

# NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2006

6	<b>State Highway 20 Extension</b> (New Zealand Herald Phil Chase) Phil Chase, former Transport Planner and member of Auckland City's Eden/Albert Community Board, discussed approval in principle made by the Mayor and Councillors, the week before Christmas, of the \$1.2b extension of State Highway 20. He pointed out that there was the potential loss of 300 homes and that the cost would represent Auckland's largest single roading project since building of the Harbour Bridge. It had, of course, been dwarfed by the proposed \$4b eastern corridor under former Auckland Mayor, John Banks (which led to his subsequent rejection in the polls). This article raised a number of important points. Later in the year the possible loss of a heritage stream and valley in the Waterview portion of that motorway corridor would raise public ire. An interesting claim made is that Auckland already has a high motorway count (length of motorways per head of regional population), compared with Australian cities. The matter of whether motorways are a sensible planning option in catering for increased demand is still under discussion in New Zealand and parts of Australasia, whereas in Europe and increasingly throughout the World, expenditure on public transport infrastructure is the option preferred.
11	<b>Oil rush is pushing exploration costs through the roof</b> (New Zealand Herald)
17	<b>Parnell Traffic Lights</b> (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) This article, ostensibly concerning opposition to proposed traffic lights at the intersections of Parnell Rise, Parnell Road and Cracroft Street, dealt with the wider issue of Local Authority planners in general and Auckland City Council planners in particular, for their propensity to approve projects affecting the wider community, without allowing community input. The article noted that in the past month Auckland City Planners had allowed developers to chop down 6 trees, including a mature Jacaranda at Eden Crescent and 2 Box Elders at the top of Vulcan Lane. Council had also attempted to go through the Resource Consent process to chop down trees in Queen Street without public notification, just prior to Christmas, but as will be recalled, this was followed by over whelming public opposition.
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27	<b>Esmonde Road progress.</b> (New Zealand Herald advertisement) Transit NZ announced that northbound traffic would now be using the new off ramp alignment and traffic lights.