

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board - Te Poari ā-Takiwā Tuku Pūtea Taonga Whakaahuru

BOARD PACK

for

ARAFB Business Meeting - Incl Public Submissions

Tuesday, 10 February 2026

9:00 am (NZDT)

Held at:

Offices of Buddle Findlay (Primary Location)

Level 18, 188 Quay Street, Auckland 1010

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AGENDA

ARAFB BUSINESS MEETING - INCL PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Name:	Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board - Te Poari ā-Takiwā Tuku Pūtea Taonga Whakaahuru
Date:	Tuesday, 10 February 2026
Time:	9:00 am to 1:00 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Offices of Buddle Findlay (Primary Location), Level 18, 188 Quay Street, Auckland 1010
Board Members:	Victoria Carter ONZM (Chair), Alastair Carruthers CNZM, Moana Tamaariki-Pohe MNZM, Paul Evans, Paula Browning CMInstD, Deputy Chair, Penelope Peebles, Ravi Nyayapati, Scott Pearson
Attendees:	Haley Tamblyn
Apologies:	Jonny Gritt, Linda Cooper MNZM, CMInstD.

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Opening Karakia

Victoria Carter ONZM

An opening karakia will be undertaken at the commencement of the meeting.

1.2 Apologies

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Decision

a) Accept the apology from Jonny Gritt and Linda Cooper for leave and note that they had provided notes and had a discussion with the Chair, prior to the meeting.

1.3 Confirm Minutes

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Decision

Recommendation:

That the ordinary minutes of the meeting of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board held on 18 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Supporting Documents:

1.3.a	Minutes : ARAFB Business Meeting - 18 Nov 2025	14
1.3.b	Minutes : ARAFB Business Meeting - Confidential Agenda - 18 Nov 2025	18

1.4 Extraordinary Business

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Noting

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

(a)	The local authority by resolution so decides; and
(b)	The presiding member explains at the meeting at a time when it is open to the public-
	(i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
	(ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting:

(a)	That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
	(i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
	(ii) The presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
(b)	no resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

At the close of the agenda, there were no Extraordinary Items of business.

1.5 Interests Register

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Noting

Opportunity for members to update the Register of Members Interest.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Funding Board Directors are reminded of their obligation to maintain a clear separation between their personal interests and their duties as an appointed member of the Funding Board.

Directors should therefore be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict (or a perceived conflict) arises between their role as a Director and any private or other external (either pecuniary or non-pecuniary) interest they may have.

Any interests should be declared at the commencement of consideration of any item on this agenda and the member concerned abstain from voting or discussion on the item or leave the room for the duration of its consideration.

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Receive the Register of Members Interests, including any verbal updates.

Supporting Documents:

1.5.a Interests Register

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1.6 Notices of Motion

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Noting

At the close of the agenda no requests for notices of motion had been received.

2. Presentations to the Board

2.1 Public Forum (Non-Submission related)

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Noting

A period of time (approximately 30 minutes) is set aside for members of the public to address the meeting on matters within its delegated authority. A maximum of 10 minutes per item is allowed, following which there may be questions from Directors.

At the time of preparing the agenda there were no requests for public forum.

2.2 Report from Amenities Board and/or Specified Amenities

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Noting

If requested, an opportunity for representatives of the Amenities Board or individual Specified Amenities, to provide the Funding Board with a verbal update on matters relating to and affecting the Amenities Board or Specified Amenities.

At the time of preparing the agenda there were no requests from representatives of the Amenities Board or individual Specified Amenities.

3. Public Submissions to Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan

3.1 Public Submissions to the Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Decision

The Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan was published on 11 December 2025 inviting public submissions on the plan. Submissions closed at 5PM on 3 February 2026.

A total of five written submissions were received and one note of thanks. There are four requests to make oral submissions to the Board.

The purpose of this section is to receive oral submissions; consider the written and oral submissions; and to determine whether any changes are to be made to the Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan prior to it being forwarded to Auckland Council for consideration and approval of the 2026-2027 levy.

The Submission Report and written submissions that follow provide details.

Oral submissions are scheduled to begin at **09.15am**.

Recommendations

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Acknowledges and receives the five written submissions, one note of thanks, and four oral submissions to the Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan and thanks submitters for taking the time to provide feedback on the plan. Noting that the oral submitters were:

- Diana Weir (CE) - Auckland Philharmonia
- Jonathan Bielski (CE), and Frances Valentine (Chair) - Auckland Theatre Company
- Nicola Keen-Biggelaar (CE) - Drowning Prevention Auckland
- Robbie McCrae (CE), Sarah Judkins (Chair), Vanessa Zigliani (Business & Finance), Kirsten Blanchard (Trustee) - The Auckland Festival Trust

Supporting Documents:

3.1.a Submissions Report 2026-2027.pdf

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3.2 Auckland Theatre Company

For Noting

Written submission to Draft 2026-27 Funding Plan, requesting that the grant allocated to Auckland Theatre Company be \$2,511,250, an increase of 2.5%, to assist ATC meet rising operating expenses and preserve the value of investment already made by Auckland Council in ATC. The submission highlights the impact of rising costs, primarily driven by inflation, with the most impacted activity being productions (sets, costumes, props, and wages for actors, creatives, crew). The submission outlines the tight management of overhead costs and control expenses, but that these efforts - and improved revenue generation - only partially offset the impact of inflation. It further submits that it is of the understanding that the accepted practice of Auckland Council to fund the cost of inflation and that adjusting for inflation is one of the basis for amending its fees and charges. It references the Auckland Council Revenue and Financing Policy, and goes on to highlight the measures taken to improve ATC income generation and benefits the ATC brings to the industry and to Auckland.

Verbal submission to follow, with Jonathan Bielski - CE, Auckland Theatre Company, and Frances Valentine - Chair.

Supporting Documents:

3.2.a ATC submission - ARAFB draft-2026-2027-funding-plan.pdf

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3.3 Auckland Philharmonia

For Noting

Written submission to the Draft 2026-27 Funding Plan. Not seeking any changes to the grant allocation(s) or amendments to the Funding Plan. Highlights the shifts the Auckland Philharmonia is making as we, collectively, weather a challenging economic and political environment. Expresses appreciation to the Funding Board for its continued commitment to the Auckland Philharmonia.

Also submitting verbally, with Diana Weir - CEO Auckland Philharmonia.

Supporting Documents:

3.3.a AUCKPHIL_Draft 2026-27 ARAFB Funding Plan - Submissions Form - Google Forms.pdf

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3.4 Drowning Prevention Auckland

For Noting

Thanking the ARAFB for its continued investment, which enables DPA to deliver education, research and advocacy that reduces drowning risk across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Outlines

how the proposed grant will enable DPA to strengthen delivery and reach through modest salary adjustments to support retention and recruitment, recruitment of a Senior Pasifika Educator to work with targeted communities and the recruitment of a Digital and Innovation role to support initiatives that expand reach and improve how we deliver evidence-based education.

Also submitting verbally, with Nicola Keen-Biggelaar - CE, Drowning Prevention Auckland

Supporting Documents:

3.4.a DPA ARAFB Written Submission January 2026 Final.pdf

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3.5 New Zealand Opera

For Noting

New Zealand Opera did not seek to provide a written or verbal submission, however expressed its "sincere thanks to ARAFB for its ongoing commitment and support of New Zealand Opera's vision and mission. A sentiment that is shared by everyone at NZO, from Board to production teams and performance artists, would echo. Thank you."

Supporting Documents:

3.5.a Gmail - Draft Funding Plan.pdf

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3.6 Surf Life Saving Northern Region

For Noting

Written Submission to Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan. Not seeking any changes to the grant allocation(s) or amendments to the Funding Plan. Expresses gratitude for, and highlights the benefits of, the continued support.

Supporting Documents:

3.6.a SLSNR Letter of Acknowledgement.pdf

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3.7 The Auckland Festival Trust

For Noting

Written submission to Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan, requesting that ARAFB Board reconsider the 2026-2027 Draft Grant Allocation to The Auckland Festival Trust (TAFT) to \$4,300,000 (a 0% increase on 2025-2026). The additional \$300,000 would cover the cost of a full review of all aspects of TAFT by appointing an independent consultancy with expertise in the creative and arts sector, including a scan of the industry both local and international, to inform the future pathway of the organisation as fit for purpose, with model options to consider for future proofing.

Acknowledges the concerns of the funding board as raised in the Draft Funding plan regarding the under-achievement of certain self-determined targets and the challenges of the dramatically changing global festival landscape post-COVID. Highlights the benefits of the Auckland Arts Festival to Auckland and beyond and expresses appreciation of the support of the funding board to date.

Verbal submission to follow, with representatives in attendance being Robbie McCrae (CE), Sarah Judkins (Chair), Vanessa Zigliani (TAFT Business & Finance), Kirsten Blanchard (Trustee).

Supporting Documents:

3.7.a TAFT_Draft 2026-27 ARAFB Funding Plan - Submissions Form - Google Forms.pdf

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4. Board Activities Since Last Meeting

4.1 Chair's Report

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Noting

Providing the Chair with the opportunity to provide an oral update to the Funding Board on any issues relating to the business of the Funding Board that she has been involved with since the last meeting.

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Note the verbal update from the Chairperson.

4.2 Members' Activities With Specified Amenities and Board Member Reports

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Noting

Providing Funding Board members with the opportunity to update the Board on projects and issues they have been involved with relating to the business of the Funding Board and provide the Board with a verbal update on recent interactions with the specified amenities since the last meeting.

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Receive verbal updates to Members' Activities with the Specified Amenities and instruct the Advisory Officer to update the register of activities and gifts with these details.

5. Management Reports

5.1 Advisory Officer's Report

Haley Tamblyn

For Noting

Providing the Advisory Officer with the opportunity to provide a verbal update to the Board on projects and issues she has been involved with relating to the business of the Funding Board not covered elsewhere in the agenda since the last meeting.

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Note the verbal update from the Advisory Officer.

5.2 Finance Report

Haley Tamblyn

For Decision

To provide the Funding Board with an overview of the financial position as at 31 December 2025, together with the regular bi-monthly accounts update and any other relevant financial matters. This report also confirms that the GST return for the period 1 November 2025 to 31 December 2025 has been filed.

Recommendation

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Receives the Finance Report for the period ending 31 December 2025.

B. Notes that the GST return for the period 1 November 2025 to 31 December 2025 has been filed

Supporting Documents:

5.2.a	Auckland_Regional_Amenities_Funding_Board_-_Profit_and_Loss_with_FY_Budget 290126_FNL.pdf	49
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5.3 Amenity Quarterly Reports

Haley Tamblyn

For Decision

Providing the Funding Board with an overview of financial position of the Amenities as at 31 December 2025 and any other matters of a financial nature.

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Receive the Amenity Quarterly Reports to 31 December 2025

Supporting Documents:

5.3.a	DPA Q2 2025-2026 Narrative Reporting.pdf	50
5.3.b	DPA_2026 - Q2 Summarised Financial Statements.pdf	52
5.3.c	SLSNR_Q2 2025-2026 Narrative_ARAFA.docx	54
5.3.d	SLSNR_ARAFB Submission FY26Q2.pdf	56
5.3.e	NZO_2026 - Q2 Summarised Financial Statements -FNL.pdf	58
5.3.f	NZO_ARAFB Q2 Report.pdf	60
5.3.g	TAFT 2026 - Q2 Summarised Financial Statements FINAL.pdf	62
5.3.h	TAFT Cover Letter January 2026.pdf	64
5.3.i	TAFT Q2 2025-2026 Narrative Reporting FINAL.docx	65
5.3.j	ATC - Q2 2025-2026 Summarised Financial Statements.pdf	67
5.3.k	ATC Q2 2025-2026 Narrative Reporting.pdf	69
5.3.l	Te Whatu Stardome_2026 Q2_Narrative Reporting.pdf	71
5.3.m	Te Whatu Stardome_2026 Q2_Summarised Financial Statements.pdf	73
5.3.n	AuckPhil_Notes to the summarised Qtrly report to December 31 2025.pdf	75
5.3.o	AuckPhil_Q2 Summarised Financial Statements.pdf	76

5.4 Policy updates

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Decision

Consideration of two policies for Board discussion and endorsement:

- **AI, Generated AI and Information Management & Security:** Incorporating governance controls and guidance for AI-generated content and data stewardship
- **Adapted IoD Code of Conduct:** ensuring alignment with modern governance standards and reinforcing expectations of board and staff conduct.

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Adopt the ARAFB AI, Generated AI and Information Management & Security Policy, and the Institute of Directors (Inc.) Code of Conduct (New Zealand) and that these documents will be reviewed annually (with all board members agreeing to abide by this).

Supporting Documents:

5.4.a	ARAFB Integrated AI IM Security Policy_Draft 120126_Rev2.docx	78
5.4.b	New Zealand Adapted Directors Code of Conduct .docx	81

6. Exclusion of the Public

6.1 Exclusion of Public: Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Decision

Haley Tamblyn	
Advisory Officer	
Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987:	

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Agree that the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting. The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows. This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

- C1.1 Minutes of a Confidential Meeting Held on 18 November 2025
- C2.1 - Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan - Provisional Allocation of Grants
- C2.2 - Draft 2027-2028 Funding Plan - Confirming Levy Request

6.2 Minutes of a Confidential Meeting held on 18 November 2025

For Noting

Confidential Minutes of a meeting of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board held on 18 November 2025.

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	<p>Section 7(2)(h)</p> <p>Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i)</p> <p>The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>	<p>Public conduct of matter would be likely to result in disclosure of information for which good reason to withhold</p>

		exists under section 7.
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6.3 Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan - Provisional Allocation of Grants

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Noting

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	<p>Section 7(2)(h)</p> <p>Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i)</p> <p>The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>	Public conduct of matter would be likely to result in disclosure of information for which good reason to withhold exists under section 7.

At the conclusion of the public submission process, the Directors are required to:

1. Deliberate on the subject of the written and oral submissions
2. Determine that either:
 - a. Sufficient information is held to make a decision to finalise the grant allocations for the 2026-2027 financial year **or**
 - b. Additional information is required from the Advisory Officer or other sources.

If the Directors determine that sufficient information is held, they must conclude discussions regarding the final allocation of grants. If additional information is required prior to concluding the grant allocations for 2026-2027, a further meeting of the board can be held on 17 February 2026 or at a later date (to be determined).

6.4 Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan - Confirming Levy Request

Victoria Carter ONZM

For Noting

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	<p>Section 7(2)(h)</p> <p>Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i)</p> <p>The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>	Public conduct of matter would be likely to result in disclosure of information for which good reason to withhold exists under section 7.

If the Directors have concluded discussion on the allocation of grants for 2026-2027 (item C6.3), it is necessary for the Board to:

1. Finalise the draft funding plan for the 2026-2027 financial year that includes all the information stipulated in the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act, including the Administration Budget, Director Remuneration, the provisional allocation of grants, including any conditions attached thereto, and any other information deemed appropriate by the Board.
2. Determine the total levy request to be forwarded to Auckland Council in respect of the 2026-2027 year.

Should further information or discussions be required, a further meeting of the board has been scheduled for 17 February 2026 or could occur at a later date (to be determined) to conclude the grant allocation and the total levy request processes.

7. Close Meeting

7.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: ARAFB Business Meeting - Confidential Agenda (placeholder) - 17 Feb 2026, 9:00 am

The closing karakia occurred in the confidential meeting which followed.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD AT A MEETING OF THE AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2026:

MINUTES (in Review)

ARAFB BUSINESS MEETING

Name:	Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board - Te Poari ā-Takiwā Tuku Pūtea Taonga Whakaahuru
Date:	Tuesday, 18 November 2025
Time:	9:00 am to 9:31 am (NZDT)
Location:	Offices of Buddle Findlay (Primary Location), Level 18, 188 Quay Street, Auckland 1010
Board Members:	Jonny Gritt, Victoria Carter ONZM (Chair), Alastair Carruthers CNZM, Linda Cooper MNZM, CMInstD., Moana Tamaariki-Pohe MNZM, Paul Evans, Paula Browning CMInstD, Deputy Chair, Penelope Peebles, Ravi Nyayapati, Scott Pearson
Attendees:	Haley Tamblyn
Notes:	Adopt ARAFB 2025 Annual Report Confirm provisional allocation of grants for 2026-2027 Approve draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan for publication in December 2025

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Opening Karakia

An opening karakia was given by Victoria Carter at the beginning of the meeting.

1.2 Apologies

The Chair conveyed apologies for late arrivals on behalf of Penelope Peebles and Ravi Nyayapati.



That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board

Receive the apologies for late arrivals on behalf of Penelope Peebles and Ravi Nyayapati.

Decision Date:

18 Nov 2025

Mover:

Linda Cooper MNZM, CMInstD.

Seconder:

Scott Pearson

Outcome:

Approved

1.3 Interests Register



That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Receive the Register of Members Interests.

Decision Date: 18 Nov 2025

1.4 Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

1.5 Confirm Minutes

ARAFB Business Meeting 4 Nov 2025, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Confirm the ordinary minutes of its meeting, held on 4 November 2025, including the confidential section, as a true and correct record
- B. Authorise the Advisory Officer to affix the Chair's electronic signature to the minutes.

Decision Date: 18 Nov 2025

Mover: Jonny Gritt

Seconder: Paula Browning CMInstD, Deputy Chair

Outcome: Approved

1.6 Report From Amenities Board and/or Specified Amenities

There were no requests from Specified Amenities, or the Amenities Board to address or present to the Funding Board.

1.7 Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

2. Presentations to the Board

2.1 Chair's Report



That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Note the verbal update from the Chairperson.

Decision Date: 18 Nov 2025

Mover: Paul Evans

Seconder: Jonny Gritt

Outcome: Approved

2.2 Public Forum

There were no requests for public forum.

3. Board Activities Since Last Meeting

3.1 Members' Activities With Specified Amenities and Board Member Reports



That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Receive verbal updates to Members Activities with the Specified Amenities and instruct the Advisory Officer to update the register of activities and gifts with these details.

Decision Date: 18 Nov 2025

Mover: Paul Evans

Seconder: Scott Pearson
Outcome: Approved

4. Management Reports

4.1 Advisory Officer's Report

 **That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:**

A. Note the verbal update from the Advisory Officer.

Decision Date: 18 Nov 2025

4.2 2025 Annual Report and Audit Report

 **That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:**

A. Approve the 2025 Annual Report (incorporating the Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report) for publication, subject to minor editorial changes if and as required.

B. Note that the 2025 Annual Report will be published on or before 15 December 2025.

C. Delegate authority for final approval of the 2025 Audit Report to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, subject to any adjustments received after today being minor.

Decision Date: 18 Nov 2025

Mover: Ravi Nyayapati

Seconder: Alastair Carruthers CNZM

Outcome: Approved

4.3 Finance report

 **That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:**

A. Receive the Finance Report to 31 October 2025

Decision Date: 18 Nov 2025

Mover: Victoria Carter ONZM

Seconder: Scott Pearson

Outcome: Approved

5. Exclusion of the Public

5.1 Exclusion of Public: Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act

 **That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:**

A. Agree that the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

- C5.2 Minutes of a Confidential Meeting Held on 4 November 2025
- C5.3 Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan

Decision Date: 18 Nov 2025

Mover: Moana Tamaariki-Pohe MNZM

Seconder: Penelope Peebles

Outcome: Approved

5.2 Minutes of the Confidential Meeting held on 4 November 2025

5.3 Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan

6. Close Meeting

6.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: ARAFB Business Meeting - Incl Public Submissions - 10 Feb 2026, 9:00 am
A closing karakia was shared by Linda Cooper at the conclusion of the Confidential Meeting.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.31AM.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD AT A MEETING OF THE AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2025:

Signature:_____

Date:_____

MINUTES (in Review)

ARAFB BUSINESS MEETING - CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA

Name:	Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board - Te Poari ā-Takiwā Tuku Pūtea Taonga Whakaahuru
Date:	Tuesday, 18 November 2025
Time:	9:31 am to 10:03 am (NZDT)
Location:	Offices of Buddle Findlay (Primary Location), Level 18, 188 Quay Street, Auckland 1010
Board Members:	Victoria Carter ONZM (Chair), Alastair Carruthers CNZM, Jonny Gritt, Linda Cooper MNZM, CMIInstD., Moana Tamaariki-Pohe MNZM, Paul Evans, Paula Browning CMIInstD, Deputy Chair, Penelope Peebles, Ravi Nyayapati, Scott Pearson
Attendees:	Haley Tamblyn
Notes:	Confirm provisional allocation of grants for 2026-2027 Approve draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan for publication in December 2025

1. Minutes of the Confidential Meeting held on 4 November 2025

1.1 Confirm Minutes

ARAFB Business Meeting - Confidential agenda 4 Nov 2025, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Decision: That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Confirm the ordinary minutes of its Confidential meeting, held on 4 November 2025 as a true and correct record
- B. Authorise the Advisory Officer to affix the Chair's electronic signature to the minutes.

Decision Date: 18 Nov 2025

Mover: Linda Cooper MNZM, CMIInstD.

Seconder: Penelope Peebles

Outcome: Approved

2. Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan

2.1 Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan



That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Approve the DRAFT 2026-2027 Funding Plan and Submission Form for publication, subject to minor editorial changes as and if required.

B. Note that the DRAFT 2026-2027 Funding Plan will be published on or before 15 December 2025.

Decision Date: 18 Nov 2025
Mover: Paul Evans
Seconder: Ravi Nyayapati
Outcome: Approved

3. Close Meeting

3.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: ARAFB Business Meeting - Incl Public Submissions - 10 Feb 2026, 9:00 am
A closing karakia was given by Linda Cooper at the conclusion of the meeting.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.03AM.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD AT A MEETING OF THE AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2025

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Interests Register

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board - Te Poari ā-Takiwā Tuku Pūtea Taonga Whakaahuru

As of: 10 Feb 2026

Person	Organisation	Active Interests	Notice Date
Alastair Carruthers CNZM	Auckland Museum : Tāmaki Peanga Hira	Deputy Chair	1 Oct 2024
	Auckland Unlimited	Director	11 Aug 2022
	AUT Foundation	Trustee	11 Feb 2025
	Carruthers Consulting Ltd	Director and Shareholder	11 Aug 2022
	Cornwall Park Trust Board	Trustee	11 Aug 2022
	Homeland NZ Enterprises Ltd	Director and Shareholder	11 Aug 2022
	Homeland NZ Trading Ltd	Director and Shareholder	11 Aug 2022
	MOTAT - Museum of Transport and Technology Auckland	Board Member	1 Oct 2024
Jonny Gritt	Tāmaki Paenga Hira - Auckland War Memorial Museum	Trustee and Board Member	11 Aug 2022
	Taskforce Kiwi' Disaster Relief (Charitable Trust)	Member	19 Aug 2025
	Auckland Justice of the Peace Association	Member - JP	23 Aug 2023
Linda Cooper MNZM, CMInstD.	Family Action Trust	Chair	23 Aug 2023

	Institute of Directors	Chartered Member	29 Apr 2024
	Judith Eastgate Family Trust	Trustee (non-beneficial)	23 Aug 2023
	Massey High School Foundation	Trustee	23 Aug 2023
	Noel Cooper Realty Ltd	Shareholder	23 Aug 2023
	Northwest Economic Masterplan Steering Group	Chair	1 Sept 2024
	Parliamentary Services	MP Advisor	30 Jan 2024
	Waitakere Health Link	Chair	23 Aug 2023
	Waitakere Licensing Trust	Elected Member	23 Aug 2023
Moana Tamaariki-Pohe MNZM	Department of Conservation	Employee	4 Dec 2024
	Ngāti Whātua Whai Mai Ltd	Lead - Business Mentoring	9 Jan 2023
	Orākei Water Sport Inc	President	9 Jan 2023
	Tāmaki Paenga Hira - Auckland War Memorial Museum	Representative - Taumata a Iwi	9 Jan 2023
Paul Evans	Edison Consulting Group Limited	Director	19 Sept 2023
	Institute of Directors	Chartered Member	24 Aug 2023
	Localised	Chief Executive	25 Jun 2025
	Maria Maria Limited	Shareholder and Director	24 Aug 2023
	Matakite Consulting	Owner	24 Aug 2023
	Pattle Delamore Partners	Director	28 Nov 2023
	WasteMINZ	Elected Board Member	24 Aug 2023
Paula Browning CMIInstD, Deputy Chair	Auckland Chamber Tech Working Group	Member	5 Sept 2023

Auckland Theatre Company	Friend and former colleague of ATC Board Member Karen Ferns.	28 Sept 2025
Creative New Zealand and Ministry of Culture and Heritage	On-going engagement with CNZ & MCH through role at WeCreate	28 Jul 2022
Institute of Directors	Chartered Member	28 Jul 2022
NZ Opera	Working relationship with NZO Board Member Alice Shearman. Alice is the ED of a member of WeCreate.	18 Jun 2025
Strategic Industry Reference Group - Electrotechnology, IT & Creative, Industry Skills Board	Member	28 Sept 2025
WeCreate Incorporated	Executive Director	28 Jul 2022
Penelope Peebles	CV Check	Penelope's husband (James Sutherland) is NZ Managing Director of the Australian public listed company that supplies Auckland Council with 'background screening services'.
Manchester Unity Friendly Society	Director	23 Aug 2023
Penelope Peebles Advisory	Shareholder / Director	23 Aug 2023
St Cuthbert's College Educational Trust Board	Trustee	23 Aug 2023
Whatapaka Equestrian Ltd	Shareholder / Director	23 Aug 2023
Ravi Nyayapati	Badminton New Zealand	Board Member
Badminton New Zealand	Chair	16 Sept 2024
Eventfinda Stadium	Board Trustee	5 Sept 2023
Eventfinda Stadium	Deputy Chair	1 May 2024
Institute of Directors New Zealand	Chartered Member	28 Aug 2023
Institute of Directors New Zealand	Auckland Branch Committee Member	11 Jun 2024

	Palmerston North City Council	Contractor	28 Aug 2023
	Peace Consulting LTD	Shareholder & Director	28 Aug 2023
	Te Wananga o Aotearoa	Member of Technology Committee (Te Pae Tawhiti)	1 Jun 2025
	Te Wānanga o Aotearoa	Member of Audit & Risk Committee (Te Ārai Tūpono)	28 Aug 2023
Scott Pearson	Association of Certified Fraud Examiners	CFE	28 Jul 2022
	Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand	Chartered Accountant	28 Jul 2022
	CPA Australia	FCPA	28 Jul 2022
	Department of Internal Affairs	Local water done well	15 Apr 2025
	Gambling Commission	Commissioner	27 Jul 2022
	Institute of Directors	Chartered Member	28 Jul 2022
	Repromed New Zealand	Deputy Chair	16 Feb 2024
	The Big Idea	CFO	27 Jul 2022
	Auckland Eye	Director	8 Feb 2023
	BusinessDesk NZ	Columnist	5 Nov 2024
Victoria Carter ONZM	Camben Farms Ltd	Director	28 Jul 2022
	Camben investments limited	Director	28 Jul 2022
	Carter Bloodstock Ltd	Director	28 Jul 2022
	Davies-Booth Associates	Director	28 Jul 2022
	Destination Great Lake Taupo	Director	30 Jul 2025
	Institute of Directors	Chartered Fellow	28 Jul 2022
	James Fletcher Management	Director	28 Jul 2022

Mrs Mac's NZ Limited	Director	27 Jun 2023
Switched On Group Limited (incl SOM, SOH, SOF, SOBS, Hush Interiors Limited)	Director	21 Jan 2026
The Packaging Forum	Chair	14 Sept 2025
Water Services Delivery Plans	Crown Water Services Specialist	1 Aug 2025
Water Services Delivery Plans	Crown Facilitator	18 Nov 2024

Person	Organisation	Recently Closed Interests	Closing Date
Paula Browning CMInstD, Deputy Chair	Toi Mai, the Workforce Development Council for Creative, Cultural, Tech and Recreation	Board Member	31 Dec 2025

AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD

Report

10 February 2026

To: Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board Directors
 From: Haley Tamblyn, Advisory Officer

Subject: Submissions to Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding submissions to the Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan, to the Funding Board Directors.

Recommendation

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Acknowledges and receives the five written submissions, one note of thanks, and four oral submissions to the Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan and thanks submitters for taking the time to provide feedback on the plan. Noting that the oral submitters were:
 - Diana Weir (CE) - Auckland Philharmonia
 - Jonathan Bielski (CE), and Frances Valentine (Chair) - Auckland Theatre Company
 - Nicola Keen-Biggelaar (CE) - Drowning Prevention Auckland
 - Robbie McCrae (CE), Sarah Judkins (Chair), Vanessa Zigliani (Business & Finance), Kirsten Blanchard (Trustee) - The Auckland Festival Trust

Executive Summary

1. Under the provisions of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008 (the Act), the Funding Board is required to produce a draft Funding Plan, which is subject to public consultation.
2. The Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan was approved for publication by the Funding Board on 18 November 2025, subject to final minor edits.
3. The Act requires that the plan be available for public comments for a minimum period of one month. The plan was published on 12 December 2025, and the submission period closed at 5PM on Tuesday, 3 February 2026.
4. A total of five (5) written submissions were received, along with one 'note of thanks'. Copies of all written submissions received are attached to the agenda.
5. Four (4) submitters wish to make further oral submissions to the Board.
6. Oral submissions were / are set down to be heard on Tuesday, 10 February 2026, commencing at approximately 09.15am.
7. Following consideration of both the written and any oral submissions, the Funding Board will determine whether changes need to be made to the final version of the 2026-2027 Funding Plan.

8. Should additional information be required, a final decision can be deferred until 17 or possibly 24 February 2026.

9. Once the final allocation of grants has been confirmed for 2026-2027 the total levy will be Public Submissions determined. Details of the final version of the 2026-2027 Funding Plan and the proposed levy will be forwarded to Auckland Council to consider and approve the levy at a future date.

Narrative

10. In the interests of transparency, the Act requires the Funding Board to publish a Draft Funding Plan for public consultation.

11. The Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan detailing the proposed total levy and the provisional allocation of grants to the specified amenities was approved for publication by the Funding Board on 18 November 2025, subject to final minor edits. The Draft Funding Plan was published on 12 December 2025. Two public notices were placed in the NZ Herald during December 2025 and January 2026 advising that the plan was available for inspection and comment. The Draft Funding Plan was also available for download directly from the website (arafb.org.nz) which also contains details of the board's meetings and previous funding plans and annual reports.

12. Copies of the plan were specifically distributed to all the Specified Amenities listed in the Act as well as Auckland Council. The Specified Amenities were reminded via email of the process and the closing date for submissions.

13. A total of five (5) submissions were received. A high-level summary of each submission is detailed in the schedule at the end of this report.

14. Four (4) submitters wish to make oral submissions. The hearings have been set down to commence at approximately 09:15am on Tuesday, 10 February 2026.

Next steps

15. Following consideration of both the written and oral submissions the Funding Board will determine whether to make any changes to the final version of the 2026-2027 Funding Plan including the allocation of grants.

16. The board can either decide on how to treat the requests for additional funding at the meeting on 10 February 2026, or it can defer the decision to a later date to enable the board to gather any additional information needed prior to making a final decision.

17. A 'stand-by' date has been scheduled for 17 February. It may be necessary to move this to 24 February or another suitable date (to be determined) to enable any additional information to be collated and presented to the board at a business meeting.

18. A final recommendation on grant allocations and the total levy requirement for 2026-2027 must be made and forwarded to Auckland Council for consideration in March 2026.

19. Auckland Council will meet to consider and approve / not approve the proposed levy for 2026-2027. If Auckland Council approves the levy during March, the Funding Board will meet on 24 March 2026 to fix the levy for 2026-2027 and adopt the Funding Plan.

20. Should Auckland Council defer a decision on approving the levy until a later date, the Funding Board will meet on 21 April 2026 to fix the levy for 2026-2027.

21. If Auckland Council resolves not to approve the levy, the matter will immediately revert to arbitration in accordance with the provisions of Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008.

22. Irrespective of which course of action occurs, the levy must be fixed no later than 30 April 2026.

Financial impacts of Submissions

23. Within the five submissions received there are two requests for changes to the allocation of grants.

24. Auckland Theatre Company seeks an increase of \$61,250, to the total figure requested in its funding application (\$2,511,250). This represents an increase of \$0 (0%) over its 2025-2026 grant allocation.

25. The Auckland Festival Trust seeks an increase of \$300,000, to the total figure granted in 2025-2026 (\$4,300,000). This represents an increase of \$0 (0%) over its 2025-2026 grant allocation.

26. The existing provisional grant allocations to the seven Specified Amenities for 2026-2027 total \$18,119,976, which is \$51,928 (-0.28%) less than the grants allocated in 2025-2026.

27. The combined requests from Auckland Theatre Company and The Auckland Festival Trust (if considered and approved), would:

- Increase the total additional grants by \$361,250 (1.9%) to a total of \$18,859,976
- Bring the total increase from the 2025-2026 grant allocation from -0.28% (-\$51,928) to 1.67% (+\$309,322)
- Increase the levy to Auckland Council from 33.06% to 33.70% of the maximum (the maximum is 2% of the previous year's rates).

2026-2027	Provisional Allocation	Allocation if submissions approved
Total allocation 2026-2027	\$18,498,726	18,859,976
\$ change from 2025-2026	-\$51,928	+\$309,322
% change from 2025-2026	-0.28%	+1.67%
% of maximum levy	33.06%	33.70%

28. If positive consideration is given to these two requests for additional funding totalling \$361,250, the Funding Board will need to consider how this is broached with Auckland Council.

29. There is a risk that should this increased level of funding be approved / recommended by the Funding Board, that Auckland Council will reject the levy request, resulting in the matter immediately being referred to arbitration at considerable expense, as provided for in the Act.

AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD

SCHEDULE OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT 2026-2027 FUNDING PLAN

	Submitter (alphabetical order)	Key matters raised	Financial implication
1	Auckland Philharmonia	Not seeking any changes to the grant allocation(s) or amendments to the Funding Plan. Highlights the shifts the Auckland Philharmonia is making as we, collectively, weather a challenging economic and political environment. Expresses appreciation to the Funding Board for its continued commitment to the Auckland Philharmonia.	Nil
2	Auckland Theatre Company	Seeks funding to the level applied for (\$2,511,250), which is an increase of 2.5% on the provisional allocation, to assist ATC meet rising operating expenses and preserve the value of investment already made by Auckland Council in ATC. Highlights the impact of rising costs, primarily driven by inflation, with the most impacted activity being productions. The submission outlines the tight management of overhead costs and control expenses, but that these efforts - and improved revenue generation - only partially offset the impact of inflation. Explains that it is of the understanding that the accepted practice of Auckland Council to fund the cost of inflation and that adjusting for inflation is one of the basis for amending its fees and charges. It goes on to highlight the measures taken to improve ATC income generation and benefits the ATC brings to the industry and to Auckland.	+61,250 <i>Sought</i> \$2,511,250 <i>Provisional grant</i> \$2,450,000
3	Drowning Prevention Auckland	Thanking the ARAFB for its continued investment, which enables DPA to deliver education, research and advocacy that reduces drowning risk across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Outlines how the proposed grant will enable DPA to strengthen delivery and reach through modest salary adjustments to support retention and recruitment, recruitment of a Senior Pasifika Educator to work with targeted communities and the recruitment of a Digital and Innovation role to support initiatives that expand reach and improve how we deliver evidence-based education.	Nil
4	New Zealand Opera	New Zealand Opera sent a note of thanks, expressing its "sincere thanks to ARAFB for its ongoing commitment and support of New Zealand Opera's vision and mission. A sentiment that is shared by everyone at NZO, from Board to production teams and performance artists, would echo. Thank you."	Nil
5	Surf Life Saving Northern Region	Not seeking any changes to the grant allocation(s) or amendments to the Funding Plan. Expresses gratitude for, and highlights the benefits of, the continued support.	Nil
6	The Auckland Festival Trust	Thanks the Funding Board for its ongoing support, and requesting that Board reconsider the 2026-2027 Draft Grant Allocation to The Auckland Festival Trust (TAFT) to \$4,300,000 (a 0% increase on 2025-2026). The additional \$300,000 would cover the cost of a full review of all aspects of TAFT by appointing an independent consultancy with expertise in the creative and arts sector, including a scan of the industry both local and international, to inform the future pathway of the organisation as fit for purpose, with model options to consider for future proofing. Acknowledges the concerns of the funding board as raised in the Draft Funding plan regarding the under-achievement of certain self-determined targets and the challenges of the dramatically changing global festival landscape	+300,000 <i>Originally sought</i> \$4,512,850 <i>Provisional grant</i> \$4,000,000 <i>Revised request</i> \$4,300,000

		post-COVID. Highlights the benefits of the Auckland Arts Festival to Auckland and beyond and expresses appreciation of the support of the funding board to date.	
		TOTAL ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUESTED	\$361,250

AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD

DRAFT 2026-2027 FUNDING PLAN

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS Addendum 1

For consideration on Tuesday, 10 February 2026

Number	Organisation (Alphabetical)
1	Auckland Philharmonia
2	Auckland Theatre Company
3	Drowning Prevention Auckland
4	Surf Life Saving Northern Region
5	The Auckland Festival Trust

ORAL SUBMISSIONS Addendum 2

For consideration on Tuesday, 11 February 2026

Order	Organisation / Name	Presenters	Time
1	Auckland Theatre Company	Jonathan Bielski (CE), Frances Valentine – (Chair)	09.15-09.25am <i>10 mins max</i>
2	Auckland Philharmonia	Diana Weir (CE)	09.30-09.45am <i>10 mins max</i>
3	Drowning Prevention Auckland	Nicola Keen-Biggelaar (CE)	09.45-09.50am <i>5 mins max</i>
4	The Auckland Festival Trust	Robbie McCrae (CE), Sarah Judkins (Chair), Vanessa Zigliani (TAFT Business & Finance), Kirsten Blanchard (Trustee)	09.55-10.10am <i>10 mins max</i>

SUBMISSION ON THE AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD'S DRAFT 2026 - 2027 FUNDING PLAN

Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission? **YES** **NO**

Submitter details:

Name/s: Jonathan Bielski

Organisation: Auckland Theatre Company

Address: 487 Dominion Road, Mt Eden, Auckland 1024

Telephone: 093093395

Mobile: 0272002216

Email: jonathan@atc.co.nz

If you are submitting on more than one matter, please use a Submission Matter section for each.

SUBMISSION MATTER - 1

1. The specific matter within the Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan that my/our submission relates to is...

Please clearly identify the section and page your submission relates to.

Provisional Grant Allocations to Specified Amenities 2026-2027, p8

2. I/We seek the following amendment to the Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan:

That the grant allocated to Auckland Theatre Company be \$2,511,250, an increase of 2.5%, to assist ATC meet rising operating expenses and preserve the value of investment already made by Auckland Council in ATC.

3. My/Our submission is that...

Please state the nature of the submission, giving reasons for the amendment requested

ATC submits that our application has met the requirements of the Act, namely:

- We contribute to the wellbeing in the region by providing entertainment that can be accessed by a diversity of communities located in the region.
- Contribute towards making Auckland a vibrant and attractive place to live through the provision of theatre of scale and ambition, creative learning and youth programmes that support and uplift rangitahi with ambitions for the sector, create new work that reflects the community of Auckland, and programme the ASB Waterfront Theatre to serve the community of Auckland (noting that the ARAFB grant funds ATC producing activity only).

When finalising our funding request for 2026-2027 we took into consideration the Funding Board Chair's letter to Amenities dated 24 July 2025 requesting Amenities focus on core activities, review activities for efficiencies, focus on activity that drives revenue, and consider the economic and political environment in which we are operating.

ATC took the Chair's correspondence seriously and constructed an application that:

- Focuses on our core activities as outlined in our strategic plan and commitments to funders.
- Noted the activities ATC has and is undertaking to drive revenue.
- Outlined in Section E(d) of our grant application the rationale for the requested increase, recognising that operating costs do increase.

With the Chair's request for restraint in mind, our 2026-2027 grant request was \$2,511,250, an increase of 2.5% on current and substantially less than projected in our previous application (\$2,917,209) and less than our funding sought in 2025-2026 (\$2,553,375).

We consider we have heeded the request of the Funding Board to improve our income generation activity and confirm that:

- We have improved our own revenue generation capability.
- The proportion of revenue from ARAFB is maintained at 26%, an improvement on the FY2024-2025 proportion of 28%.
- We have sought a funding increase to support operating cost increases only with no additional activity proposed or expansion in scope of operations.
- We are increasing private philanthropic support of non-mainstage activities (sector development, creative learning, youth and new work).
- As outlined in our application, we anticipate our expenses will increase by 2.5%, which is a cost of \$236k, to stand still and maintain our core activity. Through efficiencies, revenue and margin improvements we can fund the bulk of this but we do require help, hence our request.

However, costs continue to rise, primarily driven by inflation, with the most impacted activity our productions (sets, costumes, props, and wages for actors, creatives, crew). We tightly manage overheads costs and control expenses, but these efforts – and our improved revenue generation – only partially offset the impact of inflation.

We further submit that it is accepted practice of Auckland Council to fund the cost of inflation. Adjusting for inflation is one of the basis for amending its fees and charges.

The Auckland Council Revenue and Financing Policy specifies that fees and charges are amended annually to reflect increases in the rate of inflation or cost provision as measured by Council (see page nine of <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/content/dam/ac/docs/policies/ac/revenue-financing-policy.pdf>)

The policy also notes that there are inherent conflicts between guiding principles of the policy and, when this happens, the overall impact on the community must be considered:

"for example, the principle for paying for benefits received may fall for a high degree of user pays for an activity, but this must be balanced against the principle of affordability. In practice, when the council applies these principles to assess how to fund the separate activities, the council then considers the overall impact of any allocation of liability on the community." (p3)

ATC submits that this principle applies to ATC. The main lever available to ATC to meet the cost increases is to increase ticket prices. We have already increased ticket prices while trying to maintain accessibility for communities that face barriers to participation in an effort to balance overall impact on the community. Under the Revenue Funding Policy guiding

principles, further increasing ticket prices moves increased liability for funding inflation to the community.

We submit that ATC's requested funding increase of 2.5% meets the requirement of:

- The Act
- Auckland Council policy guidance for not unfairly moving the impact to lower socio-economic members of community
- Is consistent with the Chairs request that Amenities focus on core activities and exercise restraint.

And as such request that Funding Board reconsider ATC's funding allocation.

4. Please indicate the cost or saving impact of your proposal, if known:

ATC's investment in productions has a net benefit to the Auckland economy and wellbeing of Auckland residents and ratepayers. The money invested by ARAFB in ATC supports us to:

- Pay at least a living wage to engaged actors, creatives, and casual staff, money that will flow into the Auckland economy.
- Bring more than 97,000 people into Wynyard Quarter to support the hospitality economy, particularly vital over winter.
- Creates social opportunities for Aucklanders to enjoy theatre, including accessibly priced tickets.
- Contributes to the wellbeing of Aucklanders through the provision of work and opportunity as well as provision of entertainment.
- Creates opportunities for rangatahi to experience theatre as both audience and maker.
- Creates opportunities for Deaf and disabled Aucklanders to experience theatre, enhancing wellbeing.
- Improves vibrancy of and for the City.

Submission on the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board's Draft 2026-27 Funding Plan

If you are submitting on more than one matter, please use a Submission Matter section for each.

Email *

dianaw@aucklandphil.nz

Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission? *

Yes

No

Submitter Details:

Name/s *

Diana Weir

Organisation *

Auckland Philharmonia

Address

Auckland Town Hall

Telephone

027 468 0664

Mobile**Submission Matter - 1**

Submission Matter - 1: The specific matter within the Draft 2026-27 Funding Plan that my/our * submission relates to is ...

The allocated grant for 2026/27

I/We seek the following amendment to the Draft 2026/27 Funding Plan: *

The Auckland Philharmonia seeks no amendment to the drafting plan. We're grateful to the Funding Board for its continued commitment to ensure our healthy infrastructure, as we provide stable, full time employment to 70+ professional artists from across the Auckland region.

ARAFB's critical operating grant drives our ability to meet our mission throughout Auckland, ensuring that professional artists are able to live, work, and contribute to our great city. We continue to be prudent stewards of ARAFB's funding, while also maintaining our entrepreneurial approach to other earned revenue opportunities.

My/Our submission is that ... *

I would like the opportunity to express appreciation to the Funding Board, and further articulate the shifts the Auckland Philharmonia is making as we, collectively, weather a challenging economic and political environment.

Please indicate the cost or saving impact of your proposal, if known: *

Not applicable

Submission Matter - 2 (Optional)

Submission Matter - 2: The specific matter within the Draft 2026-27 Funding Plan that my/our submission relates to is ...

n/a

I/We seek the following amendment to the Draft 2026/27 Funding Plan:

n/a

My/Our submission is that ...

n/a

Please indicate the cost or saving impact of your proposal, if known:

n/a

Submission Matter - 3 (Optional)

Submission Matter - 3: The specific matter within the Draft 2026-27 Funding Plan that my/our submission relates to is ...

n/a

I/We seek the following amendment to the Draft 2026/27 Funding Plan:

n/a

My/Our submission is that ...

n/a

Please indicate the cost or saving impact of your proposal, if known:

n/a

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

3 February 2026

Public Submissions
Advisory Officer
Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board
PO Box 6969
Wellesley Street
Auckland 1141

c/- arafb.info@gmail.com

Re: Submission on the Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan

Dear Victoria and fellow Directors

On behalf of the Board of Drowning Prevention Auckland (DPA), thank you for the Draft 2026-2027 Funding Plan and the proposed increase in funding for DPA. We are very grateful for the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board's continued investment, which enables DPA to deliver education, research and advocacy that reduces drowning risk across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

The proposed increase will enable DPA to strengthen delivery and reach through modest salary adjustments to support retention and recruitment, recruitment of a Senior Pasifika Educator to work with targeted communities and the recruitment of a Digital and Innovation role to support initiatives that expand reach and improve how we deliver evidence-based education.

Drowning incidents occur across all demographics and environments, which makes prevention complex. Sustained drowning prevention education is critical to changing water-related behaviours, and continued investment is needed as aquatic participation and risk factors evolve over time.

Auckland's drowning fatalities also reflect inequities. Our work shows that partnering alongside communities and strengthening culturally grounded delivery is significantly more effective over the long term. The proposed Senior Pasifika Educator role will build on our current engagement efforts in South Auckland and will strengthen our response in areas of known risk, including the Manukau Harbour.

We also acknowledge the broader funding pressures currently facing the not-for-profit sector. As a Specified Amenity, opportunities to diversify revenue are more constrained, and philanthropic funding has tightened significantly over the last 12-18 months. In that context, this uplift is especially important and valued.

DPA continues to prioritise collaboration to improve outcomes and deliver the most efficient return on investment. This year we marked a key milestone with the twentieth year of the West Coast Rock-Based Fishing Project, delivered in partnership with Auckland Council and Surf Life Saving Northern Region.

DPANZ.ORG.NZ

+64 9 376 5114 | info@dpanz.org.nz | 85 Westhaven Drive, Westhaven, Auckland

We are also leading the development of a Waitākere Water Safety Plan across identified blackspots along the west coast of Auckland. This will build on current collaborative work, strengthen engagement with iwi and community, and bring in other key stakeholders towards a shared goal of a step change in drowning prevention in an identified area of risk.

Our work on the development of Drowning Prevention Through Environmental Design, supported by Water Safety New Zealand and Surf Life Saving New Zealand has the real potential of ensuring that recreational spaces are well designed from a drowning prevention perspective. This is a much-needed initiative, modelled on the successful Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, that long-term will ensure that newly designed spaces are safer from the start. This work is now being reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team at Auckland Council, who we hope will partner with us a key stakeholder to model how this could work most effectively.

We would also like to acknowledge the proposed increased funding for Surf Life Saving Northern Region. Their search and rescue capability is a critical part of the drowning prevention system for Auckland, and we recognise the importance of ensuring that beaches are lifeguarded to match demand through trained paid and volunteer lifeguards.

On a modest investment of \$1.78 million per year, DPA is proud of the progress being made toward our core purpose of reducing drowning fatalities. Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland consistently records a lower drowning rate (1.0/100,000 2016- 2025) than the national average (1.6/100,000 2016-2025), despite the additional challenges of population growth, multicultural communities, and high exposure to aquatic environments (two coastlines and three harbours). As noted in a recent Omnipol survey, in the 2025 summer, 86% of Aucklanders visited the coast, spending an average of 2.2 hours per visit, and 42% visited rivers or lakes.

We acknowledge that we have the highest number of drowning fatalities in absolute terms but note that interpreting impact through fatality counts alone can underestimate the scale and complexity of risk that prevention efforts must continually address. The proposed Digital and Innovation role will help us strengthen how we understand reach and impact and further improve economies of scale from the investment entrusted in us.

Finally, Drowning Prevention Auckland would like to acknowledge the rigorous assessment process undertaken by the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board through the application and requests for further information. We consider the provisional allocations for 2026-2027 to be consistent with the intent of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008.

Many thanks for your support. It saves lives.

Ngā mihi maioha



Nicola Keen-Biggelaar
Chief Executive



ARAFB <arafb.info@gmail.com>

Draft Funding Plan

1 message

Lesley Mynett-Johnson <Lesley@nzopera.co.nz>
To: "arafb.info@gmail.com" <arafb.info@gmail.com>
Cc: Emma Broad <Emma@nzopera.co.nz>, Brad Cohen <Brad@nzopera.co.nz>

3 February 2026 at 09:09

Kia ora Haley

I realise that Brad our General Director made a verbal submission on the Draft Funding Plan this time last year, but I'm following up on your email to Emma last week, to let you know that New Zealand Opera has decided not to submit either a written or verbal submission this year.

Brad has however asked me to reiterate his thanks to ARAFB for its ongoing commitment and support of New Zealand Opera's vision and mission. A sentiment that is shared by everyone at NZO, from Board to production teams and performance artists, would echo. Thank you.

Haley, I would be incredibly grateful if you could communicate our sincere thanks to the ARAFB Board when they next meet.

Ngā mihi,

Lesley

Lesley Mynett-Johnson | Director of Development | Kaiwhakahaere Hokohoko me te Whakawhanaketanga
New Zealand Opera
D 09 379 4020



Auckland 1052
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2 February 2026

Victoria Carter
Chairperson
Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board
P O Box 6969, Victoria Street West,
Auckland 1142

Dear Victoria,

Acknowledgement of FY27 Provisional Grant Allocation

On behalf of Surf Life Saving Northern Region, I would like to express our sincere thanks to you and the funding board for your consideration of SLSNR's provisional FY27 Grant Application.

As always, the funding provided through this mechanism plays a critical role in supporting our service delivery and ensuring we can continue to fulfil our mission across the Auckland Council area.

We acknowledge that the FY27 allocation remains provisional but wish to extend our appreciation in advance of the final decisions.

Thank you once again, and we look forward to seeing you on the beach this summer

Regards,

Michael Barker
Chair
Surf Life Saving Northern Region

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Submission on the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board's Draft 2026-27 Funding Plan

If you are submitting on more than one matter, please use a Submission Matter section for each.

Email *

robbie.macrae@aaf.co.nz

Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission? *

Yes

No

Submitter Details:

Name/s *

Robbie Macrae – Chief Executive; Sarah Judkins – Chair

Organisation *

The Auckland Festival Trust (Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival)

Address

Ground Floor, 48 Greys Avenue, Auckland 1010
PO Box 5419, Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Telephone

+64 9 309 0989

Mobile

+64 21 688 077

Submission Matter - 1

Submission Matter - 1: The specific matter within the Draft 2026-27 Funding Plan that my/our * submission relates to is ...

Allocation of Grants, page 8
The Auckland Festival Trust – Provisional Grant Allocation \$4,000,000

I/We seek the following amendment to the Draft 2026/27 Funding Plan: *

That the ARAF Board reconsider the 2026-2027 Draft Grant Allocation to The Auckland Festival Trust (TAFT) to being \$4,300,000, being 0% increase on 2025-2026 to reflect the following submission, noting the first purpose of the funding act is to provide adequate, sustainable, and secure funding for specified amenities.

My/Our submission is that ... *

The Auckland Festival Trust (TAFT) supports the process undertaken for the Draft Funding Plan of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board for 2026-2027 and appreciates the support to date.

The above recommended level of funding will assist the organisation to:

1. Following the delivery of AAF 2026, undertake a full review of all aspects of TAFT by appointing an independent consultancy with expertise in the creative and arts sector, including a scan of the industry both local and international.
2. We fully acknowledge the concerns of the ARAF Board as raised in the Draft Funding Plan regarding the under achievement of certain self-determined targets. The global festival landscape has changed dramatically following the COVID years. This review will inform the future pathway of the organisation as fit for purpose and provide model options to consider for future proofing.
3. We would welcome the ARAF Board and other significant stakeholders' contribution to the review and key findings and recommendations would be shared. The cost of the review would be covered by the amended 2026/27 ARAF Grant.
4. Taking into consideration the findings of the review, it is envisaged that TAFT would continue to
 - deliver a world-class Aotearoa international festival programme in March 2027.
 - play a key leadership role in the commissioning and development of New Zealand work of significance relevant to Auckland and beyond.
 - promote Auckland groups and organisations to tour nationally and internationally to the benefit of artists and the Auckland arts industry.
 - maintain a stable organisation with ongoing capability and capacity to continue to stage Te Ahurai Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival.
 - continue to create significant mentoring and employment opportunities for the creative and events sector including arts marketing, events management and production; and where appropriate support other events with a vision similar to AAF.
 - retain highly skilled and experienced full-time staff across programming, marketing, production and administration areas, and ensure succession planning is in place.
 - continue to activate central Auckland City with a programme of unique events not otherwise experienced by Aucklanders and continue to contribute significantly and more consistently to making Tāmaki Makaurau a great place to live, work and visit.

Please indicate the cost or saving impact of your proposal, if known: *

Our original application for 2026-27 was for \$4,512,850. This proposal will deliver a reduction of \$212,850 on the original grant application.

Submission Matter - 2 (Optional)

Submission Matter - 2: The specific matter within the Draft 2026-27 Funding Plan that my/our submission relates to is ...

I/We seek the following amendment to the Draft 2026/27 Funding Plan:

My/Our submission is that ...

Please indicate the cost or saving impact of your proposal, if known:

Submission Matter - 3 (Optional)

Submission Matter - 3: The specific matter within the Draft 2026-27 Funding Plan that my/our submission relates to is ...

I/We seek the following amendment to the Draft 2026/27 Funding Plan:

.....

My/Our submission is that ...

.....

Please indicate the cost or saving impact of your proposal, if known:

.....

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Profit and Loss

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board
For the 2 months ended 31 December 2025

Account	Nov- Dec 2025	Sep - Oct 2025	Jul - Aug 2025	YTD	FY Budget*	Variance	Variance %	Notes
Trading Income								
Levy - ARAFB Admin Fee GST	0.00	0.00	378,750.00	378,750.00	0.00	378,750.00	0.00%	
Levy - Non GST Portion	0.00	0.00	18,171,904.00	18,171,904.00	0.00	18,171,904.00	0.00%	
Total Trading Income	0.00	0.00	18,550,654.00	18,550,654.00	0.00	18,550,654.00	0.00%	
Other Income								
Interest Income	4,036.75	3,428.70	78,188.92	85,654.37	0.00	85,654.37	0.00%	
Total Other Income	4,036.75	3,428.70	78,188.92	85,654.37	0.00	85,654.37	0.00%	
Gross Profit	0.00	0.00	18,550,654.00	18,550,654.00	0.00	18,550,654.00	0.00%	
Operating Expenses								
Accounting Fees	12,125.40	570.40	570.40	13,266.20	15,500.00	(2,233.80)	-14.41%	EOY accounting costs +\$2k. Full year f/cast \$17500
Advertising	666.88	251.89	0.00	918.77	0.00	918.77	0.00%	
Advisory Officer/Admin Charge	2,756.25	6,562.50	1,387.50	10,706.25	40,000.00	(29,293.75)	-73.23%	
Audit Fees	11,412.00	0.00	(9,412.00)	2,000.00	12,000.00	(10,000.00)	-83.33%	
Bank Fees	3.90	2.10	23.15	29.15	0.00	29.15	0.00%	
Consultants	0.00	203.47	0.00	203.47	37,000.00	(36,796.53)	-99.45%	
Dues & Subscriptions	202.14	150.10	2,271.25	2,623.49	0.00	2,623.49	0.00%	
Grants to Amenities No GST	0.00	0.00	18,171,904.00	18,171,904.00	0.00	18,171,904.00	0.00%	
Honorariums	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	221,850.00	(221,850.00)	-100.00%	Paid by AC. Full year transaction processed in June
Legal Fees	0.00	776.25	5,609.70	6,385.95	39,000.00	(32,614.05)	-83.63%	
Meeting Expenses	487.02	1,585.52	0.00	2,072.54	13,400.00	(11,327.46)	-84.53%	
Total Operating Expenses	27,653.59	10,102.23	18,172,354.00	18,210,109.82	378,750.00	17,831,359.82	4707.95%	
Net Profit	(23,616.84)	(6,673.53)	456,488.92	426,198.55	(378,750.00)	804,948.55	212.53%	

* Budget is for operating expenses only



Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board

Quarterly Narrative Reporting: Drowning Prevention Auckland

October – December 2025

Introduction

This quarter was characterised by strong delivery, high public visibility, and continued sector leadership. October set the pace with delivery ahead of last year. November deepened governance with the review of our constitution with the proposed updated version adopted at the AGM. December sustained prevention messaging with a focus on home pool safety and closed with targeted recruitment to protect quality and reach of our education. These actions kept DPA on plan and positioned to finish the year well.

Risks, concerns or changes

- The funding landscape continues to be tight and therefore a standing risk. We continue to try and diversify our funding base and manage costs carefully.
- There has been a positive reset with WSNZ's new CE that has improved prospects for data-sharing after years of constraints which is critical for our evidence-led work.
- We had an unfortunate operational incident with our remote lifejacket station at Te Henga Bethells being vandalised shortly after installation. The unit was repaired and reinstalled and has seen 200 lifejacket uses over summer.
- Two aquatic educators resigned in December, and recruitment is underway with urgency for replacements to maintain quality, safety and reach.
- Our AGM resulted in the adoption of a new constitution and the last aspect needed for our reregistration under the Incorporated Societies Act. We also had a change in Board Chair after our Annual General Meeting with Matthew Sabourin replacing Jo Fagan, who stays on as a Board member.

Results against key indicators

- Delivery is ahead of last year due to focused school-term delivery in October and strong community events in November. The lifejacket hubs have been active through the last quarter, particularly in December for holiday recreation.
- Our stakeholder engagement has been strong with sustained public/media engagement; constructive re-engagement with WSNZ leadership; and ongoing Council and community partnerships.

Highlights and 'wins' this quarter

- We were delighted to receive a record amount from Foundation North awarded and full Tu Manawa funding approval to strengthen capacity and te ao Māori development.
- With the new CE at WSNZ coming from RNZ and Stuff we hadn't expected to maintain media messaging through the peak risk periods. Being able to share our prevention messaging and represent sector voice on mainstream media was an added bonus over summer, although sadly due to an increase in drowning fatalities.

Challenges faced this quarter (if any)

- The vandalism of the remote lifejacket station provided a timeliness challenge for repair and community engagement. Thankfully, the support of the supplier, iwi, and locals meant the station was operational within 12-hours, and we were able to engage more deeply with the community to mitigate recurrence.
- The loss of momentum due to losing two educators is disappointing. We are taking the opportunity to consider changing the role design to strengthen leadership and reduce onboarding time to full competence.



Financial results

For the second quarter, total revenue was \$511,909, slightly above the budget of \$507,286, driven by strong educational delivery performance and grant income. Expenses were largely in line with budget, with variances due to timing of salaries, programme delivery, and other operational costs. The organisation recorded an operating loss of \$5,915, compared with a budgeted profit of \$36,791.

Key drowning statistics

There were five drowning fatalities reported in this quarter, three more than in the same period in 2024. Total fatalities to 31 December 2025 are 20, two more than in 2024.

Watersafe Auckland Inc

Statement of Financial Performance

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
Income				
ARAFB Grant	\$ 710,722	\$ 710,722	\$ 1,421,444	\$ 1,421,444
Income from service provision / trading operations	\$ 62,679	\$ 52,750	\$ 145,500	\$ 223,000
Government grants / contracts	\$ 21,082	\$ 15,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 65,000
All other grants and sponsorship	\$ 115,180	\$ 102,750	\$ 400,000	\$ 509,000
Membership fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations / koha	\$ 6,894	\$ 2,800	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000
Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest/Dividends etc	\$ 6,587	\$ 9,400	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
All other income	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 923,394	\$ 893,422	\$ 2,071,944	\$ 2,274,444
Expenditure				
Salary and Wages	\$ 597,204	\$ 637,213	\$ 1,359,707	\$ 1,537,432
Cost of service provision (excl. salaries and wages)	\$ 103,782	\$ 72,872	\$ 226,500	\$ 303,920
Cost of trading operations (excl. salaries and wages)	\$ 266,528	\$ 229,842	\$ 495,667	\$ 389,265
Depreciation	\$ 11,240	\$ 17,400	\$ 35,000	\$ 40,000
Total Expenditure	\$ 978,755	\$ 957,327	\$ 2,116,874	\$ 2,270,617
Net Surplus/(Loss)	-\$ 55,361	-\$ 63,905	-\$ 44,930	\$ 3,827
Net Surplus/(Loss) excl Depreciation	-\$ 44,121	-\$ 46,505	-\$ 9,930	\$ 43,827

Watersafe Auckland Inc

Statement of Financial Position

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and Bank Balances	1647349	\$ 1,595,697	\$ 687,272	\$ 736,757
Prepaid Expenses				
Accounts Receivable	\$ 31,909	\$ 31,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000
Other, incl Inventory				
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,679,258	\$ 1,626,697	\$ 712,272	\$ 756,757
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Sundry Creditors	\$ 22,893	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Income in Adv	\$ 987,996	\$ 950,000		
Subs in Advance				
Other	\$ 107,850	\$ 100,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 130,000
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 1,118,739	\$ 1,075,000	\$ 155,000	\$ 160,000
Working Capital	\$ 560,519	\$ 551,697	\$ 557,272	\$ 596,757
Fixed Assets	\$ 238,553	\$ 238,600	\$ 250,000	\$ 300,000
Less Depreciation	\$ 222,231	\$ 222,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 270,000
Net Fixed Assets	\$ 16,322	\$ 16,600	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Term Liabilities				
Net Assets	\$ 576,841	\$ 568,297	\$ 587,272	\$ 626,757
EQUITY				
Endowment Funds				
Restricted Purpose Funds				
Retained Earnings/General				
Accumulated Funds	\$ 632,202	\$ 632,202	\$ 632,202	\$ 622,930
Current Year Earnings/(loss)	-\$ 55,361	-\$ 63,905	-\$ 44,930	\$ 3,827
Total Equity	\$ 576,841	\$ 568,297	\$ 587,272	\$ 626,757

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board

Quarterly Narrative Reporting: Q2 2026, due 31 January 2026

Introduction

Q2 delivered strong operational and financial performance, despite ongoing access risks at West Coast beaches, particularly Bethells and Karekare, where longer-term solutions are being progressed with the Waitākere Ranges Local Board. Favourable conditions increased beach activity, with year-to-date increases across key metrics, while training and development activities remained ahead of targets. Key highlights included the successful rollout of Paid Lifeguard Service (PLS) innovations following last season's tragic fatality at Piha Beach. Community education activity softened due to school constraints, though strong Q3 demand is forecast. Financially, a \$132k Q2 operating surplus places the organisation well ahead of budget and well positioned for the peak season, with a conservative full-year net surplus forecast of \$141k.

Risks, concerns or changes (if any)

Ongoing beach access risks at West Coast venues continue to present challenges. Whilst Auckland Council staff provide timely responses, remedies are often only short-term fixes. Bethells Beach and Karekare present as two consistent locations that require action, with dialogue continuing with the Waitākere Ranges Local Board to find a long-term solution.

Results against key indicators:

Favorable weather and beach conditions through the first half of summer saw increased activities on beaches. Total patrolling output has stabilized, with increases in rescues, assists and preventative actions undertaken YTD. Key metrics through Q2 to date are below:

- Total Hours: 43,218 (0% on FY25)
- Rescues: 153 (+41%)
- Assists: 182 (+31%)
- First Aids: 224 (-15%)
- Preventative Actions: 9463 (+32%)

Training and Development activity saw a focus on Surf Lifeguard Award (127) and Patrol Captain (47) qualifications – both activities ahead of YE targets. This presents strong data that our member pipeline is back up and running after a longer than anticipated post-COVID recovery. Our current choke-point remains our volunteer examiner workforce, with work underway to investigate professionalization of this function.

Highlights and ‘wins’ this quarter:

The successful deployment of innovations arising through the January 2025 Piha fatality has been the highlight of Q2. The delivery of the Paid Lifeguard Service as one ‘area’ spanning the Piha Coast (North Piha to Karekare) has allowed flexible rostering to accommodate beach demand and worked to great effect, particularly across forecast ‘danger’ periods: mid-late afternoon low-tides with small swell action. The introduction of the PLS Mentorship Framework has also proved successful, with Patrol Captains actively supporting their teams development.

Challenges faced this quarter (if any)

Despite a strong start to the year, Community Education activity across Q2 slowed. The period saw increased ‘tentative’ bookings and last-minute cancellations. An emerging pattern in the Auckland area is schools subscribing to activities on a bi-annual basis due to their funding constraints. This is looking to be offset by strong Term 1 (Q3) interest with over 5,000 students booked into programs.

Financial results

Q2 delivered a strong net operating surplus of \$132k, placing us well ahead of budget at the halfway point of the financial year. This positive result reflects disciplined cost management and the continued benefits of our co-location with Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ). The shared workspace has proven highly effective, enabling closer collaboration, streamlined operations, and meaningful overhead recoveries for both organisations. On the funding front, most council and central government allocations have now been received. Despite ongoing price volatility across several cost lines, we have maintained tight financial controls, and our paid lifeguard services continue to track to budget. Overall, the organisation is well positioned heading into the peak of the season, with strong financial performance (conservative forecast of NP \$141k), stable contestable funding, and operational programmes running to schedule.

Surf Life Saving Northern region Incorporated

Statement of Financial Performance

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
Income				
ARAFB Grant	\$ 907,300	\$ 907,300	\$ 2,080,000	\$ 2,205,000
Income from service provision / trading operations	\$ 106,760	\$ 186,080	\$ 343,480	\$ 430,910
Government grants / contracts	\$ 627,765	\$ 712,080	\$ 1,626,160	\$ 1,158,300
All other grants and sponsorship	\$ 654,174	\$ 572,800	\$ 1,332,874	\$ 1,679,320
Membership fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations / koha	\$ 1,962	\$ 9,500	\$ 4,462	\$ 18,000
Bequests	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,500
Interest/Dividends etc	\$ 46,238	\$ 71,300	\$ 74,238	\$ 124,640
All other income	\$ 415,323	\$ 437,200	\$ 467,523	\$ 317,750
Total Revenue	\$ 2,759,522	\$ 2,916,260	\$ 5,928,737	\$ 5,954,420
Expenditure				
Salary and Wages	\$ 1,357,605	\$ 1,360,400	\$ 3,297,905	\$ 3,449,190
Cost of service provision (excl. salaries and wages)	\$ 684,889	\$ 887,660	\$ 1,232,809	\$ 1,374,570
Cost of trading operations (excl. salaries and wages)	\$ 540,127	\$ 588,960	\$ 1,163,527	\$ 1,023,610
Depreciation	\$ 45,114	\$ 48,000	\$ 93,114	\$ 95,000
Total Expenditure	\$ 2,627,734	\$ 2,885,020	\$ 5,787,354	\$ 5,942,370
Net Surplus/(Loss)	\$ 131,788	\$ 31,240	\$ 141,383	\$ 12,050
Net Surplus/(Loss) excl Depreciation	\$ 176,902	\$ 79,240	\$ 234,497	\$ 107,050

Surf Life Saving Northern region Incorporated

Statement of Financial Position

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and Bank Balances	\$ 3,862,862	\$ 3,183,500	\$ 1,738,500	\$ 1,690,000
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 4,020	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 55,000
Accounts Receivable	\$ 47,671	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 149,000
Other, incl Inventory	\$ 17,947	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 55,000
Total Current Assets	\$ 3,932,500	\$ 3,501,500	\$ 2,056,500	\$ 1,949,000
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Sundry Creditors	\$ 316,454	\$ 212,500	\$ 102,500	\$ 167,230
Income in Adv	\$ 1,872,493	\$ 1,655,428	\$ 267,962	\$ 305,410
Subs in Advance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 213,827	\$ 134,070	\$ 129,070	\$ 235,337
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 2,402,774	\$ 2,001,998	\$ 499,532	\$ 707,977
Working Capital	\$ 1,529,726	\$ 1,499,502	\$ 1,556,968	\$ 1,241,023
Fixed Assets	\$ 1,464,974	\$ 1,627,950	\$ 1,680,627	\$ 1,520,996
Less Depreciation	\$ 1,107,501	\$ 1,340,800	\$ 1,340,800	\$ 1,163,982
Net Fixed Assets	\$ 357,474	\$ 287,150	\$ 339,827	\$ 357,014
Term Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Assets	\$ 1,887,200	\$ 1,786,652	\$ 1,896,795	\$ 1,598,037
EQUITY				
Endowment Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Restricted Purpose Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Retained Earnings/General Accumulated Funds	\$ 1,755,412	\$ 1,755,412	\$ 1,755,412	\$ 1,585,987
Current Year Earnings/(loss)	\$ 131,788	\$ 31,240	\$ 141,383	\$ 12,050
Total Equity	\$ 1,887,200	\$ 1,786,652	\$ 1,896,795	\$ 1,598,037

New Zealand Opera Limited

Statement of Financial Performance

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
Income				
ARAFB Grant	\$ 1,305,360	\$ 1,386,000	\$ 1,305,360	\$ 1,386,000
Income from service provision / trading operations	\$ 325,579	\$ 376,940	\$ 869,437	\$ 1,067,739
Government grants / contracts	\$ 1,090,391	\$ 1,588,261	\$ 2,544,247	\$ 2,936,787
All other grants and sponsorship	\$ 643,009	\$ 77,500	\$ 974,603	\$ 1,193,206
Membership fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations / koha	\$ 237,680	\$ 175,000	\$ 407,500	\$ 367,500
Bequests	\$ -	\$ -		
Interest/Dividends etc	\$ 1,711	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
All other income	\$ 23,314	\$ 82,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 76,500
Total Revenue	\$ 3,627,044	\$ 3,690,701	\$ 6,123,146	\$ 7,037,732
Expenditure				
Salary and Wages	\$ 855,490	\$ 950,987	\$ 1,912,099	\$ 1,902,768
Cost of service provision (excl. salaries and wages)	\$ 394,854	\$ 413,474	\$ 910,637	\$ 875,473
Cost of trading operations (excl. salaries and wages)	\$ 1,541,119	\$ 1,529,487	\$ 3,221,922	\$ 4,204,602
Depreciation	\$ 22,036	\$ 21,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 41,000
Total Expenditure	\$ 2,813,499	\$ 2,914,948	\$ 6,086,659	\$ 7,023,843
Net Surplus/(Loss)	\$ 813,545	\$ 775,753	\$ 36,487	\$ 13,888
Net Surplus/(Loss) excl Depreciation	\$ 835,581	\$ 796,753	\$ 78,487	\$ 54,888

New Zealand Opera Limited

Statement of Financial Position

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and Bank Balances	\$ 861,761	\$ 453,368	\$ 655,805	\$ 178,381
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 74,888	\$ 164,510	\$ 72,680	\$ 52,338
Accounts Receivable	\$ 65,998	\$ 99,607	\$ 52,197	\$ 142,406
Other, incl Inventory	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,002,647	\$ 717,485	\$ 780,682	\$ 373,125
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Sundry Creditors	\$ 174,281	\$ 120,667	\$ 498,713	\$ 727,583
Income in Adv	\$ 109,909	\$ 145,920	\$ 339,270	\$ 162,259
Subs in Advance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 284,190	\$ 266,587	\$ 837,983	\$ 889,842
Working Capital	\$ 718,457	\$ 450,898	-\$ 57,301	-\$ 516,717
Fixed Assets	\$ 202,025	\$ 229,313	\$ 220,689	\$ 2,392,076
Less Depreciation	\$ 22,036	\$ 21,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 2,118,670
Net Fixed Assets	\$ 179,989	\$ 208,313	\$ 178,689	\$ 273,406
Term Liabilities				
Net Assets	\$ 898,446	\$ 659,211	\$ 121,388	-\$ 243,311
EQUITY				
Endowment Funds				
Restricted Purpose Funds				
Retained Earnings/General				
Accumulated Funds	\$ 84,900	-\$ 116,542	\$ 84,901	-\$ 243,311
Current Year Earnings/(loss)	\$ 813,545	\$ 775,753	\$ 36,487	\$ 13,888
Total Equity	\$ 898,445	\$ 659,211	\$ 121,388	-\$ 229,423

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board

Quarterly Narrative Reporting: Q2 2025, due 31 January 2025

New Zealand Opera Report: 1 October to 31 December 2025

Introduction

This quarter saw analysis of and reflection on our year's activity, including an in-depth review of our community opera *The Monster in the Maze*, an entirely new community undertaking for New Zealand Opera. These learnings will inform our future planning around similar community opera projects. The quarter also saw the launch of our 2026 Season. Specific activity delivered included *The Lullaby Project*, now in train since 2019.

Risks, concerns or changes (if any)

Staff retention and recruitment is an ongoing area of concern; it proves challenging to appoint suitably qualified applicants within a not-for-profit recruitment landscape.

We are confronting a new proposed funding arrangement from Creative New Zealand from January 1 2027, the details of which are still unknown. This has created widespread uncertainty in the arts landscape, and as a result represents a risk to all grant recipients across Aotearoa. For NZO, this uncertainty was somewhat abated following CNZ's CEO attending a meeting in November with our GD and Board of Directors.

Box office sales for *Bluebeard's Castle*, presented as part of the 2026 Auckland Arts Festival, have started sluggishly. This increases the risk on box office targets for this production.

Weather events also impact on our ability to hit our community reach targets. Our first Opera in the Park 2026, for example, was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Results against key indicators

Key Performance Indicators are largely on target. The September 2024 targets no longer reflect the update given to ARAFB in 2025. In 2024, we anticipated presenting *The Pearl Fishers* in the 2025-2026 ARAFB year. This change in timing, previously highlighted to and acknowledged by ARAFB, has flow-on effects for target ticket sales and local reach; the earlier targets are therefore higher than we expect to achieve with the updated 2026 programme.

As of January 2026, we sit at one-third of the target for local participation in opera programmes, 28% of target ticket sales and 12% of target ticket revenue. These numbers will rise substantially as our marketing campaigns and productions kick off in due course. We will continue to update ARAFB as the year progresses and revenue comes in.

Highlights and 'wins' this quarter

The Lullaby Project was delivered across two Teen Parent Units: Taonga Teen Parent Unit (Manurewa-Papakura) and Ngā Kura Mātua Taiohi (Ōtara). Both Units created a warm, welcoming environment for our team and the project. Twelve lullabies were created in total with māmā whose ages ranged from 16–20. One significant outcome this year was a student who returned to school specifically to participate and went on to achieve an NCEA Level 1 standard. The lullabies were again professionally recorded (by NZO facilitators/artists alongside Māmā) in Morningside at Big Fan Studios; recording is proving to be an exciting and deeply valued element of this impactful kaupapa.

Feedback from TPU leadership:

“A truly memorable highlight for our tauira. Listening to these precious taonga was profoundly moving. The project strengthened relationships, enhanced engagement, and has been an empowering experience for our young māmā.”

New Zealand Opera have been re-invited to Carnegie Hall (New York, US) to present on our delivery of the Lullaby Programme (in Teen Parent Units) across Auckland. This prestigious opportunity helps us to share the work we do in Tāmaki Makaurau with the world, and is a valuable opportunity to deepen international relationships and foster professional development and learning, which we re-invest in our ecosystem in Auckland.

New Zealand Opera hosted a very successful masterclass with renowned American mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato at The Opera Centre in Parnell. This event was a joint collaboration with New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) and Circle 100 (a private circle of donors), providing a great opportunity to share resources and to ensure the community received maximum benefit from Joyce’s visit to Aotearoa, alongside the orchestral concert presentation in Auckland. This event allowed NZ Opera to strengthen connections with the general public, supporters, artists, and donors (both known and unknown), with our Opera Centre at full capacity.

In the same period, we held singer auditions at The Opera Centre, Parnell. This is a way for us to connect with the opera community in Auckland. Our hub in Parnell has also been resounding with coaching sessions for our NZ Opera Freemasons Foundation Company Artist, Ipu Laga'aia, as well as for other opera singers based in Auckland (and those on visits ‘home’). The ongoing opportunity to provide coaching sessions for the artistic community is vital in sustaining the artform, maintaining our connection with kaiwaiata, and ensuring Aotearoa’s artists are developing their skills between performance seasons.

On the 6th of November 2025, we hosted our 2026 Season Launch event at The Opera Centre, Parnell. The positive energy from our supporters about our 2026 season was encouraging to see. Press response to the season launch was also well received, with special mention made of New Zealand Opera’s commitment to bringing New Zealand singers back to Aotearoa, performing on their home ground for their communities.

Challenges faced this quarter (if any)

A number of recruitment processes have been completed this quarter, with some staff leaving NZO for employment further afield in NZ and Australia. Two new employees are joining NZO in the new year: a new role of Project Delivery Manager has been created, which will support a redistribution of mahi as we quietly work to achieve our vision of community sitting at the heart of our company – specifically a move from delegated ‘Participation’ mahi which going forward will be folded in to our collective kaupapa. And we are joined by a new Marketing Manager.

Financial results

There are no significant financial variances or concerns to note for this 6-month reporting period.

The unfavourable variances on revenue were highlighted last report, and related to our funding from Creative New Zealand and ARAFB. Grants from trusts and foundations are significantly higher than budgeted for the period, primarily reflecting when income is released into revenue. These will track closer to forecast in the next quarter.

Expenditure is tracking to budget. There is a \$96k favourable variance on salary and wages; this relates to the staff vacancies mentioned above. The statement of financial position is in a stronger position than budgeted. The opening in position in July was better than forecast, as well as tracking slightly ahead on our surplus for the first half of this year. This has strengthened our cash position at 31 December with a balance of \$862k, compared to budget of \$453k.

The Auckland Festival Trust

Statement of Financial Performance

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
Income				
ARAFB Grant	\$ 4,300,000	\$ 4,300,000	\$ 4,300,000	\$ 4,712,000
Income from service provision / trading operations	\$ 21,080	\$ -	\$ 1,618,065	\$ 2,074,864
Government grants / contracts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 742,846	\$ 779,988
All other grants and sponsorship	\$ 275,000	\$ 355,000	\$ 940,000	\$ 1,383,500
Membership fees	\$ 5,241	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations / koha	\$ 98,693	\$ 127,000	\$ 105,013	\$ 180,000
Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest/Dividends etc	\$ 13,353	\$ 26,570	\$ 52,500	\$ 52,820
All other income	\$ 27,013	\$ 5,600	\$ 32,500	\$ 50,000
Total Revenue	\$ 4,740,381	\$ 4,814,170	\$ 7,790,924	\$ 9,233,172
Expenditure				
Salary and Wages	\$ 1,055,476	\$ 1,237,580	\$ 2,546,192	\$ 2,724,641
Cost of service provision (excl. salaries and wages)	\$ 596,738	\$ 1,137,000	\$ 4,538,065	\$ 5,643,376
Cost of trading operations (excl. salaries and wages)	\$ 366,821	\$ 399,873	\$ 671,008	\$ 840,155
Depreciation	\$ 16,266	\$ 12,500	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Total Expenditure	\$ 2,035,300	\$ 2,786,953	\$ 7,780,265	\$ 9,233,172
Net Surplus/(Loss)	\$ 2,705,081	\$ 2,027,217	\$ 10,659	\$ -
Net Surplus/(Loss) excl Depreciation	\$ 2,721,347	\$ 2,039,717	\$ 35,659	\$ 25,000

The Auckland Festival Trust

Statement of Financial Position

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and Bank Balances	\$ 3,395,339	\$ 2,793,141	\$ 826,288	\$ 1,365,143
Prepaid Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Accounts Receivable	\$ 12,906	\$ 15,250	\$ 30,500	\$ 94,391
Other, incl Inventory	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Current Assets	\$ 3,408,245	\$ 2,808,391	\$ 856,788	\$ 1,509,534
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Sundry Creditors	\$ 242,173	\$ 359,910	\$ 424,815	\$ 431,253
Income in Adv	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subs in Advance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 242,173	\$ 359,910	\$ 424,815	\$ 431,253
Working Capital	\$ 3,166,072	\$ 2,448,481	\$ 431,973	\$ 1,078,281
Fixed Assets	\$ 350,320	\$ 385,646	\$ 398,146	\$ 338,859
Less Depreciation	\$ 191,129	\$ 186,727	\$ 199,277	\$ 211,464
Net Fixed Assets	\$ 159,192	\$ 198,919	\$ 198,869	\$ 127,395
Term Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Assets	\$ 3,325,264	\$ 2,647,400	\$ 630,842	\$ 1,205,675
EQUITY				
Endowment Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Restricted Purpose Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Retained Earnings/General Accumulated Funds	\$ 620,183	\$ 620,183	\$ 620,183	\$ 1,205,675
Current Year Earnings/(loss)	\$ 2,705,081	\$ 2,027,217	\$ 10,659	\$ -
Total Equity	\$ 3,325,264	\$ 2,647,400	\$ 630,842	\$ 1,205,675



The Auckland Festival Trust

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Aotearoa New Zealand

30 January 2026

Advisory Officer
Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board
P O Box 6969
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Kia ora Haley,

QUARTERLY REPORT

Enclosed is our quarterly report to the ARAF Board for the period October to December 2025 along with the Financial Statements.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Ngā mihi nui,

Robbie Macrae
Kaiwhakahaere Matua Chief Executive



Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board Quarterly Narrative Reporting: Q2 2025-26, due 31 Jan 2026

Introduction

This quarter the focus was on finalising and launching the programme for Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival 2026 (AAF2026), along with recruiting the last tranche of fixed-term staff members of the 2026 Festival team. This will be the second festival programmed by Kaitohu Toi Artistic Director Bernie Haldane. As well as the launch of AAF 2026, the team have been meeting reporting requirements, payment of accounts, securing funding to support cash flow needs and looking at programming and funding options for AAF going forward.

The full AAF 2026 programme was launched on October 29 and all tickets are now on sale. The artistic programme continues to be significant in breadth and depth albeit with a smaller number of events overall and represents the full range of art forms across both free, outdoor family events and ticketed, in-venue shows. See the full programme here: <https://www.aaf.co.nz/whats-on>

With several highly anticipated international works on offer, box office targets have been set accordingly and results are tracking as expected. The market continues to be hesitant to commit early with ticket sales tracking at 15% of budget as at 31 December 2025 compared to 16% at the same time in previous years.

The financial results for the quarter ended December are attached and are as expected. Programming for AAF 2026 continues to be designed to fit within current financial resources, building Reserves as per The AFT Board (TAFT) policy.

We received notification from the ARAF Board of the Provisional Grant Allocation in December and were disappointed to learn that there will potentially be a decrease in funding for TAFT for 2026-27. We are preparing a submission to the ARAF Board (both written and requesting an opportunity to be heard at the next Business meeting). We fully acknowledge the concerns of the ARAF Board as raised in the draft Funding Plan and will outline our response and request for reconsideration in the submission.

Risks, concerns or changes

Key risks identified in this quarter were:

- The continued challenges to raise non-Box Office revenue in cash sponsorship and increased demand on contestable and philanthropic grant income. Our new Head of Partnerships & Development has developed a refreshed Revenue Generation plan with KPI's that include increasing multi-year sponsorship by over the next 3 years and growing individual giving annually.
- Forecasted Reserves for 30 June 2026 are planned to rebuild Trust Equity (\$722k) towards Minimum Reserves Policy levels (\$850k) to be achieved in 2027.

Results against key indicators

AAF 2026 is planned to achieve the strategic goals as per The Auckland Festival Trust (TAFT) Business Plan 2024 – 2026.

This quarter TAFT Board and its Finance Committee met regularly to consider the financial statements, programme, administration and marketing budgets, and strategic and governance matters and regular forecast reviews of Cash Reserves to:

- Ensure The Auckland Festival Trust is an enduring, dynamic and thriving organisation, respecting and caring for our people and the environment – our legacy and future

The AAF team of 13 permanent staff members continued to work exceptionally well together in this quarter to:

- Uphold the values of Tuia te Muka Kōrero (TAFT Maōri Strategy), refreshed in May 2025.
- Be entrepreneurial
- Seek opportunities for partnership and/or collaboration with other festivals and events in the Auckland region over the year

Reviewing the KPI's as noted in our ARAF Grant Application for 2025 – 2026, all non-financial KPI's are on track to be achieved and any changes to financial targets have been updated in the attached Summarised Financial Statements Forecast EOY 30 June 2026.

Highlights and 'wins' this quarter

- AAF 2026 programme launched with an exciting programme of local and international ticketed shows and free events: Festival trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gt-2gnOFjU>
- NZCT approved a grant of \$60k to contribute to venue costs associated with the Spiegeltent and Town Hall for AAF 2026.
- Four Winds Foundations approved a grant of \$10k to contribute to salary costs of the Programme Co-ordinator, Access & Inclusion for AAF 2026.
- Newly appointed Head of Partnerships & Development, Colleen Edwards has brought an exciting level of corporate sponsorship experience to the team and early discussions with new sponsor have been positive.
- New corporate sponsor ICBC was confirmed and support of \$15k cash is aligned with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra concerts in AAF 2026.
- All core corporate sponsors reconfirmed and have been contracted for AAF 2026.
- The new **Friends of the Festival** programme continue to build and we are close to our target of 150 members.

Challenges faced this quarter (if any)

TAFT Board and management continue to closely manage conservative Box Office targets and the challenge of identifying non-Box Office Revenue, with a view to achieving a 2026 Budget that rebuilds Reserves.

Financial results

The financial statements to **31 December 2025** are attached. Total revenue for the six-month period is \$4,740,381 which includes the full year's grant from ARAFB of \$4,300,000. Total expenditure is \$2,035,300. The actual surplus for the quarter is \$2,705.081.

The annual budget referred to in the attached statements is the budget submitted to ARAFB in September 2024. The latest forecast to 30 June expects a surplus of \$10,659, compared to a break-even result in the original budget. Programme revenue and expenditure have decreased in line with AAF2025 results and conservative Box Office targets.

Trust reserves at 30 June 2026 are expected to be \$630,842. In the budget submitted to ARAFB in 2024 this was \$1,205,675.

Although lower than the TAFT Board Reserves policy for minimum reserves, the cash flow forecast for the year is adequate and therefore no overdraft facility is expected to be required.

Auckland Theatre Company

Statement of Financial Performance

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
Income				
ARAFB Grant	\$ 2,450,000	\$ 2,450,000	\$ 2,450,000	\$ 2,450,000
Income from service provision / trading operations	\$ 2,299,348	\$ 2,249,254	\$ 4,774,712	\$ 4,724,618
Government grants / contracts	\$ 291,832	\$ 291,832	\$ 1,167,329	\$ 1,167,329
All other grants and sponsorship	\$ 262,880	\$ 314,380	\$ 812,942	\$ 864,442
Membership fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations / koha	\$ 71,190	\$ 145,275	\$ 225,092	\$ 261,577
Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest/Dividends etc	\$ 5,383	\$ 9,921	\$ 16,885	\$ 21,423
All other income	-\$ 32,383	\$ 1,730	-\$ 28,883	\$ 5,230
Total Revenue	\$ 5,348,250	\$ 5,462,392	\$ 9,418,077	\$ 9,494,619
Expenditure				
Salary and Wages	\$ 1,413,994	\$ 1,366,101	\$ 2,684,054	\$ 2,636,161
Cost of service provision (excl. salaries and wages)	\$ 2,750,198	\$ 2,801,518	\$ 5,506,038	\$ 5,517,860
Cost of trading operations (excl. salaries and wages)	\$ 697,970	\$ 684,842	\$ 1,447,676	\$ 1,419,548
Depreciation	\$ 80,969	\$ 71,801	\$ 158,999	\$ 149,831
Total Expenditure	\$ 4,943,131	\$ 4,924,262	\$ 9,796,767	\$ 9,723,400
Net Surplus/(Loss)	\$ 405,119	\$ 538,130	-\$ 378,690	-\$ 228,781
Net Surplus/(Loss) excl Depreciation	\$ 486,088	\$ 609,931	-\$ 219,691	-\$ 78,950

Auckland Theatre Company

Statement of Financial Position

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and Bank Balances	\$ 1,502,605	\$ 1,592,335	\$ 42,414	\$ 149,042
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 448,559	\$ 448,559	\$ 491,909	\$ 491,909
Accounts Receivable	\$ 142,701	\$ 142,701	\$ 47,625	\$ 47,625
Other, incl Inventory	\$ 37,867	\$ 37,867	\$ 58,246	\$ 58,246
Total Current Assets	\$ 2,131,732	\$ 2,221,462	\$ 640,194	\$ 746,822
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Sundry Creditors	\$ 311,399	\$ 311,399	\$ 68,000	\$ 68,000
Income in Adv	\$ 22,490	\$ 22,490	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Subs in Advance	\$ 1,614,491	\$ 1,614,491	\$ 1,246,955	\$ 1,246,955
Other	\$ 374,837	\$ 374,837	\$ 155,241	\$ 155,241
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 2,323,217	\$ 2,323,217	\$ 1,520,196	\$ 1,520,196
Working Capital	-\$ 191,485	-\$ 101,755	-\$ 880,002	-\$ 773,374
Fixed Assets	\$ 339,954	\$ 374,067	\$ 347,220	\$ 381,333
Less Depreciation	\$ 80,969	\$ 71,801	\$ 158,999	\$ 149,831
Net Fixed Assets	\$ 258,985	\$ 302,266	\$ 188,221	\$ 231,502
Term Liabilities	\$ 57,201	\$ 57,201	\$ 81,996	\$ 81,996
Net Assets	\$ 10,299	\$ 143,310	-\$ 773,777	-\$ 623,868
EQUITY				
Endowment Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Restricted Purpose Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Retained Earnings/General Accumulated Funds	-\$ 394,820	-\$ 394,820	-\$ 395,088	-\$ 395,088
Current Year Earnings/(loss)	\$ 405,119	\$ 538,130	-\$ 378,690	-\$ 228,781
Total Equity	\$ 10,299	\$ 143,310	-\$ 773,778	-\$ 623,869

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board

Quarterly Narrative Reporting: Q2 2025-2026

Introduction

In the final quarter of ATC's financial year our mainstage activity concluded with the successful production of *Tiri: Te Araroa Woman Far Walking* by Witi Ihimaera, our schools and youth activity concluded with excellent responses, and ASB Waterfront Theatre achieved its best result since 2019.

Calendar 2025 was the first year of our multi-year plan to rebuild our financial resilience, and it was encouraging to conclude the year with a small surplus before depreciation; a significant turnaround from calendar 2024. The medium-term goal is the rebuilding of working capital.

Risks, concerns or changes (if any)

Our lease of the lower ground floor of Mt Eden War Memorial Hall ends in 2027. We have initiated discussions with Council's community leasing to understand the process Council intends to take with regard to offering the space for lease.

In Q3 we will be finalising our application to Creative New Zealand's revamped Arts Organisations and Groups Fund. CNZ are advising the outcome of the funding round in July 2026.

We continue to actively participate in a process with Auckland Council with regard to the ASB Waterfront Theatre ground lease and our request for an operating grant for the theatre. Across the quarter we met regularly with both Council Officers and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, providing significant financial information and analysis. We look forward to a conclusion in the coming months.

Advance ticket sales for calendar 2026 are the highest we have on record, reflecting a popular programme that is being well received.

Results against key indicators – Year to Date

	Attendance/Participation			Events/Activity		
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance
Annual programme of theatre	31,139	32,657	1,518	83	83	-
Participation (Youth & Schools)	5,308	5,967	659	73	83	10
New Work	34	58	24	20	16	(4)
Sector Development	330	670	341	94	126	32
ASBWT Hirers	12,543	10,856	(1,687)	48	38	(10)
TOTAL	49,354	50,208	855	318	346	28

Highlights and 'wins' this quarter

We were delighted with the critical and audience response to *Tiri: Te Araroa Woman Far Walking*, which had its world premiere in November. The production exceeded revenue and audience expectations, receiving our best audience evaluation results ever. The production attracted the interest of several international festivals. Should a tour occur, it will be on a self-funded basis.

Our Youth Arts programmes wrapped the year with a showing of *The Excerpts* at Silo Hall, bringing together our Youth Company and Emerging Writers Table activity strands. A free, one night only performance, *The Excerpts* is a rehearsed presentation of an excerpt from each Emerging Writers Table script. Oversubscribed for tickets, the performance was an excellent end to the year, celebrating the work and achievement of these two participant cohorts.

Our schools' programme concluded with *Tiri: Te Araroa Woman Far Walking* in November. Despite the November timing clashing with external exam prep, uptake from schools was excellent and the performance sold out. Thanks to funding from the Stout Trust, a professional quality, multi-camera recording of the production has been produced and has been included as a Digital Classroom option in our 2026 education programme NZ-wide.

Following the successful pilot in March 2025, our Sector Development initiative Theatre Gym offered two more sessions at the end of the year. Each session comprised four workshops for 12 participants and continued the model of peer-led learning. Free to participants, Theatre Gym is a structured opportunity for working actors to expand their practice, connect with each other, and develop new skills. This is funded by donors.

Challenges faced this quarter (if any)

Two of our regular ASB Waterfront Theatre community youth hirers in December (Encore and APAA) cancelled their bookings due to their financial circumstances, resulting in the missed target for Partnerships (ASBWT). Despite best efforts, only a handful of the vacated dates were resold.

Financial results

Income

Income is -\$114k adverse to target at the end of Q2, driven by the carry forward of the \$39k adverse variance in Q1, plus a further -\$75k variance driven by:

- -\$30k adverse variance in *Other grants and sponsorship* due partly to the timing of receipts versus forecast (-\$15k), -\$10k reduction in print sponsorship and -\$5k reduction in corporate memberships
- -\$51k adverse in *Donations/koha* due to the timing of recognition of donations from our Patrons
- -\$35k adverse in *Other income* due to an adjustment in the value of fixed assets (non-cash)
- Partially offset by +\$44k favourability in *Income from service provision/trading operation* due to successful *Tiri: Te Araroa Woman Far Walking* box office and increased bar takings.

Expenses

Expenses for the quarter are slightly adverse (-\$24k) overall, bringing YTD expenditure to -\$18k versus budget. This was driven by:

- Unfavourable salaries & wages expense (-\$27k) for the quarter primarily driven by accruing part of a pay cycle that related to days worked in December.
- Unfavourable cost of service provision (-\$10k) due to launch costs for the 2026 season landing adverse to budget.
- Partially offset by favourable costs of trading operations (+\$19k) due to the release of an aged accrual which is no longer considered a liability.

Net Assets

Net assets are down -\$133k at the end of Q2 due to lower cash inflow mostly driven by timing of grants and donations versus forecast.

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board

Quarterly Narrative Reporting: Q2 2025-26, due 31 Jan 2026

TE WHATU STARDOME OBSERVATORY AND PLANETARIUM

Introduction

Quarter two was a busy and productive period for Te Whatu Stardome. We delivered an exciting range of public events and introduced a suite of new films, alongside significant technology upgrades that enhanced visitor experiences. Our education team continued to deliver high-quality lessons and advanced their professional development by attending and presenting at the World Indigenous Peoples Conference in Education (WIPCE).

We strengthened partnerships across the GLAM sector, as well as with the Tūpuna Maunga Authority and Cornwall Park Trust, to develop Matariki programming. Engagement with other planetariums and observatories nationwide helped inform trends and opportunities to further enhance our offerings. The extended summer closure allowed us to begin base build works for our education room renovation and refresh galleries following a busy school year.

Risks, concerns or changes (if any)

As noted in the quarter one report, Te Whatu Stardomes aging planetarium technology was identified as a key strategic priority, given its critical role in supporting both visitation and revenue targets. Thanks to the support of Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, the system was fully upgraded in October, enhancing our capacity to deliver immersive and engaging experiences for visitors.

In December, our Kaihautū o Ako Education Lead, Talena Hansen, resigned after securing the role of Head of Education at Auckland Museum. Recruitment for her replacement is planned for January, with the expectation that a new education lead will be in place by term two to continue the development and delivery of our education programmes.

Results against key indicators

Overall visitation was slightly lower than the same period last year, driven mainly by smaller class sizes in education bookings, despite a consistent number of bookings. We are monitoring these trends and will engage with schools to better understand emerging patterns. Venue hire revenue fell this quarter, with birthday parties on budget but corporate bookings down 50%, reflecting businesses' preference for alternatives to off-site meeting spaces. Looking ahead, the upgraded planetarium technology and upcoming education classroom are expected to boost visitation, supported by initiatives such as public events, open days, and activations like food trucks to enhance audience engagement.

Highlights and 'wins' this quarter

Following the completion of our planetarium technology upgrades, we marked the end of the year with a free day of planetarium shows. This allowed visitors to experience the refreshed planetarium and sample what Te Whatu Stardome has to offer. Over 500

people attended, and Annual Pass sign-ups increased noticeably in the days that followed.

In November, we welcomed more than 250 delegates from the World Indigenous Peoples Conference in Education (WIPCE). Delegates explored Māori astronomy and the intersection of Indigenous knowledge systems with Western science. Our Kaihautū o Ako presented at the conference, sharing how Māori pedagogy informs programme design at Te Whatu Stardome. Education outcomes remain strong, with a 96.19% satisfaction rate from post-visit teacher surveys for ELC trips.

Partnership programmes broadened our reach through sold-out events, including The Space Between with Rhian Sheehan and the return of Strings Under the Stars in collaboration with the Auckland Philharmonia, delivering ten sold-out performances. Two new COSM Premium Media planetarium shows—Orbital and Big Wave: No Room for Error—were also debuted. The year concluded with two sold-out performances by Aotearoa jazz supergroup The Circling Sun, recorded by RNZ for broadcast in 2026.

Challenges faced this quarter (if any)

A period of staff sickness, combined with typical end-of-year fatigue, presented challenges for our organisation. Thanks to nimble programming decisions and senior managers stepping in on the floor, Te Whatu Stardome remained open. This ensured ticketing revenue was maintained and visitor programmes continued without interruption, demonstrating the team's resilience and adaptability.

Financial results

Capex Grants were higher than budgeted, due to the timing of spend of the Planetarium Technology Upgrade Project. This project was completed in October.

Planetarium Ticket sales were on target for the quarter, despite being closed for several days while the Planetarium Technology was upgraded. We held three cultural experience sessions for the WIPCE conference which offset the loss from closure. Revenue from event hire continues to be lower than expected as small to medium-sized businesses are still facing economic pressure. Retail sales are performing better than expected.

Programme Development spend exceeded budget due to purchasing a show subscription package from COSM. The package provides Stardome with four new shows, which will be added to our regular programming. No further major show purchases are anticipated for the balance of year. Our Chief Operating Officer role has not yet been filled; hence our human resources budget is underspent.

Our annual reforecast is underway to ensure that operational budgets are realistic and balanced across the organisation. Teams are managing their budgets prudently despite operational spend being heavier than usual in the first half of the year. Overall, we do not expect a significant impact on the project end-of-year position. Our balance sheet remains strong and on target.

TE WHATU STARDOME - QUARTERLY DEC 2025

Statement of Financial Performance

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
Income				
ARAFB Grant	\$ 808,500	\$ 808,500	\$ 1,617,000	\$ 1,616,935
Income from service provision / trading operations	\$ 412,645	\$ 419,830	\$ 857,705	\$ 918,285
Government grants / contracts	\$ 53,502	\$ 53,502	\$ 107,000	\$ 53,500
All other grants and sponsorship	\$ 1,003,334	\$ 723,998	\$ 779,000	\$ 110,000
Membership fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations / koha	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest/Dividends etc	\$ 18,815	\$ 12,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000
All other income	\$ 22,242	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Total Revenue	\$ 2,319,039	\$ 2,022,830	\$ 3,394,705	\$ 2,732,720
Expenditure				
Salary and Wages	\$ 659,505	\$ 710,442	\$ 1,416,329	\$ 1,419,934
Cost of service provision (excl. salaries and wages)	\$ 217,236	\$ 211,717	\$ 426,553	\$ 403,745
Cost of trading operations (excl. salaries and wages)	\$ 413,838	\$ 369,365	\$ 647,079	\$ 618,167
Depreciation	\$ 193,574	\$ 237,500	\$ 475,000	\$ 369,000
Total Expenditure	\$ 1,484,153	\$ 1,529,024	\$ 2,964,961	\$ 2,810,846
Net Surplus/(Loss)	\$ 834,885	\$ 493,806	\$ 429,744	-\$ 78,126
Net Surplus/(Loss) excl Depreciation	\$ 1,028,460	\$ 731,306	\$ 904,744	\$ 290,874

TE WHATU STARDOME - QUARTERLY DEC 2025

Statement of Financial Position

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and Bank Balances	\$ 1,543,699	\$ 1,592,079	\$ 761,446	\$ 865,736
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 33,313	\$ 36,616	\$ 36,616	\$ 10,576
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,974	\$ 12,580	\$ 12,580	\$ 17,435
Other, incl Inventory	\$ 44,230	\$ 45,679	\$ 45,679	\$ 17,567
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,623,215	\$ 1,686,955	\$ 856,322	\$ 911,315
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Sundry Creditors	\$ 37,241	\$ 70,331	\$ 63,517	\$ 78,137
Income in Adv	\$ 991,803	\$ 959,785	\$ 159,222	\$ 243,790
Subs in Advance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 82,401	\$ 39,770	\$ 73,075	\$ 68,218
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 1,111,445	\$ 1,069,885	\$ 295,814	\$ 390,145
Working Capital	\$ 511,769	\$ 617,070	\$ 560,508	\$ 521,169
Fixed Assets	\$ 5,265,003	\$ 5,256,194	\$ 5,481,194	\$ 5,258,305
Less Depreciation	\$ 193,574	\$ 237,500	\$ 475,000	\$ 369,000
Net Fixed Assets	\$ 5,071,429	\$ 5,018,694	\$ 5,006,194	\$ 4,889,305
Term Liabilities	\$ 1,572,650	\$ 1,572,650	\$ 1,572,650	\$ 1,572,650
Long Term Assets	\$ 447,412	\$ 427,282	\$ 432,282	\$ 414,136
Net Assets	\$ 4,457,960	\$ 4,490,396	\$ 4,426,334	\$ 4,251,960
EQUITY				
Endowment Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Restricted Purpose Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Retained Earnings/General				
Accumulated Funds	\$ 3,623,075	\$ 3,996,591	\$ 3,996,591	\$ 4,330,085
Current Year Earnings/(loss)	\$ 834,885	\$ 493,806	\$ 429,744	-\$ 78,126
Total Equity	\$ 4,457,960	\$ 4,490,397	\$ 4,426,335	\$ 4,251,959

Notes to the summarised Quarterly report to December 31, 2025

Statement of Financial Performance

The ARAFA quarter ended 31 December 2025 discloses a deficit of (\$141,444) against an expected deficit budget of (\$84,420) a variance of (\$57,044).

The variances to budget are listed below:

Income

- Event income to December 31 was \$1,732,505, against a budget of \$1,872,020 (down by \$139,515 or 7%).
- All other grant and sponsorship revenue was \$637,913, against budget of \$702,000 (down by \$64,939 or 9%).
 - a. As the fundraising landscape is very challenging, and we are slowly replacing the corporate sponsors who left in 2024.
- Total donations and fundraising were \$684,012, against a budget of \$777,124 (down by \$93,112 or 12%).
 - a. While timing of donations is very difficult to predict, but overall, the donations are relatively stable.

Expenditure

- Cost of sales is ahead of budget by \$229K due to the following factors:
 - a. The proposed ARAFA 2025/26 budget included two gala events, however we only realised one
 - b. The proposed ARAFA 2025/26 budget included higher artistic and production expenses for repeat performances, however, through our partnership with Auckland Live and smart negotiation of additional artist fees, these additional costs were lower than expected
- We made savings in administration by not replacing exiting staff and/or rehiring roles at reduced hours
- Overall expenditure is tightly managed.

Statement of Financial Position

Cash in the bank as at 31 December was \$3,545,799.

We are holding income in advance of \$3.1 including funds from ARAFA and 2026-year Subs in advance.

In previous reports we had disclosed our opening Retained earnings to include the Auditors transitional adjustments which aligned the entire ARAFA grant, to be accounted for within the calendar year it was received. In reports to ARAFB after discussion with ARAFB; Retained earnings will be adjusted back to reflect the ARAFA grant being received mid-year and released across the Council year June to July.

Auckland Philharmonia

Statement of Financial Performance

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
Income				
ARAFB Grant	\$2,499,000	\$2,499,000	\$4,998,000	\$5,096,000
Income from service provision / trading operations	\$1,732,505	\$1,872,020	\$2,834,386	\$2,645,296
Government grants / contracts	\$1,636,913	\$1,636,914	\$3,273,827	\$3,322,934
All other grants and sponsorship	\$637,361	\$702,000	\$1,021,361	\$1,674,963
Membership fees	\$1,597	\$ -	\$73,672	\$87,312
Donations / koha	\$684,012	\$777,124	\$1,235,200	\$1,382,172
Bequests	\$1,000	\$ -	\$1,000	-
Interest/Dividends etc	\$56,659	\$66,186	\$116,659	\$127,500
All other income	\$45,680	\$2,498	\$45,680	\$135,170
Total Revenue	\$7,294,726	\$7,555,742	\$13,599,784	\$14,471,347
Expenditure				
Salary and Wages	\$4,789,722	\$4,735,570	\$9,367,514	\$9,593,071
Cost of service provision (excl. salaries and wages)	\$841,856	\$861,750	\$ 1,353,659	\$1,590,122
Cost of trading operations (excl. salaries and wages)	\$1,742,090	\$1,971,952	\$ 3,144,287	\$3,298,559
Depreciation	\$62,522	\$70,890	\$ 134,522	\$143,185
Total Expenditure	\$7,436,190	\$7,640,162	\$13,999,982	\$14,624,936
Net Surplus/(Loss)	-\$141,464	-\$84,420	-\$400,198	-\$153,589
Net Surplus/(Loss) excl Depreciation	-\$78,941	-\$13,530	-\$ 269,846	-\$10,403

Auckland Philharmonia

Statement of Financial

	Actual 6 Months	Budget 6 Months	Forecast EOY Result	Annual Budget Presented to ARAFB
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and Bank Balances	\$3,545,799	\$3,970,785	\$1,727,956	\$2,186,488
Prepaid Expenses	\$192,691	\$192,589	\$369,908	\$277,482
Accounts Receivable	\$307,750	\$100,225	\$326,119	\$339,513
Other, incl Inventory	\$44,185	\$51,250	\$54,761	\$60,702
Total Current Assets	\$4,090,425	\$4,314,850	\$2,478,744	\$2,864,185
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Sundry Creditors	\$213,802	\$197,353	\$307,496	\$324,624
Income in Adv	\$2,599,638	\$2,499,000	\$629,000	\$1,053,370
Subs in Advance	\$498,104	\$258,000	\$506,144	\$468,165
Other	\$375,000	\$333,073	\$327,228	\$477,084
Total Current Liabilities	\$3,686,544	\$3,287,426	\$1,769,868	\$2,322,883
Working Capital	\$403,881	\$1,027,424	\$708,876	\$541,302
Fixed Assets				
Less Depreciation	\$1,857,165	\$1,701,894	\$1,937,103	\$1,952,623
Net Fixed Assets	\$699,542	\$717,294	\$720,064	\$737,011
Term Liabilities	\$1,114	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Term Assets	\$585,365	\$ -		
Net Assets	\$1,687,674	\$1,744,718	\$1,428,940	\$1,278,313
EQUITY				
Endowment Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Restricted Purpose Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Retained Earnings/General Accumulated Funds	\$1,829,138	\$1,829,138	\$1,829,138	\$1,431,901
Current Year Earnings/(loss)	-\$141,464	-\$84,420	-\$400,198	-\$153,589
Total Equity	\$1,687,674	\$1,744,718	\$1,428,940	\$1,278,313

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board - **DRAFT**

Integrated Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Generative-AI, Information Management (IM) and Security Policy

1. Purpose

The Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board (ARAFB) acknowledges the opportunities in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen-AI) and autonomous content generation. This policy provides guidance to the Advisory Officer, Directors and Specified Amenities for:

- The responsible, ethical, and transparent use of AI and Gen-AI technologies by ARAFB, ensuring that all use of AI supports the operational efficiency of the Board, while maintaining the integrity, confidentiality and sovereignty of its data, without unintentional bias in decision making.
- How the ARAFB collects, uses and shares information when fulfilling its statutory functions under the *ARAFB Act 2008* and in accordance with the *Privacy Act 2020*, alongside the *Public Records Act 2025* for record-keeping.

2. Guiding Principles

2.1 Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI

The Directors of ARAFB acknowledge the opportunities that AI technologies provide, including improved productivity, innovation, and decision-making. However, AI must be used in a manner consistent with the Board's obligations to integrity, confidentiality, and accountability. The following principles apply:

- a) **Integrity:** All AI use must uphold honesty, accuracy, and transparency in line with the Code of Conduct and other policies of the funding board.
- b) **Confidentiality and Data Sovereignty:** All data used by the Board must remain secure and within ARAFB's control. No confidential or identifiable data may be entered into public or unapproved/insecure AI tools.
- c) **Accountability:** If secure AI is used, Directors are fully responsible for any output produced using AI tools. Human oversight and verification are required for all AI-assisted work.
- d) **Compliance:** All AI use must comply with relevant legislation, including the Privacy Act 2020, Copyright Act 1994, and the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008.
- e) **Fairness:** AI tools must be used in a way that avoids bias or unfair influence in decision-making.

2.2 Information Management and Security

Although it is not a council-controlled organisation, the ARAFB is expected to conform and adhere to government policies and practices related to information management, in particular the [NZ Data & Information Management Principles](#). The ARAFB recognises that information is an enduring asset and should be treated as such. This policy aligns with the Māori data sovereignty principle of viewing information as a treasure, in recognition of the obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi. The following principles are taken from the NZ Data & Information Management guidelines:

- a) **Open:** Data and information should be open for public access unless grounds for refusal or limitations exist under the Official Information Act or other relevant legislation. In such cases they should be protected.
- b) **Protected:** Personal, confidential and classified data and information are protected.
- c) **Readily available:** Open data and information are released proactively and without discrimination. They are discoverable and accessible and released online.

d) **Trusted and authoritative:** Data and information support the purposes for which they were collected and are accurate, relevant, timely, consistent and without bias in that context. Where possible there is an identified authoritative single source.

3. Responsibilities

The Board will:

- Ensure this policy is implemented and regularly reviewed.
- Approve the use of AI tools and information management systems within the Board's operations.
- Ensure data governance and information management standards protect the sovereignty and confidentiality of ARAFB data and information.

Each Director and Advisory Officer:

- Ensure any AI tools used within their control are secure, with "no sharing" of information for "learning purposes" as is common with most AI service providers.
- Conduct risk and impact assessments before adopting new AI technologies for use in Funding Board business and bring to the Board for approval prior to use.
- Ensure self-training and awareness of AI policy requirements and data handling obligations.
- Verify and validate all AI-generated outputs before use in discussion or decision making.
- Report to the Chair immediately, any security breaches related to AI tools.

4. Implementation and Oversight

- The Advisory Officer will maintain a list of AI tools used by Directors. The tools in use must be approved by the Board.
- Regular review by the whole Board to assess the ethical, operational, and data protection implications of AI use and information management practices.
- Directors provide an undertaking to self-train to ensure responsible and compliant application of AI tools and information management practices.
- Breaches of this policy may constitute misconduct and be dealt with under the Board's Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures.

5. Definitions

Term	Description
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Technology that enables systems to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as decision-making and problem-solving.
Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen-AI)	AI systems capable of generating original content such as text, images, or data in response to user prompts (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot).
Information	Means data and information obtained, collected, created and/or managed by ARAFB in the course of its operations.
Information Management	Means the processes of recording, storing, reviewing, disposing of and sharing information in the course of its operations.
Data	Any information – public, private or confidential – that is available to the ARAFB in the course of its operations.
Data Sovereignty	The principle that all data created, processed, or stored by ARAFB remains under its control and is subject to New Zealand law.

Approved AI Tools	AI technologies that have been evaluated and authorised by the Chair for use in the course of ARAFB's business.
Confidential Information	Any non-public data or material related to ARAFB operations, applicants, funding assessments, or internal communications.
Bias	Bias in AI models typically arises from two sources: the design of models themselves and the training data they use. Models can sometimes reflect the assumptions of the developers coding them, which causes them to favour certain outcomes. Additionally, AI bias can develop due to the data used to train the AI.

6. Related Policies

Information Management in New Zealand is governed primarily by the *Privacy Act 2020*, alongside the *Public Records Act 2025* for record keeping. It is further guided by the principles of Digital Information Management.

Other related policies include:

- Code of Conduct
- Confidentiality Policy
- Ethics Policy

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board – DRAFT

Meeting date: 10 February 2026

Owner/presenter: Chairperson

Item for: Discussion and Approval

Board Paper: NZ Adapted Director's Code of Conduct, to be read in conjunction with the IoD UK Code

Proposed budgetary implications: N/a

Recommendations

- A. That the board adopt the **Institute of Directors (Inc.) Code of Conduct (New Zealand)** and that this will be reviewed annually (with all board members agreeing to abide by this).

Executive summary

Directors in New Zealand must comply with statutory duties under the Companies Act 1993, Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and other relevant Statutes and act with integrity and accountability. The IOD UK Code complements the IoD NZ Code of Practice for Directors and supports ethical leadership and trust in governance.

Principles

1. **Leading by Example:** Model ethical, respectful behaviour; honour tikanga Māori and Te Tiriti.
2. **Integrity:** Act honestly, manage conflicts, avoid misuse of information.
3. **Transparency:** Communicate openly and disclose material matters.
4. **Accountability:** Accept responsibility and correct mistakes.
5. **Fairness:** Treat all stakeholders equitably and respect mana whenua.
6. **Responsible Governance:** Consider sustainability, ESG, and intergenerational impacts.

Purpose

Directors commit in writing to uphold the Code, disclose interests, and undertake governance training. Boards should have ethics processes, complaint mechanisms, and sanctions for breaches.

Relation to NZ Law

This Code does not override the *Companies Act 1993*, *Incorporated Societies Act 2022* or other legal duties. It complements the IoD NZ Code of Practice and the Four Pillars of Governance framework.

Principles of Director Conduct

The following principles are adapted from the IoD UK Code, but with NZ context and additional elements. Each principle is accompanied by undertakings (promises) and expected outcomes (what good conduct should yield).

Principle	Undertakings / Promises	Desired Outcomes
1. Leading by Example / Kāhua o te pūkenga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role-model respectful, ethical and professional behaviour in all dealings. - Honour tikanga Māori where relevant, including tikanga in consultations, Māori perspectives, and Te Tiriti obligations. - Be humble, open to learning, and receptive to feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The board and organisation have a culture of integrity, respect and trust. - Māori and other stakeholders feel their perspectives are respected.
2. Integrity / Ngākau pono	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act honestly, and avoid misleading statements or misrepresentation. - Do not use insider information for personal gain. - Disclose and manage conflicts of interest (actual, potential or perceived). - Avoid situations of self-dealing or misuse of the organisation's resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholders have confidence in the individual and collective integrity of directors. - Conflicts are handled transparently and fairly.

3. Transparency / Kōkiritanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communicate decisions and rationales clearly and in a timely manner. - Ensure stakeholders (including Māori, communities, regulators) have access to relevant information where appropriate. - Disclose significant matters (risks, material transactions, governance issues) unless legally restricted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trust is built through openness. - Stakeholders can hold directors to account knowing relevant facts.
4. Accountability / Whakautanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be prepared to accept responsibility for actions and decisions. - Promptly correct mistakes and acknowledge them openly. - Respond to stakeholder concerns and complaints fairly and in good faith. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directors are answerable, not defensive or opaque. - The organisation learns and improves from errors.
5. Fairness / Pūmautanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treat all stakeholders equitably, without undue preference or discrimination. - Honor mana whenua, tangata whenua, and treaty obligations in decision-making processes. - Ensure fair processes (e.g. for nominations, procurement, contracting). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholders feel heard, respected, and treated justly. - The organisation is not seen as captive to special interests.
6. Responsible Governance (incl. Sustainability & Long-term Perspective)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider intergenerational responsibilities (environment, climate, cultural heritage). - Incorporate ESG (environmental, social, governance) thinking into strategic decisions. - Ensure risk management, oversight, and resilience planning are integral. - Foster diversity (gender, ethnicity, skills, lived-experience) on the board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The organisation is sustainable, resilient, and future-oriented. - Board composition reflects breadth of perspectives.