



## **Submission: Auckland Plan 2050**

Date of submission: 28 March 2018

Please note: We wish to make an oral presentation to this submission

### **Business North Harbour Incorporated**

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**Local Board Representation:** Upper Harbour Local Board

**Signature:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Peter Lamberton", written over a light blue horizontal line.

## Introduction

Business North Harbour is a significant commercial/industrial Business Improvement District (BID), representing over 4,500 commercial property owners and businesses within the North Harbour area. Collectively they employ over 35,000 Auckland residents and ratepayers

Our businesses comprise of a mix of sole traders, Small Medium Enterprises (SME) through to multinational organisations. In addition, we have key educational institutions including Massey University on our peripherals and a variety of primary schools within an industrial estate which is on average less than 20 years old.

Upper Harbour Local Board area is expected to be the fastest growing area in the country over the next ten years, in both absolute and percentage population terms<sup>1</sup> which brings both challenges and opportunities to the North Harbour Business district.

### **Our primary interests are those decisions within the Auckland Plan 2050 which:**

- Impact on the cost of business – across a short to medium timeframe
- Impact on economic development and the ability to leverage value from location
- Support or restrict business growth opportunities
- Impact on access to both regional and localised transport hubs
- Impact on R&D and investment – sector development and capability
- Provide the scope to leverage natural assets for economic development across leisure and tourism sectors – enhancing Auckland’s reputation

You are seeking feedback on across several key proposals. Our response is set out below and will focus on:

- (1) Belonging and Participation;
- (2) Maori Well-being and Identity;
- (3) Homes and Places;
- (4) Transport and Access;
- (5) Protecting and enhancing our environment;
- (6) Opportunity and Prosperity;
- (7) Shaping our growth;

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<sup>1</sup> Auckland Council 10-year Budget 2018-28, Supporting Information, Section 6: Local Board Information, 6.17 UHLB

## (1) Belonging and Participation

In principle we support the need to ensure positive life experiences for all Aucklanders, and that collectively as a community, we need to be open to learning about different culture, values and historical influences.

Our interest is the role of business in creating this positive life experience. Therefore, we request **access** to Auckland Council research to educate our business managers and owners as to how they can best support this desired outcome.

## (2) Maori Well-being and Identity

We **accept** that Maori well-being and identity is important, however for the Auckland Plan 2050 to be considered relevant and vital for our membership, strategies need to be developed for a **wider demographic** to support the diversity of the city and economic environment.

Research conducted by Business North Harbour's FYI magazine past editor, Annie Gray, revealed the following commentary. Exert below:

'Wander along any street in the North Harbour Business District and you'll see a huge diversity of people. Young and old, Pakeha, Maori, Pasifika, Chinese, Korean, Indian, South African, English, French, German, Japanese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Filipino. And that is just a matter of the 220 different nationalities that now call New Zealand, and most particularly Auckland, home.

A research programme undertaken by Massey University and the University of Waikato *Capturing the Diversity Dividend of Aotearoa/New Zealand* (CaDDANZ) says on its website that the 'face' of New Zealand is changing rapidly as a consequence of the settlement of migrants from throughout the world, temporary and circular international migration, growing ethnic diversity, population ageing, changing fertility patterns and urban growth.

Distinguished Professor Paul Spoonley, the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Massey University told *Business North Harbour*<sup>2</sup> that the CaDDANZ project has \$5.5 million of funding from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment and aims to take a wide look at what's happening in New Zealand. His primary focus is Auckland, which is the growth node for New Zealand, both in terms of economic growth and jobs growth "but it is also becoming almost a different country because of the impact of immigration".

**Auckland is super diverse**, defined as when more than a quarter of the population are from different ethnic groups. And in Auckland 40% of the population is overseas-born and a quarter of the population is Asian, including migrants from India.

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<sup>2</sup> Business North Harbour FYI magazine, May 2016 [https://issuu.com/hurstcreative/docs/fyi\\_may\\_2016\\_issuu](https://issuu.com/hurstcreative/docs/fyi_may_2016_issuu)

Auckland, he says, is the **fourth most diverse city in the world**<sup>3</sup>, and is more diverse than Sydney, Los Angeles, London and New York - only Dubai, Brussels and Toronto have more overseas-born people than Auckland'.

### **(3) Homes and Places**

We **support in essence**, the development of a quality compact urban form, if it delivers a positive ROI on infrastructure investment.

We also **support** the accelerated construction of homes, providing a variety of affordable homes – well supported by good urban design and placemaking principles. We believe these houses should be available for all Aucklanders, without racial reference or prioritisation.

However, increased congestion, created through intensive apartment styled accommodation (single use, mixed use) is impacting on business vitality within the Albany Metropolitan Zone.

We **do not support** large scale residential developments without adequate public transport links to provide alternative modes of transport for the households.

We **do not support** large scale residential developments without adequate off-street parking within a Metropolitan Zone or Business zoned location.

### **(4) Transport and Access**

Based on our research, 84% of the 35,000 daily commuters working within the North Harbour Business Improvement District (NHBID), state congestion as their number one issue.<sup>4</sup>

According to the AA<sup>5</sup>, latest figures released March 2018, about 40,000 more cars jammed Auckland's roads in 2017 compared to the previous year. Each motorist wasted an average 78.6 hours sitting in traffic, just on our motorways.

Further comment from the AA, is that between the hours of 7am and 9am drivers were travelling at an average speed of 43km/h on Auckland motorways last year. This slowed even more on our arterial roads - where drivers were crawling at just 34km/h on average.

As highlighted in previous strategic plan consultations<sup>6</sup>, the current single Waitemata Harbour crossing is a significant limiter on economic growth, significant loss of productivity which results in an inability to plan with confidence.

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<sup>3</sup> The 2015 World Migration Report from the International Organisation for Migration.

<sup>4</sup> Business North Harbour membership survey, 2017

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=12003722](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12003722)

<sup>6</sup> Numerous including the Business North Harbour (formerly North Harbour Business Association), Draft Long-Term Plan 2012-22 Submission, 23 March 2012

The current single Waitemata Harbour crossing is proving restrictive for the employment of key skills which is why we support localised employment hubs – such as the Business Improvement Districts, to provide clusters of scale for local employment.

We would support a Waitemata Harbour Tunnel as first choice due to environmental and limited impact on the landscape. This has the ability to protect the iconic nature of a single above water crossing – allowing a bridge to remain in place, a unique structure which is linked to the domestic and international tourist brand message and Auckland's city identity.

Business North Harbour members have been asked for their feedback during the **Auckland Council 10-year Budget 2018-28** consultation process. Effective transport infrastructure planning formed a large part of that submission, with a clear message that should the proposed Regional Fuel Tax proceed, our members required input into the – *as-yet unseen* - **Auckland Transport Alignment Project**, and the **Regional Land Transport Plan**.

Once we have reviewed these two local and central government strategy documents, we wish to **fully engage in consultation with Auckland Council, with regards to The Development Strategy**<sup>7</sup>. Until we have viewed ATAP and RLTP, we do not feel able to fully comment on the critical proposed Development Strategy.

We do **acknowledge** Auckland Council's recognition of **Albany**<sup>8</sup> as an area of strategic growth. We are committed to working with the wider Council family, and central government agencies to ensuring the timing of targeted and prioritised infrastructure investment is in sequence with the demand derived from the population and economic growth, and that the whole of Albany area – including the commercial hub – east of the Albany SCentre retail centre, is included as part of the multi-nodal strategy.

## **(5) Protecting and enhancing our environment**

In principal, we agree with your areas of focus. However, funding of environmental plans – included the proposed Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) have been discussed in the detail of our Auckland Council Draft 10-year Budget 2018-28 and should be considered as our feedback to this element of the Auckland Plan 2050.

## **(6) Opportunity and Prosperity**

We **strongly support** the outlined directions for this outcome.

- To create the conditions for a resilient economy, through innovation, employment growth and raised productivity
- Attract and retain skills, talent and investment

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/auckland-plan/about-the-auckland-plan/docsprintdocuments/section-8-development-strategy.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/auckland-plan/development-strategy/future-auckland/Pages/what-albany-look-like-future.aspx>

- Develop skills and talents to meet the changing nature of work and for lifelong achievement

We request further information as to what resources are going to be allocated to the five focus areas. In particular – focus area one which looks to harness emerging technologies and focus area two, which seeks to ensure regulatory, planning and other mechanisms support business, innovation and productivity growth.

We also seek comment from Auckland Council as to their plans to **address an aging workforce**. We know from research<sup>9</sup>, that over 20% of workers aged 65, in New Zealand are still working which is higher than in other countries such as United Kingdom (12%) and Australia (10%).

## **(7) Shaping our growth**

*As your Consultation Document says, the Auckland Plan is a statutory spatial plan for Auckland that looks ahead to 2050. It considers how Auckland will address our key challenges of high population growth, shared prosperity, and environmental degradation.*

We ask that the proposed Auckland Plan continue to include Directive 6.3 of the current Auckland Plan, that directs Auckland to: “Protect, enhance and improve business-zoned areas and business improvement districts” and continues to include paragraph 384, which states:

“384\_ To boost the economic growth of town centres and business precincts, the Auckland Council has a Business Improvement District (BID) policy to assist local associations. BIDs are funded by targeted rates and allow businesses to use the funding to improve the local business environment and promote business growth in a way that meets their communities’ needs. There are currently 46 [now 48] BIDs operating in Auckland, representing over 25,000 businesses. The local boards are joint partners in the BID Partnership Programme with the Business Associations. This relationship will build on established local priorities.”

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<sup>9</sup> Business North Harbour FYI magazine, May 2016.