



MEDIA RELEASE

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Hyatt returns to Auckland as luxury waterfront hotel plans unveiled

The design of the new \$200 million Auckland waterfront hotel and the announcement of the luxury Park Hyatt brand as its manager were unveiled today at the state luncheon for the visiting Chinese President.

The hotel is being built by the Beijing-based Fu Wah International Group, in partnership with Waterfront Auckland. The Hyatt Group will manage the hotel under its luxury Park Hyatt brand, adding to that brand's network of hotels in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne, and throughout Asia, Europe, the United States, and Africa.

The hotel, to be known as the Park Hyatt Auckland, will be located on the current Team New Zealand site on Halsey St, looking out on the Viaduct Harbour and Te Wero Bridge. The six storey hotel will have a total floor area of 25,000 square metres with 190 rooms, a ball room, multifunction room and business centres, entertainment facilities including a rooftop restaurant, and a gym/health centre and day spa.

Fu Wah Chairwoman Madam Chan Lawai said, "I am very glad to be able to commence such a great project in New Zealand. New Zealand has always been friendly to China, and is one of the first countries to have signed a trade agreement with China. The legislative environment here is ideal, which is a factor that attracts us to invest in New Zealand. I believe the bilateral collaboration between China and New Zealand will definitely be fruitful."

Mr Chiu Yung, President for Fu Wah International Group, said the new hotel will be a landmark property on the waterfront, and is being built to very high environmental standards. The Group will invest around \$200million in the project, with \$2.5 million committed to the development of a public space and art display in the area around the hotel in Wynyard Quarter, to give people access to the marina and water.

"The site of the hotel is special – right on the water of one of the world's finest harbour settings – so we feel a responsibility to build a landmark hotel. The design is one which meets high environmental standards with an emphasis on unique New Zealand features developed in collaboration with the one of New Zealand's most highly regarded architects. We are thrilled to be involved in a building and hotel of this scale and quality.

"We are very pleased to have partnered with the Park Hyatt brand. We recently invested into their Melbourne hotel. Their commitment to five star excellence dovetails with the market niche that fits a hotel with the significant features of this offering.

"This is Fu Wah's first investment into New Zealand but we are exploring a number of other projects. We see significant potential and want to be long-term investors in high quality projects. We are grateful we were able to mark the project by unveiling the model at an event involving China's President and New Zealand's Prime Minister. This is very much a partnership between our two countries."

Larry Tchou, senior advisor, Asia Pacific, Hyatt Hotels & Resorts said the company is excited to share the announcement of a Park Hyatt hotel in Auckland.

“We are grateful to further our relationship with Fu Wah, the owner of Park Hyatt Melbourne, with this new partnership which will bring the first Park Hyatt hotel to New Zealand. Auckland is a key tourist and business destination and we are honoured to collaborate with Fu Wah and Auckland Waterfront for this landmark luxury development.

“This has been an exciting year for the Park Hyatt brand and we are committed to continue to create presence in culturally rich cities like Auckland,” he said.

Waterfront Auckland CEO, John Dalzell says the five star international quality hotel is an exemplar project of what the Wynyard Quarter revitalisation is all about.

“The bar was set high with this project: an exceptional design to complement the award winning designs of other buildings and public spaces delivered to date; an investor that was willing to look long term; and an appreciation of the importance of building sustainably.

“Fu Wah has stepped up on all accounts and the result will be a true international standard hotel that, over time, will become a key catalyst for economic activity on the waterfront and the Auckland region as a whole.”

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Released on behalf of Fu Wah International Group, Park Hyatt and Waterfront Auckland by Whiteboat Communications.

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