

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report aims to illustrate the opportunities and issues, the tensions and trade-offs that are inherent in managing Auckland's three harbours, the jewels in the Auckland region's crown. It does not seek to solve the many problems affecting governance, commercial development, environmental integrity and recreational utilisation. The report instead aims to highlight the fact that our harbour assets are under-analysed, under-utilised and under-appreciated resources of supreme importance to the region's vision of creating *The World's Most Liveable City*.

WE HAVE CONCLUDED:

- » Auckland's projected population of 2 million by 2031 will create pressure for greater utilisation of our harbours.
- » There is no cohesive plan for maritime activities across all three harbours.
- » Many agencies and Territorial Authorities are responsible for marine governance, creating governance duplication and incoherence in planning decisions.
- » The Manukau and Kaipara Harbours are grossly under-used and under-appreciated; it has been difficult to gather information on the opportunities and issues for these important assets. One Marine Spatial Plan for all three harbours will address this failing.
- » Tourism activities are under-developed across all three harbours and there is an opportunity for growth that warrants further investigation.
- » Moving the Navy from Devonport to a facility(ies) that meets the needs of a modern navy is a decision involving many stakeholders. A decision to free up naval land could reinvigorate Devonport's waterfront and environs commercially, socially and aesthetically. Discussions around naval land at Devonport need to be conducted now across all stakeholders, including Mana Whenua.
- » Ports of Auckland delivers a return on assets below the risk-free rate of return and the work being undertaken to improve that return is acknowledged. However, we need to examine the freight movement through Auckland, its impact and relationship to Auckland's urban form and the full opportunity costs involved in the long term.
- » Aquaculture and marine technologies that support world-leading research facilities and the hosting of global events across all three harbours should be priorities for Auckland Council.

THE COMMITTEE'S CENTRAL RECOMMENDATIONS ARE:

1. Auckland Council to institute, as a matter of urgency, one comprehensive Marine Spatial Plan of all three harbours to provide a planning framework and knowledge base that will:
 - » manage tensions, support sustainable economic development and improve social, cultural and environmental outcomes
 - » optimise use of the sea and seashore, and achieve operational and administrative efficiencies.
2. Auckland Council and central Government to review current governance arrangements across the Waitemata, Kaipara, and Manukau harbours including the Hauraki Gulf.
3. Auckland Council to commence with urgency the second stage of the UNISA Port Study. In particular, scope and undertake an examination of options for freight movement through Auckland, including consideration of the relationship between the port and Auckland's urban form and the opportunity cost of each.