MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

AIDE MEMOIRE

Auckland Proceeds of Crime Fund announcement

Date:	14 March 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0010971

Information for Minister(s)
Hon Simeon Brown **Minister for Auckland**

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	**Position**	**Telephone**		**1st contact**
Michael Quinn	Head of the APO	Privacy of natural persons		
Andy Hill	Director Auckland			✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ See Minister's Notes
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Overtaken by Events
- ☐ Withdrawn

Comments

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

AIDE MEMOIRE

Auckland Proceeds of Crime Fund announcement

Date:	14 March 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0010971

Purpose

To provide you with a suggested approach for announcing the release of funds from the Proceeds of Crime Fund to support initiatives to address crime and negative perceptions of safety in Auckland's central city.

Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office
14 / 03 / 2025

Background

1. On 19 February 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee agreed to provide funding of $1.352 million to address crime and negative perceptions of safety in the Auckland city centre. The funds will be provided from the Proceeds of Crime Fund (the Fund) [SOU-25-MIN-005 refers].
2. A new appropriation will be established under vote Police, with New Zealand Police (Police) administering the funds on behalf of central government. The funds will be provided to Auckland Council who will be responsible for disbursing them annually for three years to the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and the Local Board in the Waitematā Local Board Area.
3. Your Auckland officials will be responsible for providing you and the Associate Minister of Justice (Hon Nicole McKee) with reporting to demonstrate that funds have been spent on initiatives consistent with the objectives of the Fund.
4. Police are progressing a request to the Minister of Finance for an exemption from end-of-year performance reporting for the new appropriation under section 15D(2) of the Public Finance Act 1989.
5. Your application to the Fund was the last to progress under the previous process and criteria. Justice have advised that Mayor Brown is working with Police to initiate an application to the Fund to support additional Wardens across Auckland. That proposal will progress under the revised process and criteria and is currently awaiting the reopening of the Fund to new applications.

Engagement with agencies

6. Your Auckland officials have worked closely with Police and the Ministry of Justice to access the Fund and Police are aware of its responsibilities to manage the funds on behalf of central government.
7. As noted above, the process for accessing the Fund has recently been amended and that process created some uncertainty around the process, assessment criteria and timeframe for consideration of your Auckland city centre proposal. Given this uncertainty, we have yet to engage with Auckland Council on its role in disbursement of funds to the local board and BIDs.

Announcements

8. We understand that you intend to publicly announce the funding that you have secured from the PoCF for Auckland on Tuesday 18 March 2025 at the Auckland Policy Office. Talking points for the announcement are attached at **Annex One** and MBIE Communications are working with the Ministry of Justice and your office on a press release.
9. While the funding you have secured will be welcomed by Mayor Brown and Auckland Council, we recommend that you personally inform Mayor Brown of the details of your successful application prior to your public announcement. Once the Mayor has been informed, we will be in a position to work with Police to engage directly with Auckland Council, Waitematā Local Board and the relevant BIDs.

Free and frank opinions

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland
For the period Monday 3 March to Sunday 16 March 2025

Date:	13 March 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ- 0010861

Ministers	**Action sought**	**Deadline**
Hon Simeon Brown **Minister for Auckland**	**Note** the contents of this briefing and discuss at the next officials meeting	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	**Position**	**Telephone**	**1st contact**
Michael Quinn	Head of the Auckland Policy Office	Privacy of natural persons	
Andy Hill	Director Auckland		✓

The following departments/agencies have contributed content
Ministry of Transport and Department of Internal Affairs

Minister's office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ See Minister's Notes
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Overtaken by Events
- ☐ Withdrawn

Comments

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

BRIEFING

Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland

For the period Monday 3 March to Sunday 16 March 2025

Date:	13 March 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ- 0010861

Purpose

To provide you with a fortnightly report for the Auckland Portfolio for the period Monday 3 March to Sunday 16 March 2025.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) recommends that you:

Note the contents of this briefing and discuss at the next officials meeting.

Noted

Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office
13 / 03 /2025

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Auckland
..... / ..... / .....

1. Auckland Portfolio Priorities

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
Auckland Recovery	
Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	Please see Annex One for the Auckland Council's Recovery Weekly Report (week ending 7 March 2025)
Auckland Regional Deal [In-confidence]	
Vanessa Blakelock Partnerships Director, Department of Internal Affairs Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government
Auckland Council Transport, Resilience and Infrastructure Committee (TRIC) Meeting 6 March 2025	
Karen Lyons Auckland Director Ministry of Transport Privacy of natural persons	**Auckland Transport Quarter 2 Performance Report for Financial Year 2024/2025** Auckland Transport provided a quarterly performance report for the period ending 31 December 2024. As of 31 December 2024, capital expenditure was $579 million, 94% of planned spend. Delays in milestone payments for new trains, pavement renewals and property acquisition for the Eastern Busway were partially offset by the 2023 flood response being ahead of schedule. Over the quarter, capital funding received was 44% from Auckland Council, and 56% from the NZTA and the Crown. Crown funding during this quarter included Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP)

funding for flood response work.

Auckland Transport reported on their performance during the quarter across their performance measures and deliverables set out in their Statement of Intent (SOI). Of the 23 performance measures in Auckland Transport's SOI, five were exceeded and 12 met over the quarter. One of the performance measures is Local Board satisfaction with engagement, which was at an all-time high of 71%.

Six measures were identified as not on track or not met, including:

- *Customer perceptions*: 'AT listens and responds' dropped four points to 27%.
- *Public Transport boardings*: these increased, but not as high as forecast. Target patronage for the financial year is 94.7m, with the number at the end of quarter two being 44.5m. Auckland Transport will need to average 10% year on year increases during the second half of the year to achieve the SOI target.
- *Public Transport Utilisation*: this measure looks at frequent routes during the peak. While some routes performed well at over 60% utilisation, others were below 30%.
- *Farebox Recovery Ratio*: reduced rail and bus patronage in December and delays to media revenue (such as on bus shelters) affected this.

For quarter two, 33 out of Auckland Transport's 40 SOI deliverables were reported as on track with four completed. The remaining three deliverables not on track are: delivering on Better, Faster Consents, and two related to growing external revenues (grow non-rates revenue and deliver cost saving and efficiency targets, and work to increase revenues from parking and enforcement).

Public Transport Operating Costs and Farebox Recovery

Auckland Transport reported that public transport operating costs have increased from $510 million in FY2019 to $747 million in FY2024. These increases have varied by mode, as shown below.

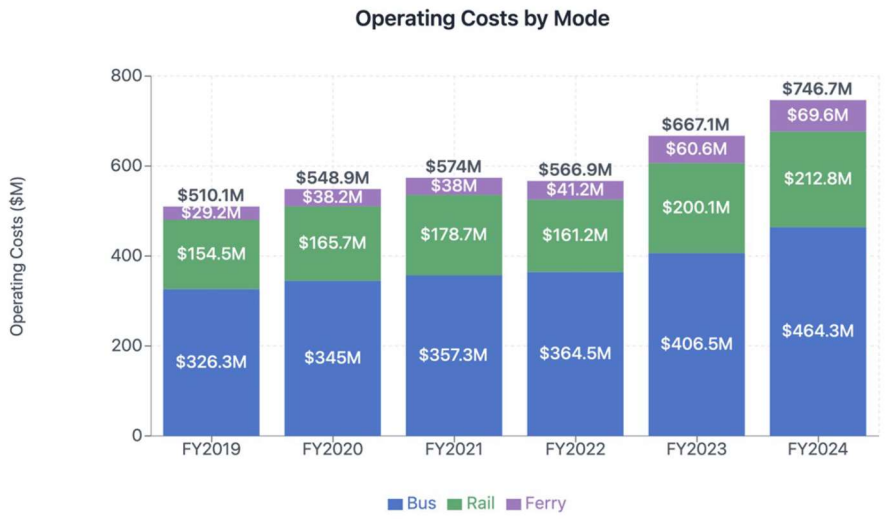


Image Source: Attachments of the Transport, Resilience and Infrastructure

	Committee – Thursday, 6 March 2025, page 61.

In part, the rail increases are due to the commencement of the Auckland One Rail contract in 2023, which includes facilities that were not part of the previous contract, as well as the increased track access charges. For ferry services, the Devonport contract was included from July 2022. For bus services, expanding the frequent transit network had an impact. All three modes were affected by high inflation.

The operating funding requirements per passenger journey have nearly doubled in this time, from $3.27 in 2019 to $6.30 in 2024. If Auckland Transport was dealing with 2024 costs but patronage was at 2019 levels, this would be $5.55.

Ferry services had considerable variation between them, with inner-harbour ferries requiring significantly less subsidy than mid and outer harbour ferries.

Operating funding requirements per passenger journey			
Mode	**2019**	**2024**	**2024 costs at 2019 patronage**
Bus	$2.72	$4.70	$4.38
Rail	$4.56	$12.01	$7.75
Ferry	$11.86	$18.07	$13.48 Inner harbour – $3.59 Mid harbour – $26.97 Outer harbour – $35.31
Total	**$3.27**	**$6.30**	**$5.55**

The Committee held a closed workshop on the Public Transport Private Revenue Ratio (PRR), with some notes publicly shared alongside the TRIC agenda.

Although NZTA is no longer seeking the previously signalled PRRs, they do still expect to see improved PRRs over the next three years. Depending on the extent of these, options to achieve this could include:

- Reduction in bus services
- Reduction in ferry service
- Deferring Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate (CATTR) improvements
- Removing fare caps.

Additional options could include:

- Fare increases
- Advertising and sponsorship Commercial leasing
- Bus lane infringement revenue.

Auckland Transport's preferred option is to remain with the PRR based on 2024 LTP budget, which would be 30.2% in FY2026 and 30.5% in FY2027. The initial targets proposed by NZTA were 34% for FY2026 and 42% for FY2027.

	Auckland Transport outlined significant service reductions that would occur at even a 1% increase in PRR for FY2026, including: • Removal of 2% of bus services in 2026, followed by 10% in 2027 • Complete removal of identified west, north and east Auckland services that have bus alternatives • Higher increases in fares than forecast. Auckland Transport have indicated they intend to work with Auckland Council and NZTA to explore options around how to improve private share over time.
Law and Order	
	No updates available for this report
Water Reform Update	
Bex Sullivan Deputy Executive Director Water Services, Department of Internal Affairs Privacy of natural persons	The Local Government (Water Services) Bill (the Bill) is currently being considered by the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee. Oral hearings of submissions commenced on Wednesday 6 March 2025. The Committee heard from submitters including several South Island councils, a joint submission from councils in the Wellington region, and organisations such as Water New Zealand. Further hearings are scheduled for Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 March 2025. The Select Committee is scheduled to report back on the Bill on 17 June 2025. Many councils are currently consulting, or about to consult, their communities on a preferred water services delivery model under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, ahead of them submitting their water service delivery plans to the Secretary of Local Government by 3 September 2025. Under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, the Order in Council making the Watercare Charter was gazetted on 6 March 2025. The Charter will take effect from 1 April 2025 and provides an interim economic regulation regime to support the financial separation of Watercare from Auckland Council.

2. General Auckland Updates

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
Auckland's Cost of Congestion Report	
Karen Lyons Auckland Director Ministry of Transport Privacy of natural persons	To coincide with the introduction of the Time of Use legislation into the house, Auckland Council engaged Ernst and Young (EY) and ARUP to reassess a 2017 New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) study. In 2017, the report estimated that the benefits of decongesting traffic at peak times in Auckland are between $1.4 and $1.9 billion per year.

	The 2025 report by EY and ARUP calculated that in 2026 road congestion in Auckland will cost New Zealand $2.6 billion per year. This is comprised of: • $1.9 billion per year in lost opportunities (the time spent in congested traffic rather than other activities). • $0.7 billion per year in costs to Auckland and the wider New Zealand economy. The report also estimates that in 2026: • Aucklanders will sit in congested traffic for 29 million hours a year – equating to 17 hours per person. • Motorists will pay an additional $117 million per year in vehicle operating costs. • The additional time spent in cars leads to a further $9 million in emissions costs. • Due to decreased economic growth and productivity, employment will be reduced by 1,200 full time equivalents. • Tax revenue will decrease by $100 million because of reduced consumer and business expenditure.
APO CEs meeting with Auckland Council ELT [In-confidence]	
Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government

	Confidential advice to Government
The Ocean Race (TOR) 2027 (sailing)	
Kylie Hawker-Green Manager, New Zealand Major Events MBIE Privacy of natural persons	The Auckland stopover of TOR 2027 will be announced on Wednesday 19 March 2025. A Major Events Fund investment of up to $4 million has been approved for TOR 2027. The event will be announced by the event organisers, via a media release and social media, and potentially broadcast on New Zealand news. The announcement will have contributions from the Ocean Race rights holders, 18K Sports (the event delivery agent), Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, New Zealand Major Events, and potentially the Auckland Mayor and the Minister for Economic Growth (both the Mayor and the Minister are TBC). NZME officials consider the announcement to be medium risk, due to the broader context around the 38th America's Cup proposal.

3. Ministerial items on hand

3.1 Upcoming significant meetings

Date and venue	Meeting and info
17 March 2025, 4:30pm Microsoft Teams	Auckland Officials Meeting
18 March 2025, 8:20 am to 8:50 am Auckland Policy Office	Meeting with Tamaki Makaurau Business Network (TMBN)
18 March 2025, 8:50 am to 9:20 am Auckland Policy Office	Meeting with Employers and Manufacturers Association (EMA)

3.2 Other Ministerial engagements related to Auckland

Date	Minister	Meeting Info
14 March 2025	Hon Nicola Willis	BusinessNZ Major Companies Group CEO Forum
19 March 2025	Hon Chris Penk	Restaurant Association Icehouse

Date	Minister	Meeting Info
19 March 2025	Hon Chris Penk	Round Table Discussion on Start Ups and Foreign Investments
20 March 2025	Hon Nicola Willis	EMA Roundtable Discussion
20 March 2025	Hon Nicola Willis	University of Auckland
tbc	Hon Nicola Willis	Waterman Capital
31 March 2025	Hon Chris Penk	eInvoicing Adoption Leaders Group

3.3 Upcoming significant media and announcements

Timing	Announcement
18 March 2025	Auckland Proceeds of Crime Fund announcement

3.4 Upcoming briefings and aide memoire

Title	Date to Minister	Action for Minister	Key contact	Summary of paper/comment
BRIEFING-REQ-0010672 Proactive release of Minister for Auckland's fortnightly reports and briefing titles for January and February 2025	14 March 2025		Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	Your office has requested the proactive release all fortnightly reports and event briefings starting 27 January 2025
BRIEFING-REQ-0010923 Auckland agency officials' details for meeting request	14 March 2025		Michael Quinn Privacy of natural persons	To provide background information for establishing this meeting series
BRIEFING-REQ-0010940 Meeting with the Tamaki Makaurau Business Network	17 March 2025		Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	To provide background information for your meeting
BRIEFING-REQ-0010941 Meeting with the Employers and Manufacturers Association (EMA)	17 March 2025		Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	To provide background information for your meeting

3.5 Upcoming Cabinet papers

Title	Committee	Expected committee date	Key contact	Summary of paper/comment
Six-monthly report on the cross-government work programme in Auckland	ECO	tbc	Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	Cabinet report back on the of consolidated central government work programme in Auckland

3.6 Official Information Act requests (Ministerial and Departmental for consultation)

Due to Minister's office	Statutory due date to requester	Ref	Requester	Organisation	Summary of request
12 March 2025		MOIA-REQ-0010955	Shanan Halbert		Under the Official Information Act 1982 I request copies of the following documents: BRIEFING-REQ-0006208 Auckland Category 3 Properties Update BRIEFING-REQ-0005222 Meeting with Nick Sautner, Chief Executive Officer of Eden Park Trust BRIEFING-REQ-0006412 Title withheld: Confidential advice to Government BRIEFING-REQ-0006278 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 4 November to 17 November 2024 BRIEFING-REQ-0005734 Meeting with 180Turn Charitable Trust BRIEFING-REQ-0006799 Addressing Access Challenges from Landslips Following the 2023 North Island Weather Events BRIEFING-REQ-0006654 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 18 November to 1 December 2024 Cabinet paper – Transport Government Reform in Auckland

Due to Minister's office	Statutory due date to requester	Ref	Requester	Organisation	Summary of request
17 March 2025		MOIA-REQ-0010167	Privacy of natural persons	Labour's Leaders Office	Any written advice (including, but not limited to, reports, aide-memoires, briefings) provided to the Minister during the week of February 17th 2025 in his capacity as Minister for Auckland.
25 March 2025		MOIA-REQ-0010695	Privacy of natural persons	Labour's Leaders Office	Any written documents (including, but not limited to, reports, briefings, aide-memoires) provided to the Minister during the week of February 24th 2025 in his capacity as Minister for Auckland.
28 March 2025		MOIA-REQ-0010892	Privacy of natural persons	Office of Hon. Carmel Sepuloni MP – Deputy Leader of the Opposition	Requesting under the OIA the below documents: BRIEFING-REQ-0006208 Auckland Category 3 Properties Update BRIEFING-REQ-0005222 Meeting with Nick Sautner, Chief Executive Officer of Eden Park Trust BRIEFING-REQ-0006412 Title withheld: Confidential advice to Government BRIEFING-REQ-0006278 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 4 November to 17 November 2024 BRIEFING-REQ-0005734 Meeting with 180Turn Charitable Trust BRIEFING-REQ-0006799 Addressing Access Challenges from Landslips Following the 2023 North Island Weather Events BRIEFING-REQ-0006654 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 18 November to 1 December 2024 Cabinet paper – Transport Government Reform in Auckland

Due to Minister's office	Statutory due date to requester	Ref	Requester	Organisation	Summary of request
					Cabinet paper – Interim Economic Regulation of Watercare: Policy Decisions for the Charter 2425-0516 State of the City Launch Event Briefing 2425-0659 Meeting with the Committee for Auckland Board - 12 August 2024 2425-0268 Fortnightly Report to Minister for Auckland for the period Monday 22 July to Sunday 11 August 2024 2425-0253 Meeting with the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand- 15 August 2024 2425-0269 Fortnightly Report to Minister for Auckland for the period Monday 12 August to Sunday 25 August 2024 2425-0811 Event Briefing for Minister for Auckland's meeting with Tim Kay and Melody Mobsby from the Auckland Foundation
1 April 2025		MOIA-REQ-0011032	Privacy of natural persons	Labour's Leaders Office	Any written advice (including, but not limited to, reports, aide-memoires, briefings) provided to the Minister during the week of March 3rd 2025 in his capacity as Minister for Auckland
1 April 2025		MOIA-REQ-0011033	Privacy of natural persons		Request access to the meeting notes, in either digital or hard copy format, from meetings held on October 1, 2024, and September 26, 2024. This includes any discussions, decisions, and actions that were documented during these meetings by you, your office staff including political and departmental staff.

Due to Minister's office	Statutory due date to requester	Ref	Requester	Organisation	Summary of request
8 April 2025		DOIA-REQ-0011008	Privacy of natural persons	Office of Hon. Carmel Sepuloni MP – Deputy Leader of the Opposition	Requesting under the OIA titles of documents produced by the Auckland Policy Office since October 2023.

3.7 Ministerial correspondence

Due to Minister's office	Ref	Correspondent	Organisation	Summary of Correspondence
21 March 2025	MC-REQ-0010377	Privacy of natural persons	Indoor Sports St Lukes and Inflatable World St Lukes	An owner of an indoor sports and children's entertainment business located on Rossmay Terrace, next to Eden Par, he expressed his concerns regarding the significant impact of the removal of quota for concerts; particularly large-scale ones like Coldplay concert as they were forced to close for three days, resulting in a substantial loss of their weekly revenue.

3.8 Proactive release

Date	Title	Comment
25 February 2025	Cabinet paper Accessing the Proceeds of Crime Fund for the Auckland City Centre	Due to your office on 21 March 2025

4 Auckland dashboards

Transport environmental scan	
Karen Lyons Director, Auckland, Ministry of Transport Privacy of natural persons	**Public transport patronage update** For the fortnight 3-16 February 2025, public transport patronage totalled 3,445,070 boardings across the city's public transport network. Patronage increased slightly for this fortnight compared to the same period last year. Bus and train patronage changed by less than 1% compared to the same period in 2024, while ferry patronage increased by 5%. Public transport patronage for the year to February 2025 is 89.3 million boardings, which has increased on the previous year's total of 80.9 million boardings. Across all modes, rail patronage saw the largest annual increase of 12.5%, whereas ferry patronage has had the smallest annual increase, at 5.7%. At 89.3 million boardings, current annual patronage reaches 94% of Auckland Transport's latest SOI target of 94.7 million annual PT trips for 2024/2025. It is 86% of the pre-COVID (February 2020) patronage of 103.54 million trips.

PT fortnightly patronage

Mode	03 – 16 Feb 2025	03 – 16 Feb 2024
Bus	2,793,089	2,773,911
Rail	523,295	523,925
Ferry	128,686	121,630
Total	**3,445,070**	**3,419,466**

Data: AT Metro daily patronage report.

PT monthly patronage

Mode	Jan 2025	Jan 2024
Bus	4,712,200	4,539,400
Rail	375,300	600,800
Ferry	525,000	506,700
Total	**5,612,500**	**5,646,900**

Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.

PT annual patronage

Mode	Year to Feb 2025	Year to Feb 2024
Bus	70,194,800	63,610,100
Rail	14,170,700	12,593,500
Ferry	4,977,200	4,710,800
Total	**89,342,700**	**80,914,400**

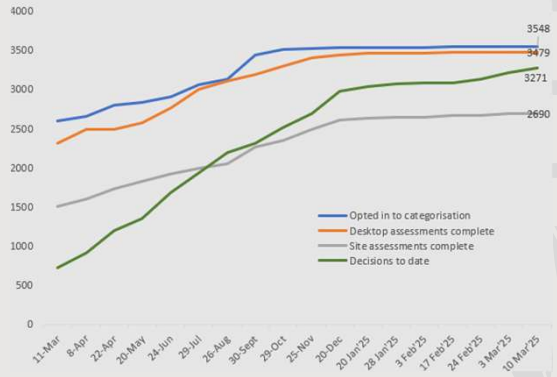
Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report

Annexes

Annex One: Auckland Council Recovery Weekly Report

Categorisation Stages

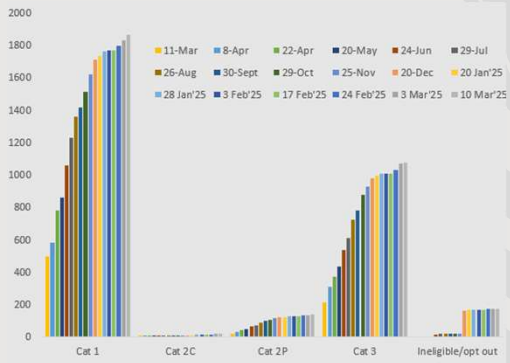
Stages	Initial Impacted properties	Opted in to Categorisation	Desktop Assessments Complete	Site Assessments Complete
Number of properties	7,389	3,548	3,479	2,690
Change from last week	*no change*	*0*	*0*	*1*



Summary of Categorisation Progress

Final Categories **3,271 properties**	Category 1	Category 2C	Category 2P	Category 3 Eligible for buyout	Ineligible/ opt out
Number of properties categorised	1,864	20	138	1,076	173
Change from last week ***51***	*36*	*1*	*4*	*7*	*3*
Estimated Final Categories **3,548**	**1,984**	**38**	**141**	**1,215**	**170**
% Decisions to date ***(92%)***	*94%*	*53%*	*98%*	*89%*	

NB: Forecast as at 24 January 2025



Category 3 Buy-outs in Progress

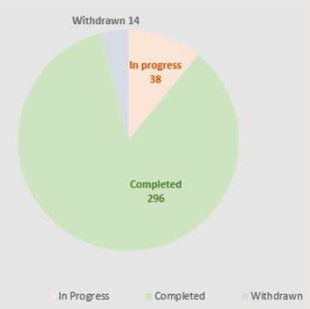
Stages	Council valuations communicated	Sale and Purchase Agreements instructed	Buy-out Offers Accepted	Buy-out Offers Settled
Number of properties	893	742	677	593
Change from last week	*12*	*13*	*13*	*16*
Buyout offers % based on **1,215** category 3 properties	73%	61%	56%	49%

NB: % based on revised Category 3 forecast number of 1,215 properties

967 property owners opted in to buyout programme

Special circumstances applications, Disputes / Category reviews

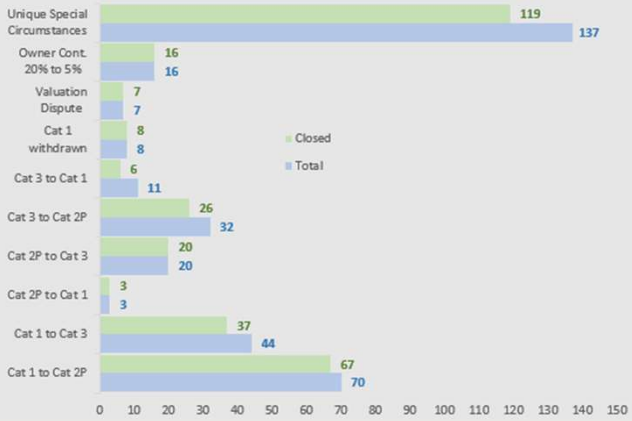
Case status – 348 total requests (vs 345 last week)



NB: Ineligible disputes removed from reporting

Monthly – total vs open and closed cases

Total vs closed cases – 345 requests breakdown to date



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

EVENT BRIEFING

Quarterly meeting with Tāmaki Makaurau Business Network, 18 March 2025 at 8.20am to 8.50am

Date:	14 March 2025	**Priority:**	Low
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0010940

Action sought		
	Action sought	**Deadline**
Hon Simeon Brown **Minister for Auckland**	**Note** the contents of this briefing	17 March 2025

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	**Position**	**Telephone**	**1st contact**
Andy Hill	Director Auckland	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Sarah Langstone	Policy Advisor		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ See Minister's Notes
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Overtaken by Events
- ☐ Withdrawn

Comments

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

EVENT BRIEFING

Quarterly meeting with Tāmaki Makaurau Business Network, 18 March 2025 at 8.20am to 8.50am

Date:	14 March 2025	**Priority:**	Low
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0010940

Purpose

To provide you with background information and talking points for your meeting with the Tāmaki Makaurau Business Network on Tuesday, 18 March 2025, 8.20am to 8.50am at the Auckland Policy Office.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

a **Note** the contents of this briefing

Noted

Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office
14 / 03 / 2025

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Auckland

..... / ..... / .....

Background

1. The Tāmaki Makaurau Business Network (the Network) was established to provide a unified voice for the Auckland business community into central government. The Network is convened by MBIE and meets regularly with Ministers and officials from other agencies to discuss initiatives that impact businesses across Auckland.

2. The Network is co-chaired by a business and central government representative. Viv Beck, Chief Executive of Heart of the City, is the business co-chair and Michael Quinn, Head of the APO, is the central government co-chair.

3. Membership includes chief executives and senior representatives from the Auckland Business Chamber, the Employers and Manufacturers Association (EMA), Whāriki, Pacific Business Trust, Hospitality NZ, Retail New Zealand, the Restaurant Association, Heart of the City and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited. Taken together, the associations represent the majority of businesses across the region.

4. The Network seeks to establish itself as a key source of business intelligence and sector advice for you as Minister for Auckland. You have agreed to meet quarterly with the Network with your most recent meeting taking place on 26 July 2024.

5. Short biographies of business members are included at **Annex One**.

Meeting Format

6. The meeting will be held at the Auckland Policy Office on **Tuesday 18th March 8.20am to 8.50am.** The majority of attendees will join in person. Members know each other well and discussions are typically open and free flowing.

7. Simon Bridges is travelling overseas so is unable to attend. Josh Beddell will represent the Auckland Business Chamber.

8. The Network have met to discuss topics of interest to members and these are reflected in the agenda attached at **Annex Two** and suggested talking points attached at **Annex Three**.

9. High level notes on each item are included below.

<u>Introductory remarks</u>

10. Your introductory remarks are an opportunity for you to acknowledge the significance of Auckland for the national economy and the importance of the city's business leaders in delivering economic growth. While the last few years have been undoubtably tough for Auckland businesses, there are grounds for optimism, with economic headwinds abating and significant infrastructure investments such as the City Rail Link and the International Convention Centre closer to fruition.

11. You may wish to remind the Network of your role as both an advocate for Auckland in Cabinet as well as coordinating government initiatives and investment in the city.

<u>Specific topic areas</u>

Economic Growth

12. The Network has welcomed the recent announcement of the Coalition Government's focus on Economic Growth. Consistent with the Network's Auckland focus, discussion will likely emphasise the contribution of Auckland to the economy and the importance of ensuring it is central to the national economic growth narrative.

13. Members will be interested to discuss how the businesses that they collectively represent can support economic growth and how government and business can work together to unlock economic growth opportunities in Auckland.

Law and Order

14. Crime and negative perceptions of safety in Auckland were discussed at your previous meeting with the Network and continue to be areas of concern. You will be aware that Viv Beck holds strong views and was instrumental in the establishment of the City Centre Safety Hubs. She has also advocated strongly for a stronger Police presence in the central city including additional beat Police and a central Police station – both of which have been recently announced.

15. Network members are engaged with the various initiatives currently underway, including those led by Police and the Ministry of Social Development. They will advocate for a focus not just on action to ensure their members are protected from criminal activity (e.g. retail crime), but also for measures to ensure that the wider community feels safe to engage in activities across the city (e.g. attending events). Existing perceptions that areas of the city are unsafe to visit is having a significant impact on service sectors such as retail and hospitality.

16. We understand that later the day of this meeting, you will publicly announce that you have been successful in securing funding the Proceeds of Crime Fund to support initiatives delivered by the Local Board and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to address crime and negative perceptions of safety in central Auckland. You may wish to inform the Network of this development, in confidence ahead of that announcement. We note that Viv Beck is CEO of Heart of the City, which is one of the BIDs that will receive funding. It would be appropriate for her to be given a heads up prior to informing the Network.

Transport

17. The Network agree that an inefficient transport network is a drag on productivity and will likely express support for the Time of Use charging Bill.

18. The Network considers that understanding the impact on the business community is essential, including the risk of Time of Use Charging on the central city fringe impacting access to the city centre. The Network will emphasise its diverse membership (from big corporates to sole operators) and offer to assist you and your officials to understand the Auckland business perspective.

19. They are also interested in an update on transport governance reforms and CRL, including level crossings.

<u>Closing remarks</u>

20. As noted, the Network seeks a more active role, as the voice of the Auckland business community, in supporting you. The breadth of membership (size, sector, national connections etc.) and the commitment of the Network to constructive engagement as a collective with central government over a number of years, suggests that there is value in ongoing engagement.

21. You have agreed to meet quarterly, although the date of the next meeting has yet to be confirmed.

Annexes

Annex One: Tāmaki Makaurau Business Network biographies

Annex Two: Agenda Tāmaki Makaurau Business Network Meeting with the Minister for Auckland

Annex Three: Suggested talking points

ANNEX ONE

Tāmaki Makaurau Business Network biographies

	Viv Beck, Chief Executive, Heart of the City Viv has been Chief Executive of HOTC since 2015 and the business co-chair of the Network since July 2024. She has had a diverse career spanning the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Viv's previous roles have included governance and senior corporate roles, leading a medium-sized design and print agency; and involvement with start-ups. Viv is a strong advocate for city centre safety and was instrumental in establishing a Queen's Wharf Safety Hub for the FIFA Women's World Cup.
	Simon Bridges, Chief Executive, Auckland Business Chamber Simon has been Chief Executive of the Auckland Business Chamber since July 2022. Prior to this, he was the Member of Parliament for Tauranga for over 13 years. While in Parliament he was leader of the National Party from 2018-2020 and in the previous National-led government served as a Minister across numerous portfolios including Economic Development. Simon was appointed Chair of the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Board on11 March 2024.
	Pam Ford, Director Economic Development, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited Pam leads the Economic Development group at Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, the region's cultural and economic development agency. Pam has worked in economic development and international trade and investment since 2001, with roles in both central and local government. Prior to this, she worked as an international marketing professional in the private and not for profit sectors. Pam received the Economic Development New Zealand (EDNZ) Commendation for Distinguished Service Award in 2018 and was Chair of EDNZ from 2019-2023.

	Heta Hudson, Chair, Whāriki Heta has been Chair of Whāriki, the Māori business association, since 2017 and is a Director of Ngati Awa Group Holdings Ltd. He is a partner at Findex and has established his own business support practice, Kākano Advisory. Heta works with a broad range of businesses from iwi organisations to SMEs. His focus is on export development, Māori business development, project facilitation (particularly in relation to joint ventures with Māori organisations) and business planning.
	Mary Los'e, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Business Trust Mary joined the Pacific Business Trust as CEO in February 2023 and is working to establish the Trust as the Pacific Economic Development Agency. Mary has a background in communications and has worked in both government and business.
	Alan McDonald, Head of Advocacy, Strategy and Finance at the EMA Alan has worked at the EMA for 9 years. As Head of Advocacy, Strategy and Finance he is responsible for campaigns to lobby central and local government in support of New Zealand businesses. Key areas of interest include employment relations legislation, resource management system reform, the provision of critical infrastructure to lead and support business development, skills and training, immigration, local and central government business related issues, health and safety/ACC legislation and creating support for our exporters.
	Carolyn Young, Chief Executive, Retail New Zealand Carolyn has been CE at Retail NZ since July 2023. Prior to joining Retail NZ, Carolyn had a career in sports administration including leadership of Special Olympic New Zealand and Netball Central Zone. Carolyn is based in Wellington. Her priorities for Retail NZ include supporting the sector through challenging economic conditions and advocating for measures to address retail crime.

	Steve Armitage, Chief Executive, Hospitality New Zealand Steve has been CE at HospitalityNZ since August 2023. He is based in Auckland and spent over 8 years working for the Council Controlled Organisation Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (now Tātaki Auckland Unlimited) in senior roles focussed on tourism, major events and business attraction. In addition to leading Hospitality NZ, Steve is Co-Chair of the Tourism Data Leadership Group facilitated by MBIE, and is a trustee of the Hospitality Training Trust and the Northland Event Centre Trust.
	Marisa Bidois, Chief Executive Officer, Restaurant New Zealand Marisa has been CEO of Restaurant New Zealand for 12 years. Marisa has a background in employment and industrial relations and contributes regular columns to several hospitality publications.

ANNEX TWO

Agenda Tāmaki Makaurau Business Network Meeting with the Minister for Auckland

Tuesday 18 March

8.20am-8.50am

Auckland Policy Office, Level 7, 167b Victoria Street West, Auckland

	Item	**Speaker(s)**
1.	Welcome (5 min)	Viv Beck and Michael Quinn
3.	Minister's priorities for Auckland (5-10 min)	Hon Simeon Brown
4.	TMBN priorities for Auckland (10-15 min)	All - Viv to facilitate
6.	Next steps and close (5 min)	Viv Beck and Michael Quinn

ANNEX THREE

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

BRIEFING

Regular Forum with Auckland-based Officials

Date:	14 March 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0010923

Action sought		
	Action sought	**Deadline**
Hon Simeon Brown **Minister for Auckland**	**Confirm** the establishment of an Auckland-based officials forum. **Confirm** which agencies you wish to include. **Agree** to monthly meetings or indicate an alternative frequency. **Indicate** which month you wish to commence the meetings.	28 March 2025

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	**Position**	**Telephone**	**1st contact**
Michael Quinn	Head of the Auckland Policy Office	Privacy of natural persons	
Andy Hill	Director Auckland		✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
Nil

Minister's office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ See Minister's Notes
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Overtaken by Events
- ☐ Withdrawn

Comments

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

BRIEFING

Regular Forum with Auckland-based Officials

Date:	14 March 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0010923

Purpose

To seek your feedback on the membership of a regular series of meetings with Auckland-based officials to assist with your Auckland ministerial portfolio responsibilities.

Executive summary

Following your request, we propose establishing a regular forum for engagement with Auckland-based government officials. This will provide direct and timely access to information on Auckland issues, supporting your coordination and advocacy role.

We recommend a monthly hybrid meeting given the complexities of coordinating diaries, with in-person attendance preferred when you are available in Auckland. Membership would be aligned to your six focus areas: regional deal; recovery; transport; law and order; water; and economic growth. Membership is flexible and can be expanded if new issues or priority areas emerge.

Most attendees will be Tier 3 to Tier 5 officials as senior leadership is primarily Wellington-based. Therefore, there might be limitations in participants broader awareness of their agency's involvement in programmes. This can be mitigated by having a clear agenda beforehand so that participants can come prepared. MBIE will manage all pre-meeting preparations.

A list of recommended agencies is attached (Annex A), along with a broader list of agencies present in Auckland (Annex B) for your consideration. To support information sharing, Carolyn Tremain will engage with her chief executive colleagues on the establishment of the forum.

As next steps, we require you to confirm:

i. Your preference for regular meetings with Auckland-based officials.

ii. The agencies you wish to include.

iii. The preferred meeting frequency.

iv. A start date for the meetings.

Once confirmed, we will set up the meetings, invite attendees and prepare a draft agenda.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

a **Confirm** the establishment of an Auckland-based officials forum.

Agree / Disagree

b **Confirm** which agencies you wish to include (Annex A and B).

Agree / Disagree

c **Agree** to monthly meetings or indicate an alternative frequency.

Agree / Disagree

d **Indicate** which month you wish to commence the meetings.

Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office
14 / 02 / 2025

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Auckland

..... / ..... / 2025

Annexes

Annex A: Recommended agencies

Annex Two: Full list of agencies

Annex A: Recommended agencies

	Auckland General	Auckland Deal	Transport	Economic Growth	Law and Order	Recovery	Water
APO Michael Quinn	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Corrections Sean Mason					✓		
DIA Vanessa Blakelock	✓	✓					✓
DPMC Lisa Daniells [1]	✓						
HUD David Hermans	✓	✓		✓			
Kainga Ora Caroline Butterworth		✓		✓			
MBIE Andy Hill	✓	✓		✓			
MFAT Rachel Maidment				✓			
MFE Lesley Badden	✓	✓		✓			
MOE Jason Swann				✓			
MOJ Jacquelyn Shannon					✓		

	Auckland General	Auckland Deal	Transport	Economic Growth	Law and Order	Recovery	Water
MOT Karen Lyons	✓		✓				
MSD Jules Lynch [2]	✓			✓		✓	
Police Sam Hoyle [3]					✓		
Treasury Ben Wells	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Notes:

1 – DPMC Policy Advisor Group with responsibilities for Auckland issues.

2 – MSD Regional Commissioner is also the Auckland Regional Public Service Commissioner.

3 – Assistant Commissioner Tamaki Makaurau position to be disestablished and replaced with an alternative structure.

Annex B: Full list of agencies

Agency	Name	Position
ACC	Michael Frampton	Deputy Chief Executive, People and Culture
Aroturuki	Sinead Ward	Regional Manager
Auckland Policy Office	Michael Quinn	Head of the APO
Commerce Commission	Karla Reynolds	Engagements and Operations Manager
Corrections	Sean Mason	Deputy Chief Executive
Crown Law	Alison Todd	Senior Crown Counsel
Customs	Jamie Bamford	Deputy Chief Executive
DIA	Vanessa Blakelock	Regional Partnership Director
DOC	Alex Rogers	Regional Director of Operations
DPMC	Lisa Daniells	PAG Advisor
ERO	Shelley Booysen	Director Schooling
ESR	John Bone	General Manager of Forensics
Fire and Emergency	Ron Devlin	Auckland Regional Manager
GCSB	Nigel D	-
HUD	David Hermans	General Manager
IRD	Mike Cunnington	Deputy Commissioner Enterprise Services
Kainga Ora	Caroline Butterworth	Deputy Chief Executive Auckland & Northland
LINZ	Claire Richardson	Kaihautū, Organisational Effectiveness
MBIE	Andy Hill	Director Auckland
MetService	Rob Harrison	Chief of Customer and Commercial
MFAT	Rachel Maidment	Auckland Director

Agency	Name	Position
MFE	Lesley Baddon	Director - Urban and Infrastructure Policy
MfEC	Kimberley Wu	Director – National Operations
Ministry for Women	Kellie Coombes	Chief Executive
MOE	Jason Swann	Director of Education
MOH	Andrew Old	Director - General
MOJ	Jacquelyn Shannon	Group Manager
MOT	Karen Lyons	Director Auckland
MPI	Michael Inglis	Regional Commissioner
MPP	John Tuamoheloa	Deputy Chief Executive
MSD	Jules Lynch	Regional Commissioner (South)
Natural Hazards Commission	Tina Mitchell	Chief Executive
NEMA	Mike Gillooly	Regional Emergency Management Advisor
NZDF	Julie Simpkins	Commanding Officer HMNZS Philomel
NZSIS	Blair W	-
NZTE	Sanchia Yonge	GM Customer Solutions
OAG	David Taylor	Sector Manager Auckland
Police	Samuel Hoyle	Assistant Commissioner Tamaki Makaurau
Reserve Bank of NZ	Sarah Owen	GM Risk, Compliance and Legal
Serious Fraud Office	Cam Moore	Deputy Chief Executive Operations
Stats NZ	Emma Jones	Deputy Chief Executive
Taumata Arowai	Bruce McLaren	Regulatory Operations Manager
Te Arawhiti	Tui Marsh	Deputy Chief Executive

Agency	Name	Position
TPK	Martin Mariassouce	Regional Director
Treasury	Ben Wells	Head of Auckland Treasury Office

Notes:

Agency contacts based on the Delegated Chief Executives Network list and may not accurately reflect actual attendance.

Items listed in red are included at Annex A.

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

EVENT BRIEFING

Meeting with the Employers and Manufacturers Association, 18 March 2025 at 8.50am to 9.20am

Date:	17 March 2025	**Priority:**	Low
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0010941

Action sought		
	Action sought	**Deadline**
Hon Simeon Brown **Minister for Auckland**	**Note** the contents of this briefing	17 March 2025

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	**Position**	**Telephone**	**1st contact**
Andy Hill	Director Auckland	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Sarah Langstone	Policy Advisor		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Transport have provided background information for this event briefing.

Minister's office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ See Minister's Notes
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Overtaken by Events
- ☐ Withdrawn

Comments

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

EVENT BRIEFING

Meeting with the Employers and Manufacturers Association, 18 March 2025 at 8.50am to 9.20am

Date:	17 March 2025	**Priority:**	Low
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0010941

Purpose

To provide you with background information and talking points for your meeting with the Employers and Manufacturers Association on Tuesday, 18 March 2025, 8.50am to 9.20am at the Auckland Policy Office.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

a **Note** the contents of this briefing

Noted

Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office

17 / 03 / 2025

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Auckland

..... / ..... / .....

Background

1. The Employers and Manufacturers Association (EMA) is New Zealand's largest business association. Established in 1886, the EMA provides business services to over 76,000 member companies located across Northland, Auckland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty.

2. Business services the EMA provides to its members includes Advocacy Services, Exporting Services, Membership Rewards, Member Briefings, Conferences and Events, Manufacturing Services, Training & Development, Legal Services and Consulting, Advice Line and Advisory Support, and access to Members Only Resources. It also provides members with free employment advice, quarterly market briefings, law guides, advice on export opportunities and targeted business training.

3. While the EMA membership is constrained to the top half of the North Island, it has a national reach through its longstanding association with a national network that includes Business NZ, Business Central, Business Canterbury and Business South.

Meeting Format

4. The meeting will be held at the Auckland Policy Office on **Tuesday 18th March 8.50am to 9.20am.** The EMA will be represented by John Fraser-Mackenzie and Alan McDonald. Brief biographies are attached at **Annex One**.

5. This meeting immediately follows your meeting with the Tāmaki Makaurau Business Network (the Network). The EMA is a member of the Network and John and Alan will attend both meetings. As such they will have heard your introductory remarks and discussion on issues of interest to the Network.

6. The EMA have indicated that they would like to provide you with an update from businesses on the opportunities and challenges facing its membership. Specific topic areas they will raise are outlined below. Suggested brief talking points on these items are attached at **Annex Two**.

<u>Specific topic areas</u>

Regional Deals

7. The EMA is interested in progress on Regional Deals - primarily Auckland but Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty also fall within their areas of operation.

Public transport and time of use charging

8. The EMA consider that the introduction of time of use charging will result in increased usage of public transport. They will likely raise concerns about the need for additional funding to provide adequate public transport options alongside the introduction of time of use charging.

Electricity Pricing

9. The EMA are concerned with the ongoing impacts of electricity pricing and the prospect of higher prices and winter shortages again this winter. This impacts their members, especially for manufacturers in Northland and Auckland. They would like to hear about decision-making on renewable energy infrastructure and new generation projects.

Health

10. The EMA would like to hear an update about the progress of Whangarei Hospital rebuild/refresh and the role that government and private providers can play in clearing surgical waiting lists. The EMA membership includes major private health providers.

Extension of Citizen's Arrest powers

11. The EMA strongly oppose the extension to the Citizen's Arrest powers. They think it creates high levels of risks and has significant ramifications for employers under health and safety regulations, if employees seek to utilise the new powers.

Annexes

Annex One: Employers and Manufacturers Association biographies

Annex Two: Suggested talking points

ANNEX ONE

Employers and Manufacturers Association biographies

	John Fraser-Mackenzie, Chief Executive, EMA John was appointed the Chief Executive for the EMA in June 2024. As the Chief Executive, his focus is on increasing the prosperity of New Zealand through better business. John has significant senior leadership and commercial experience prior to joining the EMA including private sector finance roles at HJ Heinz, Goodman Fielder NZ and Metro Performance Glass.
	Alan McDonald, Head of Advocacy, Strategy and Finance, EMA Alan has worked at the EMA for 9 years. As Head of Advocacy, Strategy and Finance he is responsible for campaigns to lobby central and local government in support of New Zealand businesses. Key areas of interest include employment relations legislation, resource management system reform, the provision of critical infrastructure to lead and support business development, skills and training, immigration, local and central government business related issues, health and safety/ACC legislation and creating support for our exporters.

ANNEX TWO

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

EVENT BRIEFING

Project Auckland: Logistics and Speech

26 March 2025 at 11.55pm to 2pm

Date:	21 March 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0011353

Action sought		
	Action sought	**Deadline**
Hon Simeon Brown **Minister for Auckland**	**Note** the contents of this briefing which includes logistics and a draft speech	26 March 2025

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	**Position**	**Telephone**	**1st contact**
Andy Hill	Director Auckland	Privacy of natural persons	
Michael Quinn	Head of the Auckland Policy Office		✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
The following agencies have provided content for the draft speech: Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry of Transport.

Minister's office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ See Minister's Notes
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Overtaken by Events
- ☐ Withdrawn

Comments

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

EVENT BRIEFING

Project Auckland: Logistics and Speech

26 March 2025 at 11.55pm to 2pm

Date:	21 March 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0011353

Purpose

To provide you with details of your attendance at the NZ Herald's Project Auckland event on 26 March 2025.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

a **Note** the contents of this briefing.

Noted

Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office
21 / 03 / 2025

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Auckland

..... / ..... / .....

Background

1. You are attending the NZ Herald's *Project Auckland* luncheon on 26 March 2025.

2. Project Auckland is an annual specialist business report featuring articles from Auckland's business and community leaders, alongside a luncheon attended by Auckland's business community.

Speech

3. You have agreed to deliver a keynote speech. The draft speech, attached at **Annex One**, has been developed to:

    a. Demonstrate engagement with the challenges and opportunities facing Auckland;

    b. Underscore the Government's commitment to Auckland's success and its importance to the overall performance of New Zealand;

    c. Highlight major government initiatives that support Auckland's growth;

    d. Make a personal connection between you and Auckland's success;

    e. Clarify your role as Minister for Auckland and how you work across Cabinet and with your Ministerial colleagues to deliver programmes for Auckland; and

    f. Acknowledge the fifteenth anniversary of Auckland Council's creation.

4. You have 22 minutes in total for a speech and a follow-up question and answer session with NZ Herald's editor-in-chief Murray Kirkness. The draft speech is between 16 and 19 minutes long.

Minister Bishop

5. At the time of preparing this advice, we have been informed that Minister Bishop has also been invited to speak. We recommend your office coordinates with Minister Bishop on the content of both of your speeches, as your draft speech draws on his Transport and Housing portfolios.

Attendees

6. The Herald estimates 110 attendees. Guests include Deputy Mayor Desley Simpson, Councillor Richard Hills, Carmel Sepuloni MP, Shanan Halbert MP and Simon Bridges. Your speech acknowledges notable attendees.

Logistics

7. The event takes place on Wednesday 26 March 2025. You are expected to arrive at 11.55am for a 12:00pm start.

8. Tim McCready is the MC and together with Fran O'Sullivan will open the event.

9. At 12.23 pm, you will be invited to speak by Murray Kirkness followed by a question-and-answer session. Your contribution will conclude at 12.45pm.

10. Subject to confirmation, Hon Chris Bishop will be invited to speak at 1.10pm.

11. A panel discussion with Murray Kirkness, Simon Bridges and Fran O'Sullivan starts at 1.33pm.

12. The event closes at 2pm.

Location and contacts

13. The event will be held at the Northern Club, 19 Princes Street, Auckland Central, Auckland 1010.

14. You will be met by Fran O'Sullivan (021 986 1445), or Natalia Rimell (021 472 320) from NZME.

Media

15. The event will be livecast on nzherald.co.nz/business.

Annexes

Annex One: Draft Speech

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

AIDE MEMOIRE

Auckland Officials Forum

Date:	25 March 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	REQ-0011831

Information for Minister(s)
Hon Simeon Brown **Minister for Auckland**

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	**Position**	**Telephone**	**1st contact**
Andy Hill	Director Auckland	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Michael Quinn	Head of the Auckland Policy Office		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
None

Minister's office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ See Minister's Notes
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Overtaken by Events
- ☐ Withdrawn

Comments

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

AIDE MEMOIRE

Auckland Officials Forum

Date:	25 March 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	REQ-0011831

Purpose

To provide you with background and supporting information for your meeting with Auckland-based officials on Wednesday 26 March 2025.

Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office

14 / 03 / 2025

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Auckland

..... / ..... / .....

Background

1. You have asked for regular meetings with Auckland based officials to help you stay closely connected to key Auckland issues and your six focus areas (economic growth, recovery, transport, law and order, water reform, and a regional deal).

2. You have provided feedback on which agencies should attend your monthly Auckland-based officials meetings. You requested attendance from:

   a. Department of Internal Affairs

   b. Kāinga Ora

   c. Ministry of Business, Employment and Innovation

   d. Ministry of Education

   e. Ministry of Social Development

   f. Ministry of Transport

   g. NZ Transport Agency

   h. Police

3. An attendee list is included in **Annex One**.

Meeting Format

4. As this is the first meeting, we believe it is important to outline your priorities for the Auckland portfolio and set expectations for how this group can support your work. This will help clarify roles and ensure future meetings are focused and productive.

5. Your office has confirmed the following three agenda items with a full agenda attached at **Annex Two**:

    a. Introductions – So you and attendees are clear on who is representing each agency.

    b. Ministers overview - An outline of your Auckland portfolio, key focus areas and how you expect to engage with the group, including information sharing and cross-agency coordination.

    c. Auckland round table – Brief updates from participants on key projects or issues from their portfolios that you should be aware of.

6. Future meetings can either follow a similar format of round table updates or take a deep dive approach into specific issues.

7. We recommend monthly meetings to ensure regular and meaningful engagement. These can be supplemented by updates through the fortnightly report.

8. We have requested in-person attendance to maximise engagement. However, some participants will need to join via video.

9. Suggested talking points are attached at **Annex Three**.

Annexes

Annex One: Attendees

Annex Two: Agenda

Annex Three: Talking Points

Annex One: Attendees

Entity (alphabetical order)	Attendee	
APO	Michael Quinn Head of the APO	
DIA	Vanessa Blakelock Partnership Director	
Kainga Ora	Caroline Butterworth Deputy Chief Executive Auckland and Northland	
MBIE	Andy Hill Director Auckland	
MOE	Jason Swann Director of Education, Tāmaki Makaurau	

Entity (alphabetical order)	Attendee	
MOT	Karen Lyons Director Auckland	
MSD	Jules Lynch Regional Commissioner for Auckland South *and* Auckland Regional Public Service Commissioner	
NZTA	Steve Mutton Director Regional Relationships for Auckland	
Police	Superintendent Zane Hooper	

Annex Two: Agenda

Auckland Officials Forum

Wednesday, 26 March 2025, 3:00pm – 3:30pm

Auckland Policy Office, Hau Raki Room, Level 7, 167b Victoria Street West, Auckland 1010

Video link contained in calendar invite

Time	Item	Lead
3:00pm	Item 1: Welcome and introductions	Minister for Auckland
3:05pm	Item 2: Portfolio overview and focus areas	Minister for Auckland
3:20pm	Item 3: Round table on Auckland issues	All
3:30pm	End of meeting	

Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland
For the period Monday 17 March to Sunday 30 March 2025

Date:	28 March 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ- 0011465

Ministers	**Action sought**	**Deadline**
Hon Simeon Brown **Minister for Auckland**	**Note** the contents of this briefing and discuss at the next officials meeting	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	**Position**	**Telephone**	**1st contact**
Michael Quinn	Head of the Auckland Policy Office	Privacy of natural persons	
Andy Hill	Director Auckland		✓

The following departments/agencies have contributed content
Ministry of Transport and Department of Internal Affairs

Minister's office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ See Minister's Notes
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Overtaken by Events
- ☐ Withdrawn

Comments

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

BRIEFING

Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland

For the period Monday 17 March to Sunday 30 March 2025

Date:	28 March 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ- 0011465

Purpose

To provide you with a fortnightly report for the Auckland Portfolio for the period Monday 17 March to Sunday 30 March 2025.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) recommends that you:

Note the contents of this briefing and discuss at the next officials meeting.

Noted

Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office
28 / 03 /2025

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Auckland
..... / ..... / .....

1. Auckland Portfolio Priorities

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
Auckland Recovery	
Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government
Auckland Regional Deal	
Vanessa Blakelock Partnerships Director, Department of Internal Affairs Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government
Auckland Transport CCO	
	No updates available for this report
Law and Order	
Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	[In Confidence until 31 March 2025] As previously reported, the Commissioner of Police proposed a reduction in the size of the Police Executive, including the disestablishment of the Assistant Commissioner Tamaki Makaurau position and the creation of new roles that would cover Auckland issues. A new structure has been confirmed and will be operational on Monday 31 March 2025, with staff appointed into key roles. Police Assistant Commissioner Jill Rogers has been temporarily appointed into one of three Deputy Commissioner (Tier 2) roles and is currently based in Auckland. Assistant Commissioner Sam Hoyle is now Assistant Commissioner Capability and Infrastructure and remains Auckland-based.

Water Reform Update	

Bex Sullivan
Deputy Executive Director Water Services, Department of Internal Affairs
Privacy of natural persons
	The Local Government (Water Services) Bill (the Bill) continues to be considered by the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee. Further oral hearings were held on Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 March 2025. The Committee heard from several councils including Auckland Council (with Watercare).
	Auckland Council's oral submission highlighted three main issues:
	• The Bill must preserve local government's ability to do integrated planning of water services and infrastructure
	  ○ Auckland Council stated they would like council planning documents (e.g. long-term plans) to be able to make reference to water services
	  ○ Auckland Council also suggested that the planning and reporting framework under the Local Government Act (LGA) should continue to apply to Watercare at least for a couple of years, not require additional or duplicative reporting.
	• Water services providers need access to private land to maintain water infrastructure, and in their view the Bill does not recognise the unique details of water infrastructure.
	• Watercare should be tax exempt like all other water organisations, and Watercare should have access to the statutory charging arrangements all other water organisations will use, while also retaining access to their current infrastructure growth charges regime under the Local Government Auckland Council Act.
	Confidential advice to Government
	The benefits of the Watercare Charter were jointly announced by you and the Minister of Local Government in a press release on Thursday 20 March 2025. The Charter will come into force on 1 April 2025, and the price path set out in the Charter will take effect from 1 July 2025.

2. General Auckland Updates

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
Auckland Transport Fine Collection	
Karen Lyons Auckland Director Ministry of Transport Privacy of natural persons	It has recently been reported that in the three years to the end of 2024, just 68% of the 28,953 bus and transit lane fines Auckland Transport issued were paid in part or in full. According to the New Zealand Herald, Auckland Transport issued $28.4 million of fines on the ten most fined roads but only collected $15.6 million of this amount. Queen Street was the road where the most fines were issued, with $11 million of fines issued in 2023/24, well

	ahead of Puhinui Rd ($4 million), Mt Wellington Highway ($3.4 million) and Lambie Drive ($3 million). Auckland Transport has claimed that collection is affected as it only has a limited window to follow up on unpaid fines before the matter is referred to the courts, where collecting the money is out of its control. Auckland Transport also supports the New Zealand Parking Association's advocacy for law and policy changes to improve parking enforcement, including the ability to issue fines and reminders by email.
Auckland Council Stadiums Decisions	
Vanessa Blakelock Partnerships Director, Department of Internal Affairs Privacy of natural persons	On 27 March 2025 Auckland Council's Governing Body considered two items relating to the region's stadium network. The first decision was on Stadium network investment objectives to guide Council and Tataki Auckland Unlimited in planning for Auckland's stadium network. The regional objectives will apply to the four large regional outdoor stadia with permanent seating capacity for at least 10,000 people: Eden Park, North Harbour Stadium, Western Springs Stadium, and GO Media (Mt Smart) Stadium. Four investment priorities were proposed, to guide what Council will focus on: • Get the most out of the infrastructure • Support a complementary network of multi-use facilities • Promote integrated, sustainable precincts • Improve financially sustainability **Feasibility Studies – Eden Park/Quay Park** The second decision was to receive feasibility studies for a new or upgraded 'main stadium' from the Eden Park Trust Board (as Eden Park 2.1) and the Te Tōangaroa consortium (as Te Tōangaroa/Quay Park), and Council's assessment of those studies and the status quo. There has been significant public and media interest on this item. **Council's decisions on the feasibility studies/next steps** Council noted that neither proponent has demonstrated that their proposal is feasible without significant public funding; that Eden Park 2.1 is technically feasible, but is not currently financially feasible because it relies on significant public funding; Eden Park 2.1 can be progressed in stages and there may be merit in progressing the case for Government support for early stages; Te Tōangaroa had not demonstrated that their proposal is technically or commercially feasible at this stage and has suggested it needs more time to do so. Council also received the review of the current state of the network, which notes the status quo is that Eden Park is the region's largest nationally significant stadium and notes several challenges affecting the stadium network. The Council also endorsed, in principle, a staged redevelopment of Eden Park as the best and most feasible option for providing Auckland with a fit-for-purpose main stadium in the future, subject to:

	• completion of a business case for Stage 1 (at Eden Park's own cost) that establishes a robust case for Government support and confirmation of Central Government support (noting there are no plans for Council to provide funding towards Eden Park's redevelopment); • all parties working together to satisfactorily address challenges with the status quo (including Eden Park's financial obligations to Council, and ensuring funding, ownership structure and governance arrangements based on returning the best public value for Auckland and New Zealand). Council also requested that the Auckland Council Chief Executive engage with Eden Park and the Government to constructively address challenges with the status quo and enable adequate consideration of Eden Park's development plans based on returning the best public value for Auckland and New Zealand and bring any recommendations back to Governing Body. **Background to the feasibility studies decision** In recent years, Council has received several unsolicited proposals from third parties about developing a 'main stadium' at little or no additional cost to ratepayers. The Eden Park Trust Board has also expressed a desire to progress significant upgrades of its facility. There were, and still are, no plans for Council to provide funding towards a new stadium or significant upgrades to existing stadiums. However, the unsolicited interest from multiple parties required a structured process to manage expectations and resources. Based on the Mayor's recommendations, a formalised Expression of Interest (EOI) process was established under the political oversight of a Working Group and an open Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) was published seeking options to deliver a main stadium at little to no cost to ratepayers. The Governing Body resolved to invite the proponents of Eden Park 2.1 (Eden Park Trust) and Te Tōangaroa/Quay Park (Te Tōangaroa Consortium) to undertake, at their own cost, feasibility studies to demonstrate their project's deliverability and relative merit. Council assessed the status quo and coordinated the feasibility work. The meeting will consider these proposals. Eden Park 2.1 proposes a phased redevelopment to enhance functionality and capacity, including retractable seating, a retractable roof to improve venue versatility with precinct development and transport connectivity improvements to the Kingsland CRL station to improve transport access. The Te Tōangaroa proposal integrates a multi-purpose stadium with the development of the surrounding Quay Street precinct. **Meeting with Eden Park Chief Executive** Nick Sautner, Eden Park Chief Executive, is seeking a meeting with you to discuss the next steps. We will provide a briefing if and when the meeting is confirmed.

Confidential advice to Government	
Saskia Vervoorn Manager, Tourism Environment and Economy MBIE Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government
Auckland Economic Update March 2025	
Andy Hill Director Auckland, MBIE Privacy of natural persons	Auckland Council has published its monthly economic update for Auckland. The full report is attached at **Annex Two**. Highlights this month include: • ***median house price*** for the month of January 2025 was $949,000 (in real* dollars: similar to nine years ago (2015/2016); 4% lower than a year ago; 6% below December ($1.01 million); 37% below the 2021 peak); • ***number of houses sold*** for the year ended January 2025 was 21,977: 20% above the May 2023 trough, and rising continuously since September 2024, but still 40% below the July 2021 peak.

	• ***average weekly rent*** for the month of December 2024 was $690 (in real* dollars: broadly similar to the last several months, e.g. 1% lower than a year ago; below most of the last eight years). For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was $599: rising due to seasonality; similar to a year ago, following over three years of minimal increases. • ***number of new dwellings consented*** in the year ended January 2025 was 13,921: 37% lower than the September 2022 peak; 7% below the 2019/2020 pre-Covid peak five years ago; rising slowly since July 2024. • ***real* value of new non-residential buildings consented*** in the year ended January 2025 was $2,487 million: 17% below a year earlier; below nearly all of the last four years, and 28% below the November 2022 peak, but 10% above the 2020 trough. • ***number of people employed*** in the quarter ended December 2024 was 2.0% lower than in December 2023 quarter: the sixth quarter in a row of falling annual growth rates despite population growth. • ***unemployment rate*** in the quarter ended December 2024 was 5.3%: the highest-equal quarter since the 2020 Covid lockdowns, and above most of 2017 to 2024, but still lower than 2009 to 2015 and late 2020. • ***real* value of GDP*** for the year ended December 2024 was 0.6% lower than for the year ended December 2023; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was 0.4% fall (see notes). Both growth rates were: below most periods since 2010; falling since mid-2023; lower than recent population growth; nearly as low as the Covid-related trough of 2020; above the GFC-related trough of 2009. • ***real* value of retail sales*** for the year ended December 2024 were 4.3% lower than for the year ended December 2023; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was a 3.1% fall. Both growth rates were among the lowest since 2009 (just after the Global Financial Crisis), even including the 2020 Covid lockdowns. Both growth rates have been generally falling since late 2022. • ***real* value of imports by Auckland seaports*** for the *year* ended January 2025 was $30.0 billion, which was 3% lower than the year ended January 2024, but 15% higher than the 2020 Covid trough. For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was $30.5 billion: 6% lower than a year ago, and 25% lower than the 2023 post-Covid rebound peak. For most of 2024, import values for Auckland and the rest of New Zealand were similar, and both showed a slight downtrend. **real dollars/values* are after adjusting for the effects of inflation each quarter, so a similar 'real' level means that a value rose at a similar rate to inflation.

3. Ministerial items on hand

3.1 Upcoming significant meetings

Date and venue	Meeting and info
31 March 2025, 4:30pm Microsoft Teams	Auckland Officials Meeting

3.2 Other Ministerial engagements related to Auckland

Date	Minister	Meeting Info
28 March 2025	Hon Nicola Willis	The Pure Food Co, Supahuman and GridAKL visits
tbc	Hon Nicola Willis	Waterman Capital
31 March 2025	Hon Chris Penk	eInvoicing Adoption Leaders Group

3.3 Upcoming significant media and announcements

Timing	Announcement
None	

3.4 Upcoming briefings and aide memoire

Title	Date to Minister	Action for Minister	Key contact	Summary of paper/comment
None				

3.5 Upcoming Cabinet papers

Title	Committee	Expected committee date	Key contact	Summary of paper/comment
Six-monthly report on the cross-government work programme in Auckland	ECO	tbc	Andy Hill Privacy of natural	Cabinet report back on the of consolidated central government work programme in Auckland

3.6 Official Information Act requests (Ministerial and Departmental for consultation)

Due to Minister's office	Statutory due date to requester	Ref	Requester	Organisation	Summary of request
28 March 2025		MOIA-REQ-0010892	Privacy of natural persons	Office of Hon. Carmel Sepuloni MP – Deputy Leader of the Opposition	Requesting under the OIA the below documents: BRIEFING-REQ-0006208 Auckland Category 3 Properties Update BRIEFING-REQ-0005222 Meeting with Nick Sautner, Chief Executive Officer of Eden Park Trust BRIEFING-REQ-0006412 Title withheld: Confidential advice to Government BRIEFING-REQ-0006278 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 4 November to 17 November 2024 BRIEFING-REQ-0005734 Meeting with 180Turn Charitable Trust BRIEFING-REQ-0006799 Addressing Access Challenges from Landslips Following the 2023 North Island Weather Events BRIEFING-REQ-0006654 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 18 November to 1 December 2024 Cabinet paper – Transport Government Reform in Auckland Cabinet paper – Interim Economic Regulation of Watercare: Policy Decisions for the Charter 2425-0516 State of the City Launch Event Briefing 2425-0659 Meeting with the Committee for Auckland Board - 12 August 2024 2425-0268 Fortnightly Report to Minister for Auckland for the period Monday 22 July to Sunday 11 August 2024

Due to Minister's office	Statutory due date to requester	Ref	Requester	Organisation	Summary of request
					2425-0253 Meeting with the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand- 15 August 2024 2425-0269 Fortnightly Report to Minister for Auckland for the period Monday 12 August to Sunday 25 August 2024 2425-0811 Event Briefing for Minister for Auckland's meeting with Tim Kay and Melody Mobsby from the Auckland Foundation
1 April 2025		MOIA-REQ-0011032	Privacy of natural persons	Labour's Leaders Office	Any written advice (including, but not limited to, reports, aide-memoires, briefings) provided to the Minister during the week of 3 March 2025 in his capacity as Minister for Auckland
15 April 2025		DOIA-REQ-0011008	Privacy of natural persons	Office of Hon. Carmel Sepuloni MP – Deputy Leader of the Opposition	Clarified request on 19 March 2025: Requesting for all the fortnightly reports since from October 2023 onwards.

3.7 Ministerial correspondence

Due to Minister's office	Ref	Correspondent	Organisation	Summary of Correspondence
21 March 2025	MC-REQ-0011354	Privacy of natural persons	Auckland Private Laundry	Request to meet and discuss issues impacting the sustainability of small and medium-sized businesses especially commercial laundry; concerned on the rising cost and demands by Auckland Watercare.

3.8 Proactive release

Date	Title	Comment
13 March 2025	BRIEFING-REQ-0010672 Proactive release of Auckland fortnightly reports and event briefings from 27 January 2025 to 28 February 2025	Requesting your approval to proactively release the proposed redactions of fortnightly reports and event briefings from 27 January 2025 to 28 February 2025. MBIE will release the information on the date your office will advise.
21 March 2025	CAB-REQ-0010161 Proactive release of Cabinet paper: Accessing the Proceeds of Crime Fund for the Auckland City Centre	Seeking your approval to proactively release the Cabinet paper Accessing the Proceeds of Crime Fund for the Auckland City Centre and the Cabinet Minute SOU-25-MIN-0005. MBIE proposed to release this information on 7 April 2025.

4 Auckland dashboards

Transport environmental scan

Karen Lyons

Director, Auckland, Ministry of Transport

Privacy of natural persons

Public transport patronage update

For the fortnight 24 February – 09 March 2025, public transport patronage totalled 4,045,003 boardings across the city's public transport network.

Patronage decreased by 2% for this fortnight compared to the same period last year. Bus and train patronage declined by 1% and 7% respectively compared to the same period in 2024, while ferry patronage increased by 9%. These declines are likely due to differences university start dates, with both AUT and the University of Auckland beginning the academic year on the 3rd of March this year and the 24th of February in 2024.

Public transport patronage for the year to February 2025 is 89.3 million boardings, which has increased on the previous year's total of 80.9 million boardings. Across all modes, rail patronage saw the largest annual increase of 12.5%, whereas ferry patronage has had the smallest annual increase, at 5.7%.

At 89.3 million boardings, current annual patronage reaches 94% of Auckland Transport's latest SOI target of 94.7 million annual PT trips for 2024/2025. It is 86% of the pre-COVID (February 2020) patronage of 103.54 million trips.

PT fortnightly patronage		
Mode	**24 Feb – 09 Mar 2025**	**24 Feb – 09 Mar 2024**
Bus	3,253,792	3,296,999
Rail	651,407	698,057
Ferry	139,804	128,086
Total	**4,045,003**	**4,123,142**

Data: AT Metro daily patronage report.

PT monthly patronage		
Mode	**Jan 2025**	**Jan 2024**
Bus	4,712,200	4,539,400
Rail	375,300	600,800
Ferry	525,000	506,700
Total	**5,612,500**	**5,646,900**

Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.

PT annual patronage		
Mode	**Year to Feb 2025**	**Year to Feb 2024**
Bus	70,194,800	63,610,100
Rail	14,170,700	12,593,500
Ferry	4,977,200	4,710,800
Total	**89,342,800**	**80,914,100**

Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report

Note: Numbers in the monthly and annual patronage numbers may not add up to the total exactly due to rounding.

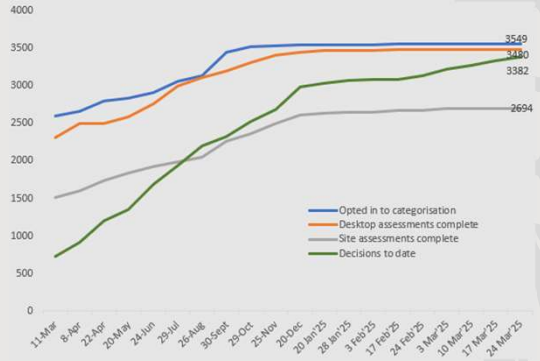
Annexes

Annex One: Auckland Council Recovery Weekly Report

Annex Two: Auckland Economic Update – March 2025

Categorisation Stages

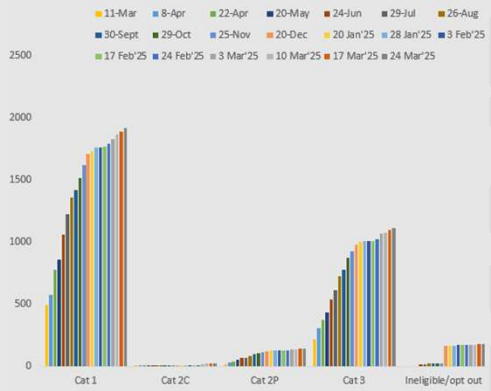
Stages	Initial Impacted properties	Opted in to Categorisation	Desktop Assessments Complete	Site Assessments Complete
Number of properties	7,389	3,549	3,480	2,694
Change from last week	*no change*	*1*	*1*	*1*



Summary of Categorisation Progress

Final Categories **3,382 properties**	Category 1	Category 2C	Category 2P	Category 3 Eligible for buyout	Ineligible/ opt out
Number of properties categorised	1,918	26	141	1,116	181
Change from last week **48**	*26*	*0*	*2*	*17*	*3*
Estimated Final Categories **3,548**	**1,984**	**38**	**141**	**1,215**	**170**
% Decisions to date ***(95%)***	*97%*	*68%*	*100%*	*92%*	

NB: Forecast as at 24 January 2025

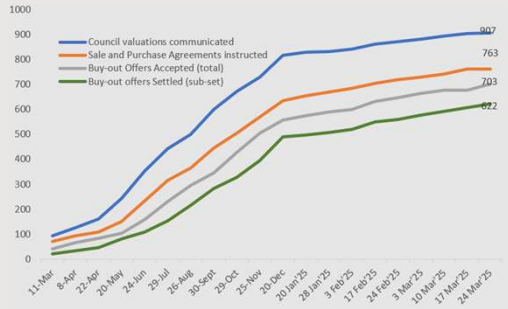


Category 3 Buy-outs in Progress

Stages	Council valuations communicated	Sale and Purchase Agreements instructed	Buy-out Offers Accepted	Buy-out Offers Settled
Number of properties	907	763	703	622
Change from last week	*4*	*1*	*25*	*14*
Buyout offers % based on **1,215** category 3 properties	75%	63%	20%	51%

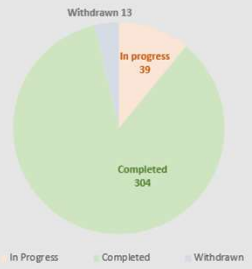
NB: % based on revised Category 3 forecast number of 1,215 properties

1001 property owners opted in to buyout programme



Special circumstances applications, Disputes / Category reviews

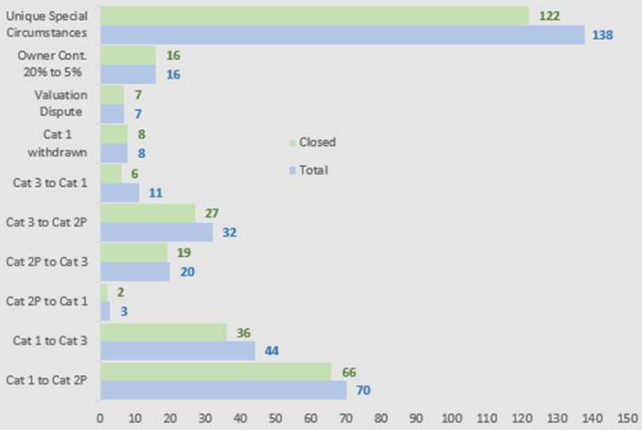
Case status – 356 total requests (vs 349 last week)



NB: Ineligible disputes removed from reporting

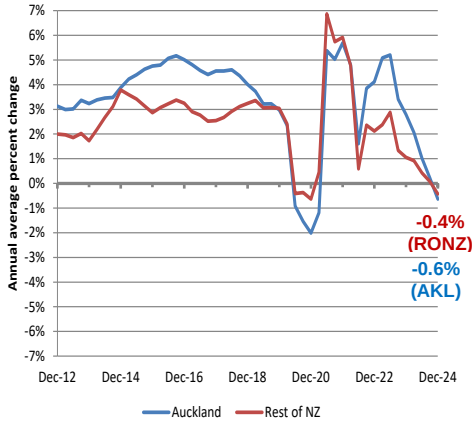
Monthly – total vs open and closed cases

Total vs closed cases – 356 requests breakdown to date

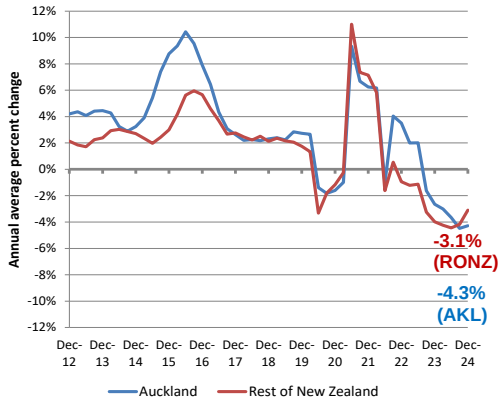


Auckland Economic Update –March 2025

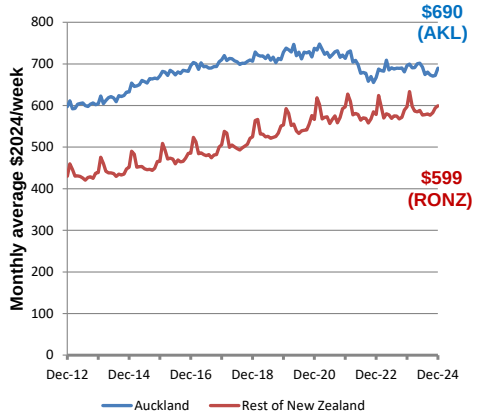
Real GDP growth



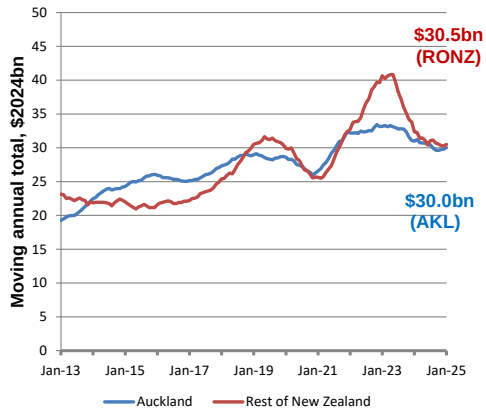
Real retail sales growth



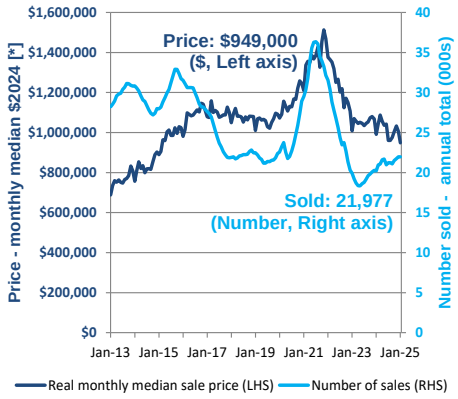
Real weekly rent



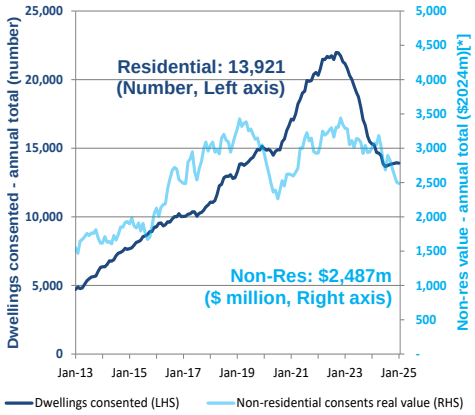
Real imports by seaports



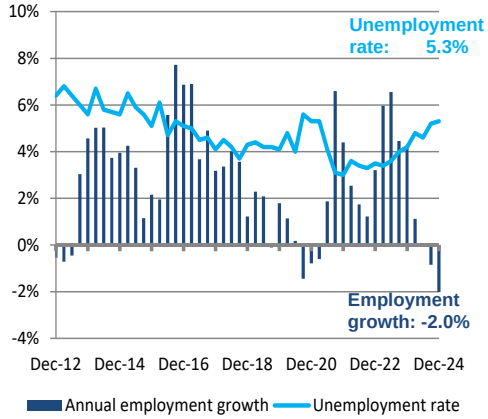
House sales: price and number sold



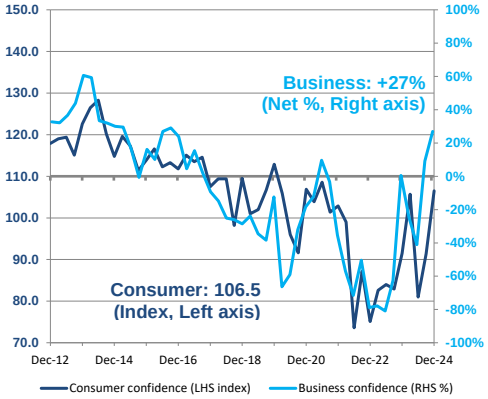
Buildings consented



Employment and unemployment



Confidence indicators



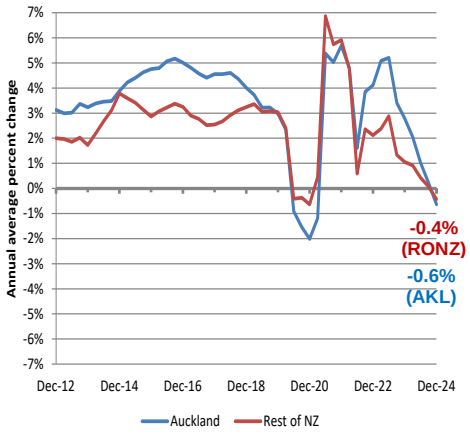
Note: Data is the latest available as at the start of the month, and is for the Auckland region, unless otherwise stated.
This is a summary page only. All data sources and technical notes are provided on the next two pages.

Disclaimer: The information in this document is provided in good faith, however, Auckland Council disclaims any liability whatsoever in connection with any action taken in reliance of this document, for any error, deficiency, flaw or omission contained in it.

All enquiries please contact the author Ross Wilson, Economic Analyst, Strategic Advice and Research Unit: Ross.wilson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau

Real GDP growth



Auckland's real* Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the year ended December 2024 was 0.6% lower than for the year ended December 2023; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was 0.4% fall (see notes). Both growth rates were: below most periods since 2010; falling since mid-2023; lower than recent population growth; nearly as low as the Covid-related trough of 2020; above the GFC-related trough of 2009.

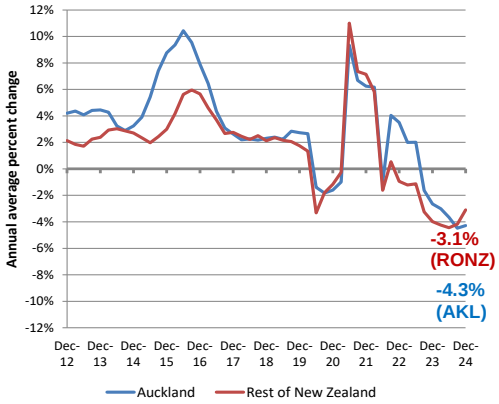
* Real GDP refers to GDP in constant 2022 dollars, to remove inflation.

Lockdowns due to Covid-19 affect results for 2020 onwards. Covid-19 lockdown level 3 began on 23 March 2020.

Latest and historical real GDP figures are modelled estimates, and subject to revision.

Source: Infometrics, Regional Economic Profile/Quarterly Economic Monitor.

Real retail sales growth



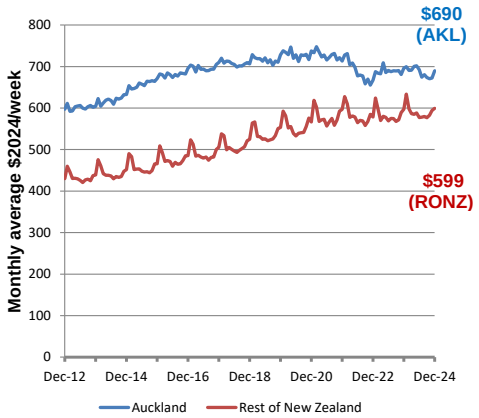
Real* retail sales for the year ended December 2024 were 4.3% lower than for the year ended December 2023; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was a 3.1% fall. Both growth rates were among the lowest since 2009 (just after the Global Financial Crisis), even including the 2020 Covid lockdowns. Both growth rates have been falling since late 2022, although the rate for rest of New Zealand recovered slightly in late 2024.

* Real retail sales have been calculated by converting previous quarters' dollars to the latest quarter's equivalent dollars using the quarterly consumer price index (CPI), to remove inflation.

Note: These figures exclude non-retail activity captured elsewhere in the retail sales survey.

Source: Stats NZ, Retail Sales (quarterly); Stats NZ, CPI (quarterly); Auckland Council calculations.

Real weekly rent



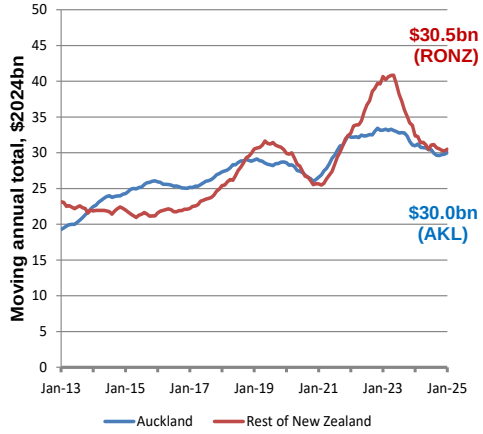
The average weekly rent for the month of December 2024 was $690 (in real* dollars: broadly similar to the last several months, e.g. 1% lower than a year ago; below most of the last eight years). For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was $599: rising due to seasonality; similar to a year ago, following over three years of minimal increases. "Real rent" changes are relative to CPI inflation, so a similar "real" level means rents rose at a similar rate to inflation.

* Real rents have been calculated by converting previous quarters' dollars to the latest quarter's equivalent dollars using the quarterly consumer price index (CPI), to remove inflation.

Note: Dwelling size and quality may vary over time. Rent is for new rental bonds lodged each month with Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, for housing tenancies with private sector landlords (so excludes state housing). Data covers only new bonds, so excludes existing leases from earlier periods whose rent has not changed, or has changed but with no revision to the bond. It also excludes new leases where no bond is lodged. Data is subject to minor revisions.

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Regional Rental Prices (monthly); Stats NZ, CPI (quarterly); Auckland Council calculations.

Real imports by seaports



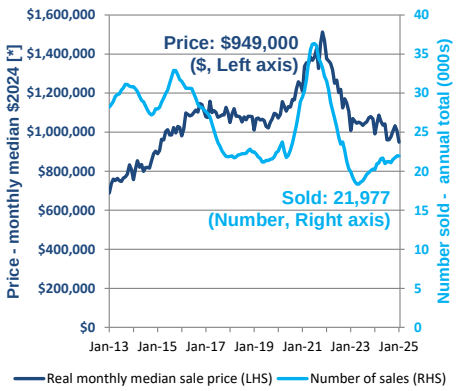
The real* value of imports by Auckland seaports for the year ended January 2025 was $30.0 billion, which was 3% lower than the year ended January 2024, but 15% higher than the 2020 Covid trough. For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was $30.5 billion: 6% lower than a year ago, and 25% lower than the 2023 post-Covid rebound peak. For most of 2024, import values for Auckland and the rest of New Zealand were similar, and both showed a slight downtrend.

* Real import values have been calculated by converting previous quarters' dollars to the latest quarter's equivalent dollars using the quarterly consumer price index (CPI) for tradables, to remove inflation

Note: Import values are cost including freight (CIF). Auckland seaports consist of Port of Auckland on the Waitemata Harbour near the CBD, and Port of Onehunga on the Manukau Harbour (domestic only, no imports); both are owned by Ports of Auckland Limited (POAL).

Source: Stats NZ, Overseas Cargo Statistics-imports-value $ CIF (monthly); Stats NZ, CPI Tradables (quarterly); Auckland Council calculations.

House sales: price and number sold



The median (not average) sale price of houses sold in Auckland in the month of January 2025 was $949,000 (in real* dollars: similar to nine years ago (2015/2016); 4% lower than a year ago; 6% below December ($1.01 million); 37% below the 2021 peak).

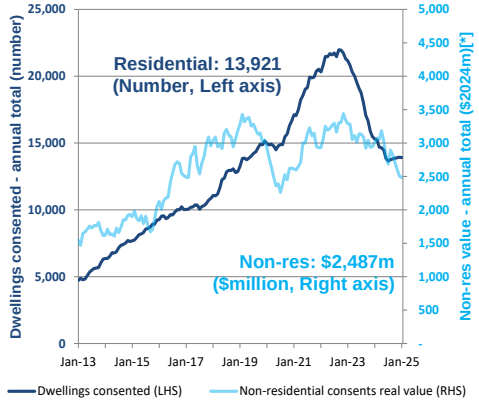
The total number of houses sold in Auckland in the year ended January 2025 was 21,977: 20% above the May 2023 trough, and rising continuously since September 2024, but still 40% below the July 2021 peak.

* 'Real' prices for previous months are calculated by inflating previous quarters' dollars to the latest quarter's equivalent dollars, using the quarterly consumer price index (CPI).

Notes: The data for 'houses' covers actual sales during the period. Size and quality may vary over time. 'Houses' includes all dwelling types (eg apartments and flats), not just free-standing houses, but excludes sales of undeveloped land. 'Price' is real* actual sale price (not just listed). REINZ revises recent data each month for numbers sold (usually slightly upwards) and prices.

Source: Real Estate Institute of New Zealand (REINZ), Monthly Property Report (monthly – from website); Stats NZ, CPI (quarterly); Auckland Council calculations.

Buildings consented



The total number of new dwellings consented in Auckland in the year ended January 2025 was 13,921: 37% lower than the September 2022 peak; 7% below the 2019/2020 pre-Covid peak five years ago; rising slowly since July 2024.

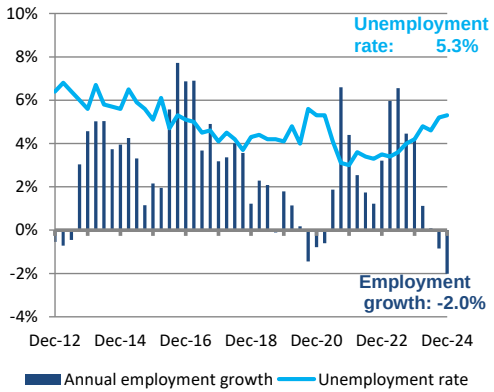
The real* value of new non-residential buildings consented in Auckland in the year ended January 2025 was $2,487 million: 17% below a year earlier; below nearly all of the last four years, and 28% below the November 2022 peak, but 10% above the 2020 trough.

* 'Real' values for previous months have been calculated by inflating previous quarters' dollars to the latest quarter's equivalent dollars, using the capital goods price index (CGPI) for non-residential buildings

Note: Projects consented are not necessarily commenced or completed. "New" refers to new buildings (i.e. excludes alterations and additions). Residential number is new dwellings consented, which will exceed new residential buildings as some buildings have multiple dwellings; similarly, it will differ from new residential building consents issued, as some consents are for multiple buildings.

Source: Stats NZ, Building Consents (monthly); Stats NZ, CGPI (quarterly); Auckland Council calculations.

Employment and unemployment



The number of people employed in Auckland in the quarter ended December 2024 was 2.0% lower than in December 2023 quarter: the sixth quarter in a row of falling annual growth rates despite population growth.

The unemployment rate in Auckland in the quarter ended December 2024 was 5.3%: the highest-equal quarter since the 2020 Covid lockdowns, and above most of 2017 to 2024, but still lower than 2009 to 2015 and late 2020.

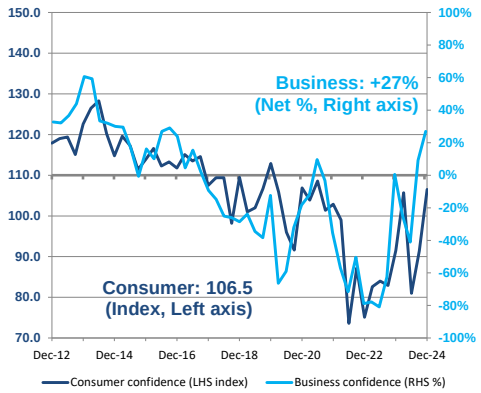
Note: Covid-19 lockdowns began on 23 March 2020, plus wage subsidies, which both affect official unemployment.

Employment data is rebased by Stats NZ each quarter to match latest revisions of historic population estimates.

Both datasets are from a survey (HLFS) so are subject to error margins. Respondents define their own employment status. The survey covers all people aged 15+, so includes school pupils 15+ and people over 65, who might or might not have - or be actively seeking - a job.

Source: Stats NZ, Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) (quarterly).

Confidence indicators



In Auckland, the Westpac McDermott Miller Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) for the December 2024 quarter was 106.5: the highest-equal since 2021, but below 2013 to 2018.

The NZIER QSBO in Auckland for the December 2024 quarter showed a net 27% of businesses expecting the general business situation to improve over the next three months – the highest quarter since 2016, and the highest December since 2014.

Note: Left axis is for CCI (consumers: index). For the CCI, a score of greater than 100 shows more optimism than pessimism. Re-scaled 18/9/2024.

Right axis is for QSBO (businesses: net %). The QSBO calculates a net figure as (% of businesses expecting an improvement) minus (% expecting a worsening). QSBO data used here is not the seasonally adjusted version.

Source: Westpac McDermott Miller, Regional Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) (quarterly – published, but proprietary); New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER), Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion (QSBO) (quarterly – by subscription).