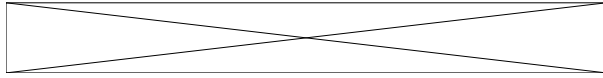


Australian daily slams Auckland's rank



Published: 3:55PM Thursday May 27, 2010

Source: ONE News



Source: Thinkstock Auckland city at night

An Australian newspaper is crying foul over Auckland beating Sydney in a recent survey of the world's most livable cities, describing our biggest city "as dead as the extinct volcanoes on which it lies".

The Mercer 2010 Quality of Living Survey ranked Auckland as the fourth most livable city in the world, ahead of Sydney (10th) and Melbourne (18th). Wellington came 12th.

But the Sydney Morning Herald's Tim Dick says Auckland beating Sydney confirms "Mercer's annual liveability list prefers vapidty to vibrancy".

Dick, who is from New Zealand, says: "[Auckland's] public transport is embarrassing, traffic awful and the weather poor. Crime is higher than in Sydney, and incomes lower. The Sky Tower is tall, but there is little to see."

He says Auckland may be survivable, but not livable.

"For Auckland to rank well, great weight must be put on 'water availability'."

But it's not just Auckland in Dick's firing line. Most of the other cities that feature in the top 20 are boring too, he says.

"This year, Vienna is first, then Zurich, then Geneva - a roll call of the nice-but-dull. You might not be shot while living there, but there's a fair chance tedium will send you mad."

The Mercer survey is based on evaluation of criteria such as political and socioeconomic factors, environmental factors, health and sanitation, education, transport and other public services.

All cities are compared to New York as the base city, with an index score of 100.

Auckland scored 107.4 points, on par with Vancouver, while Wellington scored 105.9 to be ranked 37 places ahead of New York, 22 ahead of Paris and 42 ahead of Rome.

Top 20 cities in the quality of living survey:

- 1 Vienna, Austria
 - 2 Zurich, Switzerland
 - 3 Geneva, Switzerland
 - 4= Vancouver, Canada
 - 4= Auckland, New Zealand
 - 6 Dusseldorf, Germany
 - 7= Frankfurt, Germany
 - 7= Munich, Germany
 - 9 Bern, Switzerland
 - 10 Sydney, Australia
 - 11 Copenhagen, Denmark
 - 12 Wellington, New Zealand
 - 13 Amsterdam, Netherlands
 - 14 Ottawa, Canada
 - 15 Brussels, Belgium
 - 16 Toronto, Canada
 - 17 Berlin, Germany
 - 18 Melbourne, Australia
 - 19 Luxembourg, Luxembourg
 - 20 Stockholm, Sweden
-