

## Free & Frequent Public Transport in Greater Auckland

# The RAM Plan

Free & frequent public transport in Greater Auckland is the realistic antidote to car congestion, climate change and rising fares. It makes ecological and economic sense. On 23 January 2007, an Open Letter calling for a free buses trial was presented to the chief executive of Auckland Regional Transport Authority by a delegation from RAM – Residents Action Movement. RAM will be running in this October's local body elections on a platform which includes free & frequent public transport. For your information, extracts from the Open Letter are printed here:

We need a far more serious push for public transit in Greater Auckland. To make this happen, RAM advocates:

- The introduction of free and frequent public transport across the region's built-up areas.
- Auckland Regional Council to buy and operate 3,000 low-emission buses as a public service.
- A fast-track programme to create bus lanes and expressways through all built-up areas.
- Electrified commuter rail to be extended to as many areas as possible.
- Financing to mostly come from a major diversion of funds from motorway building in Greater Auckland to public transit.
- Top-up financing to come from taxes on hotel beds and airport arrivals so tourists offset their carbon emissions getting here.

### FREE BUSES TRIAL

To help get things moving, RAM proposes a large-scale free buses trial to the Auckland Regional Transport Authority.

Manukau mayor Sir Barry Curtis has offered three city suburbs in which to hold a free buses trial. This has the backing of the Auckland Tramways Union, who cover most bus drivers. And the Auckland Regional Council has resolved to support a feasibility study into a free buses trial.

RAM believes the relatively small amount of funding required for a free buses trial can be found without too much effort, so long as the institutional will is there to do so.

RAM would like to be involved in the implementation and analysis of such a trial.

### GRANT MORGAN

RAM organiser

### ROBYN HUGHES

RAM councillor on Auckland Regional Council

### ROGER FOWLER

RAM transport analyst

## SUPPORT THE PETITION



Robyn Hughes, a RAM regional councillor, launched a petition for free & frequent public transport at a climate change event in November 2006. Please support the petition (over page) by taking it around friends. Let the people's voice be heard!

**If you agree with the RAM plan, contact us. The more people who support us, the more likely RAM will succeed in the October 2007 local body elections, which is so important to turning the RAM plan into institutional action. Email RAM organiser Grant Morgan [gcm@actrix.co.nz](mailto:gcm@actrix.co.nz) or txt/call him on 021 2544 515.**