



Our cities are wealthier than our rural regions, and some rural areas are much wealthier than others. Regional development policy is about how the government can stimulate growth in less wealthy regions, helping to spread opportunity equally across all parts of the country. It's about being able to live a good quality of life, wherever we live. In this activity you will explore and discuss the kinds of regional development policies the government can use.

→ Go to policy.nz/2023/party-vote/policies/economy

→ Find and read the 'Regional development' section

→ Explore answers to these questions and share your ideas and reasoning with others

1. Use the Regional Economic Activity Web Tool available [here](#) to explore our regions. Auckland has the biggest population. Which region has the second biggest population? Which region has the fewest people? Which region is New Zealand's wealthiest, and which is the least wealthy? Are regions with more people wealthier? Why or why not?
2. 'Development' refers to more than just the amount of money people make—it's how much money people have left after paying bills or accessing services like education or health.
 - Use the [tool](#) to explore other kinds of differences between regions. For example, are there greater gaps in income between men and women in different regions? Which region has the fewest number of people attending university and which has the most? Why might this be?
3. Do you think these differences between regions have to be like this? Do you think the government should try to make life opportunities more equitable or similar for people living in all parts of New Zealand?

→ Go back to [Policy.nz](https://policy.nz) and browse the policies. Click on policies to read more detail

→ Save the policies you agree with by clicking the heart icon

4. What policies are different parties proposing for regional development? Which parties seem more concerned with regional development and which seem less concerned? Why do you think this might be? Which parties seem to be focused on helping your region?
5. Imagine you live in Kaitia, Westport, Te Awamutu, Gore, Russell or another New Zealand town. Which parties' policies do you think might improve your quality of life? Do the policies have any downsides for people who live in cities?
6. How do you think Covid-19 might affect different regions?