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Backgrounder to:

“Review of Governance Models for Waterfront Developments and the Relationship with Ports Precincts and CBDs”

ARH website: www.arh.co.nz under “publications”

New international waterfront research highlights key success factors

New research undertaken by Auckland Regional Holdings (ARH) of 60 international waterfront developments supports streamlined governance and the concept of a single entity to drive waterfront developments.

But, the ARH report warns the latter is not a “silver bullet” for success.

The research showed that an enhanced governance structure can provide a mechanism to assist the delivery of a world-class waterfront. However, just changing the governance structure will not deliver a successful outcome, unless accompanied by simultaneous and coordinated efforts to deliver the other critical success factors identified in the research.

What is important, says the research, is a comprehensive integrated master plan and development programme for the entire waterfront and the mandate and committed funding to implement and deliver that plan.

It is essential that objectives are made explicit and there is a clear understanding of the outcomes sought and who is accountable for those outcomes, says the report.

The research also found that collaboration and cooperation were critical to make any waterfront development vision a reality.

Such cooperation is at the heart of the award-winning ARH and Auckland City Council framework agreement which governs the funding, roles and terms for Auckland’s Wynyard Precinct waterfront revitalisation.

Other important factors in delivering great waterfronts and cities include retaining the vibrancy of the working waterfront and the integration of the waterfront, port and central business district.

Sixty international waterfront developments in 50 cities were reviewed by Auckland Regional Holdings, owner of Ports of Auckland and 18 hectares of waterfront land in Wynyard Quarter, Auckland.

ARH’s research covered waterfront characteristics such as prior land use and number of landowners, how many levels of government were involved, what triggered the waterfront renewals and the type of governance structure and funding model used.

The review also examined the interface between the city waterfronts, working waterfronts (fishing and marine industries), ports precincts and the central business districts.

ARH's research found that a combination of public and private funding was used in 80 per cent of the waterfront developments. The key trigger for three-quarters of waterfront redevelopments was urban renewal, with the other main trigger being a major event such as the Olympic Games.

Note to editors

Auckland Regional Holdings' paper - *“Review of Governance Models for Waterfront Developments and the Relationship with Ports Precincts and CBDs* - can be found on www.arh.co.nz. The paper builds on earlier work which is also on ARH's website (*Auckland's CBD Waterfront, summary of linkages to strategic policies and benefits of implementation*) which brought together the myriad plans and policies which impact or link to Auckland's waterfront development.

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