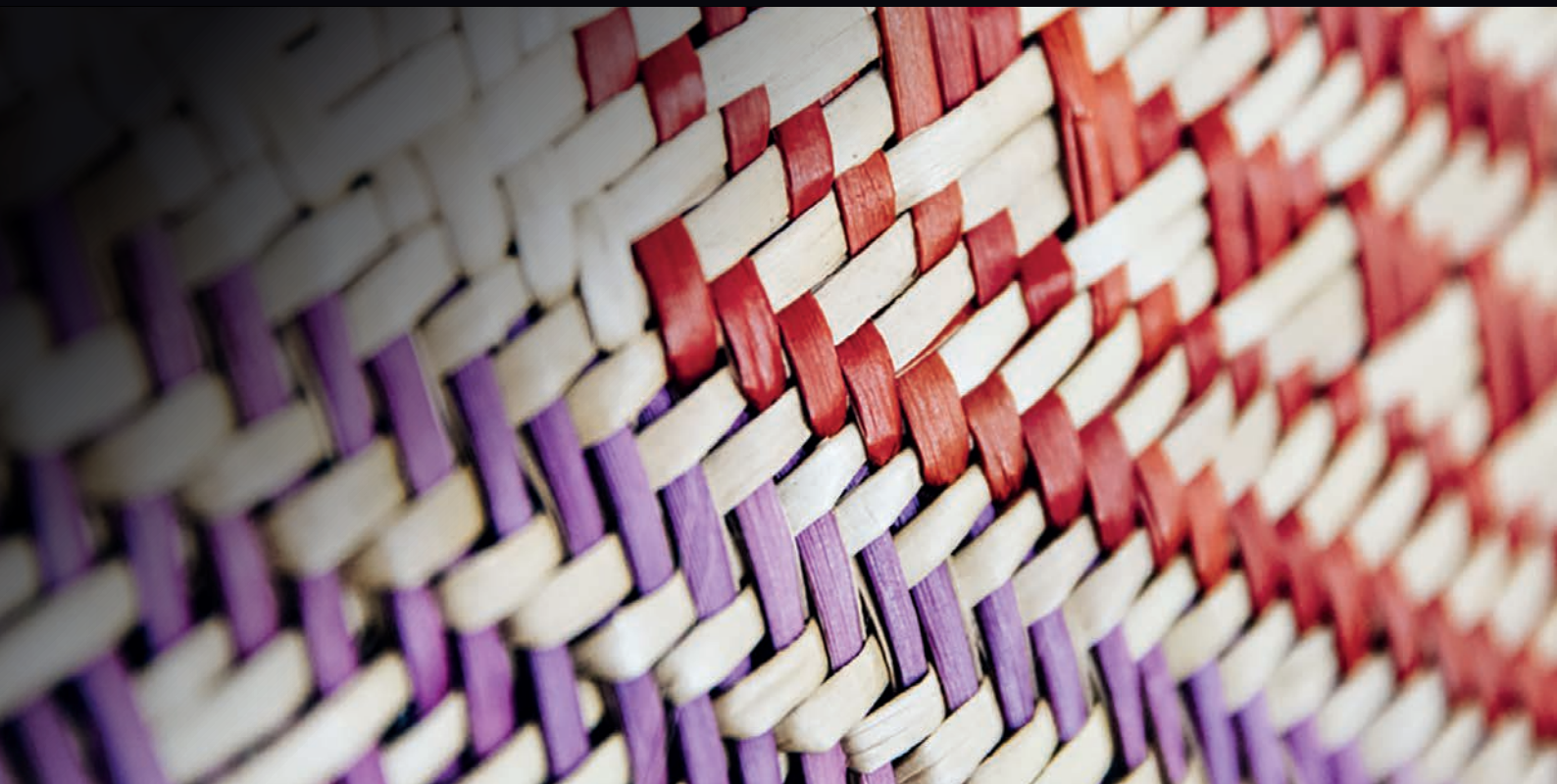


Mahere Tāmaki Makaurau 2050

AUCKLAND PLAN 2050

PŪRONGO KOKE WHAKAMUA IA TORU TAU 2023
THREE YEARLY PROGRESS REPORT 2023
SUMMARY



February 2023

RIPANGA IHIRANGI

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY..... | 4 |
| TE WHAKAWHANAUNGATANGA ME TE WHAI WĀHITANGA BELONGING AND PARTICIPATION..... | 10 |
| TE TUAKIRI MĀORI ME TE ORANGA MĀORI IDENTITY AND WELLBEING..... | 14 |
| NGĀ KĀINGA ME NGĀ WĀHI HOMES AND PLACES..... | 18 |
| TE IKIIKI ME TE HEINGA TRANSPORT AND ACCESS..... | 22 |
| TE TAIAO ME NGĀ WĀHI WHAI MANA ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE..... | 26 |
| NGĀ HUARAHĪ WĀTEA ME TE TŌNUITANGA OPPORTUNITY AND PROSPERITY..... | 30 |



WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Auckland Plan 2050 states that a progress report against the six outcomes will be prepared every three years to support evidence-based decision making required to implement the Auckland Plan’s strategic direction. This report supplements the annual scorecards and provides a more detailed analysis of trends for each of the Plan’s outcomes.

The following table summarises key progress against each of the Auckland Plan outcomes and identifies some opportunities for greater progress.

TE WHAKAWHANAUNGATANGA ME TE WHAI WĀHITANGA

BELONGING AND PARTICIPATION

All Aucklanders will be part of and contribute to society, access opportunities, and have the chance to develop to their full potential.

| How is this outcome progressing? | Opportunities for greater progress |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent and deep-seated inequalities between different socio-economic groups a major challenge – deprivation concentrated in South and West Auckland. • Inequitable progress against child poverty targets – Māori, Pacific and disabled children experiencing the most hardship. • Rising cost of living impacting all Aucklanders, but particularly those already most disadvantaged. • Weakened community connection and resilience – sense of community has declined; more people report feeling lonely and trust in people has declined. • Health and wellbeing declining – quality of life and physical and mental health has declined, with Māori, Pacific and younger people reporting poorer results. • Diversity as a strength – Auckland is becoming increasingly diverse and a growing number of Aucklanders report feeling increased diversity is making the city better. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting community connection and resilience: initiatives to improve community connection and resilience should focus on providing safe and welcoming places and spaces for Aucklanders to interact. • Improving mental and physical health: growing inactivity contributes to worsening mental and physical health. Access to affordable places and spaces for activity, recreation and connection vital, highlighting the critical role of council provision of these spaces. • Supporting communities of greatest need: the pandemic has negatively impacted financial wellbeing and job security, highlighting inequity and child poverty. Targeted action and investment are needed to support those with the greatest needs. |

TE TUAKIRI MĀORI ME TE ORANGA MĀORI IDENTITY AND WELLBEING

A thriving Māori identity is Auckland's point of difference in the world – it advances prosperity for Māori and benefits all Aucklanders.

How is this outcome progressing?

- Māori experiencing **overall poorer outcomes** in education, health, employment and housing.
- Individual and household **incomes improving**
- Educational attainment improving; NEET rate improving.
- **Māori economy growing** strongly in Auckland
- **Te reo Māori resurgence** – attitude towards the Māori language among Māori and non-Māori improving.
- **Recognition of mātauranga and te ao Māori increasing** in particular when managing natural resources.
- **Some progress on Māori heritage protection** through the regulatory framework and the reflection of Māori identity and culture in places and spaces.

Opportunities for greater progress

- **Improving housing choices for Māori:** much lower home ownership rate with no significant change and more likely to live in unsuitable housing (such as overcrowding or incidence of damp/mould) due to the quality of the rental stock they can access. Māori are also over-represented in homelessness figures. A focus on Māori-led solutions is needed to deliver more fit-for-purpose housing choices.
- **Improving health outcomes for Māori:** Self-rated measures of health have decreased which are aligned with key health indicators. The Waitangi Tribunal has noted that Māori have been most impacted by COVID-19 due to existing disparity of health outcomes and inadequacy of central government responses. More Māori-led solutions focusing on whānau are required to improve Māori health and reduce inequalities.
- **Addressing climate change impacts on Māori:** Māori face the loss of physical structures and resources, as well as the impacts of those losses on the spiritual, physical, intellectual, and social values that are integral to the health and wellbeing of Māori identity. The impacts of transition will exacerbate the existing disparity they are already experiencing. A Māori-led transition pathway, based on the principles of the Treaty, will be required.

**NGĀ KĀINGA ME NGĀ WĀHI
HOMES AND PLACES**

Aucklanders live in secure, healthy, and affordable homes, and have access to a range of inclusive public places.

How is this outcome progressing?

- Auckland becoming **more compact**, legislative changes will enable even more intensification.
- **Worsening housing affordability**; intermediate housing market growing; more people experiencing housing stress.
- **Housing supply increasing** with historic high consent numbers; **typologies changing**.
- Improvements to rental housing system – **Healthy Homes legislation** leading to better quality rentals; Residential Tenancies Act changes leading to **greater security of tenure**; tax incentives to stimulate build-to-rent investments.
- Uptake of more **sustainable homes increasing**, but still only a fraction of new homes.
- People are reporting **declining satisfaction with their local environment**, with housing development among top three reasons given.
- Little data / evidence on the quality of urban spaces.
- **Greening of the city** – data limited, but reports of loss of mature trees to development.

Opportunities for greater progress

- **Improving housing affordability**: Auckland housing is severely unaffordable, and a large number of people are experiencing housing stress. This has detrimental individual and societal costs. There is an urgent need to improve housing affordability for all Aucklanders, requiring multi-faceted solutions and sustained action from all stakeholders.
- **Building better and more sustainable homes**: step change is needed to improve the energy efficiency of our housing stock and reduce embodied carbon. This also offers important co-benefits (e.g. health and wellbeing).
- **Maximising urban green spaces that improve the lives of people and planet**: maximising the role of urban green spaces in climate change adaptation and mitigation, whilst also enhancing the liveability of higher density living require a strategic approach to planning and managing of nature and green spaces.

**TE IKIKI ME TE HEINGA
TRANSPORT AND ACCESS**

A low-carbon, safe transport system that delivers social, economic and health benefits for all.

How is this outcome progressing?

- **Transport emissions** constitute the largest part of Auckland’s total emissions, and **remain high with no signs of decreasing** at a rate necessary to meet climate commitments.
- **Safety** – death and serious injury remain high, but declining, except for cyclists.
- **Public transport** – highest ever level of public transport boardings pre-COVID 19, but lockdowns led to decreased demand for public transport.
- **Infrastructure improvements** – better walking and cycling links and connections between railway stations.

Opportunities for greater progress

- **Reducing transport related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**: requires significant and sustained investment in the initiatives outlined in the Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway e.g. public transport, walking, cycling and micro-mobility, and integrated land-use and transport policy and action.
- **Ensuring a safe transport system, free from deaths and serious injuries**: the design of new and upgraded infrastructure and investment decisions must prioritise vulnerable road users e.g. people walking and cycling.
- **Targeting investment on the most significant challenges**: taking a long-term view to ensure existing strategic direction is driving investment decisions, including direction from Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland’s Climate Plan, the Transport Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP), and Vision Zero for Tāmaki Makarau.

TE TAIAO ME NGĀ WĀHI WHAI MANA ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Aucklanders preserve, protect and care for the natural environment as our shared cultural heritage, for its intrinsic value and for the benefit of present and future generations.

How is this outcome progressing?

- **Biodiversity** – animal and plant pest control is successfully protecting the rich biodiversity throughout our regional parks, on Hauraki Gulf islands, and in rural areas.
- **Tree Planting on public land** is increasing biodiversity and native forest cover.
- **Visibility of Māori culture and identity** has improved with te reo Māori names of parks and public spaces, and use of Māori design elements in the city urban area.
- **Cultural heritage protection improving** but must be ramped up further to ensure sites of cultural significance to mana whenua have formal protection.

Opportunities for greater progress

- **Building resilient infrastructure systems:** Climate change calls for a rapid transition to clean energy and transportation. Critical improvements to water infrastructure are needed to reduce sewage overflows currently having detrimental effects on rivers, streams, beaches and harbours.
- **Mitigating environmental pressures of growth by increased use of nature-based solutions:** Part of the solution to managing our growth is to make greater use of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions. Enhanced uptake of nature-based solutions (e.g. tree-lined streets, urban green spaces, permeable pavements) will enhance biodiversity, resilience and climate change mitigation. They double as urban green spaces and act as recreational and educational areas.
- **Enhancing protection of our cultural heritage:** More resourcing needed to ensure greater formal statutory protection of sites of significance to mana whenua, potentially under threat by development across the city.

NGĀ HUARAHI WĀTEA ME TE TŌNUITANGA OPPORTUNITY AND PROSPERITY

Auckland is prosperous with many opportunities and delivers a better standard of living for everyone.

How is this outcome progressing?

- Economic performance interrupted by the pandemic with **falling GDP and job losses** in some sectors (retail and hospitality). Other sectors doing well e.g. construction.
- Economic growth dampened by **rising inequality and income disparity**.
- **Unemployment is low** but labour productivity has slightly decreased.
- Public **investment in R&D low** by global standards.
- **Educational achievement improved**, but disparities still exist. Only slow growth in the proportion of high skilled jobs.
- **Skills shortages** in many sectors – signs that Auckland is losing skilled workers to other places that offer better wages and employment opportunities.
- **Improving outcomes for Māori** – increased wages and less unemployment and growth in their asset base.
- **Pacific peoples** continue to **experience greater disparities** in incomes and employment.

Opportunities for greater progress

- **Attracting and retaining innovation, talent and investment:** Auckland's attractiveness as a place to live and work is vital for business success and competitiveness. Quality infrastructure, entertainment, and an attractive natural and built environment are critical elements to be invested in.
- **Working towards equitable economic wellbeing:** disparities in socio-economic outcomes must be urgently addressed, requiring among other things a continued focus on improving educational outcomes and housing affordability.
- **Transitioning to a low carbon, regenerative economy:** responding to climate and non-climate related disruption requires transition, including the adoption of new business models, new disruptive innovations and technologies. The transition presents opportunities by way of new sectors and jobs.

Te koke i ngā wā o te uaua Progress in challenging times

Since the last Three Yearly Progress Report there has been unprecedented disruption leading to increasing levels of uncertainty for decision makers. The ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and era scale changes from accelerating climate change and the growing threat from the biodiversity crisis for example, are driving change and demand a rapid transformation to a low-carbon and inclusive society and economy. These global changes are highlighting and exacerbating the challenges we already face as a city, which are high population growth, environmental degradation and ensuring shared prosperity for all Aucklanders.

It is against this backdrop that we report progress on the Auckland Plan. The evidence reinforces the continued need to focus on our three key challenges through areas identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Te hononga i waenga i ngā putanga Connections between outcomes

The six outcome areas of the Auckland Plan articulate what must be achieved for Auckland to continue to be a place where people want to live, work and visit. All outcome areas are connected. For example, Homes and Places and Transport and Access are inextricably linked with the urban form largely determining and driving the need for and design of transport solutions. Housing and transport have a critical impact on the state of our environment and our ability to address climate change. Likewise, they also shape many of the defining aspects of the Belonging and Participation outcome (e.g. equity and inclusion) through helping to ensure that everyone, particularly communities of greatest need, has access to secure and affordable housing and there is equitable access to sustainable travel choices. The natural environment affects health and wellbeing for all and is connected to our sense of identity and place. It is particularly critical for Māori identity and wellbeing with mana whenua having deep physical and spiritual connections to place. Wellbeing improvements for Māori are essential across housing, employment, education and health.

A prosperous Auckland offers opportunity and a high quality of life for all. Greater prosperity will be driven by progress across all other outcome areas, and in turn, progress in those areas will be enabled by a more prosperous city. Again, access to affordable quality housing is a critical component of the city's ability to retain and attract the talent we need for an innovative and resilient economy. The growing strength of the Māori economy will contribute to better outcomes for Auckland overall and specifically for Māori through growing intergenerational wealth.

Ngā kaupapa me ngā ara wātea e puaki ana i tawhiti ake ai te koke

Emerging themes and opportunities for greater progress

The two most dominant themes across the outcomes and in the opportunities for greater progress centre on the critical need to address equity issues and societal transformation required in response to climate change, mirroring the key challenges identified in the Auckland Plan. Equity runs through as a key theme in relation to socio-economic outcomes such as education, health, employment, income and housing, all of which play out both spatially and ethnically. The societal transition required in response to climate change has far reaching implications across all outcomes, and the potential to exacerbate the disparities Māori are already experiencing. The transition required is reflected in areas such as the focus on transport emissions reduction; increasing the uptake of more sustainable housing; a greener urban environment for enhanced climate resilience and wellbeing; future skills for a greener, regenerative economy, and leveraging mātauranga Māori in the adaptation process as a central part of New Zealand's transition pathway. Again, these two dominant themes are closely intertwined and bring into focus the critical importance of ensuring an inclusive and equitable societal transition.

The key themes and opportunities for greater progress are largely a continuation of those identified in the previous Three Yearly Progress Report. They are indeed focused on long-standing challenges for Auckland – challenges that have proven difficult to progress and meanwhile are becoming ever more pressing.

The opportunities for greater progress identified in this report are underpinned by the data, and informed by other insight and understandings e.g. the recently updated evidence reports for the six Auckland Plan outcomes (published in 2022).

Te Tātari i te Raraunga me te la

Data and Trend Analysis

This report uses data up to and including 2022 as available. It covers a broad range of measures and data sources vary in their availability. To identify trends, data has been analysed as far back as possible, however there is variation in the time series of each measure. Many measures are only presented from the time of the Plan's adoption in 2018. Where changes in percentages from year to year are reported as having increased or decreased, it should be noted that these are not necessarily statistically significant and require further time series to determine a real trend. There have been data constraints, largely due to data availability, that have prevented the identification of trends or results in some of the outcome areas. Measures and results are good indicators of progress but do not tell a complete story. The report also draws on a broad range of insights and understanding, including the 2022 updated evidence reports for the Auckland Plan outcomes.

TE WHAKAWHANAUNGATANGA ME TE WHAI WĀHITANGA BELONGING AND PARTICIPATION



We know we have achieved this outcome when all Aucklanders are a part of and contribute to society, access opportunities and have the chance to develop to their full potential.

He tirohanga iti ki ngā tau e toru kua hipa

Snapshot of the past three years

- **Quality of life impacted by increased uncertainty** – Aucklanders' quality of life remains high at 82%, although Māori and Pacific respondents were less positive. 40% of Aucklanders say their quality of life has decreased over the past year. Reduced financial wellbeing, COVID-19 related restrictions on movement and increased uncertainty were key themes.
- **Growing sense of loneliness, isolation and declining trust** – half of Aucklanders felt lonely or isolated some or most of the time, although most had someone they could turn to for practical support. Trust in people has also declined.
- **COVID-19 has impacted mental health** – over six in ten Aucklanders stated that COVID-19 had a negative impact on their mental health, with Pacific peoples and young people less likely to rate their mental health positively.
- **Declining sense of safety** – Aucklanders' sense of safety in their local town centres and the city centre has declined. There has been a spike in ram raid style burglaries, affecting small local retailers and larger chains.
- **Growing diversity is valued and celebrated** – almost two-thirds of Aucklanders view increased diversity as making their local area a better place to live. Just over half of Aucklanders (56%) feel accepted and valued and most (67%) can participate in, perform or attend activities that align with their culture.
- **Growing inequity exacerbated by inflation and COVID-19** – distinct geographical patterns of deprivation continue to exist across Auckland. Average annual household incomes are increasing, but so are housing costs. In December 2022, the annual inflation rate was 7.2%, the highest annual increase since 1990, with housing and household utilities the main contributor to this increase. Just under half of Aucklanders (47%) stated that COVID-19 has had a negative impact on their financial situation. A significant proportion of Auckland children live in households experiencing material hardship (12% or 46,500 children).



Te titiro whakamua

Looking ahead

In early 2020 when the last Three Yearly Progress Report was produced, we were at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impacts have been widely felt and are ongoing. The rise in inflation is impacting all Aucklanders, but particularly individuals, their families and whānau that have less access to resources. This limits choices and negatively impacts health and wellbeing. Key measures such as sense of safety and social connection show that social cohesion has been weakened. While central government retains primary responsibility for funding and delivering core social services, there is more council can do to deliver services in a way that improves social well-being, particularly for our most disadvantaged communities. Auckland Council has made significant progress in ensuring that the foundations are in place to support our communities. For example, Ngā Hapori Momoho / Thriving Communities Strategy 2022-2032 provides a platform for council to support thriving, inclusive and resilient communities.

Ngā Āheinga mō te Koke Whakamua ki Taumata kē ake

Opportunities for greater progress

The following areas have been identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Te tautoko i te whanaungatanga i waenga i te hapori me tana manawaroa Supporting community connection and resilience

Community connection and resilience remains a key issue. The pace of change and our growing diversity offers opportunities and challenges. Social cohesion has been weakened due to COVID-19 related lockdowns. Measures where we were doing well in 2020, such as trust in people and neighbourhood safety are now declining. With less restrictions, it may recover but the future remains uncertain. Trust in people and institutions has been eroded, which undermines co-operative behaviour and weakens positive relationships with others. We need to ensure that our community services and facilities meet the needs of our more diverse population. Council's role in providing safe and welcoming places and spaces for Aucklanders to interact will continue to be important.



Te kaha ake i te hauora ā-hinengaro, ā-tinana hoki

Improving mental and physical health

Good health is critical to wellbeing and enables people to participate in society. Auckland had been performing well on a number of health-related measures, but inequalities still persist. The impact of COVID-19 on Aucklanders' mental health is significant, with increasing uncertainty, the rising costs of living and related stress eroding Aucklanders' mental and physical health. Growing inactivity and competing priorities contribute to rising levels of obesity and negative impacts on health overall. Council's investment in parks, sports and recreational facilities and walking and cycling infrastructure play a key role in promoting Aucklanders' mental and physical health by providing affordable places and spaces for activity, recreation and connection. Population growth and the changing nature of the population contribute to increased demand for council services.

Te tautoko i ngā hapori whakaraerae

Supporting communities of greatest need

Supporting communities of greatest need has become more urgent given the impact of COVID-19, which has exacerbated already existing challenges, such as inequity and child poverty. It emphasises the importance of supporting Aucklanders' resilience through targeted investment where the greatest needs lie, and where the greatest gains can be achieved. Failure to act will see inequity becoming worse and more deeply entrenched across generations. There is a need to ensure every Aucklander has opportunities to experience the social and economic benefits of Auckland's growth and can participate in and enjoy community and civic life.



TE TUAKIRI MĀORI ME TE ORANGA

MĀORI IDENTITY AND WELLBEING



We know we have achieved this outcome when a thriving Māori identity is Auckland's point of difference in the world and Māori are prosperous.

He tirohanga iti ki ngā tau e toru kua hipa

Snapshot of the past three years

There have been no significant shifts in trends across this outcome, but some highlights include:

- **Improved household income** – over half of Māori households with income above \$100,001
- **Improved education attainment** – 66% of Māori school leavers with NCEA Level 2 or above
- **Increased size of Māori economy** – growing Māori asset base (\$12.5 billion) and Māori economy (\$4.3 billion) in Tāmaki Makaurau
- **No change in civic participation** – Māori that voted in local and general elections remain lower than non-Māori
- **No change in Māori medium education** – Māori students engaging in Māori language learning at immersion level 1 (81% – 100%) remains static
- **No change in home ownership** – 41% of Māori live in owner-occupied dwelling
- **Decreased self-rated health** – 76% of Māori rated their health as good and very good
- **Decreased te reo Māori proficiency** – 59% of Māori can speak no more than a few words or phrases
- **Decreased connection with marae** – less Māori living in Tāmaki Makaurau have visited an ancestral marae or visited a marae in the last 12 months.

COVID-19 has had a negative impact on Māori in some areas of employment, education and health. These have now largely recovered to previous levels, but more data is needed to fully understand the overall impact on Māori.

The Waitangi Tribunal has concluded that central government's vaccination response to the pandemic, in particular the rapid shift to the COVID-19 Protection Framework (the traffic light system), disadvantaged Māori and reinforced the health disparity that Māori are experiencing, while at the same time highlighting the importance of Māori-led solutions.

Budget 2021 provided the biggest targeted funding for Māori with a number of major reforms that were designed to bring about system transformation and better meet Treaty obligations. Impacts of these major interventions should play out over the medium-term.

Te titiro whakamua

Looking ahead

Continued system transformation will reset Māori's governance role in Auckland and New Zealand, for example through the Three Waters Reform and the Resource Management Reform. If considerations of treaty obligations are not embedded in all public policy decisions, there will be more claims on potential breaches of the Treaty, similar to the pandemic responses. Decisions on Māori representation will be made for Tāmaki Makaurau along with other initiatives to remove barriers to civic participation experienced by Māori.

Across the board, there will be more Māori-led solutions to address long-standing social and economic challenges. Enabling more self-determination is part of New Zealand's obligations to the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There will be a more visible expression of Māori identity, culture and language. It is expected that such increased exposure to Māori culture will lead to deeper understanding of Māori history and values.



Ngā Āheinga mō te Koke Whakamua ki Taumata kē ake

Opportunities for greater progress

The following areas have been identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Te whakapai ake i ngā kōwhiringa ā-whare mō te Māori **Improving housing choices for Māori**

Māori are experiencing poorer housing outcomes. This is reflected in no significant change to their much lower home ownership rates, and much greater likelihood of living in unsuitable and poor-quality housing. That is, housing that is overcrowded and/or has damp/mould issues. Māori are also over-represented in homelessness.

A focus on Māori-led solutions is needed to deliver more fit-for-purpose housing choices. MAIHI Ka Ora – the National Māori Housing Strategy (led by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development), alongside the Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development, provides the directions across the Māori housing continuum to improve housing outcomes for Māori.

Te whakapai ake i ngā hua ā-hauora ki te Māori **Improving health outcomes for Māori**

Self-rated health for Māori has decreased which is aligned with key health indicators. Māori have also been most negatively impacted by COVID-19 due to existing disparities in health outcomes and the inadequacy of central government responses as noted by the Waitangi Tribunal.

More Māori-led solutions focusing on whānau are required to improve Māori health and reduce inequalities. He Korowai Oranga New Zealand’s Māori Health Strategy (led by the Ministry of Health and overseen by Te Aka Whai Ora / Māori Health Authority) provides the overarching framework that guides the government and the health and disability sector to achieve better health outcomes for Māori.



Te ngaki ki ngā pānga ka puta i te huringa o te āhuarangi ki te Māori

Addressing climate change impacts on Māori

Māori face the loss of physical structures and resources as a result of climate change. This will have impacts on the spiritual, physical, intellectual, and social values that are integral to the health and wellbeing of Māori identity. The impacts of transition will exacerbate the existing disparities Māori are already experiencing.

A Māori-led transition pathway, based on the principles of the Treaty, will be developed through the platform for Māori climate action provided by the National Adaptation Plan over the next three years. This approach will also elevate te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori in the adaptation process and empower Māori in planning for Māori.



NGĀ KĀINGA ME NGĀ WĀHI HOMES AND PLACES



We know that we have achieved this outcome when Aucklanders live in secure, healthy, and affordable homes, and have access to a range of inclusive public places.

He tirohanga iti ki ngā tau e toru kua hipa

Snapshot of the past three years

- **Auckland is becoming more compact:** in 2021/22 most growth (83%) occurred within the existing urban area, particularly in and around centres.
- **Housing supply is increasingly giving Aucklanders more housing choices:** significant increase in the number of dwellings consented, with consents for new homes at historic high levels and a clear shift in housing typologies.
- **Housing affordability is worsening:** with a median house price just over eleven times the median household income, Auckland has one of the least affordable housing markets in the OECD.
- **Intermediate Housing Market is growing:** an increasing number of low- to median-income households are unable to purchase a home.
- **Rental affordability is improving:** average Auckland rents have increased by 11% since 2018 against an inflation rate of 16%.
- **Housing stress is worsening:** 8,550 people were on the Public Housing Register in June 2022, an increase of 94% since March 2019 (4,407). Almost \$116 million was spent on emergency housing special needs grants in Auckland in the 2022 financial year – roughly six times the spend in the 2018 financial year. There is no official data on the number of homeless since the 2018 Census.
- **Security of tenure and quality of rental housing:** has improved as a result of changes to the Residential Tenancies Act and the introduction of the Healthy Homes Standards in 2019 (not fully in effect until 2024).
- **Aucklanders less happy with their local environment:** a declining number of Aucklanders report thinking their area is a great place to live, and a declining percentage report feeling pride in the look and feel of their area. A growing number think their area has become a worse place to live in the past year – the top three reasons given include more housing development / high density housing.
- **Growing uptake of more sustainable homes:** rapid growth in the number of homes that achieve Homestar certification indicating a growing uptake of more sustainable building methods and materials.

Te titiro whakamua

Looking ahead

The National Policy Statement on Urban Development and the Medium Density Residential Standards will enable more residential development across Auckland with implications for infrastructure investment, planning and delivery. Any impacts will need to be managed and some Aucklanders are reporting deteriorating satisfaction with their local environment. The outlook on housing affordability is uncertain. While legislative changes enabling more housing supply are expected to contribute to better housing affordability over time, capacity constraints and cost increases in the residential building sector may result in the opposite effect.



Ngā Āheinga mō te Koke Whakamua ki Taumata kē ake

Opportunities for greater progress

The following areas have been identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Te whakapai ake i te tareka ā-ututanga o ngā whare, me te tika o ngā whare hei wāhi noho **Improving housing affordability and liveability**

Housing affordability has been worsening over several years. Auckland now has one of the most unaffordable housing markets in the OECD, and more than a third of Aucklanders spend over 30% of household disposable income on housing costs, effectively making their housing unaffordable. The property boom during the pandemic exacerbated an already critical situation. Home ownership is continuing to fall and an increasing number of people are experiencing housing stress. While median Auckland house prices have dropped significantly in the past year, the outlook on housing affordability is uncertain and dependent on the interaction of falling prices, modest income growth and high interest rates. Legislative changes enabling more housing supply are expected to contribute to better housing affordability over time, but capacity constraints in the building and construction sector and cost rises in residential building sector may have the opposite effect.

The causes of the housing crisis are complex and the negative consequences undermine individual and social wellbeing. There is an urgent need for all Aucklanders to have access to secure, healthy and affordable homes and a housing system that works for everyone; homeowners and renters alike. Local and central government, developers, builders, investors and non-government organisations all have a stake in the system and must work towards smarter multi-faceted solutions. Alongside the recent legislative changes designed to make better and more efficient use of land for housing (i.e. enabling intensification), solutions will also include ensuring a faster rollout and uptake of alternative home ownership models (e.g. build-to-own and shared ownership) and encouraging a greater supply of quality rental housing (e.g. build-to-rent developments). The former will help to bring home ownership within reach to those currently locked out of the traditional housing market, thereby helping to tackle the growing intermediate housing market.

There are important pressures to balance in tackling Auckland’s housing affordability challenge, including ensuring that intensification is done well to maintain and improve Auckland’s liveability. Some Aucklanders’ perceptions of and satisfaction with their local environment is showing signs of declining, with more housing development / high density housing as one of the top three reasons. At the same time, Auckland has been losing a growing number of residents to elsewhere in New Zealand. Taken together with Auckland’s poor housing affordability this suggests that Auckland could be doing better in terms of offering its residents the best quality of life. It is important that these issues are considered as part of the solutions to the housing affordability challenge.



Te whakatū kāinga e pai ake ana, e toitū ake ana hoki

Building better and more sustainable homes

Auckland needs better and more sustainable homes. This involves substantially improving the energy performance of our existing housing stock through concerted renovation and retro-fitting efforts, and building new houses to net zero carbon or passive house standards. This is a critical part of achieving our goal of a low carbon future, but equally it has significant co-benefits for improved health and wellbeing outcomes.

Urgent action is needed to decarbonise our built environment. The leading countries and cities in this space are far ahead of New Zealand. The volume of housing construction projected in Auckland will increase our emissions substantially unless there is a step change in reducing whole-of-life embodied carbon and transforming operational efficiency. The government's Building for Climate Change Programme addresses both, but with much of the initial focus on commercial and large residential buildings and improved energy efficiency of new builds only, it is unlikely to lead to the large-scale change that is required now.

While a growing number of buildings achieve Homestar certification, these still only make up a small proportion of new builds and there is only a handful of passive houses in the region. The Homestar 6 and 7 ratings most commonly achieved fall short of world leading standards for design, construction and efficiency in operation (indicated by a Homestar 10 rating). Increasing the uptake of sustainable building will likely involve incentivising the construction sector to move faster and to increase awareness amongst residents to drive a stronger demand for sustainable homes.

Te whakawhānui katoa i ngā wāhi kāriki o te tāone e whakapai ake ana i ngā ao o te iwi me te ao whānui

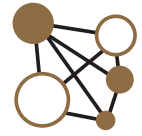
Maximising urban green spaces that improve the lives of people and planet

Urban green space is essential to making cities more sustainable and liveable. They are critical for health and wellbeing, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. As a result, urban greening is becoming a policy priority in countries and cities globally, and urban planners are increasingly seeking to integrate nature into urban planning for resilient, sustainable and liveable cities.

Public urban green space must be a central requirement when planning for more compact cities. As Auckland grows through urban development and intensification, there must be an increase in public green space and the greening of infill development. By taking a strategic approach to planning and managing of nature and green spaces, we can maximise the role of these in climate change adaptation and mitigation, while at the same time contribute to greater liveability of higher density living.

Auckland is at a critical point when it comes to the protection and valuing of our urban green space amidst growing intensification. The council must proactively ensure sufficient provision of parks and green space by protecting existing green space, acquiring new land for parks and making greater use of nature-based solutions. The latter includes integration of urban greenery into high-density areas, and green infrastructure to grow between buildings, upon and over buildings.

TE IKI KI ME TE HEINGA TRANSPORT AND ACCESS



We know we are achieving this outcome when Auckland has a low-carbon, safe transport system that delivers social, economic and health benefits for all.

He tirohanga iti ki ngā tau e toru kua hipa

Snapshot of the past three years

- **The COVID-19 pandemic has changed why and how we travel:** transport patterns have changed dramatically because of the pandemic. Long-term impacts on transport are unknown, and high levels of uncertainty and disruption have created significant new challenges.
- **Auckland's transport emissions have fluctuated but remain high:** transport sources represent 45 per cent of the region's total net emissions. Transport emissions fluctuated between 2016 and 2019 (most recent data available), decreasing slightly from their peak in 2018. On the current trajectory Auckland is not on track to meet its target of a 64 per cent reduction in transport emissions by 2030.
- **The number of deaths and serious injuries on the road network remain high:** the numbers have fluctuated in recent years, but there are some indications of a decline, except for cyclists where an increasing number of fatalities are of particular concern.
- **Public transport boardings have declined:** patronage had been increasingly rapidly prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching 100 million annual trips in 2019, the highest number in almost 70 years. Following the pandemic, public transport is used less often, with annual patronage decreasing by approximately 50 per cent. Consequently, cash revenue streams have been severely impacted¹.
- **Mode share of public transport and active travel is low:** even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the mode share for public transport, walking and cycling were below the levels needed to achieve Auckland's emissions targets.
- **Aucklanders are less happy with public transport:** perceptions of personal safety, reliability and efficiency for public transport have all declined. The prevalence of cancellations and delays across the network has increased significantly because of driver shortages, staff sickness and rail maintenance projects. There has also been a rise in violence and aggressive behaviour towards staff and passengers on public transport.
- **Infrastructure for public transport and active travel has been improved:** several new pieces of multi-modal infrastructure have been completed in the past three years, including cycleways, shared paths, and bus lanes. Progress continues to be made on major projects such as the City Rail Link and Eastern Busway, and planning has advanced on several other future projects, including Auckland Light Rail.
- **Safety and transport emissions have become significant policy and investment priorities:** improving safety and reducing emissions priorities are included in national and regional policies and investment programmes such as the Auckland Transport Alignment Project, the Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway, and the Climate Action Targeted Rate, through for example focusing on increasing mode share in public transport and active travel, improving access, maintaining, and renewing existing infrastructure, reviewing speed limits and implementing Vision Zero principles.

¹ Regional Land Transport Plan (2021-2023).



SILENCE IS NOT THE ANSWER
EMILY BLOND
A QUIET P...

NB4026

AT Let's go there

QMS

Inner Link

I'm Frequent & Frugal

From \$2.20 to the city centre

GAS7

Australian buses

Decaux
BREWED AGAINST THE ODDS

Te titiro whakamua

Looking ahead

Auckland is experiencing some very serious transport challenges resulting from historic under-investment, rapid population growth and the need to reduce carbon emissions and address the threats posed by climate change. Further challenges have emerged including the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, persistently high rates of deaths and serious injuries on the road network, and recent changes to economic conditions including inflation, supply chain constraints and a labour market squeeze which mean operating costs have increased.

There are several indications of progress on these key challenges such as the rapid increase in public transport patronage pre-COVID, the adoption of strategies including the Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway (TERP) and Vision Zero for Tāmaki Makaurau, along with greater prioritisation of issues such as safety and emissions in relevant planning documents.

More investment will be needed to build on this progress and create resilience to ongoing challenges, whilst ensuring Auckland has a low-carbon, safe transport system that delivers social, economic and health benefits for all.

Ngā Āheinga mō te Koke Whakamua ki Taumata kē ake

Opportunities for greater progress

The following areas have been identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Te whakaiti ake i ngā tūnuku e pā ana ki te whakaputanga o te haurehu kati mahana **Reducing transport related greenhouse gas emissions**

Reducing the amount of greenhouse gases emitted from our transport system is critical to achieving Auckland's target of halving our total emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2050.

Transport is the largest source of emissions in Auckland, with most of this arising from road-based transport. A 64 per cent reduction in transport emissions is required by 2030 to achieve Auckland's overall emissions targets. This requires rapid and complete transformation of the city's transport system, along with a change in our approach to transport and land use planning.

The Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway (TERP), adopted by Auckland Council in 2022, sets out a route for achieving this target: a significant reduction in use of cars on our roads, and a significant increase in uptake of walking, cycling, micro-mobility and public transport. Where car use is unavoidable, vehicles must be more efficient, fuelled by renewable or low emission fuels. Changes to the city's urban form are required to reduce the distances people need to travel to access needs and opportunities.

Transport decisions need to embed sustainable access and universal design and take a coordinated approach with land use planning. This will enable more intensive development to focus on areas with good access to opportunities.

Significant funding is required for walking, cycling and public transport investments along with regulations which support prioritisation of active modes of transport and reduce the need to rely on private vehicles where alternatives exist.



TE TAIAO ME NGĀ WĀHI WHAI MANA ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

We know we have achieved this outcome when Aucklanders preserve, protect and care for the natural environment as our shared cultural heritage, for its intrinsic value and for the benefit of present and future generations.

He tirohanga iti ki ngā tau e toru kua hipa

Snapshot of the past three years

Over the past three years positive progress has been made in the following areas:

- **Kauri-safe tracks:** over 100 kms of tracks built to keep our kauri tree forests safe
- **Tree planting in Hunua Ranges Regional Park:** over 500,000 trees planted
- **Tree planting across Tāmaki Makaurau:** over 1.5 million trees planted
- **New cycleways:** 35 kms of new cycleways built between 2018/19 and 2021/22
- **Active pest plant management:** occurs in 51% of our regional parks
- **Hauraki Gulf islands mammalian pest-free:** 40 islands free of mammalian pests
- **Use of Māori design elements:** 22% of the central business district contain Māori design elements expressing Māori culture and identity
- **Te reo Māori names for parks:** 23 parks across Tāmaki Makaurau have te reo Māori names
- **Total waste to landfill per year:** consistently decreased.

Areas or places experiencing negative (or slow) results year on year since 2018 are the use of public transport (number of boardings), the total area of regional parks receiving pest animal control, and the number of protected cultural heritage places. The protection of cultural heritage, in particular sites and places of significance to mana whenua is slow with only 105 sites with statutory protection.

Future-proofing infrastructure and the uptake of green infrastructure has been difficult to measure. Regardless, the investments in water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure are critical to the protection of the natural environment. The taking of water for drinking water, the discharge of treated wastewater to rivers and streams, and sewage overflows all impact on the health and mauri of the natural environment.

Te titiro whakamua

Looking ahead

The continued investment in our natural environment – whether pest control, tree planting, track-building, and stormwater or water enhancement projects – will ensure Auckland’s highly valued natural environments are protected and regenerated. The introduction of new regional water services entities are intended to create a step-change in how water services delivery and infrastructure investment in drinking water, wastewater and stormwater will occur in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. These investments are vital for environmental protection. The resource management reforms are intended to protect and restore the natural environment and better prepare for adapting to climate change and risk from natural hazards. As currently drafted, the objectives of the reform are unlikely to be met or deliver the transformational change required. Protection of the natural environment is only one of a number of outcomes that must be provided for in decision-making. There is no hierarchy of outcomes on what matters take precedence over others. The legislation should require the protection (or enhancement) of the natural environment at the same time that we use and develop it.



Ngā Āheinga mō te Koke Whakamua ki Taumata kē ake

Opportunities for greater progress

The following areas have been identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Te whakatū tūāhanga e manawaroa ana **Building resilient infrastructure systems**

We must continue to transition to clean energy and transportation and leverage technology-based innovation. Clean transport supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Distributed energy production (e.g. solar, wind) requires new regulatory architecture to enable greater uptake: people, households and businesses will no longer only consume energy – they will generate it and share it.

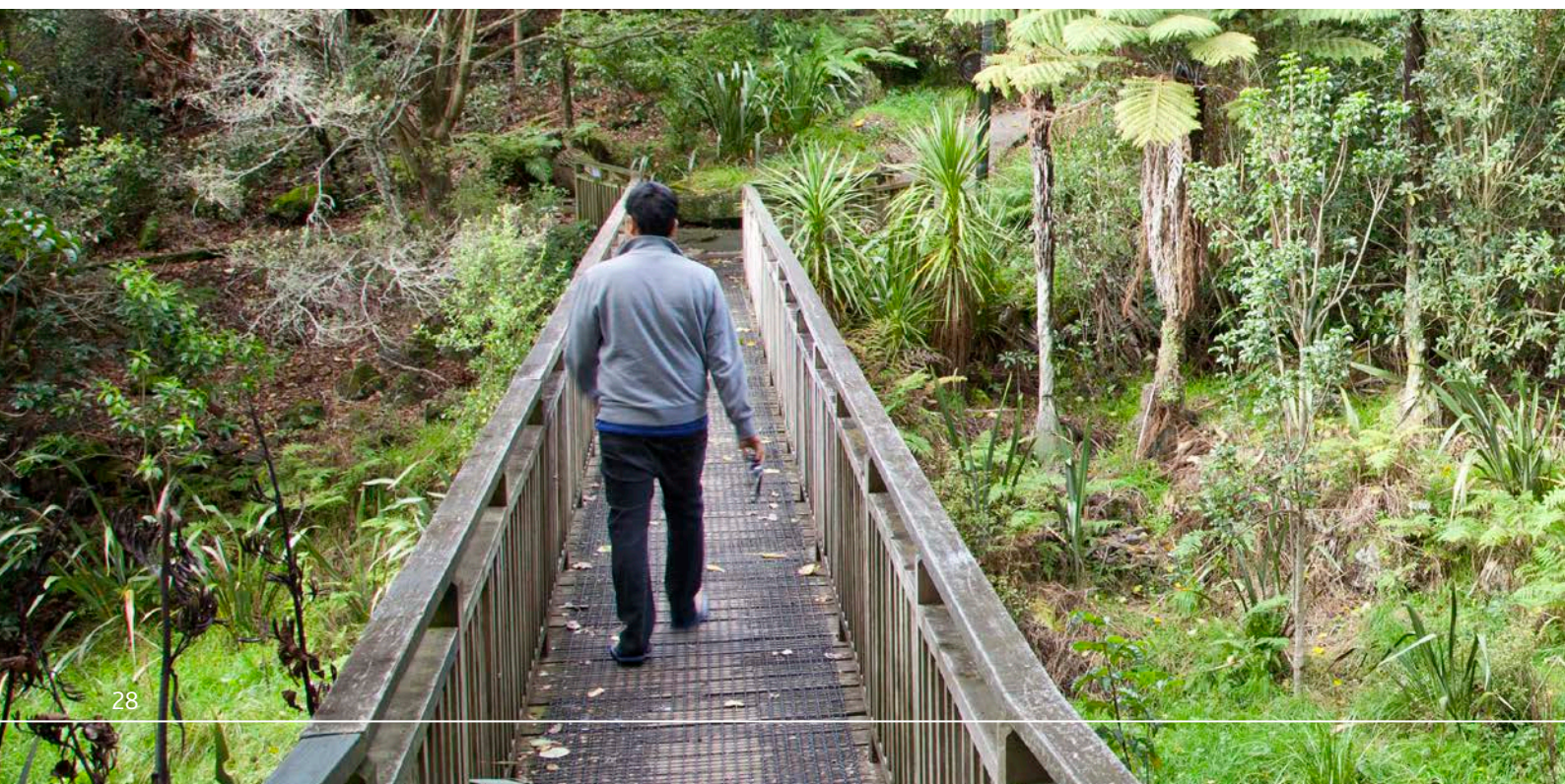
Onsite rainwater harvesting needs to become common place across Tāmaki Makaurau and reach 30 per cent of households. This is a vital tool to help with achieving water security and reducing water demand.

Ongoing investment must continue to reduce sewage overflows (dry and wet weather overflows) associated with combined stormwater-wastewater network areas. These overflows have detrimental effects on water quality of rivers, streams, beaches and our harbours.

Te whakamauru i ngā pēhanga ā-taiao ka puta i te whakawhānuitanga ake mā te whakamahi i ngā rongoā i ahu mai i te taiao.

Mitigating environmental pressures of growth by increased use of nature-based solutions

Auckland's growth has been putting pressure on the environment and will continue to do so if not actively managed. It is critical that planning decisions on where and how Auckland grows have environmental considerations front and centre. This will help to protect and enhance the natural environment as Auckland continues to grow. Part of the solution in managing our growth is to make greater use of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions. When nature-based solutions are integrated with hard engineering it has the potential to enhance biodiversity, resilience and climate change mitigation. Nature-based solutions include green infrastructure such as rain gardens, bioswales, constructed wetlands, tree-lined streets, urban green spaces, permeable pavements, multi-use stormwater parks. These measures cascade benefits throughout water systems by reducing flooding, improving water quality at receiving environments (rivers, streams and beaches), performing carbon sequestration, and reducing the urban heat effect. Furthermore, they can double as urban green spaces and act as recreational and educational areas. That is, nature-based solutions are multi-functional assets that solve more than one problem/issue at once.



NGĀ HUARAHI WĀTEA ME TE TŌNUITANGA OPPORTUNITY AND PROSPERITY



We know we have achieved this outcome when Auckland is prosperous with many opportunities and delivers a better standard of living for everyone.

He tirohanga iti ki ngā tau e toru kua hipa

Snapshot of the past three years

- **Tāmaki Makaurau continues to be a significant contributor to the New Zealand economy** accounting for 38 per cent of national GDP and 40 per cent of the nation’s tax revenue, and with over 920,000 workers. It is the headquarters of almost every large corporate in New Zealand and home to most of our nation’s high-end professional services and finance jobs.
- **Auckland is considered to be one of the most cosmopolitan world cities**, receiving the majority (75 percent) of New Zealand’s international travel arrivals and half of the nation’s migration. Auckland’s demographics reinforce the region’s cosmopolitan character and role as the gateway into New Zealand.
- Over the decade to early 2020, economic growth was driven by strong population growth, giving rise to **strong construction and business services sectors**. Larger businesses accounted for the bulk of employment growth, as **unemployment fell** to its lowest level in a decade in the late 2010s before the pandemic.
- **Educational achievements had been improving** alongside participation in education at all levels, however higher qualifications that can translate to higher skilled jobs has seen little gain.
- Economic growth continues to be dampened by **rising wealth inequality and income disparity** that has been a persistent problem over the last twenty years. House price surges have benefitted homeowners and left others behind. Housing affordability continues to be a significant challenge, resulting in socio-economic pressures as **residents are stretched to meet their everyday needs**.
- **Auckland’s economic performance was interrupted by the pandemic from 2020**, resulting in a large increase in unemployment and a fall in GDP, with young people (aged 18-24) and those in retail and hospitality being particularly impacted by job loss. While recovery in late 2021 to early 2022 appeared swift in some key economic drivers, such as employment which reached historically low levels in 2022 – tourism and international migration (the main contributor to Auckland’s population growth and an important economic driver for the region) will take some time to return to pre-pandemic levels.

Te titiro whakamua

Looking ahead

Auckland is beginning to see signs of losing skilled workers to other places that can offer better wages and employment opportunities, leaving the city faced with skills shortages, alongside rising living costs and vulnerabilities from changes in the global economy. Added to these challenges are the impacts of climate change, and the need for businesses to become more resilient through more adaptable and sustainable modes of operating.

Looking ahead we need to leverage Auckland’s strengths to ensure we can attract and retain the people and businesses that will create momentum for a thriving city. An even stronger commitment to equitable wellbeing and a transition to a low-carbon and regenerative economic model will contribute to a genuinely thriving economy that can deliver longer term, sustainable growth.



Ngā Āheinga mō te Koke Whakamua ki Taumata kē ake

Opportunities for greater progress

The following areas have been identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Te poapoa, te pupuri hoki i te auahatanga, i te pūkenga me te haumitanga **Attracting and retaining innovation, talent and investment**

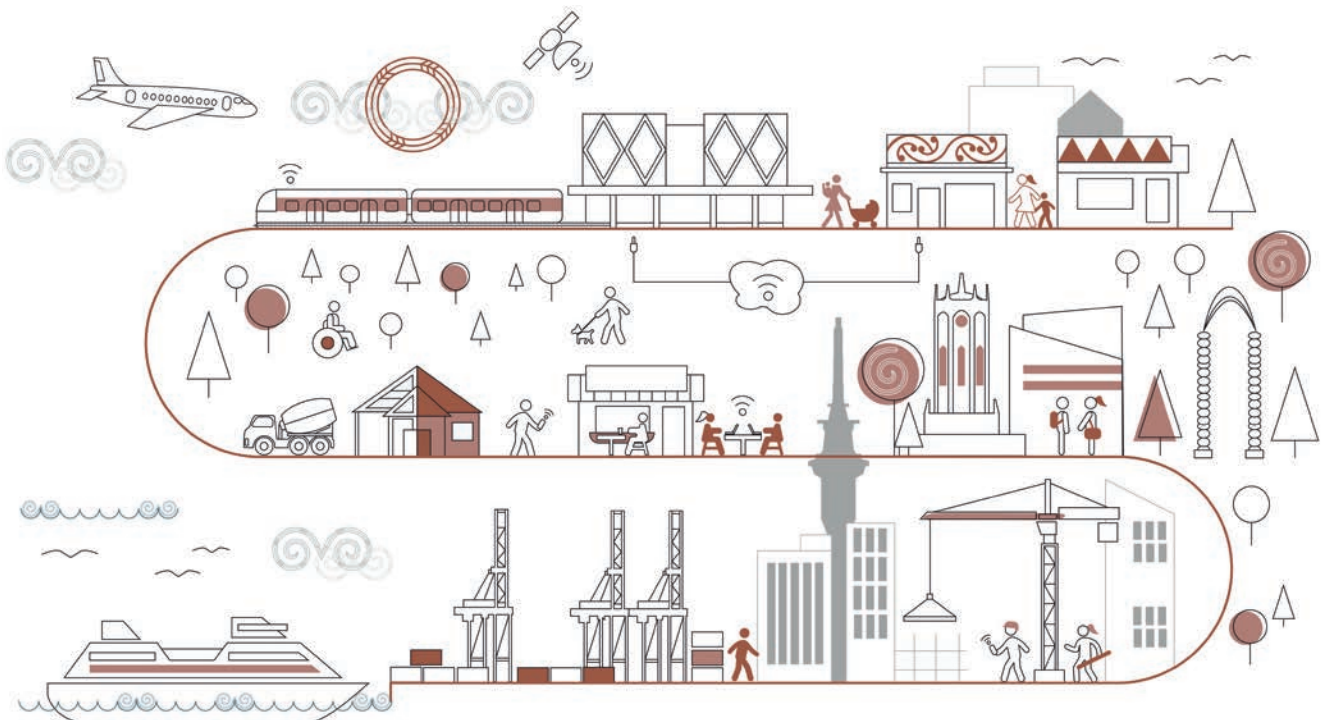
Auckland needs to remain a significant contributor to the national economy and hold its attraction as a competitive city where business and communities thrive. The future of work is reliant on innovation and early adoption of emerging technologies and Auckland can continue to establish its place as a knowledge economy to retain a highly skilled workforce. The opportunities for remote work may draw people out of the city. This means that Auckland will need to remain attractive as a place to live through, for example, ensuring quality infrastructure, entertainment, and an attractive natural and built environment.

Economically, visitors are good for Auckland: they create prosperity for our region. Our challenge is to ensure that growth in visitor numbers enriches Auckland in other ways, too: helping us protect and improve our environment, and our unique identity and cultural heritage, and generally improve our quality of life.

Te whai kia tautika te oranga o te ōhanga **Working towards equitable economic wellbeing**

Improving economic outcomes for all means ensuring everyone, from an early age, has their basic needs met, including housing, health, food and transport. A system that is geared towards a holistic pursuit of wellbeing of people and their communities will translate to better outcomes, particularly for young people. Quality employment begins with quality education, starting with participating in services such as early childhood education. Greater participation and achievement in schools will set a path for higher learning.

Disparities of income between ethnicities and genders needs to be addressed alongside improvements in wages that are able to match rising living costs. Interventions around housing affordability will need stronger consideration. Government will need to continue to use investment in assets and services to better serve our communities of greatest need.



Te huri i te ōhanga kia iti te tukuwaro, kia whakahaumanutia hoki

Transitioning to a low carbon, regenerative economy

Businesses must plan for increasing climate and non-climate related disruption. Identifying potential risks and hazards at both business and industry sector level is key to building resilience. The lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic have catalysed principles of sharing and distribution, buying local, investing in local suppliers, and working and communicating in a way that reduces reliance on commuting - reinforcing economic structures that are vital to a more resilient and inclusive economy.

We have the opportunity to embrace disruptive innovation and new technologies and embed circularity in business models and practice. This will lead to an emergence of new sectors that can provide secure and quality jobs for our growing region, and, in turn, lead to better social outcomes. Developing and implementing interventions, which include the transition away from carbon intensive sectors and practices, can deliver long-term growth, skills, job creation and sustainability.



Auckland Council (2023). Auckland Plan Three Yearly Progress Report 2023 – Summary
© 2023 Auckland Council, New Zealand
Auckland Plan, Strategy and Research Department
February 2023

ISBN 978-1-99-106042-6 (PDF)

Auckland Council disclaims any liability whatsoever in connection with any action taken in reliance of this document for any error, deficiency, flaw, or omission contained in it.

This document is licensed for re-use under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence.

In summary, you are free to copy, distribute and adapt the material, as long as you attribute it to Auckland Council and abide by the other licence terms.

