

1 Auckland Harbour Bridge



- The Auckland Harbour Bridge was opened on 30 May 1959.
- In 1959, 11,205 vehicles crossed the bridge daily.
- The daily average number of vehicles crossing the bridge is presently around 170,000, with more than 200,000 vehicle crossings some days.
- Cars and taxis were tolled 2 shillings and 6 pence (25c) - that's about \$8.50 in today's money compared with \$2.40 for cars to use the Northern Gateway Toll Road.
- It was built at a cost of £7,516,000 - \$246.5 million in today's money.
- A team of 1000 took four years to build the bridge.
- Constructed of structural steel and reinforced concrete, the bridge spans 1.2 kilometres across the Waitemata Harbour.
- The bridge reaches 64 metres above the water at its highest point - the top of the arch.
- There are actually three bridges within the Auckland Harbour Bridge. The section in the middle with the steep arches and flags on top is the original four-lane 'truss' bridge, plus the two clip-ons.
- Clip-ons were added in 1969 to provide more capacity.
- Tolls were removed in 1984.
- A moveable lane barrier was installed in 1990 to prevent head-on crashes and improve rush hour traffic flows.
- Waka Kotahi spends about \$8 million on maintenance and resealing each year.
- Currently, there are about 25 people employed fulltime on bridge maintenance. This includes painters, engineers, scaffolders, welders and electricians.
- The direct road link, plus two new water mains it carries, triggered massive development of the North Shore which was mainly farmland and seaside villages when the bridge opened.