



# DRAFT

## Long Term Sustainability Framework for the Auckland Region

*An agenda for the future*

The Long Term Sustainability Framework is a joint project by the local authorities of the Auckland region:

Auckland City Council,  
Auckland Regional Council,  
Franklin District Council,  
Manukau City Council,  
North Shore City Council,  
Papakura District Council,  
Rodney District Council,  
Wairakere City Council.

The project is in collaboration with central government agencies coordinated via the Government Urban and Economic Development Office.

## **Auckland: the world-class sustainable city-region**

**Auckland is the prosperous and liveable city-region that respects the ecology that supports us, and has resilient infrastructure and systems, able to adapt to change over the long-term.**

**Liveability:** The Auckland region is a place where a diverse mix of people finds it easy, safe and enjoyable to live.

**Prosperity:** The Auckland region enjoys a strong and innovative economy that provides opportunity and allows us to be rich in the things we need.

**Respecting ecology:** The living systems which support us are taken care of, and passed on to future generations in better shape.

**Resilience:** The systems that support our day-to-day living can deal with uncertainty and cope with the shifts and shocks we will face in the future.

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In 100 years, Auckland will be a vastly different region to the one we know today. To ensure our region will continue to sustain us, a new way of working is required now.

Sustaining the Auckland Region Together (START) has developed a Long-Term Framework to guide the Auckland city-region towards a sustainable future. It provides a long-term (100 years+) vision for Auckland and identifies key directions to focus regional effort.

Population growth, climate change, and the increasing demand on the planet's resources are among the forces of change putting pressure on the region's decision-makers. How we respond to those pressures can be well-planned and thought-out, or they can be short-term responses based on the needs of the moment.

That all the region's councils and central government have combined forces through the Auckland Regional Growth Forum to work on START is an acknowledgement that a concerted change in approach for the long term is essential for the Auckland region to meet foreseen and unforeseen challenges. Out of this has come the proposed Long Term Framework for sustainability, which provides a structure for making this change.

As illustrated in Figure 1, the Framework sits across council and central government agency strategies and programmes for the Auckland region. It relates to national strategies as they are implemented within the region. It is also envisaged that the Framework will become a sounding board to engage decision-makers within the community and business sectors.

## The Long Term Framework

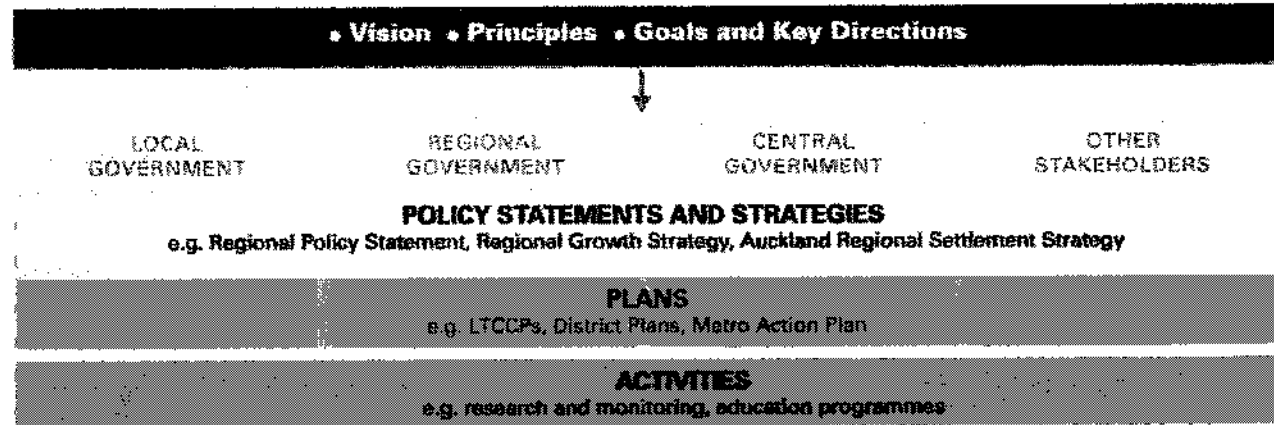


Figure 1

The Long Term Framework (Figure 2) sets a vision of where the region needs to go if it is to have a sustainable and resilient future. It provides:

A vision of a world-class sustainable city-region built on the four pillars of liveability, prosperity, respect for ecology and resilience.

Principles to guide regional decision-making towards more sustainable outcomes.

Long Term Goals that help councils, central government and other organisations develop their responses through their strategies and programmes.

Key directions to identify priority areas to focus regional effort to achieve the goals.

A backdrop of landscapes to the key directions, which reflect the four well-beings, the physical landscape and governance requirements. This ensures agencies consider the impacts of decisions, strategies and plans across all aspects of sustainability.

Targets and Indicators (to be developed) to benchmark the Auckland region's performance against other places and to measure progress against the goals.

Tools to support the implementation of the framework and ensure that decisions are more integrated, prioritised and resilient.

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Auckland is at a cross-roads.  
This Framework provides the means by which to choose the path the region takes in its planning.  
If a strong, cohesive approach region-wide is taken now, then Auckland will be economically, environmentally, culturally and socially better prepared to meet the challenges and choices in the coming decades.

**VISION**  
**Auckland: The world-class sustainable city-region**  
liveable, prosperous, respects ecology, resilient

**PRINCIPLES**  
Affordability - Appeal & Amenity - Equity & Inclusion - Innovation  
Adaptability - Connectivity - Efficiency - Longevity - Stewardship

KEY DIRECTIONS

Building strong and connected centres and neighbourhoods

Innovating for a prosperous future

Investing in resilient infrastructure

Protecting and restoring natural systems

Shaping a fairer and connected society

Celebrating Auckland's identities

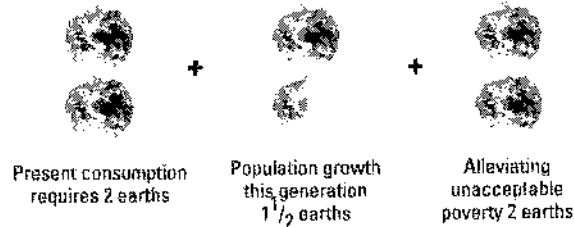
GOALS AND MEASURES

monitoring and review

AS

Figure 2. The Long Term Framework

**The world current consumption rate will require 5 1/2 earths within our lifetime**



**Our challenge is that we only have the 1 earth.<sup>i</sup>**



- In the past half-century the world has lost one quarter of its topsoil and one third of its forest cover.<sup>ii</sup>
- In 2005 the population of the world reached 6.5 billion. Some predict it will peak at 9 billion by 2050.<sup>iii</sup>
- It is estimated that as many as 48% of the world's projected population will live in water stressed river basins by 2025.<sup>iv</sup>
- World energy demand will expand by more than 50% between now and 2030.<sup>v</sup>
- It is predicted that the world's fish and seafood populations will collapse by 2048 if current trends in habitat destruction and over-fishing continue.<sup>vi</sup>
- Within 45 years there may be up to 200 million climate refugees.<sup>vii</sup>
- Overall costs of climate change will be equivalent to losing at least 1% of global GDP, now and forever. The estimates of damage could rise to 20% of global GDP if no action is taken.<sup>viii</sup>

Over the past 100 years, the Auckland region has altered almost beyond recognition. A century ago, people traveled by horse, by sea and by train. Now, car use and air travel has exploded, shaping cities and economies and our access to the world. We have experienced two world wars and incredible social change. Medical advances have extended and improved our lives. Television and computers have created a virtual world of communication.

The next 100 years will also bring exponential change. New technologies, climate change, population growth, and the increasing demand on the planet's natural resources are generating new and unpredictable situations. These will bring further challenges and opportunities we can't foresee.

We can't predict much of this change but we must be ready for it. We need to anticipate the likely forces that will shape the world and the region, plan for uncertainty and build resilience into our infrastructure, our communities and our environment.

**Global forces of change**

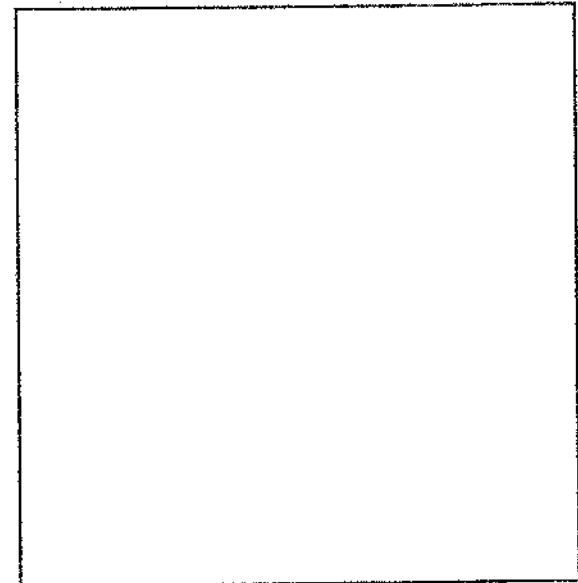
In the early 21st century, levels of human consumption are reaching global limits. As part of the UN Millennium Project, a consortium of 1300 scientists released five years of study into global consumption levels. The results were sobering. They predicted the international community has just 30 years to radically reduce its consumption or enter an era of resource scarcity.<sup>ix</sup>

In addition, the world is likely to experience a series of shocks. Climate change is predicted to make many parts of the world uninhabitable while countries like New Zealand may face strong pressure to take climate refugees. The end of cheap oil may force redesign of the world's transport, economies and urban form. Water, oil, and food shortages globally will possibly lead to wars and increased poverty.

Some forces bring huge opportunities. Technology has the potential to radically increase resource efficiency and renewable technologies such as wind and solar could reduce our dependency on oil.

**The Auckland region: challenges and opportunities**

One third of New Zealand's population lives on just 2% of the country's landmass - the Auckland region. Despite its population, the Auckland region still has a productive rural sector, producing 40% of the



Auckland's ecological footprint is 4.8 x the region's land area. An ecological footprint is the land needed to support Auckland's consumption.

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country's fresh vegetables. 16.9 % of its landmass is in public protected land and it generates 35% of New Zealand's GDP.

However, Auckland faces challenges.

Its population is expected to grow by the equivalent of the Wellington region population by 2026, based on consistent population growth trends of 1.5-2% per annum. This is without factoring in the prospect of increased migration resulting from climate change.

Housing affordability is an issue for many Aucklanders. Those with housing difficulties often experience more health problems and lower educational achievement.

The region is reaching the limits of the capacity of much of its infrastructure. The shape and nature of future infrastructure investment has long-term implications for sustainability and provides opportunities and challenges for decisions to be made in a more connected way.

Auckland will be affected by climate change. The region is estimated to get two degrees warmer and face more extreme weather events and coastal storm surges, which will affect communities and infrastructure in coastal areas.

At current consumption levels, Auckland's environmental footprint is five times its land mass. While this is not high for the region's population density, it raises questions about how prepared we are to deal with limited resources and how self-sufficient we can be for basic goods.

New Zealand's and Auckland's dependence on oil for personal mobility and for transporting exports and imports poses serious medium-term risks to the economy, and questions the viability of the region's low density urban form.

The Auckland region's struggle to make complex and integrated decisions has been highlighted as a serious weakness of the region's governing bodies. The public sector -- local and central government -- has an influential role in shaping the region's direction. Public sector effort needs to be aligned, integrated and focused on priorities that will most contribute to the region's sustainability.

We have some regional strategies that meet social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes; however, the region lacks an overall structure and vision to provide integration and direction. This project provides a framework to enable a common sense of purpose and integration across the public sector and across other sectors in the regional community.

Research undertaken in the preparation of the Long Term Framework threw up many possibilities for the region's future. However, one thing was clear: a 'business as usual' approach constitutes a failure to act for the well-being of our communities. There is a compelling case for change. Auckland is well placed to make the changes necessary to build a prosperous economy within a sustainable and just society.

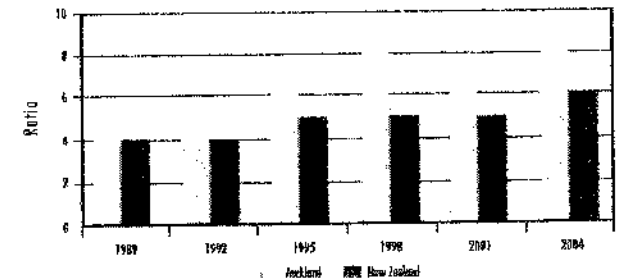
**The time to make changes is now.**

● Electricity consumption in New Zealand has more than doubled since 1974 and could double again over the next 20 years.<sup>x</sup>

● New Zealand's oil consumption has increased by 91% over the past 20 years. Oil is the largest single source of energy in New Zealand, at 52%.<sup>xi</sup>

● Aucklanders in their vehicles collectively drive 72 million km per day.<sup>xii</sup> This is equal to driving round the circumference of the Earth 548 times.

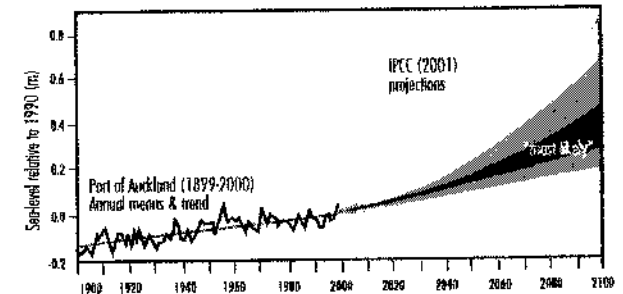
Ratio of lowest quartile house prices to lowest quartile household income



Households in the lowest quartile of income in Auckland have significantly higher housing costs than households in the lowest quartile of income for New Zealand.<sup>xiii</sup>

● In 2004, 10% of Auckland households were reported as living in severe hardship. The recent introduction of government's "Working for Families" package has most likely relieved some of this pressure.<sup>xiv</sup>

Possible Sea Level Rise: Towards 2100



The most likely scenario for sea level rise in Auckland suggests a 0.14 to 0.18 metre rise by 2050 and a 0.31 metre rise by 2100 (relative to the 1990 sea level). Less likely projections range between a 0.1 metre and 0.85 metre sea level rise by 2100.<sup>xv</sup>

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Sustaining the Auckland Region Together (START) undertook in-depth analysis of the forces which will impact on the region in the long term. Panels of experts were gathered to develop papers on seven sustainability themes. The project ran a three day workshop on creating a sustainable Auckland region.

The purpose of this work was three fold:

1. To build knowledge of what the future holds for Auckland and how the region might respond to ensure its long term sustainability
2. To develop and test a long term planning framework for the region
3. To develop tools and practices to support sustainable development.

This section outlines the key implications of future forces and high level responses the region may need to make. This section then outlines the Long Term Framework, its components and how the Framework will be used for regional planning and decision-making. Finally, it provides tools to support decision-making.

# 1. Building knowledge of the future and identifying how the region might respond

## Implications of future forces

Table 1 provides a brief summary of START's analysis of the impacts of global forces on the Auckland city-region. More detailed analysis of the forces of change is outlined in Appendix One and the full papers on each force as well as the theme papers and workshop proceedings can be accessed from [www.arc.govt.nz/start](http://www.arc.govt.nz/start).

**TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF FUTURE FORCES**

Global Forces	Implications	Consequences for Auckland city-region
Climate change	<p>Greater weather uncertainty making agriculture in some areas unviable.</p> <p>Sea level rise making low lying areas uninhabitable.</p> <p>Rising awareness of the need to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the need to build carbon neutral futures.</p>	<p>Greater weather unpredictability – more floods and more droughts – potentially some water shortages</p> <p>Low lying areas may be more at risk of periodic flooding and erosion of coastal cliffs and headlands will be commonplace.</p> <p>Greater public support for public transport and low-impact urban growth.</p>
Rising energy costs	<p>The cost of oil will reduce vehicle use and the long distance transportation of bulky goods.</p> <p>Increasing focus on food miles and embodied energy.</p>	<p>Reduced car use limits demand for further road investment and may drive greater public support for public transport initiatives.</p>
Changing economic relationships and structures	<p>The rise of the economic power of China and India and the decline of the US.</p>	<p>The shift in balance in global cultures may drive cultural shift in Auckland – i.e. from westernised perspective to one that is more oriented toward China and India.</p>
Large scale migration to escape environmental decline	<p>Hundreds of millions of people migrate to more stable environmental areas in the face of resource shortages, desertification and coastal inundation.</p> <p>Conflict and war around resource scarcity and re-settlement.</p>	<p>Greater pressure for higher levels of migration from both wealthy and poor migrants.</p> <p>Wealthy migrants will put further pressure on coastal development.</p> <p>Poor migrants will place additional pressure on affordable housing and resources in poor communities.</p>

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## High-level regional responses

The work undertaken by START suggests a number of critical responses will be needed for the region to secure a sustainable future. The following table provides some of these responses and the goals and key directions within the Long Term Framework indicate priority areas of focus for local and central government effort.

**TABLE 2. HIGH LEVEL RESPONSES NEEDED TO ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE REGION**

Focus	Drivers	Responses
Climate change	Sea level rise and greater climate variability.	Identification of communities, localities and infrastructure at risk from sea level rise and weather related damage. Planning for investment and land use responses to limit vulnerability and improve resilience of at-risk communities and infrastructure.
Rising energy costs	Rising oil costs and greater political pressure to reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions.	Protection of future public transport routes. Electrification and extension of rail network.
Growth	Auckland regional and district plans are attempting to manage growth without a national population strategy.	Develop a National Population Strategy including a National Policy Statement on Population Growth and Development.
Migration	Environmental decline forces global population shifts.	Land use and infrastructure planning to cater for more extensive migration and spill-over of this population growth into neighbouring regions.
Infrastructure	Population growth outstrips the infrastructure investment Localised decision making limits ability to make regional scale investments	An infrastructure plan to determine timing and priorities of regional scale infrastructure investment.
Housing affordability	Decent affordable housing as a key to better social and economic outcomes for low to middle income communities.	Greater emphasis on addressing housing affordability, and social issues in the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy, including exploring the possibility of inclusionary zoning
Regional identity	Rapid population growth and associated urbanisation places pressure on heritage sites and notable landscapes Increasing diversity of identities emerging across the region, related to age, ethnicity, wealth and geographic location.	Clearer identification, protection and promotion of Auckland's important landscapes and natural and cultural heritage sites. Develop a regional sense of identity through urban form, civic buildings, public art and a regional brand Maintain the identity of individual communities by strengthening those aspects of the natural and built environment and the social institutions that make them unique.
Energy demand	Rising per capita energy consumption.	Development of a regional energy strategy with a focus on: - energy conservation - demand management - use of locally based renewable energy sources.
City-region form and scale	Current emphasis placed on centralised large-scale infrastructure investments rather than more local and smaller scale opportunities. Urban form characterised by low-density, segregated use and sprawling suburban development.	Develop best practice infrastructure guidelines and examples of small-scale localised utility supply options. Encourage higher density mixed-use development in and around city and town centres and along key routes.
Sustainable building	Poor quality urban design is producing unsafe, unattractive and monotonous suburbs and public spaces. Short term building design is producing unhealthy, energy inefficient and expensive to maintain housing.	Emphasis on sustainability principles in the design and development of new suburbs and in the redevelopment of existing suburbs and public spaces. Application of sustainability principles to building design and the use of these in the construction of public buildings.
Social cohesion	Risk of social polarisation and disconnection of marginal communities. Concentration of disadvantage. Continuing need for strong social institutions.	Focus on building stronger social institutions in vulnerable neighbourhoods through: - early interventions to overcome setbacks and failures - identifying and nurturing local leadership - supporting community based and locally run provision of community and social services.
Environmental awareness	Aucklanders become increasingly disconnected from their local environment and from regional environmental issues.	Expansion of community environmental improvement and protection projects especially in low-income neighbourhoods.

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## 2. The Long Term Framework

The Long Term Framework will guide all decision-makers in the Auckland region (local, regional, central government and non-government) to respond to change in ways that will support the sustainability of the region.

The Framework is based on a long-term (100 year) vision of what a sustainable Auckland region would be like. It provides principles and a toolkit for integrating and guiding policy making and anticipates emerging challenges that most impact on sustainability by providing key directions for focussing regional effort.

### How the Framework will be applied

#### Figure 1 Diagram of how framework sits over other programmes strategies

As illustrated in Figure 1, the Framework provides direction to council and central government agency strategies and programmes for the Auckland region. The Framework will be used to review and develop regional strategies, to ensure that they are delivering sustainable outcomes and have anticipated forces of change.

The Framework will identify:

- Major directions for each strategy
- The priorities and goals each strategy should contribute to
- How a strategy relates to other strategies and programmes and how strategies should be integrated

As the Framework becomes embedded in strategies and programmes, councils and central government agencies will assess their activities against the vision, principles and goals of achieving a sustainable Auckland region.

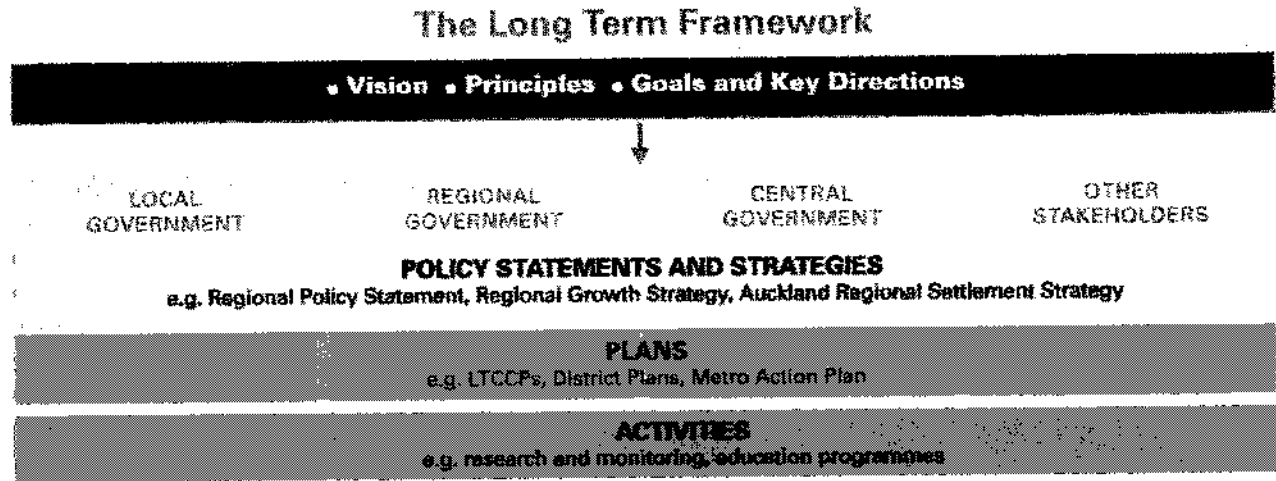


Figure 1

The first strategy to be reviewed using the Long Term Framework will be the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy.

The Long Term Framework (Figure 2) sets a vision of where the region needs to go if it is to have a sustainable and resilient future. It provides:

- A **vision** of a world-class sustainable city-region built on the four pillars of liveability, prosperity, respect for ecology and resilience.
- **Principles** to guide regional decision-making towards more sustainable outcomes.
- **Long Term Goals** that help councils, central government and other organisations develop their responses through their strategies and programmes.
- **Key directions** to identify priority areas to focus regional effort to achieve the goals.
- **Indicators** to benchmark the Auckland region's performance against other places and to measure progress against the goals and key directions.
- **A backdrop of landscapes** to the key directions, which reflect the four well beings, the physical landscape and governance requirements. This ensures agencies consider the impacts of decisions, strategies and plans across all aspects of sustainability.
- **Targets and Indicators** (to be developed) to benchmark the Auckland region's performance against other places and to measure progress against the goals.
- **Tools** to support the implementation of the framework and ensure that decisions are more integrated, prioritised and resilient.

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**VISION**  
**Auckland: The world-class sustainable city-region**  
liveable, prosperous, respects ecology, resilient

**PRINCIPLES**  
Affordability - Appeal & Amenity - Equity & Inclusion - Innovation  
Adaptability - Connectivity - Efficiency - Longevity - Stewardship

All

KEY DIRECTIONS

Building strong and connected centres and neighbourhoods

Innovating for a prosperous future

Investing in resilient infrastructure

Protecting and restoring natural systems

Shaping a fairer and connected society

Celebrating Auckland's identities

GOALS AND MEASURES

monitoring and review

Figure 2. The Long Term Framework

**Sustainable city-regions:  
a global movement**

City-regions are "the enlarged territories from which core urban areas draw people for work and services such as shopping, education, health, leisure and entertainment... The city-region is therefore an important functional entity".

*A Framework for City Regions. Research Report. 2006.  
UK Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: London*

Auckland is New Zealand's foremost city-region. City-regions are increasingly recognised as the engines of the world's economy, and as places of great creativity and potential. In a rapidly urbanising world, city-regions are also recognised as the places where sustainable development must become a reality.

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Sustainable development is "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Achieving sustainable development involves a different way of thinking and working. It requires:

- Looking after people
- Taking the long-term view
- Taking account of the social, economic, environmental and cultural effects of our decisions
- Encouraging participation and partnerships.

*Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (2003).  
Sustainable Development for New Zealand: Programme of Action. Wellington: DPMC.*

**Components of the Framework**

**The Vision**

The vision and values of the Long Term Framework reflect both the regional communities' aspirations that were captured in the community outcomes processes and participants ideas in the Long Term Framework workshops. The vision looks out 100 years, building upon the region's strengths and opportunities and on what START workshop participants valued about the Auckland region (see Figure 3). The vision is built on the four pillars: liveability, prosperity, respect for ecology and resilience.

The vision and principles of the Framework provide a consistent direction for local and central government strategies (and potentially those of other stakeholders) in the Auckland region. These are the long-lasting elements of the Framework that can be expected to remain relevant even as circumstances change.

**Auckland: The world-class sustainable city-region**

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**Liveability:**

The Auckland region is a place where a diverse mix of people finds it easy, safe and enjoyable to live.

**Prosperity:**

The Auckland region enjoys a strong and innovative economy that provides opportunity and allows us to be rich in the things we need.

**Respect for ecology:**

The living systems which support us are taken care of, and passed on to future generations in better shape.

**Resilience:**

The systems that support our day-to-day living can deal with uncertainty and cope with the shifts and shocks we will face in the future.

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## What we value

### Our people:

The Auckland region has the most culturally diverse population in New Zealand and this diversity is expected to increase. Diversity of people brings new ideas and perspectives and adds to the region's vibrancy and identity. Our diversity is also reflected in our growing youth population with its vibrancy and potential for innovation.

Recognition of the importance of tikanga Māori and the valuable role Māori play is seen as central to Auckland's identity.

As a cosmopolitan society, Aucklanders are generally tolerant and inclusive and many are actively engaged in their communities and in the decisions affecting their lives.



### Our place:

The Auckland landscape is a mosaic of forest clad ranges, volcanic cones, and fertile plains. No part of the region is far from the influence of the sea, with the three major harbours and over 1,600km of mainland coastline framing the land. These features, within easy reach of most people, contribute to our quality of life and our sense of identity and place. Within its natural setting, the region is made up of distinct local places, each with its own strengths, and valued by its local community. Distinctive buildings, landmarks and neighbourhoods foster a connection to place.

Our place within New Zealand, the Pacific and the world is also an important defining feature of the Auckland region. Auckland is New Zealand's gateway to the rest of the world.



### Our potential:

Opportunity has always been a major attraction for settlers in the Auckland region. The area has always offered bountiful natural resources, a place to call home, and a chance to do better for the next generation.

Today, Auckland is a lively, energetic cosmopolitan city that retains the strengths of a smaller city. It offers all kinds of lifestyle, culture and employment opportunities within a spectacular natural environment, and continues to attract talented migrants from all over New Zealand and the world. Our people are well educated, highly motivated and entrepreneurial. Diversity of knowledge and of people is our key strength, providing the potential for rapid learning and innovation.



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## The goals, key directions and landscapes

### Goals and key directions

The Framework sets out six priority areas to focus local and central government efforts over the next 20 years. These areas were developed from the forces and theme papers and through the workshop. They are described as six overarching and long-term goals with associated key directions.

The goals and key directions will need to be addressed in various regional strategies and programmes in order to achieve a sustainable region.

More detailed goals are outlined with each key direction (pages 14 – 27). The content of the key directions have been outlined in brief on pages 34 – 47 and in greater detail in Appendix Two. The work on the key directions is illustrative only at this point. If the Framework is accepted in principle, the key directions will be developed and refined by mid 2007. This will be done utilising the work developed through START and via consultative processes with participating organisations, and stakeholders.

### KEY DIRECTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE LONG TERM GOALS

Key directions	Overarching long term goals
<p><b>Building strong and connected centres and neighbourhoods</b></p>	<p>The urban form of the Auckland region has a network of well-designed, connected and accessible neighbourhoods and centres that are sustainably built and managed. They have a mix of uses, are socially inclusive and provide choices and opportunities for learning, employment, housing, recreation and diverse lifestyles. The network of centres are focal points for more intensive development and activity that accommodates growth and minimises the need for urban expansion. Places and buildings are safe and healthy and reflect distinct local identities. Local communities are self-reliant and are pro-actively involved in addressing neighbourhood issues. Business activities are similarly well connected and conveniently located in relation to labour and market opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Innovating for a prosperous future</b></p>	<p>The Auckland region has a world-class economy. It is a place where talented people want to live and where productive businesses want to locate. It is prosperous and offers choice and opportunity to all Aucklanders. There is a culture of innovation, which makes the economy resilient and dynamic.</p>
<p><b>Investing in resilient infrastructure</b></p>	<p>The Auckland region has a network of flexible, integrated and high quality physical and social infrastructure. This is centralised or decentralised, as appropriate, and supports the economy and provides choice for communities. Physical and social infrastructure and networks use land and other resources efficiently, and is more responsive to local and community needs.</p>
<p><b>Protecting and restoring natural systems</b></p>	<p>The Auckland region has an iconic and valued natural landscape that gives the region a unique international identity and competitive advantage. This abundant and well-protected natural landscape enhances established ecosystems that contain thriving indigenous flora and fauna. There are extensive, integrated 'blue and green' networks that allow ecosystems to flourish and these are readily accessible to everyone.</p>
<p><b>Shaping a fairer and connected society</b></p>	<p>Auckland is a fairer region with strong social institutions that build healthy vibrant communities in livable and safe places.</p>
<p><b>Celebrating Auckland's identities</b></p>	<p>The Auckland region has a unique global identity based on the high level of social cohesion between our diverse peoples. People respect and celebrate diversity, are creative and innovative and are always learning. Migrants and visitors are welcomed and supported and their connections with the rest of the world are nurtured. There is a mosaic of natural landscapes, historic and iconic buildings and public art that reflects the region's diverse past and present, and a calendar of international, regional and local events that express and celebrate the region's diverse cultures and identities.</p>

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## Landscapes

The key directions are presented as working across the range of 'landscapes' in which we operate. Landscapes are a way of seeing the world. People tend to see the world in different ways depending on their cultural or educational background and what they see as important in life. Because of this variety, it is important to view public policy from a number of perspectives to ensure that a wide range of views and interests are considered and taken into account. The Framework encompasses a range of views by considering key directions and policies in terms of a number of different landscapes.

### These landscapes are:

**Natural landscapes** - the region's natural places and the natural processes that support ecosystems and biodiversity. Natural landscapes also include the region's unique landscapes and iconic landmarks.

**Built landscapes** - our buildings, neighbourhoods and urban spaces.

**Economic landscapes** - the institutions and structures supporting economic activity.

**Social and cultural landscapes** - the various social networks and social institutions, which contribute to our well-being. Some of these have a spatial aspect such as our public spaces, historic sites and local neighbourhoods.

**Governance** - the traditions, institutions, organisations and processes that determine how power is exercised, how citizens are given a voice, and how decisions are made on issues of public concern.

## How the key directions and landscapes will be used

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 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.

The first step in implementation will be to complete a detailed analysis of the region's current performance against the directions. For example, analysis of "Investing in Resilient Infrastructure" would include identifying the total long-term investment needs of the region, the current utilisation of demand-side management practices, and potential for delivering more infrastructure at the community and house scale.

This analysis will suggest ways of better integrating existing strategies and programmes, and identify priority areas for action. Targets and indicators will be developed for each goal and key direction. The indicators will be monitored to track the region's progress towards these sustainability goals.

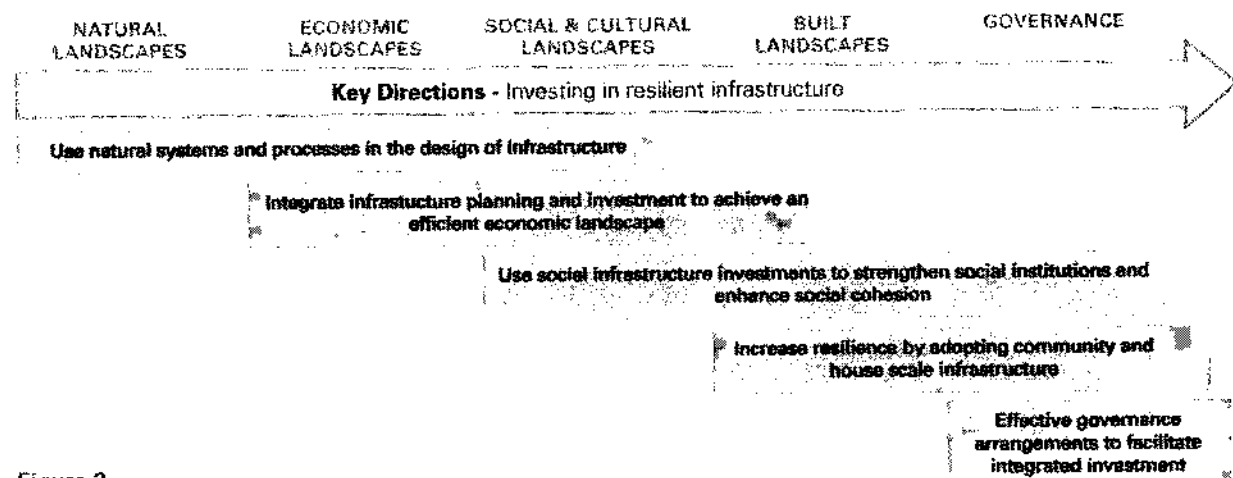
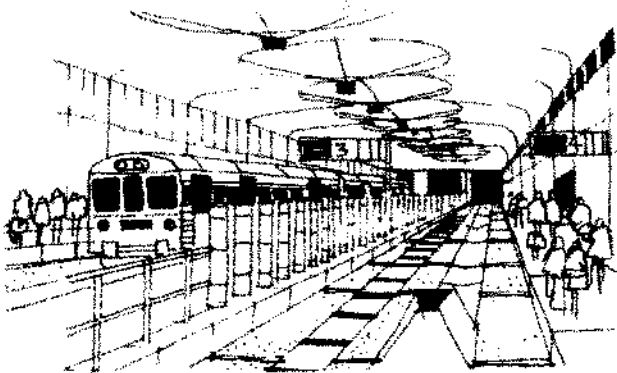


Figure 3

Key



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KEY DIRECTIONS

Building strong and connected centres and neighbourhoods

Innovating for a prosperous future

Investing in resilient infrastructure

Protecting and restoring natural systems

Shaping a fairer and connected society

Celebrating Auckland's identities

## 1. Building strong and connected centres and neighbourhoods

### The most important goals are:

Neighbourhoods and centres that are:

- of a high quality with mixed land uses that provide local choices for living, working, recreation, services and facilities;
- healthy places with lifestyle choices, healthy homes and buildings and have accessible local services.

### The other goals are:

Neighbourhoods and centres that are:

- well-designed connected by effective transport links within and between them;
- built and managed sustainably, with environmentally responsive design, construction and management;
- networked in a pattern of centres that are focal points for more intensive development that accommodates growth and minimises urban expansion;
- accessible with all development adhering to universal design principles;
- socially inclusive with a range of housing choices, including affordable housing;
- places and buildings designed to make people safe and feel secure, and have low levels of crime;
- distinctive in their local identities which reflect the characteristics of the local people and place;
- that have strong communities who are guardians of their local environment, and where there is a collective sense of responsibility about local issues.

### Why it is important

It is likely that the Auckland region will need to accommodate continued population growth and economic development into the future. Encouraging high quality and higher density mixed-use development in and around key regional and town centres and along key transport corridors will provide greater housing, business, employment and lifestyle choices.

Greater levels of walking, cycling and passenger transport use will be encouraged, and the need for additional rural land to be used for urban development minimised. The local neighbourhood scale is ideal to take action on sustainability at a collective community level and impact on the design, construction and management of individual buildings and households.





● In Auckland, the average house temperature is 16.5°C, well below the World Health Organisation recommendation for indoor temperatures of 18°C.<sup>xvi</sup>

● 32% of NZ adults and children are classified as being physically inactive – they do less than 2.5 hours of physical activity per week.<sup>xvii</sup>

● In Auckland, 64% of trips less than 2km in the morning peak period are taken by car, and most of these are to drop children at school.<sup>xviii</sup>

● 88% of Aucklanders feel safe in their own neighbourhoods during the day, and 72% feel safe after dark.<sup>xix</sup>



### Current status

- The Auckland region has historically had a low-density settlement pattern with an emphasis on urban expansion and the separation of activities. Whilst being a response to historical demand this pattern has provided limited transport, housing and lifestyle choice.
- Much of the region's existing urban areas and buildings will remain into the future. Although there is a strong urban core and a range of centres in a 'polycentric' model, the pattern of low-density suburban living will continue to dominate in the medium term.
- The urban part of the region is under continued pressure to expand due to the increasing population coupled with the economics of, and demand for, undeveloped 'greenfield' land in preference to the redevelopment of existing centres and neighbourhoods.
- The region's housing and building stock may not be of a quality that can well survive and adapt to future needs and activity. Many houses are cold, damp and draughty and there are numerous poor quality higher density housing developments that have resulted in levels of community resistance to different styles of living.
- Housing affordability issues are contributing to a risk of social polarisation between communities and neighbourhoods.

### Opportunities and Challenges

- As living densities increase in parts of the region there will be increasing demand for higher quality urban and architectural design that is visually stimulating, encourages people to walk and interact, and can offer benefits such as better access to public.
- Auckland's population growth is currently being managed through regional and district plans. Taking a national approach to population growth management would help ensure that the opportunities and the challenges from population shifts are equitably spread.
- The rising cost of energy and resources will make lower-density suburban living more expensive, which may initiate a re-shaping of this model of urban development and provide emphasis on a core and centres-focused polycentric urban form.
- While the traditional preference for single-family dwellings on large lots will continue, it will be increasingly difficult to meet these demands at the same time as meeting community desires for accessibility, proximity to services and facilities, and protection of ecological resources (landscapes, open spaces, habitat, water quality, coastal and natural areas, etc).

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- A changing, more diverse, aging population will require greater choice and accessibility in living and working environments, and different services provided within neighbourhoods e.g. elderly people and disabled people will look for greater local service provision.
- Climate change is likely to increase hazards for coastal settlements. Much urban development has been along the coastline and there is significant pressure for this to continue.
- Housing affordability issues will require new ways of funding home ownership and for providing housing for different groups within society.
- Redevelopment of identified existing centres and urban areas over new 'greenfield' sites will require more effective ways to amalgamate land ownership and encourage investment.

## Possible responses

- Encourage high quality mixed-use intensive development and redevelopment around key centres by promoting land and site amalgamation over subdivision into smaller lots.
- In the longer term, identify areas for future growth that create higher density, integrated, quality communities and build on existing infrastructure networks and services within the existing urban area.
- Develop neighbourhood planning and design plans that emphasise integrated comprehensive planning and delivery, universal design and accessibility including social infrastructure provision.
- Develop pilot projects that demonstrate leadership and innovation at the neighbourhood and individual building level e.g. high quality medium density housing developments, sustainable public buildings, home energy efficiency schemes.
- Provide a greater amount of social housing and other forms of more affordable housing as an acceptable part of the overall housing mix within developments.
- Initiate neighbourhood sustainability action plans that utilise local community commitment to implement renewable resource capture and recovery systems.
- Promote building systems and design approaches that can facilitate change and adapt to changing uses, and set sustainable building quality and performance standards for new and existing buildings.
- Develop an understanding of Auckland's place within the wider "Top of the North" context to ensure that Auckland's future urban form is integrated within the wider settlement pattern.
- Develop a National Population Strategy including a National Policy Statement on Population Growth and Development