



P R E S S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release

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**AGREEMENT REACHED ON GREATER AUCKLAND REGIONAL
FACILITIES PROJECT STRATEGY**

The seven territorial local authorities, the Regional Council, the four Regional Sports Trusts of the greater Auckland region and SPARC have reached agreement on a combined strategy for co-ordinating and strengthening sport within the Auckland region. This strategy is the Auckland Regional Physical Activity and Sport Strategy. ARPASS

Successful planning and management of regional sports facilities is one of the most fundamental challenges facing the greater Auckland region.

The Greater Auckland Regional Facilities Project is a major project identified by ARPASS (Auckland Physical Activity and Sport Strategy). A process for dealing with this significant challenge has been agreed to by all Council and strategy partners and the foundation phases of the project have begun.

A Memorandum of Understanding and funding agreement was signed by each strategy partner in September 2005.

The major tasks included within the project scope are to:

- Review existing regional research and plans from project partners to centralise the information.
- Define the significant issues in respect of regional facilities provision across the Auckland Region and reported solutions.
- Develop criteria and definitions for assessing and differentiating between regional and national facility standards.
- Determine a hierarchical network plan for facilities across the greater Auckland region that meets identified programmes and events.
- Provide a plan that prioritises and quantifies proposed developments including indicative capital costing and provisional operational costs.
- Test the viability of proposed facilities with regard to accessibility, transport links, growth nodes, catchment areas, ability to meet identified markets and competitors.

The Project's Outcomes are:

- To provide a regional focus for regional facilities planning, development management and governance options.
- To accommodate regional and national development of sport.
- To host and accommodate regional to international competitions and events.
- To ensure regional facilities are efficient, sustainable and do not duplicate capacity or amenities.
- To ensure accessibility in terms of location, transport links, infrastructure and building design.
- To ensure facilities are developed and maintained to the appropriate regional to national level at which they are used.
- To deliver regional benefits in terms of sporting provision and performance, economic returns from sporting events and programmes, social well being and community and regional identity.
- To agree a process for determining the facility needs of physical activity and sport within the Auckland region now and into the future.
- To provide a regional network of facilities which will assist local authorities and funders align resources to agreed projects.
- To develop implementation mechanisms in respect of the strategy that will involve the Councils on an individual and/or a collective basis in partnership with funders, national and regional sporting organisations and key stakeholders.

The Auckland region had a population of 1,318,355 in March 2006 – nearly one-third of the countries population. By 2050 the regions population is forecast to grow to 2 million people. Conversely the Auckland region is the smallest region in terms of land area except for Nelson.

The Auckland region has the ability to contribute significantly to national sport and physical activity aspirations and these should be considered within the regional context.

The greater Auckland region is the fastest growing region in New Zealand and needs to have a robust framework to cater for such growth.

ARPASS is a joint initiative of SPARC, Auckland Regional Council, Franklin District Council, Papakura District Council, Manukau City Council, Auckland City Council, Waitakere City Council, North Shore City Council, Rodney District Council, Counties Manukau Sport, Sport Auckland, Sport Waitakere and Harbour Sport.

Attached: Greater Auckland Regional Facilities Project Inception Report summary document.

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