

# Albert-Eden Local Board Progress and Achievements Report

September 2012 – June 2013



**Albert-Eden  
Local Board**  
*Auckland Council*





## Message from the Chair

I am proud of our achievements over the last year and delighted to have this opportunity to present the second Albert-Eden Local Board Progress and Achievements report.

The first half of the three-year term was focused on building solid foundations for the new 'Super-City' and refining how to best represent your views and interests in this new and developing process. We set out the priorities for the Albert-Eden area in the 2011–2014 Local Board Plan and made some progress in delivering projects.

In the past 18 months, we have reaped the rewards. We have delivered some great projects for the benefit of our community. This report shows how we have progressed each of the six priorities described in the Local Board Plan.

Highlights have included:

- SH20 Waterview Connection Project – the board is working to deliver a number of projects for the Waterview community including planting in parks, the Waterview walking and cycling path and new playgrounds.
- Neighbours Day 2013 where the board funded a number of small local events in neighbourhoods in Albert-Eden
- phase 2 of a NZ Tourism Research Institute study to identify the visitor experience potential of Albert-Eden villages
- scoping study for a Resource Recovery Centre in partnership with Waitemata Local Board and Puketapapa Local Board.

We have been fortunate to meet many of you as part of the engagement for the draft Unitary Plan. We have heard your concerns. Your opinion matters and you will have a second opportunity to comment on the revised draft of the Unitary Plan later this year. We hope that you will also take the time to provide comments on the draft 2014–2017 Local Board Plan from the end of this year.

Many challenges and opportunities remain open and we are looking forward to working more closely with you.

### **Peter Haynes**

Chair, Albert-Eden Local Board

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## Achievements

Albert-Eden Local Board has been working hard to contribute towards the five priorities described in Albert-Eden Local Board Plan for 2011 to 2014. This report summarises key achievements for the year 2012/13.

### Value and protect heritage

#### *Keeping our area green and protecting our history*

Our local board area has a wealth of both built and natural heritage. The area developed from the mid-nineteenth century and is peppered with charming Edwardian village centres set amongst possibly the largest collection of villas and bungalows in the country. The area's natural features include the Maungawhau–Mt Eden), Owairaka (Mt Albert) and Te Kopuke (Mt St John) volcanic cones, the significant urban streams of Oakley Creek and Meola Creek and the Waterview and Pt Chevalier coastline. You have told us how much you value the area's natural environment and built heritage. This has been reflected in our work.



Peter Haynes hosted a heritage walk event for board area residents.

### Heritage

Albert-Eden Local Board continues to work towards greater protection of the built heritage as well as its promotion and appreciation.

- The board is currently undertaking a Historic Heritage Area Assessment of a portion of the Balmoral/Sandringham area. This comprehensive assessment will entail research and analysis of historic heritage places and areas, historic character, archaeology, community values and Maori heritage and will make recommendations for future conservation. Other, less detailed, assessments are planned for selected parts of the local board area to identify new historic character areas and new scheduled places.
- The board is currently planning an Albert-Eden Bungalow Festival to be held later in 2013. This unique locally-inspired event will acknowledge this era of building and will raise awareness and appreciation of the distinct architectural styles that were developed all over the world at the same time. Albert-Eden has possibly the largest concentration of bungalows in New Zealand and the festival will include site visits, films and panel discussions.
- The board funded an oral history project in partnership with Auckland libraries as part of the Dominion Road Stories project during Heritage Week 2012.

## Environment

Albert-Eden Local Board recognises the great work done by volunteer groups and others to protect our unique natural environment. The board is committed to working with these groups and supporting them. Under its Environmental Portfolio, the board has achieved the following:

- Continued restoration of Meola and Oakley Creeks and support of the Friends of Oakley Creek and St Lukes Environmental Protection Society volunteer groups
- Physical up-grades to improve access to Pt Chevalier coastline
- Restoration of the Mahoe Rock Forest located in Oakley Creek
- Delivery of environmental programmes in Albert-Eden
- Design and installation of interpretive signage for the Motu Manawa Marine Reserve in consultation with Department of Conservation

The board also supported community groups and residents in clean up and planting projects, such the Pt Chevalier oyster clean-up and planting in Heron Park.

## Improve transport

### *Changing the way we move around*

While the role of local boards in transport is limited, we have been working closely with Auckland Transport (a Council-Controlled Organisation responsible for Auckland transport projects) to ensure needed local improvements are considered as part of the region's transport priorities.

We have worked closely with Auckland Transport in the delivery of two major infrastructure upgrade projects:

- Redevelopment of the Mt Albert railway station, now near completion
- Upgrade of Dominion Road scheduled to take place over the next two years

Reflecting the importance placed on suburban traffic safety by the board, we have, through our Auckland Transport local board capital works funding, initiated the following projects:

- Improvements to pedestrian crossing signals in Mt Eden Village, Gilles Ave/Owens Rd, Manukau Rd/Ranfurlly Rd, and Valley Rd
- Upgrade of the lighting in Kingsland
- Pedestrian refuges on Morningside Drive
- Traffic calming works in Mont Le Grand Avenue, Mewburn and Dexter Streets (Mt Eden)
- Alternative traffic calming measures in Balmoral North and South, as explained below

The board is funding an alternative traffic calming trial for the residential area bounded by Balmoral, Sandringham, Dominion and Lambeth Roads. The trial will be launched in June 2013 and will include the following projects amongst others:

- Community art in streets
- Community speed pledges
- Cycling classes at YMCA
- Story boards – a series of signs in streets with traffic safety messages

During the last twelve months, the board progressed the development of the Albert-Eden Greenway Plan, with the aim to create high-amenity walking, cycling and ecological corridors throughout the local board area. The draft Plan will go out for consultation in Mt Albert and Epsom during June 2013. The board is also about to complete a high quality Albert-Eden Walking Map to assist people to make use of the walking paths and links in their community.

The board continues to work closely with the relevant agencies as part of the State Highway Waterview Connection project to ensure the project delivers wider benefits for the affected communities and open space. The board is a member of both the Working Liaison Group and the Community Liaison Group.



Transport portfolio holders Tim Woolfield and Graeme Easte in Mont Le Grand Avenue

## Promote and assist economic growth and development

### *Economic growth and development*

Many factors influence economic growth and development. Albert-Eden Local Board has a limited role and acknowledges the importance of working in partnership and empowering local communities to improve their economic well-being. As such, the board is committed to encourage the establishment of new business organisations (notably in Point Chevalier) and to work closely with existing business organisations, Business Improvements Districts and large employers.

The Albert-Eden Local Board is working towards developing strong and vibrant villages. It recognises that each village brings a unique set of opportunities and challenges that requires tailored solutions.

Projects to promote and assist economic growth and place development that the board has delivered in the last year include:

- scoping for the renewal of Mt Albert Town Centre (delayed by on-going transport planning)
- research to better understand current web presence and the visitors' experience in the local villages. The research was contracted to New Zealand Tourism Research Institute. It initially covered six villages in phase 1. Phase 2 was more targeted and focused on Kingsland and Greenwood's Corner
- sponsorship for the ASEAN festival to promote Asian business and culture

- installation of town centre gateway signage in Kingsland and Mt Eden villages, and flags in Sandringham village
- grants to the Business Associations and Business Improvement Districts for projects that will increase their visibility and attract locals and visitors
- Mt Eden village footpath upgrade.

The board has also been working with ethnic businesses in Balmoral to empower them to improve local business opportunities.



ASEAN Festival – celebrating south-east asian culture at the Greenlane Showgrounds

## Improve community and recreation facilities

### *Places to meet and play*

Our area boasts some fantastic parks, but has the lowest level of open space provision per person in the Auckland region. Our ultimate objective is to increase open space in the area, but this objective is necessarily a long-term solution, and subject to budget constraints. In the meantime, we are working hard to make our existing parks as accessible and functional as they can be.

In 2011, we went to the Court and achieved open space outcomes for the communities affected by the SH20 Waterview Connection. This year we have been busy opening improved parks and playgrounds in Waterview.

Our community centres and halls are well used and some are in need of repair. We have been working very hard this year to ensure that the facilities are improved and their use enhanced.

## Parks and open spaces

The Albert-Eden Local Board funded many improvement projects in parks and open spaces during 2012/13:

- installation of two floating pontoons at Pt Chevalier beach
- redevelopment of Taylors Park and Pollard Park playgrounds
- renaming of Saxon Reserve to Kuaka Park. The board worked with NZ Transport Agency to develop the new park and playground
- plans for a 'Splash Pad' in Potters Park
- installation and monitoring of CCTV at the waterfall in Oakley Creek in partnership with Unitec
- smoke-free signs in parks and reserves
- Heron Park toilets and drinking fountain
- Gribblehirst Park toilets
- Watea Reserve boardwalk construction
- creation of a FruitTree Planting Plan
- upgrade of the Harbourview Reserve heritage toilet block, Rocket Park and Potters Park toilets
- Walker Park toilet and landscaping upgrade
- upgrade of the Owairaka Domain road.

## Community and recreational facilities

Improvement projects for community and recreational facilities:

- initiated review of existing community and recreational facilities in Point Chevalier
- supported financially the operations and maintenance of the Epsom, Pt Chevalier, Sandringham and Mt Albert Community Centres and the Mt Albert Recreation Centre
- supported financially the operations and maintenance of Mt Albert Aquatic Centre
- granted community leases to the Auckland Choral Society, Parafed and Auckland Lacrosse
- funded a new telephone system in the Eden/Albert Citizens Advice Bureau
- upgraded community noticeboards.





## Waterview

Waterview has been a strong focus for the board as part of the State Highway 16/20 Waterview Connection Project and associated financial compensation for the community. Because of the huge changes taking place in the area, the board developed the Waterview Precinct Plan in consultation with residents. The Plan outlines opportunities for growth and encompasses the need for local improvements to open space, recreational facilities, transport and housing.

The board is developing an expenditure plan for income received from New Zealand Transport Agency in relation to the SH16/20 Waterview Connection project to ensure that the maximum benefit is delivered to the communities affected by the motorway development.



## Improve community and recreation facilities

### *Places to meet and play*

The core of our work is aimed at improving the lives of our communities. All of our local board priorities are designed to contribute towards the betterment of our community and to making Albert-Eden a great place to live, work, visit and play.

In the last year, the board has devoted much effort to supporting volunteer organisations, enabling the youth to have a voice, promoting arts across the area, and running community-focused events. In helping build great communities, the board works closely with residents and supports community groups.

### Supporting volunteer organisations

The Albert-Eden Local Board is also committed to supporting volunteer organisations. In 2012/13, the board:

- organised the first Albert-Eden Community Volunteer Awards, to recognise the great local people and organisations that richly contribute to the area's life
- surveyed local volunteering groups to better understand capability and needs for support, and subsequently provided capacity building support through training workshops with Volunteer Auckland
- provided \$65,792 in the form of grants to community groups in recognition of the importance of community projects through three rounds of Local Board Community Discretionary Grants.



2012 volunteer award recipients from Mt Albert YMCA's Raise Up Programme

## Youth Initiatives

A priority for the board is supporting youth initiatives and programmes. During this period, the following has been achieved:

- establishment of the Albert-Eden Youth Board to provide a voice for youth in Albert-Eden
- team building and leadership training for youth board members
- planning for Youth-led projects in 2013/14.

## Arts

The Albert-Eden Local Board views public art as an integral part of community building and developing attractive and vibrant villages. During 2012/13, the board:

- built the dry stone wall and added landscaping in Monkey Hill Reserve, to complete the Billy Apple art work
- planned for five temporary art installations for Dominion Road to be delivered in 2013/14
- supported 'New Kiwi Women Write Their Stories', a community art programme held at Sandringham Community Centre during May and June 2013
- worked with Auckland Transport and local iwi to select art for the new Mt Albert rail station
- supported artists to paint murals on utility boxes
- launched the Albert-Eden Local Board Public Art Plan for consultation.



Peter Haynes (right) with artist Billy Apple (left) at Monkey Hill Reserve art wall

## Events

This year again the Albert-Eden Local Board delivered or supported some great events:

### Civic events and openings:

- Sir Frank Ryan farewell luncheon
- Kuaka Park dawn blessing
- Taylors Park playground opening
- Kuaka Park playground opening
- Peace tree planting, Mt Albert War Memorial Reserve

### Ceremonies:

- ANZAC ceremony support at Mt Albert, Mt Eden and Pt Chevalier
- Citizenship ceremonies

### Community events:

- Heritage Festival
- Carols By Candlelight at Potters Park
- Neighbours Day – eighteen local events
- Disco for youth with disabilities, in partnership with Puketapapa Local Board
- Six 'kids in parks' events across the board area
- Free pass to Mt Albert Aquatic centre for local families

**Financial support for:**

- Annual Love Your Mountain Day 2012
- Te Ahurangi Creeks Connecting Communities
- Sandringham Spring Festival
- Kingsland Karnival
- Eden-Albert Schools Cultural Festival
- Greenwood's Corner Association events



Disco for youth with disabilities took place at Roskill Youth Zone on June 22

**Your free pool pass**  
Mt Albert Aquatic Centre,  
Sunday 2 June 2013,  
2pm-6pm

**Albert-Eden Local Board**  
Auckland Council

## Sustainable communities

The board recognises the value of working in partnership with and supporting local groups to strengthen sustainable communities through the following projects:

- scoping of local resource recovery centres in collaboration with the Waitemata and Puketapapa Local Boards
- co-ordinating a Community Gardens Network
- grants in support of existing and new local community gardens
- scoping of a Virtual Sustainability Centre to provide residents with information on local community groups involved in sustainability work
- developing a Community Safety Action Plan that included community meetings, murals and advertising
- running the Albert Eden Community Network and a regular Newsletter
- seed funding for the Beneficiaries Advice Mt Albert (BAMA) Service.

## Consultation, engagement and representation

The Albert-Eden Local Board acts as an advocate on behalf of our communities. We aim to work in dialogue with relevant agencies as much as it is possible. In the past twelve months, we have worked closely with NZ Transport Agency, the Department of Conservation and Housing New Zealand Corporation on projects and issues of relevance to our communities.

We have also made a number of formal submissions on matters relevant to our area, including:

- change to the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987
- draft Auckland Conservation Management Strategy in collaboration with the Whau Local Board
- Housing Accord and Special Housing Areas Bill.

Consultation enables us to better understand your views, and get closer to you and listen. The Albert-Eden Local Board values your opinions and has engaged and consulted local residents on:

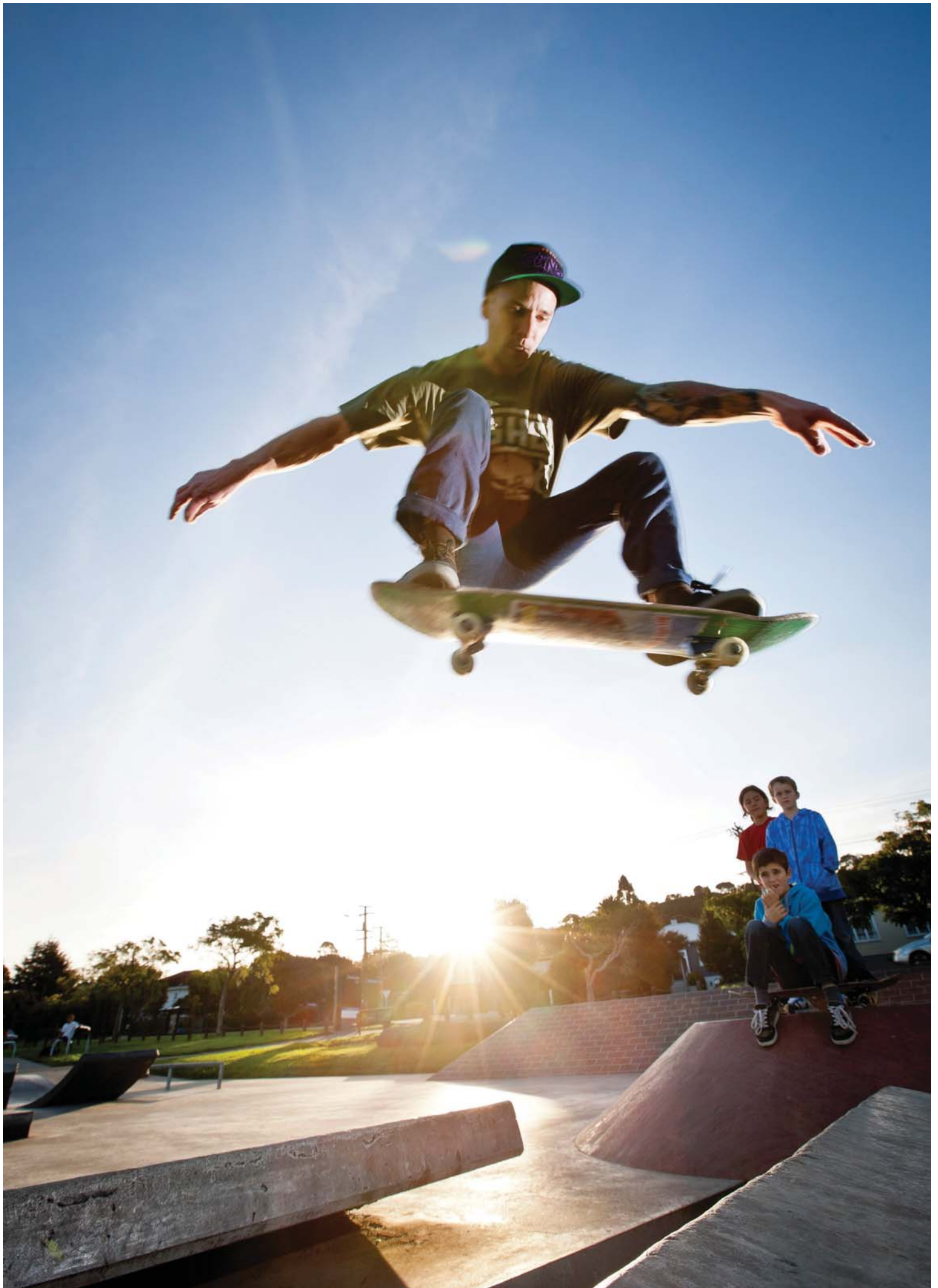
- Draft Auckland Unitary Plan—the board held nine community meetings, including a heritage walk, heritage, business and environment sessions and a meeting at the Deaf Society Auckland during Deaf Awareness Week. The board supported 22 sessions at libraries throughout Albert-Eden, including a number where older people were assisted to use technology to access the e-Plan
- Draft Albert-Eden Annual Agreement and Auckland Council Annual Plan 2013/14
- Waterview Precinct Plan
- Future of the Sandringham Community Centre



Helga Arlington (left) with Mt Albert library staff (right) and member of public promoting pilot Unitary Plan e-learning drop-in sessions at local libraries

We work closely with the rest of Auckland Council, including the Governing Body (the Mayor and Elected Councillors) and other local boards. The Albert-Eden Local Board provided feedback into the development of the following policies and strategies:

- Watercare Central Interceptor project
- Combined Stormwater Overflow project
- Smoke-free Policy
- Weed management policy
- Events policy
- Film Auckland Protocol
- Alcohol Policy
- Auckland region-wide swimming pool pricing and operational guidelines
- Gambling Venues Policy
- Draft Library Future Directions Plan
- Draft Parks and Open Spaces Acquisition policy
- Sportsfield Capacity Strategy
- Parks Design Guidelines



▶ **Find out more:** phone 09 623 6090 or visit  
[www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/AlbertEden](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/AlbertEden)

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