

# Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA)

Prior to and immediately following the last local government triennial election, Waikato Regional Council raised with neighbouring regions the idea of working closer together. We were encouraged to draft an agreement which was expanded by Auckland to include Northland and the main urban centres of each region. This became known as the Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA).

## UNISA Agreement

The purpose of the UNISA Agreement is to establish a long-term collaboration between the Auckland Council (AC), Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BPRC), Northland Regional Council (NRC), Waikato Regional Council (WRC), Hamilton City Council (HCC), Tauranga City Council (TCC) and Whangarei District Council (WDC) for responding to and managing a range of inter-regional and inter-metropolitan issues.

The ‘first order’ priorities for inter-regional collaboration are:

- economic development linkages
- transport, including rail, roads, freight
- ports, including inland ports
- tourism
- emergency preparedness
- waste
- water
- population and settlement patterns, liveability
- commercial and industrial land development
- international connectivity and competitiveness – air, sea, broadband
- energy security
- climate change, including greenhouse gas emission reductions.

You can [read the full UNISA Agreement online](#).

## Background papers

[Opportunities to grow the economy](#) (366 kb)

[Opportunities for transport](#) (243 kb)

[Opportunities for port networks](#) (94 kb)

[Opportunities for tourism](#) (69 kb)

## Independent report

On 6 March 2012, Auckland Council's Auckland Plan Committee (the Committee) made resolutions about the long-term role of Auckland ports within the UNI freight network and about long-term strategic choices for the Auckland waterfront.

The UNISA Mayors and Chairs endorsed work to investigate current and future freight demand and supply and scenarios to meet that demand, in the context of ports and port-related infrastructure for the UNI. This work has taken the form of a joint technical study, produced by PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers), and sponsored by UNISA.

The primary objective of the study was to develop a credible and consistent understanding of the upper North Island's freight and port supply chain system. It is a technical, evidence based demand and supply study conducted by an independent supplier, which has had regard to existing relevant studies, information or research previously undertaken.

[You can read the report here.](#)

## **Current focus: The Upper North Island Freight Story**

The purpose of the Upper North Island Freight Story (the Story) Story is to take a collective partnership approach within an upper North Island 'freight lens' to determine issues or areas that are limiting our ability to 'reduce the cost to do business in New Zealand'.

The Story is about stakeholders and partners identifying those critical freight related issues within the upper North Island and then developing a shared evidence base to support future discussions and decision making.

The Story is a collaboration between UNISA, (The Upper North Island Strategic Alliance) and key strategic partners (Kiwirail, Auckland Transport, and The NZ Transport Agency.)

The Story comprises two key documents:

[Summary of Critical Issues](#)

[Shared Evidence Base for the Critical Issues](#)

You can also read the Story's [highlights brochure](#).