



1<sup>st</sup> July 2016



## What is a Co-operative?

By definition co-operatives are Member-owned organisations, businesses and enterprises whereby the Members contribute equitably in owning a share of the organization with benefits gained being based on volumes supplied and /or the amount of business transacted.

## Co-operatives: some background locally and globally

- NZ was declared the world's No 1 ranked co-operative economy by the United Nations in 2014 following a survey of 145 nations. The combined revenues from NZ co-operative organisations and businesses currently exceeds \$NZ43 billion pa which equals almost 15% of GDP, while NZ co-operatives employ over 43,000 staff and are responsible for over one-third of our exports. Cooperative Business NZ, the industry body which advocates for and supports the co-operative sector in NZ, currently has 55 Full Members which contribute the majority of the above revenues and jobs.
- Globally co-operative enterprises employ over 250 million people and generate \$US2.2 trillion in revenues while providing the services and infrastructure that society needs to thrive upon.

## 2016 International Day of Co-operatives – July 2<sup>nd</sup>

This year's International Day of Co-operatives is Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Themed "**Co-operatives: The power to act for a sustainable future**", the day this year will be dedicated to the International Co-operative Alliance's (ICA's) 3 sustainable development goals:

- Wipe out poverty
- Fight inequality and injustice
- Tackle climate change

These goals are obviously critically important, world-changing objectives that will require co-operation amongst governments, international organizations and world leaders.

As a member of ICA, Cooperative Business NZ fully supports the initiative. We encourage Kiwi co-operative organisations to reflect upon the co-operative business model of 100% Member ownership and sustainability, the latter extending towards sustainable economic, social and environmental development.

We foster and support democracy, equality, social inclusion, job security, decent working conditions and the sustainable utilization of resources. In addition, we promote and encourage local community investment.

We all play our co-operative part in making the world a better place by promoting and supporting globally recognized [co-operative principles](#).

## What does “sustainable future” really mean?

In September 2015, all United Nations Members adopted the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), which comprises 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).

All of these goals are relevant to NZ as a country and New Zealanders as people. Over the next 15 years countries will mobilize efforts in an attempt to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth while addressing a range of social needs including education, health, social protection and job opportunities, as well as tackling climate change and environmental protection.

New Zealand’s co-operatives are key partners for achieving the agenda for Sustainable Development:

- We foster democracy, equality, social inclusion and we operate with concern for the environment
- Via our principles we are sustainable and inclusive businesses and organisations
- We foster job security, decent working conditions and promote community investment



The team at Co-op Money NZ will mark International Co-operatives Day today.

Kind regards,  
Craig Presland