

Hon. Harry Duynhoven, QSO
Secretary & Board Member
AirQualityAsia

Mr. Duynhoven born in New Plymouth, New Zealand. He was a Registered Electrician before beginning studies in Electrical Engineering and a Diploma in Teaching. He taught technical subjects, mathematics and electrical theory and practice for 15 years, at secondary school and tertiary levels. He then studied at Victoria University of Wellington and was elected Member of Parliament representing New Plymouth for 18 years.

Mr. Duynhoven went back to university for a Master of Arts degree, Public Policy in 2002, just prior to being appointed Minister of State, then becoming Associate Minister of both Energy and Transport (the first MP to be appointed both) and was later was promoted to Minister of Transport Safety, with responsibility for all modes; Road, Rail, Maritime, and Civil Aviation, while continuing as Associate Minister of Energy. His additional responsibilities included vehicle standards, the entire road and rail safety regime, involvement with emissions standards, and in his energy role, responsibility for all petroleum exploration and production activity, underground and opencast mining operations, security of energy supply, refinery and fuel specifications.

Mr. Duynhoven has always had an interest in sustainable and alternative energy supplies and was proud to open two major wind generation “farms” during his time as Associate Minister of Energy. He was also an enthusiastic participant in the Energy and Efficiency Conservation Authority Economy Rally, which showcased developments in automotive efficiency during his tenure.

During his parliamentary career, Mr. Duynhoven had involvement with many progressive organizations and included his being New Zealand president of Parliamentarians for Global Action for two terms. On completion of his parliamentary career in late 2008, he continued his voluntary work for local charities and organizations, including being on the board of Habitat for Humanity, and is currently the NZ president of the Federation of Motoring Clubs (approx. 70,000 members) as well as a variety of other community voluntary activities.

In 2010 he was elected as Mayor for New Plymouth and led a reforming council for that term, pressing ahead with major deferred infrastructure projects, bringing the Council’s major historic overspending back into positive balance and proposing major energy saving initiatives, which are now being implemented. His leadership saw a big expansion of the district’s network of walkways and cycleways, with the mayor and staff often using a fleet of electric cycles in the city. He also led council efforts in externally fundraising to build the international award winning Len Lye Centre, the only single artist museum facility in New Zealand.

In 2014 Harry was asked to be one of only three New Zealanders to take part in the joint, Timor Leste – New Zealand, Official Observer Mission to the Guinea Bissau general election in western Africa. This was one of the more interesting and challenging contracts he has been involved with over the last several years.

Harry continues his public service roles as a member of the New Plymouth District Council and recently was also elected as a member of the Taranaki District Health Board. He continues an active interest in technology, and has interests in classic cars and motorcycles, theatre and football (soccer).