

NEWS

May 2008

2	Report backs streamlining of consent procedures at North shore city (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson)
3	Will finance minister Cullen save us from climate change policy madness? (New Zealand Herald Fran O'Sullivan)
3	Locals upset at Ponsonby Villa threat (51 Summer St) (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman)
3	\$4 million four motorway and rail tunnels project preferred option for Harbour (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)
5	Rubber stamp for 41 storey skyscraper opposite Britomart train station beggars belief (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city) Why no provision for westward rail extension? Why was there no consultancy between the planning department and its colleagues undertaking the Waitemata Harbour Crossing study?
5	Emissions debate heating up (New Zealand Herald editorial)
5	Ferry users to get more room and cover in \$2.5 million wharf upgrade (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)
5	Residents and heritage architect against Slab like Birkenhead Apartments (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) 500 submissions oppose the bid to construct 18 apartments and shops on an ex-service station site at 83 Hinemoa St.
5	Push to allow cycleway on Harbour Bridge (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)
5	Wellington's new approach to future growth (New Zealand property investor) Can Auckland learn anything from the Wellington approach to inner-city development and its clash with heritage inner suburbs?
6	Finance Minister missed his chance to buy back rail much cheaper (New Zealand Herald Fran O'Sullivan) The government yesterday announced its purchase of rail and sea operations from Toll Holdings for \$685 million, a price generally seen as being well over the top. Why this much and why now? In another article by Claire Trevett it is noted that the deal goofs the government assets supposedly worth \$430 million comprising a ferry and sundry rolling stock. Toll, which currently employs 2300 people paid \$394 million for the business in 2004, since which time the would have been a heavy asset write back due to depreciation.
6	Rail's chaotic scene in Auckland (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) this article points out that the government purchase of rail from Toll Holdings will introduce a minor simplification into a chaotic Auckland rail scene, where tracks and signals are owned by the Crown and operated by government agency Ontrack, multiple diesel units and carriages are owned by Auckland regional Council and maintained by toll. Locomotives are owned and maintained by toll. Train services contract to buy Auckland regional transport authority and run by French firm Veolia. Locomotive drivers are employed by toll and their workers managed by Veolia, otherwise multiple diesel unit drivers and all other trains staff are employed by Veolia.
6	Clark shelves fuel levy until 2011 (New Zealand Herald Mike Houlihan)
9	Solid Energy CEO Don Elder: government will make billions from emissions plan (New Zealand Herald Brian Fallow)
9	Age alone should not protect Mt Eden jail (New Zealand Herald editorial) This is one of the strangest editorials for many years, noting that the building was scheduled for demolition as recently as the 1960s. The editor notes that the earthquake risk building is grim, ugly and unloved and sits at odds with surrounding commercial buildings and the adjoining motorway. The editor appears to imply that it is age alone which has led this cheerless structure to be classified of the New Zealand historic places trust and Auckland City Council. This of course is quite untrue, but its age is the reason why commercial buildings in the vicinity and the adjoining motorway set at odds with this major piece of Auckland's historic heritage.
11	Funding confirmed for tribute to Sir Peter Blake at the New Zealand National Maritime Museum (city scene) this article notes that Auckland city will provide up to \$2 million towards the project, matched by similar funding commitments from government and the private sector. Furthermore, last year Auckland city purchased the land and wharves under the Museum and also provides annual funding.
11	Recycling about to become easier. Blue bins arrive (city scene)

12	Hidden extra costs add \$200 million to purchase price of Railways from Toll (New Zealand Herald former Paula Oliver)
12	It would be careless to encourage the demolition brigade over mount Eden prison (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city)
13	Silly Segway trial rolls on (New Zealand Herald Elizabeth Binning)
14	Design code change sought for heritage areas of Devonport, Northcote point and Birkenhead (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) An anomalous situation is highlighted by Mayor Andrew Williamson who said it was incredible residential properties and heritage loans could hardly changeable without consent but a single storey commercial property next door could become a multi-storey business out of keeping with the surroundings. Five Council members have formed a working group with a view to changing the urban design code.
15	Retire Railways (New Zealand Herald Jon Addison) a former editor of the New Zealand trucking magazine makes the case for getting rid of rail.
15	Bidder backs out of Devonport Victoria theatre project (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) Development difficulties, due to category one classification by the New Zealand historic places trust become apparent, as use limitations are imposed, and as well as architectural obstacles in maintaining heritage interiors, while undertaking necessary earthquake strengthening.
15	Auckland regional Council ignores costs in order to widen Harbour options (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)
16	Death knell for sanity-Auckland city council employs marketing manager for its parking division (New Zealand Herald Jim Hopkins)
16	Segways-another comment on bizarre electric bicycles on Auckland's foot paths (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city)
19	Home-made electric power has possibilities (New Zealand Herald Eloise Gibson) The sustainable electricity Association of New Zealand (Charmaine Watts) is undertaking a head count of households around New Zealand making their own electricity. A number of such households are situated on Aotea/Great Barrier island. Usual methods adopted comprise solar panels and small wind turbines. At present costs are quite high for installation and electrical wiring including batteries and an inverter. Costs are dropping overseas. This important technology will be of considerable future importance. Watch this space.
19	Amazing work by the Motoi Trust has created a native bird haven near Auckland (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city)
19	Siting of the proposed Albany senior high school to go to environment Court (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson)
19	Pressure on government from business to subsidise effects of greenhouse emission costs (New Zealand Herald Bunny McDiarmid-Executive Director of Greenpeace New Zealand)
20	Accurate data the key for any carbon scheme (New Zealand Herald Chris de Freitas-associate Professor School of geography geology and environment science, University of Auckland)
21	More and heavier opposition to proposed Albany senior high school (New Zealand Herald Martha McKenzie Minifie)
21	Carbon plan hostage to politics (New Zealand Herald editorial)
22	Transit New Zealand re-examining its \$330 million Victoria Park tunnel motorway project (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)
23	Electric rail vision for Auckland short on specifics (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman)
23	Character Fitzroy hotel on market-mortgagee tender (New Zealand Herald Anne Gibson)
24	Landmark pubs for sale in Bayleys property portfolio (New Zealand Herald Colin Taylor) The patriot in Devonport, the Prospect of Howick, the Fitzroy Wakefield Street
24	Marine reserve application by DOC north east of Aotea/Great Barrier island rejected (New Zealand Herald Trish Rea)
24	Corporate greed killing the banana (New Zealand Herald/independent Johann Hari)
25	Matariki-celebrating Maori new year June 5 to July 5 (city scene)
26	Parnell Trinity apartments pick up design prize (New Zealand Herald Anne Gibson)
26	Last-ditch battle by aviators to save Pikes Pt airstrip (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson)
26	Extinction-species disappearing at an unprecedented rate (New Zealand Herald/independent James Leape, director general of WWF)
26	One more last chance for the city's oldest saloon-the Fitzroy Wakefield Street (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city) A continuation of the extraordinary saga of planning failure and incompetence.

26	Auckland landmark at 48 Greys Ave heads for mint condition with purchase by New Zealand Mint (New Zealand property investor)
28	gauging pollution risk-Auckland regional Council has 15 air quality stations located across the region (East and Bays courier)
28	Waitakere seeks \$8 million or from regional Council for New Lynn transport hub (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)
29	Auckland's running costs \$3 billion a year (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman)
30	Perhaps it third time lucky for dream of coastal park on the North Shore (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city)