



NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
WAKA KOTAHI

Auckland Harbour Bridge fact sheet

- The Auckland Harbour Bridge was opened on 30 May, 1959
- In 1959, 11,205 vehicles crossed the bridge daily.
- The daily average number of cars crossing the bridge is presently around 154,000, with more than 200,000 vehicle crossings some days [Northern Busway has had impact on car numbers as people switch to public transport]
- Cars and taxis were tolled 2 shillings and 6 pence -25c – that’s about \$4.70 in today’s money compared with \$2 for cars to use the Northern Gateway Toll Road],
- It was built at a cost of £7,516,000, \$24 million in today’s terms
- A team of 1000 took four years to build the bridge
- Constructed of structural steel and reinforced concrete, the bridge spans 1.2 kilometres across the Waitemata Harbour
- The bridge reaches 64 metres above the water at its highest point, the top of the arch
- There are actually three bridges within the Auckland Harbour Bridge. The section in the middle with the steep arches and flags on top is the original four-lane ‘truss’ bridge, plus the two clip-ons.
- Clip-ons added in 1969 to provide more capacity
- Tolls removed in 1984
- Moveable lane barrier installed in 1990 to prevent head-on crashes and improve rush hour traffic flows.

- NZTA spends up to \$4m on maintenance and resealing each year.
- Currently, about 160 people working on the bridge: 20 maintenance people and another 140 on the strengthening of the clip-ons
- The direct road link – plus two new water mains it carries – triggered massive development of North Shore which was mainly farmland and seaside villages when bridge opened.
- North Shore population has quadrupled in 50 years.