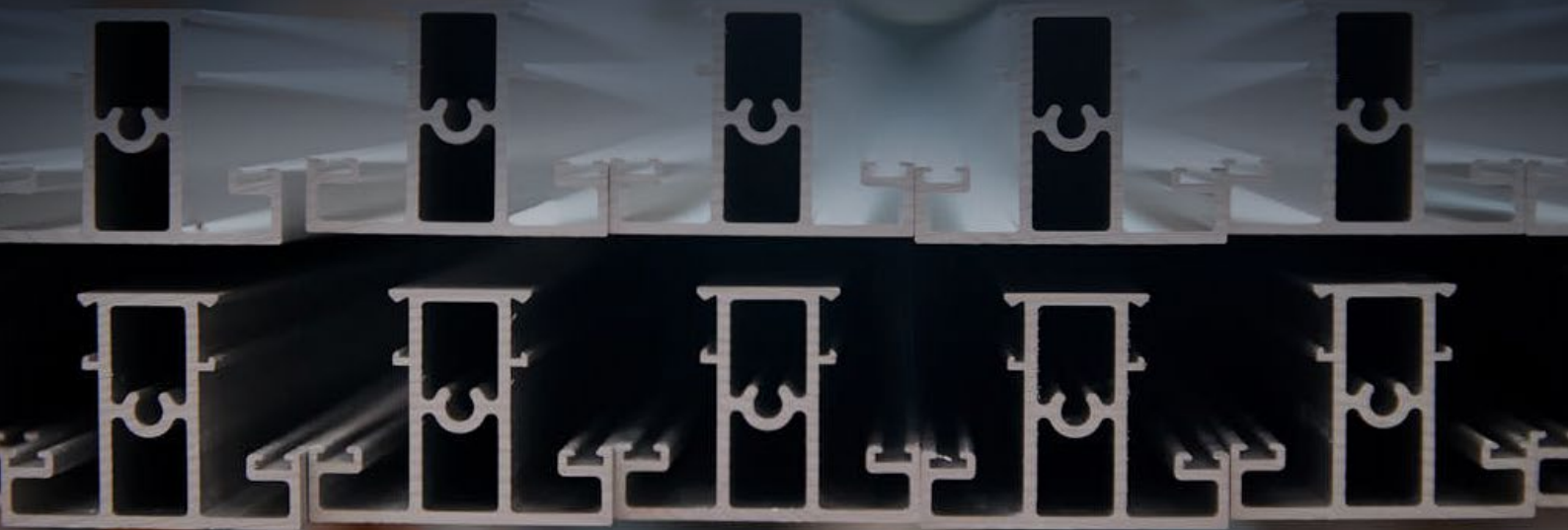
Industry snapshot	2
Regional Value	3
New Zealand aluminium industry value chain	4
Our priorities	5
Free and fair trade	5
Recommendations	7
Energy	8
Recommendations	8
Procurement.....	9
Recommendations	9
In summary	10



Industry snapshot

- Employs over 5,000 people in high-value jobs
- \$6.3 billion direct economic activity, significant multiplier effects
- Produces some of the world's lowest embodied carbon aluminium
- Underpins innovation, supplying high-value, low-carbon components for
 - Construction
 - Marine and road transport
 - High value export sectors across engineering, medical, defence and infrastructure.
- Supports the circular economy – 99% of all scrap is recycled
- Invests locally using NZ-made billet, dies and NZ-owned logistics
- Builds economic resilience
- Creates and enables supply chain security

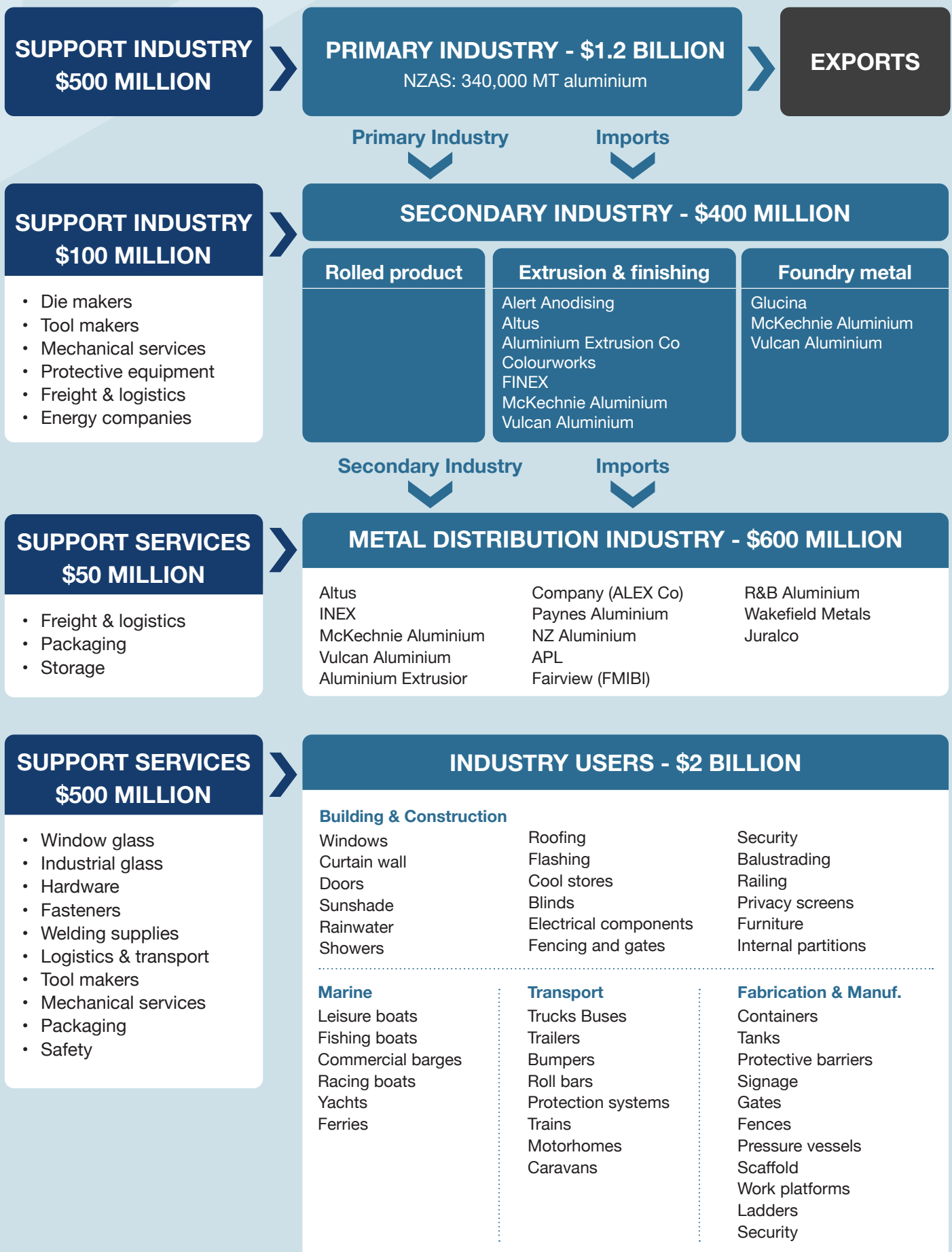
New Zealand leads the world in low carbon, circular, aluminium extrusions and fabrication.



Regional Value



New Zealand aluminium industry value chain



SUPPORT INDUSTRY
\$500 MILLION

PRIMARY INDUSTRY - \$1.2 BILLION

NZAS: 340,000 MT aluminium

EXPORTS

Primary Industry

Imports

SUPPORT INDUSTRY
\$100 MILLION

SECONDARY INDUSTRY - \$400 MILLION

- Die makers
- Tool makers
- Mechanical services
- Protective equipment
- Freight & logistics
- Energy companies

Rolled product

Extrusion & finishing

Foundry metal

Alert Anodising
Altus
Aluminium Extrusion Co
Colourworks
FINEX
McKechnie Aluminium
Vulcan Aluminium

Glucina
McKechnie Aluminium
Vulcan Aluminium

Secondary Industry

Imports

SUPPORT SERVICES
\$50 MILLION

METAL DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY - \$600 MILLION

- Freight & logistics
- Packaging
- Storage

Altus
INEX
McKechnie Aluminium
Vulcan Aluminium
Aluminium Extrusior

Company (ALEX Co)
Paynes Aluminium
NZ Aluminium
APL
Fairview (FMIBI)

R&B Aluminium
Wakefield Metals
Juralco

SUPPORT SERVICES
\$500 MILLION

INDUSTRY USERS - \$2 BILLION

Building & Construction

Windows
Curtain wall
Doors
Sunshade
Rainwater
Showers

Roofing
Flashing
Cool stores
Blinds
Electrical components
Fencing and gates

Security
Balustrading
Railing
Privacy screens
Furniture
Internal partitions

Marine

Leisure boats
Fishing boats
Commercial barges
Racing boats
Yachts
Ferries

Transport

Trucks Buses
Trailers
Bumpers
Roll bars
Protection systems
Trains
Motorhomes
Caravans

Fabrication & Manuf.

Containers
Tanks
Protective barriers
Signage
Gates
Fences
Pressure vessels
Scaffold
Work platforms
Ladders
Security



Our priorities

Our industry seeks

- **Free and fair trade**
A level playing field where we are treated the same as our international competitors
- **Energy security**
Policy harnessing renewable energy to secure affordable, reliable and resilient supply
- **Procurement**
Procurement activity that matches stated policy

Get this right and our industry is ready to invest more than \$218 million over the next five years in decarbonisation and efficient new technologies while continuing to grow national capability, skills, jobs and contributing to a strong and resilient economy.

Free and fair trade

New Zealand’s aluminium extrusion industry operates in a persistently anti-competitive global environment that places local manufacturers at a structural disadvantage.

Our producers compete without tariff protection and under some of the world’s most stringent environmental, labour, and compliance standards.

Local aluminium manufacturing needs free and fair trade that acknowledges low embodied carbon solutions

Yet, our overseas competitors benefit from state support, particularly heavily subsidised economies such as China where trade distortions allow products to be sold below the true cost of production.

As a result, in the last decade alone imports of aluminium extrusions like those manufactured in New Zealand have increased by over 160 percent, with a concurrent decline in per-unit import values and exports.

If local manufacturing capability is lost, New Zealand becomes fully dependent on imports for critical building, transport and infrastructure products.

Imports in the first three months of 2026 are 30% above the same period last year.

This import surge has occurred despite local manufacturers investing more than \$120 million over the same period in plant, technology and emissions reductions.

	2016	2025	Variance
*NZ production	34,358,615	28,479,058	20% reduction
Imports	2,636,000	6,945,646	163% increase
Exports	5,405,617	2,086,835	141% reduction

*Volume kgs

This is not a failure of New Zealand industry, one of the most efficient producers globally, but of a trade system that prioritises free trade in theory while failing to enforce fairness in practice.

Every other aluminium producing economy has taken steps to ensure fair trading conditions, imposing tariffs and protections on imported aluminium extrusions.

- US tariffs impose a 50% cost on aluminium imports.
- EU has recently increased safeguard protection for local aluminium manufacture from 25% to 50%.
- Australia has varying rates of tariffs for aluminium imports.

The result is an uneven playing field that erodes domestic market share, suppresses fair competition and undermines a strategically important manufacturing sector.

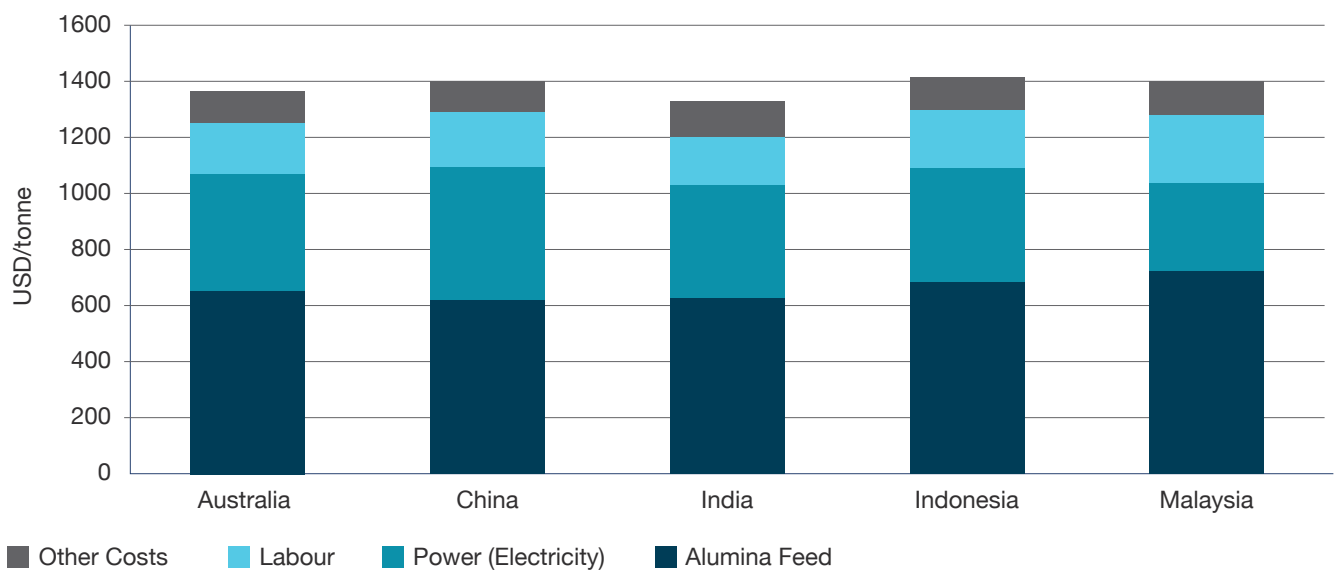
The reality is that input costs for extrusion are similar around the world. Yet China’s aluminium subsidies mean that export prices are below manufacturing cost, fuelling global overcapacity, cutting jobs in markets like ours, raising global emissions, reducing competition, depressing global prices and violating WTO rules.

Several countries have taken trade cases against China for anti-competitive conduct. This includes aluminium dumping, subsidisation, countervailing, circumvention, and trans-shipping.

Australia has recently increased their anti-dumping and countervailing duties on Chinese aluminium products. The Commissioner found the dumping and subsidisation will cause material injury to the Australian industry.

Source: [Australian Anti-Dumping Commission Notice 2025/070](#)

Figure 1: Global estimated smelting costs 2024



Source: AME Research, industry benchmarks, and ALENZ Members internal analysis

Leveraging our low-carbon advantage

New Zealand leads the world in low-carbon, circular, aluminium extrusions and fabrication. Yet our free trade agreements do not recognise this advantage. As a result, we are competing with imports from coal fired plants in Asia with carbon footprints around five times larger.

Exports of New Zealand-made low-carbon extrusions have declined by over 50% in the last decade, undermining our competitive advantage, driving carbon leakage and discouraging investment in decarbonisation and energy resilience. With its abundant renewable energy, New Zealand could compete strongly in markets that reward low-carbon production.

Initiatives such as the Green Economy Partnership Agreement (GEPA) are a positive step, but they must be complemented by mechanisms to ensure carbon equity between imports and local production. The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), effective January 2026, provides a model for levelling the playing field and incentivising decarbonisation. The UK is expected to introduce a CBAM in 2027.

Most aluminium extrusions in New Zealand are sourced from the New Zealand Aluminium Smelter at Tiwai Point, which has one of the lowest aluminium smelting carbon footprints in the world generating 85% less CO₂-e than the industry average.

New Zealand also has an aluminium recycling/remelt facility operated by McKechnie Aluminium in New Plymouth, where production scrap is remelted to achieve near 100% circularity of raw materials. Billet cast from remelt achieves a carbon footprint (Scope 1 & 2) of 1.31kg of CO₂ per kg of aluminium. The global average is 11.5kg of CO₂ per kg of aluminium and imported aluminium from fossil fuel fired smelters can reach figures of 25 – 30 kg by the time carbon miles are added

Recommendations

We encourage government to demonstrate a genuine credible commitment to free and fair trade underpinned by the rule of law. With major trading partners increasingly disregarding these principles New Zealand must strengthen how it protects its domestic industries.

We seek the following:

- MBIE to resource trade remedies team adequately to ensure NZ Trade Remedy Legislation is expedited promptly where dumping, subsidisation or predatory pricing causes injury to New Zealand manufacturers.
- closer monitoring of imports to ensure we are all playing by the same rules - use technology to monitor all declarations by importer by source:
 - o what's declared / description
 - o value
 - o inspections.
- collaboration with industry on assurance framework for imported products.
- more detailed, timely, information on import statistics.
- carbon content equity through a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

Energy

New Zealand needs a robust energy policy framework harnessing our abundant renewable resources to deliver secure, affordable and reliable energy supply.

Energy drives the New Zealand economy. Yet prices are no longer globally competitive and key manufacturing is moving offshore resulting in loss of jobs, hollowing out our regional economies with loss of skills, capability and the very platforms required to develop new innovative export solutions.

Energy underpins strong domestic industry, which in turn:

- delivers high-value jobs in our regions and builds skills and capability
- enables innovation, new industries and new products
- provides resilience to essential sectors of our economy when supply chains fail due to global pandemic, crises and changing geopolitical tensions.

For energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries such as aluminium manufacturing and fabrication, access to stable, internationally competitive and reliable energy is not optional.

The industry's demise would ripple through to the potential demise of multiple other industries in New Zealand that rely on the reliable supply of aluminium extrusions.

Energy security, and economic growth, for New Zealand is built on transition to a low-carbon economy, harnessing our abundant renewable energy resources.

Given confidence in a robust energy policy our industry
is ready to invest in a low-carbon future.

This is vital to attracting local and foreign investment in the transition to a green economy and support long-term energy resilience. Until we have this our economy will continue to stagnate.

Recommendations

We urge government to develop a transitional energy policy that:

- takes a whole-of-system approach to energy, managing electricity, fossil fuels, biofuels and hydrogen together through a single, accountable agency
- incentivises investment in new renewable generation and actively manage the transition to ensure security of supply and price stability
- restore genuine competition in the electricity sector by separating generation from retail
- end regional distribution monopolies by facilitating consolidation and competition to lower costs for industry and households.

Procurement

Government procurement generates an estimated \$51.5 billion annually, around 20% of GDP.

Under the Government Procurement Rules Charter, government agencies are expected to conduct their procurement activity to achieve public value including directions to:

- deliver economic benefits to New Zealand
- promote inclusive economic development in New Zealand.

However, currently there is no accountability on agencies to deliver to the Rules.

Transport, education, health, housing and defence all have significant building programmes. Through buying local, government procurement can deliver significant benefits to local manufacturing, building economic resilience and creating real public value.

An example of this is the New Zealand Defence Force which is working with New Zealand businesses to develop drones as part of its Defence Industry Strategy. This details a partnership with industry *“working together to deliver defence capability while building a strong, resilient industry that delivers economic growth and grows our export markets”*¹.

However, government procurement continues to unintentionally favour artificially low-priced imports, potentially shouldering future New Zealand with ongoing maintenance costs.

In 2025 the aluminium facade for the Dunedin Hospital Inpatient facility was awarded to a Chinese company. Imported facades have a history of leaking, deterioration of surface coatings and singing in the wind.

Recommendations

- Government needs to make agencies accountable, reporting annually on local procurement and ensuring all major projects have published post project review on delivery to the Rules.
- Government procurement should assess whole of life value, resilience, compliance, emissions and repeat of whole-of-life value, not lowest upfront price alone.

¹ <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/kiwi-drones-boost-defence-capability>





In summary

We seek government recognition, respect and support for the New Zealand aluminium industry, a vital sector that:

- underpins thousands of high-value jobs
- enables downstream businesses
- produces some of the world's lowest carbon aluminium
- supports sustainability and supply chain resilience
- delivers \$6 billion of economic return
- is ready to invest millions in the future.

Why risk all this through failure to address settings that are rapidly undermining our industry?

Give us a level playing field with imports, as all other aluminium producing nations have done without negative consequences.

Provide us with confidence in an energy policy that delivers reliable and affordable energy supply and honour government procurement Rules.

www.alenz.nz

