

# Auckland's Future, Now Actions

*Auckland's Future, Now* (AFN) business summit was held on 5 August. The full proceedings have been published online as [14 videos](#), circulated to attendees, other key stakeholders and available on ATEED's website, [www.aucklandnz.com/aucklands-future-now](http://www.aucklandnz.com/aucklands-future-now).

The AFN summit highlighted that Auckland business leaders:

- Are realistic about the ongoing challenges living with the COVID-19 pandemic presents:
  - severe uncertainty and the need to keep learning and adjusting
  - ongoing restrictions on travel and social engagement with the potential to go on beyond 2021
  - deepening global recession
- Do not wish to compromise safety, but believe substantial economic activity is still possible through smart, responsive and shared management of the response
- Believe the best responses and solutions occur when the private and public sectors work at pace in collaboration and inclusively
- Are optimistic about Auckland's future as the international city and economic engine room of New Zealand
- Want action and are ready to work in unison to lead the region's recovery

The recent outbreak of 'community transmission' emphasises the insights and suggested actions generated at the summit. An outbreak was foreseeable, it is being addressed, and it will remain an ongoing risk to manage.

ATEED is using the discussion and input from the summit to identify initial tangible actions and collaboration opportunities. Next is to identify who will collaborate to advance or facilitate these actions.

Opportunity	Outcome	Actions	Who (draft suggestions)
Investment attraction	Increased investment into tech, advanced manufacturing and creative industries in Auckland, to enable businesses to scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene a group to identify what actions “go(ing) hard on Auckland as tech hub for 5 years” could require: scale-up-friendly city policies, clustering, promotion, investment attraction, universities</li> <li>• Support the ‘missing middle’ fund proposal, a scale fund for mid-size companies to scale (+ others to address gaps in capital markets)</li> <li>• Promote talent visa for high benefit migrants</li> <li>• Promote investment in public sector use and local procurement of tech</li> <li>• Identify regulatory opportunities and constraints</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group from summit participants to develop advice</li> <li>• Use existing industry groups, e.g., creative industries leadership groups</li> <li>• Support from ATEED Invest Auckland team</li> </ul>
Workforce	Greater visibility of skill demands, more responsive training provision and digital equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce a real time picture of demand for key skills in a dynamic labour market</li> <li>• Support industry-specific skills matching programmes: construction, manufacturing, logistics, tourism/hospitality/retail</li> <li>• Support use of social procurement to achieve inclusion for Māori/Pacific businesses</li> <li>• Steps to improve digital equity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group from summit participants to develop recommendations</li> <li>• Support from ATEED Skills and Workforce team</li> </ul>
Border management	Increased managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) capacity, transparency and prioritisation of migrants/visitors/investors who create economic benefit to Auckland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-design MIQ options with officials and business who unlock jobs (construction, screen, advanced manufacturing)</li> <li>• Advance options for the return of international students</li> <li>• Identify and promote classes of high benefit visitors/migrants/investors to enter NZ</li> <li>• Support speeding up a ubiquitous tracking and tracing methodology (and other risk mitigations)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance proposals for private MIQ from a group of attendees who met privately at the summit to discuss this</li> <li>• Support from ATEED Invest Auckland team</li> </ul>

Domestic promotion	Increased domestic visitation to Auckland and understanding of Auckland's economic role in New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign to make Auckland friendly, attractive, and accessible to domestic visitors</li> <li>• City centre and sub-regional/neighbourhood accessibility and activation programmes</li> <li>• Show why Auckland matters economically to the rest of New Zealand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destination AKL Recovery Plan</li> <li>• Support from ATEED Destination division + Tourism NZ</li> </ul>
Public funding	New mechanisms for funding 'game-changing' opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspensory loan or equivalent for infrastructure programme</li> <li>• Auckland Growth Fund to accelerate successful businesses</li> <li>• Rebalance national and regional taxation (eg bed tax)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor and Auckland Council</li> <li>• ATEED to develop Growth Fund proposal</li> </ul>

#### Next steps for ATEED:

1. Support the mayor to promote key economic opportunities
2. Develop advice to the incoming government
3. Help establish economic development priorities for Auckland Council's long-term plan
4. Convene a Māori economic development hui later in 2020
5. Review progress in six months at a business event during AC36