



Will be considered for: release in full

## **MINO-805 – Waitematā Harbour Connections and Northwest Bus Improvements population assumptions**

28 June 2023

Provide information on population assumptions used to inform the Waitematā Harbour Connections and Northwest Bus Improvements projects.

---

### **Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:**

Waitematā Harbour Connections (WHC), Auckland Light Rail (ALR), Northwest Bus Improvements (NWBI) and Northwest Rapid Transit (NWRT) projects all use population growth projections from Auckland Council's land use model.

The model is revised periodically meaning the timing of a project phase determines the specific version of the land use base model used. For example, WHC Indicative Business Case, NWRT and ALR are using the latest formally released version i-11.6, however there is a newer version (i-11.7) pending formal release.

The current model i-11.6 predicts that that by 2051, the Tāmaki Makaurau region would have:

- 660,000 more people (+40%)
- 285,000 more households (+51%)
- 255,000 more jobs (+36%)
- 96,000 more trips across the Auckland Harbour Bridge (~40%).

Under the same model, the northern region of Tāmaki Makaurau (North Shore including Albany, and up to Te Hana) increases are:

- 116,000 more people (33%)
- 56,000 more households (44%)
- 42,000 new jobs (31%).

The distribution of the growth in people, households and jobs has been modelled assuming all three major infrastructure projects (WHC, ALR and NWRT) are in place. The modelling assumes a closed city (people do not leave the region or come into the region from other places).

In addition to the population growth projects, Auckland Council has been completing work on The Future Development Strategy (FDS). The strategy sets out the big picture vision for how and where Tāmaki Makaurau should grow over the next 30 years to achieve the best outcomes. Public consultation on the strategy started on 6 June 2023 and closes on 31 July 2023.

An early version of the FDS based on an updated but draft land use forecast (i-11.7) has been shared with the ALR, WHC and NWRT projects in advance to assist with robust and coordinated analysis. The latest FDS (based on i-11.7) is indicating approximately 3 to 5% less growth in the period to 2051 than modelled in i-11.6. Sensitivity testing is underway to assess the impact of the slower growth on the options for WHC, although early indication is the impact is minimal.