AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD

2015 - 2016

Funding Plan



















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Chairman's Report

It is my pleasure to present the 2015-2016 Funding Plan on behalf of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board.

This is the Funding Board's sixth funding plan since the enactment of the legislation, although it will represent the seventh distribution of grants to the specified amenities.

The ten specified amenities have all made significant contributions towards the wellbeing of the Auckland region, making Auckland a vibrant and attractive place to live in and visit as well as contributing to making Auckland the most liveable city in the world.

The Funding Board considered the funding applications from nine of the ten specified amenities; determined the provisional allocation of grants to each amenity; and discussed the proposed levy with representatives of Auckland Council.

The 2015-2016 Funding Plan now provides details of the total levy to be collected from Auckland Council, and the allocation of grants by the Funding Board to each of the nine specified amenities that sought funding for the 2015-2016 financial year.

As noted in previous year funding plans, the Funding Board had identified that some of the funding requests signalled for future years were somewhat ambitious. It has been the Funding Board's view that the level of funding allocated in earlier years has contributed significantly to fulfilling the intention of the Act. The board has taken this into consideration when assessing the applications and developing the funding plan for 2015-2016.

The Funding Board must again reiterate the message with regard to the levels of funding requests signalled for future years. The requests for future years appear to reflect very ambitious programmes of work which need to be thoroughly tested and worked through with all interested and affected parties prior to being finalised and applying for funding. Although the legislation requires the amenities to signal what future year funding requests may look like, the proposed funding levels do appear

excessive and in some instances there has not been consultation with affected

parties to gain buy-in to the proposed expansion.

The Funding Board is proposing a levy of \$15,148,400 for 2015-2016, representing

an increase of \$837,400 (or 5.85%) over 2014-2015. A direct comparison to the

previous year is not really possible, as one amenity chose not to make an

application, and the proposed levy for 2015-2016 includes a step-up in funding of

\$1million for the trial annualising the Auckland Arts Festival in 2016.

The Funding Board was part of a Judicial Review during 2013-2014 which reiterated

that the processes undertaken by the board are robust and fulfil the requirements of

the legislation. This was a pleasing outcome from what was a very time consuming

and expensive exercise.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my board colleagues for their diligence

and professional work during the development of the 2015-2016 Funding Plan. They

all approach their work for the Funding Board with a high degree of commitment and

integrity. Individually and collectively, they bring with them a wealth of experience,

skills and abilities that continues to give me confidence that the 2015-2016 Funding

Plan is one that delivers a mechanism to provide adequate, secure and sustainable

funding within a fiscally responsible framework.

Vern Walsh

Chair

April 2015

Introduction

This Funding Plan, covering the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, is the sixth plan published by the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board, (Funding Board).

Although the 2015-2016 Funding Plan represents the sixth year that the Funding Board has assessed and recommended the distribution of grants to the specified amenities, it will be the seventh year that grants will be distributed to the amenities. The Funding Board believes that the levels of funding proposed in this plan are in line with the key funding principles outlined in the Act, and in accordance with the primary purpose of the Act, namely the provision of a mechanism for adequate, sustainable and secure funding for the specified amenities.

Background

The Funding Board was established with the introduction of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008. The Act introduced a levy to be imposed on Auckland Council. The levy is collected by the Funding Board and distributed as grants to the specified amenities named in the legislation. The purpose of the Act is to establish a mechanism that provides sustainable funding to ensure the on-going sustainability of the organisations named in the Act who deliver arts, culture, recreational, heritage, rescue services and other facilities and services to the wider population of the Auckland region. All amenities make significant contributions towards making Auckland a global city.

In this seventh year, the maximum funding permissible is defined in the Act as being no more than 2% of the rates collected by Auckland Council in the previous financial year. For 2015-2016, the maximum levy cap has been calculated as \$28, 120,000. The Funding Board, whilst cognisant of that levy cap, assesses each application on its merits and does not regard the maximum levy cap as either a target or a notional budget to work towards. The proposed 2015-2016 levy represents 53.87% of the potential levy amount permitted under the legislation.

On a day to day basis, the Funding Board is not responsible for the governance of any of the entities named in the Act. The sole purpose of the Funding Board is to administer the provisions of the Act which primarily comprises determining the levy to be collected from Auckland Council, and then distributing this as grants to the specified amenities. Each of the specified amenities retains its own board of governance and management and is therefore responsible for the decisions made regarding the operations of the organisation. It does not follow however, that decisions made by an entity that may have operational funding implications will trigger an increase in grant funding to contribute to any increased costs associated with those decisions.

Similarly, increased public expectations of service delivery need to be tempered with the willingness of the public and other users to pay for such services. If other users of a service are unwilling or unable to increase the amounts paid, it does not automatically mean that increased grant funding will be made available through this regional funding process.

Additionally, the availability of regional funding via the Funding Board for the specified amenities does not replace the requirement for each of the specified amenities to continue raising funds from other sources. The Funding Board is aware that in some cases, the ability for some of the amenities to access those resources is becoming more challenging, primarily because they are in receipt of funding via the Funding Board. Conversely, some of the amenities are particularly successful with their fundraising activities, thereby reducing the reliance on this grant funding. The Board is cognisant of the statutory requirement that the amenities must make all reasonable endeavours to maximise their funding from other available funding sources.

Grants provided through the regional funding provisions, are assessed on an annual basis. This means that annual funding applications are assessed on their own merit, allowing changes in economic and environmental matters to be taken into account as they arise. This allows grants to either increase or decrease as the board considers appropriate, noting that the Act does not stipulate that annual grant funding should remain at a minimum or constant level.

The provision of regional funding via the Act enables each of the amenities to plan both strategically and operationally within a framework with some certainty of ongoing funding. The amenities have been able to demonstrate to the Funding Board significant improvements, both in regional reach and the quality of the services being delivered to residents of Auckland.

The grants distributed to the amenities are derived from a levy paid to the Funding Board by Auckland Council, and by extension, the ratepayers of Auckland. As both the Funding Board and amenities are aware of the source of this funding; accordingly each amenity ensures that advertising, promotional material and funding acknowledgements recognise the role of Auckland Council and the ratepayers of Auckland.

The Funding Board recognises that for some of the amenities the grants are the largest single source of funding received. Importantly there are also numerous other partner organisations involved in supporting the organisations and funding many aspects of the work that the amenities have highlighted in this plan. This is important, as the nature of much of the work undertaken by the amenities is dependent upon developing and maintaining strong links with their partners to ensure consistent and sustainable service delivery.

Auckland Council

The Funding Board remains mindful that it must act in accordance with the legislation and needs to fulfil its obligations to provide a mechanism for adequate and sustainable funding to the specified amenities. The Funding Board undertakes a thorough and comprehensive review of all applications received to ensure that the amount provided is justified and that the Board is fulfilling its legislative requirements. The Funding Board welcomes regular meetings with Auckland Council representatives to learn of the issues facing the Council as well as the goals and aspirations Auckland Council is hoping to achieve.

The funding plan was subject to a public consultation and hearings process. As a result of this process, the Funding Board received six submissions which were considered and changes were subsequently made to the Draft 2015-2016 Funding Plan – full details are outlined on page 44 of this plan. A copy of the finalised Draft 2015-2016 Funding Plan was subsequently forwarded to Auckland Council to consider and approve the levy for 2015-2016.

In the year ended 30 June 2014, Auckland Council made an ex-gratia payment of \$400,000 towards the legal costs being incurred in respect of the judicial review proceedings. Following the decision of the High Court, no further action has ensued and the Funding Board will refund this amount to Auckland Council.

Principles of the Act

The funding principles are embodied in s.21 of the Act.

These principles are to be considered by the Funding Board and Auckland Council when assessing the funding applications and approving the total levy.

These principles are summarised below:

- a) the primary purpose of the funding is to contribute to the expenses that the specified amenity must incur to provide its facilities or services;
- b) funding is not available for capital expenditure;
- c) funding is not available for any part of facilities or services that the specified amenity provides outside the Auckland region;
- d) funding is not available for facilities or services that at any time in the five years immediately before the date on which the Funding Board or the Auckland Council applies this paragraph have been provided funding by
 - I. a crown entity as defined in section 7 (1) of the Crown Entities Act 2004
 - II. a department specified in Schedule 1 of the State Sector Act 1988;
- e) the funding for the retention and preservation of a specified amenity's library or collection takes priority over the amenity's other expenses;
- f) funding is available only if the specified amenity has made all reasonable endeavours to maximise its funding from all other available sources;
- g) total funding for all specified amenities assessed for a financial year must not exceed the maximum total levy for that year under s.34;
- h) Total funding for all specified amenities assessed for a financial year should have regard to Auckland Council's proposed rates increases for the forthcoming year;
- i) Funding is available only if the specified amenity has made all reasonable endeavours to align its activities (in the Auckland region, and for which it seeks funding) with the objectives of the Auckland Plan, including by adopting relevant performance measures.

Note: (h) and (i) above were introduced by Auckland Council on 25 November 2012.

Allocation of Grants to Specified Amenities

The Funding Board has undertaken a rigorous examination of the applications made by the specified amenities and has made an allocation of grants for the 2015-2016 financial year.

The table on page 12 sets out the allocation of grants to each of the nine specified amenities. Following this table are comments from the Funding Board relating to the level of funding allocated. If appropriate, the comments also include any conditions placed on the grants or directions on how a portion of the grant is to be used by the amenity to ensure that particular matters raised in the funding application are actually provided or implemented.

The 2015-2016 Funding Plan identifies a total grant allocation of \$14,87,400 to which administration costs of \$315,000 are to be added, with an overall levy requirement of \$15,148,400; an increase of 5.85% over the 2014-2015 levy. As a result of the public consultation and submissions process, an additional \$40,000 of funding has been allocated to Stardome; this is being funded from retained earnings held by the Funding Board and no additional levy requirements arise from this decision.

2015 - 2016 Grant Allocations to Specified Amenities

Amenity	Grant Allocation 2014-2015	Amenity Funding Application 2015-2016	Grant Allocation 2015-2016	Year on Year Change 2014-2015 to 2015-2016
Auckland Festival Trust	\$2,305,000	\$3,375,000	\$3,305,000	\$1,000,000
Auckland Philharmonia Trust	\$2,942,000	\$3,344,000	\$3,042,000	\$100,000
Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust	\$450,000	0	0	-450,000
Auckland Theatre Company Limited	\$1,415,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000	\$35,000
Coastguard Northern Region Incorporated	\$670,000	\$683,400	\$683,400	\$13,400
New Zealand Opera Limited	\$800,000	\$953,538	\$875,000	\$75,000
Stardome - Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust Board	\$1,269,000	\$1,253,000	\$1,209,000	-\$60,000
Surf Life Saving Northern Region Incorporated	\$1,200,000	\$1,234,221	\$1,234,000	\$34,000
Voyager - New Zealand National Maritime Museum Trust Board	\$1,975,000	\$3,950,000	\$2,025,000	\$50,000
Watersafe Auckland Incorporated	\$970,000	\$1,168,000	\$1,050,000	\$80,000
Total	\$13,996,000	\$17,411,159	\$14,873,400	\$837,400
Funding Board administration budget	\$315,000	\$315,000	\$315,000	0
Portion of Levy Funded by Funding Board			\$-40,000	
Total Levy payable by Auckland Council	\$14,311,000	\$17,726,159	\$15,148,400	\$837,400

Auckland Festival Trust

A vibrant arts scene is a key component in any modern city's life. Auckland Arts Festival, a biennial event is an increasingly important part of the arts environment in Auckland. In March 2015 the Auckland Arts Festival once again presented a spectacular array of performances, exhibitions, workshops and events throughout the wider city.

The Auckland Arts Festival has made significant strides in the nature of the product and the overall standard of the festival that is presented. On the back of an approach to Auckland Council (where the matter underwent rigorous scrutiny), the Trust has applied for a large increase in annual funding in order for the Trust to present a 'Festival Every Year'. Auckland Council endorsed the concept, and is anticipating three consecutive festivals, rather than the biennial festivals that have occurred in the past. Auckland Council has signalled that it will review the outcome of the 2016 festival to determine whether the annualisation should continue.

The Funding Board has therefore considered the application, together with the feedback from Auckland Council, and agreed to increase funding by \$1.0 million as a contribution towards the cost of the 2016 festival.

The challenge for the Auckland Festival Trust will be to secure funding from other sources, revenue from attendances at festival events and undertake other revenue generating activities to meet its budget aspirations.

The grant allocation for 2015-2016 from the Funding Board is \$3,305,000. This represents an increase of \$1.0 million (43.38%) over 2014-2015, for the reasons outlined above.

The Funding Board considers that the level of funding allocated is sufficient to meet the needs of the Trust for the forthcoming period and funding at this level will be subject to review after the 2016 Auckland Arts Festival.

Auckland Philharmonia Trust

The Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra (APO) makes a significant contribution to ensuring that Auckland has a vibrant arts scene, and this includes an extensive education programme with high profile events such as the Auckland Dance Project and Remix the Orchestra. These are just a few examples of the breadth of the high quality programmes that the APO delivers across Auckland.

As the region's resident orchestra, the APO has more demands for its activities than it can meet but endeavours to deliver to as wide an audience and in as many areas of Auckland as practicable. The APO has been assigned the status of 'metropolitan orchestra' by Creative New Zealand, recognising the calibre and overall quality of the APO and the role it plays within not only Auckland, but New Zealand.

APO has aspired to move to a point where its players are remunerated at a level that is appropriate to their skill levels and that the remuneration is as secure as possible. The APO believes that this approach is essential to ensure that the APO retains and attracts world-class musicians, conductors, directors and other essential supporting staff.

The grant allocation for 2015-2016 from the Funding Board is \$3,042,000, representing an increase of \$100,000 (3.4%) over the 2014-2015 grant allocation.

The Funding Board considers that the level of funding allocated is an appropriate contribution to support the activities of the APO.

Auckland Theatre Company Limited

The Auckland Theatre Company (ATC) forms part of Creative New Zealand's arts leadership funding programme and recognises the key role that the country's largest professional theatre company plays in Auckland. Over 76,000 people participated in, attended, or witnessed many of the 520 events presented in 2013-2014.

The Funding Board recognises that the ATC has expanded its influence across the region in terms of delivering its participation programmes since the inception of regional funding with an associated broadening of its audience base at its main bill productions.

ATC is working with its various partners to develop a new theatre venue on Auckland's waterfront. The business plan presented to the Funding Board continues to indicate that the increased costs of operating this venue would be covered by increased revenue. There is no assumption that the level of grant funding provided by the Funding Board will increase should operation of the new facility result in increased operational costs.

The grant allocation in 2015-2016 from the Funding Board is \$1,450,000, which represents an increase of \$35,000 (2.47%) over the grant made for 2014-2015.

The Funding Board considers that the level of funding allocation is an appropriate contribution towards the activities laid out in the 2015-2016 application.

Coastguard Northern Region Incorporated

Auckland is a maritime city, with so many people spending a large proportion of their leisure and/or professional time on the waters around Auckland.

Coastguard Northern Region (CNR) provides an invaluable search and rescue service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The organisation also provides other services such as weather information and boating education to the estimated 470,000 people who enjoy the waters around Auckland every year.

A significant proportion of the 1,030 volunteers that contribute directly to CNR's work are from the Auckland region, where 14 units are located.

CNR has undertaken a restructuring of its operations and has signalled in previous years that it considered that the level of funding it receives via regional funding was at a level that ensured its financial sustainability and that any further request for increases will be of a modest nature, at around the level of inflation.

The grant allocation for 2015-2016 is \$683,400, which represents an increase of \$13,400 (2.0%) over the grant made in 2014-2015.

The Funding Board considers that the level of funding allocation is an appropriate contribution towards the activities laid out in the 2015-2016 application.

New Zealand Opera Limited

Since the introduction of regional funding New Zealand Opera (NZO) has significantly expanded its regional reach with a particular focus on engaging with children and young people. The 'Opera in Schools' programme takes an adapted version of the opera to schools around the region; giving many students the opportunities to experience opera close up. The "Opera Open Day" held annually at the technical centre also significantly contributes to introducing opera to children, young people and adults from throughout the wider Auckland region.

The technical centre at Onehunga has developed in such a manner that NZO continues to benefit from greater efficiencies. NZO continues to actively promote the services of the technical centre to improve its revenue generating activities, including providing services to Australian based opera companies. This is applauded by the Funding Board.

Significant changes have been introduced within NZO at both governance and management levels during 2014 that will carry over and have a marked influence on the organisation in future years. The Funding Board is supportive of the new direction that NZO wishes to take and will monitor the impact the changes have on its operations.

The allocation for 2015-2016 is \$875,000 which represents an increase of \$75,000 (9.38%) over the grant made in 2014-2015.

The Funding Board is aware that a new Strategic Plan is due to be adopted in the near future and the implementation of the strategies to deliver on the plan will be watched with interest.

<u>Stardome - Auckland Observatory and Planetarium</u> Trust Board

Stardome recently undertook a governance and management review and is now moving to implement the recommendations of the review. The outcome of the review will help Stardome to focus its attention on those areas that can improve the visitor experience. Due to limitations that apply to the site, Stardome's ability to increase revenue from visitors is constrained.

Regional funding has enabled the organisation to align its visitor admission prices so it can compete more effectively in visitor discretionary spend market. It has also enabled the organisation to increase its visitor numbers from low-decile schools in response to Auckland Council's desire for additional focus there.

The Funding Board acknowledges that accessing funding from other sources to support both the work of the organisation and funding for building and asset renewals and maintenance, remains a constant challenge for Stardome.

The grant allocation for 2015-2016 is \$1,209,000 which represents a decrease of \$60,000 (-4.77%) compared to the grant made in 2014-2015.

The Funding Board considers that the level of funding allocation is an appropriate contribution towards the activities laid out in the 2015-2016 funding application.

Surf Life Saving Northern Region Incorporated

The reassuring sight of the surf life saving teams is one that greets thousands of Aucklanders when they use the beaches every summer. Many people owe their lives to the efforts of outstanding lifeguards and the invaluable service that they perform.

However it is all through the year, not just in summer, that SLSNR members and clubs are engaged in a wide range of work that aims to prevent the need for intervention on the beaches. Many of these preventative initiatives have been made possible by the provision of regional funding.

The attraction of more volunteers as a result of club sustainability is also attributed to the degree of security brought about through the availability of regional funding.

The grant allocation for 2015-2016 is \$1,234,000 (2.83%) which represents an increase of \$34,000 over the grant allocation made in 2014-2015.

The Funding Board considers that the level of funding allocation is an appropriate contribution towards the activities laid out in the 2015-2016 funding application.

Voyager - New Zealand National Maritime Museum Trust Board

Of all of the organisations receiving regional funding Voyager is perhaps the one with the greatest untapped potential. It has a prime waterfront location in the heart of the city and it has the ability to tell the story of New Zealand's unique maritime history.

The provision of regional funding in past years has given the organisation the security and confidence to plan and develop projects, such as an improved off-site storage facility that will ultimately enhance the visitor experience by ensuring appropriate preservation of its exhibits. However, its future plans have yet to receive widespread acceptance and approval.

The Funding Board is aware that the master planning process that Voyager has undertaken includes major redevelopments and significant increases in staffing levels. However, at the time that this grant funding is being considered, Voyager is in the midst of a number of major business challenges and the Funding Board is not satisfied that this is an appropriate time to consider increasing the annual grant funding to the amount signalled in the funding application. It should not be assumed that the level of regional funding automatically increases should any capital development projects result in increased operational costs.

The grant allocation for 2015-2016 is \$2,025,000 which represents an increase of \$50,000 (2.53%) over the grant made in 2014-2015.

The Funding Board considers that the level of funding allocation is an appropriate contribution given the state of uncertainty around the future direction of the organisation. Significant dialogue need to take place with other stakeholders and funders about the proposed journey before the step-up levels of funding that Voyager is seeking can be contemplated. Only after Voyager has held discussions with organisations such as Auckland Council (the levy payer) could the Funding Board contemplate increasing the grant payments to the levels signalled in the funding applications that have been submitted in recent years.

Watersafe Auckland Incorporated

The need for drowning prevention programmes across Auckland is essential, given that part of Auckland's attraction for many people is its proximity to high quality beaches, kayaking, boating and fishing. The water is never far away from all Auckland's citizens. The presence of regional funding has enabled Watersafe Auckland (WAI) to plan and deliver a wide range of initiatives that make it safer for Aucklanders to enjoy the water safely.

Auckland's drowning rates compare favourably to the rest of New Zealand. That is in spite of Auckland having enhanced exposure to a wide range of aquatic activities (swimming, boating and fishing)) and having a higher proportion of high risk populations compared to other parts of the country. As well as this population measure, key performance measures highlight significantly positive outcomes as a result of Watersafe Auckland and its partner's specific interventions, for example, rock-fishing among new migrants.

As a result of reviews undertaken in recent years, WAI has implemented a number of changes at a governance and management level. The Funding Board welcomes these changes and will monitor initiatives that are being implemented to deliver on the organisation's planned outcomes.

The grant allocation for 2015-2016 is \$1,050,000 which is an increase of \$80,000 (8.25%) over the grant allocation made in 2014-2015.

The Funding Board considers that the level of funding allocation is an appropriate contribution towards the activities laid out in the 2015-2016 application.

Applications for Funding for July 2016 to June 2018

As part of the application process for 2015-2016, each of the specified amenities are required to indicate what level of funding it may seek in the subsequent two financial years, i.e. 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, and 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

Whilst the Funding Board recognises that these figures are indicative only, it must once again signal that there continues to be a level of discomfort regarding some of the proposed increases being sought by several of the amenities. Future expectations of grant increases of nearly 100% are unlikely to be realised without there being significant and prolonged discussion amongst key stakeholders, and only then can the Funding Board contemplate increases of this magnitude.

The year covered by this Funding Plan represents the seventh year of regional funding. Nearly all of the amenities have received substantial increases in funding over that received pre-legislation and often at annual levels exceeding the rates of inflation. As already mentioned, the Funding Board is signalling that such increases and grant requests are, in many cases, unlikely to be realised and will need to be fully justified in the form of independent needs analysis and other third party verification.

While each organisation is responsible for its own governance and management decisions, the Funding Board remains firmly of the view that there should not be an automatic assumption that changes or increased costs arising from decisions of the Board or management of the entities will automatically result in increased grant funding.

The Funding Board is aware that the key purpose of the Act is to provide a mechanism for adequate, sustainable and secure funding. The Funding Board believes that the levels of funding allocated in the 2015-2016 Funding Plan, will for many of the amenities, satisfy that obligation.

Amenities Indicative Funding Requests for July 2016 to June 2018

Amenity	Grant Allocation 2015-2016	Indicative application amount for 2016-2017	Indicative application amount for 2017-2018
Auckland Festival Trust	3,305,000	3,475,000	3,525,000
Auckland Philharmonia Trust	3,042,000	3,500,000	3,605,000
Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust	0	0	0
Auckland Theatre Company Limited	1,450,000	1,490,000	1,530,000
Coastguard Northern Region Incorporated	683,400	703,000	725,000
New Zealand Opera Limited	875,000	986,219	1,011,444
Stardome - Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust Board	1,209,000	1,293,000	1,325,325
Surf Life Saving Northern Region Incorporated	1,234,000	1,270,000	1,300,000
Voyager – New Zealand National Maritime Museum Trust Board	2,025,000	3,100,000	3,162,000
Watersafe Auckland Incorporated	1,050,000	1,110,000	1,110,000
Total	14,87,400	16,927,219	17,293,769

Levels of Funding

The maximum amount of the levy that can be charged for 2015-2016 and future financial years is specified in s.35 of the Act.

"An amount equal to no more than 2% of the total adjusted revenue from rates of the Auckland Council in the previous financial year."

The total maximum levy has been calculated as \$28,120,000 in accordance with s.34 (5) (a) (ii) of the Act. This is based on the annual rates revenue information of \$1,406 million published in the Auckland Council Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2014.

For 2015-2016, the Funding Board is proposing a levy of \$15,148,400, to be apportioned as follows:

Total Levy	\$15,148,400
Less contribution from Funding Board	-\$40,000
Administration costs	\$315,000
Allocated to nine specified amenities	\$14,873,400

The levy payable in 2014-2015 was \$14,311,000. The levy for 2015-2016 is \$15,148,400. This represents an increase of 5.85% over 2014-2015. In monetary terms it represents an \$837,400 increase over the levy Auckland Council paid in 2014-2015.

The levies are payable to the Funding Board by the Auckland Council on 1 July 2015. The levies will be distributed as grants to the specified amenities no later than 15 August 2015.

Contributing Authorities

Pursuant to s.34 of the Act, the Funding Board has calculated the maximum levy payable by the Auckland Council for the 2015-2016 financial year.

Council	Percentage	Amount
Auckland Council	100.0%	\$15,148,400

Financial Information

Income & expenditure in relation to the levies received

	2014-2015	2015-2016
Income		
Levies receivable	\$14,311,000	\$15,148,400
Total	\$14,311,000	\$15,148,400
Expenditure		
Grants to be distributed to amenities	\$13,996,000	\$14,873,400
Honorarium	\$157,500	\$163,125
Audit and Administration costs	\$10,500	\$10,000
Advisory Services	\$50,000	\$55,000
Legal and Consultancy	\$97,000	\$86,875
Total	\$14,311,000	\$15,188,400
Funded from Funding Board Retained		\$40,000
Earnings		Ψ 4 0,000
Net Surplus/(deficit)	\$0	\$0

For the eighth and subsequent years, the levy has not been set; however, the setting of the levies will follow the guidelines prescribed in s.34 of the Act.

The Inland Revenue Department has determined that the portion of levy collected and then distributed to the specified amenities as grants (\$14,873,400) is not subject to GST. That portion of the levy collected for administration costs (\$315,000) is subject to the normal rules applying to the supply of goods and services and is therefore subject to GST.

The Board

The Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board was established by the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008.

The members of the Funding Board are selected following a publicly notified and contestable selection and appointments process.

The members of the Funding Board are:

Mr Vern Walsh - Chair

Mr Scott Milne - Deputy Chair

Ms Candis Craven

Ms Catherine Harland

Ms Anita Killeen

Mr Grant Lilly

Ms Lyn Lim

Ms Diane Maloney

Ms Penny Sefuiva

Ms Moana Tamaariki-Pohe

Term of Office

Expires 30 May 2017 Expires 30 May 2015

Mr Vern Walsh Ms Catherine Harland

Ms Candis Craven Ms Lyn Lim

Ms Anita Killeen Ms Diane Maloney

Mr Grant Lilly Mr Scott Milne

Ms Penny Sefuiva

Ms Moana Tamaariki-Pohe

In accordance with the provisions in the Act, Auckland Council and the Amenities Board will undertake a process to appoint new board members within the timeframes stipulated in the Act. Existing board members are eligible for re-appointment.

Funding Board Members Remuneration

The Funding Board recommended to Auckland Council that the rates of remuneration for members for the year commencing 1 July 2015 be as follows:

Chair \$29,000 per annum

Deputy Chair \$21,750 per annum

Members \$14,500 per annum

Amount Payable to the Advisory Officer

No formal arrangement had been entered into with Auckland Council regarding the appointment of an Advisory Officer for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 or subsequent periods. If Auckland Council does not require the Funding Board to appoint an Auckland Council nominated Advisory Officer, it may choose to make its own appointment.

The Funding Board has appointed Leigh Redshaw to act as Advisory Officer for the period 1 January 20155 to 31 May 2016 at the rate of \$4,417 per month, with the option for parties to renew the contract for a further period

Auckland Council provides other services to the Funding Board from time to time. The Funding Board will make full reimbursement as required, and pay for services as agreed. For example, the honorariums payable to board members are managed and paid through the Auckland Council payroll system. The Funding Board will fully reimburse Auckland Council for these and any other costs incurred on behalf of the board.

Administration

Pursuant to s.25 of the Act, the Funding Plan must disclose the maximum amount of the Funding Board's reasonable administrative costs.

For the 2015-2016 financial year administrative costs have been assessed as \$315,000.

The administrative costs cover the honorariums of members, plus the cost of the Advisory Officer and all other administrative costs, such as secretarial services, printing, advertising, meeting costs, legal and other consultancy or professional advice received.

	Budget 2015	Budget 2016
Income		
Levies receivable	14,311,000	15,148,400
Total income	14,311,000	15,148,400
Expenses		
Audit fees	5,500	7,500
Grants distributed	13,996,000	14,873,400
Legal fees	50,000	50,000
Advisor & Board secretarial support	50,000	55,000
Consultants	47,000	36,875
Board member fees	157,500	163,125
Administration expenses	5,000	2,500
Total expenses	14,311,000	15,188,400
Surplus/ (deficit)	0	(40,000)

The 2015-2016 deficit will be funded from retained earnings held.

The Amenities Introduced

The 10 specified amenities funded under the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008 provide a wide range of experiences and services to people across the greater Auckland region each year.

Each specified amenity receiving a grant in 2015-2016 has prepared a brief outline regarding the activities of their entity and these follow.

Auckland Festival Trust

The Auckland Arts Festival is Auckland's premier festival of New Zealand and international arts and culture. Currently being presented biennially, the globally-recognised event showcases a rich programme of theatre, dance, music and visual arts, offering unique experiences for audiences and artists. It contributes to Auckland's reputation as a vital arts and cultural centre, provides significant social and economic benefits to the region, and promotes Auckland as a great place to live.

Since the inaugural event in 2003, the Auckland Arts Festival has welcomed over 1.2 million attendees and increased Aucklanders' participation in arts. The 2013 Festival was staged from 6 - 24 March 2013 and achieved box office and attendance records; more than 100,000 tickets sold and 183,000 attendances recorded across ticketed and free events. The most recent Auckland Arts Festival was held in March 2015.

The Festival puts on work that would not usually occur outside a festival context and commissions and stages both international and New Zealand works. The work varies from populist and accessible to more boundary-stretching and thought-provoking art, reflecting our world today.

The Festival delivers a significant Māori, Pacific and Asian programme, an extensive family and schools programme, reaching out to communities from Mahurangi to Mangere, Great Barrier to Pukekohe, and has created works of national and international significance.

The education programme delivers to over 10,000 young people through the schools' 'smartsfest'. The Festival programmes multiple family-specific events that have an audience capacity of over 100,000, which can be experienced across generations with the entire family.

The Festival is a major user of Auckland venues and over a 19 day period it uses more than 20 different venues, many for the entire festival period, as well as partnering with other institutions such as art galleries and museums.

The Festival provides proven leadership in the arts, mentoring and employing Auckland arts companies, artists and arts workers.

Following a decision by Auckland Council to support a trial additional festival in 2016, there will effectively be three consecutive festivals from 2015 through to 2017 inclusive. Auckland Council will consider its support for on-going annual festivals (2018 onwards) following the 2016 festival.

Regional funding enables the Auckland Arts Festival to deliver a world class festival to communities right across Auckland and to attract visitors from beyond the region.

Auckland Philharmonia Trust

Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra (APO) is the region's leading performing arts organisation, and Auckland's only full-time professional symphony orchestra. It is the main supplier of orchestral music to greater Auckland and is popular across the region for its appealing variety of concerts from core classical repertoire such as Beethoven and Mahler to presenting popular children's classics.

In more than 80 performances annually, the APO presents a full season of symphonic work showcasing many of the world's finest classical musicians.

The APO plays to more than 100,000 people each year and works with New Zealand Opera, the Royal New Zealand Ballet, Auckland Arts Festival, the Michael Hill International Violin Competition and other local and international presenters.

The APO promotes a vibrant arts culture by providing leadership and support. Through its numerous education, outreach and community initiatives the APO offers opportunities to more than 30,000 young people and adults nationwide to participate in music, ranging from hip-hop and rock to contemporary and classical.

Free education concerts for students from low-decile schools as well as the wider community have been part of the APO's programme for several years, and expanded in scope in 2014-15. As well as performing concerts in various venues in central, west, south and north Auckland, APO musicians visit schools across the region and actively develop year-long working relationships with teachers and students, developing a love of music in the next generation of Aucklanders.

With the advent of regional funding, the APO has greatly increased its community access and outreach programme across Auckland. This includes free 'Open Orchestra' days that grant the public full access to the APO operations, and special performances and activities in multiple local centres.

Most APO concerts are broadcast live nationally and streamed online, allowing everyone the chance to share the excitement of a world-class performance.

The APO is passionate about orchestral music, and the quality it can add to the lives of all residents of this world-class city, and looks forward to opening doors for more people of the greater Auckland region to share in the excitement.

Auckland Theatre Company Limited

Auckland Theatre Company is the region's leading professional theatre company, offering a year round programme of high quality theatre performed in a number of city theatres, including the Maidment Theatre, Q Theatre, the Bruce Mason Centre, the Basement and the Mangere Arts Centre.

The annual programme includes productions of classics, international contemporary drama and comedies, home grown New Zealand work, family shows, community-based productions and an annual youth theatre festival.

As an industry leadership organisation, Auckland Theatre Company performs to audiences of over 75,000 people per annum and provides employment for up to 350 artistic, creative, technical and associated personnel.

Auckland Theatre Company's highly regarded education programme supports theatre education and training via a school matinee programme for over 7,000 students each year, school visits, workshops, master classes, an Ambassadors programme and curriculum linked resources. Approximately 11,000 students and young people participate in ATC Education activities each year.

ATC Participate offers Auckland residents from many walks of life with opportunities to engage in the performing arts to learn new skills, exchange stories, knowledge and ideas. The growing programme extends across the region to create inspiring theatre experiences with community-based organisations, often on a free or low cost basis.

Auckland Theatre Company contributes to the role that the performing arts play in developing Auckland's cultural identity, giving voice to uniquely New Zealand stories. The company runs a dedicated Literary Unit which commissions, develops and fosters new New Zealand work for the stage. Free monthly play readings of work in the development are held throughout the year in addition to Auckland Theatre Company's annual festival of new works in development.

Auckland Theatre Company is passionate about the role that the arts can play in everyday lives of Auckland residents. Regional funding enables Auckland Theatre Company to

provide world class theatre to enrich the life of the city, celebrate Auckland's diversity and contribute to Auckland's development as a creative and culturally vibrant powerhouse.

A new theatre being built within the Wynyard Quarter at North Wharf will provide the Auckland Theatre Company with a permanent facility. Construction of the new theatre started in late 2014 and should be open in late 2016.

Coastguard Northern Region Incorporated

The organisation has over 1,030 volunteers, with 13 coastguard units in the greater Auckland area. These volunteers, who are often faced with difficult and dangerous conditions, dedicated more than 100,000 hours in the last year, attending 1,678 incidents that ensured 4,167 people from the Auckland community were brought home safely to their families.

With the continual growth of the boating sector, the recent upgrade of the organisation's operations centre provides vital information and coordination of Coastguard rescue resources and safety services to over 300,000 marine users. This project delivered benefits to the greater Auckland area with the upgrade seeing a move from old technology to a new digital platform, increased work stations, capability and future proofing to meet the continuous lift in demand.

There are also important initiatives aimed at 'at risk' sectors of the Auckland population. Safe boating programmes continue to be developed and implemented in communities throughout the region such as Bar Crossing Days around the Manukau Harbour and Life Jacket Awareness Days in both east and central Auckland.

In addition, the Maritime School delivers the training for the organisation's 1,030 volunteers ensuring they are ready to provide effective assistance to the Auckland communities who enjoy the many waterways in the region.

Regional funding focuses on the 24/7 operations of the Communications & SAR Response Centre, education courses and initiatives as well as increased services and support to the 13 Coastguard units that operate in the wider Auckland area.

New Zealand Opera Limited

New Zealand Opera (NZO) is one of New Zealand's largest arts organisations and produces fully professional opera seasons that are highly regarded in New Zealand and throughout the world.

In addition to its two main stage productions in Auckland (with annual audiences of 16,000), the company performs for 'Music in Parks', and large domain concerts. It also presents opera seasons in Wellington and Christchurch. Its Freemasons New Zealand Opera Chorus performs in concert with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, as well as in various sponsor functions.

NZO nourishes the talents of New Zealand-born singers, and fosters young opera talent through a long-standing emerging artists internship programme. It also cultivates the talents of practitioners in the technical fields, such as stage-management, set and costume construction.

NZO runs a production workshop in Onehunga, a multi-purpose facility in which sets, costumes and props are constructed, and the opera productions are rehearsed. That is also where NZO's extensive costume stock is housed. Whenever possible, the facility is also made available for the use of other arts groups in Auckland.

Regional funding has enabled NZO to sustain and develop its programmes and continue its policy of promoting opera to the wider Auckland community. In particular, it has brought about a significant expansion of its outreach work. In a typical year, this consists of:

- Vocal and design creative workshops
- 'Opera in Schools' performances
- Students' attendance at dress rehearsals.

Stardome - Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust Board

Stardome's (the Auckland Observatory and Planetarium's) mission is "To Share Knowledge of Space in Ways that Inspire, Challenge and Excite".

Stardome is New Zealand's leading astronomical attraction. Its facility comprises a world class planetarium where visitors can see shows and programmes about space and the universe on the immersive 360 degree dome, astronomical and educational displays and exhibits in the foyer and public areas, a publicly accessible observatory where the public can actually view planets and constellations and a world rated astronomical research observatory all located on the slopes of Maungakiekie.

In addition, Stardome has introduced a range of non-astronomical shows (such as music shows etc) over the past few years to broaden its customer base and to attract a wider audience from throughout the Auckland region.

Entry to Stardome is free but visitors are required to pay an entry fee for public and education planetarium shows. Over 60% of Stardome visitors are children, the majority of whom attend with their schools as part of their science curriculum.

Around 95% of Stardome visitors are from within the greater Auckland region with the balance of visitors coming from other parts of New Zealand or from overseas.

Regional funding has helped to underwrite the sustainability and financial stability of Stardome and has allowed for the provision of a world class observatory and planetarium, open to the public of Auckland seven days a week.

Specifically the regional funding has enabled Stardome to:

- Introduce its lower decile school subsidy programme that allowed over 11,000 students from decile 1, 2 and 3 schools to visit Stardome in 2013--2014;;
- Expand its Regional Reach programme which is designed to maximise visitors from outside the central Auckland area;;
- Lower entry charges for public and educational visits to make attending planetarium shows more affordable for the citizens of Auckland and to increase visitor numbers;

- Acquire new educational and astronomical shows and to introduce new types of shows and programmes that are designed to broaden Stardome's customer base.
- Expand its new "Southern Initiative" which focuses on bringing students to Stardome from the four areas of South Auckland deemed by the Auckland Council as being areas of high social need.

Stardome has a high level of engagement with Māori across the Auckland region including projects to expand understanding and teaching of Māori astronomy and to support the growing level of interest in Matariki as both an astronomical and cultural event.

Surf Life Saving Northern Region Incorporated

Surf Life Saving Northern Region (SLSNR) is an emergency rescue service whose mission is preventing drowning and injury on the region's beaches. SLSNR coordinates the activities of the 17 clubs within its region from Raglan in the south to Far North Rescue in the North. The 10 Auckland based clubs cover an area from Kariaotahi in the south to Omaha in the North and include patrols at 16 beaches.

The activities undertaken include lifesaving, club development, education, sport and leadership development. Each of these activities supports the core business of public safety and emergency services.

Over 1,300 active lifeguards will patrol 16 beaches within the Auckland region and will deliver over 150 lifeguard weeks, patrolling up to 27 weekends with volunteer patrols from Labour weekend to ANZAC weekend. With visitor numbers to these beaches expected to be well over half a million people during the busy summer period, the service provided by these lifeguards is absolutely vital and ensures that the hundreds of thousands of visitors and surrounding communities can safely enjoy the many beaches within the Auckland region.

The funding provided to SLSNR ensures that world-class lifesaving services are provided to the residents and visitors of the Auckland region with over 10,000 school children having access to subsidised surf education programmes. The provision of an operational grant to the 10 surf lifesaving clubs within the Auckland region ensures these clubs have the capability, lifeguard training and retention programmes to provide the vital community service of patrolling Auckland beaches.

The funding provided also guarantees the most comprehensive weekday lifesaving service in New Zealand, and in the 2014-15 year - up to 15 weeks patrolling at the busiest Auckland beaches. That service is only made possible through the regional funding received and ensures that an essential rescue service is provided at the favourite playground of so many, the beach, and can be enjoyed seven days a week over the summer period.

The value of the lifeguarding services on the beaches of the region is beyond measure and the resulting outcome of saved lives and safe beaches is an irreplaceable community asset that will never depreciate.

Voyager - New Zealand National Maritime Museum Trust Board

Voyager - Te Huiteananui a Tangaroa, New Zealand's National Maritime Museum, tells the stories of the nation's rich maritime heritage which shapes Aotearoa New Zealand. Voyager celebrates this bond between the people and the sea and connects the journeys of the past with the present and future.

Aotearoa New Zealand is built on a foundation of great voyages and endeavour. From the discovery of Aotearoa by Kupe and the Polynesian migration across the Pacific, to Tasman and Cook's exploration and the more recent achievements of Sir Peter Blake and Sir Russell Coutts, the Museum celebrates these pioneers and shares many other maritime stories through exhibitions, displays and on-water experiences. Voyager also provides public access to nationally significant maritime collections, the library and archives, and provides a full calendar of education activities, public programmes and events.

The Museum opened in August 1993 and is located on Auckland's Waterfront at Hobson Wharf in the Viaduct Harbour. The Museum is an independent charitable trust, employing 25 full time equivalent staff, complemented by 165 volunteers.

During 2013-14 Voyager attracted 155,136 visitors to the Museum and 20,361 participated in educational programmes.

Voyager's annual turnover in the 2013-2014 year was \$4.1 million, 60% of which was raised from admission fees, commercial income and grant funding from community and gaming charitable trusts. The remaining 40% was provided through regional funding.

Significant Goals for 2015-2016 include:

- To achieve social, economic and environmental sustainability;
- To seek continual improvement, achieve best practice within the business and enhance the organisations credibility;
- To raise the profile of the museum, locally, nationally and internationally;
- To contribute to the wellbeing of Auckland.

WaterSafe Auckland Incorporated

WaterSafe Auckland (WAI) leads, coordinates and delivers water safety education to meet the needs of our diverse Auckland Region.

Auckland is unique. It has 180 different ethnic groups - a growing and youthful population with almost 50% not born here. It has the highest percentage of residents to coastline - three wonderful and accessible harbours - and the highest percentage of boaties. Despite these facts, Auckland has one of the lowest per capita drowning rates nationally. That is one of the most indicative measures of the success of our multilateral collaborative approach to water safety education - it is about transforming water safety thinking – developing a water safety consciousness, self-awareness and safer decision making.

WAI's multilateral collaborative partnership initiatives with Council, Local Boards, aquatic, health, safety and injury prevention organisations, has seen water safety education delivered into various areas: to schools; at community events both local and region wide; Pacific men in their workplaces; families through Early Childhood centres and swim schools; and trainee teachers at tertiary institutions.

Results of these initiatives include more than 400,000 direct water safety education outputs; 11,500 lifejacket sessions for schools; water safety material to all schools region wide; support to learn to swim; leading home pool safety education and numerous targeted workshops and training for our diverse populations.

Looking ahead, WAI will continue to focus on reducing the region's drowning rate, but will also focus on the social, environmental and cultural benefits of using aquatic education as developmental or transformational tool. WAI has already seen these gains in the evaluations of the WAI Wise youth focused project. By thinking 'outside the square' WAI is looking for residents and students, in particular, to have a love of things aquatic - interested in making a contribution to the technical, scientific and engineering areas of the marine industry, maritime trades and allied industries together with aquatic based tourism; all areas of future growth for Auckland.

In line with Auckland Council's Plan, especially the Recreation and Sport area of the Plan, WAI is committed to delivering on 'A fair, safe and healthy Auckland'. WAI will continue to 'accelerate the prospects of Auckland's children and young people' through opportunities to

participate more safely in aquatic sport. Examples include the professional development and learning for pre- and in-service teachers and the region-wide Whānauā Nui – a free learn-to-swim and water safety initiative across low decile areas of the region in partnership with Council pools and swim schools.

Education around lifejacket wearing has seen an increase in the wearing rate of lifejackets by land based fishers and continued reduction in rock fishing drowning deaths. Home pool compliance in Auckland is higher than across the rest of the country and WAI continues to be very active in this area of safety for the under-fives.

WAI staff are experts and qualified in their fields be it education, community health and safety, Māori and Pacific cultural approaches or meeting the aquatic learning needs of the NZ Curriculum providing best practice which is adopted by other bodies nationwide. Research and evidence will always drive WAI policies and practices towards the ultimate goal of preventing drowning.

Directory of Specified Amenities			
Organisation	DIA Charities Services Number(s) www.charities.govt.nz	Website	
Auckland Festival Trust	CC22145	www.aucklandfestival.co.nz	
Auckland Philharmonia Trust	CC23611 & CC23607	www.apo.co.nz	
Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust	CC21935 & CC46529	www.rescuehelicopter.org.nz	
Auckland Theatre Company Limited	CC23655 & CC23653	www.atc.co.nz	
Coastguard Northern Region Incorporated	CC30031	www.coastguard.org.nz	
New Zealand Opera Limited	CC22724 & CC21944	www.nzopera.com	
Stardome - Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust Board	CC20451	www.stardome.org.nz	
Surf Life Saving Northern Region Incorporated	CC21256 & CC23043	www.lifesaving.org.nz	
Voyager – New Zealand National Maritime Museum Trust Board	CC10056	www.maritimemuseum.co.nz	
Watersafe Auckland Incorporated	CC11454	www.watersafe.org.nz	

Submissions on the Draft 2015-2016 Funding Plan

The Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board published the draft 2015-2016 Funding Plan on 19 January 2015. Public submissions on the plan closed at 5PM on 20 February 2015.

At the closing time, six written submissions had been received.

The submissions related to two main themes:

- A request from Auckland Theatre Company Limited for an additional \$140,000 of funding to cover a shortfall in funding from the Lion Foundation.
- ii. A request from Stardome for an additional \$40,000 to cover the cost of an on-going contract for the supply of technology support.
- iii. General support for the Funding Plan as published.

The Funding Board met on 3 March 2015 and received verbal submissions from the parties wishing to present directly to the board.

The Funding Board subsequently undertook extensive discussion on the written and oral submissions received and gave due consideration to the issues raised within each of the submissions.

The Funding Board resolved to decline the request for additional funding of \$140,000 from the Auckland Theatre Company.

The request for additional funding of \$40,000 from Stardome was approved, and the Funding Board resolved to fund this from retained earnings held by the Board, rather than increasing the levy request from Auckland Council.

Directory

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Charities Commission Number: CC38181

Governing Legislation: Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008

22 April 2015