



ELECTION
2026 ✓

Health and safety

Getting ready for Election 2026

We can stop these health and safety cuts before they start

They do not take effect until April 2027.

A new Government can repeal them first. The choice is ours on 7 November.

After the Pike River disaster, when 29 workers died, New Zealand built a stronger system to keep people safe at work: the Health and Safety at Work Act. The current Government has passed changes that pull that system apart. They do not take effect until April 2027. A government elected on 7 November can repeal them first, and keep the protections that bring workers home safe.

What we can keep

- One clear standard of safety for every worker, whether you work for a big company or a small one.
- A regulator with teeth. WorkSafe able to inspect, enforce, and prosecute when a workplace puts people in danger, not just offer advice.
- Strong duties on every employer to find and fix the risks that kill and injure people, with real consequences for those who do not.
- The hard lessons of Pike River kept in the law, so we never have to learn them again.

What the current Government did

- Created a two-tier system. Businesses with fewer than 20 workers, which is 97% of firms, are let off most of their duties except for a short list of critical risks.
- Turned WorkSafe from an enforcer into an adviser, after cutting its staff and disestablishing its health team.
- Let industry write its own codes, so an employer who follows one has a legal defence even when workers are still put at risk.

Your say

E tū represents workers in some of the most dangerous jobs in the country, in mining, manufacturing, construction, and beyond. The union movement fought against these new changes every step of the way, and they can still be undone. A new Government can repeal them before April 2027 and keep the system that made work safer after Pike River. **To make it happen, check you are enrolled before voting opens on 26 October.** See the back page for how.



"I have seen what happens when safety comes second. The law we have now makes employers take it seriously. We have until the election to stop them winding it back."

Mark Anderson
Head Delegate, OceanaGold



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Make sure you can vote

**The rules have changed.
This time you have to be enrolled before voting opens.**

The decisions that shape your working life are made by the government you elect. To have your say, you need to be enrolled and your details need to be right.

The Government changed the election rules. You can no longer enrol at the voting place. If you are not enrolled in time, you will not be able to vote. If you have moved house since the last election, you will need to update your details.

Key dates

Enrol or update your details by
midnight, Sunday 25 October 2026.

Voting opens **Monday 26
October 2026.**

Election day is **Saturday 7
November 2026.**

Step one: check your enrolment

Go to www.vote.nz and click “Check your enrolment.” Enter your name, date of birth, and address. You will see whether you are enrolled, which electorate you are in, and which roll you are on, general or Māori. Many electorate boundaries have changed this year, so check your electorate too. If everything is correct, you are ready to vote when voting opens. If you have moved, update your details.

Who can enrol

You can enrol if you are:

- 18 or older
- a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- someone who has lived in New Zealand for 12 months or more.

Step two: enrol or update online

Choose “Enrol to vote” or “Update your details,” fill in the form, and submit it. To do it online you need one of these:

- NZ driver licence
- NZ passport
- RealMe verified identity.

If you do not have any of these, there are other ways to enrol. Find more information on www.vote.nz or call 0800 36 76 56.

Get it done today

You must be enrolled or have updated your details by midnight, Sunday 25 October 2026. You cannot enrol once voting opens on 26 October. Do not leave it to the last minute. Head to www.vote.nz and make sure your vote counts in this election.



Check your details

Scan to check or update your enrolment at www.vote.nz



Join E tu

Scan to join the union and stand tall with your workmates.