



**Attitudes towards Asia: New Zealand, Canada and
Australia compared**

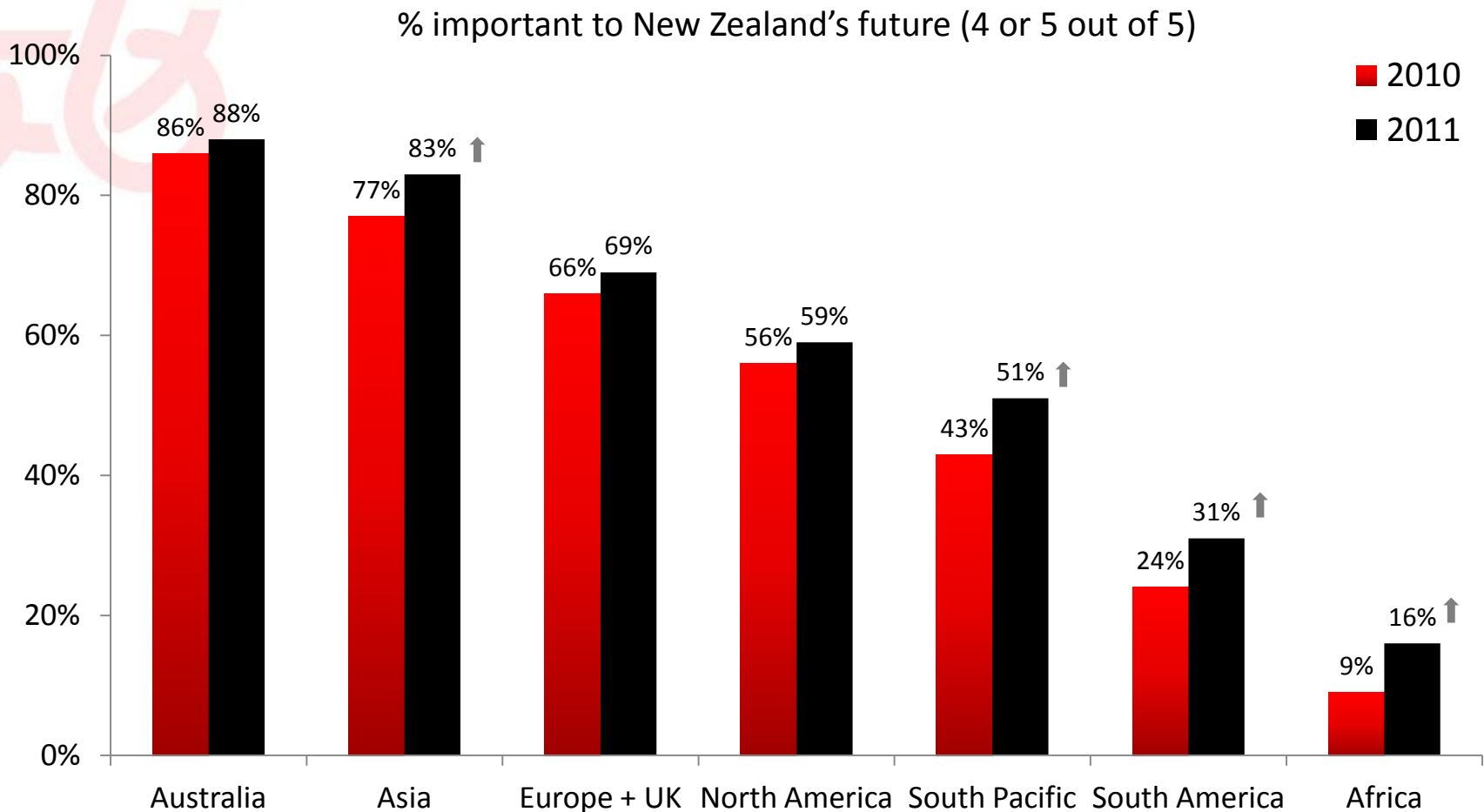
Dr Andrew Butcher, Director, Research



Introduction

- Three polls, from 2011
 - Asia New Zealand Foundation
 - Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
 - Lowy Institute for International Policy, Australia
- Comparing warmth
- Importance to future
- Asian investment
- China/India as a threat
- Part of Asia?

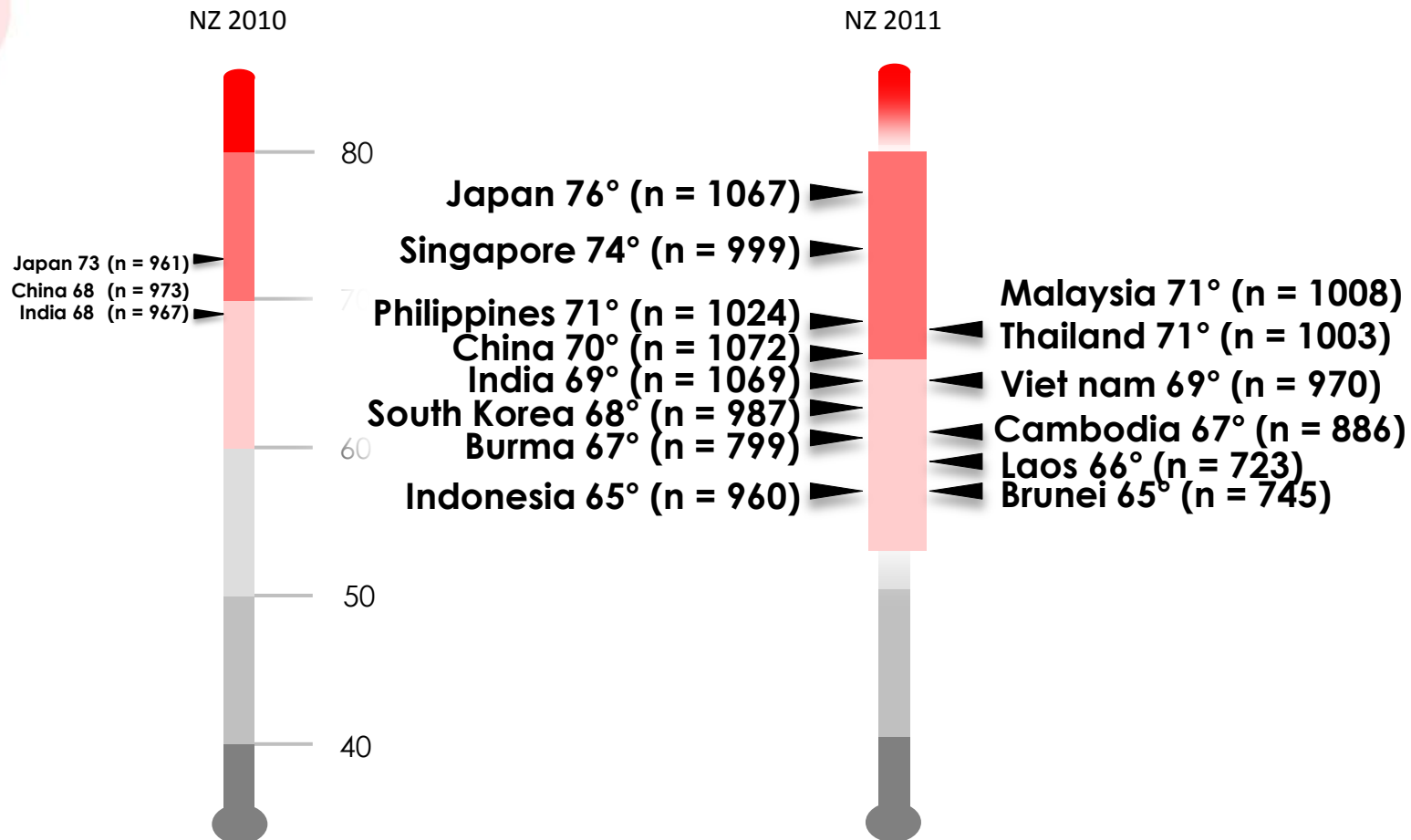
The perceived importance of other regions to New Zealand, including Asia, in 2011.



↑ Statistically significant increase at the 95% confidence level

Warmth felt toward people from Asia.

Please rate your feelings toward people from this country, with 100 meaning you feel very warm and favourable, and 0 meaning you feel very cold and unfavourable.



Warmth comparisons

- **China:** NZ, 70, Australia, 54, Canada, 47
- **Japan:** NZ, 76, Australia, 64, Canada, 61
- **India:** NZ, 69, Australia, 55, Canada, 51
- **Singapore:** NZ, 74, Australia, 69
- **Malaysia:** NZ, 71, Australia, 60
- **Indonesia:** NZ, 65, Australia, 54
- **Vietnam:** NZ, 69, Australia, 61
- **Canada:** *Southeast Asia*, 51; Australia, 78 [doesn't ask about New Zealand]

Importance to future

- New Zealand's future/Canada's "economic prosperity"
 - North America (59%)/US (77%)
 - Asia (69%)/China (44%), Japan (25%), India (16%), Southeast Asia (13%), South Korea (8%)
 - But, perceived importance of Asian countries to Canada's prosperity is in decline

Asian investment

- NZ: 74% agreed good for NZ's economy that companies in Asia invested in New Zealand's businesses
 - 29% agreed that New Zealand is allowing too much investment from Asia; 42% disagreed.
- Canada: 55% believe Canada would benefit from more Asian investment (cf. 59% in 2010)
- Australia: 57% of Australians said that the Australian government was allowing too much investment from China (cf. 50 percent in 2009).

China as a threat

- 60% of Canadians believe China's growing military power is a threat to the Asia Pacific region, cf. 29% of New Zealanders, 46% of Australians
- 33% of New Zealanders said that NZ *would* be harmed if China gained more influence in the world
- 33% of Australians said that Australia *would not* be harmed if China gained more influence
- 43% of Canadians said that 'the growing importance of China as an economic power is more of an opportunity than a threat'

India as a threat

- ‘The growing importance of India as an economic power is more of an opportunity than a threat’
 - 52% Canadians
 - 22% New Zealanders (“if India gained more power and influence in the world”)
- India will become a military threat
 - New Zealanders: To New Zealand (19%)
 - Canadians: To the Asia Pacific region (39%)

Part of Asia?

- Is New Zealand part of *Asia*?
 - In 2011, 22 percent said ‘yes’
- Is Canada part of the *Asia Pacific*?
 - In 2011, 26 percent said ‘yes’ (cf. 30% in 2008; 29% in 2012)
 - British Columbians, in particular, identify strongly with the Asia Pacific region.
 - Younger Canadians have significantly warmer views of Asian countries such as China, India and South Korea but notably cooler views of the United States and Britain.



asia:nz
FOUNDATION