

# Stuart Donovan

Senior Fellow, Motu Economic and Public Policy Research

Researcher, Department of Spatial Economics, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

✉ [stuart.donovan@motu.org.nz](mailto:stuart.donovan@motu.org.nz)

✉ [s.b.donovan@vu.nl](mailto:s.b.donovan@vu.nl)

🔗 [Personal homepage](#)

🔗 [Google Scholar](#)

🔗 [ORCID](#)

## Qualifications

PhD (Economics)	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	2017–23
MPhil (Economics)	Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam	2015–17
MSc (STREEM)	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	2010–11
ME (Eng. Sci.)	University of Auckland	2005–07
BE (Eng. Sci.)	University of Auckland	2001–05
BA (History)	University of Auckland	2001–05

## Expertise

- Policy analysis
- Spatial, urban, and transport economics
- Housing, labour, and energy economics
- Multi-modal transport planning
- Applied econometrics
- Meta-analysis

## Research

Stuart Donovan, Thomas de Graaff, Henri LF de Groot, and Aaron Schiff (2024). “An urban overhead? Crime, agglomeration, and amenity”. In: *Journal of Housing Economics*, p. 101994. IF 2.6.

Stuart Donovan, Thomas de Graaff, and Henri L F de Groot (2023). *An inexact science: Accounting for measurement error and downward bias in mode and location choice models*. Tinbergen Institute Discussion Paper 2023-011/VIII. (Note: Submitted to Transportation Research Part B).

Stuart Donovan, Thomas de Graaff, Henri L F de Groot, and Carl C Koopmans (In-Press). “Unraveling urban advantages—A meta-analysis of agglomeration economies”. In: *Journal of Economic Surveys*. IF 5.3.

Stuart Donovan, Thomas de Graaff, Arthur Grimes, Henri L F de Groot, and David C Maré (2022). “Cities with forking paths? Agglomeration economies in New Zealand 1976–2018”. In: *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 95, p. 103799. IF 3.1.

Arthur Grimes, Kate Preston, David Maré, Shaan Badenhorst, and Stuart Donovan (2021). “The contrasting importance of quality of life and quality of business for domestic and international migrants”. In: *Labor Markets, Migration, and Mobility: Essays in Honor of Jacques Poot*. Ed. by William Cochrane, Michael P. Cameron, and Omoniyi Alimi. Singapore: Springer, pp. 97–121.

Peter Nunns, Stuart Donovan, and Julie Anne Genter (2020). “Chapter 9 - Auckland, New Zealand”. In: *Parking: An international perspective*. Ed. by Dorina Pojani, Jonathan Corcoran, Neil Sipe, Iderlina Mateo-Babiano, and Dominic Stead. Elsevier, pp. 147–167.

Saeid Nazari Adli and Stuart Donovan (2018). “Right to the city: Applying justice tests to public transport investments”. In: *Transport Policy* 66, pp. 56–65. IF 6.8.

Tim Hazledine, Stuart Donovan, and Christine Mak (2017). “Urban agglomeration benefits from public transit improvements: Extending and implementing the Venables model”. In: *Research in Transportation Economics* 66, pp. 36–45. IF 3.8.

Jenny Riesz, Claire Sotiriadis, Daisy Ambach, and Stuart Donovan (2016). “Quantifying the costs of a rapid transition to electric vehicles”. In: *Applied Energy* 180, pp. 287–300. IF 11.2.

Rosalind Archer, Gary Nates, Stuart Donovan, and Hamish Waterer (2011). “Wind turbine interference in a wind farm layout optimization mixed integer linear programming model”. In: *Wind Engineering* 35.2, pp. 165–175. IF 1.5.

## Review Services

Xiaoyang Yu (2023). *Consumer Uptake and Preference Analysis for Mobility as a Service (MaaS)*. Masters thesis. Brisbane, Australia: Department of Engineering, Queensland University of Technology.

Richard I D Harris (2021). “The importance of spatial differences in total factor productivity: New Zealand, 2001–16”. In: *Regional Studies* 55.7, pp. 1209–1227.

Jago Dodson, Carey Curtis, David Ashmore, Ian Woodcock, and Stephen Kovacs (2021). *Innovative responses to urban transportation: Current practice in Australian cities*. AHURI Final report 360. Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute.

Jago Dodson, Tiebei Li, Elizabeth Taylor, and Xavier Goldie (2020). *Commuting burden and housing affordability for low-income renters*. AHURI Final report 335. Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute.

## Selected Appointments and Projects

---

**Housing Expert Advisory Group.** *Client:* Ministry for Housing and Urban Development *Duration:* Ongoing. *Role:* Stuart has been appointed to a "Housing Expert Advisory Group ("HEAG") by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"). The purpose of the HEAG is to advise on the Going for Housing Growth ("GfHG") work programme, such as options for housing growth targets, Medium Density Residential Standards ("MDRS") optionality, and the National Policy Statement on Urban Development amendments ("NPS-UD"). The HEAG involves working with officials from a range of government ministries and organisations to provide views, expertise, and advice to support the implementation of evidence-based policy.

---

**Urban Land Markets Advisory Group.** *Client:* Associate Minister for the Environment. *Duration:* 2022. *Role:* Stuart was appointed to an Urban Land Markets ("ULM") advisory group that was established by the Associate Minister for the Environment, alongside representatives from MBIE, Te Waihanga, Treasury, and the MfE. Over approximately six months, the ULM advisory group produced three reports: 1) A new approach to planning; 2) infrastructure funding and financing; and 3) planning for urban growth. These reports helped to inform high-level policy discussions on the Government's Resource Management reforms and the Emissions Reduction Plan.

---

**Urban Economics Short Courses.** *Client:* Various, such as New Zealand's Ministry for Housing and Urban Development and the UK's Department for Transport. *Duration:* 2017-2024. *Role:* For several years, Stuart has delivered urban economics short courses in the Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia, and the UK. These courses introduce key concepts in urban economics and consider their policy implications, drawing on the latest economic research. The courses have attracted a diverse audience drawn from the private sector and local / central government. Attendees have included several elected representatives from local and regional authorities.

---

**Expert Evidence on Parking Policy.** *Client:* Auckland Council. *Duration:* 2012–2015. *Role:* Stuart was engaged by Auckland Council to provide expert advice on parking policy to inform the development of the Auckland Unitary Plan. Stuart conducted a detailed economic appraisal of policies, such as the removal of minimum parking requirements ("MPRs") and the merits of shifting to "demand-based" parking management. The work culminated in expert testimony to the Independent Hearings Panel ("IHP"). Council's parking policies were generally supported by the IHP and subsequently adopted into the notified Unitary Plan, before later informing the NPS-UD.

---

**Development Feasibility Models.** *Client:* Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment. *Duration:* 2015. *Role:* Stuart was part of a team engaged by MBIE to develop "development feasibility models" to inform the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity ("NPS-UDC"). The purpose of these models was to understand the effects of policies on development feasibility. In developing these models, Stuart engaged with stakeholders, e.g. the Ministry for the Environment and Auckland Council, as well as private sector representatives, e.g. developers. The final models received positive feedback from stakeholders and end-users.

---

## Selected Consulting Reports

---

Peter Nunns, Elizabeth Whitaker, and Stuart Donovan (2019). *Social and distributional impacts of time and space-based road pricing*. Research Report 654. Wellington, New Zealand: New Zealand Transport Agency.

Stuart Donovan and Ian Munro (2013). *Impact of urban form on transport and economic outcomes*. Research Report 513. Wellington, New Zealand: New Zealand Transport Agency.

Julie Anne Genter, Stuart Donovan, Bruno Petrenas, and Hannah Badland (2008). *Valuing the health benefits of active transport modes*. Research Report 359. Wellington, New Zealand: New Zealand Transport Agency.

Stuart Donovan, Julie Anne Genter, Bruno Petrenas, Neil Mumby, Tim Hazledine, Todd Litman, et al. (2008). *Managing transport challenges when oil prices rise*. Research Report 357. Wellington, New Zealand: New Zealand Transport Agency.

## Industry Experience

---

<b>Executive Consultant</b>	Veitch Lister Consulting	September 2021 – present	Brisbane
<b>Principal Consultant</b>	Veitch Lister Consulting	January 2018 – September 2021	Brisbane
<b>Principal Consultant</b>	MRCagney	October 2014 – December 2017	Brisbane
<b>Regional Manager</b>	MRCagney	September 2011 – September 2014	Auckland
<b>Consultant</b>	MRCagney	September 2007 – September 2011	Auckland
<b>Wind Engineer</b>	Mighty River Power	September 2006 – September 2007	Auckland

For further information on my industry experience, please refer to my LinkedIn profile.