

NEWS

September 2005

10	18 storey block prompts call for fire safety review (New Zealand Herald Anne Gibson) The fire service has demanded a government review of tower block designs in Auckland. This has been triggered by the new 18 level Waldorf hotel/apartment complex which appears highly deficient in terms of fire egress and, although now complete, should never have been approved.
16	Revised Roskill route signed off (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) Final agreement has been reached with the Volcanic Cones Society for go ahead on the next extension of the south western motorway from Hillsborough Road to Maioro road. A contract for the \$169 million project has been signed between Transit New Zealand and Fulton Hogan. The project should be completed in 2009, by which time it is hoped that a start will have been made on a further extension through to Avondale, likely to cost about \$1.2 billion.
17	Rendells to close their store at Karangahape road (New Zealand Herald Karen Chan) A fall in profits by chain store parent Postie Plus spells doom for a local institution, operating from the Karangahape Road site since the early 1900's.
17	International passenger terminal upgrade under way (New Zealand Herald Chris Daniel) This upgrade costing \$47 million is to meet new security standards which require incoming passengers to be separated from those going out. Extensions will include 600 square metres of new retail. This makes sense as the latest financial results showed that \$84.7 million or 30% of annual company revenue comes from retail operations (rentals).
21	\$142m plan to rebuild viaduct (New Zealand Herald Arnold Pickmere) Newmarket viaduct is to be replaced to overcome a number of initial design faults, particularly to increase capacity for a section of motorway now carrying 200,000 vehicles a day, the highest volume in the country. The viaduct has been open only from 1966 but is inadequate in terms of earthquake resistance and safety barriers. At present both North and southbound there are three lanes. A new four-lane southbound structure will be constructed alongside the existing lane, which will then be demolished. It will be replaced by a new three lane northbound structure, following which the old three lane northbound structure will be demolished. Construction is expected to start in 2008 or 2009. Works should take two to three years. Note: there seems to be a huge amount of expenditure for very little apparent gain in carrying capacity.
26	\$66 million set aside for Western rail expansion (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) Auckland rail will receive \$66 million, double tracking between New Lynn and Henderson, but there will be a nine-month delay
26	Aviators upset at threat to airfield (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) Ports of Auckland owns the former Pike's point tip, which has been leased as an air Park to a number of aviation enthusiasts. It now proposes to revoke all leases and has issued eviction notices, in order to use the land for the storage of imported used cars, currently taking up valuable wharf space in downtown Auckland.