

Possible futures

These are uncertain times. In developing the draft Auckland Plan we focused on the things most likely to bring about a great future for Aucklanders. Working together we can achieve a great deal.

There are, however, other possible futures for Auckland. Especially if we ignore how complex the world is becoming and how fast the landscape is changing.

A plan for Auckland which looks out 30 years will have some definite answers to some issues, but other areas will be far from certain.

This section of the Auckland Plan explores a small number of plausible futures for Auckland. These are not predictions, forecasts, or preferences. They are simply an initial exploration of what could be.

Alongside positive global achievements such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, there are a number of possible situations that are less positive.

Nations and cities are becoming more unequal. Enduring poverty remains. The dislocation of people across borders is unprecedented. Climate events dislodge many more people from their homes. Water and food shortages are more widespread. Trade protectionism and 'wall building' is in a new phase. An era of work dominated by artificial intelligence and automation has arrived. Many people feel isolated.

Whilst Auckland may be remote, we are still affected in this increasingly interconnected world. In developing this Auckland Plan, Aucklanders have expressed uncertainty as they see it in various ways.

Scenarios

Living with nature

Safe haven

The people's network

They have talked about:

- a two-step Auckland of haves and have nots
- the effects of Auckland's rapidly growing and increasingly diverse population
- Auckland's perception as a global 'safe haven'
- the effects and opportunities of innovative and accessible technology
- the move to better reconnect people and place
- the importance of living with nature and climate change.

While global trends are shared, so also is a desire for a more inclusive agenda. One that creates better jobs or lifestyles, addresses inequality, reduces poverty, and begins to mend land and waterways – and neighbourhoods and communities, where solutions are often found.

Deeper and more systematic processes for exploring scenarios are being developed and practiced across New Zealand. The dairy and transport sectors are two local sectors doing this well.

A wide base of wisdom and knowledge is needed to help Auckland citizens and leaders explore:

- what they want to avoid
- the trends they want to follow and encourage.
- alternative ways of influencing the future, through a thorough process of scenario testing and discussion.

This will be one way the Auckland Plan continues to develop and refine its response to complex issues, and fast-paced change.

Whose food bowl

Two speed Auckland



Living with nature



Safe haven



The people's network



Whose food bowl?



Two speed Auckland

