

ATTACHMENT 1: PROGRESS ON THE DELIVERY OF THE METRO PROJECT ACTIONS

The Metro Project Action Plan consists of 31 specified actions that are designed to deliver 17 strategies, across five over-arching objectives. Progress within each action since May 2008 is presented in the following pages.

A full glossary of acronyms is included at the end of this report.

Objective 1. Take effective and efficient action to transform Auckland's economy

Strategy		Action Number	Actions	Relevant Project or initiative or activity	Lead organisation and partners	Progress since last report (May 2008 EDF meeting)
1.1	Take an integrated, region-wide approach to transforming Auckland	1.1.1	Deliver a single plan for the Auckland city-region.	One Plan for the Auckland region.	Lead: Auckland Regional Sustainable Development Forum (RSDF) Partners: Central govt and local authorities	One Plan for the Auckland region Version 1 (that builds on all current regional strategies) has been formally endorsed by the Regional Sustainable Development Forum (RSDF) and adopted by ARC in October 2008 as a single plan of action for the Auckland region. Central government and local and regional council officers have begun a work programme to progress One Plan Version 1 and develop Version 2.
		1.1.2	Demonstrate strong and united leadership.	The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Auckland's governance.	Lead: The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Auckland's governance.	All submissions have been received and the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Auckland's Governance will make recommendations to Government on 31 March 2009.
		1.1.3	Establish well-resourced and well-coordinated response and delivery mechanisms.	Activity undertaken by AucklandPlus.	Lead: Auckland Regional Council Partners: Central government and local authorities.	AucklandPlus has several workstreams underway. The ARC has committed to providing \$500,000 to tourist promotion activities. This is to be funded from the general rate.

Objective 2. Develop world-class infrastructure and urban centres

Strategy		Action Number	Actions	Relevant Project or initiative or activity	Lead organisation and partners	Progress since last report (May 2008 EDF meeting)
2.1	Co-ordinate infrastructure planning, decision-making and investment	2.1.1	Plan for all infrastructure within the wider context of a single vision for the Auckland city-region.	One Plan for the Auckland region Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy	Lead: Auckland Regional Sustainable Development Forum Partners: Central govt and local authorities	The RSDF resolved in September 2008 that an infrastructure inventory be produced by August 2009. The scope and timetable for the production of a regional infrastructure plan is yet to be determined. The Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy 2005 is under review by the Regional Land Transport Committee. The review of the Auckland Transport Plan including regional prioritisation of projects and the development of a regional land transport programme are underway by ARTA.
2.2	Deliver on energy and broadband infrastructure requirements	2.2.1	Complete an energy prospectus to secure supply and better manage demand.	Development of a Regional Energy Strategy	Lead: Auckland Regional Council Partners: Numerous private and public sector organisations	A draft Regional Energy database has been completed. Progress is being made towards a region-wide energy strategy that would aim to provide a region-wide view of energy needs over the next 50 years.
		2.2.2	Fast-track widespread, high-speed broadband deployment and take-up throughout the region.	Broadband Digital Auckland	Lead: Auckland Regional Council Partners: Auckland Regional Broadband Advisory (ARBA)	Momentum on the delivery of fast, ubiquitous broadband is gathering with a number of recent announcements and events. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submission of a regional response to the recently announced Broadband Investment Fund. The submission consisted of a regional umbrella statement and Expressions of Interest (Eol) covering the Rodney, Franklin and Auckland/Manukau/Waitakere areas. ▪ All but the Franklin Eol have been approved for progression to final application stage. ▪ Development of the Digital Strategy programme of action within One Plan for the Auckland region. ▪ Regional endorsement of the Digital Strategy programme of action.

Strategy		Action Number	Actions	Relevant Project or initiative or activity	Lead organisation and partners	Progress since last report (May 2008 EDF meeting)
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completion of a black spot analysis that identified gaps in broadband infrastructure ▪ Completion of a broadband demand study
2.3	Create strong and distinctive centres within the region	2.3.1	Complete the CBD and waterfront development.		<p>Lead: Auckland City Council and Auckland Regional Holdings (ARH)</p> <p>Partners: Ports of Auckland and ARC</p>	<p>CBD streetscape upgrade programme – Aotea Square redevelopment project, carpark roof repairs underway, St Patricks's Square redevelopment commenced, upper Swanson Street upgrade commenced.</p> <p>Central Connector- Grafton Bridge strengthening work has commenced.</p> <p>Waterfront 2011 development programme – peer review of Te Wero bridge design is underway.</p> <p>Art Gallery upgrade – construction programme commenced.</p> <p>Q Theatre – Lottery Grant Board approved funding for project.</p>
		2.3.2	Fast-track town centre development.	Regional Growth Strategy District Plans	<p>Lead: Auckland Regional Sustainable Development Forum</p> <p>Partners: Local authorities</p>	<p>Growing Smarter (July 2007) highlighted the need for a renewed focus on the importance of a strong CBD and centres including actions to improve and incentivise town centre (re)development; an improved understanding of the relative strategic importance of Auckland's centres; and a framework for prioritising areas where implementation efforts will be focussed over the next 5-10 years.</p> <p>Work to further understand the role, function, scale and relationships of the region's centres, business areas and corridors has been completed and will be reflected in the review of the Regional Policy Statement.</p> <p>Plan changes for some centres are progressing under the Local Government (Auckland) Amendment Act, and councils are working on further plan changes to enable centre development.</p> <p>ARC has established the Transport and Urban Development Committee and Department to</p>

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						<p>provide a stronger focus and coordinated input to place-based redevelopment in centres and other strategic locations.</p> <p>Significant work is underway in a number of key centres and strategic locations across the region. This includes master planning and infrastructure investment led by the local council, developer or a partnership. Places include the Waterfront, Orakei, Onehunga, Newmarket, Manukau City Centre, Milford, Hobsonville, Flat Bush, Tamaki, New Lynn.</p>

Objective 3. Transform Auckland into a world-class destination

Strategy		Action Number	Actions	Relevant Project or initiative or activity	Lead organisation and partners	Progress since last report (May 2008 EDF meeting)
3.1	Bring the world to Auckland	3.1.1	Produce and implement a regional visitor strategy.	'Bringing the World to Auckland' - Auckland Region's Visitor Plan	<p>Lead: AucklandPlus</p> <p>Partners: Tourism Auckland, Auckland City Council, Visit Auckland Steering Group</p>	<p>The Auckland Regional Visitor Strategy entitled 'Bringing the World to Auckland: the Case for Investment in Auckland's visitor economy' was released in late 2007.</p> <p>As part of its 2008/09 Annual Plan process the ARC agreed to contribute \$500,000 towards a regional funding pool to support effective destination management and tourism promotion for the region.</p> <p>A funding agreement with Tourism Auckland is currently being negotiated with Auckland City Council, Manukau City Council and Auckland Regional Council as the funders.</p>
3.2	Build on Auckland's distinctiveness	3.2.1	Develop an Auckland regional brand identity with integrated communication tools for use by tourism, business and community.	Regional Brand	<p>Lead: AucklandPlus</p> <p>Partners: Tourism Auckland, MED, Local authorities, Heart of the City, Air New Zealand.</p>	<p>A regional brand was launched in September 2008. It was rolled out through Tourism Auckland's domestic marketing campaign.</p> <p>The regional brand has been used in a range of different areas including on the courts at the two international netball tests at Vector Arena in September and October, at the skills expo in London in October, on Film Auckland promotions, on all collateral relating to Auckland's Rugby World Cup 2011 efforts, and</p>

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						<p>on www.aucklandplus.com</p> <p>The regional brand will also be seen on the field and hoardings for the LA Galaxy v Oceania football game at Mt Smart Stadium and on all promotions, including the boats, for the Louis Vuitton Pacific Series.</p>
3.3	Position Auckland as a major event destination	3.3.1	Develop a major event portfolio to build world-class capability and profile.	Positioning Auckland as a Major Events Destination	<p>Lead: AucklandPlus</p> <p>Partners: Local authorities, SPARC, Tourism Auckland, NZ Major Events</p>	<p>The major events strategy entitled 'Positioning Auckland as a Major Events Destination' is complete and was endorsed by the Auckland Regional Economic Development Forum on 7 May 2008. It acts as an appendix to 'Bringing the World to Auckland', which identified Auckland's need to deliver as a host city.</p> <p>The North Shore City Council draft events strategy refers to and aligns with the regional strategy. Auckland City Council is currently revising their events strategy to align with the regional one.</p>
3.4	Use the 2011 Rugby World Cup to create long-term benefits	3.4.1	Deliver additional infrastructure projects such as a world-class sporting venue, high-speed transport links and a national convention centre.	Rugby World Cup 2011	Multi-party	A Host Region Agreement has been concluded, and Auckland will host the Bronze final at Eden Park.

Objective 4. Develop a skilled and responsive labour force

Strategy		Action Number	Actions	Relevant Project or initiative or activity	Lead organisation and partners	Progress since last report (May 2008 EDF meeting)
4.1	Take an integrated, region-wide approach to tackling Auckland's skill issues	4.1.1	Establish a business-led skill leadership group that is facilitated by AucklandPlus.	Skills Workstream	Lead: AucklandPlus	Established and on-going.
4.2	Match training provision with skill needs	4.2.1	Establish a centralised information system to map regional skill needs.	Regional Knowledge Platform	Lead: Auckland Regional Council Partners: Regional Research network	The ARC has secured a \$200,000 grant from NZTE and \$35,000 from the Department of Labour to develop a regional knowledge platform with an economic and labour market focus. This project will be governed by the Metro Skills Leadership Group and managed by the Social and Economic Monitoring and Research team at ARC.
		4.2.2	Aggregate activities by providing a web portal-based one-stop shop for education, training and recruitment information.			
		4.2.3	Positively influence career decisions by building improved capacity for career advisers and teachers			
		4.2.4	Better meet business skill needs by providing closer, clearer links between training and industry.			
		4.2.5	Encourage continuous skill building by promoting lifelong learning to parents and families.			
4.3	Promote education and skilled employment within 'diverse communities'.	4.3.1	Coordinate and bring to scale successful local initiatives.			
4.4	Improve workplace productivity	4.4.1	Promote workplace productivity best practice to Auckland city-region employers.	Skills Workstream	Lead: AucklandPlus and EDAs	Funding has been secured for Growing Productive Businesses project to support Small to Medium enterprises.

Objective 5. Increase Auckland's business innovation and export strength

Strategy		Action Number	Actions	Relevant Project or initiative or activity	Lead organisation and partners	Progress since last report (May 2008 EDF meeting)
5.1	Take an integrated, region-wide approach to coordinating innovation programmes and agencies.	5.1.1	Establish a business-led innovation leadership group that is facilitated by the regional economic delivery agency.		AucklandPlus	Established June 2007 and on-going. Next meeting January 2009
		5.1.2	Supervise 20 to 30 high-growth potential businesses as a pilot study.	Digital Content Programme Marine Feasibility Study	Multi-party facilitated by AucklandPlus	Funding for Digital Content and Marine projects approved. Will include firm level metrics to measure impact of interventions on targeted companies in sub-sectors of these industries.
5.2	Provide better support for early-stage businesses with high-growth potential	5.2.1	Improve access to pre-seed funding.	Investment workstream	Lead: AucklandPlus Lead: New Zealand Venture Capital Association (NZVCA)	Research completed and including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size and growth potential of the early stage investment market determined for early stage high growth companies in Auckland and New Zealand. • Mapping of funding demand and supply and critical success factors determined. • International approaches reviewed Action plan developed to encourage investors (VC funds and Angels) to provide funding to early stage high growth companies. Investment ready tools critiqued and baseline data generated. 'Fuel for your business' book produced by NZVCA launched Nov 2008.
		5.2.2	Improve coordination and information sharing between angel investor programmes and investor networks.	Investment workstream	Lead: AucklandPlus	A communications programme has been developed to raise awareness of investment opportunities in the region. As part of this, the Angel Capital Association NZ has been launched. www.nzangels.com

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		5.2.3	Ensure tax policy rewards investment in early-stage ventures.		AucklandPlus in collaboration with MoRST	<p>Sponsorship of eight R&D tax credit events by local economic development agencies in Auckland in association with MoRST and IRD.</p> <p>Production of a 'How to Guide' for accessing R&D tax credits and planning for innovation in association with MoRST. How to Guide adopted as a staff training tool by IRD.</p> <p>Recommendations suggested for changes to Government policy that leads to early stage high growth company funding</p>
5.3	Accelerate innovative businesses in Auckland	5.3.1	Profile and promote innovation success in the Auckland city-region.	Innovation communication strategy	AucklandPlus	<p>AucklandPlus were key sponsors of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ZED Innovation Forum in June 2008. - AUT Idealog Innovation Plus series (four events in 2008)
5.4	Strengthen collaboration between Auckland's businesses, universities and Crown Research Institutes	5.4.1	Identify the next Centres of Research Excellence to be funded in Auckland.	NZ Innovation Centre	Lead: MED Auckland City Council and Auckland University	Government funding was announced in Nov 2008 for the establishment of a New Zealand Innovation Centre in Tamaki.
		5.4.2	Inspire innovation by staging intellectual property showcase events.	Innovators Mini-events	AucklandPlus in collaboration with Auckland University	Pilot of Innovators Mini-event to provide a platform for commercialisation interfaces between businesses and research providers sponsored by FoRST, UniServices and IRL.
		5.4.3	Better connect universities, Crown Research Institutes and businesses.		AucklandPlus in collaboration with Regional Tertiary Institutions through activities of Metro Innovation Working	<p>Research into suitable models to connect research providers with firms in a meaningful way i.e. Voice of Market was undertaken.</p> <p>A needs survey of local innovators revealed desire to meet like-minded individuals.</p>

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					Groups CRAG – Commercialising Research Action Group	<p>Synergies of Metro objectives established with the strategic agendas of UCONZ (University Commercialisation Organisations NZ) and CRAG (Commercialising Research Action Group).</p> <p>Support for existing activities being undertaken by other organisations from Metro Innovation Workstream</p> <p>Marine industry engagement process developed with research providers and Business NZ. Research based solution for marine industry - Ongoing workshops. Research being undertaken by providers as an extension of sector engagement</p>
		5.4.4	Improve tertiary research funding to support research that can be commercialised.		Lead: AucklandPlus	Marine and Digital Content Sector Development Programmes in progress.
5.5	Gain more value from offshore networks	5.5.1	Leverage international networks and strengthen connections between existing networks and programmes.		Lead: AucklandPlus	<p>Baseline research: which cities (similar to Auckland) have international connection strategies and outcomes. Research completed on the following cities: Luxembourg, Santiago, Dublin, Sydney, Vancouver, Stockholm, Kuala Lumpur, Copenhagen, Helsinki. A reference document has been produced.</p> <p>International Clusters Research: Summary research of international clusters in the sectors of marine, advanced materials, health IT and digital content. Exporter case studies are complete.</p> <p>Interviews with key individuals with international connections and experience: Interviews completed with senior individuals in NZTE, FoRST, NZ Bio, MED, and industry.</p>

Glossary

ARC – Auckland Regional Council

AREDS - Auckland Regional Economic Development Strategy

ARH – Auckland Regional Holdings

ARLTS - Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy

ARTA – Auckland Regional Transport Authority

ASF - Auckland Sustainability Framework

CBD - Central Business District

DOL – Department of Labour

FoRST - Foundation of Research, Science and Technology

IRL – Industrial Research Limited

MED – Ministry of Economic Development

MoRST - Ministry of Research, Science and Technology

NZ Bio – New Zealand’s Biotechnology Industry Organisation

NZTE – New Zealand Trade and Enterprise

RLTC - Regional Land Transport Committee