

Economic evidence for Auckland Regional Council: **land allocation economics**



What we were asked to do	The Auckland Regional Council wanted economic advice about the effects of reducing the land area available for the marine industry under proposed Plan Change 4. This project was unique because it involved a caucus of economists in resolving spatial trade-offs.
How we approached the project	The project involved independent research and data gathering, as well as participating in a joint caucus with other economists to arrive at a joint statement from economists. The joint statement was presented for submission to the Resource Management Act hearing appeals process.
Our findings	<p>We found that in respect of the amount of land allocated to marine activity, any marginal additional space is valuable, but that the total land allocated to marine activity should be less than previously estimated.</p> <p>In common with other economists, we concluded that ground floor space within the available land area should be maximised to allow for marine industry activities.</p> <p>In addition, we found that there would be substantial benefits to be had if planning rules would allow for close proximity (and hence co-ordination) between marine retail and refit/refurbishment. This last point was not agreed with the other economists, but we felt was sufficiently robust that a dissenting opinion was warranted.</p>