



Te mahere ā-rohe o Aotea / Great Barrier 2026

Aotea / Great Barrier Draft Summary Local Board Plan 2026

**Tāmaki Turuki.
Altogether Auckland.**



He kōrero mai i te Heamana

From the Chair

Aotea is facing challenges around weather events, high costs of living, freight and fuel. The draft Local Board Plan aims to tackle these challenges, protect what's important to us, and look at opportunities for our island.

This document is a summary of our draft Local Board Plan, shaped by our community engagement. The Local Board Plan is a three-year strategic plan with four outcome areas: Community, Environment, Economy and Transport. It contains objectives and advocacy with key initiatives that show how we will reach our goals. Equity, climate and Māori outcomes are weaved throughout the plan. You can find more detail in the full draft Local Board Plan.



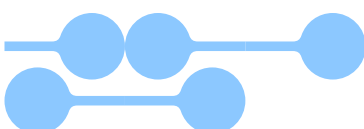
Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Izzy Fordham'.

Izzy Fordham

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Chairperson

This summary is an overview of the statement of proposal for our draft Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2026. We encourage you to read the full draft plan, available online at akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz, at public libraries and council service centres and tell us what you think by **Thursday 23 July 2026**. Or tell us what you think in person at one of our local events.



Te hapori

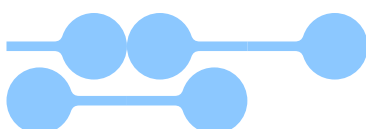
Community



We see a future where mana whenua aspirations are upheld, their role as kaitiaki is recognised and relationships are strong. A place where our community can look after one another, access the services they need to stay well and where our shared spaces are welcoming, fit for the future and connected.

Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
Thriving mana whenua	<p>Partner with mana whenua to restore the mauri (life force) of whenua, moana, awa and taonga species and strengthen climate resilience on the island.</p> <hr/> <p>Respect rangatiratanga (chieftainship) by investing in by-Māori-for-Māori solutions, such as Tū Mai Taonga and Tai Tū Moana.</p> <hr/> <p>Build the capacity and capability of mana whenua and mataawaka through grant funding for skill development courses.</p>
Resilient community services	<p>Ensure our seniors, youth and vulnerable communities have access to health and wellbeing services by funding our community-led health and welfare groups including Great Barrier Island Community Health Trust and Aotea Family Support Group.</p> <hr/> <p>Strengthen capacity within our local trusts and groups by providing governance courses, upskilling advice, succession planning and administration grants.</p> <hr/> <p>Support the local Emergency Response Team to deliver emergency readiness, response and recovery initiatives to strengthen island resilience.</p> <hr/> <p>Support Aotea Education Trust to deliver education initiatives including the Early Education Centre, Te Whare Ako (Aotea Learning Hub), rangatahi programmes and to refresh the ‘Life-long Learning’ strategy.</p> <hr/> <p>Support investigations and initiatives into local housing solutions for kaumātua, pensioners, papakāinga (settlement) and worker accommodation.</p> <hr/> <p>Develop a long-term vision for Aotea with mana whenua, community and the Department of Conservation.</p>



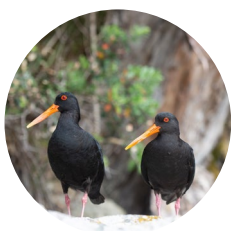
Flourishing island culture	Support mana whenua aspirations to share storytelling and te reo and protect and recognise wāhi tapu sites.
	Promote and support local art with grants funding for art, music and events across the island including Aotea Arts & History Village.
	Support heritage and history initiatives including funding for the Aotea Arts & History Village and Great Barrier Island History Research Group.
Sustainable facilities	Ensure our council facilities like playgrounds, the library and the local board office and service centre are easy to use and access, resilient and fit for purpose.
	Improve our council ‘microgrid’ to help us better capture, store and manage electricity locally.
	Provide grants to support the maintenance of our marae and community-owned facilities like clubs and halls to improve the resilience of their ‘off-the-grid’ systems for everyday use and emergency purposes.
	Support local recreation and sports initiatives and assets including Great Barrier Island Sports and Social Club, Barrier Social Club, Aotea Boardriders Club, Port FitzRoy Boat Club and Great Barrier Island Golf Club.
Well-used open spaces	Ensure our village spaces, parks, reserves and beaches are safe, well-maintained and reflect our natural way of life.
	Partner with mana whenua, Department of Conservation and the community to investigate connecting track networks.

What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)

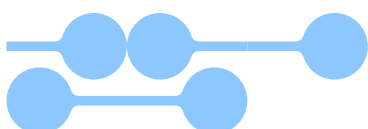
Advocate to keep costs affordable for resource and building consents, and compliance and biosecurity requirements.

Advocate to improve internet connections and digital connectivity services across the island network.

Te taiao Environment



We see a future where our community works together to manage pests and protect our native species, where our food and water are secure and our waterways are healthy and drain freely. A place that protects and celebrates its night sky and where we reduce waste and lower our impact on the environment. An island where our whenua is restored and thriving and our moana is protected, healthy and full of life.

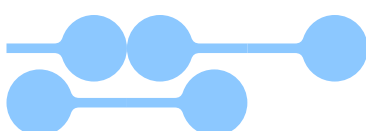


Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
Treasured and enriched whenua	<p>Support mana whenua and large community-led restoration initiatives like Tū Mai Taonga, Windy Hill Sanctuary, Glenfern Sanctuary Regional Park, and Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision.</p> <p>Support our local native plant nurseries and Ecology Vision groups in Ōkupe, Ōkiwi, Schooner Bay and Whangaparapara, with funding and advice for their biosecurity and biodiversity projects.</p> <p>Support mana whenua and community with projects that improves access to affordable and healthy locally grown and produced food, like funding for food and garden coordinators.</p> <p>Support pet education initiatives to encourage pet owners to desex and microchip their cats and dogs, and bird aversion courses to train their dogs not to chase, harass or harm birds.</p> <p>Support community efforts and innovations to reduce, reuse, compost and recycle waste, and showcase the Anamata Resource Recovery Centre.</p>
Abundant and protected moana	<p>Support mana whenua and community to deliver moana wellbeing projects, like Ahu Moana to protect Aotea’s coastline and taonga species.</p> <p>Partner with mana whenua and the community to find out how to protect local marine waters and sea life.</p>
Clean and secure wai	<p>Improve, monitor and manage stream water quality with mana whenua, residents and community groups for better water supply resilience and flood risk management through local knowledge building and cultural stewardship.</p> <p>Support mana whenua and community-led aquatic restoration projects to improve the health of wetland ecosystems, like riparian planting along stream edges and protecting Inanga spawning sites.</p>
Celebrated and preserved rangi	<p>Uphold our International Dark Sky Sanctuary status with strong leadership and planning, and by setting policies about outdoor lighting.</p>

What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)

- Advocate to stop bottom trawling and dredging in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and encourage sustainable fishing.
- Advocate for more investment to monitor new and current invasive marine species, such as exotic Caulerpa, Asian paddle crab, sea squirt and Mediterranean fanworm.
- Advocate for increased and aligned investment in the ‘Making Space for Water’ programme to improve our waterways and drainage, reduce flood and erosion risks and improve partnerships with local landowners.



Advocate to protect kauri on Aotea and support continued monitoring and treatment of kauri dieback disease.

Advocate for continued council investment into ‘dark sky’ lighting requirements on Aotea and around the Gulf, such as lower lumens and downward-facing lighting, to make sure we protect our Dark Sky Sanctuary status.

Advocate for stronger product stewardship initiatives including takeback schemes, sustainable packaging, and ‘right-to-repair’ legislation to support zero waste.

Advocate to reduce council's chemical footprint across Aotea.



Te ōhanga Economy

We see a future where local businesses thrive, an island where people can make a living locally and afford to live well, and a place that continues to attract visitors in a way that supports our way of life.

Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)

What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)

Strong local economy

Support business sustainability by promoting and funding courses to help people develop skills in areas like management and finance.

Increase opportunities for local employment and local supply sourcing of materials within council contracts to provide stable work for local businesses and reduce carbon emissions.

Provide grants to local businesses to help them develop innovative solutions for producing reliable energy and reducing waste.

Encourage local economic growth and investment by funding initiatives that encourage residents to buy local goods.

Sustainable destination management

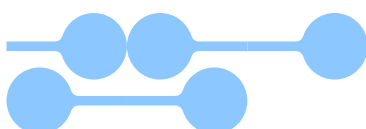
Deliver the Aotea Great Barrier Island Destination Management Plan to guide productive, sustainable, regenerative and inclusive visitor experience.

Work with mana whenua and the community to provide a visitor information centre and share visitor information on digital platforms and at main entry ports to the island.

Support research into eco tourism and volunteer based tourism opportunities that benefit the island and community.

What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)

Advocate for regulations that recognise our rural island difference rather than applying regulations designed for urban areas that can make it harder for our local businesses to operate.



Tūnuku

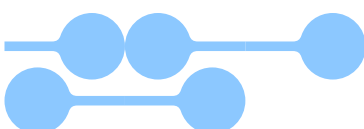
Transport



We see a future where our transport network is resilient and able to support connection to and from the island, where our wharves and airfields are reliable and meet our needs, and where our roads are safe, well maintained, and shared.

Our priorities

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we want to happen in the next 3 years (Priorities)
Resilient transport network	<p>Review the island’s transport network to address coastal erosion and the effects of severe weather events by identifying areas to strengthen and creating alternate route and port options.</p> <p>Advocate for increased investment in our wharves, the Claris Aerodrome and Ōkiwi Airfield to ensure they are easy for everyone to access and resilient to climate impacts and emergency events.</p> <p>Encourage the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the island.</p> <p>Support the introduction of a community passenger transport service.</p> <p>Raise concerns to central government about the growing costs for fuel, transport and freight.</p>
Safe local roads	<p>Ensure our local roads are well maintained with renewal works, road sealing and grading, and by regularly unblocking roadside drains.</p> <p>Make sure our shared roads are safe for walkers, cyclists and drivers by looking into applying road markings, adding more footpaths, and ways to reduce speeding where needed.</p> <p>Look at ways to provide more parking where demand is high, like near recreation areas and community services.</p>





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