



**Committees for Cities Gathering  
Auckland 17 and 18 February 2010**



## Committee for Auckland Report

### Background

Auckland is very different from the rest of NZ. It is 3 times bigger than the next largest city (Christchurch). It has experienced quick urbanization. Its population is a very diverse with 1 in 3 people born in NZ. NZ's richest live in Auckland as do its poorest. Averaging income stats, however, hide this disparity.

Auckland delivers 34% of NZ's wealth.

Auckland was (is) perceived as a drain on the rest of the country. The locals are called JAFFAs (Just Another F'er From Auckland).

Committee for Auckland has set about capturing and communicating the hard data to explain how a prosperous Auckland is essential for a prosperous NZ.

This is documented in their *Growing Auckland, Growing New Zealand* Plan. The Committee proposes that Auckland plays a full role in New Zealand's recovery. Its ability to do this rests on its competitive city genes and fast growth. But, more than fast growth is needed...

*Growing Auckland, Growing New Zealand* explores Auckland's DNA as a competitive and specialised economy, stresses the need to build, attract and retain talent, and to prioritise 'productive' infrastructure that leads to recovery and a resilient future. The committee plans to:

- Set a national goal and unite to meet it

- Offer Auckland's big project spend - in local government, tertiary education, health, energy and the big private investors - for maximum stimulus

- Build only infrastructure that delivers both productivity and growth (GDP) *and* revenue (taxes) - to regain Auckland's 2007 tax contribution - \$21.2 billion ie 60% of NZ's company tax and 53.6% of NZ's GST

- Invest in visit infrastructure - it is productive and brings footloose capital and talent here

- Use stimulus projects to tackle Auckland's extremes - we are both highly skilled and highly unskilled, well housed and very poorly housed...

- Counter the 2025 demographic faultline (no labour market growth) with a systematic pipeline of international talent, quickly welcomed to our workplaces

- Motivate people with a flagship project - the waterfront has wide backing.

- Put Auckland's new governance arrangements in place quickly

Reference: <http://www.aucklandnz.org/content/images/committee/Growing%20AK%20Growing%20NZ.pdf>

## **Auckland's Governance**

Auckland has been held back by poor local government governance. 7 Councils oversee the greater Auckland region. Co-operation was limited as was future visioning. [We evidenced this during our short stay with the arguments over a waterfront development of public land.]

The Committee for Auckland has been at the forefront of governance reform. Two reports released by the Committee for Auckland underline the case for the bold agenda proposed for Auckland and reaffirm the importance of continued investment in New Zealand's largest city. The reports take a fresh look at Auckland's social and economic infrastructure, highlighting the region's role as New Zealand's primary engine for economic growth.

### **The Case for Auckland**

establishes Auckland's relevance and importance to New Zealand,  
argues that the region needs to be seen by itself and the rest of the country as a "national asset" which can drive national growth  
takes a look at Auckland's current performance and opportunities,  
and identifies the "brakes" on performance.

It states that more investment in Auckland will result in major economic benefits for New Zealand.

We received an in-depth briefing by the Hon Peter Salmon QC who chaired the Royal Commission on Auckland's Governance and Sir Ron Carter, Chairman of the Committee for Auckland.

[Insert Chart](#)

## Auckland's Waterfront Development.

The 25-year transformation of a large part of the Wynyard Quarter is a major infrastructure and building project and one of the largest waterfront developments in New Zealand's history. It covers an area bigger than Auckland's current central business district.

The renewal programme is a cooperative venture funded by Auckland Regional Holdings (ARH), the majority landowner, and Auckland City Council, which will own the roads, promenades, wharfs, parks and plazas. Auckland City Council will share ownership of the large headland public space known as Wynyard Point with the Auckland Regional Council (ARC).

Auckland City Council is contributing \$95m to the public infrastructure and amenity works, and will receive income from development levies on the sites made available for redevelopment. ARH is contributing \$116m to the public infrastructure and amenity works and will receive the lease income from the development sites.

The public works within Wynyard precinct include wharf edges, roads, underground services, and approximately six hectares of public areas comprising parks and plazas and landscaping - the works will provide the essential foundation needed to build momentum, attract and secure private investment and demonstrate the public sector's commitment to this long term project.

The Western Reclamation is located on the western edge of Auckland's CBD. It sits immediately to the north of Freemans Bay and to the east of St Marys Bay, two of Auckland's established inner-city residential suburbs.



The majority of the Western Reclamation land is presently utilised for uses associated with bulk liquid storage and distribution. There are also fishing and marine industrial activities located in the area.

Reference: <http://www.seacity.co.nz/>



Sea & City Project



Site Visit – Tank Farm

## **Ports of Auckland's Developments.**

Ports of Auckland is New Zealand's leading port company, connecting the country's importers and exports with more than 165 international ports in 70 countries. The site covers 62 h and handles more than 840,000 containers per annum.

Auckland is also the country's premiere exchange port for cruises, hosting 72 calls each season.

An economic impact report commissioned by Cruise New Zealand contains detailed information about the economic impact of the cruise industry and regional share within New Zealand and is available on Tourism New Zealand's website.

While we were there we saw two cruise ships docked at the port, accommodating over 1500 passengers.

In 2009, Ports of Auckland sold Queens Wharf to the Government and Auckland Regional Council, for the redevelopment of the wharf as a public space for the 2011 Rugby World Cup.

Refer [http://www.poal.co.nz/news\\_media/publications/POAL\\_port\\_development\\_plan\\_2008.pdf](http://www.poal.co.nz/news_media/publications/POAL_port_development_plan_2008.pdf)



The Queen Mary 2



Cruise ships berth at the passenger terminal at Princes Wharf

## Committee for's Roundup report – Good ideas

- It would be beneficial to work closer together on issues with common themes including issuing combined Committee For press releases [more relevant for city Coms 4]
- Future Funds (Norway Model)
- Addressing migration and racial issues as a group of Committee's (something that Gov'ts cant address)
- Addressing Growth is an issue for major cities.
- City Anchors – drivers of the economy (Members dinner theme) **follow up**
- Building Better Schools Project.
- Iwi Business Consortium – forging stronger links between mainstream and Maori businesses.

Reference:

<http://www.aucklandnz.org/content/docs/Presentation%2018%20December.ppt#256,1,Slide 1>

- Melbourne City Futures Plan
- Transformation Cluster Project (Melbourne) – retrofitting towns, opportunities and options in sustainability. (Renewable Energy Subcommittee opportunity to follow up) **follow up**
- Discussion regarding potential opportunity for Portland
- Homeless Project (Auckland) – Working in collaboration with other agencies to end homelessness – research conducted into the cost of homelessness. \$1m per person over a ten year period.
- Discussion regarding the benefits of directly elected mayors.