

# New Lynn Town Centre

Waitakere, Auckland, New Zealand

## Project Type

Urban Regeneration

## Date

1996-2007

## ESD Role

Lead Consultant in 1996; periodic ongoing involvement through to 2007

## Project Size

Approximately 100 hectares

## Client

Waitakere City Council

## Implementation Status

Charrette outcomes approved in principle, \$150 million committed to passenger rail



In 1996 Waitakere City, the western third of Auckland, was a string of under-developed and unattractive urban centres (population 145,000) along a virtually inoperative railway line being weakened by sprawl planning and development. Waitakere had an exemplary 'EcoCity' policy and the will and potential to blossom into a relatively sustainable transit-oriented city, but found itself unable to implement its plans. The City hired ESD in 1996 to 'skill up' its staff and local consultants in sustainable urbanism, and to help transform the city.

ESD first led a 'Waitakere Sustainable Design Training Workshop' for Council staff and local consultants, which preliminarily re-designed all the towns along the railway to become transit-towns. Two months later ESD joined with Waitakere's newly skilled-up staff to lead the New Lynn Charrette to revitalize and transform the degraded and struggling town centre of New Lynn into a thriving transit-oriented regional centre. With an extremely enthusiastic community reaction, Council quickly approved the Charrette outcomes in principle.

After decades of virtually no development, within two years New Lynn had 500 new medium-density dwellings, a new main street with several civic and commercial buildings fronting it, and a new pedestrian bridge linking New Lynn to its north.

Implementation continues, generally in accord with the Charrette plans. Recently ESD has again helped with New Lynn's centre, where the passenger railway is being depressed (\$150m committed) to enable a much more dense and vital urban outcome. ESD has been assisting Council to produce a structure plan and indicative building layouts for the station precinct.