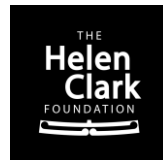


2025

The New Agenda for Auckland



Deloitte.



Fifteen years on from becoming a super city, Auckland is poised to enter a new phase.

In May 2025, the **Auckland @ 15** event brought together leaders from across sectors to ignite conversations. Discussions took place on the achievements and learnings from the past fifteen years, and what the agenda could look like for the next fifteen.



Looking back to look forward

In 2010, Auckland's seven territorial authorities were amalgamated into one to address difficulties in strategic planning and development, and to enhance political accountability and decision-making.



"If Auckland does well, New Zealand does well, but it couldn't be done with such a diverse city structure – that had to change."

Helen Clark

"Bringing Auckland together under one roof was always going to be hard, but it was the only way to give the city and country the leadership and focus they needed."

Sir John Key

The achievements of the amalgamation had not gone unrecognised by those in the room. Civil servants said they felt empowered at the start. There was a feeling of possibility, as well as positive reflections on what had been achieved: the City Rail Link, waterfront developments, and the Waterview Tunnel, to name a few.

But a recent landmark survey revealed the broader Auckland community is firmly looking forward to what still needs to be done. Of those surveyed, 53% felt that amalgamation had successfully unified Auckland's voice to central government, and just 20% felt it had improved public engagement.



The New Agenda: what needs to be done to grasp opportunities and transform Auckland into a world-class super city?



Auckland at 15 | 2025



New relationships

Auckland understands it is different. This has been said repeatedly by citizens, leaders and politicians across the spectrum. It needs to be treated as such – traditional governance relationships won't work for the super city.

The city needs new relationship dynamics between the Government and Auckland Council, including regular engagement between the Prime Minister and the Mayor and Council.

Additionally, new forms of governance are required to ensure local voices are heard while maintaining the strength of regional leadership. For example, reducing the number of local boards, a change in how council is elected, and most importantly, ensuring elected representatives are focused on listening to community feedback.

It was recognised that new and different relationships with Māori and iwi are required, particularly where treaty relationships are paramount, and new commercial relationships could provide opportunities to help build wealth for Māori and all Aucklanders.

There was a call to ignore organisational boundary lines to encourage free-flowing regional collaboration between institutions and to enable private sector leadership to lead the way on issues that matter. To move forward at pace, the public and private sectors should be emboldened to form coalitions and tackle big issues – the Auckland Innovation and Technology Alliance is a great example of this already in action.

Overall, there is a demand for more engagement and open discussion between peers and a willingness for leadership from different sectors to be empowered and encouraged.

“Auckland’s strength isn’t just in its size – it’s in its leadership potential. To lift the country, we need new ways of working together that actually delivers.”

Mayor Wayne Brown



New mindsets



Auckland requires new thinking and a new mindset, removing barriers and looking to what is possible rather than focusing on what is getting in the way. As New Zealand’s only super city, Auckland must do this with a global mindset, holding the opportunities in firm view.

There is a desire for a bolder mindset, one which dares to make big calls and to be ambitious, working together to stimulate positive change and bring the community along on the journey.

As the city moves from the startup phase of the super city into one of maturity, it needs to gather pace, while remembering the mindset of possibility and ambition from the early years of the super city’s creation.

Joined-up thinking, collaboration with creative tension and a willingness to embrace the complexity of a super city structure are what will get us there.

"We need a globally ambitious Auckland that welcomes innovation and leadership at every level – that's what will unlock our next chapter."

Hon Simeon Brown, Minister for Auckland



New models

To mature as a super city, Auckland needs to hold the reins to own its destiny.

It needs a devolution of appropriate powers to raise funds in new ways and to borrow and raise capital in new ways.

Agile ways of working are key to the new models of getting things done; new deals between central government, local government, and the community must be brokered.



We need to appreciate that one size doesn't fit all, and that Auckland requires bespoke government solutions. And as big projects become harder and more expensive, the city needs the ability to take on many smaller projects, which add up to big results.



New focus

Auckland is one of the most diverse cities in the world. It is time we acted like it.

Auckland must position itself as a global innovation city to attract talent and strengthen its economy. But there is concern that the city isn't maximising its advantages to attract a diverse and talented workforce.

Auckland is one of the most diverse cities in the world. It is time we acted like it.

The mood of the Auckland @ 15 event was that Auckland needs to work harder to improve transportation and infrastructure, and to create a thriving, liveable city. There is recognition that world-class infrastructure, technology, and economic drivers are important.



But liveable, world-class super cities are more than just roads, bridges, and balanced spreadsheets. We need to focus on the connective tissue, on what really makes a city great.



The feedback is clear

Aucklanders want a super city that's highly liveable, with better cultural investment, more green spaces and more efficient transport options. To do this, we need to take action now through this new agenda.

