

# PRESS RELEASE

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## ANZAC BRIDGE PROPOSAL WILL DESTROY NORTHCOTE COMMUNITY

Earlier this week the ANZAC Centenary Bridge Group has announced plans to support the construction of a new harbour bridge from Tank Farm to the bottom of Onewa Road.

Paula Gillon, Birkenhead Northcote Community Board Member says:

“These plans have been described by some as ‘visionary’ but this is a nightmare for the Northcote residents because of the lasting damage to our local communities and the environment.

“The ANZAC Group believes that this option would help save some money, but at what cost? The cost will be born, yet again, by the people of Northcote. This community will suffer the ongoing effects of potential loss of housing not to mention the substantial environmental impact.

“The people of Northcote will not stand idly by and witness the destruction of their community. Unfortunately we have already seen that the government does not care about the impact that their decisions have on people’s homes, families and communities, as demonstrated by the Waterview decision. Their priority is to save a few bucks no matter the cost.”

The plans also incorporate the destruction of the existing harbour bridge, to this Paula says:

“The Group’s PR machine has been in overdrive trying to convince the people of Auckland that what they really need in order to solve transport and social issues is a pretty new bridge.

“The idea of building a bridge purely in order to have a shiny new piece of architecture is banal. The Harbour Bridge is a much loved Auckland icon. After many years of research and consultation, looking into 159 different harbour crossing options, Auckland’s leaders wisely came to the conclusion that a tunnel under the harbour was the best option for our future.

“Why don’t we lead the way internationally and live up to our clean green community-friendly image and continue with a tunnel crossing rather than let a few bully-boys waste our money trying to compete in a ridiculous bout of international one-upmanship?”

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