**Creating sustainable transport with drone networks**

In the twenty-first century we have the means to transport goods, people and services with the click of a button. Doing so in an environmentally sound way remains a challenge; but a diversified and integrated transport system is key to overcoming this. **More sustainable, liveable and thriving cities are within our reach, and can be realised with the adoption of drone logistics networks.**

In rural and regional areas, sustainable drone networks can circumvent issues faced by traditional means of transport, by overcoming logistical challenges caused by distance and difficult terrain*.* They effectively contribute to decarbonising transport by producing a fraction of the CO2 than other modes, reducing the need for road transport and reducing congestion.

Australian drone-powered logistics company Swoop Aero is spearheading this approach with their sophisticated drone technology which underpins responsive and accessible community healthcare. At its core, the company uses drone networks to deliver essential medical supplies, effectively overcoming the limitations of first and last mile logistics.

With established operations in five countries throughout Africa and the Pacific, Swoop Aero has pioneered many firsts for the industry including delivering the first vaccine by drone in Vanuatu and becoming the first company to remotely pilot an aircraft in Malawi from Australia. Swoop Aero’s medical drone network in DR Congo is set to become the largest in the world covering 22,000km² to service 500,000 people.

Most future-proof cities are agile and adaptive. Swoop Aero increases sustainable mobility with fully electric aircraft, 3D printed and manufactured in Australia with eco-friendly materials. By circumventing challenges faced by traditional means of transport, Swoop Aero’s sustainable drone networks are both decarbonising transport and increasing logistical effectiveness and efficiency.

This presentation will explore the opportunity for drone logistics networks to decarbonise transport in New Zealand; in turn creating happy, healthy, thriving communities.