



Te mahere ā-rohe o Waiheke 2026

Waiheke

Draft Local Board Plan 2026

Tāmaki Turuki.
Altogether Auckland.



Mihi

**Titiro ki te Pane o Horoiwi,
ka whakapukepuke, ka wha atiketike ki waho rā.
He kawau,
he kawau, he kawau!
He kawau tikitiki ka eke ki te tāhuna tōrea.
He kawau tikitiki ka eke ki te tāhuna ki Waitematā.
Ko koutou ēna e ngā mātāwaka i rite ai te kōrero,
Ngā waka o Taïkehu me he kāhui kātaha kapi-tai, ka
eke!
Kua eke, hui e, tāiki e!
Te noho nei au i te kūrāe i Takaparawhā, ka titiro
whakawaho ki
a koe Aotea
e tū hihīwa mai rā i te pae o te moana o Hauraki. Ka
hoki whakaroto
ake aku mihi ki a Waiheke,
ki a Rangitoto te pueanga mutunga a te moana. Kia ū
mai anō au
ki te one i Ōkahu,
kia takahia e au te rārangi maunga i uta. Ki te tonga ko
Maungarei,
kei raro ko te Kōpua Kai a Hiku. Ka rere mā roto ki
Puketāpapa,
kia piki au ki Maungakiekie, Tūpo-o-te-tini.
Ka whakamau taku haere mā
te Ahikāroa a Rakataura kia taka atu au ki te Ara
Whakapekapeka
o Ruarangi.
I konā, ka aro tika atu au ki a koe e Maungawhau te tū
whakahira
tonu mai nā i te pū o te wheke,
kua werohia nei e te Tūkoi o te Rangī, kia pokanoa au
ki te pepeha a
Tītahi, “Koia te pou whakairo ka tū ki Waitematā i ōku
wairangitanga”,
kia whakaotihia noa ai ki te kōrero rā, Te pai me te
whai rawa
o Tāmaki.”**

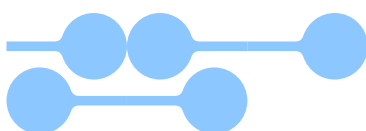
Look to the sandbanks at Achilles Point, rising
majestically out there.
It is the visiting cormorant!
It has alighted onto the beach of the oystercatcher. A
distinguished
visitor has come to the Waitematā.
It is you the descendants of the ancient voyagers, those
who embody
the axiom,
*The canoes of Taïkehu, like shoals of herrings on the
tide, you have arrived!*
The connections are made!
So here I sit on the headland at Bastion Point, and I look
out to
Great Barrier Island shimmering on the Hauraki Harbour.
Returning my gaze to Waiheke and then to Rangitoto,
the last gift
from the sea. Once more I stand on the shore at Ōkahu,
from where I can traverse the ancient peaks.
To the south is Maungarei,
below which lies the Panmure Basin. Flying inland I come
to
Puketāpapa from where I scale Maungakiekie, resting
place of those
who have gone before us.
I follow then the pathway to Mount Albert and down into
Point Chevalier.
From there I return to Mt Eden, shining gem at the heart
of the great
city, lanced by the sky tower
so that I might appropriate the prophecy of Tītahi who
said,
“A tower that will stand in the Waitematā – that is what I
saw in
my feverish dream”,
and to end it with the maxim,
“So flows the goodness and riches of Tāmaki”.



Ngā upoko kōrero

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He kōrero mai i te Heamana

From the chair

It is my honour to present the Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026-2029. Ngā mihi, thank you, for your ongoing support and willingness to help us deliver outcomes that we cannot achieve alone.

This draft plan is intended to reflect what matters most to our community. It also acknowledges the challenges and opportunities Waiheke's unique island community faces.

We have heard that transport safety, community resilience in the face of climate change and environmental restoration are top of your mind. Also, improved health services and support and mentorship opportunities for young people.

We are aware that these volatile times are difficult for our community. As a board, we face the challenges of working with the Governing Body to keep rates affordable while investing in environmental protection, climate resilience and essential infrastructure. This usually means we need to make trade-offs and work differently with what we have.

We will continue to support our passionate local volunteers and not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects at reduced costs. During our three-year term, we will focus on climate resilience, transport safety and restoring the health of our spectacular island ngāhere / forest and arawai / waterways. Some of the initiatives to support these focus areas are new, and others remain to continue important progress already made. To make this happen, partnerships with the community must be at the heart of this plan. We will work closely alongside mana whenua, community groups and local organisations.

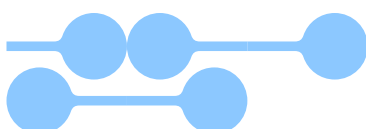
This is our plan. Let us know if we've got it right. Together we can make Waiheke a strong voice for a resilient community in the gulf.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kylee Matthews'.

Kylee Matthews

Waiheke Local Board Chairperson



He aronga poto ki tā mātou mahere

Our plan at a glance



Community

Waiheke residents are proud of our strong sense of identity, and actively participate in our community to enhance whanaungatanga and hauora.



Natural environment

We want to protect, maintain, and enhance our unique islands' land, coastline, bush, wetland, and marine environments for future generations.



Built environment

The special character and values of Waiheke and inner gulf islands are protected and enhanced in line with the draft Waiheke Area Plan and principles of Essentially Waiheke.



Economic development

Our Waiheke community has a strong, independent, entrepreneurial spirit and our natural taonga are protected to support sustainable lifestyles and economic activities.



Transport

Waiheke residents and visitors alike can efficiently, safely and sustainably traverse our island.

You will find these Auckland-wide commitments woven through our plan:



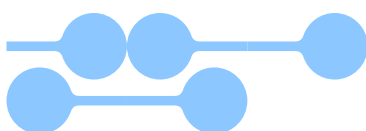
**Māori
Outcomes**



**Climate
outcomes**



**Equitable
outcomes**



Te tirohanga whānui o Te Mahere a te Poari ā-Rohe

Local Board Plan Overview

He kōrero mō tēnei tuhinga

About this document

This local board plan sets out the vision and priorities for our area over the next three years. It outlines our commitments to our community – shaped by what you've told us matters most, and by the role local boards play within Auckland Council.

Te take kei a mātou te mahere nei

Why we have this plan

Local boards are responsible for decisions on local services and activities, and for representing local views on wider Auckland issues.

This plan guides:

- what we focus on and fund locally
- how we work with mana whenua, partners, and community organisations
- how we make the best use of local assets such as parks, libraries and community facilities
- where we will advocate to others on your behalf.

Te ara e pāhekoheko ai mātou

How we will engage

Over the next three years, we will continue to improve how we engage and work with you, using a mix of digital, in-person and community-led engagement, enabling direct access to elected members to ensure everyone can take part in shaping local decisions.

Te ara i whakaritea ai te mahere nei

How this plan was developed

To make sure the plan reflects local aspirations, we built on:

- public feedback from the previous local board plan, annual plans and other consultations
- surveys such as People's Panel
- community engagement held from December 2025 – April 2026

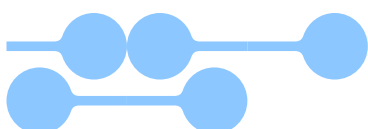
Te ara e tutuki ai ngā whāinga kei te mahere

How the plan will be used

The plan provides direction for the next three years and influences council's wider decision making. To deliver on it we will:

- prioritise budgets and resources to focus on the initiatives in this plan
- work with our partners to deliver on the objectives in this plan.



Visit the [Auckland Council website](#) to find out more about local boards.

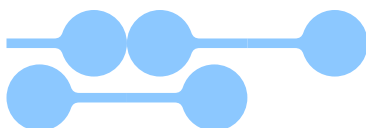


Te Rohe ā-Poari Local board area



MAP LEGEND

-  Local board office
-  Public open space (Unitary Plan)
-  Arterial road
-  Medium road
-  Minor road





Palm Beach Reserve

Tā mātou ki ngā huanga hei painga mō Tāmaki Makaurau

Our contribution to positive outcomes for Auckland

Local board plans connect local priorities and projects with the wider goals for Auckland. In particular, the local board plan connects with the:

- [Auckland Plan 2050](#) – the 30-year vision for how Auckland will grow and change. This includes the Future Development Strategy.
- [long-term plan](#) – the council’s investment and funding priorities over the next 10 years.
- [annual plan](#) – local funding decisions for each financial year.

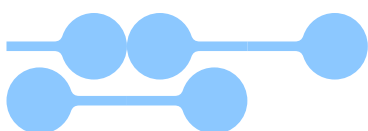
By linking to these wider plans, our local board plan can draw on Auckland-wide opportunities to deliver locally, while ensuring the goals of local communities contribute to Auckland’s shared future.

The **Auckland Plan 2050** sets out six outcomes that describe what Auckland is working towards over the long term. The council’s strategic framework organises all work and spending into **seven investment areas** to show how these outcomes are achieved.

This local board plan focuses on **five** of those investment areas — the ones where local boards make decisions and can have the greatest influence at a local level.

The strategic framework also identifies three considerations for all decisions and investments:

- Māori outcomes: Honouring Te Tiriti and ensuring Māori thrive in Tāmaki Makaurau



- Climate outcomes: Leading urgent action for a low-emissions, resilient future
- Equitable outcomes: Ensuring all Aucklanders have access to what they need to thrive
- supporting local initiatives that reflect Māori priorities
- embedding Māori identity, language and values into local spaces and activities.

These three areas are mutually reinforcing. Improving one of the three required considerations is likely to contribute to improvements in the others.

Ngā huanga Māori

Māori outcomes

Māori identity and culture are Auckland’s unique point of difference in the world.

Māori outcomes describe how Auckland Council supports Māori goals – from partnership and participation to visibility and wellbeing. They also reflect the council’s commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, our statutory responsibilities, and our ongoing relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities across Tāmaki Makaurau.

The refreshed *Tāmaki Ora Māori Outcomes Strategy* reflects the vision that when Māori are well, Tāmaki Makaurau will also be well. *Tāmaki Ora* guides Auckland Council to focus on seven Ora outcomes (wellbeing areas) that mana whenua and Māori communities have told us are important to them:

- Iwi Ora - Iwi wellbeing
- Te Taiao Ora - Environmental wellbeing
- Tuakiri Ora - Cultural identity wellbeing
- Huatau Ora – Future wellbeing
- Te Hapori Ora – Whānau & community wellbeing:
- Whai Rawa Ora – Economic wellbeing
- Marae Ora - Marae vitality

Local boards play a key role in achieving *Tāmaki Ora*. This can be through:

- partnering with mana whenua and Māori communities

This work will focus on Mana ki te Mana (authority to authority) engagements between local boards and mana whenua. The aim is to build relationships based on respect, shared priorities and mutual recognition for the mana that we each hold.

Local insights

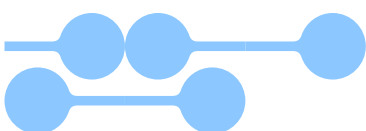
The original name for our island was Te Motu Ārai Roa, which meant ‘the long sheltering island’. Waiheke was a refuge for waka to shelter when bad weather descended from the north. The name remains significant today, and it is our privilege to work with mana whenua and mātāwaka to continue to work toward Waiheke being a place of shelter in changing times.

The Waiheke Local Board will continue to respect te ao Māori and recognise the role of mana whenua as kaitiaki of land and water resources.

We will continue to seek to understand priorities for the following iwi and hapū that whakapapa to the area:

- Ngāti Paoa
- Ngaati Whanaunga
- Ngāti Maru
- Ngāti Tamaterā
- Te Patukirikiri
- Ngai Tai Ki Tāmaki
- Ngāti Te Ata Waiohua.

Waiheke Island has a rich Māori history, and we have significant archaeological and cultural features, including pā and tapu sites. We will work with mana whenua, mātāwaka, the council and government agencies to ensure these sites are protected.



He huanga āhuarangi

Climate outcomes

In 2019, Auckland Council declared a climate emergency and adopted *Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan* in 2020. Meeting the goals of this plan requires ambitious action to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate.

Local boards contribute by including climate action into everything we do – from community investment and transport choices to restoring the environment and local events. We also support regional initiatives and enable community-led initiatives that build local resilience to the effects of climate change. Climate action also connects with the *Ngā Hapori Momoho | Thriving Communities Strategy 2022-2032*, which recognises that social and environmental wellbeing are closely linked— communities thrive when they have healthy environments, green spaces and can respond together to climate challenges.

Tāmaki Ora also recognises Māori goals around climate leadership and resilience.

Local insights

The Waiheke Local Board has chosen to adopt even bolder climate goals through its Waiheke Local Climate Action Plan. This plan includes the aim of achieving net positive carbon footprint by 2040. We are currently updating this plan.

Our vision is to create a resilient, self-sustaining, independent, and net carbon positive community where the mauri of people (tangata), the atmosphere (kōhauhau) and the natural environment (taiao) on land (whenua) and sea (moana) thrives. In the face of climate change, our islands face increasing pressure from sea level rise, severe weather events and invasive pests. It is more important than ever to prioritise achieving our climate goals.

He huanga tautika

Equitable outcomes

Auckland is one of the most diverse cities in the world, yet not all communities experience the same access to opportunity, wellbeing or resources.

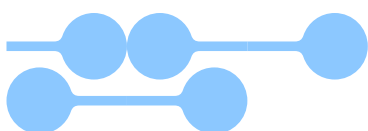
Supporting more equitable outcomes is central to the Auckland Plan 2050. It recognises that the region's success depends on making sure all Aucklanders can be part of and contribute to society, access opportunities and have a chance to develop to their full potential.

Ngā Hapori Momoho | Thriving Communities Strategy 2022-2032 is Auckland Council's regional strategy for a fairer and more sustainable Tāmaki Makaurau where every Aucklander belongs. It reflects what communities say they need to thrive, for Tāmaki Makaurau to be a region where whānau have everything they need to live a good life, where diversity is celebrated, and where all Aucklanders can participate and belong.

At its heart *Ngā Hapori Momoho* focuses on ensuring equitable outcomes for all Aucklanders – guiding Auckland Council to recognise that different groups and communities need different things to fully participate in the life of our region, and to feel valued, included, and that they belong.

Local insights

Waiheke's sense of community is one of our greatest strengths. Despite this, our young people have few safe places to connect, and all of our residents lack appropriate access to local health and wellbeing services. As our population ages, pressure on existing services will grow. We will work to enhance our sense of community connection, and improve access to essential services that improve the well-being of our residents. It's important that we make sure we bring everyone on this journey together, and work toward equity and safety for all.



Auckland-wide outcomes**How it's reflected across the plan**



Ngā huanga Māori
Māori outcomes

Partnership with mana whenua, Māori identity in local places, support for initiatives that reflect Māori priorities.



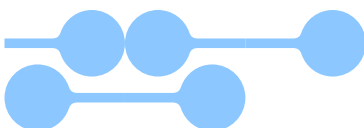
He huanga āhuarangi
Climate outcomes

Reducing emissions, protecting biodiversity, building community resilience.



He huanga tautika
Equitable outcomes

Targeted investment, access to services, focus on inclusion and fairness.





Heart of Christmas at Artworks Theatre

Te hapori **Community**

Waiheke residents are proud of our strong sense of identity, and actively participate in our community to enhance whanaungatanga and hauora.

Waiheke is a unique, diverse community. This diversity is a strength, and we aim to nurture and support it. We will work closely with mana whenua and mātāwaka on all aspects of uplifting and planning for our community.

We are creative, innovative and aware of the important role arts and culture plays in our sense of identity and cohesion. Events play an important part in growing community spirit, and we will support locally run events that reflect our community's values.

Our coastal environment and geographic isolation means resiliency amongst our residents is particularly important. Neighbourhoods must be well connected, and well resourced. The best way to respond to and recover from emergencies is always changing, but we can draw on our experience during the COVID-19 pandemic and recent severe weather events.

Compared to the rest of the Auckland region, Waiheke has a higher percentage of residents aged 65 and over. This number is forecast to continue to grow. It is vital to work to understand their needs, and to do our best to aid this group to be able to age in place.



We also need to understand the needs of our most vulnerable community members. Our island should be a safe place, where events and communal spaces, as well as care services are easy for everyone to access. We encourage members of our community to be involved and active in local issues.

We will consult with diverse community groups, for example youth and our older populations, when planning for the future.




Challenges

- Waiheke residents often have to pay for expensive travel to access essential social, health and wellbeing services on the mainland
- Lower median household income of \$85,800 compared to Auckland’s average of \$116,800
- Lack of affordable ferry transport as prices have increased every year
- An ageing community, without sufficient local services to enable community members to age in place
- Being isolated from mainland services, we need a reliable and effective emergency response service to help us manage exposure to extreme weather events and fire risk


















Opportunities

- Waiheke’s volunteer groups are active and dedicated - they can produce community leaders and are invaluable sources of social connection
- Our community is engaged and passionate about where they live
- We can continue to partner with community groups that understand Waiheke’s unique character

Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
A resilient, connected and compassionate community	Support local initiatives including volunteer groups, that enhance connection and diversity, reduce isolation and promote community development 
	Collaborate with residents’ associations and community lease holders to resource community emergency hubs and set up a localised New Zealand Emergency Response team
	Maintain and embed the Waiheke Local Board Emergency Readiness and Response Plan
	Support development of community hubs and residents association networks 
	Support the vision of the Waiheke Food Charter, to work toward a sustainable local food system 



A healthy and supportive society where people feel there is care, respect and all people are valued	Support the aspirations of health providers on Waiheke to provide integrated island-based health and community services	
	Support actions and policies aimed at reducing harm caused by alcohol, nicotine, drugs and gambling	
	Partner with and empower our diverse communities by providing them with opportunities to engage with the local board	
	Partner with health organisations to ensure mental health and disability support for tangata whaiora (a person seeking wellness) is accessible for all members of our community	
	Support health and community services to enable Waiheke residents who are ageing or at end-of-life, and carers to maintain quality of life	
Strengthen collaboration and partnership with Māori	Develop mana whenua relationships to advance partnership and support mana whenua aspirations	
	Create opportunities for effective Māori participation and influence in decision making	
	Support te reo Māori to be seen, heard, spoken and learned throughout the places and spaces of Waiheke	
Enhance Māori wellbeing and potential	Increase opportunities for rangatahi Māori skill development and leadership	
	Work with mātāwaka and Piritahi Marae to achieve their aspirations	
	Support the development of kaupapa Māori-based learning and wānanga facilities	
	Support Piritahi Marae aspirations and strategic priorities for intergenerational development and sustainability	
A flourishing arts sector that celebrates our unique island identity	Support the arts community to generate, maintain and grow the arts on Waiheke	
Children and youth feel valued, and that they have diverse opportunities to thrive	Support community-led youth initiatives and implement recommendations of the 2024 Rangatahi / Youth Needs Assessment	
	Foster partnerships that mentor and support rangatahi, particularly those transitioning from school to work	
	Support community led initiatives that enable tamariki and whānau to develop confidence, skills and connections	
	Continue to invest in play beyond traditional playgrounds And promote play as ‘an everywhere activity’ through implementing the Waiheke Play Plan work programme	





Waiheke Marine Project Youth Snorkel Day

Te taiao māori

Natural environment

We want to protect, maintain and enhance our unique islands' land, coastline, bush, wetland and marine environments for future generations.

We acknowledge the importance of our natural environment to Māori and will work with mana whenua and mātāwaka to achieve our combined environmental aspirations.

We must ensure that our streams, beaches, bays and surrounding Gulf are protected and enhanced, and that biodiversity is protected and restored. Community education and volunteer programmes have a crucial role to play. We will foster partnerships and collaborative relationships with volunteer groups committed to protecting, restoring and enhancing our natural environments such as wetlands, native bush, coastlines and marine environments.

We will promote best practice for environmental management including stormwater, wastewater, wetlands, weed, and animal pest control. We will continue to restrict the use of agrichemicals on Waiheke council land except where the local board approves dispensation.

We will actively promote the development of strategies to protect our marine environment within the Hauraki Gulf, including reducing sedimentation. We will also advocate for work that contributes to the elimination of Caulerpa from the Hauraki Gulf. Our shoreline adaptation plan for the island provides direction for how to best protect our coastal environment.



As our climate continues to change, enhancing the resilience of our natural environment will become more vital. In order to advance this, we will continue to progress actions in our local climate action plan.

We will use our shoreline adaptation plan to help us understand which coastal areas need protection, and the Urban Ngāhere Strategy to guide how we grow and care for healthy, thriving forests across the island.




Challenges

- Preserving wetlands, bush and coastal habitats while maintaining public access and recreational opportunities
- Parts of the island face challenges with water supply and sewage infrastructure, especially during population surges or droughts
- Maintaining water quality in bays and streams, especially for shellfish, recreation and ecological health
- Managing invasive species and pests
- Managing our large numbers of visitors and making sure they are aware of how to maintain and protect our unique environment
















Opportunities

- The island supports native flora and fauna, with protected areas, birdlife and marine ecosystems that are valued by residents and visitors alike
- Existing bush, wetlands and coastal ecosystems can be used in advocating for the development of ‘blue-green’ infrastructure and sustainability projects
- Upholding our ongoing partnership with mana whenua and utilising matauranga Māori in our response to climate change
- Waiheke can become a leading example of a predator free island
- We can continue to make a significant reduction in waste going to landfill, and use this momentum to focus on working toward a circular food economy

Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)	
Restore, enhance and protect our natural	Support initiatives which protect, restore, and enhance the island’s indigenous biodiversity including sand dune restoration and planting	
environment in partnership with our community	Recognise our island Ngāhere as a form of climate resilience, and support work to protect and grow our native canopy cover	
	Investigate how to ensure the disposal of noxious weeds is more accessible for our community	



	Continue to support the work and public messaging of predator-free groups, including Te Korowai o Waiheke and pest control programmes	
	Support freshwater ecosystem restoration projects, including streams and wetlands	
	Acknowledge mātauranga Māori in support of strategies for restoring the mauri of te taiao	
	Protect and preserve Waiheke's dark night sky and the biodiversity impacted by artificial light levels and work towards achieving international dark sky accreditation	
	Promote responsible pet ownership	
Respond to the challenge of climate change in a way that secures a sustainable future for our islands	Continue to implement the 'Waiheke Local Climate Action Plan: Waiheke ki uta, Waiheke ki tai, Waiheke ki tua' and maintain support to deliver flagship climate actions identified in our local plan and Te Tāruke-a-Tāwhiri - Auckland's Climate Plan	
	Continue to support and endorse organisations that enable Waiheke to move toward a fossil-fuel free future	
	Investigate the feasibility of using solar microgrids to power our community facilities	
Improve conservation of our marine and coastal environment	Take direction from council's Hauraki Gulf Islands Shoreline Adaptation Plan to adapt to coastal impacts from climate change	
	Work to improve biosecurity awareness and practice for people, goods, vessels, and plants traveling to Waiheke and elsewhere in the Hauraki Gulf	
	Continue to support marine restoration and regeneration projects with key community organisations, schools, and other agencies	
Reduce the amount of waste that ends up in our landfills	Support regional and community led initiatives that move Waiheke towards a zero-waste future	
	Continue to support the construction waste management programme and encourage a circular economy and the re-use of materials	
Sustainably manage our wai	Support education campaigns for residents on managing private wastewater and stormwater systems	
	Support advocacy and education that aims to minimise adverse effects of stormwater run-off and encourage the use of water-sensitive design practices	
	Work with Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience to help identify, prioritise, and support opportunities for improved water management on Waiheke	



Advocacy

Some local priorities that matter to our community are not part of our direct decision-making role. ‘Advocacy’ is how we influence other governance decision-makers to prioritise the things our community cares about.

What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)	Who we will advocate to
An end to bottom contact fishing such as dredging, bottom trawling and Danish seining	Central government
Initiatives to prevent sedimentation of the Hauraki Gulf	Central government
Ecosystem based management of fisheries within Tikapa Moana	Central government
The establishment of the Hākaimangō-Mātiatia (Northwest Waiheke) Marine Reserve	Central government
Elimination of the exotic Caulerpa from the Hauraki Gul	Central government Governing Body
Active monitoring and enforcement of boating activities on the Waiheke shoreline, including addressing abandoned boats and rubbish dumping	Governing Body
Initiatives to prevent over-gathering of marine life in Waiheke’s rockpools	Central government
Regionally led flood resilience and blue-green network programmes to be delivered on Waiheke	Governing Body
Ban the sale and use of fireworks in Aotearoa	Central government





Tawaipareira Reserve upgrades

Te taiao kua hangaia

Built environment

The special character and values of Waiheke and inner gulf islands are protected and enhanced in line with the draft Waiheke Area Plan and principles of Essentially Waiheke.

Our community facilities and open spaces are important to our community's wellbeing and sense of belonging. We will do our best to ensure our facilities, playgrounds, parks, reserves and track networks are well maintained and provide opportunities for recreation and connection. Our assets are ageing, and the cost to maintain our community and recreational facilities to meet the needs of our communities is sometimes beyond available funding, particularly as assets age and renewal and operating costs increase

The Waiheke Local Parks Management Plan is our guiding document for the management of our parks and reserves. This plan sets out the key issues and priorities for park management and helps ensure different types of parks and open spaces are managed consistently across the area.

The Rangihoua Reserve and Onetangi Sports Park Reserve Management Plan guides future management and investment in the reserve. It aims to balance the needs for recreation, environmental protection, public access, and cultural value.

We will continue to improve recreational facilities at the Onetangi Sports Park. The refreshed Waiheke Active Sport and Recreation Plan addresses the facility needs of our growing number of sports clubs and players.



The community supports the development of a swimming pool, and it is a local board priority to progress planning for a community pool. We want to make sure everyone can learn to swim in a safe environment while providing a valuable therapeutic and recreational facility.

Our community and arts facilities are very important to our community, and we will continue to look at ways to ensure their use is maximised.

The Artworks complex was established in 1991 and is an invaluable arts and cultural centre. Guided by the Waiheke Community Arts and Culture Needs Assessment, we will support the future development of Artworks as an arts and cultural precinct.

Challenges

- Waiheke receives many visitors which places significant demand on play, recreation and community facilities which is challenging to meet with the local board’s limited budget
- Power and communications networks are vulnerable during emergencies, severe weather events and outage
- Housing affordability and availability
- Island geography restricts expansion, limiting options to provide more community facilities including those for sport and recreation
- Extreme weather, flooding, and erosion events can impact our parks and facilities






Opportunities

- Existing sports and recreation facilities provide spaces for people to be active and to promote health and wellbeing
- There is community support for interpretive (educational) signage, and cultural programmes in our parks and open spaces
- We can work with private developers and external development agencies to create shared path connections within and through their developments
- Our parks and open space strategies reflect Waiheke’s identity and the wishes of locals and visitors
- Our sports and recreation facilities can move towards net-zero carbon emissions in line with the Waiheke Local Climate Action Plan




Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
Planning that enables local placemaking	Engage with our community when the District Plan provisions for the Hauraki Gulf Islands are reviewed as part of the Auckland Unitary Plan review



	Promote changes to the Hauraki Gulf Island District Plan to facilitate required conditions for Dark Sky status, helipad consents and housing aligned to the Housing Strategy	
	Investigate possible improvements to campground facilities on Waiheke	
Sustainable living in healthy homes	Support community-led housing initiatives that align with the 2025 Waiheke Housing Strategy	
	Support community-led healthy homes projects for low-income residents to create warm, dry, energy efficient homes	
	Explore and implement local mechanisms, such as a Short-Term Visitor Accommodation (STVA) register, to manage the impact of short-term visitor accommodation	
Sustain and celebrate Māori identity, knowledge and practice	Ensure sites of significance are appropriately identified, marked and managed	
	Work with mana whenua to identify and support appropriate areas for the burial of kōiwi tangata (burial of human remains)	
Improve our community's wellbeing by providing quality arts, recreational and community facilities	Continue to support local organisations with the development of a community swimming pool and consider consulting our community on a targeted rate if required	
	Upgrade community halls and facilities in line with the Waiheke Local Climate Action Plan and lighting with Dark Sky criteria	
	Plan for future redevelopment of arts and culture facilities	
	Continue to work with partners and investigate options for future provision of community equestrian facilities	
	Replace the Rakino Community Hall following storm damage	
	Make sure we prioritise accessibility and inclusivity when we renew our playgrounds and facilities in line with the 'Waiheke Be Accessible' plan	
	Progress recommended actions within the updated Waiheke Active Sport and Recreation Plan	
	Review and assess what water infrastructure and resources are needed to best support and set up sport and recreation groups	
	Explore the provision of all-age fitness equipment at well-used and visible sites	



Embrace Waiheke’s rich Māori identity and cultural history	Invest in and support local, community-led initiatives that celebrate Māori identity and culture including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Kete Rukuruku (te reo naming and dual naming of parks) • implementation of Te Aranga Design principles in park, playground, and green space upgrades 	
	Recognise the Māori world view – te ao Māori – in all programmed work	
	Create connection to place and heritage through the installation of historical and cultural markers in our open spaces	
Improve the open space network on the island	Progress recommended actions within the Waiheke Local Parks Management Plan and the Rangihoua Reserve and Onetangi Sports Park Reserve Management Plan	
	Upgrade existing walking tracks including resurfacing, boardwalk construction, drainage improvements and realignment to better protect bush/coastal environments, while improving safety and walkability	

Advocacy

Some local priorities that matter to our community are not part of our direct decision-making role. ‘Advocacy’ is how we influence other governance decision-makers to prioritise the things our community cares about.

What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)	Who we will advocate to
Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing	Governing Body
Clear communication and stronger enforcement by Auckland Council of regulations for short term visitor accommodation to prevent further loss of residential housing stock	Governing Body
Advocate for and use national policy changes (like National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) to lower the permitted standards for minor dwellings, making sure these are prioritised for long-term residential housing.	Central government





Te whanaketanga ā-ōhanga

Economic development

Our Waiheke community has a strong, independent entrepreneurial spirit and our natural taonga (treasures) are protected to support sustainable lifestyles and economic activities.

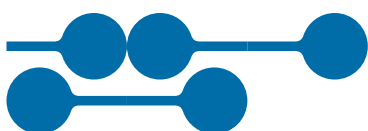
Economic activity on Waiheke must balance development with impacts on the environment and infrastructure. This includes ensuring that our community lifestyle is not adversely impacted.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the Waiheke economy's reliance on tourism and visitors. Fortunately, there are other sectors adding value. This includes exports, viticulture and horticulture, farming, commuter income, technology, and the arts, among others.

Waiheke's extraordinary natural landscape, its engaging and artistic community, its vineyards and restaurants, and its proximity to mainland Auckland means it is now viewed as a destination of choice. This brings with it both opportunities and challenges.

Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, in consultation with the Waiheke community and local board, has developed a Waiheke Destination Management Plan with a vision of Waiheke being a leader in destination sustainability. Once this plan is finalised and adopted, it will guide the board's investment in this area.

Our infrastructure and environment face the significant challenge of supporting not only the needs of our estimated 9400 residents, but also our estimated 900,000 annual visitors. The local board will continue to advocate for a robust infrastructure within the wider council organisation.



Challenges

- Waiheke’s economy is largely tourism based and lacking in diversity making it vulnerable to any downturn in activity in its main employment sector
- Waiheke is heavily reliant on its visitor economy, which is seasonal and at its peak, places great demand on the island’s resources and infrastructure
- Local employment opportunities are largely limited to tourism, hospitality and seasonal work


Opportunities

- Waiheke offers significant business opportunities for a range of employers and enterprises
- High-quality landscapes and access to outdoor activities (walking, cycling, swimming, boating) strengthen community well-being and attract visitors
- Diversification of our economy by attracting unique industries and creating employment that has low or carbon-neutral environmental impacts
- Encouraging a low-carbon circular economy

Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
Economic development on Waiheke is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable	Finalise the Waiheke Destination Management Plan and progress the resulting actions
	Investigate ways to understand visitor data and tourism insights
	Support initiatives that grow the Māori economy 
	Support the development of local business networks
Our visitor industry is managed sustainably	Support the business sector to move to a more ecologically sustainable model 
	Encourage local businesses to actively participate in employment programmes by offering internships, apprenticeships and entry-level positions 
Our visitor industry is managed sustainably	Actively promote Waiheke’s identity as a unique natural destination and a shelter in the Hauraki Gulf, including encouraging visitors to respect Waiheke’s natural environment 
	Support eco-tourism and eco-adventure opportunities on Waiheke that sustain and help regenerate our environment 



	Work with our networks to develop a trail or series of trails that combines walking, art, food and cultural experiences	
	Provide targeted funding to community groups that actively grow conservation volunteerism	
	Develop and deliver an education approach to encourage visitors to respect the island's vulnerable natural and community environments	
Waiheke is recognised as an arts destination	Support the arts community to promote arts venues and activities collectively, as a Waiheke identity	
Strengthen our economy in keeping with the island's character and our need to increase our resiliency	Support and advocate for council-delivered projects on Waiheke that create employment	
	Support collaboration between businesses and tertiary providers to create economic and career development opportunities for young people	
	Support innovative or sustainable business and community initiatives that align with Waiheke's identity as a shelter in the Hauraki Gulf	
	Recognise and support the role of community markets as starting points for new businesses	
	Support initiatives that increase business and community resiliency	





Waiheke Esplanade swing gates

Tūnuku

Transport

Waiheke residents and visitors alike can efficiently, safely and sustainably traverse our island.

Waiheke occupies a unique position within Tāmaki Makaurau in relation to transport governance. The Waiheke Local Board is the only local board in Auckland that utilises a Ten-Year Transport Plan.

Our Ten-Year Transport Plan identifies a programme of transport projects that were prioritised following consultation with the Waiheke community. Projects are delivered in order of priority as funding becomes available. The local board remains committed to progressing these projects while responding to any changes in how transport is governed and delivered across the Auckland region.

Waiheke's significant visitor numbers place additional pressure on the island's transport network. Ensuring safe, accessible and efficient movement for both residents and visitors is therefore a key priority. We will work to improve walking and cycling infrastructure, as well as park and ride facilities. We will also work with community partners to ensure tamariki have safe and reliable routes to and from school.

Transport is the largest source of emissions both on Waiheke, and the Auckland region as a whole. To do our part to meet the Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan goal of being net carbon by 2050, it is vital we support a shift toward lower-emissions transport. As a board we will champion active mode users, and advocate for the electrification of our ferry fleet.



At the time of developing this draft plan, the Government is progressing the *Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill*, which, if passed, will change how transport is governed and delivered in Auckland. While the details of how transport is to be governed in Auckland are still to be confirmed, our community has told us that safe, reliable, and sustainable transport remains a top priority. The local board will continue to advocate strongly for these priorities, and will adapt this section in response to both community feedback and any changes made to the Bill throughout the Parliamentary process.

Challenges

- Both key ferry transport hubs have issues such as increased commuter demand, that need to meet growing demand
- Waiheke relies heavily on ferries and limited bus services, which can restrict mobility for residents, workers and visitors
- Inconsistent footpaths, tracks, and cycleways reduce safe access across the island
- The road network is narrow, winding, vulnerable to coastal erosion and has varying surface quality
- Challenges with removing abandoned vehicles and vessels, including the lack of dedicated harbourmaster support to help remove them from the island

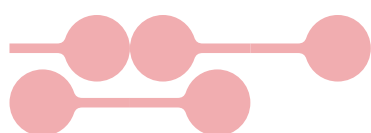
Opportunities





- Mātiatia wharf upgrades and associated infrastructure which ensure more seamless integration across the network
- Greater level of provision for active modes and public transport on key corridors (Mātiatia) and town centres
- Low-impact road safety and network improvements – we can create targeted safety upgrades that respect environmental and character constraints

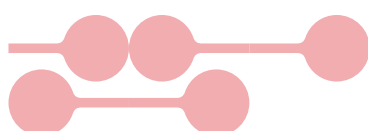
Our priorities

Set out below, are the transport priorities for the Waiheke area. In some instances, implementing these may require Governing Body decisions, under the governance arrangements proposed in the *Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill*.

This proposed legislation change is expected to impact on what things might be a part of our direct decision-making role and what things might be considered as advocacy. Due to this uncertainty, the local board's transport priorities are set out in a single category in this draft plan.



Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we want to happen in the next 3 years (Priorities)
Safe, fit-for-purpose and environmentally friendly transport infrastructure	Work with the new public transport entity to add park-and-ride facilities
	Increase bike storage, e-bike and electric vehicle charging facilities in our public spaces 
	Progress work toward developing a continuous cycleway from Mātiatia to Onetangi
	Advocate for legislative change that would enable Waiheke ferries to be included in the Public Transport Operating Model
Our community feels empowered to use active modes of transport where safely possible	Continue to deliver prioritised pedestrian and cycle links, guided by the Waiheke Pathways Plan
	Support the work of Cycle Action Waiheke and other local organisations that encourage and promote use of active modes 
Our ferry terminals are inviting, fit-for-purpose gateways to our island	Complete the Mātiatia Strategic Plan after full public consultation
	Proceed with phased work at Mātiatia as local and central funding is made available
A safe roading network that meets the needs of all road users, and supports the special character of Waiheke	Support implementation of the refreshed Waiheke 10-Year Transport Plan
	Support work toward ensuring routes to all Waiheke schools are safe for walking and cycling 
	Investigate local event traffic management planning solutions
	Implement speed calming measures in areas where speeding risk is found to be high
	Consider the accessibility needs of all road users when we upgrade our transport infrastructure 
Review the transport layout in Ostend village and surrounds to create a safer environment	



He kōrero take pūtea

Funding information

Local board funding is approved through Auckland Council's budget-setting process. This includes the Governing Body adopting a long-term plan every three years and an annual plan each year.

The Local Board Funding Policy sets out how funding is allocated to local boards for local activities, services and facilities within their decision-making responsibilities.

Funding for local activities, services and facilities is split into:

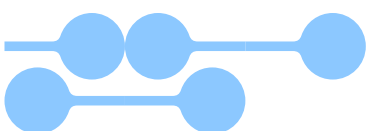
- operating expenditure (opex): to maintain and operate local assets like libraries, pools and parks, and to provide local activities and services
- capital expenditure (capex): to renew and develop local assets.

The priorities in this local board plan will inform decisions about funding that are made through the annual plan process and local board work programmes. This applies to decisions for both operating and capital spend.

Local boards have been allocated decision-making over local levels of service. This means they can prioritise services and initiatives to achieve local objectives, while ensuring costs are managed within the local board's allocated funding.

The financial and levels of service statements in this plan are based on the information included in the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 and the Annual Plan 2025/2026.

The next long-term plan is due to take effect from 1 July 2027. This could change funding for operating and capital spend in our area and will affect how we achieve the goals set out in this local board plan.



Kaupapa ā-rohe me ngā paerewa ā-mahi

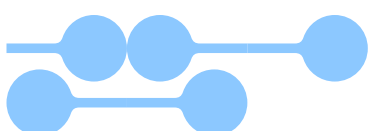
Levels of service

The Long-term Plan 2024–2034 outlines the decision-making responsibilities of local boards, as set out in legislation or allocated to the local boards. These responsibilities are grouped into local activities and described through levels of service statements. The following table summarises the local activities and levels of service for this local board area.

Local Activities	Level of service statements
<p>Local community services</p> <p>We support strong, diverse, and vibrant communities through libraries and literacy, arts and culture, parks, sport and recreation, and events delivered by a mix of council services, community group partnerships and volunteers</p>	<p>Enable a range of choices to access community services and recreation opportunities.</p> <p><i>Provide opportunities for communities to lead and deliver their own initiatives. *</i></p> <p>Provide urban green spaces (local parks, paths and Ngāhere) and access to the Coast</p>
<p>Local planning and development</p> <p>We support local town centres and communities to thrive by developing town centre plans and development, supporting Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), heritage plans and initiatives</p>	<p>Facilitate economic development opportunities and promote Auckland as a destination (<i>Support a strong economy. *</i>)</p>
<p>Local environmental management</p> <p>We support healthy ecosystems and sustainability through local board-funded initiatives such as planting, pest control, stream and water quality enhancements, healthy homes, and waste minimisation projects.</p>	<p>Protect, improve and minimise risks to the natural environments and cultural heritage.</p>
<p>Local governance</p> <p>Activities in this group support the local board to engage with and represent their communities and make decisions on local activities. This support includes providing strategic advice, leadership of the preparation of local board plans, support in developing the local board agreements, community engagement including relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities, and democracy and administrative support.</p>	<p>Lead Council Group response to partnership and participation of Māori in decision making and deliver Māori outcomes (<i>Respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua and Māori Communities. *</i>)</p>

* Levels of service statement from Local Board Agreement.

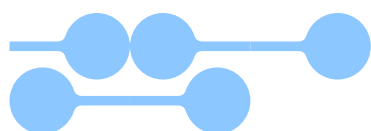
The statement of service provision, default levels of service statements, performance measures and performance targets from our last long-term plan can be found in section 2.6 in [volume 2 of the 10-Long-term Plan 2024-2034](#). The local board’s performance measures and performance targets, can be found in the Waiheke Local Board Agreement 2025/2026 which is available as part of the [Annual Plan 2025/2026](#).



Setting priorities and making ‘trade-offs’

The local board will use this plan to inform how it prioritises resources, services and activities in the local area over the next three years. In doing so, it will take into account rising costs, limited resources and changing community needs. When making financial decisions, the local board will:

- prioritise actions that most strongly contribute to achieving the intended outcomes and goals of this local board plan
- consider value for money when making decisions about local services and assets within its decision-making responsibilities
- consider advice on ways to increase funding for services, activities and facilities from sources other than rates where appropriate,
- consider advice on opportunities to work with other local boards and external partners, where this supports shared goals
- consider advice on the ongoing suitability, performance and community value of local assets.



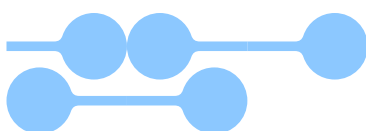
Tirohanga take pūtea whānui

Financial overview

The estimated costs shown in the table below for major service priorities are high level only. Updated figures are provided through the long-term plan and annual plan processes.

\$ 000	2026/2027	Indicative 2027/2028	Indicative 2028/2029	Indicative 2029/2030
Operating funding				
General rates	7,072	7,290	7,489	7,604
Targeted rates				
Fees and charges	46	47	47	49
Other revenue	118	123	126	128
Total operating funding	7,236	7,460	7,662	7,780
Operating expenditure				
Community services (Community)				
Libraries	776	791	807	823
Maintenance	3,533	3,583	3,678	3,731
Utilities	188	176	189	194
Other community expenses	1,735	1,889	1,921	1,963
Local Environmental Management (Natural Environment)	145	148	152	156
Local Governance	859	873	915	914
Total operating expenditure	7,236	7,460	7,662	7,780
Net operating funding	0	0	0	0
Capital funding				
Increase in debt	3,218	3,273	3,340	3,407
Total capital funding	3,218	3,273	3,340	3,407
Capital expenditure				
Community services (Community)	3,218	3,273	3,340	3,407
Total capital expenditure	3,218	3,273	3,340	3,407
Net capital funding	0	0	0	0

The local board's latest funding impact statement can be found in the Waiheke Local Board Agreement 2025/2026 which is available as part of the [Annual Plan 2025/2026](#).



Ngā Mema o tō Poari ā-Rohe o Waiheke

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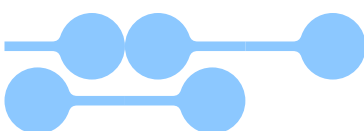
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