

Media Statement
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“Time to Be Bold”: New Report Calls for Urgent Action on Auckland’s Transport Future

Auckland does not need more plans, strategies or debate. It needs delivery.

That is the clear message from *Transporting Auckland Forward: A Call to Action*, released today by Infrastructure New Zealand in partnership with the Committee for Auckland, following a summit of more than 60 senior leaders from across business, infrastructure, and government.

Infrastructure New Zealand Chief Executive Nick Leggett said there is now broad agreement on what needs to be done, but progress continues to fall short.

“Auckland’s transport challenges are well understood. What’s been missing is the commitment to follow through,” Leggett says.

“As New Zealand’s only international city, Auckland’s performance is critical to the country’s success. When its transport system is fragmented, congested and slow to respond to growth, the impacts are felt nationally.”

The report reflects a clear message from leaders, with a strong call to stop relitigating past decisions and focus on getting projects delivered.

“There is a high degree of alignment on priorities, from making better use what we already have, to progressing key rapid transit corridors and improving connections across the city,” says Committee for Auckland Executive Director Rupert Hodson. A lot of the answers are already on the table. The challenge is now execution.

A consistent theme throughout the report is the need to get more out of our existing infrastructure. The report highlights the opportunity to unlock capacity across the network

through targeted, practical improvements, alongside better optimisation of major investments such as City Rail Link.

At the same time, stronger alignment between transport, housing and land use is needed to ensure growth occurs where infrastructure can support it.

The report also calls for a more open conversation about how infrastructure is funded. “We cannot keep avoiding the question of who pays,” Leggett says. “We need a clearer, long-term transport vision for Auckland, backed by a sequenced programme of investment and credible funding pathways.

Auckland cannot deliver the system it needs under the current model, making greater use of tools such as user-pays mechanisms, value capture and more flexible funding approaches that better align with costs with benefits.

“The 30 year Integrated Auckland Transport Strategy that will be developed under the impending Auckland Transport reforms provides a useful mechanism to capture and deliver many of the recommendations from this summit,” says Hodson.

With the election approaching, the report warns against another cycle of ambition followed by delay. “Auckland is too important to Aotearoa’s future for transport policy to remain stop-start,” Hodson says. Auckland requires the confidence to make decisions and get on with delivering them.

The full report *Transporting Auckland Forward: A Call to Action*, is available to read now.

[Transporting Auckland Forward: A Call to Action, Full Report](#)

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Infrastructure New Zealand is the nation’s leading infrastructure member association. Our core purpose is to advance best practice development of world-class transport, energy, water, telecommunications, and social infrastructure for all New Zealanders. We do this through research, advocacy, and public and private sector collaboration. Our membership is comprised of over 150 organisations, including central and local government agencies, consultants, contractors, financiers, utilities, and academics – collectively employing approximately 150,000 people in infrastructure-related roles. Together, we are committed to creating a better New Zealand through outstanding infrastructure.

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