

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ADDRESS

Speaker

Hon. Simon Bridges, CEO, Auckland Business Chamber

Topic

Opportunities And Hindrances For Auckland In The World Market

Date & Time

Tuesday 6 June 2023 at 6 p.m.

Location

Lecture Theatre, Old Government House (University of Auckland), Princes Street, Auckland. Choice of masks and distancing is **Respected**.

Synopsis

[Provided by the Forum]

The Chamber promotes Auckland as New Zealand's commercial, industrial and communications centre, with a focus on individual businesses and minimal regulation.

As its CEO, Hon. Simon Bridges is well-placed to have views on challenges to the economy of Auckland *vis-à-vis* commerce with the outside world. They include these.

1. The capacity of Auckland's transport infrastructure (such as the Bridge).
2. The role of the Port and Airport (part-owned by the City) in the supply chain.
3. Flooding due to climate change, and the jeopardy of insurance coverage.
4. The balance to be achieved between housing needs, and skilled immigration.
5. The vulnerability (and cost) of the health system, as shown in the Covid crisis.
6. Financial pressure on businesses and homeowners arising from inflation.
7. The Government's increasing debt load, in a context of increasing welfare.
8. The effect on investor and business confidence of the 'co-governance' policy.
9. Competition with Australia to lure young people with energy and education.
10. The potential impact of Artificial Intelligence.
11. The impact of rising criminality e.g. violence, ramraids, extortion and fraud.
12. The need for a sufficient fish stock in the Hauraki Gulf.

Biographical Details
[Provided by the Forum]

Simon Bridges holds a BA (in political science and history) and an LL.B. (Hons.) from the University of Auckland, and a postgraduate degree from Oxford.

He began his career as a lawyer in a major commercial firm in Auckland. A move to Tauranga followed in 2001, where he became a prosecutor, mainly in jury trials.

In 2008 he was elected to Parliament, as the National Party Member for Tauranga. He sat on both the Government Benches and the Opposition Benches. In the *Key Administration* he served as Minister for each of Labour, Energy Resources, and Transport, and also as Associate Minister for Climate Change. In the *English Administration* he was Minister for each of Economic Development, Communications, and Transport, and Associate Minister of Finance. After service as Leader of the Opposition from 2018 to 2020, he left Parliament in 2022.

The Forum provides a space and an opportunity for discussion and consideration of topics of international affairs. The meeting is open to the public, without charge or seat reservation.

¹ World Affairs Forum Incorporated, # 50081789. Available from: <https://app.businessregisters.govt.nz>.
25/05/2023 5:23 pm