

Queens Wharf | Timeline 2007 – 2010

January 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The importance of the working port for the economy and the need for better public access to the waterfront is confirmed by the Auckland Regional Council (ARC).
December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Auckland's economic development agency, AucklandPlus, releases a report titled 'Bringing the World to Auckland' outlining the case for investment in Auckland's visitor economy. The report highlights the need for attractions at key sites such as Queens Wharf
February 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ARC confirms its view on the benefits of a cruise terminal and public open space on Queens Wharf in a think-piece by Michael Barnett and Mike Lee.• <i>Carnival Australia Cruise Company chief executive Ann Sherry, announces that New Zealand's tourism industry had not embraced cruising, claiming the industry appeared unwilling to invest in the required facilities.</i>• <i>"The demand is here, but the infrastructure is not good enough," she said.</i>
March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ARC announces Queens Wharf as a golden opportunity for Auckland to cash in on the burgeoning cruise ship industry which offloads tens of thousands of potentially big spenders on Auckland's waterfront every year.
May 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AucklandPlus releases a paper 'Positioning Auckland as a Major Events Destination'. The paper acknowledges the cruise industry's contribution to Auckland and its potential for further development.
September 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government (Ministry of Economic Development for Auckland) commissioned a study on the value of the industry to Auckland and New Zealand. The report 'Understanding the Cruise Ship Industry' was delivered to Government and cruise stakeholders.
January 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ARC establishes the Cruise Terminal Project, with dedicated resource focusing on the business case for a cruise terminal.
June 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Government and ARC announce the purchase the wharf outright from Ports of Auckland Ltd for \$40 million and confirm that it will be opened to the public in time for RWC 2011 and a cruise terminal developed there.• <i>Ann Sherry says a world class cruise gateway would enhance the regional and national economy. "It makes sense to make the most of Auckland's rare ability to host ships in the heart of the city - a feature that passengers love".</i>
August 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A design competition for Queens Wharf is launched by joint sponsors – the Government, ARC and Auckland City Council. The public are invited to enter and submit comments on the design entries.
September 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Queens Wharf is opened to the public for a day by the Prime Minister John Key, ARC Chairman Mike Lee and Mayor John Banks.• Finalists for the design competition are announced and asked to further develop the design concepts in stage 2.
October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stage 2 design competition closes.• P&O Cruises announce it will launch its next superliner, Pacific Pearl, in Auckland in an historic move which recognises the growing popularity of cruising in New Zealand.
November 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Announcement that design competition outcome put on hold.
December 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ARC agrees to continue supporting the Queens Wharf project and will work with Government to deliver it by Rugby World Cup 2011.
January 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister Murray McCully confirms the Government's commitment to developing Queens Wharf in time for the Rugby World Cup, including a cruise ship terminal
