

Comments



# Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland For the period Monday 28 July to Sunday 10 August 2025

| Date:                              | 8 August 2025                         |             | Priority:                          | Medium                 |            |                     |  |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------|---------------------|--|
| Security classification:           | In confidence                         |             | Tracking number:                   | BRIEFING-REQ-0018721   |            |                     |  |
|                                    |                                       |             |                                    |                        |            |                     |  |
| Ministers                          |                                       | Action so   | ught                               |                        |            | Deadline            |  |
| Hon Simeon Bro<br>Minister for Aud |                                       |             | ontents of this<br>ficials meeting | briefing and discuss   | at         | N/A                 |  |
|                                    |                                       |             |                                    |                        |            |                     |  |
| Contact for tele                   | phone di                              | scussion (i | if required)                       |                        |            |                     |  |
| Name                               | Position                              | on          |                                    | Telephone              |            | 1st contact         |  |
| Michael Quinn                      | Head of the Auckland Policy<br>Office |             |                                    | Privacy of natural per | sons       |                     |  |
| Andy Hill                          | Directo                               | r Auckland  |                                    | -                      |            | ✓                   |  |
|                                    |                                       |             |                                    |                        |            |                     |  |
| The following d                    | epartme                               | nts/agencie | es have contr                      | ributed content        |            |                     |  |
| Ministry of Trans                  | port and                              | Department  | t of Internal Af                   | fairs                  |            |                     |  |
| Minister's office to complete:     |                                       |             | ☐ Approved                         | d                      | ☐ Declined |                     |  |
|                                    |                                       |             | ☐ Noted                            |                        |            | Needs change        |  |
|                                    | ☐ Seen                                |             |                                    | ☐ Overtaken by Ev      |            | Overtaken by Events |  |
|                                    | ☐ See Min                             |             |                                    | ster's Notes           |            | Withdrawn           |  |



# **BRIEFING**

# Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland For the period Monday 28 July to Sunday 10 August 2025

| Date:                    | 8 August 2025 | Priority:        | Medium               |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Security classification: | In Confidence | Tracking number: | BRIEFING-REQ-0018721 |

## **Purpose**

To provide you with a fortnightly report for the Auckland Portfolio for the period Monday 28 July to Sunday 10 August 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 08 / 08 /2025

Minister for Auckland ..... / ......

Hon Simeon Brown

BRIEFING-REQ-0018721 In-Confidence 2



# 1. Auckland Portfolio Priorities

| Topic/ Contact person  | Comment  |
|--|--|
| Auckland Recovery  |  |
|  | See <b>Annex One</b> for the Auckland Council's Recovery Weekly Report (week ending 25 July 2025).   |
| Auckland City and Regior   | nal Deal   |
| Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons                       | Katrina Casey has been appointed as the City and Regional Deal Executive Director and is employed by DIA. Katrina will work closely with the Crown's Chief Negotiators during the next phase of the CRD negotiations.  |
|  | We are in discussions with the CRD Executive Director about how the combined expertise within the APO can support the DIA led process and more specifically how your portfolio interests will be represented and information shared with you.  |
| Auckland Transport CCO   |  |
| Karen Lyons Auckland Director Ministry of Transport Privacy of natural persons | <ul> <li>Auckland Council Governing Body Meeting Thursday 31 July 2025</li> <li>Group and Auckland Council Quarterly Performance Report for the three months ended 30 June 2025</li> <li>Auckland Council presented the fourth quarter report for the first year of the 2024-2034 Long-term plan. Transport was identified as a key investment area, and key achievements include:</li> <li>Over 7,500 redundant pieces of temporary traffic management equipment have been removed from the system.</li> <li>An additional 10,000 users have benefited from the \$50 weekly fare cap on public transport.</li> <li>250 signalised intersection optimisations have been completed and five intersection and road corridor improvement projects.</li> <li>Three special vehicle lane projects (Great South Road, The Strandand Kingdon Street) were completed.</li> <li>Six level crossing removals have now been completed and the preferred supplier for the five Takaanini grade separation level crossing removals has been identified.</li> <li>The Great Barrier Tryphena Wharf renewal was completed.</li> <li>The first fully electric ferry water testing was undertaken.</li> </ul> |
| Law and Order  |  |
| Andy Hill Director Auckland MBIE Privacy of natural persons                    | Proceeds of Crime Fund update  Following confirmation of 3 years of funding from the Proceeds of Crime Fund, Auckland Council facilitated a launch meeting with the central city BIDs, Waitematā Local Board and Police on 12 May 2025.  The initial priority for the Proceeds of Crime Fund programme (the  |

programme) was putting in place funding agreements with the central



city BIDs and Waitematā local board for the financial year 2024-25. Agreements were established with defined objectives and reporting timeframes, and funds for the first year of the programme were distributed. The BIDs and Local Board are on track with their expenditure in line with the approved plans.

The Waitematā local board is meeting next month to workshop their funding allocation across the full three-year term of the programme. Council staff are preparing advice for options to enable alignment with other initiatives being delivered across the central city.

Initiatives being implemented include lighting improvements, purchase of protective vests for security staff, increased security patrols and CCTV system monitoring, additional CCTV camera installation, and subscription to a new AI tech platform that will enhance CCTV capability.

CCTV installation plans around the CRL stations have been requested from Auckland Transport and the CRL developers to enable alignment and maximise synergies with the programme.

Auckland Councillors have discussed the CRL concept design and they and precinct safety has been identified as a substantial issue. Workshops are being arranged by Council's new Auckland Urban Design Office and these may highlight opportunities for future investment by the programme.

#### **Water Reform Update**

#### Lori Hand

Executive Director Water Services Reform

Department of Internal Affairs

Privacy of natural persons

The Local Government (Water Services) Bill (the Bill) deems an Auckland water organisation (of which Watercare is one) to be a **water organisation** and so subject to the same objectives, requirements and obligations as other water organisations.

During the select committee process, following a submission from Auckland Council, amendments were made to the definitions of water services etc to ensure that there was alignment between the Bill and the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009 (LGACA), which established Auckland water organisations. Further changes were made to the provisions relating to the preparation of a water services strategy to ensure they worked in the context of Watercare and Auckland Council.

The Bill as introduced, provided all water organisations, except for Watercare, with an **exemption from income tax**. Watercare, which had been a tax paying entity since its inception, was excluded from this exemption at the request of Auckland Council.

 During the select committee hearing, and following further discussions with Auckland Council, the exemption from income tax was expanded so that it included Watercare as well. Auckland Council submitted in favour of this as long as the accumulated tax losses, which were used by the wider Auckland Council Tax Group to offset tax liability, could still be retained.

The Bill requires water organisations to **charge for services** as per the provisions contained in Part 3, subpart 1. Watercare is specifically exempted from this provision following consultation with Auckland Council who advised that Watercare wanted to retain its practice of



charging consumers for water services via contracts, rather than under an enactment.

 During the select committee process, Auckland Council submitted that they would like the Bill to be amended so that Watercare could both retain its ability to charge for water services contractually, and benefit from being able to charge under an enactment. However, the Select Committee agreed with the Department's recommendation that charges should either be made under an enactment or via a contract, and that it did not made sense for an organisation to have a choice.

The Bill provides water organisations with different ways of raising **development contribution charges** for growth infrastructure in Part 3, subpart 2. Watercare is specifically exempted from these provisions following consultation with Auckland Council who advised that Watercare wanted to retain its Infrastructure Growth Charges arrangements, whereby contributions to the cost of growth infrastructure are raised through contracts rather than under an enactment.

• The Bill amends section 60A of LGACA, which sets out how a receiver can raise charges on Watercare consumers to recover debts owed by Watercare. During the select committee process this section was expanded, following a submission from Auckland Council, to make it clearer exactly how these charges would operate and what they would apply to. The Amendment Paper makes further technical amendments to those provisions, following discussions with Auckland Council.

The Bill introduces the enduring **economic regulatory regime** that will apply to all water service providers. Watercare has been subject to the interim economic regime provided under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and made through the Watercare Charter which took effect from 1 April 2025.

 The Bill ensures that the Commerce Commission will set pricequality regulation under the new provisions of the Commerce Act 1986 introduced through the Bill before the Watercare Charter's expiration, thereby ensuring continued economic regulation for Watercare. The Bill also expands the definition of "rates" for the purposes of the Rates Rebate Scheme to include water services charges, including those charges raised through contract by Watercare.

The Bill provided a new **framework for land access** which would govern how and when water service providers could enter private land to carry out work on water infrastructure.

During the select committee process this framework was refined, including changes to notice periods and the way these notices were provided. Following the select committee report back, Watercare wrote to the Minister seeking further changes. The Department has agreed to a number of the changes proposed to ensure that Watercare would be able to maintain, repair and operate water infrastructure on private land efficiently. The changes are being progressed through an Amendment Paper.



# 2. General Auckland Updates

| Topic/ Contact person                                       | Comment   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Fast Track substantive ap                                   | pplication – Drury Metropolitan Centre  |  |
| Andy Hill Director Auckland MBIE Privacy of natural persons | You have been invited to comment on the <b>Drury Metropolitan Ce</b> Fast Track application which has been referred to an expert panel consideration. This application is for a Listed Project in Schedule the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024. Any comments you wish to m will be provided into that substantive process and are required by   |  |
|   | 11 August 2025. Project Summary   |  |
|   | The Drury Metropolitan Centre project, led by Kiwi Property Holdings No.2 Limited, seeks Fast-Track approval for the subdivision and development of a new metropolitan centre in Drury, Auckland. Stage 1 of the project involves subdivision to create 292 residential lots, while Stage 2 includes the construction and operation of retail, commercial, community, residential, and visitor accommodation facilities.                                    |  |
|   | The project spans approximately 48.4 hectares and includes bulk earthworks, infrastructure installation, and road construction to support the development.  |  |
|   | The proposal is aligned with the Drury Centre Precinct Plan and is designed to integrate with the Drury Central Rail Station and surrounding infrastructure. A number of resource consents for earlier stages of the proposal have been granted for the subdivision and development of land within the Drury Centre Precinct.   |  |
|   | Key economic benefits stated in the proposal  |  |
|   | <ul> <li>Estimated total construction expenditure of approximately \$1.47 billion</li> <li>Creation of approximately 3,420 full-time equivalent (FTE) years in the construction sector</li> </ul>   |  |
|   | <ul> <li>Total economic impact on Auckland's business activity estimated at over \$1.45 billion over 11 years</li> <li>Long-term employment opportunities within the metropolitan centre</li> <li>Contribution to a well-functioning urban environment and support for regional growth</li> </ul>   |  |
|   | Key issues identified in the proposal   |  |
|   | <ul> <li>Need for coordination with infrastructure upgrades and transport improvements</li> <li>Reclamation of a stream and wetland, resulting in a net loss of ecological values and extent</li> <li>Potential adverse effects on freshwater ecosystems not fully offset or compensated</li> <li>Construction noise and vibration impacts on nearby properties.</li> <li>Management of contaminated land and sediment control during earthworks</li> </ul> |  |



#### Free and frank opinions

#### Progress update on actions from the Auckland Mayoral – Ministerial Forum

#### **Andy Hill**

Director Auckland
MBIF

Privacy of natural persons

There were ten actions recorded from the Auckland Mayoral and Ministerial Forum that took place on 19 June 2025. Each action is listed below with those responsible identified (Minister(s) or Council) and an update on progress.

1. Auckland Council have requested an update on Mill Road Stage 3 from NZTA (Minister Bishop).

To be actioned through regular engagement by the Council's Transport, Resilience and Infrastructure Committee with NZTA. Item closed.

2. Auckland Council is proposing to redevelop the site of Takapuna Golf Course into a multi-use recreational wetland as part of the "Making Space for Water" programme to increase flood resilience for the Wairau catchment and Milford. The proposal would reduce the golf course from 18 to 9 holes. Golf NZ is advocating for a 'dry-basin flood solution' which would meet flood protection requirements while retaining a full 18-hole golf course. Auckland Council request a discussion with central government on a way forward (Minister Watts).

Minister Watts met with Mayor Brown on 5 August 2025 to discuss the issue.

Item closed.

3. The Minister for Economic Growth seeks confirmation from Auckland Council that Watercare will respond appropriately to meet the water infrastructure requirements fo housing developments that are successfully progressed through the Fast-track process (Auckland Council).

Mayor Brown wrote to Ministers Willis, Watts, Bishop and Brown, copying in Watercare CEO Jamie Sinclair, on 15 July 2025 explaining the Council position. Minister Watts responded in writing, acknowledging the Council position and clearly stating government expectations regarding the provision of infrastructure to support housing growth.

Item closed.

4. Local MP Penk and Councillor Sayers to write a letter to the Minister for Rail, highlighting the opportunity for a PPP to provide a passenger rail service to the Special Housing Areas at Huapai (local MP Penk with Councillor Sayers).

Action to be progressed by local MP and Councillor.



5. Auckland Council have requested an update on progress of the Hauraki Gulf/Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill and the proposed Hākaimangō-Matiatia (Northwest Waiheke) Marine Reserve (Minister Potaka).

Minister Potaka has written to Auckland Council providing an update on these two issues. The Minister stated that:

the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill remains a government priority to progress through its final Parliamentary stages, although competing priorities have delayed it being allocated time in the House. The Bill is on the list in Parliament's Order Paper, and he stated his expectation that the Bill will pass its Third Reading and be enacted in the coming weeks.

Minister Potaka received advise from DOC regarding the proposed Hākaimangō-Matiatia (Northwest Waiheke) Marine Reserve application in late November 2024 and he is considering this advice.

In his letter to Auckland Council, Minister Potaka also noted that continued investment by Council to stem land-based sources of marine pollution including sewage and sediment will be critical to the success of marine conservation initiatives in the Hauraki Gulf.

Item closed.

6. Establish a separate Council/Central Government session to discuss law and order and homelessness (Ministers Mitchell and Potaka).

Item was discussed at Auckland Council Community Committee on 29 July 2025. Further action is required.

Minister's offices are aware of concerns about anti-social behaviour and homelessness in Auckland, and the opportunity to engage with Auckland Council to address these issues.

 Auckland Council have requested an update from MPI (Biosecurity) on what is being done to address the issue of freshwater clams, noting in particular the risk to electricity generation (Minister Hoggard).

Biosecurity New Zealand officials are actively working with Auckland Council to prevent the spread of Corbicula (freshwater clams) into Auckland waterways. This joint effort includes the regional implementation of Check, Clean, Dry protocols, targeting both recreational users and commercial water activities. Additionally, Biosecurity New Zealand are collaborating with partners, which includes representatives of Te Uru Kahika (TUK), to develop a Corbicula Rapid Assessment Guide to guide on how to respond to a new detection at a regional level, and a National Surveillance Plan to improve early detection.

Earth Sciences New Zealand (formerly NIWA), with \$10.2 million in MBIE Endeavour funding, is conducting research into the ecological and economic impacts of this invasive clam. This includes assessing potential risks to commercial operations, such as hydroelectric power generation in the Waikato region.

Item closed.



8. Auckland Council have requested an update on the status of the Predator Free NZ programme once it integrates into the Department of Conservation. Councillors have raised concerns that collaborations with the business community may be lost, reducing the effectiveness of the programme and the impact of Auckland ratepayers' investment (via the Natural Environment Targeted Rate). They also seek confirmation that the programme remains focussed on pest eradication (rather than suppression) (Minister Potaka).

Mayor Brown wrote to Minister Potaka on 11 July 2025 to provide more context to this request. Minister Potaka has replied to both the Mayor and Council officials reiterating government support for Predator Free 2050 goals, detailing initiatives in train and encouraging Council to engage directly with the DOC lead for the programme.

DOC and Council officials are meeting to discuss Hauraki Gulf predator free initiatives on 2 September 2025.

Item closed.

9. Auckland Council raised the issue of people charging EVs new dwellings with no onsite parking resulting in unsightly and dangerous charging cables crossing footpaths and roads. Minister Bishop requested information from Council on the scale of the issue (Auckland Council).

Auckland Council officials advise that they in the process of quantifying the scale of the issue prior to engaging with central government.

10. An opportunity was identified for government to work with Council to address issues in the energy system including reducing red tape to enable roof top solar and modernising rules for tree pruning around power lines (e.g. 50% of project costs for Vector relate to traffic management) (Minister Watts and Auckland Council).

Rooftop solar: Government has recently taken several concrete steps to reduce red tape and accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar including clarifying that no building consent is needed to install solar on an existing house; reducing processing times for consents to install solar on new builds from 20 to 10 working days and changing permitted voltage ranges for electricity networks to better accommodate solar power.

Electricity (Hazards from Trees) regulations: Cabinet has approved amendments introducing national treefall hazard notice powers, aimed at reducing outages from 'fall zone' trees by allowing Electricity Distribution Businesses to require removal of trees posing moderate/high risk to power lines. Regulations are expected to be finalised by the end of 2025, with implementation from late 2027. Auckland Council provided a supportive submission to an enhanced risked based process, noting its goal of increasing tree canopy cover across the region.

Council tree planting and trimming costs: Councils continue planting trees near lines, creating costly trimming cycles. Auckland Council and Vector expect to spend at least \$25M over 3.75 years.



While regulations cannot be used to restrict planting for financial reasons, options are being explored to address this issue using powers available through the Local Government portfolio.

Officials will engage with Council to identify and address further outstanding issues, including traffic management costs.

Item closed.

## **Transport News and Updates**

#### **Karen Lyons**

Auckland Director

Ministry of Transport

Privacy of natural persons

#### **Bledisloe North and Fergusson North Wharves**

Port of Auckland (POAL) has received provisional approval to build Bledisloe North and Fergusson North Wharves under the Fast Track Process. POAL will work to finalise consent conditions in the coming months and hope to commence pre-construction works for Bledisloe North wharf in September 2025. Bledisloe North Wharf will help POAL meet Auckland's freight needs support the cruise industry, provide more access to the waterfront for Aucklanders and reduce congestion in the downtown ferry basin. Fergusson North Wharf is critical for the port to become big ship capable and serve Auckland's freight needs well into the future.

#### **Bus Driver Safety Initiatives**

As of 31 July 2025, the number of driver safety screens installed is 318. The actual spend to date on these installations is \$2.53 million. The central and local Government total budget for this is \$6.5 million. 51% of this is funded by NZTA, 49% by Auckland Council.

Auckland Transport has confirmed that the target of equipping 80% of their 1,350 buses remains on track for delivery by June 2026.

In addition, a live CCTV trial is currently undergoing user acceptance testing across 45 buses with two of their operators. The trial allows:

- Drivers to trigger live downloads of footage during security incidents.
- Control rooms to view and track buses in real time.
- Footage to be accessed instantly, rather than waiting for postevent retrieval.

#### **Auckland Project Updates**

#### **Karen Lyons**

**Auckland Director** 

Ministry of Transport

Privacy of natural persons

#### **Steve Mutton**

Director Regional Relationships, Northland and Auckland.

**NZTA** 

Confidential advice to Government



| Privacy of natural persons | Confidential advice to Government |
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| Confidential advice to Government |
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### 3. Ministerial items on hand

## 3.1 Upcoming significant meetings

| Date and venue                     | Meeting and info                           |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 15 August 2025, 9:00 am – 10:00 am | Dentistry Opening by Auckland City Mission |

## 3.2 Other Ministerial engagements related to Auckland

| Date | Minister | Meeting Info |
|------|----------|--------------|
| None |          |              |

# 3.3 Upcoming significant media and announcements

| Timing | Announcement |
|--------|--------------|
| None   |              |

# 3.4 Upcoming briefings and aide memoire

| Title | Date to<br>Minister | Action<br>for<br>Minister | Key contact | Summary of paper/comment |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| None  |                     |                           |             |                          |

## 3.5 Upcoming Cabinet papers

| Title | Committee | Expected committee date | Key contact | Summary of paper/comment |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| None  |           |                         |             |                          |



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

| Due to<br>Minister's<br>office | Statutory<br>due date<br>to<br>requester | Ref                      | Requester                  | Organisation                 | Summary of request  |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 26 August 2025                 |  | DOIA-<br>REQ-<br>0018568 | Privacy of natural persons | Labour<br>Leader's<br>Office | Requested copies of the following documents:  BRIEFING-REQ-0013487 Meeting with Committee for Auckland Board 9 May 2025 BRIEFING-REQ-0013260 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 14 April to 11 May 2025 BRIEFING-REQ-0014558 Government appointments in Auckland BRIEFING-REQ-0014171 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 12 May to 25 May 2025 BRIEFING-REQ-0013724 Meeting with Auckland City Mission 28 May 2025 Minister for Auckland's fortnightly reports for the months of June and July 2025 |
| 1<br>September<br>2025         |  | DOIA-<br>REQ-<br>0018894 | Privacy of natural persons | Labour<br>Leader's<br>Office | Requested copies of the following documents:  BRIEFING-REQ-0015373 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 26 May to 8 June 2025 BRIEFING-REQ- 015800 Progressing City and Regional Deals Cabinet Paper BRIEFING-REQ-0015931 The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area BRIEFING-REQ-0015975 Auckland Mayoral-Ministerial Forum BRIEFING-REQ-0016010 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 9 June to 22 June 2025 Minister for Auckland's fortnightly reports for July 2025   |



# 3.7 Ministerial correspondence

| Due to<br>Minister's<br>office | Ref | Correspondent | Organisation | Summary of Correspondence |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| None                           |     |               |              |                           |

#### 3.8 Proactive release

| Date           | Title   | Comment   |
|----------------|---|---|
| 23 June 2025   | BRIEFING-REQ-0016471<br>Proactive Release of<br>Auckland fortnightly<br>reports and event briefings<br>from 1 May to 31 May<br>2025 | Requesting your approval to proactively release, with appropriate redactions, fortnightly reports and event briefings from 1 May to 31 May 2025. MBIE will release the information on the date your office will advise. |
| 13 August 2025 | MBIE will provide your office with the list of briefing titles for review   | Proactive release of briefing titles for July 2025  |

# 3.9 Fast-Track Approvals- Auckland

| Project Name                    | Unique Ref No. | Applicant<br>Organisation | Date<br>Received | Due Date to send<br>Comments |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Drury<br>Metropolitan<br>Centre | FTA-2502- 1019 | Kiwi Property<br>Holdings | 16 July 2025     | 11 August 2025               |



#### 4. Auckland dashboards

#### Transport environmental scan

#### **Karen Lyons**

Auckland Director

Ministry of Transport

Privacy of natural persons

#### Public transport patronage update

For the fortnight 7-20 July 2025, public transport patronage totalled 2.9 million boardings across the city's public transport network. 90.4% of boardings in June were considered to be on-time, ahead of the 88% target. The monthly patronage total of 6.8 million was behind the 7.3 million target.

Patronage increased by 3% for this fortnight compared to the same period last year. Bus patronage increased by 5%. However, rail and ferry patronage declined by 5% and 4% respectively. Rail patronage was likely affected by the reduced services and partial closures up to 13 July.

Public transport patronage for the year to 30 June 2025 is 88.8 million boardings which has increased on the previous year's total of 86.8 million boardings. Across all modes, bus patronage saw the largest annual increase of 3%, whereas rail patronage had a decline of 1%.

At 88.8 million boardings, current annual patronage reaches 93% of Auckland Transport's latest SOI target of 95.9 million annual PT trips for 2024/25. This also represents 86% of the pre-pandemic 12-month public transport patronage level in the year to December 2019 of 103.2 million boardings.

| PT fortnightly patronage |                 |                 |  |  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Mode                     | 07-20 July 2025 | 07-20 July 2024 |  |  |
| Bus                      | 2,340,083       | 2,219,783       |  |  |
| Rail                     | 480,405         | 506,299         |  |  |
| Ferry                    | 92,914          | 96,749          |  |  |
| Total                    | 2,913,402       | 2,822,831       |  |  |

Data: AT Metro daily patronage report.

| PT monthly patronage |           |           |  |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Mode                 | June 2025 | June 2024 |  |
| Bus                  | 5,507,861 | 5,387,342 |  |
| Rail                 | 1,026,469 | 1,009,699 |  |
| Ferry                | 313,709   | 315,072   |  |
| Total                | 6,848,039 | 6,712,113 |  |

Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.

| PT annual patronage |                      |                      |  |  |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Mode                | Year to 30 June 2025 | Year to 30 June 2024 |  |  |
| Bus                 | 70,167,521           | 68,070,909           |  |  |
| Rail                | 13,708,564           | 13,851,681           |  |  |
| Ferry               | 4,936,638            | 4,900,291            |  |  |
| Total               | 88,812,723           | 86,822,881           |  |  |

Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.

NB: Rail and ferry data includes replacement services.



#### Auckland economic update August 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 in **Annex Two.** 

Highlights this month for Auckland include:

- Median house price for the month of June 2025 was \$990,000 (in real\* dollars): similar to the last several months; similar to ten years ago (2015); 6% lower than a year ago; 36% below the 2021 peak.
- Number of houses sold for the year ended June 2025 was 23,506: rising continuously for nine months; 28% above the May 2023 trough; similar to 2017-2020; but 35% below the July 2021 peak.
- Average weekly rent for the month of May 2025 was \$676 (in real\* dollars): similar or below the last three years; similar to nine years ago; below 2016 to mid-2022. For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$572: a 4% real fall since May 2024; similar to May 2021; 1% annual average increase in the last five years.
- Number of new dwellings consented in the year ended June 2025 was 14,295: 3% above May; slightly above all the previous 12 months; 35% below the September 2022 peak; 6% below the 2019 pre-Covid peak.
- Real\* value of new non-residential buildings consented in the year ended June 2025 was \$2,357 million: similar to the previous 4 months; 16% below a year ago; similar to the 2020 trough and among the lowest since 2016; 32% below the 2022 peak.
- Real\* value of imports by Auckland seaports for the year ended June 2025 was \$30.7 billion: similar to the last several months; still 9% below April 2023; but 17% higher than the 2020 Covid trough. For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$31.1 billion: similar to the last several months; 21% above late 2020; and 25% lower than their 2023 post-Covid rebound peak.

\*Note: 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.

#### **Annexes**

Annex One: Auckland Council's Recovery Weekly Report

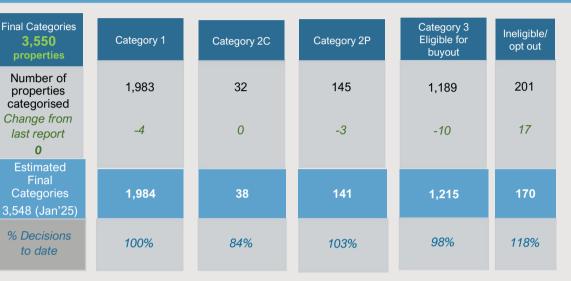
Annex Two: Auckland Economic Update- August 2025

#### **Categorisation Stages**

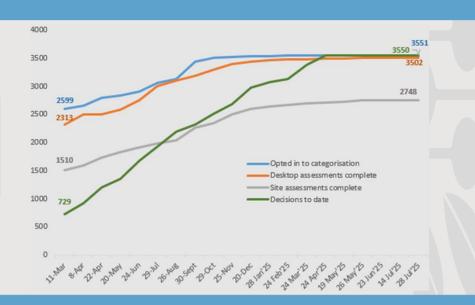
| Stages                  | Initial Impacted properties | Opted in to<br>Categorisation | Desktop<br>Assessments<br>Complete | Site Assessments<br>Complete |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Number of properties    | 7,389                       | 3,551                         | 3,502                              | 2,748                        |
| Change from last report | no change                   | 0                             | 0                                  | 0                            |

- Registrations have reached 3,551 exceeding the January 2025 forecast of 3,548 by 3 properties.
- One property pending final risk assessment for categorization.

#### **Summary of Categorisation Progress**



- 1) Category 3 properties currently total 1,189 including:
- 9 properties that have opted out and will not advance to the buyout stage
- 12 ineligible properties due to change of ownership since 26 January 2023
- 2 properties successfully recategorised from Category 1 following dispute resolution
- 2) Category 2P-3 properties are ineligible due to change of ownership
- 3) Category 1-2 properties recategorised to category 3, 2 properties are ineligible

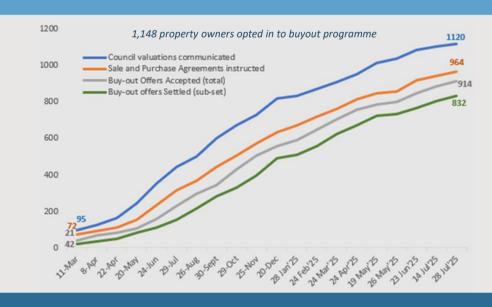




#### **Category 3 Buy-outs in Progress**

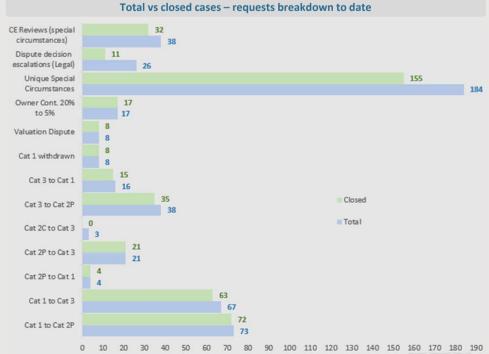
| Stages  | Council valuations communicated | Sale and Purchase<br>Agreements<br>instructed | Buy-out Offers<br>Accepted | Buy-out Offers<br>Settled |
|---|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Number of properties                              | 1,120                           | 964   | 914                        | 832                       |
| Change from<br>last report                        | 17                              | 22  | 29                         | 25                        |
| Buyout offers %                                   |                                 |   |                            |                           |
| based on <b>1,215</b><br>category 3<br>properties | 91%                             | 78%   | 73%                        | 66%                       |

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

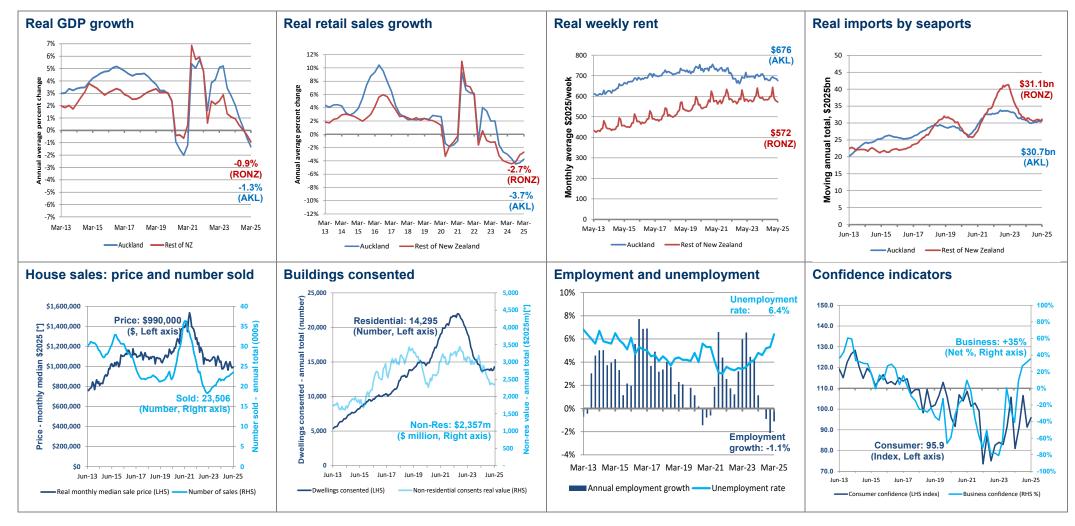


#### Special circumstances applications, Disputes / Category reviews





# **Auckland Economic Update – August 2025**

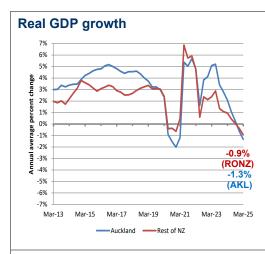


Note: Data is the latest available as at the start of the month, and is for the Auckland region, unless otherwise stated. This is a summary page only. All data sources and technical notes are provided on the next two pages.

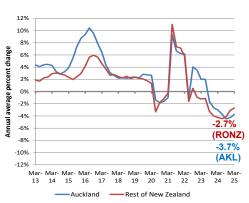
Disclaimer: The information in this document is provided in good faith, however, Auckland Council disclaims any liability whatsoever in connection with any action taken in reliance of this document, for any error, deficiency, flaw or omission contained in it.

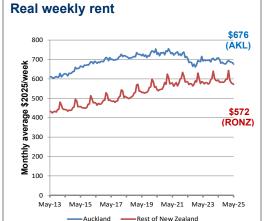
All enquiries please contact the author Ross Wilson, Economic Analyst, Strategic Advice and Research Unit: Ross.wilson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

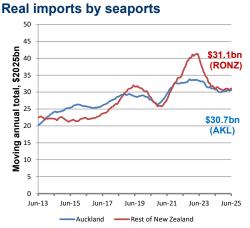












Auckland's real\* Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the year ended March 2025 was 1.3% lower than for the year ended March 2024; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was 0.9% fall (see notes). Both growth rates were: falling since mid-2023; similar to their Covid-related troughs of 2020; below all other periods since 2010. Rest of New Zealand was similar to its GFC-related trough of 2009; Auckland was above, but only because its trough in 2009 was even lower.

Real\* retail sales for the year ended March 2025 were 3.7% lower than for the year ended March 2024; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was a 2.7% fall. Both growth rates were among the lowest (most negative) since 2009 (just after the Global Financial Crisis), with Auckland continuing below its 2020 Covid-related trough. Both growth rates had been falling since late 2022, but now Auckland has started to follow the rest of New Zealand in rising slightly (but still negative).

The average weekly rent for the month of May 2025 was \$676 (in real\* dollars: similar or below the last three years; similar to nine years ago; below 2016 to mid-2022). For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$572: a 4% real fall since May 2024; similar to May 2021; 1% annual average increase in the last five years. "Real rent" changes are relative to CPI inflation, so a similar "real" level means rents rose at a similar rate to inflation.

The real\* value of imports by Auckland seaports for the year ended June 2025 was \$30.7 billion, similar to the last several months, still 9% below April 2023, but 17% higher than the 2020 Covid trough. For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$31.1 billion: similar to the last several months, 21% above late 2020, and 25% lower than their 2023 post-Covid rebound peak. From 2024 on, import values for Auckland and the rest of New Zealand were similar to each other.

\* 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 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 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.

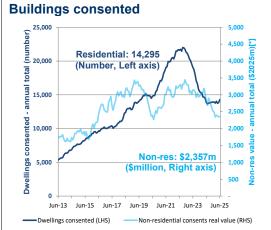
Note: Dwelling size and quality may vary over time. Rent is for new rental bonds lodged each month with Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, for housing tenancies with private sector landlords (so excludes state housing). Data covers only new bonds, so excludes existing leases from earlier 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.

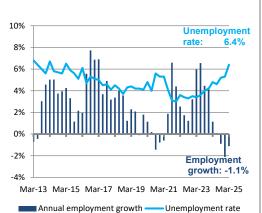
Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Regional Rental Prices (monthly); Stats NZ, CPI (quarterly); Auckland Council calculations. \* Real import values have been calculated by converting previous quarters' dollars to the latest quarter's equivalent dollars using the quarterly consumer 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 Statisticsimports-value \$ CIF (monthly); Stats NZ, CPI Tradables (quarterly); Auckland Council calculations.







**Employment and unemployment** 



The median (not average) sale price of houses sold in Auckland in the month of June 2025 was \$990,000 (in real\* dollars: similar to the last several months; similar to ten years ago (2015); 6% lower than a year ago; 36% below the 2021 peak).

The total number of houses sold in Auckland in the year ended June 2025 was 23,506: rising continuously for nine months, 28% above the May 2023 trough; similar to 2017-2020; but 35% 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.

The total number of new dwellings consented in Auckland in the year ended June 2025 was 14,295: 3% above May; slightly above all the previous 12 months; 35% below the September 2022 peak; 6% below the 2019 pre-Covid peak.

The real\* value of new non-residential buildings consented in Auckland in the year ended June 2025 was \$2,357 million: similar to the previous 4 months; 16% below a year ago; similar to the 2020 trough and among the lowest since 2016; 32% below the 2022 peak.

\* '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.

The number of people employed in Auckland in the quarter ended March 2025 was 1.1% lower than in March 2024 quarter: the third quarter in a row of negative annual growth rates despite population growth; similar to during the 2020-2021 Covid lockdowns.

The unemployment rate in Auckland in the quarter ended March 2025 was 6.4%: the highest quarter since 2015 and worse than during the 2020-2021 Covid lockdowns, but still lower than most of 2010 to 2013.

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

In Auckland, the Westpac McDermott Miller Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) for the June 2025 quarter was 95.9: above most of 2022-2024, but below most of 2009 to 2021.

The NZIER QSBO in Auckland for the June 2025 quarter showed a net 35% of businesses expecting the general business situation to improve over the next three months – the fourth rise in a row, to well above pre-Covid levels, reaching the highest level in eleven years, 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).





# Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland For the period Monday 11 August to Sunday 24 August 2025

| Date:  | 21 August 2025                     |             | Priority:                                    | Med              | lium        |                     |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------|--|------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Security classification:   | In confidence                      |             |  | Tracking number: | BRI         | EFING-REQ-0019372   |
|  |                                    |             |  |                  |             |                     |
| Ministers  |                                    | Action sou  | ıght   |                  |             | Deadline            |
| Hon Simeon Brownister for Auc  |                                    |             | contents of this briefing and discuss at M/A |                  |             | N/A                 |
|  |                                    |             |  |                  |             |                     |
| Contact for tele   | phone di                           | scussion (i | f required)                                  |                  |             |                     |
| Name   | Position                           |             | Telephone                                    |                  | 1st contact |                     |
| Michael Quinn  | Head of the Auckland Policy Office |             | Privacy of natural persons                   |                  |             |                     |
| Andy Hill  | Director Auckland                  |             |  |                  | ✓           |                     |
|  | '                                  |             |  | 1                |             |                     |
| The following d  | epartme                            | nts/agencie | s have conti                                 | ributed content  |             |                     |
| Ministry of Transport, Department of Internal Affairs and Ministry for the Environment |                                    |             |  |                  |             |                     |
| Minister's office to complete:   |                                    | ☐ Approve   | ed [   |                  | Declined    |                     |
|  |                                    |             | □ Noted                                      |                  |             | Needs change        |
|  |                                    |             | Seen   |                  |             | Overtaken by Events |
|  |                                    |             | ☐ See Mini                                   | ster's Notes     |             | Withdrawn           |

Comments



# **BRIEFING**

# Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland For the period Monday 11 August to Sunday 24 August 2025

| Date:                    | 21 August 2025 | Priority:        | Medium               |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Security classification: | In Confidence  | Tracking number: | BRIEFING-REQ-0019372 |

## **Purpose**

To provide you with a fortnightly report for the Auckland Portfolio for the period Monday 11 August to Sunday 24 August 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

Andy Hill Director Auckland

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

21 / 08 /2025

Hon Simeon Brown **Minister for Auckland** 

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



# 1. Auckland Portfolio Priorities

| Topic/ Contact person                    | Comment   |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Auckland Recovery                        |   |  |  |  |  |
|  | No updates available for this report.   |  |  |  |  |
| Auckland City and Regional Deal          |   |  |  |  |  |
|  | No updates available for this report.   |  |  |  |  |
| Auckland Transport CCO                   |   |  |  |  |  |
|  | No updates available for this report.   |  |  |  |  |
| Law and Order                            |   |  |  |  |  |
|  | No updates available for this report.   |  |  |  |  |
| Water Reform Update                      |   |  |  |  |  |
| Lori Hand                                | The Local Government (Water Services) Bill passed all legislative                                       |  |  |  |  |
| Executive Director Water Services Reform | stages on 19 August 2025 and is awaiting Royal assent. This is anticipated within seven days or sooner. |  |  |  |  |
| Department of Internal<br>Affairs        |   |  |  |  |  |
| Privacy of natural persons               |   |  |  |  |  |

# 2. General Auckland Updates

| Topic/ Contact person                               | Comment  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Waste Management Cons                               | Waste Management Consultation on Redvale Landfill closure  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Monique Esplin  Manager Waste Policy and Regulatory | Aucklanders send around 1.6 million tonnes of waste to landfill each year. The Redvale and Whitford landfills currently manage approximately 50 and 20 per cent of Auckland's waste respectively.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MfE Privacy of natural persons                      | Redvale is due to cease landfilling operations at the end of 2028 and Waste Management NZ Ltd. (WM) are developing a new Auckland Regional Landfill (ARL) to fill the gap. However, the ARL is not expected to be ready until the mid-2030s, leaving several years with no consented disposal site for a significant proportion of Auckland's waste. |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | To address this issue, WM is currently consulting on the three options below to manage Auckland's waste from 2029 to the mid-2030s:  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Option 1: Continue sending current waste volumes to Redvale Landfill under a new resource consent, with Whitford Landfill continuing to operate at existing capacity.  |  |  |  |  |  |



**Option 2:** Cease landfilling at Redvale from 2029, divert all waste to Whitford Landfill, requiring new consents, a planning designation change, and substantial construction and operational upgrades.

**Option 3:** Variations to operate both sites in parallel:

- a) Redvale receives general household/commercial waste (Class 1), Whitford receives construction and demolition waste (Class 2); requires new consents at both sites and likely designation change at Whitford.
- b) Whitford receives Class 1 waste, Redvale receives Class 2 waste; requires new consents at Redvale, designation change, and significant operational changes at Whitford.
- c) Regional split by allocating waste by collection origin; requires new consents at both sites and an alteration to the designation at Whitford.
- d) Use existing consented capacity at Whitford, sending the remainder to Redvale under a new consent.

#### **Decision-making process**

WM will make a final decision after consultation closes on 25 August 2025 but have indicated that Option 1 is its preferred option. Consultation feedback will be communicated publicly in a report published on 12 September 2025.

Officials from MfE have been in contact with the Auckland Council Waste Solutions Team who advised that they will be providing a submission on this consultation and have not raised any concerns.

#### **New Zealand International Convention Centre**

#### **Andy Hill**

Director Auckland MBIE

Privacy of natural persons

The New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC) is a significant development for central Auckland and the country's conference and events industry. Originally scheduled to open in 2020, the project faced significant setbacks, including a major fire in 2019 and pandemic-related delays. Construction is now complete, with Fletcher Building focusing on defect remediation and final commissioning.

SkyCity have been advised that Fletcher Building expect to complete its work in October 2025 at which time the facility will be handed over to SkyCity. The official opening is scheduled for February 2026, with the exact date still to be confirmed.

Once open, NZICC will be New Zealand's largest and most advanced convention venue, capable of hosting up to 4,000 attendees. It features flexible, vertically stacked spaces, integrated public laneways, and a design that emphasizes connectivity to Auckland's cultural and innovation hubs. The centre is expected to attract over 33,000 international delegates annually, contributing an estimated \$90 million to the local economy.

New Zealand Major Events works collaboratively with the city through Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to coordinate prospecting activity and this could benefit the NZICC.



A list of confirmed events provided in confidence by SkyCity is attached at **Annex One.** 

Following an issue raised with you by the Employers and Manufacturers Association CEO, John Fraser-Mackenzie, the Medicines Act 1981 has been amended to remove the prohibition on advertising or showcasing unapproved medicines (i.e., those not yet consented by Medsafe) at medical conferences and trade shows. This change aligns New Zealand with international standards and removes a long-standing barrier that had discouraged global medical associations from hosting events in New Zealand. This change has had an immediate positive impact for the NZICC, with a number of medical conferences confirmed over the coming years.

SkyCity have noted that they would be pleased to host you for a visit to the NZICC either before or after the official handover.

#### Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill

#### Vanessa Blakelock

Partnerships Director,

Department of Internal Affairs

Privacy of natural persons

At its public meeting on 14 August, Auckland Council's Policy and Planning Committee considered its submission to Select Committee on the Local Government (Systems Improvements) Amendment Bill. Subsequently, there has been media coverage of the Mayor's and Councillor feedback on the provisions of the Bill.

At the meeting, the Committee resolved to oppose the Bill on the grounds that it does not adequately acknowledge special legislation that applies to Auckland Council. The Committee considers that any new legislation that affects Auckland Council to the degree that this Bill does, should be negotiated in partnership with Council. The Committee requested that Council staff prepare an Auckland Council submission in response to the Bill.

The submission is likely to cover a range of matters and DIA will respond to the submission through the Select Committee process when it is received.

#### 3. Ministerial items on hand

#### 3.1 Upcoming significant meetings

| Date and venue                    | Meeting and info                                 |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 26 September 2025, 8:00 – 9:00 am | Opening of 10 new dwellings at Stevenson Village |

#### 3.2 Other Ministerial engagements related to Auckland

| Date | Minister | Meeting Info |
|------|----------|--------------|
| None |          |              |



# 3.3 Upcoming significant media and announcements

| Timing | Announcement |
|--------|--------------|
| None   |              |

# 3.4 Upcoming briefings and aide memoire

| Title   | Date to<br>Minister     | Action<br>for<br>Minister | Key contact                                | Summary of paper/comment   |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| BRIEFING-REQ-0019242 Proactive Release of Auckland Portfolio's fortnightly reports, event briefings and aide memoires from 1 June to 31 July 2025 | 26 August<br>2025       |                           | Andy Hill<br>Privacy of natural<br>persons | To request approval to release the fortnightly reports, event briefings and aide memoires for the Auckland portfolio for the period 1 June to 31 July 2025 |
| BRIEFING-REQ-0019269 Opening of 10 new dwellings at Stevenson Village   | 22<br>September<br>2025 |                           | Andy Hill<br>Privacy of natural<br>persons | To provide background information for your meeting   |

# 3.5 Upcoming Cabinet papers

| Title | Committee | Expected committee date | Key contact | Summary of paper/comment |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| None  |           |                         |             |                          |



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

| Due to<br>Minister's<br>office | Statutory<br>due date<br>to<br>requester | Ref                      | Requester                  | Organisation                 | Summary of request  |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 26 August<br>2025              |  | DOIA-<br>REQ-<br>0018568 | Privacy of natural persons | Labour<br>Leader's<br>Office | Requested copies of the following documents:  BRIEFING-REQ-0013487 Meeting with Committee for Auckland Board 9 May 2025 BRIEFING-REQ-0013260 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 14 April to 11 May 2025 BRIEFING-REQ-0014558 Government appointments in Auckland BRIEFING-REQ-0014171 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 12 May to 25 May 2025 BRIEFING-REQ-0013724 Meeting with Auckland City Mission 28 May 2025 Minister for Auckland's fortnightly reports for the months of June and July 2025 |
| 1<br>September<br>2025         |  | DOIA-<br>REQ-<br>0018894 | Privacy of natural persons | Labour<br>Leader's<br>Office | Requested copies of the following documents:  BRIEFING-REQ-0015373 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 26 May to 8 June 2025 BRIEFING-REQ-015800 Progressing City and Regional Deals Cabinet Paper BRIEFING-REQ-0015931 The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area BRIEFING-REQ-0015975 Auckland Mayoral-Ministerial Forum BRIEFING-REQ-0016010 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 9 June to 22 June 2025 Minister for Auckland's fortnightly reports for July 2025  |



| Due to<br>Minister's<br>office | Statutory<br>due date<br>to<br>requester | Ref                      | Requester                  | Organisation | Summary of request  |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| 8<br>September<br>2025         |  | MOIA-<br>REQ-<br>0019527 | Privacy of natural persons |              | Requested copies of advice you have received directly from your officials, in particular, briefings, Cabinet papers, aide memoires and weekly updates, since 1 March 2025 on:  Business activity in Auckland, and business births and deaths  Advice and recommendations on initiatives to stimulate Auckland's economy  Advice and suggestions (anonymised) Auckland business stakeholders have given you on how to boost Auckland's economy  Any advice on bed taxes, GST sharing and other potential revenue sources Auckland might use to invest in its future  Specific advice on ways of boosting innovation and global links in Auckland |

# 3.7 Ministerial correspondence

| Due to<br>Minister's<br>office | Ref | Correspondent | Organisation | Summary of Correspondence |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| None                           |     |               |              |                           |

#### 3.8 Proactive release

| Date | Title | Comment |
|------|-------|---------|
| None |       |         |

# 3.9 Fast-Track Approvals- Auckland

| Project Name | Unique Ref No. | Applicant<br>Organisation | Date<br>Received | Due Date to send<br>Comments |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| None         |                |                           |                  |                              |



#### 4. Auckland dashboards

#### **Transport environmental scan**

#### **Karen Lyons**

Auckland Director

Ministry of Transport

Privacy of natural persons

#### Public transport patronage update

For the fortnight 21 July – 3 August 2025, public transport patronage totalled 3.7 million boardings across the city's public transport network.

Patronage increased by 1% for this fortnight compared to the same period last year. Ferry patronage had the largest increase at 8%, with rail patronage increasing by 3%. Bus patronage increased by less than 1%.

Public transport patronage for the year to 31 July 2025 is 88.7 million boardings which has increased on the previous year's total of 87.7 million boardings. Across all modes, bus patronage saw the largest annual increase of 2%, whereas rail patronage had a decline of 2%.

At 88.7 million boardings, current annual patronage reaches 83% of Auckland Transport's latest SOI target of 106.8 million annual public transport boardings for 2025/26. This also represents 86% of the prepandemic 12-month public transport patronage level in the year to December 2019 of 103.2 million boardings.

| PT fortnightly patronage |                         |                         |  |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| Mode                     | 21 July – 3 August 2025 | 21 July – 3 August 2024 |  |  |
| Bus                      | 2,995,058               | 2,984,295               |  |  |
| Rail                     | 629,869                 | 611,684                 |  |  |
| Ferry                    | 105,300                 | 97,832                  |  |  |
| Total                    | 3,730,227               | 3,693,811               |  |  |

Data: AT Metro daily patronage report.

| PT monthly patronage |           |           |  |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Mode                 | July 2025 | July 2024 |  |
| Bus                  | 5,738,533 | 5,786,339 |  |
| Rail                 | 1,190,851 | 1,253,424 |  |
| Ferry                | 333,202   | 340,250   |  |
| Total                | 7,262,586 | 7,380,013 |  |

Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.

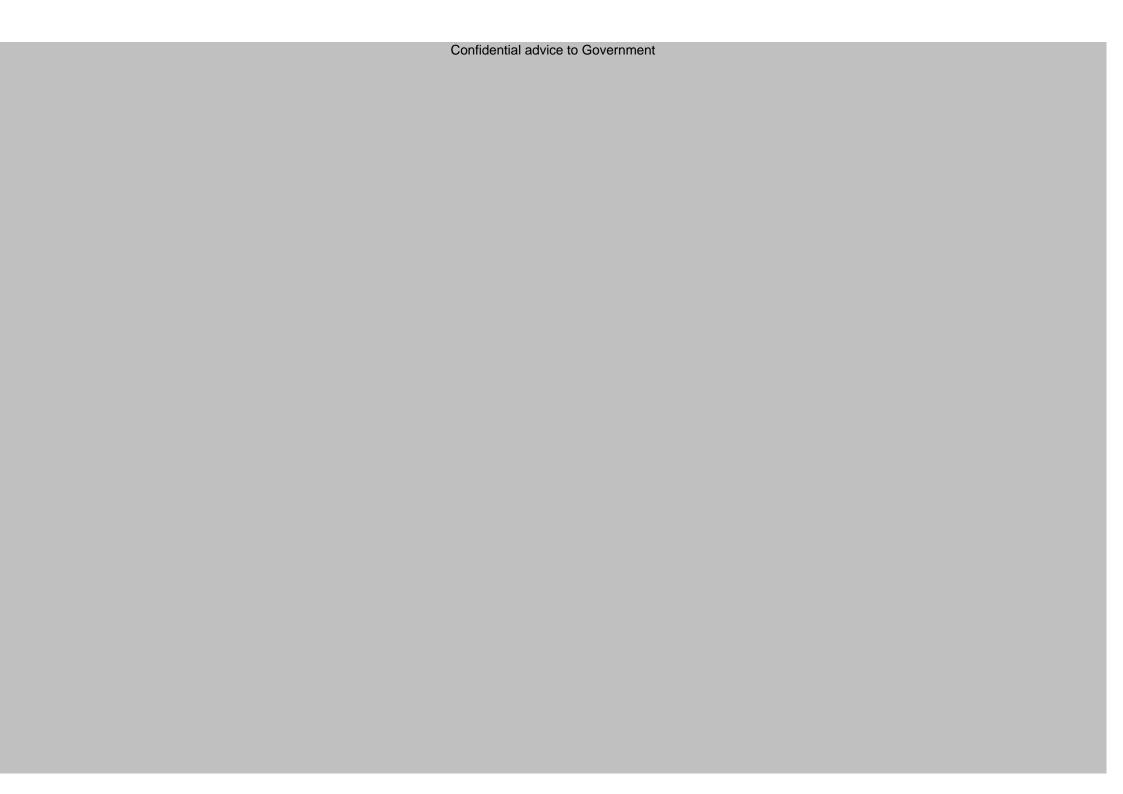
| PT annual patronage |                      |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mode                | Year to 31 July 2025 | Year to 31 July 2024 |
| Bus                 | 70,119,715           | 68,814,536           |
| Rail                | 13,645,991           | 13,970,606           |
| Ferry               | 4,929,590            | 4,921,588            |
| Total               | 88,695,296           | 87,706,730           |

Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.

NB: Rail and ferry data includes replacement services.

## **Annexes**

Annex One: NZICC International Conferences Won to Date



Confidential advice to Government

11

BRIEFING-REQ-0019372 In-Confidence