

# NEWS

## September 2007

3	<p><b>A R C bows to protests from rural landowners</b> (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) Auckland regional Council, in a laudable effort to protect outstanding natural landscapes has come hopelessly Arms Park under its draft plan change eight. 125,000 ha of land were classed as outstanding. However landowners were not consulted. Federated farmers made submissions to the Auckland regional Council panel on behalf of 400 members. There was inadequate notification and inaccurate planning maps. There were restrictions placed on farming, some of which may not have been intended. The proposal is now back to the drawing board. <b>Civic trust Auckland</b> applauds any effort to protect outstanding natural landscapes and believes that some farming practices such as dairying near waterways and the foreshore should be restricted. However the rights of property owners particularly farmers must be observed and would seem not to have been done in this particular instance. The system by which the land was classified as outstanding seems to have been highly arbitrary.</p>
6	<p><b>Gallery won't be raising the roof</b> (New Zealand Herald Alanah May Erikson) Auckland City Art Gallery has been told by the environment Court to lower the roofline of its redevelopment project on Kitchener St. Appellants Chris and Audrey Van Ryn had objected to the fact that the project involved cutting into Albert Park and remove and pruning a number of trees. This part of the objection failed. Judge Laurie Newhook agreed with the objectors that the new extension would dominate the original heritage structure and destroy its roofline in relation to the treed Albert Park background. As a consequence a major redesign is now required to a smaller scale and is to be agreed to by the appellants. In this respect the objection by the appellants has succeeded. See also city scene September 9.</p>
7	<p><b>\$2.5 million to link airport to Britomart</b> (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) The Auckland regional transport authority has offered to pay transit New Zealand up to \$2.5 million to future proof its duplicate motorway crossing of Manukau Harbour to accommodate a passenger rail connection. <b>Civic trust Auckland</b> applauds this initiative. Transit New Zealand has obtained resource consent, but still faces appeals. It has indicated its readiness to make some of the foundations and piers of the duplicate bridge strong enough to carry a rail line most of the way across the harbour. <b>Civic Trust Auckland</b> asks why only <u>some</u> of the foundations and why only <u>part</u> of the way across the bridge? Is this cost saving gone mad? The answer would seem that the motorway is going in a different direction to any likely rail line. Only part of the road rail complex would share common piers. This puts into question the entire bridge design and the necessity for sharing of part. <b>Civic Trust Auckland</b> is most concerned that the existing motorway carves directly through an important explosion crater, sacred to Maori. It would like to see the existing roadway moved beyond the crater land form at some stage in the future and for the proposed duplicate crossing to also avoid this important landmark.</p>
9	<p><b>Auckland City Council votes to retain airport shares</b> (city scene)</p>
10	<p><b>Major boost urged for fund to protect city's heritage</b> (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) A fund of up to \$1.6 million and a rates holiday are being mooted to encourage people to repair and maintain heritage properties in Auckland city. The fund will only apply to 3800 scheduled homes and items. At present there are two funds of \$50,000 a year for building heritage and natural area, conservation. By comparison the budget for Wellington is \$350,000, Christchurch \$1 million and the State of Victoria, Australia \$20 million over a recent four-year period.</p>
11	<p><b>Developers claim costs victory in fight against levy</b> (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) North shore City Council is still haggling with major property companies over its controversial growth levies policy nearly 6 months after a High Court judge said it was unfair. The council also faces a bill for costs.</p>
11	<p><b>Transit urged to rethink landmark move</b> (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) Architect and landscape specialist Richard Reid's proposal is an alternative to moving the historic birdcage tavern, instead arranging for the motorway extension to tunnel beneath it. He has proposal has widespread support but no doubt as usual Transit New Zealand will opt for the cheapest solution.</p>
12	<p><b>East route for Harbour Tunnel a priority</b> (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) Auckland regional Council members want 3 billion-dollar tunnel to the east of the CBD as a priority for the next traffic crossing of the Waitemata Harbour. Transit New Zealand has agreed to work on a \$1.3 million study to decide the best route. It will review more than 20 options produced from the 1990s.</p> <p><b>Civic trust Auckland</b> is aware of the inadequacy of the present bridge, which was hopelessly under size when originally constructed. A viable alternative could be complete replacement of the present bridge, which anyway appears in part under engineered, with a new bridge providing at least four lanes each way on two levels, plus cycle and walkways. Some lanes could be set aside for future use by light rail, which would eventually replace the new bus way now nearing completion.</p>

12	<p><b>Top marks for climate change plan</b> (New Zealand Herald editorial) A declaration at the Apec meeting in Sydney has finally prodded the US into a mainstream approach and this is not the only advance made. The declaration also said that every country should contribute to a long-term aspirational goal for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, taking into account national circumstances. It was this latter wording which brought China into the fold. The declaration of course, falls far short of being any sort of formal agreement, which will take years to negotiate.</p>
15	<p><b>Turning the page of history</b> (New Zealand Herald properties for sale) The historic Carnegie library building at 55 Princes St goes under the hammer on Thursday. It was opened in 1912 it is classified category A by the Historic Places Trust.</p>
17	<p><b>Auckland's Eco buses unwrapped</b> (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) The new Volvo buses will run on a mix of diesel and tallow. The fleet of 20 inner city Link buses costing \$7 million will produce up to 90% fewer emissions than the 11-year-old buses they are replacing.</p>
17	<p><b>Scrap crossings at urban log jam sites</b> (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) Various Auckland councils face financial pressure to separate road traffic from trains and abolish the seven busiest level crossings before the region's rail network has been electrified by 2013.</p>
19	<p><b>Cloud hangs over quiet rural Churchill Park</b> (New Zealand Herald Justine Glucina) Leaseholder Greg Darnell has helped his mother raise about 25 cattle on part of the 40 ha Park since 1996. It appears that Auckland City Council requirements, particularly in respect of fencing, will render the lease uneconomic. Without the cattle it may cost about \$50,000 per year for land to be mowed. Is Council policy shortsighted?</p>
18	<p><b>Auckland regional Council will not process resource consents for a power station in Rodney</b> (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) This follows a similar decision by Rodney district Council last month.</p>
18	<p><b>Emissions trading soon-next the real climate game</b> (New Zealand Herald Colin James) two months later and nearly 8 years after a self-proclaimed climate friendly government came to power comes the greenhouse gas trading scheme announcement-some firm decisions-some preferred options and some choices yet to be made. That is how the government got himself into its climate change paralysis in the first place.</p>
19	<p><b>Race against time to save coastal land</b> (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) Almost 1400 ha of land has been added to the Auckland regional Council's parks network in the past three years for about \$24 million But Chairman Mike Lee wants to keep the ball rolling. Latest acquisitions, plus the generous gift of their 843 ha Atiu Creek farm from Pierre and Jackie Chatelangat, bring the area of land covered by the regional Council's portfolio of 25 parks to above 38,000 ha. <b>Civic trust Auckland</b> Applauds Mike Lee for his vision and hopes that funding or loans will be made available for the purchase of critically important additional landholdings in various parts of the region.</p>
19	<p><b>Household rubbish tax will bag government \$30 million a year</b> (New Zealand Herald Paula Oliver) Homeowners and businesses face higher costs as part of a plan to reduce waste, under the Waste Minimalisation (solids) Bill. Supposedly the money will be used to reduce waste, but how it is to be spent is a mystery. No doubt it will end up in the Consolidated fund.</p>
21	<p><b>Spanish style under threat</b> (East and Bay's Courier Melanie Allan) Three old Spanish style houses three weatherboard dwellers and a gymnasium at numbers 8 to 22 Turua St, St Helliers face demolition.</p>
21	<p><b>Doomed stormwater tax</b> (New Zealand Herald Rudmans city) Plans by Auckland City Council to pad water bills to pay for stormwater improvements have cost deputy mayor Bruce Hucker his job. The scandal erupted in May and Parliamentary select committee has now agreed that Milking the metro water cash cow to fund other council expenditure is unjust. We desperately need a royal commission into Auckland governance. The mayor's political future is in doubt.</p>
22	<p><b>Gas trading just a load of hot air</b> (New Zealand Herald John Roughan) By 2012 we are supposed to have the country's emissions back to 1990 levels, but we won't come close.</p>
25	<p><b>Architecture week fast approaching</b> (New Zealand property investor) Architecture Week Auckland '07 is to be held from October 15-19.</p>
28	<p><b>Eels die in toxic spill</b> (East and Bay's Courier Justine Glucina) More than 50 eels are dead and some ducks may have died after a toxic substance believed to be concrete was poured into a storm water drain, polluting 600 m on stream between Riddell Road in Glendowie and Carlisle Street in St Helliers. This one of the worst fish kills in recent years. The cement ingredient in concrete is highly toxic.</p>
28	<p><b>Heat goes on Hubbard over heritage issues</b> (East and Bay's Courier Heather McCracken) Heritage supporter Dick Hubbard with is defending his decision to vote against protecting a 100-year-old building at Greenlane Hospital. His reason? He does not wish to destroy the sanctity of the heritage scoring process. The scoring process would appear to be somewhat flawed. The building was listed for protection after toppling the 50 point</p>

threshold. However the Auckland district health board, which wants to demolish it, showed that it was built two years later than thought. Strangely the age difference resulted in a new tally of 49 points. The site occupied by the building is required by the health board to be used as a car park.

**Civic Trust Auckland** would question why a 2% difference in age, affecting only the age category of the points system, which is only one of several categories making up that system (perhaps representing about 10%) should make a 2-4% difference to the ultimate points total.

Why have details of the points system never been given publicity?

Can they be found anywhere in the City Plans or by laws?

How is it possible to check that points have been given fairly and totalled correctly?

Is there a system on board for peer review, either within Council or involving independent experts?