



Winter 2019

Established in 2011, the Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA) responds to and manages a range of inter-regional and inter-metropolitan issues. It consists of Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regional Councils, Auckland Council, Whangarei District Council, and Hamilton and Tauranga City Councils. These are the regional councils of the UNI and the largest city within each region. Mayors and Chairs from these respective council's make up the alliance and report to and from leaders of the other local authorities in Northland, BOP and the Waikato.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to UNISA's work this triennium:

- Interaction and briefings to the new Government
- Responses to Government on the Productivity Commission Enquiry, Refinery Pipeline Enquiry and Independent Infrastructure Body
- Climate change projects, including carbon footprint certification and collaboration on adaptation
- Inter-regional marine pest management pathway planning
- Upper North Island Supply Chain Study
- The urban growth agenda and transport
- Infrastructure planning models such as the Auckland-Hamilton corridor

UNISA will confirm its 2019/22 work program following the local body elections in October of this year.



## Climate change

Climate change issues are becoming 'hotter' topics. There is a move to ensure climate change mitigation and adaptation are standard operating processes for UNISA councils.

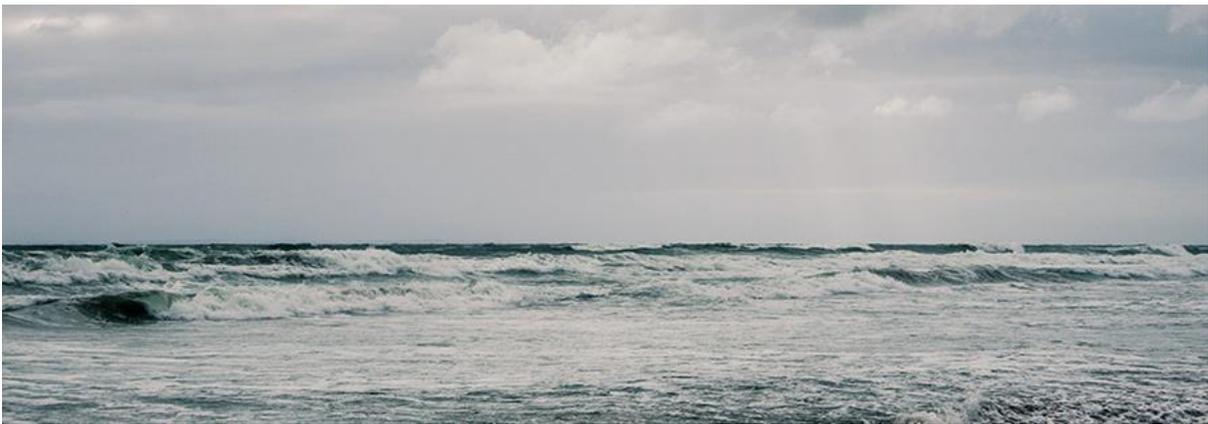
UNISA councils have already committed to energy tracking and management methods to reduce energy use, with some adding external certification of carbon footprints. The majority of UNISA councils have used the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories (GPC) methodology for district, city or region-wide carbon footprint work.

Work has also been carried out around climate changes implications, including:

- Sea level rise
- Changing rainfall patterns
- Increased magnitude and frequency of extreme weather events
- Flooding
- Extreme weather events (flooding, wind damage, landslides)
- Coastal inundation and storm surge
- Coastal erosion

The next step is to look at what UNISA can do as a collective to:

- Build community understanding and preparedness
- Develop practical processes and tools to help communities deal with new conditions
- Strengthen resilience and minimising adverse effects.



## UNISA sponsorship of an Inter-regional marine pest management pathway

UNISA supports the development of an Inter-Regional Marine Pest Pathway management plan (IRMPP) for the upper North Island as our only option to restrict the spread of marine pests. To this end the UNISA Chief Executives endorsed the development of a discussion document to gain feedback from stakeholders, tangata whenua, and the public on the options for managing marine pests in the four regions of the upper North Island being Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Auckland and Northland. The Top of the North Marine Biosecurity Partnership ran the public consultation the IRMPP across the 4 top northernmost regions of New Zealand from 18 March to 24 May 2019. The discussion document and survey were available both online and in print, and disseminated widely throughout the communities involved. Stakeholder engagement events were also held in all regions covered by the IRMPP. MPI shared the discussion document and survey to national stakeholders.

An IRMPP consultation report has been prepared, and a draft presented to the Top of the North Marine Biosecurity Partnership (NRC, Auckland Council, Waikato Regional council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council and MPI) on 14 June 2019. The group have reviewed the report and met on 27 June in Auckland to agree on the next steps. The final report will be available before the end of June so each region can provide the results to their Council. The report will then be released to the public.



## Productivity commission inquiry into local government funding and financing

The Productivity Commission, an independent Crown entity which provides advice to the Government, is currently undertaking an inquiry into how local government is funded and financed. This inquiry aims to look at options and approaches for improving relevant systems.

UNISA made a submission to the issues paper, released in November 2019. The submission brought together key shared points from UNISA partners and discussed the upper North Island context, shared challenges and made suggested changes to the funding and financing system.

These suggested changes included: new requirements from central government to be accompanied by adequate resources, lead-in times and consideration of local government funding cycles; central government support to make infrastructure networks resilient to climate change; and exploring alternative transport funding solutions and tools to fund the development of infrastructure.

The draft report and recommendations are to be released in July 2019, at which point a further UNISA submission may be developed.

Information on the Productivity Commission draft report is available here:

<https://www.productivity.govt.nz/inquiry-content/3819?stage=3>

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# Upper North Island supply chain strategy – freight and logistics

A study is underway to look at the network of freight and logistics in the upper North Island – Northland, Auckland, Bay of Plenty and Waikato regions. Central government has appointed an independent working group to conduct the review. The study will set out the working group’s view of drivers of freight and logistic demand, potential future locations for Ports of Auckland, with serious consideration to be given to Northport and priorities for transport infrastructure.

Given the importance of this work for the upper North Island, UNISA has had ongoing involvement with the study. This has included providing feedback on the draft Terms of Reference and UNISA Mayors and Chairs personally meeting with the working group chair. Some UNISA Councils also provided feedback to formal consultation questions and appeared before the Working Group to present submissions. UNISA continues to monitor the progress of the supply chain study and identify opportunities for input.

The working group is expected to deliver its final report to Cabinet in September 2019. This will include the working group’s conclusions and recommended actions to be taken over the next five years and beyond.

Information on this work is on the Ministry of Transport website:

<https://www.transport.govt.nz/multi-modal/keystrategiesandplans/upper-north-island-supply-chain-strategy/>

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## UNISA and the inquiry into the Auckland fuel supply disruption

UNISA has been actively involved in the inquiry into the Auckland Fuel Supply Disruption. This is an independent inquiry in response to the shut down of the Refinery to Auckland pipeline in September 2017. This shut down led to a rationing of jet fuel supplies to Auckland Airport, flight cancellations and a shortage of petrol in the Auckland region.

As this matter effects all of the Upper North Island, not just the Auckland region a joint effort of UNISA councils successfully put a case forward to be involved in the Inquiry as a ‘core participant’. This means we can take part at the level needed to inform the findings of the Inquiry.

The Inquiry will look at the causes and impacts of the shutdown, but UNISA’s main focus is on the second part of the Inquiry which aims to draw lessons from this shutdown and provide recommendations for improving the resilience of fuel supply.

We are expecting that the Inquiry will report back to the Minister of Energy this month. Further details of the Inquiry can be found here:

<https://www.dia.govt.nz/Government-Inquiry-into-the-Auckland-Fuel-Supply-Disruption>

