

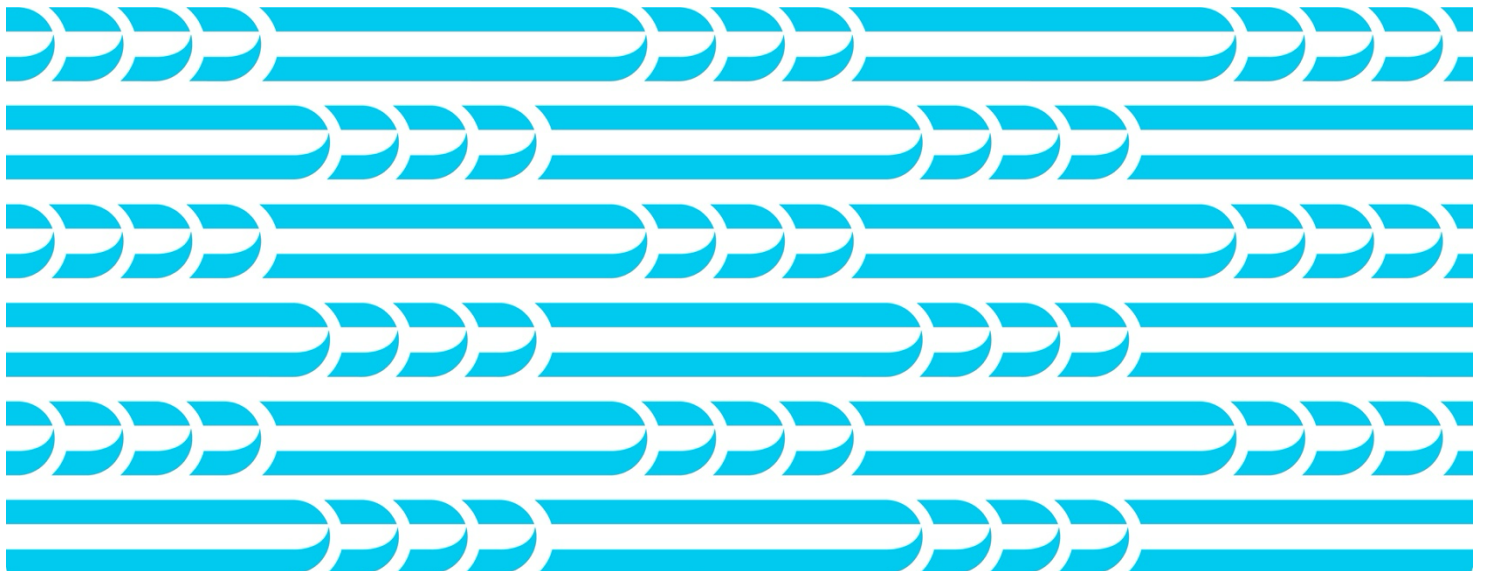


Waipapa
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**University
of Auckland**

Auckland @15

Results of a Pol.is conversation
with Aucklanders

April 2025



Auckland @15

Results of a Pol.is conversation with Aucklanders

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Overview

It has been 15 years since the Auckland Super City was established through the amalgamation of Auckland's seven territorial local authorities and one regional authority. The creation of a city-region was designed to address the difficulties of coordinating and aligning leadership and strategic planning, and enhancing political accountability.

The changes created NZ's largest metropolitan area with a governance structure responsible for region-wide planning and service provision. The goals were to provide:

- Strong regional leadership (establishing a mayoral office) and a cohesive voice representing
- Auckland
- Joined-up strategic development on region-level initiatives
- Economies of scale in administrative efficiency and service delivery
- Enhance political accountability, improved transparency and decision-making
- Better connection with Auckland public to ensure community interests are represented while maintaining Auckland-wide governance

For three weeks in April 2025, Aucklanders were invited to participate in an interactive survey on the Pol.is platform, providing their views on what has been achieved, and importantly, looking forward to what they desired for the city's future.

The survey was conducted by the [Complex Conversations](#) research group at the University of Auckland.

A different kind of survey

Pol.is is known as a 'wiki-survey' tool, which means that the content of the survey is developed by the community of participants. Pol.is conversations begin from a set of short seed statements (up to 140-characters) that help to frame the discussion by offering a range of possible perspectives on the question at hand. Participants 'vote' on the statements by agreeing or disagreeing (or passing), and can add their own short statements for others to vote on. Because statements must be very short, the emphasis is on voting rather than writing, which lowers the barriers to entry into the conversation.

A set of 25 seed statements were entered to start the conversation. These related to how the Super City has fared with regard to issues such as:

- Governance and decision-making
- Public voice and engagement
- Planning and infrastructure
- Business and innovation
- Culture and diversity
- Housing and transport
- Environment and sustainability
- Tourism and amenities

The seed statements and voting patterns can be found in the [Appendix](#). Participants voted on the seed statements and were prompted to add their own ideas for others to vote on, creating an evolving conversation. Statements are presented to participants in a semi-random order so that all statements can be considered on their own merit. It is assumed that not all participants will consider all statements. People could participate at any time in the life cycle of the conversation.

Those who voted similarly on multiple statements are grouped together to form opinion groups. Automated opinion mapping finds areas of common ground while also identifying differences between the groups.

Who participated?

Recruitment for the Pol.is survey was primarily via email using the Complex Conversations database, encompassing around 2,500 Auckland-based individuals who previously expressed interest in participating in projects and deliberative conversations run by the Complex Conversations group.

Broader invitations to join the conversation were made via partner databases and social media. People were also encouraged to share the survey link with others. The survey was open to people who live (or have lived) in Auckland over the past 15 years.

Over the three weeks that the survey was open, 575 people actively participated, casting total of 46,469 votes and submitting 950 statements.

Of the 575 active participants, 52% were male, 46% were female, and 2% were gender diverse or not specified. The age range of participants was fairly evenly spread but showed an underrepresentation in the under-30 years age bracket (9%) and a slight overrepresentation in the over-70 years bracket (21%). Participants aged between 30 and 49 years made up 36% and those between 50 and 69 years made up 34% of the active participant group.

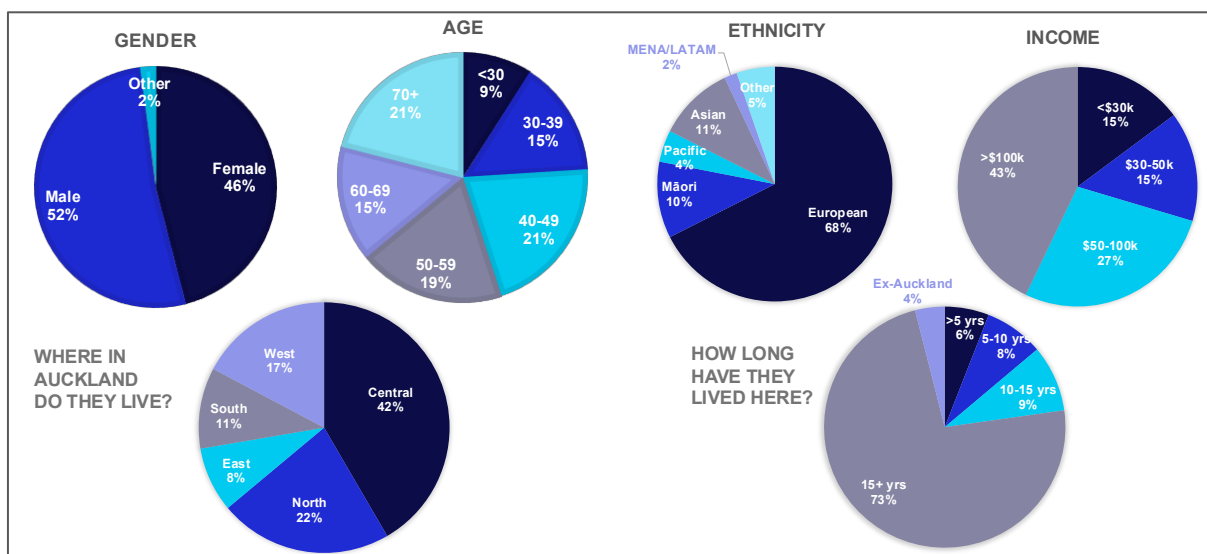
The ethnic makeup was heavily European/Pakeha (69%), with 10% Māori, 11% Asian, 4% Pacific, 2% Middle Eastern or Latin American, and 5% other ethnicities.

Income levels were slanted towards higher incomes, with 43% >\$100,000, 27% between \$50,000 and \$100,000, 15% between \$30,000 and \$50,000 and 15% below \$30,000.

In terms of areas of residence in Auckland, the largest segment were based centrally (42%), with 22% from North Auckland, 17% from West, 11% from South and 8% from Eastern areas. The majority of participants were long-time residents, with 73% living in Auckland for at least 15 years.

The demographic mix is illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Participant demographics



What did they talk about?

Statements submitted by participants canvassed a wide range of topics from transport and housing to governance and decision-making, infrastructure planning, business and economy, and safety and equity. A number of themes emerged, as outlined below.

Cultural Identity and Diversity:

- Cultural identity remains a sharp point of division however 64% agree Auckland has a recognisable, multicultural identity.
- Around 70% strongly support celebrating Auckland's Māori and Pacific heritage and investing in cultural diversity and the arts.
- About 30% expressed caution or scepticism about prioritising further cultural investment.

Environment Protection and Sustainability Action:

- Up to 95% support stronger environmental protections, including improved water quality and urban greenery.
- 87% think Auckland's trees and urban greenery need better protection to stop our suburbs becoming unappealing, hot and sensitive to flooding.

Decision making capacity and engagement:

- Only 53% overall felt amalgamation successfully unified Auckland's voice to central government.
- Only 18% felt connected to Council decision-making and just 20% felt amalgamation had improved public engagement.
- Only 32% think Council is providing more strategic and region-wide responses to problems, with most saying there are more ad hoc responses,

Housing and Urban Development:

- 91% of those surveyed believe housing intensification must be balanced with green spaces and liveability.
- 90% Participants expressed support for high-quality, best-practice high density development in appropriate locations with supporting services like public transport.

Infrastructure Planning:

- 94% support a long-term infrastructure strategy that transcends political cycles.
- 93% think Auckland needs to consider retreating from flood-prone areas and should prohibit new building in these locations.
- 92% think infill housing development needs to be balanced with green spaces and community amenities.

Innovation and Economic Development:

- 77% believe Auckland must position itself as a global innovation city to attract talent and strengthen its economy.
- 77% also believe Auckland must position itself as a global innovation city to attract talent and strengthen its economy but expressed concern that the city doesn't maximise this advantage compared to overseas cities."

Transport:

- 61% think reducing congestion should be Auckland's top transport priority, even if it means introducing charges on some roads at times when they are most congested.
- 60% think it's easier to get around Auckland on public transport than it used to be.
- 56% think that Auckland has made progress on public transport, but cycling and pedestrian access need more investment.

Results in Detail

As expected, the Pol.is conversation evolved over time. Once voting began, two distinct opinion groups emerged. Among the 575 total participants, 512 could be sorted based on voting patterns into one of the two opinion groups. At the end of the Pol.is, group A had 146 participants and group B had 366 participants.

A number of consensus statements emerged early on and retained high support throughout the conversation, while there were also some very stark disagreements on some statements, with groups

A and B holding opposing views on a number of key issues. Because group A represented a much smaller proportion of the full participant group, the majority opinion was generally different from the views of Group A.

Consensus Across Groups

Environmental Protection and Natural Assets

Water quality improvement in Auckland's harbours and waterways emerged as a top priority with overwhelming support across both demographic groups (86.6% overall agreement; 79.2% in Group A and 90.3% in Group B). This environmental focus extended to urban greenery, with 88.3% of participants agreeing that Auckland's trees need better protection to prevent suburbs from becoming unappealing, hot, and flood-sensitive though Group B showed notably stronger support (92.9%) compared to Group A (78.0%). The importance of preserving greenery for residents' physical and mental health received one of the highest consensus rates in the conversation at 95.1% overall agreement, with remarkably consistent support across Group A (94.2%) and Group B (95.4%).

Participants expressed strong appreciation for Auckland's natural assets, with 92.2% agreeing that Aucklanders are lucky to live near a beautiful harbour. Regional parks were recognized as a valuable resource that should be expanded, with 88.9% overall agreement and showing consistent support across both Group A (83.0%) and Group B (91.0%).

Urban Development and Planning

Participants strongly agreed that large developers need to take more ownership and responsibility for green spaces and infrastructure in surrounding areas, with 86.1% overall agreement (79.5% in Group A and 89.2% in Group B). There was clear consensus that infill housing development needs to be balanced with green spaces and community amenities, with 91.7% overall agreement (89.4% in Group A and 92.6% in Group B).

Participants expressed strong support for high-quality, best-practice high density development in appropriate locations with supporting services like public transport, with 90.0% overall agreement (80.9% in Group A and 93.8% in Group B). The creation of walkable, people-centred areas and character-filled public spaces was identified as crucial for making Auckland attractive to both visitors and residents, with particularly strong support from Group B (97.9%) compared to Group A (75.8%)³⁴

Both groups showed strong support for child-focused community planning^{651, 607} with particularly high agreement (99% in Group B, 87% in Group A) that Auckland children should be able to walk or bike to school and other activities.^{651, 607}

Infrastructure and Climate Adaptation

Participants strongly agreed on the need for a long-term infrastructure framework that isn't subject to short-term election cycles⁴²² with 94.4% overall agreement (92.4% in Group A and 95.2% in Group B)⁴²²

Climate adaptation emerged as a priority, with 93.4% of participants agreeing that Auckland needs to consider retreating from flood-prone areas and should prohibit new building in these locations⁴³⁸ with Group B showing particularly strong support at 96.3% compared to 86.4% in Group A⁴³⁸

Transportation planning showed strong consensus, with 96.5% of participants agreeing that Auckland children should be able to walk or bike to school and other activities⁶⁵¹ with near-unanimous support from Group B (99.0%) and strong support

Auckland's Economic Role and Strategic Planning

Auckland's position as New Zealand's economic powerhouse was widely acknowledged by participants^{103, 671} with strong agreement across groups that it serves as the country's only global city^{671, 103}

This recognition of Auckland's economic importance was coupled with calls for long-term strategic planning^{671, 731} that extends beyond electoral cycles to attract international investment and talent^{671, 731}

Both groups strongly supported the need for Auckland to play its part in supporting New Zealand's economy through innovation and productivity^{731, 16} reflecting a shared understanding of the city's national economic significance^{731, 103}

Business and Economic Development

The topic of business and economic development revealed several key patterns in the conversation, with participants expressing strong views on Auckland's role as an economic center^{103, 671} while also highlighting concerns about innovation, talent retention, and strategic planning^{16, 425, 661}

Auckland's position as New Zealand's economic powerhouse emerged as a central theme^{103, 671} with participants recognizing its concentration of technology and innovation enterprises^{425, 731}

Within this topic, strategic business development generated significant discussion^{619, 557} with participants broadly agreeing on the need for distinctive business hubs across the city where people can live and work locally^{619, 731}

Innovation and Talent Development

Innovation and talent development emerged as a critical subtopic within the broader economic discussion^{16, 425} with strong consensus across groups that Auckland should do more to be recognized as an innovation city^{16, 731}

Participants acknowledged that Auckland has the largest concentration of New Zealand's technology and innovation enterprises^{425, 671} but expressed concern that the city doesn't maximize this advantage compared to overseas cities^{425, 661}

The lack of a current innovation strategy was highlighted as a significant issue^{661, 731} with participants noting that Auckland hasn't had an innovation strategy since 2012⁶⁶¹ potentially explaining why it lags behind peer cities.^{661, 425}

Both groups strongly supported the development of strategic business hubs across the city^{619, 557} where people could live and work locally, potentially addressing both economic development and quality of life concerns.^{619, 557}

Table 1 lists statements showing the highest consensus (either agree or disagree) across the two opinion groups.

Table 1: Statements with the highest consensus (either agree or disagree) across the groups

ID	Statement	Support overall	Support by group
		%agree %disagree %pass (# of votes)	%agree %disagree %pass (# of votes)
	Statements with which the majority agrees		
19	Improving water quality in Auckland’s harbours and waterways should be a top priority.	86%7%6%(409)	A - 77%15%7%(133) B - 90%3%5%(276)
39	Large developers need to take more ownership and responsibility for green spaces and infrastructure in the surrounding areas.	86%7%6%(394)	A - 78%14%7%(127) B - 89%4%5%(267)
143	Auckland's trees and urban greenery need better protection to stop our suburbs becoming unappealing, hot and sensitive to flooding.	87%6%5%(363)	A - 77%15%7%(113) B - 92%3%4%(250)
332	Preserving greenery in the city is crucial for Aucklanders' health - both physical and mental	94%1%3%(299)	A - 93%2%4%(91) B - 95%0%3%(208)
348	Walkable, people-centred areas and character-filled public spaces make a city attractive to visitors and residents. Auckland needs more of these, not just in the city centre.	90%4%5%(293)	A - 75%12%11%(95) B - 97%0%2%(198)
422	Auckland needs a long term infrastructure framework that isn’t subject to short term election cycles with money wasted on cancelled projects	94%1%4%(245)	A - 92%2%4%(69) B - 95%0%3%(176)
330	Aucklanders are lucky to live near a beautiful harbour.	92%2%5%(244)	A - 89%5%4%(69) B - 93%0%5%(175)
335	Infill housing development needs to be balanced with green spaces and community amenities	91%4%4%(241)	A - 87%7%5%(70) B - 92%2%4%(171)
422	Auckland needs a long term infrastructure framework that isnt subject to short term election cycles with money wasted on cancelled projects	94%1%4%(245)	A - 92%2%4%(69) B - 95%0%3%(176)
	Statements with which the majority disagrees		
70	Aucklanders prefer private transport , we understand this means congestion but will live with it to live our lives as we wish	28%63%8%(384)	A - 64%25%10%(125) B - 10%81%8%(259)
82	Most people don’t want to cycle or walk to work and never will	36%55%7%(393)	A - 78%13%7%(129) B - 16%75%7%(264)
123	The Auckland council governance needs to change so the mayor can have a strong influence. That is who people when voting, are voting for.	7%54%17%(373)	A - 59%29%10%(119) B - 12%66%20%(254)
163	Urban roads need to be much wider	31%57%10%(364)	A - 65%24%9%(113) B - 16%72%11%(251)

Differences Between Groups

Overview of Groups and Major Divisions

The conversation revealed two distinct groups which differed most notably on urban development, transportation priorities, and cultural values across Auckland.^{0, 18, 70} Differences between Group A and Group B emerged on public transport and cycling infrastructure, where Group A showed strong resistance to cycling initiatives and preference for car-centric development while Group B expressed overwhelming support for public transport expansion and active mobility options.^{70, 82, 104, 199, 345} Group A consistently prioritized traditional development patterns, individual car usage, and expressed concerns about safety and fiscal restraint, while Group B emphasized sustainability, density, cultural diversity, and collective infrastructure investment.^{18, 56, 65, 132, 163, 214}

Group Descriptions

Group A was characterized by scepticism toward Auckland's amalgamation and urban transformation, consistently disagreeing with statements about the benefits of the Super City structure and intensification.^{0, 1, 297} Their perspective prioritized traditional suburban development patterns and car-centric infrastructure, showing strong agreement with statements suggesting most people prefer driving over cycling or walking.^{70, 82, 163} This group expressed significant concerns about public safety and downtown deterioration, while favoring fiscal restraint and stronger mayoral powers.^{33, 132, 123, 161}

Group B's perspective centred on sustainability and public transportation, demonstrated by their overwhelming support for cycling infrastructure, rail investment, and emissions reduction.^{104, 43, 214, 345} This aligned with their broader pattern of favouring urban density and intensification, particularly on statements about increasing housing in central areas rather than expanding outward.^{44, 177, 222} Group B also showed strong support for cultural diversity, Māori representation, and arts funding, while expressing more positive views about Auckland's progress since amalgamation.^{56, 49, 93, 573}

Tables 2 and 3 list statements which make each group unique, by their voting patterns.

Table 2: Statements characteristic of Group A (146 participants)

ID	Statement	Votes of Group A	Votes of Group B
		%agree %disagree %pass (# of votes)	%agree %disagree %pass (# of votes)
	Statements with which Group A (minority group) agree		
82	Most people don't want to cycle or walk to work and never will	78%13%7%(129)	16%75%7%(264)
	Statements with which Group A disagree		
104	Auckland needs to do more to make cycling more appealing. Bike lanes/cycleways are essential to this because they make cyclists feel safe.	14% 76% 8%(113)	84%6%8%(238)
49	Nearly a quarter of New Zealand's Māori population live in Auckland, there should be better representation on Auckland Council for Māori	16% 73% 9% (132)	75%7%16%(265)
18	Auckland is making progress on sustainability, but we need stronger action on climate change and resilience	28% 60% 10% (135)	90%2%7%(283)

3	Auckland has made progress on public transport, but cycling and pedestrian access need more investment.	15% 77% 6%(132)	75% 12% 11%(279)
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Table 3: Statements characteristic of Group B (366 participants)

ID	Statement	Overall votes of Group B			Group A %agree
		%agree	%disagree	%pass (# of votes)	
Statements with which the majority Group B agree					
104	Auckland needs to do more to make cycling more appealing. Bike lanes/cycleways are essential to this because they make cyclists feel safe.	84%	6%	8% (238)	14%76%8%(113)
18	Auckland is making progress on sustainability, but we need stronger action on climate change and resilience.	90%	2%	7% (283)	28%60%10%(135)
199	The more roads you build, the more cars will be used. Auckland Council should make its number 1 priority to invest in public transport.	91%	4%	4% (240)	30%53%15%(108)
214	We lack bold leadership on emissions reduction, and specifically transport emissions reduction, to be a thriving healthy city.	88%	3%	7% (217)	26%58%15%(91)
Statements with which the majority Group B disagree					
82	Most people don't want to cycle or walk to work and never will	16%	75%	7% (264)	78%13%7%(129)
70	Aucklanders prefer private transport, we understand this means congestion but will live with it to live our lives as we wish	10%	81%	8%(259)	64%25%10%(125)

Transport

The most dramatic divergence between groups appeared on transportation issues, where Group A supported car-centric development while Group B overwhelmingly favoured public transport and cycling infrastructure.^{70, 82, 104, 199}

Table 4 shows the statements relating to transport, and how people voted on these.

Table 4. Transport related statements and voting patterns

ID	Statement	Support overall			Support by group		
		%agree	%disagree	%pass (# of votes)	%agree	%disagree	%pass (# of votes)
3	Auckland has made progress on public transport, but cycling and pedestrian access need more investment.	56%	33%	9%(411)	A - 15% 77% 6%(132)	B - 75% 12% 11%(279)	
11	It's easier to get around Auckland on public transport than it used to be.	60%	24%	15%(409)	A - 42% 41% 16%(133)	B - 69% 15% 14%(276)	
15	Reducing congestion should be Auckland's top transport priority, even if it means introducing charges on some roads at times when they are most congested.	61%	27%	10%(414)	A - 45% 47% 7%(135)	B - 69% 17% 12%(279)	
32	Public transport is too expensive for people to be enticed into using it over driving	62%	27%	10%(406)	A - 59% 30% 9%(132)	B - 63% 26% 10%(274)	
36	Auckland's lack of reliable and affordable transport in the city centre has caused financial strain on hospitality businesses in the CBD	57%	21%	21%(411)	A - 58% 24% 17%(134)	B - 56% 19% 23%(277)	
50	Auckland has a lack of vision and appetite for joined up public transport compared to other cities in our region like Sydney, Melbourne etc.	76%	13%	10%(397)	A - 70% 17% 12%(129)	B - 79% 11% 8%(268)	

70	Aucklanders prefer private transport, we understand this means congestion but will live with it to live our lives as we wish	28%63%8%(384)	A - 64%25%10%(125) B - 10%81%8%(259)
74	Urban streets should have safe speed limits which encourage children and commuters to walk, scoot & cycle to school or work.	77%15%6%(384)	A - 47%43%8%(123) B - 91%2%5%(261)
80	Neighbourhoods/communities which are easy to traverse on foot or by bike/scooter are appealing to live in and will thrive commercially.	78%11%9%(388)	A - 51%31%16%(130) B - 92%1%6%(258)
82	Most people don't want to cycle or walk to work and never will	36%55%7%(393)	A - 78%13%7%(129) B - 16%75%7%(264)
104	Auckland needs to do more to make cycling more appealing. Bike lanes/cycleways are essential to this because they make cyclists feel safe.	62%29%8%(351)	A - 14%76%8%(113) B - 84%6%8%(238)
118	Auckland City would be better if we had road tunnel infrastructure under the city (look at Sydney's toll road tunnels)	41%30%28%(373)	A - 50%25%24%(116) B - 36%32%30%(257)
163	Urban roads need to be much wider	31%57%10%(364)	A - 65%24%9%(113) B - 16%72%11%(251)
171	Good Non "private vehicle" transport options are needed, so its viable to not have/use a car.	81%11%7%(315)	A - 51%32%15%(101) B - 95%0%3%(214)
199	The more roads you build, the more cars will be used. Auckland Council should make its number 1 priority to invest in public transport.	72%19%7%(348)	A - 30%53%15%(108) B - 91%4%4%(240)
214	We lack bold leadership on emissions reduction, and specifically transport emissions reduction, to be a thriving healthy city.	70%19%9%(308)	A - 26%58%15%(91) B - 88%3%7%(217)
345	Better public transport would avoid the need for building more, or wider, roads.	77%16%6%(294)	A - 36%51%12%(91) B - 95%0%3%(203)
374	Auckland needs a walking and cycling route across the Harbour Bridge, or a standalone bridge - this will be a major draw for tourists.	66%25%8%(284)	A - 28%63%8%(82) B - 81%10%7%(202)
401	We need high-quality best-practice high density development, in the right places, supported by relevant services (e.g. public transport)	89%5%4%(245)	A - 79%13%6%(73) B - 94%1%4%(172)
404	Social housing should be put into all socio-economic areas. Wealthy suburbs close to the city centre usually have better public transport.	72%16%10%(260)	A - 35%48%16%(68) B - 85%5%8%(192)
420	I would like my household to become less car dependent over time.	74%16%9%(250)	A - 30%52%17%(70) B - 91%2%6%(180)
454	Bring back the regional fuel tax to pay for transport projects	60%26%13%(228)	A - 23%65%10%(67) B - 75%9%14%(161)

Culture, arts, events, and heritage

Perspectives on culture, cultural heritage, diversity and arts sharply divided the groups. Group B showed strong support for diversity, Māori representation, and arts funding, while Group A expressed more scepticism toward these priorities.^{56, 49, 329, 573}

Participants were divided on whether Auckland needs more cultural institutions and increased arts funding to compete globally.^{14, 93, 126} This connected to broader themes of Auckland's identity and global positioning, especially regarding how the city presents itself to visitors and residents alike.^{17, 21, 373} Most participants recognized Auckland's distinctive cultural identity, particularly its Māori and Pacific heritage, as fundamental to the city's character.^{26, 329, 573}

These viewpoints often intersected with discussions about Auckland's infrastructure and public spaces, particularly when considering how cultural venues and events contribute to the city's vibrancy.^{275, 318, 480}

Table 5 shows statements and voting patterns relating to culture, identity, arts and heritage.

Table 5. Statements relating to culture, identity, arts and heritage

ID	Statement	Support overall %agree %disagree %pass (# of votes)	Support by group %agree %disagree %pass (# of votes)
14	Auckland's arts, cultural, and events sector needs more investment to compete globally.	63%20%16%(414)	A - 37%47%14%(135) B - 75%7%17%(279)
17	Auckland is a great place for tourists to visit.	56%23%19%(404)	A - 47%34%17%(134) B - 61%18%20%(270)
21	Auckland hosts great events that attract visitors and make the city a vibrant place to live.	59%22%18%(407)	A - 47%34%18%(138) B - 65%16%18%(269)
26	Auckland has a recognisable culture that reflects its Māori and Pacific heritage, along with its broader diverse communities.	64%17%18%(412)	A - 48%26%25%(134) B - 71%13%14%(278)
49	Nearly a quarter of New Zealand's Māori population live in Auckland, there should be better representation on Auckland Council for Māori	55%29%14%(397)	A - 16%73%9%(132) B - 75%7%16%(265)
56	Diversity is our strength.	74%17%8%(393)	A - 42%44%13%(133) B - 90%3%6%(260)
93	Very few world cities got to where they are by cutting funding for the arts.	59%17%22%(391)	A - 32%40%27%(125) B - 72%6%20%(266)
126	Auckland needs more cultural institutions - more museums, art galleries, etc.	44%34%21%(371)	A - 20%61%18%(116) B - 55%22%22%(255)
275	Once the inner city train stations open we should see a boon in Auckland central's cultural life.	62%17%20%(299)	A - 32%41%25%(93) B - 75%5%18%(206)
318	Auckland needs more Festive, Live concert and Sporting events.	56%21%22%(304)	A - 47%35%17%(94) B - 60%15%24%(210)
329	Auckland CBD needs more visible demonstrations of our world famous, highly admired Maori culture	59%27%13%(305)	A - 21%65%13%(98) B - 77%9%13%(207)
474	A new larger museum in Auckland displaying Maori & Pasifika heritage should be a priority and to draw in tourism	29%47%23%(173)	A - 15%74%9%(51) B - 35%36%28%(122)
573	Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland needs to honour Indigenous Māori culture and cultural events, cutting funding is awful it takes us backwards.	63%23%13%(168)	A - 18%67%14%(49) B - 82%5%12%(119)

Community, liveability, and social issues

The topic of community and social cohesion revealed significant patterns in the conversation, with participants expressing strong views on the importance of connected neighbourhoods and inclusive public spaces^{350, 348, 724} with walkability and people-centred design emerging as central themes^{348, 80, 603}

Clear differences emerged between the groups' approaches and underlying values^{350, 7} Group A demonstrated mixed feelings about community connection, with only 32% feeling connected to their communities in Auckland.³⁵⁰ In contrast, Group B approached community through the lens of diversity and inclusion^{56, 283} leading to strong agreement (90% and 87% respectively) with statements celebrating diversity as a strength.^{56, 283}

A significant division appeared regarding social housing placement, with only 17% of Group A supporting preferential placement in wealthy neighbourhoods compared to 55% of Group B,¹²⁹ reflecting fundamentally different approaches to addressing economic stratification within communities.¹²⁹

Table 6 shows statements and voting patterns relating to community and social issues.

Table 6 . Statements relating to community and social issues.

ID	Statement	Support overall			Support by group		
		%agree	%disagree	%pass (# of votes)	%agree	%disagree	%pass (# of votes)
7	The unified Council has helped to address the social and economic inequalities between different population groups and different communities throughout the region.	20%	49%	29%(407)	A - 14%	68%	17%(133)
56	Diversity is our strength.	74%	17%	8%(393)	A - 42%	44%	13%(133)
80	Neighbourhoods/communities which are easy to traverse on foot or by bike/scooter are appealing to live in and will thrive commercially.	78%	11%	9%(388)	A - 51%	31%	16%(130)
129	To avoid an economically stratified society, social housing should be preferentially placed in Auckland's richest neighbourhoods	43%	34%	22%(377)	A - 17%	67%	15%(116)
283	One of our strengths is that we come from so many different areas, iwi and countries.	76%	11%	12%(244)	A - 50%	33%	15%(71)
					B - 86%	1%	11%(173)

Environmental Sustainability and Action

On environmental sustainability and climate action, clear differences emerged between the groups' approaches and underlying values.^{18, 214, 349} Group A demonstrated mixed views on sustainability initiatives, reflecting a more cautious approach to environmental policy changes.^{18, 214, 605} In contrast, Group B approached environmental topics through a lens of stronger environmental advocacy, leading to high agreement with statements supporting climate action, tree protection, and blue-green infrastructure.^{18, 214, 349} This group consistently prioritized environmental protection and sustainability measures across various subtopics, from water quality to urban forestry.^{100, 143, 19}

The most notable divergence appeared in statements addressing climate change action and emissions reduction, where Group B showed substantially stronger support than Group A.^{18, 214} This pattern highlighted how different values regarding environmental urgency and regulatory approaches shaped group positions on sustainability topics.^{214, 18, 605}

Table 7 shows statements and voting patterns relating to sustainability and climate action issues.

Table 7 . Statements relating to sustainability and climate action issues.

ID	Statement	Support overall			Support by group		
		%agree	%disagree	%pass (# of votes)	%agree	%disagree	%pass (# of votes)
18	Auckland is making progress on sustainability, but we need stronger action on climate change and resilience.	70%	21%	8%(418)	A - 28%	60%	10%(135)
19	Improving water quality in Auckland's harbours and waterways should be a top priority.	86%	7%	6%(409)	A - 77%	15%	7%(133)
100	Auckland needs more tree cover - increased shade, cooler streets and neighbourhoods, better bird habitat	82%	9%	7%(396)	A - 68%	22%	9%(121)
					B - 89%	3%	7%(275)

143	Auckland's trees and urban greenery need better protection to stop our suburbs becoming unappealing, hot and sensitive to flooding.	87%6%5%(363)	A - 77%15%7%(113) B - 92%3%4%(250)
214	We lack bold leadership on emissions reduction, and specifically transport emissions reduction, to be a thriving healthy city.	70%19%9%(308)	A - 26%58%15%(91) B - 88%3%7%(217)
349	Auckland needs to enhance its blue-green infrastructure (green corridors and stream daylighting) for both flood mitigation and public enjoyment	81%5%13%(295)	A - 57%17%25%(92) B - 91%0%8%(203)
605	Most Aucklanders want to do our part to reduce the negative effects of climate change.	73%14%11%(187)	A - 55%34%10%(49) B - 80%7%12%(138)

Housing and Urban Development

The topic of housing development in Auckland revealed significant divisions in how participants envision the city's future growth. While there was broad agreement that Auckland needs more affordable housing options, participants expressed divergent views on how and where this development should occur.^{44, 265, 177, 222}

Many participants supported focusing development closer to the CBD to reduce traffic and create more vibrant communities.^{177, 222, 265} Group B approached housing development through the lens of density and centralization,^{44, 177, 222} showing strong support for high-density development closer to the CBD and transport nodes.^{44, 177, 222} Group A demonstrated stronger support for preserving neighbourhood character and green spaces, expressing concern that infill housing was destroying what made Auckland desirable.⁶⁵ This fundamental difference was particularly evident in responses to statements about zoning reforms and infill housing,^{8, 65, 265} where Group A was significantly more sceptical of density-focused approaches than Group B.^{8, 44, 177}

On social housing, significant differences emerged, with Group B showing much stronger support for distributing social housing across all socioeconomic areas,^{129, 404} while Group A was more resistant to this approach.^{129, 404}

Statements related to housing and urban development, and their overall and group voting patterns, are shown in Table 8

Table 8. Statements relating to housing and urban development

ID	Statement	Support overall	Support by group
		%agree %disagree %pass (# of votes)	%agree %disagree %pass (# of votes)
8	Zoning reforms (allowing more houses per section in some areas) has helped make houses in Auckland more affordable.	43%38%18%(415)	A - 31%60%8%(134) B - 49%27%22%(281)
22	Auckland needs more housing, and it needs to be more affordable for renters or buyers.	79%8%11%(413)	A - 64%23%11%(134) B - 86%1%11%(279)
38	Auckland should consider activating and developing non-CBD regions to create a 'second' CBD in the next 20 years	55%24%19%(402)	A - 60%28%10%(132) B - 52%22%24%(270)
39	Large developers need to take more ownership and responsibility for green spaces and infrastructure in the surrounding areas.	86%7%6%(394)	A - 78%14%7%(127) B - 89%4%5%(267)
44	Auckland should focus on increasing high density housing in the CBD and surrounding suburbs	66%22%10%(401)	A - 43%46%9%(131) B - 77%10%11%(270)
65	Infill housing is destroying what made Auckland a great place to live	37%42%19%(361)	A - 65%24%10%(110) B - 24%50%24%(251)

129	To avoid an economically stratified society, social housing should be preferentially placed in Auckland's richest neighbourhoods	43%34%22%(377)	A - 17%67%15%(116) B - 55%19%24%(261)
143	Auckland's trees and urban greenery need better protection to stop our suburbs becoming unappealing, hot and sensitive to flooding.	87%6%5%(363)	A - 77%15%7%(113) B - 92%3%4%(250)
177	The city should be heavily prioritising higher density development closer to the CBD, over development in outer areas like Drury or Huapai.	66%22%11%(363)	A - 46%45%8%(117) B - 76%10%12%(246)
206	Future greenfield developments should not be approved if congestion charging is not approved.	46%30%23%(299)	A - 22%56%21%(95) B - 57%18%24%(204)
222	More housing is required in central city suburbs not in the city's periphery to reduce traffic	72%17%10%(329)	A - 47%40%12%(106) B - 84%6%8%(223)
225	Auckland needs to reduce the cost of resource consents and building consents so Kiwis can build houses and get ahead in life	53%21%25%(333)	A - 81%8%9%(102) B - 41%26%32%(231)
265	We need high density development, not infill housing	62%14%22%(321)	A - 47%31%21%(104) B - 69%6%23%(217)
335	Infill housing development needs to be balanced with green spaces and community amenities	91%4%4%(241)	A - 87%7%5%(70) B - 92%2%4%(171)
401	We need high-quality best-practice high density development, in the right places, supported by relevant services (e.g. public transport)	89%5%4%(245)	A - 79%13%6%(73) B - 94%1%4%(172)
404	Social housing should be put into all socio-economic areas. Wealthy suburbs close to the city centre usually have better public transport.	72%16%10%(260)	A - 35%48%16%(68) B - 85%5%8%(192)
432	Growth does not always pay for growth: some greenfield developments are too expensive (roading, water, increased congestion, etc)	69%10%20%(250)	A - 67%11%20%(77) B - 70%9%20%(173)
438	Auckland needs to consider how to retreat from flood-prone areas, and should not allow any new building in these areas.	93%2%3%(240)	A - 86%8%5%(72) B - 96%0%2%(168)

Economy, business, and investment

On business and economic development, clear differences emerged between the groups' approaches and underlying values.^{125, 27} Group A demonstrated stronger support for direct business assistance from the city,^{24, 558} reflecting their emphasis on creating conditions for business success and economic growth.^{24, 558} In contrast, Group B approached economic development through a broader lens that emphasized business responsibility to the community,^{25, 557} showing stronger support for land value taxation to discourage speculation that affects first-time homebuyers.¹²⁵

The groups diverged notably on their assessment of the Super City's impact on investment,²⁷ with Group A significantly more sceptical about its benefits²⁷ while Group B showed more positive or neutral perspectives on this structural change.²⁷

Both groups found common ground on Auckland's need for strategic planning and innovation^{731, 16} with strong agreement that Auckland should do more to be recognized as an innovation city to attract and retain talent^{16, 558}

The groups also aligned on the importance of tourism for supporting local businesses and generating jobs⁵⁸⁶ as well as the need for equitable access to essential services like supermarkets across the city³⁴⁴

The conversation revealed a tension between supporting business growth and addressing other community needs^{24, 25} with participants expressing varying views on whether the city should do more to support business^{24, 558} or whether businesses should do more to support the city^{25, 557}

Statements related to economic development, and their overall and group voting patterns, are shown in Table 9.

Table 9. Statements relating to Auckland's economy, business and investment

ID	Statement	Support overall			Support by group		
		%agree	%disagree	%pass (# of votes)	%agree	%disagree	%pass (# of votes)
16	Auckland should do more to be recognised as an innovation city, to attract and keep the talent that will help NZ prosper into the future.	77%	5%	16%(407)	A - 75%	9%	14%(133)
					B - 78%	3%	17%(274)
24	The city should do more to support business.	45%	22%	31%(409)	A - 64%	21%	14%(134)
					B - 37%	22%	40%(275)
25	Business should do more to support the city.	58%	16%	24%(409)	A - 47%	34%	18%(131)
					B - 64%	8%	27%(278)
27	I feel that the Super City has made Auckland a more attractive place for investment.	33%	31%	34%(409)	A - 23%	60%	16%(133)
					B - 38%	18%	43%(276)
125	Land value tax would discourage the speculation that hurts first home buyers	47%	21%	30%(373)	A - 28%	43%	27%(116)
					B - 56%	12%	31%(257)
557	The council should seek opportunities to support business growth in local high streets to boost sense of community	62%	14%	23%(178)	A - 68%	12%	18%(48)
					B - 60%	14%	24%(130)
558	More needs to be done to support business growth in Auckland, create jobs and prevent the brain drain	67%	9%	23%(188)	A - 70%	5%	23%(51)
					B - 65%	10%	23%(137)

Areas of Uncertainty

Overview of Key Uncertainty Areas

Areas of significant uncertainty centred on business-related topics and Auckland's governance structure^{13, 27} with participants showing notable hesitation around investment attractiveness and regulatory functions.^{297, 27}

Group divergence was particularly evident in statements about amalgamation benefits^{1, 2} where Group B participants expressed substantially higher uncertainty than Group A on multiple governance-related statements.^{297, 2}

Group-Specific Uncertainty Patterns

Group B participants consistently showed higher uncertainty about Auckland's business environment^{13, 27} with over 40% passing on statements about investment attractiveness and business climate.^{13, 27}

Both groups shared substantial uncertainty about regional equity issues^{46, 203} with passage rates exceeding 30% on statements about benefits to different areas of Auckland.^{203, 46}

Topic-Based Uncertainty Analysis

Governance and regulatory functions emerged as key areas of uncertainty, with participants passing on statements about amalgamation benefits at rates of 30-48%^{297, 2} particularly regarding improvements to regulatory functions and strategic planning.^{297, 2}

Economic development questions showed similar uncertainty patterns^{13, 27} with 34% passing on business climate statements and 34% on investment attractiveness.^{13, 27}

Comparative Analysis of Uncertainty Patterns

Of note, within governance-related statements, participants expressed high uncertainty about regulatory improvements (38% pass rate)^{297, 281} while showing more certainty about infrastructure planning (21% pass rate).^{4, 432}

Regional equity topics revealed an interesting pattern where participants passed at high rates on statements about benefits to South Auckland (38%)^{46, 7} while expressing more definitive opinions about local board representation (29%).^{203, 530}

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Appendix

Table A1. ‘Seed’ statements prepared by the project team to provide framing for the Pol.is conversation, and how they were voted on by participants

ID	Statement	Support overall %agree %disagree %pass (# of votes)	Support by group %agree %disagree %pass (# of votes)
0	Amalgamation was a good move because Auckland now speaks with a single unified voice to central Government	53%28%18%(411)	A - 33%53%12%(133) B - 62%17%20%(278)
1	Amalgamation has improved citizen engagement with the governance of Auckland	20%43%36%(409)	A - 10%70%19%(131) B - 24%30%45%(278)
2	Auckland produces fewer ad hoc responses to its problems, and more strategic and region-wide ones, than it did in the past.	32%28%38%(403)	A - 23%44%32%(134) B - 36%20%42%(269)
3	Auckland has made progress on public transport, but cycling and pedestrian access need more investment.	56%33%9%(411)	A - 15%77%6%(132) B - 75%12%11%(279)
4	Auckland’s infrastructure planning and delivery is improving. Some big things are getting done.	49%29%20%(411)	A - 30%51%17%(135) B - 59%18%22%(276)
6	Council structure and size make it difficult for the public’s to feel that they can get involved with or influence Council decisions	63%18%17%(392)	A - 84%8%6%(129) B - 53%23%23%(263)
7	The unified Council has helped to address the social and economic inequalities between different population groups and different communities throughout the region	20%49%29%(407)	A - 14%68%17%(133) B - 22%40%36%(274)
8	Zoning reforms (allowing more houses per section in some areas) has helped make houses in Auckland more affordable	43%38%18%(415)	A - 31%60%8%(134) B - 49%27%22%(281)
9	There are more amenities near my neighbourhood than there were 5-10 years ago	39%38%21%(407)	A - 28%57%13%(130) B - 44%29%25%(277)
10	There has been an improvement in parks and reserves around Auckland	47%24%28%(409)	A - 30%42%27%(129) B - 55%16%28%(280)
11	It’s easier to get around Auckland on public transport than it used to be	60%24%15%(409)	A - 42%41%16%(133) B - 69%15%14%(276)
13	Auckland is a good place to set up and run a business	33%19%46%(404)	A - 36%32%30%(133) B - 32%13%54%(271)
14	Auckland’s arts, cultural, and events sector needs more investment to compete globally.	63%20%16%(414)	A - 37%47%14%(135) B - 75%7%17%(279)
15	Reducing congestion should be Auckland’s top transport priority, even if it means introducing charges on some roads at times when they are most congested.	61%27%10%(414)	A - 45%47%7%(135) B - 69%17%12%(279)
16	Auckland should do more to be recognised as an innovation city, to attract and keep the talent that will help NZ prosper into the future.	77%5%16%(407)	A - 75%9%14%(133) B - 78%3%17%(274)
17	Auckland is a great place for tourists to visit	56%23%19%(404)	A - 47%34%17%(134) B - 61%18%20%(270)
18	Auckland is making progress on sustainability, but we need stronger action on climate change and resilience.	70%21%8%(418)	A - 28%60%10%(135) B - 90%2%7%(283)
19	Improving water quality in Auckland’s harbours and waterways should be a top priority.	86%7%6%(409)	A - 77%15%7%(133) B - 90%3%5%(276)
20	Auckland hosts great events that attract visitors and make the city a vibrant place to live	59%22%18%(407)	A - 47%34%18%(138) B - 65%16%18%(269)
21	Auckland needs more housing, and it needs to be more affordable for renters or buyers.	79%8%11%(413)	A - 64%23%11%(134) B - 86%1%11%(279)
22	There are high quality jobs in Auckland for me	47%26%25%(406)	A - 39%34%26%(134) B - 51%23%25%(272)
23	The city should do more to support business	45%22%31%(409)	A - 64%21%14%(134) B - 37%22%40%(275)
24	Business should do more to support the city	58%16%24%(409)	A - 47%34%18%(131) B - 64%8%27%(278)

