

## Radical Collaboration: Accelerating Climate Action Together

- All right, oh, shivers, all right, folks. I totally forgot, I've got this new walkup music, which is like a German Oompah cover of Guns and Roses, "Sweet Child of Mine". It is a cracker. And I never thought about bringing it. Kia ora koutou. Welcome to this... Should have done. I'm pro-am. Kia ora koutou. Welcome to this Auckland conversation where we shall, over the next hour and a half or so, have a conversation about Auckland, this beautiful city that we live in and love. For those of you who don't know me, Kia ora ko Te Radar toku ingoa, ko Ngāti Pākehā ahou Like many Aucklanders, not born here, but I am now of here. For 30 of the 50 years of my life, I have chosen to live in this city that I absolutely love. Gives me enormous pleasure travelling around the country, particularly to some of those smaller South Island towns. And people say where you're from, I say I'm from Auckland, and then a very robust conversation ensues, which I celebrate all of the things that are so great about this beautiful city that we choose to make our home. I have, however, just started reading The Field Guide to Auckland Volcanoes. Distinctly uncomfortable And it makes me think that much of the conversation that we are going to have could be rendered utterly redundant any minute. Such is the knowledge of geological history, speaking of which, we have this beautiful taonga here, this little, this rock has travelled around as part of the Auckland Climate Festival. It's been to all of the events, soaking up the Māori of them, in many ways, a little repository from all of the conversations, the gatherings, the people that have occurred over the last month. And I'm a big fan of, I guess, the physical manifestation of human experience, and it is a great pleasure to have this here this evening. So I am tonight just your humble facilitator of this Auckland conversation. And thank you all for coming out on an evening. For those of you who are joining us from your homes as well, we thank you for well, tuning in. We appreciate it greatly. So, for those of you who suddenly didn't know, I didn't realise I could join in from home, feel free, you can also watch this on the live stream from the comfort of your chairs in the room. Those of a certain generation, young people, will probably be doing that. Some housekeeping notes as part of our sort of, welcome. The wharepaku, the toilets are located, just, you go down the stairs and they are just to the left out there. No smoking or vaping in the venue. If you want to do that, just head outside, walk down to our beautiful harbour, as you go to light your cigarette, just listen, on the cusp of the breeze, you'll hear the sound of our robust conversation and merriment, reassess your lifestyle options, come back and join us in the room. In the unlikely event of an emergency, I say unlikely event, I'm deeply enmeshed in the field history of Auckland volcanoes. In the event of an emergency, we're going to hear an alarm. We'll basically, we'll just go outside and stand around on Albert Street. And finally, if you do have a mobile, now's a great time to turn it on to silent. You're more than welcome, in fact, we encourage you to leave it on, not only to post, but we are going to be taking questions predominantly via the Slido app, many of you are familiar with it. I'm going to explain how that works just very shortly. But in order to formally welcome the proceedings, it gives me enormous pleasure to welcome our welcomer, the wonderful Johnnie Freeland. Just really want to reinforce the words of welcome from Te Radar and



welcome you to this place, to the whare that we've gathered for the purpose of our gathering and our korero tonight, just during our Maori GPS just acknowledging Te Ara o Karangahape, which today is called K'road, that's our highest point, our ridge line above us, Te Waihorotiu is the stream, which is sitting in pipes under Queen Street that flows to the Te Waitemata, and just acknowledging the home people of Ngati Whatua Orakei who are the... who look after the home fires of this area, and just reinforce the welcome and for our conversation tonight. Kia ora.

- Kia ora, Johnnie. And it's interesting, just thinking about the ridge line and the stream that it buried, for anyone who's seen the great work, the design work, especially around the new train stations and the central rail loop, not only is it going to connect us physically better, but the work that's being done there to connect us as well to our environment and to our past, I think is extraordinary and we should be very, very proud of the work that is being done there. So the format for tonight in our conversation around Auckland's Climate Plan, we're going to hear from Matthew Blaikie, Auckland Council's Chief Sustainability Officer. We're going to... All right! I want to come to more events where that gets a whoop. And here's the thing tonight, many of us have a vested interest in Auckland, but to be fair, within the very near future, many of us are going to be dead. So tonight, when we have this conversation, there are some little tamariki here. I'm thinking of my seven year old daughter, her classmates who are out there in the foothills of the Waitakere's. In many ways, this conversation is about them because they are going to be the legacy that we leave. I have been in this city for 30 years and I have seen massive change in that time, and I know that they are going to see change beyond my comprehension by the time they reach my elderly age. So that is what we're talking about tonight. We have a limited amount of time to get through. So we're going to hear from Matthew, we're going to have a panel discussion, but we want you, the citizens of Auckland, to be able to ask your questions as well. This is a conversation not simply between us, but amongst all of us. So if you have questions that is excellent. We're going to be using Slido, which is an interactive Q & A audience tool, which means that not only can you ask questions, but people who are sitting in the comfort of their homes, or on a bus, or in their car, hopefully not in traffic, chances are they will be, can also ask a question as well. There is the thing. So you go to [slido.com](https://www.slido.com), you enter the #climateAKL... I don't think you need to put the hashtag on, do you? Just enter climate? No, you don't need the hashtag. ClimateAKL and then you can become a part of the conversation. If you want to go on that and feel that you don't want to ask a question as well, you can also upvote some of those questions. If a question pops up and you think it's important, and I'm deliberately ignoring it, vote it up to the point that I cannot deliberately ignore it anymore. Although fair warning, I might. All right. So, let's see. Ultimately, like I know there are some of you relentlessly analogue. If you want to put your hand up and ask a question, you are more than welcome to do that as well. And we'll wait for the mic to come to you, because otherwise people sitting in the comfort of the homes won't hear your questions. And remember a question, not a statement. I am ruthless in that because I just don't care... ..about statements. All right, I'm going to make some statements now. You're welcome to tweet the event or any of one of your social media platforms, whatever they may be, Instagram, LinkedIn, Tinder, don't care. Auckland Conversations, Climate Auckland, Auckland Climate



Festival, and various others. I think you can make your own up. All right. So, we endeavour to make sure that these are inclusive and accessible and on-demand viewing and a full transcript and captioning of the event will be available on the Auckland Conversations website in the next few days. So what are we talking about today? We are talking about radical consultation. In June 2019, let us cast our minds back, I call it June 2019 BC, before COVID, Mayor Phil Goff said, "By unanimously voting to declare a climate emergency, we are signalling the council's intention to put climate change at the front and centre of our decision making." And Auckland Council, over the years, has done that. They've taken a leadership role in facilitating development Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan, the specific roles and responsibilities around that implementation. Now that cannot simply be done by edict from the top. Those climate action plans need to be done amongst all of us with consultation amongst the community, as we discuss a a rapid and a fair transition. It requires collaboration and commitment across all of Auckland, from central government, local government, Mana Whenua, businesses, communities and citizens, young and old. And collaboration is very different to cooperation. Cooperation is about simply working with others to achieve goals. Collaboration is about working with others to produce something together and achieve shared goals. And what's important with collaboration, and particularly, radical collaboration, which for some of you may be a relatively new concept, is the way we collaborate, who we collaborate with, and having the vision and the courage to step outside of our comfort zones, whether that be through business or council, the silos that we run, and even within those of our own personal spheres in our lives. To step outside of those zones and to have the conversations that we need to have with people in our communities. And it's about a few core principles, trust, transparency, reciprocity, openness and respect. And it also means taking a look around and we need to do this in our lives, even on a day to day basis and ask, who was not a part of this discussion? Who should we be having a discussion with? Unpack the intersections between climate justice, racial justice, economic justice, all of the other deep seated and deep-rooted inequalities and divisions in society. Because this and the decisions that are being made affect everybody, but they do not affect everybody equally. And there are many people who feel that their voice, whilst on occasion it may be heard, that their voice is not listened to. Radical collaboration involves actively seeking out those disparate voices and actively listening to them people don't feel that they want to be involved unless they believe that they can have the power to make a change. So when citizens are given the tools and the beliefs that their actions matter, the results can be dramatic. That is the basis I think, of radical collaboration. So how does it fit into our overview of Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan? Well, the wonderful Mr. Matthew Blaikie is going to explain possibly that and many other things. He had a whoop earlier, let's get another one, as we welcome the Chief Sustainability Officer, leads a team responsible for strategic thinking, analysis, and advice on sustainability in climate change, including the development and delivery of the plan, the wonderful Chief Sustainability Officer, Auckland Council, Matthew Blaikie. Kia ora, everyone. My name is Matthew Blaikie and I'm the Chief Sustainability Officer at Auckland Council. It's a real privilege to be here tonight for this this Auckland conversation event as part of the Auckland Climate Festival. Thank you to all of you that have joined us this evening, both in person and online, and thank you for the warm welcome and the introduction, and in



particular, whoops, that was very much appreciated. Thank you. So we're here tonight to talk about radical collaboration. I'm here to share a few thoughts on that before the panel discussion. I want to make sure there's enough air time for the panel discussion, so I'm not going to speak for too long, 'cause we have a really fantastic panel to share their thoughts and experiences with you. So in 2019, as Te Radar has rightly pointed out, Auckland Council unanimously approved a climate emergency declaration signalling council's intent to put climate change at the front and centre of decision making. In 2020, Auckland Council unanimously approved Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan. It sets out a regional approach to climate action. It sets out goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and transition to net zero emissions by 2050. And also to pre-plan for climate change. So prepare for the impacts of climate change. Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri was developed in partnership with Mana Whenua. Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri calls for us to reframe, reimagine, reset the current system and shift from a human centred approach to an ecological centred approach. Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri sets out actions across eight priority action areas, natural environment, built environment, transport, economy, communities, and coast, food, energy and industry, and it outlines te ao Maori principles to inform the development and delivery of climate action across Tamaki Makaurau under the Puawaitanga o te Tatai priority in the plan. We collaborated with stakeholders from across Tamaki Makaurau when we developed to Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri. And many of the team that developed Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri are in the room this evening, both past and present, and it's great to see all of those members or staff and wider stakeholders that contributed here this evening. Achieving our climate goals will require commitment and action from Mana Whenua, central government, businesses, and communities. It's not something that Auckland Council can do alone. I'd like to acknowledge all of you that contributed to the development of Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri and also all of you that are contributing to the delivery of Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri through climate action in Tamaki Makaurau. We report annually on the progress on Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri. We are making progress on delivering on the actions in the plan, but there is a clear need to accelerate the delivery of climate action to meet our climate goals. One way we need to do this is through transforming Auckland's transport system. Kia ora. To give effect to Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri, Auckland Council and Auckland Transport have developed a transport emissions reduction pathway or TERP. This sets out the transformational changes needed to reduce transport emissions by 64% by 2030 as set out Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri. To deliver on the transport emissions reductions pathway, successful partnerships and collaboration will be required with a range of partners and stakeholders, including Mana Whenua central government, business and, of course, collaboration with communities to deliver new initiatives together to achieve a safer, healthier, and more equitable transport system. This is, as I said, with communities. This is not just about reducing emissions, this is about addressing the existing inequity in the transport system, about addressing safety, about addressing the needless deaths and injuries that we see on Auckland's roads, about creating a future Auckland that enables young people to travel safely through walking, cycling to schools. They don't need to be driven there by their parents. This is about creating a better future for everyone. Transport is a key focus for delivering on our climate goals, but transport does not exist as an isolated sector. It is influenced and dependent on a range of sectors and activities, including how we plan for urban



growth, develop our energy system, and of course, our behaviours. Cross-sectoral partnerships and collaboration are needed to unlock and enable systemic change. And it is systemic change that we will need. We cannot address this through isolated initiatives specific to independent sectors. It needs to be considered cross-sectorally and through collaboration and partnerships. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Michelle and the Auckland Climate Festival team for establishing the Auckland Climate Festival. Through the events, experiences, and conversations that have occurred over the past month, we've had the opportunity to share knowledge, inspire opportunities for collaboration and advance collective climate action in Tamaki Makaurau and beyond. At the Auckland Climate Festival launch event, I said that bold, ambitious climate action is required across everything we do to achieve a just transition to a low carbon resilient future. One of my reflections from attending Auckland Climate Festival events over the past month is that we have the knowledge and understanding and we have most of the strategies, plans, and tools to deliver a just transition to a low carbon resilient future. What we now need to do is rapidly increase the pace and scale of delivery through leadership, partnerships and collaboration to make the change happen at the pace and scale required. I'm sure many of you would agree that collaboration is needed, but how we collaborate to deliver impactful climate action is the key question. As with many challenges, what we need to do is what... Sorry, as with many challenges outlining what we need to do is one thing, understanding how we do it is another. This is one of the reasons I'm very much looking forward to hearing about the experiences and insights from our panel this evening. Kia ora.

- Thank you, Matthew. We've got some drivers in the room. Aye? Oh look, I'm a driver. I live out west and I... And here's the thing, you know, it's one of the many modes and I'm looking forward to the fact that actually when we've got our beautiful rail loop and a wonderful cycle ways that we lessen people driving on the road, and now I'm about drive to where I want to go quicker. So... Or enjoy the train in some of the many beautiful stations architecturally designed by some of the incredible designers that we have in the country. I'm going to welcome a panel before I talk myself into a car-based hole. All right. Chief executive and executive director of Spark New Zealand, let us welcome Jolie Hodson. She was the chief executive in 2019, responsible for ensuring the company has a sound strategy and applies her leadership to delivering on that strategy while building a team around her and a business can adapt to the fast changing world of digital services. We welcome as well the chief executive officer of the excellent EcoMatters environment Trust, Carla Gee. She has been chief executive officer since 2022, after six months of acting as a CEO and has been with that excellent charitable trust since 2016. She was head of operations before moving to the CEO role. Many of us love Auckland, some of us get the chance to really represent it and make it a better place. That person probably more so in some ways, arguably, than anyone else in the room, member of parliament for Auckland Central, Chloe Swarbrick. She is the local MP for Auckland Central, focused on Auckland's key concerns around housing, transport, environment and small business. And no stranger to radical collaboration or often collaborating with radicals. It can be the same thing. And finally, Johnnie Freeland, are we going to welcome him back? Bringing together more than 30 years of knowledge and lived



experience of serving community and in guiding and navigating a range of iwi Maori community and public sector organisations and working to achieve better outcomes with Maori. What about a round of applause for our panellists? Now I'm going to start with Johnnie, it's important to start things of with Mana Whenua, I'm going to start with you, because we had a very good conversation earlier on. We've heard from Matthew around, I guess the nuts and bolts and nitty gritty of what the climate action plan means. But explain the name, 'cause I think it's important.

- Kia ora tatou. Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri is a metaphor and a Mana Whenua interpretation of what climate change is. And... Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri refers to the struggles and frustrations of Tawhiri-matea. Tawhiri-matea is one of our ancestral tupuna who has a responsibility for climate-weather. And basically what the narrative speaks to is the frustration of Mother Earth and Sky Father in terms of poor human behaviour. And we are being entrapped in a 500-600 year square system cycle, which is impacted on our whakapapa as all humans, not just Maori. Te Taruke is also refers to a crayfish pot. And one of our Ngati Whatua members of the Mana Whenua forum for Tamaki Makaurau referred to when I was a young boy, there's a place up north called Taruke. And so you observe a that make this crayfish pot out of the... native materials from a tree. So again, Te Taruke refers the sort of two elements, the frustration of Tawhiri-matea. It also challenges us that part of the solution is actually restoring, regenerating balance back to Mother Earth. And I guess that's where the plan talks about a ecological centred response as opposed to human centred. And also Te Taruke is like a metaphor for our framework for us together, bring together all our thoughts, all our wisdom as people of Tamaki Makaurau and how we sort of, navigate that regeneration back to source if you like. So that's in essence what Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri refers to.

- [Te] Thank you. Let's start with perhaps an opening statement from our other speakers in response to what you've heard so far around the conversation. Shall we start with you, Jolie?

- Thank you. Kia ora tatou everyone and welcome here tonight. One of the things I think a lot about in terms of not only our own role as our organisation and the shifts we need to make is the impact that we have, not only for our organisation, but the businesses and the communities that we work with. And thinking around how technology might play a role in enabling that shift across different sectors and how business works together to make sure that we are considering the shifts that we need to make. Because for every customer I have or supplier I have, there's things that we could do along that value chain that would change the way in which we are acting that influences the impact on both the environment. but the people and the place. So for me, that's a big part of how I think about what we need to do. It's also not only about us working in the private sector, but it's also how we work with the public sector and the communities, and I think, making sure the changes and shifts we're making, people understand why we're doing that and how does that help move us forward.



- [Te] Carla.

- Kia ora te whanau. I'm really stoked to be here tonight, and I'll be honest, quite nervous, it's a lot of people that we're looking out to here. Feeling a little bit of imposter syndrome to be honest, because I've only been in the CEO role at EcoMatters for a year, but I'm just really delighted to be here and to share in this conversation with all of you and definitely with this panel. And I'm really excited to be up here with these incredible people. Overwhelmingly, the thing to me that is absolutely critical about Auckland Council's Climate Action Plan is the really solid decision to move it from human centric to ecology centric. And for us as an organisation, that's absolutely critical to the success of the Climate Action Plan moving forward. And it is the centre of everything that we, an organisation like EcoMatters actually does in terms of grassroots action on the ground. So to me that's the pivotal move.

- Chloe.

- Kia ora. We're just giving reckons on the... yeah, cool.

- It's reckons. So my hot take is that we do a really terrible job at, particularly a central government level when I say this, you know, having sit on a range of different select committees and trying to unpack how there's going to be flow and effects downstream and all these other different places, but also sometimes in engaging with our good friends at council and trying to understand a fit, you know, where it fits within the committees and all of the different flow and effects. And actually, as Matthew was saying, at the top, you know, when we're talking about the likes of transport emission reduction plan, we actually also need to consider things like housing. We then also need to consider things like energy, as you were saying. We then also need to consider things like waste. And one of the things that you didn't raise at that point, which I know is, you know, in all of your broader work, but food systems as well are another really key component of that. So yeah, I'm really interested in how we can shift bureaucracies, which just feel like these multilayered onions that are all of the layers are risk aversion. And that risk aversion, you know, inherent in that is that no one person is ever responsible if something goes wrong. But the flip side of that is that no one responsible for things going right or taking a risk. How do we build that trust and that good will to take those risks and to think in that kind of, ecosystem way, because that's not necessarily going to be something that we're always going to objectively agree on. But yeah, just how do we move fast and provide that space for that goodwill and trust for the people who are like, doing really good stuff.

- [Te] Yeah. Bureaucracy is a lot like onions and that the more you peel them away, the more you're reduced to tears. So what we're talking about in a way, is peeling away those layers, those structures that stop people from having the kind of,



collaboration. What I want to know is when we talk about collaboration, bold collaboration, radical collaboration, I'm going to ask each of you, have you seen any examples of really good collaboration and the outcomes or I'll also go with really bad collaboration that has led to a bad outcome. Matthew, shall I start with you? Yes.

- Thank you. So I'd like to perhaps give an example, perhaps an emerging example and it's right to acknowledge the Climate Connect Aotearoa team that are in the room here this evening. So for those of you that are unaware of Climate Connect Aotearoa, it's a climate innovation hub funded by Auckland Council, delivered by Tataki Auckland Unlimited to consider solutions and develop those solutions with partners to enable us to transition to a low carbon resilient region. So it's focus on delivering solutions that can enable us to deliver Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri. One of the approaches that's being taken, and they have a fantastic team both working on Climate Connect Aotearoa and advising on Climate Connect Aotearoa is working with partners across different sectors on a number of challenges. With those challenges focused on the build environment, food, transport, and one other please? Energy of course. So a shout out to the Climate Connect Aotearoa team. I think it's a great example of how we are looking at collaboration in a new way in Tamaki Makaurau.

- [Te] Brilliant. Shall I go down the line or shall I go straight to you, Johnnie?

- I'm happy to add. I guess an observation point from our people is... yeah, we talk about re-imagining, reframing, resetting the system, but we're not really doing that. You know, we are just rolling out the same square approach. And what I mean square is the Western centric, you know? And one thing that is exciting is we're starting to see a shift to circular regenerative thinking. We live in that circular view as Maori. We've had 150 years of impacts from the square system, urbanisation, westernisation, and colonisation that has displaced, disconnected many of our people from the whenua, from Papatuanuku. And that's part of the source why our kids are doing ram raids. And until we see that heart of this is all about oranga and wellbeing, we're going to continue to functionalize into these ologies and not look at the tangas that tie everything together. And I think the hope within Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri is it talks about a holistic response and we are starting to see a shift from a square to a circular, which is really exciting because once you get two circles, then you get into some opportunities for real radical collaboration. Our circular thinking, our spiral thinking is intergenerational. We need at least three generations working together now. So it's really awesome seeing heaps of young people, but heaps of elders in the room too. So how do we tap into that wisdom of our elders? And then all our young people that are full of that Maori energy push the boundaries. But we need to do at least three, at a minimum, three generations together. And the work we're doing out in the practical way in Puhinui is an intergenerational approach. People like the Keep Manako Beautiful, the friends of the Puhinui, you know, a lot of retired, beautiful people that are giving back to the community, giving back to the awa. But we got to connect them to the young people so that we're getting a bit of change, generational wisdom sharing. I think local





government, central government has a role, but they're there to be at the back to support, not be at the front leading, 'cause they just functionalize, create bureaucracies. The Climate Connect's a great opportunity, which we talked about this innovation hub when we were doing the plan, but it was envisioned to be centred in a community, not another part of the . And, you know, so we got to think about the role to enable, to support, because the actions all sitting in here, in the room and it has to be community whanau anchored, connected to a place and then do some system stuff. So it's got to be more than just emission reduction and adaptation. It's about ora. Our people are resilient. We've been resilient for a thousand years in this location, despite other impacts. If we weren't resilient we wouldn't be here, you know? So we are having to relearn, regenerate our way of being our knowledge systems at that thousand year knowledge or practise. So looking back into what we call our whakapapa centred way of being and looking at all those interconnections. So it's a good start. I have to say that 'cause I was part of the forum in framing it. But what's interesting is what gets pulled out 'cause there's some real deep magical stuff, Mana Whenua being frameworked or Tamaki Makaurau. The shifts that we talk about, transport shifts is one. But if we are not regenerating nature, if we're not regenerating our whakapapa, you know, at one hand we are getting rid of mature trees across Auckland. Those are like our kaumatua and elders, we need them. We can plant a billion trees, but they're all babies. So we need to think about the balance and how we bring that and we need to do it together. 'Cause race can't be an issue as part of our climate response or our wellbeing response. You know? So you know, the other radical collaboration is we've got 19 Mana Whenua in the area of Auckland and we are having to learn to partner and collaborate 'cause we've had 150 years of division and square systems that have impacted, yet if we all stood on together, we are all the same people. So we are having to look to partner. So when you think about partner with Mana Whenua, think about how Mana Whenua have to partner in order to partner with you, not just thinking about your part of the partnership. And there's some beautiful examples of that type of collaboration. We're not scary, you know? We've been hard done by a bit, but we're still a young country and really hopeful around our future and what sits within our mokopuna and all our young people that are driving that way forward, it just excites me. I live in a four generational home. My mom just turned 82 last week and we had a new baby, a mokopuna, arrive in our whare on the 3rd of October. So that baby's going to have a seven generational view by the time she becomes a nanny. You know, that's as whanau as people of Tamaki Makaurau. those are ways that we need to think about how we respond to ourselves in the way we restore that balance. So, kia ora.

- Thank you, Johnie. Carla.

- Thank you, Radar. Okay, so the radical collaboration that I wanted to talk very quickly about is actually not solely located within Tamaki Makaurau. It's actually a collaboration that happens all over our motu and it is a collaboration between three community networks, the Community Energy Network, the Zero Waste Network and environment hubs, Aotearoa. We are all community organisations doing grassroots actions within our communities all over New Zealand, really making a difference in terms of climate actions for our own communities. It has its unique flavour wherever



we are operating around the country. But I think what is really amazing about this collaboration is that the work we do is completely open sourced. And what I mean by that is that we might be an organisation that spends five years developing a programme that we know works really, really well for our community. And another sister organisation might come to us from Invercargill and say, look, you know, we really think that you guys are onto something in this home energy space. We want to run a programme exactly or similar to what you guys have done and on the nuances of our community and we give them everything, everything that we've learned over five years, our budgets, our processes, our quality assurance, we fly down, we we help them, and most importantly, we talk about the pinch points that come along the way for community organisations. How do you set up, how do you get partner funding? Who should you collaborate with? Who are you already working with in that space? Who else could you actually look to bring in? But that open source is a really just, incredible opportunity for those three networks. I've just come back from an incredible hui last week done at Lake Karapiro with all three of those organisations actually coming together. And I would like to do a shout out to the Ministry for the Environment for actually helping to fund that opportunity for us to come together and share our knowledge and our expertise. So it is really a radical collaboration that I believe is a really good example of it working very well.

- [Te] Brilliant. Don't... If you want to applaud, don't stop. Hey, Jolie like, not only are you a spark, you're also the convenor of the Climate Leaders Coalition. Very quickly, maybe for people who don't know, they probably do, explain what that is. But then what kind of collaboration are you seeing within that kind of structure?

- Yeah, so Climate Leaders Coalition is really around businesses coming together, committing to a science-based target, committing to reporting that externally, committing to scope one and two emissions reductions, but most importantly committing to working together. Because the reality is we can't solve all of the things that we need to do on our own. And I might be a customer of one supply chain, someone else is a customer of ours, so it's actually taking the time to spend on sharing ideas, thinking about the different areas, whether that's an energy transport, agriculture, and obviously we've got a particular interest in technology and the role that that might play in enabling the shifts we want to see. So how do we make sure that we make the most of the infrastructure that we're building, and not only the infrastructure, but how we connect and understand the data that that produces and it changes our behaviour. So if you think about, for example, Westpac Mussels Farms a good example of that. They had a problem where they were wanting to understand the salinity of the seawater at a particular time because that impacts harvest. So one of the things that we were able to solve that with was a data buoy that went into the water. So that meant, and then across our IOT network, technology network, we could then send, every 15 minutes, a signal about what was happening in the salinity. Not only did it change the amount of time went around harvesting, the amount of time that went around, I guess, boats having to go out, it shifted the level of production. And so those are some of the things, the small things that technology can do, not only in enabling that but actually the data and insight that goes with it to actually change behaviour. And that's really what we all need to be doing. And I think



from that, that meant that we worked together with a company called ADROIT. So that was a manufacturing company. We then worked together with the Mussel Farm to try and solve this. So none of us could have done it individually, but as a group we could solve that. And that's just one example of how it works. Mostly that means, and I was thinking about that radical collaboration and what's a good example where you had to actually do something at pace. You had no choice, you had to work with others. And really when you think, you used the word BC before, so before COVID, well all of you can remember when COVID hit and we shut down the country, pretty much, immediately, that meant that everyone had to move home to be able to work, to learn to connect. So that meant there was a huge amount of collaboration required, both, with customers, with community partners. So how did we make sure the people that needed devices most, that needed to connect most, could get access to it? And when I think about how that worked over a very short period of time, what that made me wonder about is what lessons are there from that, when there was a burning platform, when we had to move, what are the things that you put aside or leave out and don't get caught up in versus other times where everyone can come with their own perspective about how something should be done, which isn't really collaboration, it's really around bringing your ideas and looking to consult on them, not really thinking about what's the actual problem we're trying to solve. That was a long answer to that, I know, but...

- [Te] It's all right. It's good.

- But it is, that's what I think we need to see more of across different parts, that it's not just about business, it's about individuals and communities working together to solve those issues.

- And then those stories need to be celebrated and what's the word? And emphasised so that people know that all of this stuff is going on. Look, I tell you, people who know what's going on generally, because everybody wants to tell them, Chloe, is the government. And I imagine you see no... You are the responsibility. You were elected to be the official... On yeah, well, we can live in hope. What do you see that that that in terms of that collaboration that you've been able to really supercharge or drive through from a political party, a governmental kind of point of view, or ultimately, what you think could be done better?

- So many things.

- I know.

- So I'll start actually at a really local level, 'cause despite all of the big system level stuff that obviously we're all aiming for, I think it is really important that we actually also start with the tangible grassroots stuff because that's where you get proof of concept and people can start to get, God forbid, some hope that things are possible



and then we can build on that. And I think that kind of feedback loop of disengagement that we presently have, particularly when we are talking about politics and parliament with a big P, we are talking about, you know, people not seeing the action that they want from the systems that we have and then choosing to disengage from that or being disempowered by it. And then as a result of that lack of engagement, there's even less representation about the things that they believe in or the people who they want be represented by. And then hey, presto, we get less action and so on and so forth. That's a really awful downward spiral. A really local example of that was actually also just kind of on the COVID theme, at the start of this year was when Omicron came? Yep. Cool. Start of this year. Last two years of soup. The start of this year when Omicron outbreak was just starting, I was calling around all of the different NGOs in Auckland Central and going, where are the system vulnerabilities? What is going to fall over, particularly for our most structurally marginalised communities. if we have your workforce or your volunteer base hit by this Omicron wave, you know, what's the setup? Where can we fix these vulnerabilities? And as a result in talking to a range of these different services was having a conversation with Danielle LeGallais who runs Sunday Blessings out of Allen Melville Hall. I've had a bit to do with over the past two years. And we found that basically, the volunteers weren't going to be there if everybody got sick to ensure that street whanau were fed on Sunday nights. And that hot meal is a really important part of our street communities kind of, routine through the week. And it's also that community engagement, you know, the amount of emails that I get with people complaining about street whanau and about homelessness, I would just implore people to exercise their empathy gland and perhaps engage with some of those people that we're so accustomed to stepping over and understanding their life stories, 'cause if that one email or those five people who complained about those things turned into advocates for those people, we would freaking end homelessness. So I just wanted to say that, but in their process of kind of, pulling together an understanding of what was happening on the ground, with Student Volunteer Army who I've had a bit to do with over the past few years who were awesome and they just set up this awesome app thing where people could, you know, say that they wanted to volunteer for stuff. We used them and then kind of, through our different networks kind of, set up this programme of people who would be available to organise and at the front lines and keep these meals consistent if different people got sick. We had COVID protocols and all those different things. And while it's really awesome and it's been ongoing, and actually another core part of that kopapa is diverting food that would otherwise go to landfill, 'cause we want to talk about holistic ecosystems and about forced scarcity, but the fact that we intentionally waste a heck of a lot of food again, and just the economic system that we currently have being broken, if we are focused on those experiences that particularly, those young people who have been engaged in their Omicron resilience team have learned it has really expanded our notion of what it is to have a community and who belongs to that community and in turn, I think has upskilled people to be advocates for that systemic level change. So yeah, that's the stuff that I get really excited about.

- Great. It's always never struck me as it mostly that many countries have, you know, community service is a wonderful thing and yet here we use the phrase community



service for people who are being punished. And they go and, you know... And you're talking Johnnie and Chloe and Carla around that importance of those local actions and local people looking after that little part of their world.

- Yeah. And if I can actually just add to an even awesomer part of that story is that through, you know, just having to move fast and make it happen because nobody else was going to do it, we proved that kind of proof of concept not only for all of us who were engaged in that project, but also for council who gave us, and they're losing some money. So shout out to Taf in particular, and to Duncan, and Tau and council.

- That's why I pay my rates and I'm very happy to do so. Matthew, it brings us back to you. I've touched you as if you were some kind of subordinate. Sorry. We're talking about it. You're sitting there and council as the chief sustainability officer, what are the conversations you have around that sense of radical consultation with Mana Whenua business, community, youth, locals, central government, how is that shaping? How do you use that to drive what you need to do or to hear what it is that people want you to do?

- Yeah, so in response to that question, it's also worth reflecting on some of the responses that we've just heard. And one of the themes that's coming through from the discussion is the sense of common purpose, whether that be common purpose for sharing information, sharing data, sharing processes with organisations or individuals that are in a similar position, whether it be sharing information through the systems we have in place and enabling a better outcome or whether it be people uniting towards a common purpose to drive change. And certainly COVID brought that into sharp focus for us all. It really demonstrated what can be achieved when we all, or certainly the vast majority of us, work towards a common purpose. It enables us to act quickly and it enables us to act with certainty. And so in response to your question, I'd just like to weave that into the thinking in terms of some of the conversations we're certainly having around a common purpose and the rising visibility and significance of a common purpose around climate action. And that common purpose is being driven by a number of factors. It's being driven by the climate impacts that we are observing, that we're seeing, both in New Zealand, we only have to look to the rainfall events over this past winter, but also internationally in the focus on whether it be Australia, the floods in Pakistan or the heat waves in Europe. So that common awareness of the increasing scale and impact of climate change being something that's bringing that common purpose together, but also importantly a growing realisation and a growing buy-in to the fact that climate action is a vehicle for positive change, climate action is a vehicle for creating a more just, a more equitable society if done in the correct way, of course. It's not just about reducing emissions, it's not just about reducing risk to climate changes, as Johnnie just said. It's about, it's about wellbeing and ensuring that we develop a system and we transition to a system that enables us all to live better lives that is more equitable, more just, and using climate action not just as a mode to reduce emissions and reduce climate risk, but as a vehicle to creating a better future. So one of the things



that we certainly discuss is a common purpose and when we are looking at collaboration, one of the specific initiatives that we are working on, and a big shout out to Dave Watson who's in the room this evening for leading this, our regional partnerships group. And also Dave, thank you for all your work bringing together this panel and for your work making tonight happen along with others. So our regional leadership group will focus on establishing cross-sectoral partnerships to deliver climate action with leaders across sectors that are focused on a common purpose, focus on a common purpose of delivering positive change through climate action.

- Yes. Cause I wondered because there was a question, and I think it's a good one here that's just come from Janet. Look, we know systemic... And it relates to this in a way. We know systemic change is successful if people are part of connected community. How do we ensure that community is connected to that conversation? Because again, we hear that we're going to talk with leaders and these associations, how do we bring it back from these very high level situations through to us standing at Opanuku Stream going, "What's happening out here?" That you know... Sorry? From \*\*\*\* to action? Look, I didn't say that madam. You did. Let's from the grassroots, the fertilised roots of the grass to actual act, how do we get that sense that communities understand what's happening, their voices are heard, and through that understanding in a sense, their voices are heard, they get on board and they become a part of this journey? Who wants to take that one on? It's Chloe.

- I mean one of the things that I find really interesting is that this actually goes back to kind of, one of the core things that Johnnie was laying out, which is that I don't think that it is actually, we have so much prescription by central and local government about what communities have to get up to and there's not enough identifying the people who are already trying to do this stuff and then creating the environment conducive to them being able to just do it. Like there's so many examples of that from composting through people pedestrianising the streets all by themselves and a range of other examples where, yeah, we have community leaders already out there and doing it. And I worry that... And I see this particularly from kind of, again, in the select committees, I worry that so much of the procurement processes for both central and local government are so prescriptive in the criteria that are necessary for the programmes to be rolled out that there isn't enough of that leniency, and that trust, and that goodwill, and that appropriate decision making at a grassroots level, which then means that you ironically kill the thing before it is born because you have said that it needs to be square when maybe it needs to be circle. I don't know if I'm just mixing all my metaphors, but...

- [Te] Is there a way to... 'Cause you're in the digital sector, you know, and we're digitally connected, many of us for our sins, is there a way?

- I mean there's lots of tools that can be enabled to hear feedback, hear points of view, it still comes back to how much are we listening versus how much are we sort of, speaking and then how much does that lead to action from there? So there's lots



of tools that, I mean we've got lots in here today. We've got Slido, we've got other things, there's all sorts of ways you can get contribution. But the question really becomes how hard do we listen to the people most affected in those particular areas that also may already like, your great examples about the open sourcing of sharing of different solutions. How could you actually accelerate that so that you got more movement forward than actually having to reinvent everything? 'Cause the reality is a lot of the answers are already there. It's about actually bringing it together in a way that's meaningful. And let's face it, in that COVID example I gave before, we knew that the people in the community that already had those relationships were the best way of actually getting either modems or other things to the people that most needed it. It wasn't us. We could enable it, but we weren't the ones that were going to do that, so working with the partners. So I think that's part of it. It's really having a view that you don't have to own and control every part of it. You have to bring together the people that can make a difference and be open to hearing different ways of approaching it.

- [Te] Just a lot quicker and a lot more fluid. And we've actually seen that in some of the major cities around the world. They've just gone out and just cracked on with stuff. Admittedly, when we went out and cracked on with stuff in central Henderson, people were outraged, particularly at the fact that intersection was painted blue and a lot of time and effort and mental energy was spent complaining about a blue intersection. Oh, I thought it was excellent. Hey look, so the question is, it came up really and it was an infrastructure question and I'm not sure whether it fits into the scope, but I'm going to ask it because 15 people wanted to know, is it a priority of council to ensure adequate infrastructure upgrades to cope with the housing intensification placing less pressure on our environment?

- I mean, I guess... Matthew? I mean...

- Could you repeat that?

- Is it a priority of council to ensure adequate infrastructure upgrades to cope with housing intensification, placing less pressure on our environment? I mean, I guess...

- Well yes, that is part of the role of council and certainly just to pick up on the last part of it, in terms of ensuring that infrastructure doesn't degrade the environment, was that the question? I think, well...

- [Te] The benefit, I think

- For the benefit--



- [Te] Least pressure on the environment.

- Yeah, and I think one of the things we need to think about when we develop, plan, design infrastructure is thinking about how infrastructure solutions, planning infrastructure can have a positive impact on the environment. And that's something that we need to consider in every decision we make so that we're not just looking at infrastructure as something that necessarily has a negative influence on the environment, but infrastructure as an opportunity. Infrastructure as an opportunity to deliver positive change through the planning and design of that infrastructure.

- [Te] And it goes back to that human-centric design. I've seen some incredible pieces of infrastructure that has absolutely transformed communities, isn't it? And again, that's where that consultation and radical collaboration comes in.

- I also think it's that thing of, so if this part of infrastructure's being changed now what else would you do at the same time rather than having everything sequentially go after each other? And that ability to work together to get the solution, and that means that broader listening, working across different parts.

- [Te] Of course the danger of that is then the journalists and the Herald conflate that per kilometre of cycleway. Just say, look at this gold plated cycleway as opposed to look at all of the infrastructure that was changed to make this entire environment a much better place for everybody to live for the next 30 years.

- Matthew.

- And just to touch on that point, I think when we look at the cost per kilometre of cycleway, let's also bear in mind that we don't include the cost of storm water upgrades. We don't include the cost of planting trees. We don't include the costs of the utilities under the surface that have been upgraded and are using the cycling budget and therefore elevating and increasing the cost per kilometre of cycling infrastructure. Let's just focus on the cost per kilometre of the actual cycling infrastructure.

- Yeah, brilliant. The gentleman out there who asked a question that we're all thinking, but won't ask. All right. Go.

- I'd just like to pick up on perhaps the sentiment I'm feeling from some of the audience and that when I spoke about the need to develop a regional partnerships group and approach to responding to a common purpose, that is not necessarily without the input and the partnership collaboration with the community, which is perhaps what is being suggested through some of the heckles. One of the things





that's very important here is that when we are developing any approach, it needs to be in collaboration and in partnership with the community. One of the things that we also need to look at is how we engage with the community. We have consultations, we have public surveys, but do they accurately represent the community that we're serving as Auckland Council?

- [Audience] No!

- Well, a rhetorical question. And I would agree with you. So how do we ensure that those members of our community that aren't typically represented, aren't typically heard in the consultations, the engagement techniques that we use are heard, are represented and are informing the direction of travel?

- 'Cause it's very important. 'Cause there's a lot of privilege in those. You know, all of us have the time and the ability to come here this evening and to listen and to be heard. But there is a huge swathe of Auckland for whom that's not possible. Carla.

- No, I do want to just jump in there and say that one of the key things that I think we absolutely need to take on board is the need not to expect community to come to us, but for us to go to them. It is their places where they gather. At sports grounds, at places of faith, where they worship, at places of entertainment that they may be, and areas that they are already actually gathering that we want to go and we actually want to be engaged and we want to hear that voice. And community organisations are amazing at being able to get that feedback. I think expecting community to actually provide feedback through the current methods that are actually used just don't work. We don't hear from the people that we really, really want to be hearing from. They're not going to engage to that process. So we have to be thinking much more broadly about how we capture those thoughts and what our communities feel about that.

- And when people do go to be engaged, I remember standing at the Pukekohe Vegetable Festival and they had, I think it was Panuku, had a little stand there and they were talking about the realignment of that kind of, main street. And a guy stood and talked at me for about 10 minutes around what he thought would be a better idea. And I said, "Sir, I can't do anything about this." But right there with that big sign is someone who has come here to specifically hear you talk about that. So when that opportunity presents itself, you know, to engage in that conversation and that dialogue, take it, no point telling me, you know, I can't do anything. Here's my question then. How do we... And someone has asked it. I'm just going to find out where it is because it relates exactly to this. What needs to change? Where is it? Looking at it, it's to do with all of this. How do we actively encourage then that conversation around this and engage people and communities from that very base level and allow their voices to be filtered up. Johnnie, any ideas?



- The example we can draw on is in the development of the Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri, Mana Whenua Forum seat at the council that all lead the Maori engagement of our communities. And He Rangatahi lead the youth engagement. We're able to have a number of hui across marae, across Tamaki Makaurau. So it's the first time in the history of Auckland Council that Mana Whenua actually led the conversation within our own, including not just Mana Whenua communities, but our wider matawaka Maori communities as well. So when we sat down with some of our Maori communities, like at Waipareira and others, and they go, "Why has Mana Whenua come in to talk to us?" Well we have an obligation responsibility not only to the land but all people that live here. But you lead the conversation within your community. We'll just be there to support it. 'Cause what we're interested in is what you think, what the issues are. You know, so, and as outcome, when council did the metrics, Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri is one of the highest rating of Maori engagement for council. In that process, we got to sit with the Climate and Environmental Committee for the first time in 10 years of Auckland Council history. So we got to sit with decision makers and sort of, co-navigate this space. So it's really normal for us to hear the concerns of our people, our communities. And you just have to come to hui e iwi at my Marae and see what it's like with all the people that are challenging, want to know. But that point of, it's not about how our people access the council or service, it's actually how those services need to access. And we went through some real tremendous learning during COVID. So it's nothing like a pandemic to take the scab off the to see really what's happening underneath. Not only do we saw the disparities of our Pacific and Maori communities in a high time of need, but we also saw the resilience and a response. Now one of the key learnings out that was if you can have a Maori led response to something like, COVID, what would a Maori led response look like for climate? And this was all about, at the heart of it was wellbeing. And not just for Maori, but for everyone. And listening to some of the frustrations of our people here come through, just imagine what it's like of 150 years of frustration of... So it's only been in the last 10 years? That real deep collaboration with Mana Whenua and Maori is starting to occur. At the recent Institute of Landscape Architecture, was amazing that every award highlighted a deep collaboration with Maori council professionals around action, not just korero, you know? And so our people deserve, and I use the term collectively, our people, all of us, you know, we're at this time where things are always going ahead of everyone, over the heads, all that big, all that, you know, jargon and all that sort of language. It's not connecting to place, it's not connecting to our people. So we're using all this other language that displaces and drives those disconnections. We just need to make things a little more simple and really focus on, not only connecting to each other, but how do we... not just the common purpose, it's that common connection to place. It has to be anchored back to Whenua community because, you know, you just have to look at the diversity in this room.

- [Te] So there's a question that that sort of, in some ways, relates to this. People generally seem to want climate action, but they get angry at local actions. Bike paths, road re-allocations. What do we do about that cognitive dissonance? Your words not mine. Who wants to take that one on board? Chloe?



- Just do it. No, but I mean seriously, yeah, it is a cognitive dissonance. What's the definition of cognitive dissonance? It's holding two completely contrary facts or things that you're hoping for, ideals, whatever, in your mind at the same time, contemporaneous. It makes you uncomfortable. We just kind of, have to face up to that and look it in the face, 'cause you know what? Climate change is uncomfortable. The world is changing regardless of whether we choose to adapt or not, regardless of whether we choose to reduce our emissions and, you know, make our demise all the faster or not. So I think actually though, I just wanted to briefly kind of, address the point as raised about kind of, systems change and engagement, but also the question from the floor earlier about how do we work with our new mayor. Also, the person who heckled, as Johnnie was speaking, sir, if we were to design a system, whoever that sir was who yelled out, that was capable, let alone competent with dealing with the challenges of our time, you would not design the colonial Westminster parliamentary system. That system is, ugh, I know, it sucks. It is self-perpetuating. There is a reason that we're interrogating the system that is producing all of these problems over and over and over again because it needs to change. So how do we go about changing that?

- [Heckler] So we'll have communism instead?

- Do you know... No. What, what do you think... No. Can you please shush? Can you... What do you think communism is? Please define it. Stand up. Define communism.

- [Heckler] So you can either have a democratic.

- No define communism, please.

- [Audience Member] He's trying to do that!

- [Heckler] You can have a situation where the the same rights apply to all. And from what I understand is democracy is .

- Well you're actually defining communism, which is the same, right? Applying to everybody, but...

- [Heckler] If you don't have democracy, what do you have? The alternative is a communistic dictatorship.

- Okay, you've had your piece, can you please sit down? Thank you. You've defined communism from your perspective. So what you've defined communism as is a dictatorship. No. Communism is an economic system which is about doling out



effectively equal amounts to everybody. Sir, you've had your piece. Okay, I gave it to you.

- Thanks.

- I gave it to you.

- [Heckler] You dictate to everybody.

- That's authoritarianism. I'm about to outline it for you.

- To be fair, I'm not sure, we could have a conversation about this until the cows come home, but they're everybody's cows. Everyone gets one. I mean to be fair.

- So the the point...

- America's a democracy and boy, look how they're doing.

- So the point that I'm trying to make to you is that what you were talking about is a very value loaded term from your perspective. Communism really mean... I have let you say your piece. Please sit down and listen to me. Oh okay. Well I'm responding to exactly your point, which is that com--

- [Heckler] Listen!

- You can have your own panel. This is... I'm answering your question.

- [Heckler] So I don't need to sit down to hear it.

- Oh, well you can stand for answer.

- Stand up. Okay, so authoritarianism, which is what you were saying about the state dictating absolutely everything is a form of a lack of democracy, right? When you're talking about communism, you're talking about an economic system in terms of who's getting access to what. So I think that you are conflating the two there and that's leading us to the conclusion that you have with this term, communism, that you've loaded a lot of values and a lot of anger onto and means that we are not having a very productive conversation.



- No.

- So to really boil it down to first principles about what we're trying to achieve here, we are all on this panel. I am democratically elected to work with people who disagree with me to try and achieve outcomes. I'm in the Greens, mate, I can't do anything by myself. I have to collaborate consistently across the aisle. That is the opposite of authoritarianism and communism, which you seem very concerned with.

- No. Sorry. We're going to get back to the initial thing, which was collaborating with the new mayor, which I think was the kind of, we started off before we got psyched out by communism.

- So I've had a very constructive meeting.

- You did?

- With our new mayor. And this meeting started from exactly that point of what are our first principles? What are the things that we agree on? 'Cause I'm sure we can all say, especially based on all of the assumptions and the symbols of who we are, that there are things that we disagree on. But the things that we agree on is that we want local democracy, that is more power to our local boards. We want to see more parks, we want to see protection of the Hauraki Gulf, and he seems to care a lot about business cases. So while we were talking about business cases, I made the case that some of the best return for investment that you can get is by virtue, particularly in the city centre with the likes of pedestrianisation, but also the likes of our cycleways and reallocation of road space and all of those other things. So that kind of, really proactive collaboration and consensus building looks like starting from first principles and trying to understand the language that each of us are using, which is why, sir, I asked you to define the language that you were yelling at me because it helps a lot if we can understand the words that each of us are using and what we assume they mean.

- Thank you. Look, I'm now going to flip this conversation because for a long time, there is a sense that individuals can actually make a difference, when actually a part of this is systemic and structural. And I'm thinking about large businesses in particular. What is the role within all of this of the large businesses? You're on the Climate Leaders Coalition. What are the discussions that you were having around that, that role of the systemic change that can be driven by businesses and investment, not communism, to make these changes and empower communities to do the things they need to do?

- So I think the conversations we're having as a business, first of all looks at our own shop and says, what do we need to do to make sure that we are making change?



80% of our emissions are electricity. So making sure we're working with our energy partners and making sure we're investing in new technologies in our business and removing out ones that have significant uses. Then you think across the coalition, what we're looking at is how do we invest, and across, if you look at the last snapshot that was just done of those hundred businesses that belong to the Climate Leaders Coalition is around nine and a half billion of investment will go in in the next five years to make the transitions that we need to see. And that's across energy, it's across agriculture and it's also across industry. And that's about us each taking action in our own business. We obviously can't do that in isolation. We need to work with the communities we operate in. We need to think about what enables other components, 'cause there's some things that run horizontally across different verticals. If you think about how you can use technology to connect for example, versus potentially flying somewhere, they are all options that you can start to think about, how do they each play a part and how do we work collectively to make sure that we are moving forward as a group and that we take responsibility in the communities that we operate in? So that's what Climate Leaders Coalition's all about. It's actually about each of us holding ourselves to account and each other. It's about transparency and measuring what we're doing, but it's also about crowning innovation. It's until you work together and you share ideas across, you don't actually know... ..spending judgement , trying to understand the different components of it that allows you to think about how would we innovate and change we do.

- Do you want to respond to that?

- Yeah, absolutely. So I think one of the things that is really important from a community organization's perspective is how do we collaborate with businesses and what does that look like? We are very good, patting ourselves on the back here, but we are very good at the collaboration pace with our communities and we work, you know, incredibly closely with our communities and that, you know, that includes our schools and just, you know, everybody within the community. But what does it look like actually working with businesses that actually also in our community? And when I think about that, when I think about businesses, of course you start to think about the size of the business that you're actually talking about. So if it's a multinational business or you know, if you're looking at the likes of Deloitte's or Mondelez or you know, those kind of organisations, then it's probably realistic to expect that their sustainability plan will actually be written at head office, somewhere else around the world and then delivered out to all of their organisations. So it's unlikely that that plan will necessarily talk about any community collaboration. For national organisations, ff we look at the likes of The Warehouse Group or Mainfreight, those kind of businesses, then often what we find is they also do absolutely want to work in collaboration with their communities, but probably with organisations that have a national reach. So organisations, you know, amazing organisations like Forest & Bird or Sustainable Coastlines, those kind of organisations that have that national spread. But as community organisations, the businesses that we know we can work really closely with are our local businesses. And we know how many there are of those in Tamaki Makaurau. They are the small businesses that are actually, really, that you know, they understand the needs of their community. You know, they've lived there,



they've run their businesses there, they know their neighbours, they know the community organisations in their space. And those definitely are the businesses that, for us at community level, are the ones that get us, get the work that we're trying to do at the grassroots level and really want to engage with us and collaborate with us. So that's what I would say. One other thing that I would like to really quickly talk about from a business perspective is that so often, when you go into businesses or certainly when I speak to businesses, they often will talk to you about all the sustainability that they are doing within the business. And it might be huge the amount of work that they're doing there, but what I think is a massive untapped resource in that space, and I'd love to see more big businesses look at doing, is actually looking at ways that they can help their teams, their staff to actually start their journey in terms of climate actions. And that may be around some really simple things, holding workshops at work that talk about how people can reduce their energy consumption in their homes and reduce their water consumptions in their homes. Can we set sort of, fun challenge days where all of the staff can look at different ways of actually getting to work, different types of transportation, whether that be public transportation, cycling, walking, whatever it may be. But there are opportunities within many businesses to really look at what your staff are doing and what education opportunities you're providing for them within the climate action space.

- So what you're essentially saying is it's all very well and good for the council, the government to do whatever they want, but it boils down to individuals making conscious decisions about their own behaviour. Because at the end of the day, we're all in this together. Matthew, there was a question that came through. Is Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri, is it a statutory document? Where does it sit? We've been talking around all of this and the Climate Action Plan, where does it sit? How much power does it have or not have?

- It is not a statutory document. So Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri is not a statutory plan. The Unitary Plan, for example, is a statutory plan. So Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri, and this was brought to the public's attention, the media's attention through recent legal proceedings relating to the status of Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri. So it is not a statutory plan, however it was unanimously approved by the governing body at Auckland Council. So it has unanimous approval around the council table. It is a strategic plan that informs the developments of direction at Auckland Council across departments and teams. So, no, it's not statutory, but that does not undermine its importance. The status of the plan being non statutory does not mean that it doesn't have value. Of course it does. It's a climate action plan for delivering a positive change Tamaki Makaurau for delivering climate action developed in partnership with Mana Whenua. The plan is respected, the plan is upheld through the decisions we have at council. So just because it's not statutory does not mean that it shouldn't be upheld.

- [Te] Great. Final, cause we're nearly out of time and we could talk forever. Final question I'm going to ask is to everyone, I'm going to start with Matthew and finish with Johnnie, go down the line. Biggest threat, biggest opportunity that Auckland



has? I guess let's start with that. And particularly let's bring it around the sense of radical collaboration and the need to find a pathway through disparate voices. 'Cause you know, we live in an age of polarisation, possibly, well, arguably, certainly in my lifetime, I dunno that we've been as polarised. So what do we do with this radical... What is the biggest threat to open then the biggest opportunity that we think of when it comes to this kind of, radical collaboration and the future of Auckland for the next 20 years? Matthew. Big question.

- So biggest threats to Auckland, in terms of radical collaboration, I would say the biggest threat is that we spend a lot of time talking about collaboration and what it is and what it isn't and whether communities are included in our decisions or not, when of course they should be. And we don't actually deliver the models for collaboration and the momentum that we need to deliver change. The biggest opportunity...

- [Audience Member] Excuse me?

- [Te] Oh yes. Look, I haven't taken a question. Oh... Oh, that was a... I'm going to take you because your arm was thrust into the air with such vigour, I thought you were going to dislocate your shoulder. Madam. There's a mic so that we can hear.

- [Audience Member] What about C40 and all those globalists behind climate change?

- Oh, I had a feeling this would come up and you know what I'm going to do? Thank you. I'm going to ignore that question because of lack of time and will to live.

- [Audience Member] My question is, are they going to reduce their energy?

- I don't really think that we have the ability to answer on their behalf, madam, so, thank you.

- [Audience Member] I think you're a clown.

- I don't really care.

- How rude. So just, let's just touch on C40 for a moment. C40 is a global network of cities taking bold action on climate change. There is no membership fee for Auckland Council to be a member of C40. It is a leadership, standard led organisation. So we are required to meet bold, ambitious leadership standards to maintain our membership of C40. The benefit we get from C40 is that we are part of a global network of nearly 100 cities sharing knowledge and best practise on climate





action and enabling all other cities to up their game through that sharing of information and best practise. There's no global agenda here. C40 is a membership organisation pursuing and progressing best practise on climate action.

- Through radical collaboration. Thank you, Matthew. We're going to go to...

- Can I give my opportunity?

- Go on.

- So opportunity, I believe one opportunity we have as Auckland is our scale. We are a region that has the scale that I believe is well suited to collaboration across communities, across sectors to deliver positive change relating to climate action. I think that's a great opportunity that we have. We're not too small, we're not too big, we are an appropriate size for meaningful change.

- [Audience Member] Excuse me.

- No. If I don't like it, I'm going to cut it short only because we're running out of time.

- [Audience Member] Okay. Mr. Blaikie, I don't think you answered adequately the question before, which is what is greatest climate threat to Auckland?

- Oh, what is the greatest... No, I didn't really ask the question. What is the greatest climate threat to Auckland?

- [Audience Member] No, actually, I'd like to tell you.

- What is the greatest climate threat to Auckland? Lack of action?

- [Audience Member] No! The climate!

- Oh... Matthew, very good. Greatest climate threat to Auckland in two words or less.

- It's, I'm not...

- [Audience Member] I can't hear you?



- [Audience Member] No answer!

- I haven't answered the question yet. I'm trying to understand exactly the meaning behind your question. Of course I can, I could give you a long list of climate impacts, but I don't believe that's the basis for your question. I believe it is more loaded than that, so I'm going to refrain from answering.

- Jolie.

- I think in terms of the biggest threat is that we don't move forward and started taking action.

- [Audience Member] Not you!

- I wasn't asked any question.

- We're just wrapping up and if you want to have a continued conversation then you're more than welcome. But there's a whole lot of people here who probably have a bus to wait for.

- Because I think each of us individually have got a role to play in, so do our organisations and the communities that we work in. So we have got plans, we need to start moving forward. And I think the second part, which has been heard well here today, is how do we better listen and take that consultation into those plans.

- [Te] Brilliant. Carla.

- Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, guys. Yep. I'm on a similar vein. I think the biggest threat is finding an excuse to do nothing or stay the same, doing exactly what we're doing. I think the opportunity is that Tamaki Makaurau is an amazingly beautiful city. It is full of incredibly smart, dynamic, energetic, incredible people. And I think that is absolutely without a doubt our opportunity. We just need to listen to each other to make the steps forward that we need to take.

- Chloe.

- I can't help myself, but with the Bloomberg expansion we should absolutely tax the rich to pay for all of these great things. What is the biggest threat? Honestly, the biggest threat is individuation. The biggest threat, I mean you were making the point before today about how, you know, individuals making conscious decisions, that's



awesome. But unless we fix the defaults, that is the kind of blinders that we have, unconscious or not, about the decisions and the options that are available to us, especially when we are time pressed and under so much exhaustion because of all of the things that we have to do in modern life, then we are not going to make that necessary system change. So I do really worry about how, you know, particularly in Tamaki Makaurau Central and my electorate, I have the highest rates of renters in the country, 60% of my constituents, and I have the highest rates of transients. That is people who live in their abode for less than a year at a time. All of those things contribute to a lack of engagement and sense of neighbourhood community and low voter turnout in local body elections amongst other things. But I think that the opportunity that we have is to organise, ultimately, to turn that negative into a positive. And this goes back to the point around how do we engage with our new council? It's the same way that you engage with any politician. Don't leave politics to the politicians, 'cause as soon as you do that, things get incredibly polarised. But also they get further and further removed from the people whose decisions or rather the decisions that are made at a political level which saturate all of our lives on a day to day basis. And those decisions aren't just made every three years with the general local body election. So it's consistently, if you have that ability, and that privilege to be so consistently engaged, but also through organising, we are able to spread the load and make that stuff more sustainable. So getting involved in organisations like Generation Zero or Forest & Bird or whatever else. Plant a tree, get to know your neighbours, that's what politics can and should look like.

- [Te] Brilliant. Johnnie.

- I think from my whakaro the biggest threat is remaining in the square. And the thing about squares, it forces people into corners and you have to take sides, which is not healthy for our past and future generations. You know, so I see that as the biggest threat. And certainly having, you know, observed, lived through COVID, seeing post-COVID, looking at what's happening globally and the pressure the square system is under and how it fails to deliver for our people. And within that is that disconnection from real local level community whanau and our assessment of the C40 and those global groups is to a degree, Auckland's sort of, been the only one that's co-partnering of its indigenous communities. So if other voices aren't coming through, then you know the opportunity to align and have those conversations. But you shouldn't use lose your local flavour if it's about anchoring back to place. And I think that the opportunity is those localised collaborations. There's 19 Mana Whenua of Auckland, there's 21 local boards, that's where it happens at the local level, and which is really important. One thing we learned from COVID, you know, in the safety of all our little bubbles is the importance of this concept of, and you know, importance about, let's have a conversation on what we mean by language. So this concept of scaling and human-centered design, we'll prototype, roll it out, and then we want to go to scale. And when we go to scale it goes over everyone's heads and then it happens to you, not with you, but what we learned was the importance of scaling like scales on a fish. And the little interconnected scales that not only help streamline the fish but also protect the fish. That's the importance when we sort of go away from that globalisation language, 'cause globalisation for Maori is another



term for colonisation, Westernisation, but in that context it happens to all of us. So there's some tremendous learning if we're able to circle up as opposed to sit in a square. You know, it's really uncomfortable sitting on a panel when it's like, we're speaking to you as opposed to sitting in a circle where we share and speak with each other and we learn. And the beautiful thing about a circle is it's also who's not sitting in the circle, not just those who have made the effort to get here. That's the opportunity is how do we sort of... our elders use the term recirclization, you know, for us as human beings, we are trying to find our way home. You know, our home to Mother Earth, whatever belief system, we have a word for it. I just happen to use Maori terms. So we got to go beyond the jargon of things. Te reo Maori's becoming like a jargon. How do we actually sit down and have a conversation about understanding? So for us it's about seeking understanding and wisdom, not just necessary seeking knowledge. And knowledge or wisdom sits in the practise, in the action. So it has to be real action based and the more sort of, conversations we have like this different world views coming together, whether, you know, Tamaki Makaurau is our home, or Auckland's our home. You know, Auckland's named after a guy that never ever came here. And there's a statue that's out in front of the old Auckland City Council building of Lord Auckland, the Indian city that gifted it to Auckland City in 1960 something were onto it. They got rid of that statue and gifted it to Auckland. You know, so these are the real opportunities no matter what world view we come with, but it's how do we seek that understanding and really let's share, 'cause I want to see what your eyes see, in order for us to understand and how we're going to make, you know... Auckland's driving this, you know, Tamaki Makaurau Auckland thing and this, you know, this journey to Tamaki Makaurau. Well for us, Tamaki Makaurau has been here for over a thousand years. So it's not new to us, but it's that old wisdom with new knowledge and those conversations sitting together that's the real opportunity, 'cause I'm really interested in your sparrowhawk and how we circle up to get shit done, basically. 'cause Papatuanuku will turn around some point and wipe us out, just like the dinosaurs. So it's not the planet that's at stake, it's us. And that's the real shift to how we come to tune with this. And I just need to say in closing, 'cause my aunties will pull my ears. So, you know, there's no... It's not my mistake that most of the people sitting in this room are wahine. That most of our panel are wahine. You know, square systems or patriarchal centred. And it's about individualism. Our aunties would say the solutions sits in a Papatuanuku centred response led by wahine. You know, and that's got nothing to do with gender, that's got to do with wisdom and heart, you know, and that's the opportunity that we can bring into the conversation and you know, we've got many generations represented to say how do we get that flow going. Kia ora.

- Kia, ora Johnnie. I knew there was a reason I left you to the end. What a beautiful summation of the conversation that we've been having. And I acknowledge it's, you know, we we're talking about radical collaboration and yet as you're right, we are sitting in the structural format of a group of people talking at you. That is the nature of this particular event. I would love to been able to sit down and had a longer conversation with my friends at the back. Not a clown, certainly. At least I'm not a juggler, I suppose. High praise indeed. Hey look, because that is the nature of it. Nobody is setting out to make Auckland, Tamaki Makaurau, a worse place than it is.



You know, everybody in their own way loves this city and they want to make it a better place. And there are decisions being made that are difficult, and there are conversations being had that are difficult, and there are conversations that are not being had because they're difficult to have or cause they're difficult to engage with, but they need to be had because, you know, we need to make sure that something is happening. What a wonderful panel. Look, at the end of the day, it does boil down to each and every one of us taking a little bit of responsibility. We can't devolve that responsibility upwards. I always say none of us individually can change the world, but we can change our worlds. We can change the world within, within our families and within our communities. And I think that's the most important part of it because bloody hell, we live in this city and we love this city and our kids grow up here and their parents grow old here. Many of us will be buried in this city, I'm sure. Hopefully not under a cataclysmic lava flow on one of the many volcanic fields of Auckland. But who knows? I just want to thank the panel and call to action to the audience to keep these conversations going, please share today's event, if you've enjoyed it. If you didn't enjoy it, share it anyway. Find someone you don't like, tell them it's awesome. Sit them down and watch it for an hour and add 10 minutes because these conversations are important. And as we say, there are no shortage of people out there who do not even know these conversations are happening and who are not invited into them. And it's important that we invite everybody into this large tent to have a conversation with them. Have a look around. There may be people you want to continue a conversation with in the room tonight, by all means do. We've got a little bit of time afterwards as well. But look, we are a disparate group of people here in beautiful Tamaki Makaurau Auckland, but I wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. I bloody well love it here. And so all of the conversations that we've had really actually means something to me because I'm going to be here for a long time. So before we finish, this is the last event of the Auckland Climate Festival and it seems fitting in that way to allow Michelle Kennedy, who's the founder of the Auckland Climate Festival to take us out. Michelle.

- Kia ora tatou, ko Michelle Kennedy toku ingoa. As Radar mentioned, I am the founder of Auckland Climate Festival, which has been running across the whole month of October. And today is the last day, which is quite sad, but it's been an amazing month. We've seen over 125 events, initiatives, and activations take place over the month, hosted by over 150 organisations, many of you are sitting in the crowd here tonight. And we've seen people engage in climate action in a huge range of ways, through exhibitions, panel discussions, open days, cleanups, workshops, and much more. One of the reasons why I founded the festival was to help drive collaboration in new ways by creating space, a platform for a whole of society response to the climate crisis. And it's been amazing to see so many events spanning across many sectors, community groups, advocacy groups, government, network organisations, professional bodies, Mana Whenua, and businesses, and many more, coming together for this common purpose this month, like Matt mentioned, coming together around the common purpose of climate action. So it's very fitting for this event to close the festival. It's been clear over this month that there is still a lot to do and that radical collaboration is absolutely necessary as we continue to move forward together. It's been really encouraging to hear about new



ways that we can do this and in fact, old ways, old wisdom that we can reclaim and ways in which we can cross pollinate as well. And to think about specifically in the context of Tamaki Makaurau and for our communities. So this evening has really helped thicken my understanding of this and given me a lot of food for thought as I'm sure it has for all of you. So I wanted to thank everyone involved in this evening for creating the space to have this court at all. And I also wanted to thank everyone who participated in the festival, all of you who came along to the events, hosted the events and put so much energy into it as well. Thank you for believing in a good future for this city. It's been a really special month, I'm sure you can agree. And I really look forward to continuing to collaborate with all of you so that we can continue to accelerate the change together. So that is it for this evening. Thank you all for coming along and engaging in what's been a really interesting topic and discussion for this evening. And as Te Radar... I can't even pronounce. Sorry.

- It's been a whole month!

- It's been a very month. As is being mentioned, please do feel free to stick around, have a chat outside, I believe there is a cash bar open. So yeah.

- [Audience Member] Can you finish with a song?

- Yeah. Let's do that. What song should we sing?

- Yeah, let's do that. That sounds perfect. Me too. ♪ Te aroha ♪ ♪ Te whakapono ♪ ♪  
Me te rangimarie ♪ ♪ ♪ Tātou, tātou e. ♪ ♪ Te aroha ♪ ♪ Te whakapono ♪ ♪ Me te  
rangimarie ♪ ♪ Tātou, tātou e. ♪

- Hey, and just, I also... There's one last thanks and these people are often never thanked. I want to thank each and every one of you for coming out tonight. You know, you may be here and you may be frustrated, but you came out and you've participated and that is singularly the most important thing. So please a round of applause for yourselves and the panel. We appreciate you. Stay for a drink. Cash bar.

