

Te mahere ā rohe o Aotea / Great Barrier 2023

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2023





Ko Aotea te moutere rongonui

Ko Hirakimatā te maunga tapu

Ko Te Moana Nui a Toi te Huatahi te moana

Ko te Tuatara, te Mauri, rātou ko te Tukaiaia ngā kaitiaki

Ko Aotea te kāinga o ngā uri o Ngāti Rehua

Ānei te whenua e manaakitia tātou. E whakapiritia tātou. E whakaoratia tātou.

Te wāhi o ngā taonga maha, ngā taonga tapu, ngā taonga matahīapo.

Nā ngā whetū i kanapu i te rangi ki ngā aitenga a punga e kōhimuhimu ana ki ngā ngahere.

Ko Aotea te taonga motuhake o Te Moana Nui a Toi te Huatahi.

Ko Aotea tōku tūrangawaewae.

Aotea is the renowned island. Hirakimatā is the sacred mountain.

The Moana of Toi is the ocean that embraces our island.

The Tuatara, Mauri, and the Tukaiaia are the guardians.

Aotea is the home for the descendants of Ngāti Rehua.

Here is the land that protects us, brings us together, keeps us alive.

A place of many treasures, sacred treasures, precious treasures.

From the stars shining bright in the sky to the insects that whisper in the forest.

Aotea is the prize of the moana of Toi. Aotea is my standing place.

Ngāti Rehua – Ngāti Wai ki Aotea Trust Board 2023

Ngā upoko kōrero

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He kōrero mai i te Heamana

From the Chair

Climate change, economic constraint and community wellbeing are the main challenges we are responding to in our three-year local board plan.

2023 started with intense weather events, an economic down-turn and continued pandemic response. Council identified a significant financial gap and responded by streamlining its services to meet the new budgeting constraints.

During community engagement on the Local Board Plan our people told us what was important to them. Overwhelmingly we heard that it's community-led services for welfare, health and environment. We acknowledge how integral our community groups are to the wellbeing of our island; especially given the increasing living costs affecting freight, food and travel.

The storms in early 2023 showed us how vulnerable our infrastructure is to climate change. Our roading network was compromised and supply chains halted. The strength of our island's resilience showed through with rapid response from our stalwart Emergency Response Team, roading contractors and arborists.

Being off-the-grid, our self-sufficiency and sustainability are top-notch, however we heard clearly that the community want more solar energy, more electric vehicles, and better water systems. With the landfill closing, our path to zero waste is vital and we need to keep innovating on ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Mana whenua and the community are working closely together on island-led projects to protect and enhance our environment and ocean. Tū Mai Taonga is leaping from strength to strength and Ahu Moana projects are establishing. Our moana is incredibly important; it surrounds us and sustains us. We need to protect it, restore it, and enjoy it.

Thank you for engaging with us and helping to create our three-year local board plan.

Ngā mihi nui,

Izzy Fordham, Chairperson, Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board



He kōrero mai i te Heamana

Ko te huringa o te āhuarangi, ko te whakawhāititanga o te ōhanga, ko te oranga hoki o ngā hapori ngā take mātāmua hei urupare mā te mahere a te poari i ngā tau e toru e tū mai nei.

I te tīmatanga o te tau 2023, ka kitea ngā tūāhuatanga niwhaniwha o te huarere, te hekenga o ngā mahi ohaoha, te uruparenga tonutanga hoki ki te mate urutā. I tautuhia e te Kaunihera tētahi āputa pūtea tāpua, me te aha, kua uruparetia mā te aro ki te whai take o āna mahi e hāngai ai ki te whakawhāititanga o ngā pūtea.

I tā te hapori pāhekoheko mai mō te Mahere a te Poari ā-Rohe, ka whakapuaki mai ngā tāngata o te hapori i ngā āhuatanga e whakahirahira ana ki a rātou. Ko ngā kaupapa a runga, ko ngā kaupapa e whakahaerehia ana e te hapori ake e hāngai ana ki te oranga, ki te hauora, ki te taiao hoki. E mōhio ana mātou ki te hiranga o ō tātou rōpū hapori ki te oranga o tō tātou moutere; inarā, ko te pikinga tonutanga o ngā utu o ia rā mō te tuku i ngā rawa, mō ngā kai, mō te tūnuku anō hoki.

I kitea i ngā āwha o te tīmatanga o te tau 2023 te whakaraerae o ō tātou tūāhanga ki te huringa o te āhuarangi. I raru te whatunga rori, i katia hoki ō mātou ara tukutuku. I kitea hoki te kaha o te manawaroa o tō tātou moutere nā runga i te tere o te urupare a ō tātou tira toka tū moana, a Te Tira Urupare Ohotata, a ngā kaikirimana whakatika i ngā rori, a ngā kaitopetope rākau hoki.

Nā te mea kua noho motuhake tatou i te whatunga-tūāhanga, kei tawhiti tā tātou noho ringaora me tō tātou toitūtanga, heoi, i mārāma pai hoki tā mātou rongo i te hiahia o te hapori kia kaha ake te whakamahinga o te ngao kōmaru, o ngā waka hiko, kia pai ake hoki ngā tūāhanga wai. I te katinga o te ruapara, e whakahirahira ana tā tātou whai kia para kore, ā, me auaha tonu tā tātou kimi ara ki te whakaheke i ngā para, ki te tukurua me te hangarua.

Kua kaha te mahi tahi a ngā mana whenua me te hapori i ngā kaupapa e whakahaerehia ana e ngā kainoho o te moutere ki te whakaruruhau, ki te whakanikoniko hoki i tō tātou taiao me tō tātou moana. Nā wai i pakari a Tū Mai Taonga, ka pakari kē atu, ka mutu, kei te tū haere ngā kaupapa a Ahu Moana. E whakaharahara ana tō tātou moana, e karapoti nei, e whāngai nei hoki i a tātou. Me tiaki, me whakahaumanu, me rongo hoki e tātou ōna hua.

Tēnā koe i tō whai wāhi mai ki a mātou, i tō āwhina hoki i a mātou ki te waihanga i tā mātou mahere a te poari ā-rohe mō ngā tau e toru e tū mai nei.

Ngā mihi nui, nā



Izzy Fordham,

Heamana, Te Poari ā-Rohe o Aotea





He aronga poto ki tā mātou mahere

Our plan at a glance



Our People

We see a future where mana whenua aspirations are realised and relationships are respected; where our community is resilient and cared for; a place where our community groups are empowered, sustainable and independent; where our local businesses and social enterprises retain employment; an island that is a great place to live and visit.



Our Environment

We see a future where our community deals with pests collaboratively; where our food and water supply are safe and secure; a place that protects and celebrates its night sky; where we showcase zero waste and low carbon practices; an island where our streams run clean and free, and marine waters are protected and full of life.



Our Places

We see a future where our wharves and airfields meet our needs; where our connectivity is fast and reliable; a place where our roads are sealed, well maintained, and shared safely; where our accessways and tracks link up to our village spaces; an island that has affordable and sustainable housing for everyone.

He aronga poto ki tā mātou mahere



Ō Tātou Tāngata

Ko tā mātou whakakitenga, ko te whakatinanatanga mai o ngā wawata o ngā mana whenua, ko te whakautenga hoki o aua hononga; ko te manawaroa me te tiakina o tō tātou hapori; ko te whakatūnga mai hei wāhi e whakapakaritia nei, e toitū nei, e tū motuhake nei hoki ō tātou rōpū hapori; ko te pūmau o te whakawhiwhi mahi a ngā pakihi o te rohe me ngā hinonga pāpori; ko te moutere hei wāhi noho pai, hei wāhi pai hei toro mā te tangata.



Tō Tātou Taiao

Ko tā mātou whakakitenga, ko te mahi tahi a tō tātou hapori ki te patu kīrearea; ko te noho ora me te haumarutanga; ko te whakanui i ngā āhuatanga o te rangi i te pō; ko te whakaatu i ā mātou tikanga o te para kore me te tukuwaro-iti; ko te moutere e rere mā nei, e rere noa nei hoki ō tātou roma, e tiakina nei ō tātou moana e muia ana e te koiora.



Ō Tātou Wāhi

Ko tā mātou whakakitenga, ko te whakaea o ō tātou wāpu me ō tātou taunga rererangi i ō tātou wawata; ko te tere me te horopū o ngā kōtuinga; ko te papatau o ngā rori e āta manaakitia ana me te haumaru o te whakamahinga ngātahitanga o ngā rori; ko te tūhononga o ō tātou ara tukutuku me ō tātou huarahi ki ō tātou papakāinga; ko te moutere e tareka ā-utu ana, e toitū ana hoki ki te katoa.



He kōrero mō ngā poari ā-rohe

About local boards

Auckland Council has a unique model of local government in New Zealand, made up of the Governing Body (the mayor and 20 Governing Body members) and 21 local boards. The Governing Body focuses on Auckland-wide issues, while local boards are responsible for decision-making on local matters, activities and services and for providing input into regional strategies, policies and plans.

We make decisions on local matters such as:

- supporting local arts, culture, events and sport and recreation
- supporting local organisations to deliver community services
- maintaining and upgrading town centres and facilities including parks, libraries and halls
- caring for the environment and preserving heritage.

Local boards also have a role in representing the view of their communities on issues of local importance.

Higher inflation and the cost of borrowing money has pushed up the cost of providing these services. We will need to address these challenges in the local board plan, which means doing things differently and prioritising where we spend.

About local board plans

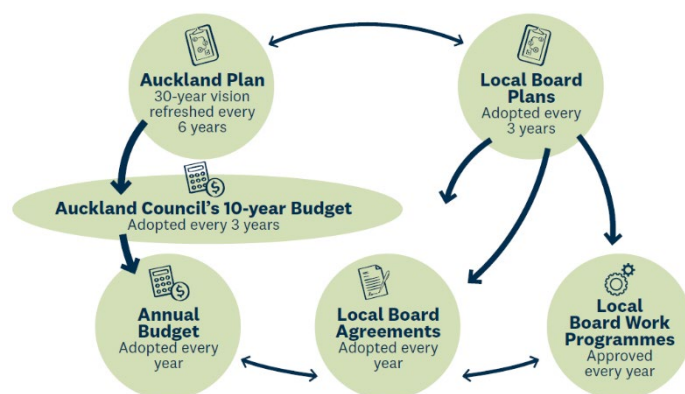
Local board plans are strategic three-year plans developed in consultation with the community. They set out the direction for the local area reflecting community aspirations and priorities, and guide:

- decisions on local activities, projects, and facilities
- local board input into the council's regional strategies and plans, including the Auckland Plan
- how local boards will work with other agencies, including community groups, central government agencies and council-controlled organisations that play key roles in the area
- funding and investment decisions.

Local board plans are inclusive and connected; they don't operate in isolation. They support:

- the Auckland Plan 2050 – the 30-year vision for Auckland
- the council's 10-year budget – planned spending and future investment priorities over the longer term
- the council's annual budget – funding for the coming financial year of the 10-year budget.

Each local board adopts an agreement that sets local budgets, levels of service, performance measures and targets for each financial year. Details of projects, budgets and timelines are outlined in annual work programmes. Progress is reported quarterly and communicated to our communities.



Te whakawhanake i tā mātou mahere

Developing our plan

Our draft plan was developed with careful consideration of previous community feedback on the 2020 local board plan, feedback through annual budget consultations and other pieces of feedback such as results from the Peoples Panel Surveys.

During July and August 2023, we consulted on the draft plan to hear your thoughts on how the plan reflected your needs and aspirations over the next three years, sought your feedback on which objectives were most important to you and to find out how we could better meet our Māori Outcome and climate action aspirations.

We engaged with our community at a range of events across the local board area. The issues and priorities you raised with us through these interactions have helped us finalise this plan.



Te whakatutuki i tā mātou mahere

Carrying out our plan

Turning plans into reality takes many people working together – the community, the local board and the wider council family such as Auckland Transport. To deliver on the local board plan, we will:

- prioritise budgets to focus on the initiatives in the plan
- make the best use of local assets such as libraries and parks
- set direction for the council staff who deliver the projects and services
- work with various community groups and partners, to deliver projects and services.
- make decisions that are in line with Auckland's commitment to climate action and emissions reduction.

Where important projects in local areas are beyond available funding or decision making, our role is to advocate to other decision-makers to ensure they are aware of community views and the board's support for them.



Te Rohe ā-Poari o Aotea

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board area



LEGEND



Local board office



Dept. of Conservation (DOC) Land



Road



Marae



Kawa Marae

Ngā huanga Māori

Māori Outcomes

Māori identity and culture are Auckland's unique point of difference in the world. Whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori communities aspire to have healthy and prosperous lives and have defined the outcomes that are most important to Māori. Māori outcomes are the way Auckland Council supports Māori aspirations.

Māori outcomes respond to Council's legislative obligations and to extensive engagement with Auckland's Māori communities.

The Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau framework outlines ten priority areas that support and progress these aspirations and has been adopted by Council as the way to deliver outcomes for Māori. These priority areas are:

Kia ora te kāinga – Papakāinga and Māori housing

Kia ora te marae – Marae development

Kia ora te ahurea – Māori identity and culture

Kia ora te rangatahi – Realising rangatahi potential

Kia ora te hononga – Effective Māori participation

Kia ora te whanau – Whānau and tamariki wellbeing

Kia ora te reo – Te reo Māori

Kia ora te umanga – Māori business, tourism and employment

Kia ora te taiao – Kaitiakitanga

Kia hāngai te Kaunihera – An empowered organisation





Local board plans are an important way to deliver for Māori at a local level. This section of the plan outlines the Māori outcomes addressed in this plan.

Aotea is the Māori name for Great Barrier Island. The Hauraki Gulf islands were likely among the first places settled by Māori over 800 years ago. Many of the great ocean-going canoes landed at Aotea before travelling further down the coast. One of these was the 'Aotea'.

There are ten iwi with interests in the island: Ngāti Rehua, Ngātiwai, Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāti Whanaunga, Ngāti Tamaterā, Te Patukirikiri, Ngāi Tai Ki Tamaki, Ngāti Te Ata-Waiohua.

Māori make up 21 per cent of the local board population (census 2018) which is almost double the regional average. Mana whenua have a strong presence in the north of the island with Māori land holdings and two marae located in Motairehe and Kawa.

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea are tāngata whenua of Aotea, Hauturu (Little Barrier Island), the Pokohinu Islands (Mokohinau Islands), and other outlying islands and rocky outcrops. The Trust is currently progressing its Treaty Settlement.

The local board, mana whenua and community have strong relationships and connections, which come from living in a small community.

Over recent years mana whenua and the local board have been working closely on local projects. They both have representation on many local governance committees like Tū Mai Taonga, Caulerpa Response and Glenfern Sanctuary Trust.

Through past and present conversations mana whenua identified several areas of importance that align with the Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau framework. These include governance representation, marine and environmental restoration, roading, upskilling of Māori business and employment, heritage protection, and te reo courses.

The local board plan has an objective to support an engaged and thriving mana whenua community. What is important to mana whenua is important for the whole island and the local board will continue to support iwi-led initiatives as outlined throughout the plan such as:

1. Delivery of the Visitor Information Centre,
2. Ahu Moana marine restoration projects,
3. Tū Mai Taonga environmental restoration work,
4. te reo courses
5. the installation of pou whenua





Ngā huanga Māori

Ko te tuakiri me te ahurea o Tāmaki Makaurau te take e motuhake nei ia i te ao. E tūmanako ana ngā whānau, ngā hapū, ngā iwi me ngā hāpori Māori kia hauora, kia houkura ō rātou ao, ā, nā rātou tonu i whakatau ngā huanga mātāmua katoa ana ki a rātou. Ko ngā huanga Māori te ara e tautoko ai Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau i ngā tūmanako o Ngāi Māori.

Ko ngā huanga Māori te urupare ki ngā here ā-ture o runga i a Te Kaunihera, ki te whānui hoki o te pāhekohekotanga ki ngā hāpori Māori o Tāmaki Makaurau.

E takoto ana i te anga o Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau ngā wāhi mātāmua tekau e tautoko ana, e kōkiri ana hoki i ēnei tūmanako, ā, kua whāia e te Kaunihera hei huarahi whakaputa i ngā huanga ki te Māori. Ko ēnei take mātāmua ko te:

Kia ora te kāinga – He papakāinga, he whare mō te Māori

Kia ora te marae – Te whakawhanaketanga o te marae

Kia ora te ahurea – Te tuakiri me te ahurea Māori

Kia ora te rangatahi – Te puāwaitanga o te pitomata rangatahi

Kia ora te hononga – Te whai take o te whai wāhi a te Māori

Kia ora te whanau – Te oranga o te whānau me ngā tamariki

Kia ora te reo – Te reo Māori

Kia ora te umanga – Te pakihi, te tāpoi me te whai mahi a te Māori

Kia ora te taiao – Te kaitiakitanga

Kia hāngai te Kaunihera – He whakahaere kua whakamanatia



He ara whakahirahira ngā mahere a ngā poari ā-rohe e tukuna ai he huanga ki ngā Māori o te rohe. Kei tēnei wāhanga o te mahere ngā kōrero mō ngā huanga Māori e aro nuitia ana i tēnei mahere.

Ko Aotea te ingoa Māori o Great Barrier Island. Te āhua nei ko ngā moutere o Tīkapa Moana ētahi o ngā wāhi tuatahi i tauria ai e te Māori i tua atu o te 800 tau ki muri. I nui ngā waka o te moana i tau ai ki Aotea i mua i te toronga atu ki te takutai. Ko tētahi o aua waka, ko 'Aotea'.

Tekau ngā iwi e whai pānga ana ki te moutere: ko Ngāti Rehua rātou ko Ngātiwai, ko Ngāti Manuhiri, ko Ngāti Maru, ko Ngāti Pāoa, ko Ngāti Whanaunga, ko Ngāti Tamaterā, ko Te Patukirikiri, ko Ngāi Tai Ki Tamaki, ko Ngāti Te Ata-Waiohua hoki.

E 21 ōrau o te taupori o te rohe he Māori (Tatauranga 2018), e tata nei ki te rearua o te tapeke toharite o te rohe. E kaha ana hoki te kitea o ngā mana whenua ki te pito whakateraki o te moutere, e noho nei ngā whenua Māori me ngā marae e rua ki Motairehe me Kawa.

Ko Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea ngā tangata whenua o Aotea, o Hauturu (Little Barrier Island), o Pokohinu (Mokohinau Islands), o ētahi atu moutere me ngā pae toka o te takiwā. Kei te kōkiri tonu Te Tarahiti i tana Whakataunga Tiriti.

E renarena ana te taukaea e here nei i te poari ā-rohe, i ngā mana whenua me te hapori, he hua nō te noho i tētahi hapori iti.

Nō ngā tau tata nei, ka āta mahi tahi te poari ā-rohe me ngā mana whenua i ētahi kaupapa o te rohe. He māngai ō rāua tahi kei ngā komiti whakahaere maha o te rohe, pērā i a Tū Mai Taonga, i a Caulerpa Response, i a Glenfern Sanctuary Trust hoki.

Nā runga i ngā matapakinga o mua, o nāianei anō hoki ki te taha o ngā mana whenua, kua tautuhia ētahi o ngā āhuatanga tāpua e hāngai ana ki te anga o Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau. E whai wāhi ana ki tēnei te kitea o ngā māngai ki ngā whakahaere, te whakahaumanutanga o te moana me te taiao, ngā rori, te whakangungutanga o ngā pakihi Māori me te whakawhiwhi mahi, te tiakina o ngā taonga tuku iho, ngā akoranga reo hoki.

E whai ana te mahere a te poari ā-rohe ki te tautoko i te pāhekohekotanga, i te oranga hoki o te hapori o ngā mana whenua. Ko ngā mea e whakahirahira ana ki ngā mana whenua, koia hoki ngā mea e whakahirahira ana ki te moutere whānui, ka mutu, ka tautoko tonu te poari ā-rohe i ngā kaupapa ā-iwi e takoto ana i te mahere, pērā i:

1. Te whakahaerenga o te Visitor Information Centre,
2. Ngā kaupapa a Ahu Moana hei whakahaumanu i te moana,
3. Ngā mahi Tū Mai Taonga hei whakahaumanu i te taiao,
4. Ngā akoranga reo





Locky-dock electric bike charging at Claris

Te Tāruke ā-Tāwhiri

Climate Action

In 2019 Auckland Council declared a climate emergency, and in 2020 it adopted Auckland's climate plan, Te Tāruke ā-Tāwhiri. Meeting the goals set out in this plan means taking ambitious action to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate.

Local Boards have an important role to play in leading and supporting Auckland's response to the climate emergency, including supporting regional climate plan initiatives, and integrating climate awareness into all decisions, including community investment.

Aotea is a remote island in the middle of the Hauraki Gulf. We are at the forefront of resilient living. There is no reticulated water, power, or public transport. People are proudly self-sufficient and living off-the-grid; running their own power, water, septic and drainage systems.

The main climate concerns for the island are sea-level rise, storm damage, drought, and wildfire. Our roading network is vulnerable to coastal erosion, coastal inundation, slips and flooding.

A Shoreline Adaptation Plan is scheduled to be developed for Aotea in 2024. This process will support community conversations around coastal and rainfall flooding hazards and the need to adapt over time to our changing environment. The plan will recommend adaptation strategies for Council-owned land and assets on Aotea and will be implemented through future asset management and other statutory and non-statutory processes.



The island has a local Emergency Response Team (ERT) which leads emergency preparedness, response and recovery. With the increasingly number of damaging weather events the team is key to the resilience of the island.

Rising fuel costs is also of high impact to our off-the-grid lifestyle. It is an important driver for residents to transition from combustion cars and generators onto solar powered systems. The board has been steadily progressing solar power upgrades of council and community buildings and electric chargers. Our community is also incredibly conscious of remote living and the carbon impacts of freighting supplies to the island.

The island has two local board supported innovative groups called Anamata and AoteaOra Trust which specialise in resilience practices. Anamata runs the Resource Recovery Centre and promotes bespoke opportunities for a circular economy. The AoteaOra Trust supports community-led food and water resilience projects and assists with better low-carbon practices.

The community is well educated in alternative energy systems and we should look to showcase our knowledge more. We need to make it easier for people to improve systems and be innovative.

Obviously, climate change and resilience are big themes for islanders and the local board has responded by including objectives and initiatives within the plan such as:

1. wetland restoration and riparian tree planting with eco-sourced seeds,
2. local emergency response support
3. water and food resilience projects,
4. grants for community facility solar power upgrades,
5. local waste initiatives.



Solar panels at the Great Barrier Island Sports and Social Club



Growers and Makers Market, Claris Conference Centre

Ō Tātou Tāngata

Our People

He aha te mea nui o te motu o Aotea? He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata. What is the essence of Great Barrier Island? It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.

The island is home to about 1000 permanent residents plus part time residents. Local health and welfare groups support seniors, youth and vulnerable community members with home help, transportation and access to services.

Home ownership is high with many people living alone. Individual income levels and the median household income are lower than the rest of the Auckland region.

Island people are self-sufficient and innovative. Sustainable living and a strong community spirit are important features of life on the island.

Our marae and community groups are vital to the island's wellbeing, delivering community services for welfare, health, education, tourism, art, and resilience. All our community facilities are iwi and community owned.

There are three primary schools, one early education centre and one Playcentre. Secondary school children either move to the city for boarding school or enrol in Te Kura and are supported by the Aotea Learning Hub programme.

Aotea has a high self-employment rate which provides opportunity to grow economic activity through support for sole traders and micro-businesses. We have unique local businesses leading the way in sustainability and gaining in strength and reputation.



Challenges

- Remote living can bring with it challenges for social connection especially with economic hardships and high living costs. Access to mental and physical health services is of community concern.
- Our community trusts and groups are concerned our people are becoming ‘over-volunteered’.
- Island businesses can be hindered by extra considerations that other areas of Auckland do not experience, such as a small market, high freight and fuel costs, and limited connectivity.

Opportunities

- Mana whenua are leading on several projects including the Visitor Information Centre and pou whenua.
- A bespoke approach to education through our Lifelong Learning Strategy, especially for our tamariki and rangatahi with a new early childhood education centre and established Aotea Learning Hub.
- A focus on sustainable, managed tourism with possibilities around eco-tourism, voluntourism and an investigation into a visitor levy.

Our Plan

What we want to achieve (Objectives)	What we will deliver in the next 3 years (Key initiatives)
Engaged and thriving mana whenua	Strengthen council and mana whenua relationship networks across local governance, organisation and community through regular hui and iwi representation on groups
	Support mana whenua aspirations with collaborative projects such as pou whenua, Tū Mai Taonga and Ahu Moana
	Support mana whenua to develop a rangatahi leadership programme and educational initiatives such as te reo courses
	Support mana whenua to deliver the Visitor Information Centre
Self-sufficient and prosperous community	Provide annual grant funding for our local marae, arts, environment, education, and sustainability organisations to deliver our core community services
	Ensure our seniors, youth and vulnerable communities have good access to services through funding our community-led health and welfare groups to deliver support programmes
	Strengthen capacity-building within our community trusts by organising courses and collaborative community forums
	Support the local Emergency Response Team in delivery of island emergency preparedness, response and recovery

Strong and adaptable economy

Support the upskilling of business and social enterprises by running management, finances, resilience and governance courses

Support community-led sustainable tourism projects with grants funding



Advocacy

- Advocate to the Governing Body to ensure mana whenua input is heard and considered within the consenting process.
- Advocate to central government and the Governing Body to keep costs equitable for consents, compliance, biosecurity and off the grid energy systems.
- Advocate to the Governing Body and Auckland Transport for increased localism within procurement processes. Local procurement contracts and local supply sourcing will strengthen local resilience and mitigate travel carbon emissions.
- Advocate to the Governing Body for continued staff support to investigate a visitor levy to respond to the impacts of tourism. The local board is closely following Rakiura / Stewart Island with their experience of a visitor levy.



Kids at the Early Childhood Centre



Pest control, Oruawharo / Medlands

Tō Tātou Taiao

Our Environment

Toitū te marae a Tāne-Mahuta, Toitū te marae a Tangaroa, Toitū te tangata. If the land is well and the sea is well, the people will thrive.

Aotea is a significant ecological area. It has a high diversity of native fauna and flora and retains extensive freshwater wetlands, salt marshes and dune fields, all of which are nationally unique.

Over 60 per cent of the island is Department of Conservation (DoC) land; 43 per cent of which is the Aotea Conservation Park. Aotea is the first island to be designated as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary.

Mana whenua and the community are proactive in their role as kaitiaki in ensuring taonga are protected and mauri is sustained. They are delivering outstanding island-led ecological projects covering the island from Tū Mai Taonga in Te Paparahi through to Glenfern Sanctuary, Okiwi, Okupu, Oruawharo and Windy Hill in the south.

The moana is an important aspect of island life. Marine biosecurity is an emerging issue for Aotea. Mana whenua and the community are working together to protect and enrich the biodiversity of our coastal waters.

Aotea is off-the-grid and self-sustainable. Residents are passionate about strengthening food and water security and also about enhancing native forests and indigenous ecosystems. We are continuing to strive towards zero waste and low carbon practices through innovation.



Challenges

- Water on the island is non-reticulated and supplied by stream, rainwater or bore. We need to strengthen our off-the-grid water systems and increase riparian planting to improve our water quality and maintain safe drinking standards.
- Climate change has led to warmer waters and the arrival of exotic marine pests such as Caulerpa, Asian Paddle Crab, Sea Squirt and Mediterranean Fan worm. We need tighter protections for our coastal waters.
- Our landfill has closed. The Auckland Council Waste Plan and 'Getting to Zero Waste Tikapa Moana Hauraki Gulf Island Waste Plan, 2018' both set a target of zero waste to landfills by 2040. We need to continue to be innovative in reducing, reusing, and recycling waste for locals, visitors and boaties to achieve this goal.

Opportunities

- Large restoration projects like Tū Mai Taonga, Windy Hill Sanctuary, Glenfern Sanctuary, and the Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision provide an exciting opportunity for the island to achieve its pest-free goals through translocation, species management and biosecurity.
- Our innovative low carbon initiatives, such as Anamata's Resource Recovery Centre and AoteaOra Trust's Off the Grid events, are unique and cutting edge. We should be showcasing them globally and trialling new sustainable systems.
- Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) is trialling a mana whenua and community-led marine restoration initiative on Aotea called Ahu Moana which is outlined in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Plan – Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari. Mana whenua and the community are working together on two Ahu Moana projects in Katherine Bay and Turi Point.

Our Plan

What we want to achieve (Objectives)	What we will deliver in the next 3 years (Key initiatives)
Treasured and enriched whenua	Support mana whenua and community with projects to strengthen food security, such as funding food and garden coordinators
	Support the island to transition to low carbon, resilient and sustainable practices through grants for community facility upgrades and off-the-grid events
	Support mana whenua and community delivered restoration projects with funding and advice such as Ecology Vision groups in Oruawharo, Okiwi, Okupu and Tū Mai Taonga
	Support the island nurseries for eco-sourced plants
	Support community projects for reducing, reusing, composting and recycling waste with grant funding



Clean and secure wai	Strengthen water resilience by installing an emergency water system and supporting community water security projects
	Restore freshwater ecosystems like wetlands to mitigate climate change, protect aquatic biodiversity, prevent pests and pollution through funding projects such as riparian planting
	Increase frequency of septic tank testing and education regarding wastewater risks
Abundant and protected moana	Support mana whenua and community-led marine protection projects such as Ahu Moana with grants funding
	Support local marine biodiversity and biosecurity education and enforcement with grant funding
Celebrated and preserved rangi-nui	Uphold our International Dark Sky Sanctuary through governance, planning and lighting management

Advocacy

- Advocate to the Governing Body and Auckland Transport to stop the use of Glyphosate and reduce council's chemical footprint on Aotea.
- Advocate to central government and the Governing Body to encourage manufacturers to commit to product sustainability.
- Advocate to central government and the Governing Body to abolish bottom trawling and dredging in the Hauraki Gulf and to encourage sustainable fishing as directed through Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari.
- Advocate to central government and the Governing Body for the prohibition of marine dumping.
- Advocate to the Governing Body for concept development and investment of an on-island hull cleaning and maintenance facility, and recommendations for managing marine biosecurity on Aotea Great Barrier identified within the feasibility study report.
- Advocate to the Governing Body for continued support of managing existing biosecurity threats like Kauri Dieback, Caulerpa and Myrtle Rust.
- Advocate to the Governing Body for continued support of biosecurity pest pathway procedures to prevent new pest plants, animal and pathogens establishing.
- Advocate to central government and the Governing Body for continued support for our mana whenua and community-led restoration projects like Tū Mai Taonga and Windy Hill Sanctuary.



Coastal clean-up, Okiwi School



View from Glenfern Sanctuary Regional Park

Ō Tātou Wāhi

Our Places

Aotea Great Barrier Island is 285 square kilometres in size and has several small village communities. It is located approximately 100 kms northeast of Auckland's city centre.

Travel to the island is by a 30min airplane flight or an almost five-hour ferry ride. We have three council-maintained wharves located in Tryphena, Okupu and Whangaparapara and one community-owned wharf located in Port FitzRoy. We have two airports at Claris and Okiwi.

The island has no public transport and shared windy roads. Coastal erosion and sea-level rise are major concerns for the island, affecting our roading network and low-lying assets.

Our buildings are powered by solar systems and generators. Fuel is expensive – some of the highest in New Zealand - and people are moving towards electric-powered cars, bikes, and solar-powered homes.

We have limited council land with one regional park (Glenfern Sanctuary), one local park (Okiwi Park) and several small reserves. Our village spaces are natural and highly appreciated by residents. Council walkways and tracks are well utilised by both residents and visitors.

Home ownership is higher than the regional average however housing options for renters, workers and pensioners is non-existent. Connectivity can be unreliable with multiple blackspots.



Decision making over connectivity, housing, roading, and transportation is with central government, Auckland Transport and private enterprise. The local board will advocate to these entities on the community's behalf for improvements on these subjects.

Challenges

- Many of our roads are narrow, windy, and unmarked, making them a difficult space for drivers, walkers and cyclists to share safely.
- Severe weather and climate change is of concern for our fragile roading/lifeline network and coastal infrastructure. It will be difficult to realign roading landward where threatened by coastal erosion and sea level rise.
- Housing affordability is an issue and rental availability is sparse. We have no aged or social housing. One of our biggest employment challenges is providing accommodation for workers and for new residents who move to the island for permanent work.

Opportunities

- The Hauraki Gulf Islands District Plan will be integrated into the wider Auckland's Unitary Plan. This will provide us the perfect opportunity to ensure we develop planning provisions which meet future needs for subdivision, construction, and growth.
- The island's ability to adapt to climate change is estimated as very high in the council document Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan. Shoreline adaptation plans could be a valuable tool to assist the futureproofing our wharves, airfields, and roads.
- The library and community venues are well-used and appreciated. We will continue to futureproof and support them in being hubs for social connection and emergency management.

Our Plan

What we want to achieve (Objectives)	What we will deliver in the next 3 years (Key initiatives)
Safe transport network	Ensure our shared roads are regularly maintained, safe and healthy for all users
	Ensure our tracks and walkways are clear and safe
	Work with mana whenua and community to identify new accessways and linkages across the island
	Investigate a community-led public transport system
Fit for purpose island infrastructure	Support mana whenua and community to investigate housing solutions with grant funding
	Identify adaptation options for key coastal infrastructure, such as all tide boat ramps from sea-level rise through the Shoreline Adaptation Plan
	Maintain Gooseberry Flat cemetery and investigate cemetery options for the centre of the island



Sustainable community facilities

Support the maintenance of the island's community-owned facilities with a capital grants fund

Ensure our council facilities such as library and service centre have up-to-date alternative systems and are fit for purpose

Ensure our village spaces reflect our natural way of life and have maintained playground equipment and toilets

Advocacy

- Advocate to Auckland Transport and the Governing Body to retrofit all our road culverts to allow for unhindered fish migration and be resilient to flood risks.
- Advocate to Auckland Transport to ensure our wharves and airfields are well-maintained and futureproofed for climate impacts.
- Advocate to central government for freight subsidy options.
- Advocate to the Governing Body for the expansion of resident mooring zones.
- Advocate to technology providers for stronger connectivity options.



Great Barrier Island Library and Service Centre



He kōrero take pūtea

Funding information

The local board funding policy sets out how local boards are funded to meet the costs of providing local activities and administration support.

Local board funding is approved through the council's budget-setting process. This involves the council's Governing Body adopting a 10-year budget (long-term plan) every three years and an annual budget every year. Local board agreements, in which the local board and the governing body agree the local board budget for each year, make up part of the annual budget.

The council's budget-setting process involves allocating funding gathered through revenue sources such as rates and user charges. It also involves setting levels of service for council activities and corresponding performance targets.

The financial and levels of service statements in this plan are based on the information included in the 10-year Budget 2021-2031 and updated through subsequent annual plans. Updated financial information and levels of service will be adopted as part of the long-term plan which is due to be adopted in June 2024. The 10-year Budget 2024-2034 will be informed by the local board plans and may impact the initiatives in this local board plan.

Kaupapa ā-rohe me ngā paerewa ā-mahi

Local activities and levels of service

The current 10-year Budget 2021-2031 outlines local board responsibilities, provided for directly in legislation or allocated to boards, are summarised into local activities and levels of service statements. These are described in the table below.

More information regarding the most recent levels of services, including performance measures and performance targets, can be found in the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Agreement 2023/2024 and in the 10-year Budget 2021-2031 (Vol 2 section 2.6). This is available on the council website.

The levels of services and performance measures for local activities will be reviewed as part of the 10-year budget 2024-2034 and targets reviewed subsequent Annual Budgets.

Local Activities	Level of service statements
Local Community Services	
We support strong, diverse, and vibrant communities through libraries and literacy, arts and culture, parks, sport and recreation, and events delivered by a mix of council services, community group partnerships and volunteers	<p>Provide safe, reliable, and accessible social infrastructure for Aucklanders that contributes to placemaking and thriving communities</p> <p>Utilising the Empowered Communities Approach, we support Aucklanders to create thriving, connected and inclusive communities</p> <p>We provide safe and accessible parks, reserves, beaches, recreation programmes, opportunities and facilitates to get Aucklanders more active, more often</p> <p>We showcase Auckland's Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture</p> <p>We fund, enable, and deliver services, programmes, and facilities (art facilities, community centres, hire venues, and libraries) that enhance identity, connect people, and support Aucklanders to participate in community and civic life</p>
Local Environmental Management	
We support healthy ecosystems and sustainability through local board-funded initiatives such as planting, pest control, stream and water quality enhancements, healthy homes, and waste minimisation projects.	We work with Aucklanders to manage the natural environment and enable low carbon lifestyles to build resilience to the effects of climate change





Local Governance

Activities in this group support the local board to engage with and represent their communities and make decisions on local activities. This support includes providing strategic advice, leadership of the preparation of local board plans, support in developing the local board agreements, community engagement including relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities, and democracy and administrative support.

The measures for this group of activities are covered under the Regional Governance group of activities in the Long-term Plan which determine participation with Auckland Council decision making in general. This includes local decision-making

Tirohanga take pūtea whānui

Financial overview

Revenue, expenditure and capital investment by local activities for the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.



Annual Plan Financials		2023/2024 (\$000s)
Operating revenue		
Local community services		1,520
Local planning and development		0
Local environment management		0
Total operating revenue		1,520
Operating expenditure		
Local community services		1,614
Local planning and development		0
Local environment management		144
Local governance		704
Total operating expenditure		2,462
Net operating expenditure		
Capital expenditure		
Local community services		290
Local planning and development		0
Local environment management		0
Local governance		
Total capital expenditure		290



Ngā Mema o tō Poari ā-Rohe o Aotea Great Barrier Local Board

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