



Human Security Centre

Advisory Board Member

Denis O'Rourke MP



Denis O'Rourke has been a list Member of Parliament in the House of Representatives of New Zealand since 2011, representing New Zealand First.

He is currently a member of the Standing Orders Committee and Justice and Electoral Committee, and is the Spokesperson for Justice, Attorney General, Constitutional Review, Transport, Housing, State Services, Civil Defence and Emergency Services, and Christchurch Earthquake Issues. He is also the Associate Spokesperson for Climate Change, Economic Development and Local Government. He also has a strong interest in constitutional issues and in human rights issues.

Formerly, Mr. O'Rourke had been a Christchurch City Councillor for 15 years and had chaired the council's Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee, while also being a member of the Strategy and Finance Committee and many other council committees. He has also had a distinguished career as a barrister and solicitor, previously serving with Macalister Brothers, barristers and solicitors, Invercargill; thereafter, as a Senior Solicitor, Public Trust Office, Christchurch; and later in private practice in Christchurch. From 2005 to 2011, he served as a member of the Legal Aid Review Panel, dealing with appeals on decisions of the Legal Services Agency.

Mr. O'Rourke has sat on the boards of the Christchurch Transport Establishment Board, Board of Christchurch Transport Limited (now Redbus Ltd), Disputes Tribunal in Christchurch, Works Operations Establishment Board, Post Office Bank Limited Establishment Board, Postbank Limited, and Christchurch International Airport Limited.

He also served as Chairman of the Recovered Materials Foundation, Meta NZ Limited and Transwaste Canterbury Limited. He is currently chairman of the Central Plains Water Trust, establishing a large community irrigation scheme in Canterbury.

Mr. O'Rourke counts among his recreational interests private flying, boating, kayaking, skiing, swimming and snorkelling, mountain biking, hiking and camping. He is a keen fly fisherman and sea fisherman, and holds a Private Pilot Licence, a Boatmaster Certificate, and a Coastal Yachtmaster Certificate. He also owns a collection of classic British motorcars.