

The matrix of landscapes and key directions

The matrix of key directions and landscapes is designed to be applied as a tool for analysis, and can be used in different ways, for example:

- Analysing how key directions are achieved in the context of different landscapes – for example, what does resilient infrastructure mean in terms of economic issues (the economic landscape) or social issues (the social landscape).
- Analysing a specific strategy's contribution to the range of key directions – for example, how does the Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy contribute to social equity.
- Using the landscapes to identify existing and potential activities, partners and programmes under each direction – for example, which agencies and business organisations are interested or involved in the built landscape
- Identifying relationships across directions and landscapes – for example, what are the potential conflicts and synergies between Innovating for a Prosperous Future and the natural landscape or what are the potential responses for investing in resilient infrastructure within each landscape. See Figure 3.
- Identifying gaps in delivery – for example, where in the present social landscape is there social inequality.

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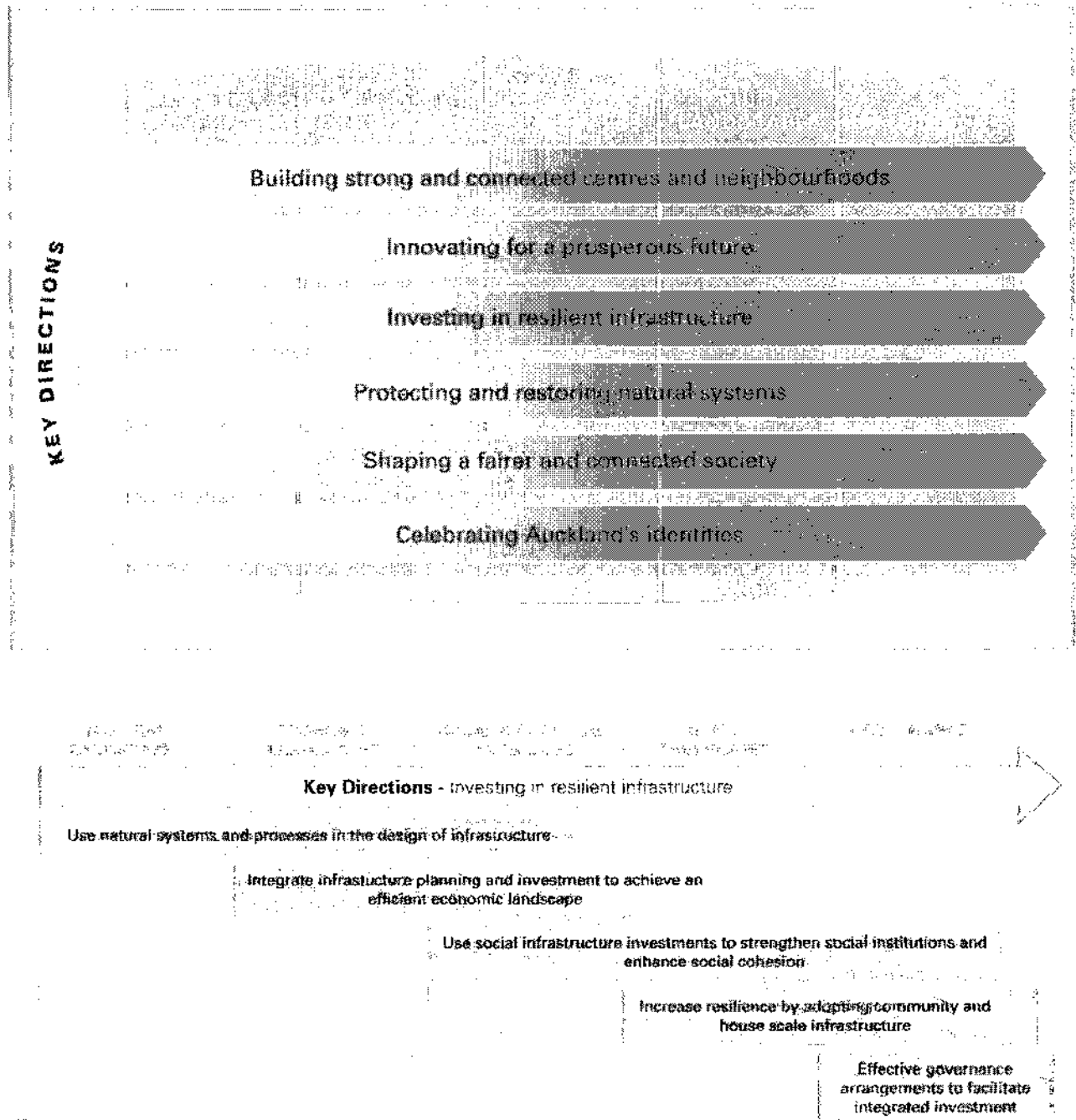


Figure 3

Appendix 2: Forces of Change in the 21st Century

As part of the development of the Long Term Sustainability Framework, six forces of change were identified as being likely to impact the Auckland region and its people. All of these forces have the potential to drive significant changes – some positive, and some not. Understanding these forces and their potential impact on Auckland is an important step in developing a long-term plan for the region's sustainability. This appendix provides a summary of the types of changes and impacts we might expect to see.

FORCE	POSSIBLE EFFECTS	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON AUCKLAND
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Warmer weather in Auckland, with more extremes of flood, drought, cyclone, storm surge and sea-level rise. ● Significant changes for our Pacific neighbours and possible risks of 'abrupt change' to weather and oceanic systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coastal and low-lying land ● Infrastructure and buildings (e.g. maintenance costs) ● Population and ecological health ● Agriculture ● Migration patterns, with potential for 'climate refugees' from more severely affected parts of the world
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuing rapid growth, with Auckland housing 40% of New Zealand's population by 2050. ● Increasingly diverse and distinct from the rest of New Zealand. First port of call for new migrants. ● Pockets of privilege and deprivation, on very different development paths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distinct regional and local identities, celebrating greater diversity. ● Pressure on resources including land, transport, housing. ● Risk of social polarisation and fragmentation of the region.
Resource Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global competition and rising costs of resources such as oil and raw materials ● Increasing rates of consumption (energy, consumer goods, water) ● Changing resource inputs, such as an increasing proportion of non-renewables for electricity generation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transport and development costs ● Cost of living (e.g. food, transport, energy) ● A drive to greater resource efficiency ● Changes to what we export ● Possible localisation of some economic activities ● Quality of receiving environments (air, water, land)

FORCE	POSSIBLE EFFECTS	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON AUCKLAND
Globalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Globalisation of economic activity ● Rise of city regions as engines of economic growth ● Regional concentration of headquarters (e.g. to Sydney, Hong Kong) ● Increased connectivity ● Globalisation of culture and values, but also potential for 'clash of civilizations' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Challenge to become internationally competitive and attract investment ● Increasing specialisation of economic activity and loss of low-skilled jobs ● Development of global identities and virtual communities of interest ● Need to play to Auckland's strengths and points of difference
Worldviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The concerns of ageing baby boomers ● Prominence of Maori identity as defining 'New Zealand-ness' ● Diversity of values in the region ● Expectations around short-term reward vs. long-term investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Defining Auckland's identity and place in New Zealand and the world ● Choices over where we spend our money, e.g. extending life expectancies or developing childrens' potential? ● The priority we place on environmental sustainability.
Technological Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased connectivity ● Potential for rapid and exponential change, with difficulties in predicting the change ● Potential for innovative solutions to sustainability challenges. ● Risk of over-reliance on future technical fixes to the problems we are generating now. ● Risk of a growing digital divide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Changes to how we organise our lives and our region. Clustering of complimentary activities and economies of scope. ● Opportunities for innovation and leadership. ● Social stratification between technologically literate and illiterate.

Appendix A: Key directions to 2040

1. Building strong and connected centres and neighbourhoods

Town and city centres, and local residential neighbourhoods, are where we primarily lead our lives, connect with our communities and where we meet most of our daily needs. Quality town centre and neighbourhood development can encourage more active lifestyles, greater community engagement, and a stronger sense of care for the environment. If poorly designed, centres and neighbourhoods can feel unsafe, be difficult to move around within and between, and limit choices. By ensuring that our centres and neighbourhoods are well designed, with good quality housing, buildings and spaces with easy walking access to local services, they can be the foundation of a more sustainable Auckland region.

How centres and neighbourhoods interrelate is also important. To meet the long-term needs of the region, Auckland's polycentric urban form must support and reinforce an integrated network of strong, distinctive centres and neighbourhoods that also relate to the Auckland CBD as a strong regional core. By providing for and encouraging more intensive mixed-use development in and around centres, services and public transport can be better supported, and population and employment growth can be more readily accommodated in the region without requiring further substantial urban expansion.

Opportunities

The local neighbourhood scale is an ideal scale to effect change and to engage people with local decision-making processes. It is small enough to engage communities in places that they care about, yet large enough to undertake actions that will make a difference. If we are to do this well, a concerted effort is required to develop strong community based leadership structures – especially in more marginalised areas.

Increasing attention is being paid to the quality of urban design in our centres and neighbourhoods, and this brings opportunities to encourage more active use of public spaces and participation in public life. Encouraging people to walk, cycle, and just be 'out and about' in centres and neighbourhoods can have direct benefits to people's health, their perceptions of safety, and their connection to community.

In many parts of the region, Aucklanders are already enjoying the benefits of more mixed-use developments, with local cafes, shops and services being located within or close to residential neighbourhoods. Centres are focal points for community interaction and a range of essential activities including public transport. Intensification of residential development in and around centres and also along key transport and activity routes will continue to offer benefits including significantly improved levels of public transport availability and usage. Rising oil prices and diminishing resources may further facilitate the shift to more sustainable urban development and transport options, including greater levels of investment in public transport.

There are also many opportunities to improve the quality of buildings and local environments. A range of low-impact building and housing design, construction and management innovations will allow more environmentally responsive and resource efficient development. Waitakere City's Project Twin Streams offers an excellent example of communities taking ownership of their natural environments, with riparian planting occurring across a range of neighbourhoods.

Challenges

Much of our future urban settlement has already been built. For the short to medium term future, low-density suburbs will remain the predominant urban form of the Auckland region. As situations change – for example, if the increasing price of oil makes car travel more expensive, or if we experience more flooding as a result of climate change – we will have to innovate to ensure the resilience and continued functioning of our existing centres and neighbourhoods, where the bulk of our activity as a society happens. A major challenge for the Auckland region turning our suburbs into flourishing and resilient communities.

Similarly, the quality of our housing stock may not be as 'future-ready' as we would like. Older houses can be draughty, damp and cold, leading to poor health and high power bills. Much of the new higher density housing stock – built as part of the effort to manage growth and create more lively town centres – lacks a quality in design and construction, and lacks clear identity or

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character, which can reinforce negative stereotypes of higher density living. The poor quality of much of the region's higher density development is a pressing issue to be resolved.

Housing affordability issues are contributing to a risk of social polarisation between neighbourhoods. Our changing population is also likely to demand different services from our neighbourhoods; for example, elderly people, disabled people, children and young people are dependent are likely to look for more local service provision and easy accessibility.

The region's natural landscapes have tended to hide mediocre urban development, but the sheer scale and size of the urban part of the region means the built environment exerts a strong influence on the landscape. As a result poor design becomes more conspicuous and can generate negative perceptions. The urban area of the region is under continued pressure to expand due to continuing demand for 'greenfield' land for development and a steadily increasing population. There is also a corresponding need to retain the character and potential use of rural areas, and avoid the inefficiencies of urban sprawl in terms of transport and infrastructure.

Decisions taken at the individual and site scale can lead to cumulative effects at the neighbourhood level, for example precluding future options for redevelopment through the widespread practice of in-fill housing. Many other infrastructure decisions are made at city or regional levels, often by consideration of just one aspect of infrastructure, such as roads. Decisions at all levels need to be informed and guided by sustainability principles and need to consider decisions made at other levels.

Potential responses

1. Developing an urban form with a network of strong, integrated and high quality centres and neighbourhoods.

- Ensure the maintenance of a strong regional core that contains high quality services, development and infrastructure.
- Promote a distinct urban form that is adaptable and responsive to changing social economic roles and requirements.
- Encourage high quality mixed-use, more intensive housing development around the key centres and transport routes.
- Promote quality activities and opportunities for engagement as part of social infrastructure provision in centres and neighbourhoods.
- Promote redevelopment of existing urban areas over 'greenfield' development
- Encourage land and site amalgamation over subdivision to promote more comprehensive redevelopment, particularly in and around key centres.
- Design a governance and legislative environment that encourages integrated urban development planning and delivery.

2. Promoting local responsibility for local issues

- Empower community boards with greater responsibility around local development.
- Subsidiarity principle -- build mechanisms, which allow decision making at the most appropriate level possible.
- Encourage more active citizenship with more people taking responsibility to their communities.

- Recognise the role of community and urban renewal programmes, and the benefits of integrated local planning, as a key ongoing part of the regional planning process.

- Implement localised infrastructure provision at the neighbourhood level where possible e.g. minimise volume and transit of waste by local treatment systems.

3. Implementing actions that demonstrate the potential for sustainable action at the neighbourhood level

- Develop pilot projects which demonstrate new forms of tenure and finance for affordable housing, particularly as part of new developments.
- Show leadership in delivering sustainable public buildings.
- Incorporate more renewable resource capture and recovery systems in buildings and neighbourhoods.
- Promote building systems and design and construction approaches that can facilitate change and adapt to changing uses.
- Ensure continuing maintenance, renewal and repair of houses and buildings.
- Develop a network of well-linked cycle and pedestrian walkways.
- Re-vegetate streams, coastal settlement and streetscapes.

4. Ensuring high quality design that provides for social inclusion, healthy living, community safety, environmental restoration and economic activity

- Support programmes that promote more planting and natural habitats within built environments, and incorporate into community design standards.
- Develop neighbourhood design standards that emphasise social infrastructure provision, pedestrian and cycle flows, healthy living, universal design and accessibility, crime prevention and safe public spaces.
- Require higher standards of building quality for new and existing homes buildings of energy and water performance in homes and buildings.
- Provide social housing and other forms of affordable housing as an acceptable part of the overall housing mix.
- Promote easy access to recreation and leisure activities, particularly those involving physical activity, and access to the natural environment.
- Support neighbourhood provision of a mix of economic opportunities, minimising the need for travel and to allow people to work and shop locally.

5. Recognising and retaining character and identity

- Maintain the identity of individual communities by strengthening those aspects of the natural and built environment and heritage that makes them unique.
- Maintain, preserve and enhance the public realm and spaces by locality-specific and area-wide improvement projects together with active management plans.

- Identify features and points of difference in centres and neighbourhoods in terms of Auckland as a Pacific city and build on them through district plans, design codes and informed development investment.
- Develop planning criteria and design briefs with iwi to reflect and accommodate Maori values in the built environment and identify important heritage sites

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2. Innovating for a Prosperous Future

Auckland aims to be a world-class city region, a place where highly talented people want to live and where productive businesses want to locate. A strong and prosperous economy is an essential component of sustainability. It provides wealth, opportunity and social wellbeing, and supports funding of key infrastructure and services.

A world-class economy recognises ecological, social, and cultural limits and manage finite natural resources sustainably. Any path to a prosperous future will need to direct innovative and creative energies toward achieving growth that takes consideration of these factors.

Innovation is a key factor in a world-class economy as it contributes to competitiveness and productivity, which in turn flow on to greater wealth and opportunity. An innovative culture and strong innovation system also makes the economy more resilient, allowing it to quickly find solutions to changes in international markets or other external shocks.

Auckland plays a key role in the New Zealand economy. It is New Zealand's gateway to the world and New Zealand's shop window. In addition, it is the largest agglomeration in New Zealand and the primary home of many of its service industries. This makes it a major attractor for skilled labour in New Zealand and beyond.

Opportunities

The Auckland region has a number of opportunities to develop a more innovative and prosperous economy, including sustainability itself. In no particular order:

Building a sustainable international image:

The perception of sustainability is becoming an increasingly important (and competitive) image to project worldwide. Auckland's natural environment and green image offers an exceptional opportunity to build such an image upon.

Sustainable business practices: To support an image of sustainability, to increase the resilience of the economy, and to capture economic benefit, sustainable business practices, which use fewer resources, could be promoted in Auckland as part of the way Auckland does business.

Developing sustainable technologies and techniques: Promoting Auckland as a centre of development for sustainable products.

Leveraging off Auckland's young population: Auckland has a comparatively young population when compared to many international cities. If this group is properly integrated into society and educated/ trained, then they will be a great competitive advantage for the city.

Improve connectedness: Building international networks will be crucial to fostering innovation and prosperity in Auckland. This can be facilitated by ensuring high-quality data links throughout the region.

Winning world class events: Bringing the world to Auckland to participate in international events provides an opportunity to showcase Auckland,

and catalyses the development of amenities for the city that improve the quality of life for Aucklanders and our guests.

Improving liveability: The most creative and innovative people are also the most mobile. They can be attracted to Auckland through unique opportunities and through the promise of a great lifestyle. Auckland has many unique natural assets that are very attractive, but needs to follow this up with an equally attractive urban form.

Creating an urban form that supports agglomeration: Cities work because when people live and (especially) work close together, they benefit from increased innovation and economies of scale and scope. Properly designed urban form can promote density without greatly compromising liveability (and workability).

Leveraging off our diverse communities: We need to maximise the potential for increased innovation and productivity inherent in our diverse workforce.

Becoming a destination of choice for skilled migrants: The Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy which aims to improve settlement support to migrants provides opportunities to attract and retain skilled migrants and maximise their economic, social and cultural contribution. Strong, vibrant migrant communities also offer valuable links back to their home countries.

Creating a culture of innovation: Auckland must be a place where learning, dreaming, and succeeding are all celebrated. Education must be one of our greatest assets, and it should not be confined simply to schools and universities, or just to the comparatively young.

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Challenges

Although the Auckland economy has performed well over the past decade, much of the resulting economic growth has been underpinned by drivers that cannot be relied upon in the medium term. Innovative new solutions will need to be found to ensure continued and increased prosperity into the future. Some major challenges for the Auckland economy include:

Poor infrastructure stock: Auckland has gone through a period of low infrastructure investment and is now faced with an ageing infrastructure stock, as well as gaps in key infrastructure, and problems accommodating growth in the region.

Growth: Population growth in the region is both an opportunity and a challenge. As a challenge to the Auckland economy, growth poses questions of where to locate new communities, and how to provide the services they need.

Rich-poor disparity and a widening skills gap: Auckland faces the situation of some areas becoming increasingly poor while others are becoming more prosperous. This is also reflected in skills gaps between the different areas. It is critical to Auckland's success that no communities are 'left behind'.

Dependence on imported resources: Like many cities, Auckland is dependent on imported resources, particularly energy, for its continued functioning. While this may be an economically efficient way of operating in the short-term, longer-term there are risks associated with such supply lines. The challenge is to manage these risks by diversifying where these resources are sourced from, including by producing some locally, and managing demand for others.

Distance to foreign markets and scale of NZ domestic market: Auckland firms have to compete with others internationally, despite the greater distance that their products have to travel to reach their markets. In addition, whereas in other countries, the domestic market is of sufficient size to achieve maximum economies of scale, this is often not the case in New Zealand, increasing the imperative to export.

Competition with Australian cities: Auckland is increasingly having to compete with Australian cities for skilled labour and high-value firms.

Potential responses

The Auckland Regional Economic Development Strategy (AREDS) has the goal of creating in Auckland an internationally competitive, inclusive, and dynamic economy.

Under the AREDS Auckland Metro Project has highlighted five objectives for the Auckland economy:

1. Take effective and efficient action to transform Auckland's economy (through an integrated, region-wide approach)
2. Develop world-class infrastructure and world-class urban centres
3. Transform Auckland into a world-class destination
4. Develop a skilled and responsive labour force
5. Increase Auckland's business innovation and export strength

The government has also developed an Economic Transformation agenda for Auckland, which supports the initiatives proposed under the Auckland Metro Project, but also includes elements such as addressing Auckland's social needs to help create a world-class workforce, and maintaining and enhancing Auckland's environment.

3. Investing in Resilient Infrastructure

The way that we plan and deliver infrastructure has a profound impact on the way the region develops. When infrastructure is integrated and strategically aligned with growth strategies, it has the capacity to support growth management, economic development, social cohesion and other aspects of well-being. Poorly planned infrastructure can result in inefficiencies, inadequate services, urban sprawl and environmental harm. In addition, infrastructure needs to be adaptable so as to be resilient to future shocks and responsive to new technologies and demands.

This key direction focuses on the physical and social infrastructure that shapes and supports our social, economic and environmental well-being, including transport, water/wastewater, information and communications technology, energy, educational and civic infrastructure.

Opportunities

A new cycle of investment in infrastructure is underway. Large investment decisions are being made, or about to be made, around transport, energy, wastewater and broadband networks. This provides investors with a unique opportunity to take an integrated long-term approach to infrastructure investment for the Auckland region. The way in which new physical and social infrastructure is delivered will be critical in determining the way that our city-region grows and changes into the future.

When new infrastructure is constructed, the opportunity to integrate it with other infrastructure forms must be taken up (e.g. electricity cables can share ducts with ICT fibre). Where possible infrastructure should also be constructed in a way that it can be easily refitted or transferred to an alternative use.

With the development of new technologies, and improved performance of existing technologies, there may be opportunities for major efficiency improvements and/or greater resilience through the provision of diversified and decentralised infrastructure. In addition, demand management approaches provide the opportunity to increase the efficient use of our resources. For example, it is possible to view energy efficiency as a major future energy source.

There is untapped potential for delivering infrastructure at different scales. For example, we may gain efficiencies by collecting water and energy at the household level. Greater consideration of working at a community and house scale within a regionally coordinated network could increase cost effectiveness and more distributed and therefore resilient systems.

Challenges

Auckland has a legacy of fragmented under-investment in infrastructure. We are currently reaching infrastructure investment thresholds that have long-term implications. We face significant funding challenges if Auckland is to catch up and stay abreast of growing demand. By necessity we will have to make some difficult choices with respect to what we do or don't invest in.

The future holds many challenges for the resilience of our infrastructure, particularly the potential impact of climate change. More extreme weather in the region could have direct consequences on infrastructure maintenance costs and demand patterns.

We are not self-sufficient as a region – we rely on our neighbours to supply us with many natural resources such as water, electricity and fuel. This means we are vulnerable to changes in supply and price. Such changes could affect how we expect our infrastructure to perform. For example we build roads to last a lifetime, but the price of oil may mean that transport systems change radically within this generation.

A major challenge for the region is to better integrate and coordinate regional infrastructure planning. Currently too many infrastructural decisions are made without taking into account the effects on other infrastructure and/or other parts of the region. Effective joint planning to eliminate this fragmentation will lead to more sustainable, resilient, cost effective regional networks which align with growth models. There are significant governance questions about the provision of infrastructure. Many infrastructure classes are natural monopolies, and governance arrangements must be adopted to

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ensure that decisions regarding planning, funding and pricing for their services result in equitable and efficient outcomes.

Potential responses

Develop a shared understanding and communication of Auckland's infrastructure needs, to enable better planning and dialogue with national stakeholders.

- Take an integrated approach to infrastructure planning and investment and ensure investments support regional growth management
- Take a regional approach in providing regional-scale infrastructure, such as major events facilities, while ensuring a fair split in resources to address regional and local needs
- Use natural systems and processes in the design and renewal of infrastructure: for example, use low impact design in stormwater infrastructure
- Implement demand management options
- Build infrastructure that can adapt to emerging technologies, changing demands and future shocks such as coastal inundation from climate change or rising energy costs
- Ensure the social, environmental and economic dimensions are taken into account in infrastructure decisions, by undertaking environmental, health and social impact assessments when planning infrastructure investments
- Use social infrastructure investments such as local schools to strengthen social institutions and enhance social cohesion at a local level.

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4. Protecting and Restoring Natural Systems

Auckland residents consistently tell us that the region's open spaces, natural landscapes and clean environment are key contributors to their quality of life. The region's environment provides Aucklanders with a sense of identity and place. A healthy environment is fundamental for creating a livable and prosperous region, providing clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and a continuous supply of natural resources. Maintaining a healthy environment and protecting our natural areas is fundamental to the region's long-term sustainability.

This direction focuses on maintaining the quality of the region's natural systems, encompassing air, land, water and biodiversity and protecting the region's natural landscapes.

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Opportunities

Aucklanders value their access to natural areas and their clean environment and this can be used as an impetus for change. The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill is an indication of an element of public opinion keen to protect natural areas beyond the public estate. To ensure the long-term integrity of the regional environment we will need to extend protection beyond iconic landscapes to protect an integrated web of natural areas and waterways. A regional natural network could provide multiple opportunities including ecological corridors, accessible public open space and transport routes, green engineering solutions and a retreat plan for climate change impacts.

There has been a wave of individual, business and group action to protect the environment. This momentum can be catalysed by providing the regional community with a sense of urgency, with tangible and desirable goals for the environment and with further support for individuals, groups and organisations to take action.

Challenges

Urban growth inevitably places pressure on the regional environment. Auckland's population growth has the potential to further fragment natural areas, reducing ecological resilience, erode landscape values and concrete over productive land.

While Aucklanders value the natural environment, they also expect to have unlimited access to water, energy, and an ever increasing range of consumer goods and services at affordable prices. Full environmental costs are not priced into consumer goods and services,

and people do not make connections between what they consume and throw away, and the quality of the environment.

The linear design process of most goods and services results in enormous quantities of waste products, including products that are harmful to ecosystems and human health. Nothing in nature is thrown away; natural ecosystems constantly reuse resources in circular flows to contribute to new cycles of life. To be sustainable, the way we design products and services need to mimic natural processes, where every element is designed with its future use in mind. This presents a challenge of innovation to the economy.

Climatic changes will increase pressure on the environment. Some species will struggle to survive, particularly at the fringes of ecosystems. Increased flooding, storm surges and sea level rise will impact on coastal infrastructure, increasing water pollution.

It will not be enough to just maintain our current environmental status. Auckland will need to create ecological buffers to be resilient to future population growth and climate change. This will require a shift in the way we perceive and value the environment, and bold action.

The majority of the region is in rural land-use. This land provides essential services to the city including: food production, environmental functionality and a buffer with tremendous diversity. How we manage the relationship between the urban and rural components of the city will be critical in the overall health of the city/region.

Against this backdrop our processes for maintaining and enhancing environmental

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quality need to deal with a high level of complexity and many linkages. Our regulatory and planning framework needs to take an integrated systems approach, and take into account accumulative effects of development. The challenge ahead is ensuring we take a collaborative approach to solutions.

Potential responses

1. Creating and protecting a regional natural network and using urban design to connect spaces.

Map out a regional natural places network that enables connections to be made between special natural places, and that recognises and provides for the diversity of natural habitats in the region. Ensure that natural networks are incorporated into planning alongside other networks such as transport. Design urban spaces and buildings to connect with and reflect the indigenous biodiversity of that place. Enable people to connect with natural spaces through safe walking and cycling networks.

2. Increasing accessibility of the natural environment to all communities

At a regional scale this would be secured through the regional natural network and its integration into the urban form. At a community scale this could be achieved through greening and connecting urban areas, for example streetscaping, local park provision and community and school gardens.

3. Building human and organisational capital for sustainability

Increase sustainability education to all sectors. Use the regional natural network and a regional

environmental footprint to create tangible goals and focus community, school and business stewardship schemes. Build community capacity through funding and other support and encourage community input into democratic processes. Build government capacity through encouraging innovation, shared knowledge and collaboration. Promote business sector capacity through promotion of approaches such as radical resource productivity, biomimicry, service and flow economy, and investment in natural capital.

4. Using natural systems and processes in urban and infrastructure design.

Protect critical water catchments, increase demand side management for water and energy, and utilise integrated three waters systems. Encourage low impact urban design and use decentralized and community scale systems to provide for energy services where appropriate. Use appropriate quality of water for different uses.

6. Improve air quality and cut greenhouse gas emissions

Protect and enhance greenhouse sinks. Cut fuel consumption and reduce car dependency through land use planning and improved public transport. Increase consideration of air quality constraints in urban planning. Require buildings and homes to be energy efficient.

7. Creating bridges to sustainable practice

Review and revise current policies to ensure regulation and economic instruments create bridges, not barriers, to sustainable practices. Increase collaboration within and between agencies in order to increase alignment and synergies and make trade-offs transparent.

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5. Shaping a Fairer and Connected Society

A prosperous, liveable region relies on the strength of its people and social institutions. Therefore, the well-being and stability of families and local communities are critical to the region's success, socially and economically. Similarly, social well-being depends heavily on having a productive and innovative economy with well paid jobs. To build greater economic and social well-being we need to maximise people's potential, build greater resilience in our communities and minimise their risk of harm.

This direction provides an emphasis for the future on:

- Addressing disadvantage for individuals and families, and whole communities.
- Investing in the potential of communities and individuals, particularly with the Region's growing youth population
- Making the most of Auckland's diverse and changing population to build a dynamic and tolerant regional community.

Opportunities

The Social Report 2006 confirms that generally New Zealanders are better educated and healthier than previous generations and that more of them are in paid work than ever before. These improvements have been achieved in part through continuing social investment in health, education and social assistance programmes as well as from effective democratic leadership and a strong enterprise based economy. Auckland's future social prosperity relies heavily on maintaining the Region as a place of widespread economic opportunity, cultural tolerance and strong social institutions.

The region has both a growing number of young people, and a large group of older people. The Auckland region provides great opportunities for young people to learn and be creative through its universities, poly-techs and its exciting creative communities, but we can do better to support and nurture our young people. Likewise we could make better use of the experience and energies of older people and of the contributions they have to make in sustaining local communities.

There are extensive benefits to the wider Auckland society if social interventions aimed at overcoming disadvantage and improving social cohesion are successful. These benefits arise around celebration of identities, broader social and economic participation and reinvestment into local communities.

Achieving a fairer future requires public and community agencies to take a longer-term view and to work more collaboratively. This collaboration needs to consider how we build new neighbourhoods and rebuild existing neighbourhoods so that they have all the necessary social infrastructure and reliable access

to relevant social and community services. At the neighbourhood or community level public and community agencies need to be able to offer early interventions to avoid social need and the resulting social problems becoming entrenched.

Challenges

Most Aucklanders enjoy a comfortable or modest standard of living. Although unemployment has dropped significantly, perhaps as many as one tenth of Aucklanders live in economic hardship. High housing costs are often a significant contributor to this hardship. Most of these poorer households have children, and a significant proportion are either Maori or Pacific. High housing costs have tended to drive other social and economic needs for low-income Auckland families. These include problems around over-crowding, the affordability of healthy food and home heating, which in turn lead to health problems especially for very young children and the chronically ill. High housing costs often also lead to problems of housing mobility and transience which impacts on children's learning and on neighbourhood sociability and cohesion.

Continuing to address social disadvantage within parts of the Auckland region is a key challenge for Aucklanders. To avoid social disadvantage becoming entrenched and more concentrated, effort is required to connect communities to each other in terms of shared spaces, occasions and resources. It is also important to ensure that poorer communities are not left behind in terms of access to ICT, educational opportunities and protection from crime.

The way suburbs are built and rebuilt is critical to their success socially. The disconnection between urban planners and social service agencies has

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contributed to the absence of a social dimension in the development of new suburbs and in the redevelopment of existing ones. This disconnection can be avoided through an expansion of the focus of urban growth planning and early engagement by Government agencies in this planning.

Potential responses

Opportunities for future change should focus on people, the social institutions that support them and the places in which they live. This could mean, for example:

- a focus on early intervention and preventing disadvantage, particularly around education, health and housing
- ensuring the right connections between schools, training and work are in place early, giving young people a hopeful and job-rich future
- supporting at-risk young people to achieve educationally, to have the core life skills for adult life, and to successfully transition into employment or training
- enabling disabled people are able to fulfil their potential through meaningful access to education, training and employment opportunities
- increasing local business activity and employment that enable people to be productive and utilise their skills and abilities
- recognising and nurturing local leadership, particularly within younger age groups and enabling individuals to participate fully in community and civic life
- ensuring the availability of decent affordable housing capable of meeting changing family needs
- a multi-party joined-up approach' involving local and central government plus community and voluntary organisations
- making schools the centre of communities and offering a wider range of in-school and after-school programmes for children and their parents
- council-sponsored environmental improvement initiatives including more active graffiti removal as a means of improving community pride and self-image
- support for community organisations to increase levels of participation in community events and active recreation.

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6. Celebrating Auckland's identities

A sense of identity and belonging, respect for diversity and understanding of our differences and also what brings us together, is essential for individuals and communities to connect and live together.

Our identities are shaped by our beliefs, values and behaviours, our gender, ethnicity, age, abilities and experiences. Identity also comes from place, reflecting the natural features, neighbourhoods and social networks where we live our daily lives. Auckland's natural character, cultural heritage and iconic features provide the region with a unique basis for identity. Local centres, neighbourhoods and social networks and institutions, if well supported, can offer a strong sense of belonging and community.

This direction focuses on knowing 'who we are' as a region, and how we work together as the diverse communities that make up the region. It also focuses on how we are seen by others. Auckland's identity in the global marketplace is critical to our international competitiveness and economic prosperity.

Opportunities

In celebrating our diverse identities we create the opportunity to become a successful, culturally diverse and socially cohesive society. Diversity is flourishing in the arts and creative industries and is also influencing New Zealanders' lifestyles, with increasing numbers attending ethnic/religious festivals and local markets, and enjoying ethnic restaurants and New Zealand music.

Globally, we have an opportunity to promote the Auckland region as a sustainable and resilient region, with a robust environmental base, flourishing social and cultural life and dynamic economy. As a point of difference in the world, Auckland is developing an identity strongly flavoured by the unique identity of Maori. And the fusion of its distinct European, Pacific, Asian and other cultures.

Challenges

With growth, Auckland is becoming increasingly demographically diverse, and quite different from the rest of New Zealand. Currently the Auckland region absorbs 70% of all new immigrants to New Zealand. Climate change and other global shifts may increase the rates of migration, putting further pressure on Auckland's communities and may impact on Auckland's sense of identity.

Even as we become significantly different from the rest of the country, touchstones of the New Zealand identity – clean and green, tolerance, and a willingness to give people a 'fair go' – will remain important sources of Aucklanders' identity and attractors for tourists and migrants. As we define our regional future, we need to find ways of retaining these national sources of identity and connecting beyond our boundaries, particularly

with our immediate neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region.

Significant differences identities, are emerging across the region, particularly in terms of age, ethnicity and wealth. This brings a growing risk of polarisation between different communities. This may be based on economic deprivation and lack of opportunity, or from a sense of social exclusion.

With an increasingly mobile and connected population, many Aucklanders identify with other parts of the world and other communities of interest. A wider range of global trends and events could have an influence over our identities. For example, access to technology such as the internet can both connect and divide people and may change the way social relations develop.

Potential responses

Opportunities for future change should focus on people, the social institutions that support them and the places in which they live. This could mean, for example:

1. Developing a distinctive Auckland identity

- A competitive tourism and marketing brand that:
 - Recognises and reinforces Auckland's leading place in, and relationships with, the Asia-Pacific Region
 - Builds on Auckland's role as the New Zealand's gateway to the world
 - Reflects our strengths as fresh, multicultural, welcoming, caring and well organised

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- Positions Auckland as a world-class sustainable city-region that attracts skilled migrants, tourism and investment.
- An urban form and building style that speaks to our place in the world by:
 - Improving the relationship between the valued natural features of Auckland and the built environment so that we can be as proud of our buildings as our landscapes
 - Complementing our strong, dramatic landscapes with civic buildings, spaces and public art that speak of our bicultural past and multicultural future
 - Ensuring major infrastructure development contributes to character, identity and shared vision.

2. Strengthening local and place-based identities

- Recognising that the Auckland region is a single region of multiple communities, with distinctive identities, based on cultures, arts, history and a sense of place
- Maintaining the identity of individual communities by strengthening those aspects of the natural and built environment and the social institutions that make them unique. For example, preparing local area design and development codes
- Ensuring that significant landscapes and heritage sites are actively identified and protected.
- Strengthening local process for dialogue and decision making that give all communities choice and a share in decisions that affect them

3. Respecting and reflecting diversity

- Improving support for migrants, assisting them to settle and integrate to maximise their talent and avoid creating social problems, whilst retaining their distinct cultural identities. The Regional Settlement Strategy Action Plan is a key opportunity here
- Build on existing events to develop and international, regional and local calendar of events that celebrate the diverse identities in the region, building off existing events such as Pasifika, Diwali, Chinese New Year and the Going West Literary Festival
- Developing opportunities for engagement and learning about other cultures and respect for diversity through schools, communities, workplaces and the media. The New Zealand Diversity Action Programme provides a strong platform for this.
- Find ways to help communities express their cultural identity through more innovative and adaptive use of public and private space
- Commitment to the principles of universal design, so that spaces, services and events are accessible to and inclusive of everyone
- Governance arrangements to ensure all communities are able to engage in democratic processes.

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