



CityScope Consultants

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CityScope was formed in 2004 to bring together the complementary expertise in economics, strategy, and planning of Philip McDermott, Barry Mein and Richard Dunbar, with a particular emphasis on urban development matters. This covers economic development, urban form, transport, community development and natural resource planning.

Mission

To provide clients with pathways to their business and community goals, through the application of integrated analysis and research techniques, strategy, planning, and management skills.

We do this through providing quality information, analysis, strategy, facilitation, and training services to help clients to solve the challenging problems of growth and development. Together, the principals offer a special focus on issues of urban, regional and infrastructure development.

Our Values

- Clarity in communication
- A focus on client needs;
- Integrity in service delivery;
- Timely advice
- Excellence in analysis;
- An emphasis on balanced decision-making
- An appreciation of the importance of good governance to effective outcomes.

Our Services/Activities

- Economic, social, transport and infrastructure research and analysis;
- Demographic and economic analysis and scenario development for decision-making;
- Social and community research and policy analysis;
- Public consultation for governance, management and service development;
- Resource management analysis, policy development, and advice;
- Feasibility analysis and advice;
- Management of multi-disciplinary analysis and policy projects.

CityScope Consultants Ltd

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Our Experience

Richard Dunbar

Richard Dunbar specialises in economic analysis, public policy planning and market research through his independent company, Nexus Planning and Research Ltd. Areas of expertise include both qualitative and quantitative research, particularly for transport, tourism and local government clients.

Richard has a degree in economics from the University of London and a post-graduate diploma in town planning from the University of Westminster. He is a Fellow of the Market Research Society of New Zealand and a member of the New Zealand Planning Institute.

Richard's career in New Zealand includes experience as a Director of a number of market research companies, including ACNielsen, Heylen Research Centre, Research International and McDermott Miller. Before arriving in New Zealand Richard worked as a town planner in the UK (economic policy planning) and in Sydney as a researcher for the Urban Transport Study Group of New South Wales.

Phil McDermott

Phil McDermott was for 15 years principal and manager of an independent research, planning and development consultancy (McDermott Miller Group/McDermott Fairgray Group) and founder and a principal of market research company (Forsyte Research). As a consultant he has been responsible for a wide range of development and feasibility studies in primary production and processing, transport and infrastructure, tourism and retailing, and local government. Phil was Professor of Resource and Environmental Planning at Massey University between 1994 and 1999 and General Manager of the Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation in Sydney from 2000 to 2004. He has worked for private and public sector clients throughout New Zealand and Australia, and in Asia and the Pacific.

Barry Mein

Barry has over 25 years experience in transport and strategic planning in public and private sector settings. He was Director, Transport, at the Auckland Regional Council from 1994 to 2003. In this role he was responsible for all of the Council's transport functions including preparation and review of the Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy; and the planning and purchase of passenger transport services.

As principal of Mein Consulting Limited and a director of CityScope Consultants, Barry's recent career emphasis has focussed on transport and development matters, especially at an urban and regional level. This includes managing multidisciplinary project teams, and providing strategic and policy analysis and advice to a range of public and private sector clients.

Examples of Recent CityScope Assignments

Organising Integrated Urban Development Projects

- Research for the NZTA concerned with how to maintain an integrated approach to planning at the implementation stage. To be published later in 2009

Integrated Approach to Planning

- Structured interviews with a range of transport and land use practitioners and stakeholders, to determine the issues and barriers to integrated planning for transport, and possible responses.
- Peer review of five IAP case studies
- Facilitation of stakeholder workshop on integrated planning

(Transit NZ for TSSD Steering Group)

Auckland Governance Review: background papers

- Preparation of background papers prepared for the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance to provide an independent view of issues facing the Auckland region, and a source of information for its deliberations regarding the most appropriate governance options for Auckland. Three papers have been prepared:

Auckland's Population: a background paper on population issues, looking at the growth of Auckland's population, and the ramifications for the region, in terms of ethnic diversity, labour force, and infrastructural issues such as housing, transport and amenities needs.

The Call for Integrated Planning: a brief history of planning initiatives since the mid 1990s in the areas of environment (mainly through land use plans), infrastructure (especially transport), and the economy. It considers how improved decision-making might be brought about by changes in governance, and questions whether this can happen when potentially unpopular decisions need to be made.

Transport Governance in Auckland: an overview of the transport situation in Auckland, providing historical context for the transport governance that exists today. It analyses what some of the key issues and challenges are for this sector, and highlights areas that need to be resolved to achieve more consistent and effective solutions.

(Royal Commission on Auckland Governance)



Community Needs Assessment

- A review of the community development needs of Tamaki and Eastern Bays Wards including both tangible assets and intangible needs for creating a sense of belonging.

(Auckland City Council)

Strengthening Communities

- A literature review and interpretation contribution to Auckland City Council's strategy on community development.

Review of the Transport Section of the District Plan

- A review of the issues and outcomes to be addressed in the transport section and a review of how these may be addressed (RMA or other means).

(Auckland City Council)

Wellington Regional Strategy: Development of Focus Areas

- A review of future economic and urban development opportunities for the Wellington region, and recommended areas of focus for the Wellington Regional Strategy

(Wellington Regional Council and territorial authorities)