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It's time to shake it up

JT FOR MAYOR: AUCKLAND'S PARKS, OPEN SPACES and STADIA

- **Develop a 'People's Precinct', integrating Western Springs Park, Chamberlain Park, Jagger's Bush Reserve, Meola Reef Reserve, the Zoo and MOTAT.**
- **Implement an integrated strategy for Auckland's venue and park assets**
- **Save hundreds of millions of dollars by cancelling unnecessary upgrades to facilities that are not fit for purpose**
- **Make proper utilisation of the country's 'jewel in the crown' stadium, Eden Park**
- **Invest in improving the facilities at our major parks and other open spaces**
- **Utilise unused land, and purchase or swap land when needed, to develop small community parks and gardens in areas where open space is underprovided**
- **Create safe mid-block walkways where possible to make our existing suburbs more walkable**
- **Implement a strategy to properly manage and to expand the Auckland Regional Parks network.**

Policy Background

The development of a rational approach to the use and development of Auckland's parks and stadia assets is at the centre of John Tamihere's mayoral campaign.

Tamihere says that 'under the current Mayor, we have seen a complete shambles when it comes to looking after the very assets that makes Auckland a truly liveable city: our parks, open spaces, sporting and entertainment venues. The Mayor's efforts to prevent the effective use of the country's premier venue, Eden Park, his insistence that the Council should carve up one of only two public golf courses in Auckland and his willingness to spend hundreds of millions of dollars of ratepayers money in the totally unnecessary upgrading of venues, is symptomatic of his failure to provide effective oversight of a Council Controlled Organisation, that is in fact totally out of control.'

John Tamihere and Christine Fletcher have a shared vision of creating a truly liveable city, by enhancing the city's green spaces and implementing a rational venue strategy. Tamihere says 'green spaces are the lungs of our cities. Generations of Aucklanders have enjoyed our parks, our sporting venues and our cultural activities. I want to not just preserve this for future generations, but to enhance it.'

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Under JT, the Council will create a People's Precinct integrating, and in some cases linking with 'green bridges': Western Springs Park, Chamberlain Park, Jagger's Bush Reserve, Meola Reef Reserve, the Zoo and MOTAT. In the same way that Central Park and Hyde Park are the recreational centres of their cities, so will be our People's Precinct.

Chamberlain Park will remain an 18-hole public golf course with an upgrade to its facilities to offer a wider variety of activities, to a broader range of New Zealanders, including children and the disabled. Chamberlain Park is a People's Centre. People meet there to enjoy each other's company. Not one blade of grass on Chamberlain Park will be carved up with John Tamihere as Mayor.

Speedway will stay at Western Springs until a suitable alternative is identified.

Major sporting bodies will be encouraged to work together as the country can no longer afford the one sport per stadium concept. They will have to identify how they fit into the current stadia facilities, and in some cases cohabit and co-operate with other sports.

Eden Park will be utilised as a multi-sport, multi-event centre, hosting up to 6 major non-sporting events a year. Investigations will take place to explore the opportunity of developing a self-funding covered multisport venue on the number two ground.

An alternative location will be identified and developed as a high performance facility for Auckland Cricket and New Zealand Cricket and for Test Matches. Short form cricket will remain at Eden Park.

Cost effective investments will be made in Regional Parks and to improve facilities such as walking tracks, toilets and information centres.

Tamihere will support investigations into the more effective use of the Domain, opening up the possibility of many more activities and people making use of Auckland's most iconic park.

Funding of the development of these strategies will come from rates, central government, and the open space development contributions that are levied on all new dwellings and developments in Auckland (and in New Zealand). The levels of development contributions will be set so that as Auckland grows its open space needs will be met.

John Tamihere says 'we need to start regarding our recreational facilities as being as important as other infrastructure, such as roads and sewers. Do we want a city where our kids have nowhere to play, where they are cut off from understanding the importance of our environment or where the city's premier events are staged at venues which we frankly should be ashamed of?'

Mayor John Tamihere will use a pragmatic and sensible approach, encouraging the collaboration of Aucklanders and all stake holding bodies to protect and enhance our recreational heritage.

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