

Community Reference Group

Meeting Summary

Location: Port of Auckland, 1 Sunderland Street, Mechanics Bay

Date: Thursday 20 August

Time: 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Attendees:

Full Name	Organisation
Susan Geerlings	
Gayle Bennett	
Mike Blackburn	Parnell Community Group
Micharl McKeown	
Ardeth Lobet	
Kim Lowry	
Stephen Wagstaff	
Linda Parkinson	
Cheryl Regan	
Tom Mullen	
Luke Niue	PCC

Summary: This update covered Port of Auckland's upcoming financial results, progress on Bledisloe North Wharf, cruise terminal planning, Shed 10's future role, temporary public access around the breastworks area, and questions about signage, lighting, maintenance and future berth capacity.

Opening Update

- The meeting opened with an apology for the shortened timing, as Alistair needed to leave early and Roger was absent due to a family matter.

- Port of Auckland will announce its financial results next Thursday, with results expected to be stronger than last year due to volume growth and operational efficiencies. Bledisloe North Wharf is progressing quickly, with most piling complete and the first top-deck slab laid.
- The new cruise facility is expected to receive its first ships from March next year.
- Port of Auckland has also announced it will lease Shed 10 so permanent seasonal cruise fixtures, including X-ray machines and Customs kiosks, can be installed.
- Shed 10 will become Cruise Terminal 2, while the new Bledisloe North facility will be Cruise Terminal 1.

Breastworks, Captain Cook and Marsden Wharves

Princess Wharf will remain available as a third berth when required, although days with three ships are uncommon. The breastworks area between Queens Wharf and Captain Cook Wharf is expected to become temporary public space this summer, subject to lease agreements. Auckland Unlimited is leading community engagement and activation planning, which may include temporary uses such as food trucks or other public activities.

Cruise Terminal 1 Pickup and Drop-off

The Cruise Terminal 1 pickup and drop-off area will sit in front of the Bledisloe North terminal. The first season will use existing asphalt, pavement markings and barriers. After the initial cruise calls, work is expected to begin on the canopy structure, landscaping and supporting public-realm improvements. The canopy is intended to provide covered waiting and pickup/drop-off space, particularly for passengers with allocated boarding times who arrive early.

Future Berth Planning

A possible third berth is being considered for smaller boutique or expedition-style cruise ships, which may carry only a few hundred passengers and often stay in port for several nights. These ships are not intended to use Bledisloe North because that would affect cargo operations. Any future facility would likely be at Captain Cook Wharf and would only need a small passenger-processing area.

A third berth is not an immediate priority. The current focus is on completing Bledisloe North and preparing Shed 10. Demand does not yet justify regularly handling three cruise ships on the same day. In the interim, Princess Wharf can be used for boutique ships if required. A third berth is more likely to sit within a five-to-ten-year planning timeframe.

Key Questions and Responses

Q: Is there a timetable for a third berth?

A: Not at this stage. The focus is on Bledisloe North and Shed 10. A third berth is more likely to be considered in the five-to-ten-year timeframe, once demand for three-ship days increases.

Q: What size ships is the new terminal designed for?

A: The new terminal is designed for large cruise ships carrying about 4,000 to 5,000 passengers.

Q: What branding and signage will appear on the terminal?

A: Terminal branding is still being worked through, including Cruise Auckland and Port of Auckland logo placement. The aim is to lift the professionalism and identity of the cruise experience in partnership with Auckland Unlimited.

Q: Will there be lighting, billboards or advertising on the terminal frontage?

A: Lighting will remain on the western side, including the light wall, which may be used for welcome messages. The front facade lighting has been adjusted, and the light wall cannot be used as a billboard because of consent conditions. No billboard is planned.

Q: Will trees be removed or areas beyond the port boundary be affected?

A: No. The project is not expected to remove trees or affect areas beyond the port boundary.

Q: Will the breastworks and nearby areas be cleaned before public access begins?

A: Maintenance and presentation are being discussed with Auckland Council before the space opens to the public. Specific cleaning and tidying issues, including visible staining, have been noted and will be followed up.