

# Downtown ferry terminal plans meet resistance

**The Waiheke Local Board is concerned about the proposed reconfiguration of the Downtown Ferry Basin, which if it goes ahead as planned, will cause problems for those with mobility issues. Other concerns include protection from the elements and connectivity to other public transport options.**

Redevelopment plans for the Downtown Ferry Terminal met with opposition last week. During a three-day hearing in the Town Hall, businesses, individuals and the Waiheke Local Board presented submissions to independent planning commissioners on the proposed changes to the area.

Out of 18 submitters, 12 were opposed to the Auckland Transport (AT) application for resource consent to construct six new ferry berths, undertake modifications to the ferry terminal and historic shelter and decommission Piers Three and Four.

Major concerns around the development include a lack of pedestrian connectivity to other modes of public transport, lack of shelter for passengers, navigational safety, effects on businesses located in buildings to be demolished or relocated and no increase in the number of ferry berths.

The Waiheke Local Board's main concerns around the proposed reconfiguration included easy access for those with mobility issues, weather protection, people movement and links to bus, taxi and freight services.

"The biggest issue for Waiheke people is

the lack of connectivity with key services, in particular, the hospital and airport buses," says board chair Cath Handley.

"If chartered buses can drive in to collect cruise passengers there is no reason a bus can't come in to take people to the airport or the hospital. There is no acknowledgment of mobility issues, and there needs to be."

Waitemata and Gulf Ward councillor Mike Lee believes the current reconfiguration proposal "is a thoroughly bad idea".

"There is a perfectly serviceable ferry terminal positioned in the right place now and to go and move it along the end of Queens Wharf inconveniences ferry users," he says.

"Commuters don't just use ferries on balmy summer holidays - they have to do it day in, day out right through the winter. If you push people 200 or 300 metres down the pier, this will cause an issue."

Last year, over six million trips were made on the Auckland ferry network. Although passenger numbers are increasing, the new ferry terminal design does not appear to allow for growth.

"If they were to take away Piers Three and Four now and go ahead with the six new ferry berths there still wouldn't be sufficient ferry terminals for growth, and in particular growth in competition," says



The construction of a mooring dolphin at the end of Queens Wharf is planned to enable even larger cruise ships to dock in central Auckland. Photo Sophie Boladeras

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## Waiheke Weather

Supplied by Weatherwise Auckland, 020 4023 0106

25-31 Mar 2019	Rainfall mm		Maximum temperature °C		Minimum temperature °C	
	Waiheke	Auckland	Waiheke	Auckland	Waiheke	Auckland
Monday	0.0	0.0	24.0	26.2	19.3	20.1
Tuesday	0.5	0.0	24.5	25.5	18.5	19.9
Wednesday	3.3	13.0	23.0	24.7	17.8	18.6
Thursday	0.0	0.2	22.7	23.4	18.0	18.4
Friday	0.0	0.0	25.7	26.9	18.5	20.1
Saturday	0.0	0.0	25.9	25.5	18.0	19.3
Sunday	0.0	2.0	24.8	25.2	20.5	21.1
<b>Weekly Total</b>	3.8	15.2				
<b>March Total</b>	46.5	65.7				
<b>Weekly ave</b>			24.4	25.3	18.7	19.6
<b>March Hist Ave</b>	93.3	108.8	23.4	23.5	15.4	15.0

SOURCE: TWO SIDES NZ TOLUNA SURVEY 2017

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