

The Eyesore Award: Transit New Zealand and Waitakere City

You'd think, wouldn't you, that the approach to Waitakere, The Eco City, would be along a roadway lined with trees, a verdant entry to a city that prides itself on protecting its bush backdrop? Nothing about driving along the early sections of the northwestern motorway could be further from that hope. First there's the harbourside and estuarine margins, infested with invasive wattle trees that are inexorably crowding out native plants. Then comes the Patiki Road turnoff, where a wreckers yard's tower of rusting hulks looms above the roadway. Just before the Lincoln Road exit, a storage depot's line of

blindingly white prefab units dominates the view, and then comes an industrial yard and one of the scrappiest motorway off-ramps in the region. Surely we're not the only ones to think that an avenue of trees would perform an elegant screening function here, making the daily commute a little more pleasant?

Yes, Waitakere City would love that to happen, says the council's city development committee chair, Penny Hulsc, but it's Transit's responsibility to plant along motorways.

We suggest the two organisations get together.

