

**Speech notes Mike Lee**  
**Waterfront media briefing**  
**Marine Events Centre**  
**1pm 29 June 2007**

The waterfront agreement between ARH, Auckland City, POAL and ARC we are announcing today is a major milestone and heralds a brand new start for the Auckland region.

We are confident the framework is now in place to ensure Auckland will get the waterfront it deserves. One that includes much greater public access, a guaranteed future headland park with provision for a future iconic public building.

As you have heard the project will roll out in stages over 25 years with a major effort over the next 10 years.

First up - by the 2011 Rugby World Cup, there will be a new east-west axis along the waterfront, connecting the Viaduct Harbour to Wynyard Point via a new architecturally distinctive Americas Cup-yacht friendly bridge, forming a grand boulevard from the CBD to the Westhaven basin. This waterfront boulevard we believe will be a magnet for Aucklanders and visitors alike.

This will be the start of the transformation of the Wynyard Quarter into a 24 hours mixed-used area of restaurants, bars, fishmarkets, shops, apartments, plazas and parks.

Then there is the green corridor running north, effectively linking Victoria Park to the sea – through the headland park.

This development will not be entirely recreation focussed – this will also be a working waterfront. Which means it will include facilities for the fishing and marine industries – including working boats and ferries - which we see as vital in creating a lively, mixed-use area.

To this end the Auckland Regional Council has consistently advocated that the marine industries must be protected in any future mixed-use development scenario.

And if anyone needed reminding, the economic importance of Auckland's marine industry sector is being underscored by the dramatic events currently underway in Valencia.

For the ARC the capstone of this development, the jewel in the crown, will be the future 4.25 hectare headland park which the ARC will jointly own and manage with Auckland City Council.

There will also be 2.4 km of publicly accessible waterfront, including a working fishing wharf and a marine events centre to be developed by Auckland City as well as the afore-mentioned waterfront promenade.

The new public areas are in response to the public's clear aspirations for better access to the water, more open space and a greater mix of land uses.

Speaking for the Auckland Regional Council what we especially look forward to contributing to this project, apart from our role as owner of ARH and the regulator of the coastal marine area, is planning for the future headland park which in many respects the ARC was instrumental in promoting.

The ARC has a reputation as manager of regional parks *par excellence* and we look forward to working with our colleagues in Auckland City Council on the planning and eventual development of the Wynyard Point headland park.

We envisage it as a very special place - a 'sacred site' if I could use that word – where Auckland reaches out to the sea, the Waitemata harbour, the Hauraki Gulf and the Pacific Ocean beyond.

We look forward to the public planning process about to get underway and we will be watching and listening carefully to the public response through submissions to the Auckland City District Plan change and ARC Regional Plan Coastal change as this goes forward. We are pleased that there will be public design competitions for key elements like Te Wero bridge. We are determined that the waterfront development will produce an amenity which will be of major economic significance to the Auckland region - a major attraction to our visitors which will also enhance Aucklanders quality of life.

I want to thank ARH and Auckland City for the work achieved in formulating a rigorous agreement to take this project forward.

One of the reasons the ARC group took steps to place POAL in 100% public ownership was to ensure a comprehensive public accountable waterfront development. So I want to pay special thanks to POAL which has done so much to get this project off the ground - especially Managing Director Geoff Vazey and General Manager Port Infrastructure Ben Crystal and their team. Thank you.