

# NEWS

## July 2005

1	<b>Toll roads likely for Auckland</b> (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) Land transport New Zealand has announced a big rise in road spending throughout New Zealand, with 26.5% earmarked for the Auckland region. However, there is still a large funding shortfall and in order to bring forward some of the more important projects it will be necessary to create toll roads, the first of which is the proposed northern motorway extension from Orewa to Puhoi. Other toll prospects include the State highway 18 Hobsonville deviation at \$193 million, the State highway 20 Avondale extension at \$1.15 billion and the duplicate Mangere-Bridge at \$189 million.
9	<b>Auckland regional Council gains 90% acceptance and is close to full ports of Auckland buy out</b> (New Zealand Herald Bryan Gaynor)
11	<b>Transport plan leaves rail in the slow lane</b> (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city) Key funding for the region's public transport revival is being diverted into road building and rail infrastructure upgrading is being pushed out from five years to eight years. Perhaps the \$500 million, miraculously discovered by Michael Cullen, following one of the government's recent opinion poll setbacks, may go towards remedying this dismal situation.
14	<b>Draconian Waitakere city bylaw</b> Triangle TV Web news A new bylaw to come into effect on August. It will fine supermarket owners up to \$20,000 if their trolleys are dumped in the parks, streets and creeks of Waitakere city. The supermarket owners consider the proposal draconian.
16	<b>Costs set to eat up motorway tolls</b> (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) Anti-toll group Highway Robbery has received details under the Official information Act that for every \$1.80 in tolls to be collected on the Puhoi motorway, \$1.35 would be eaten up by transaction costs. The basic toll of \$1.80 assumes a prepaid transponder user. A non-transponder user will pay \$2.10, representing a sizable surcharge. Enormous additional penalty fees will apply for late payment, for example the total fee after 72 hours will go to \$3.98 and up to 28 days to \$8.98. <b>Note:</b> this particular toll system appears to be commuter oriented and anti-tourist. Why?
17	<b>Landslip rekindles flak over miniature railway</b> (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) A landslip adjoining Swanson stream in the Waitakere Ranges has caused consternation. It has occurred on land being developed by Mr Britten over 23 years to create a 2 km scale model railway track, with tunnels and landscaped gardens. This is an interesting project, but questions remain over whether the choice of site has been fully appropriate.