



Te mahere ā-rohe o Waitākere Ranges 2026

Waitākere Ranges Draft Local Board Plan 2026

**Tāmaki Turuki.
Altogether Auckland.**



Mihi

**E nga pītau whakarei o te waka,
e nga rau tītapu o te iwi, e aku hei māpuna,
e taku iti e taku rahi, koutou kua mahue mai nei
hei toka piringa mōku i te ora,
hei ruruhau i nga hau āwhio o te wā.
E aku whakakai pounamu, e aku māpihi maurea,
kia oho te mauri, kia māriri o koutou wairua,
kia hora te marino, tēnā koutou katoa.
Tēnei au te noho atu nei i te tihi o Te Pae o te Rangi,
i tīhorea ai te whenua kia kī ake au,
e koe e te hau o te uru te wawā rā, me te kī mai, e
kore au e ora i ngā hau kōtiu, i āia ai te pūpūtara ki
uta.
Nāu nei te tonu kia piki ake au i ngā tai whakatū a
Kupe
ki te Wao Nui a Tiriwā me te Pae o te Rangi,
Kia titiro whakaroto ahau ki te maunga o
Puketōtara,
kei raro e rere ana ko te awa o Waitākere
kei tētahi taha ko Puke Whakataratara, kei tua ko
Te Whau.
Koinei rā te rohe kāinga o Te Au o Te Whenua me te
Te Kawerau a Maki,
ko rātou nei te whāriki i āhei ai te nohoa o tēnei
moka o te rohe
e tini whāioio kua whakakāinga ma.
Kua kōhatu nei nga paparahi ki te whenua,
i tangata whenuatia ai tātou katoa.
I whaikiko ai te kōrero,
“Ko te hāpori te tauawhi i te taiao, he mea
motuhake, rerenga kē.” Kia hiwa rā, kia hiwa rā**

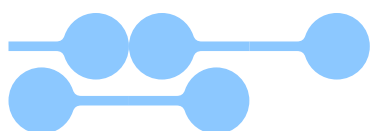
To all those who adorn the prow of this canoe,
to the revered leaders of the people, to my treasured
heirlooms,
the lesser and the greater parts of me,
you who are my refuge in life,
my shelter from the storms of time.
My objects of affection,
let your very being flourish, let your spirit be at
peace,
let the calm be widespread, I send greetings to you
all.
Here I sit on the ridgeline of Te Pae o te Rangi, where
the land had been laid bare,
and the roaring wind of the west whispers,
that I would not survive the blast of the northerly
wind, that would drive the paper nautilus to shore. It
was you who commanded me to ascend from the
raised seas of Kupe,
to the forest of Tiriwa, and Te Pae o te Rangi.
So I look inland to Puketotara,
at the foot of which runs the Waitākere river
on one side stands Massey and on the other - Te
Whau.
Home of Te Au o te Whenua and Te Kawerau a Maki,
the original settlers, they laid the way for later
travellers
to make a home here.
They cast their footprints in stone upon these
precincts of the region,
and so made settlers of us all.
Which gives substance to the adage,
“Communities connected to their natural
environment are unique and diverse.”
Let us grow with vigour.



Ngā upoko kōrero

Contents

Mihi	2
From the Chair.....	4
Our plan at a glance	5
Local Board Plan Overview	6
Local board area.....	7
Our contribution to positive outcomes for Auckland	8
Community.....	12
Natural environment	16
Built environment.....	20
Economic development.....	23
Transport	26
Funding information.....	29
Levels of service.....	30
Financial overview.....	32
Your Waitākere Ranges Local Board members	33



He kōrero mai i te Heamana

From the Chair

We are excited to present our draft 2026 Local Board Plan. The plan is a three-year strategy that discusses and lists our priorities for the Waitākere Ranges local board area.

It builds on progress made by previous local boards, other bodies and plans, such as the Glen Eden Community Plan, local area plans and our climate plan. Our focus isn't changing dramatically but we are looking to capitalise on emerging opportunities, and we want to hear from you.

For example, looking ahead to the opening of the City Rail Link, where we look forward to faster, more frequent and reliable trips to the City Centre and beyond. What do you think we should focus on to maximise this?

The CRL will unfortunately probably bring some congestion and increased safety concerns at our level rail crossings. We will beat the drum loud to have our crossings prioritised for construction of over-passes or similar.

We are also looking for opportunities from the Auckland Transport reforms. These should give us a stronger local voice and seek improvements in maintenance and drainage.

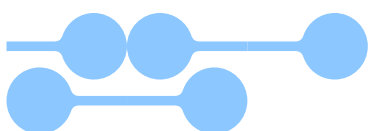
Last term, the Deed of Acknowledgement was signed between Council, the Crown and Te Kawerau ā Maki. This has in turn led to the formation of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum. It is a huge opportunity to collectively work with our partners and the community on track opening, environmental improvement and sustainable visitor management and tourism.

We are keen to see investment in Glen Eden town centre. Glen Eden is ready for further development - potentially a new civic space and opening to West Coast Road.

There are lots of other concerns and areas we are looking at and want your thoughts on. From recreation and social needs due to housing, to building storm resilience and use of bought out land. We welcome your input on the draft plan as we firm up our direction for the next three-years.

Mark Allen

Waitākere Ranges Local Board Chairperson



He aronga poto ki tā mātou mahere

Our plan at a glance



Community

Sense of community in loved places, with a passion for arts and culture sustaining mental and physical wellbeing.



Natural environment

Ngāhere and waterways are restored and enhanced, people can responsibly access and connect with nature.



Built environment

Choice of housing, distinctive areas, bush clad lifestyle, with highest density housing near centres, services, and transport connections.



Economic development

People experiencing our centres, spaces, culture, facilities and parks - uplifting communities.



Transport

Reliable, safe and sustainable transport options.

You will find these Auckland commitments woven through our plan:



Māori
Outcomes



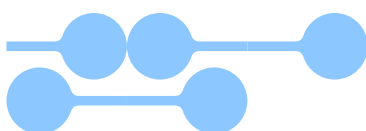
Climate
outcomes



Equitable
outcomes



Waitākere
Ranges
Heritage
Area



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 listen to and work with our community, using a mix of digital, in-person and community-led engagement to ensure more people 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 November 2025 – March 2026.

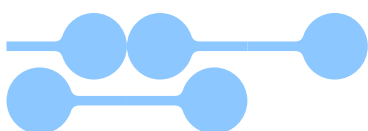
Te ara e tutuki ai ngā whāinga kei te mahere

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



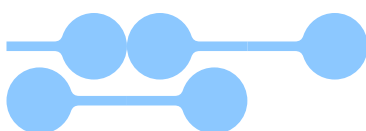
Te Rohe ā-Poari

Local board area



MAP LEGEND

-  Local board office
-  Public open space (Unitary Plan)
-  Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) boundary
-  Industrial, commercial and reserve land
-  Arterial road
-  Medium road
-  Minor road





Dotterel chicks, Te Henga/Bethells Beach

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.

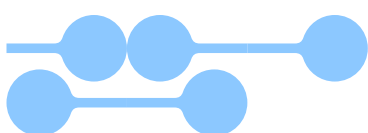
By linking to these wider plans, our local board plan can draw on Auckland-wide opportunities to deliver locally, while ensuring the goals of local communities contribute to Auckland’s shared future.

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 four 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
- Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area outcomes: That highlights the values of this nationally significance treasured.
- supporting local initiatives that reflect Māori priorities
- embedding Māori identity, language and values into local spaces and activities.

These four 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

Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua are mana whenua in the Waitākere Ranges with a long historical and cultural relationship to this place.

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Deed of Acknowledgement recognises the deep, ongoing relationship of Te Kawerau ā Maki, and Ngāti Whātua as tangata whenua of the Waitākere Ranges.

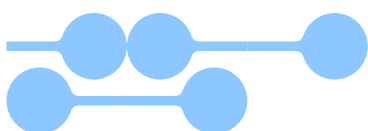
Re-establishing a marae and papakāinga in Te Henga is seen as central to the social and cultural wellbeing of Te Kawerau ā Maki people. The project is known as Kāinga Whakahirahira (settlement of significance), representing a renaissance of the iwi within its heartland. Te Kawerau ā Maki is the only mana whenua in Tāmaki Makaurau without a marae.

Hoani Waititi Marae, in Parrs Park, has served as a cultural anchor for west Auckland Māori and the wider community since the 1980s. Working alongside Council and other agencies, Hoani Waititi lead social, environmental, cultural and educational initiatives that strengthen the wider region.

He huanga āhuarangi

Climate outcomes

In 2019, the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and 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

Transport is Auckland’s largest emitter of Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Auckland Council has set the target of halving Auckland’s transport emissions as a tangible response to climate change.

The Waitākere Ranges has a high average rainfall. The area is predominantly steep and bush-clad, with relatively recent geology, making it prone to slips. The 2023 storms brought this vulnerability to the forefront and caused extensive damage — destroying homes, closing roads, and tragically costing lives. Following the storms, many destroyed and damaged properties were purchased and the houses removed. It will take time to decide what to do with these sites.

Some residents are still in recovery and sites that have been bought need to be actively managed now. With the likelihood of more frequent and intense storms as average temperatures rise, further research into vulnerabilities and greater resilience is needed. Power and communication networks, roadside drains and the stormwater network must be well maintained to have the best chance of coping during future storms. Space is also required for peak stream flows, and emergency response capability also needs to be well resourced — especially for more isolated areas. The Waitākere Ranges and surrounding bush, wetlands, and urban trees absorb atmospheric carbon.

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.

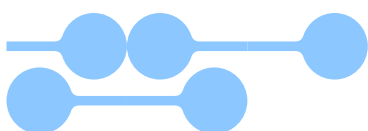
At its heart *Ngā Hapori Momoho* focuses on ensuring equitable outcomes for all Aucklanders – guiding Auckland Council to recognise that different groups and communities need different things to fully participate in the life of our region, and to feel valued, included, and that they belong.

Local insights

People particularly impacted by inequity can include:

- the younger and older people.
- disable people.
- those on a fixed or low income or no income.
- disabled people and those with mobility issues.
- those with unresolved property issues resulting from the 2023 storms.
- geographically isolated.

Demographics across the Waitākere Ranges area are changing with growing ethnic diversity — particularly in the urban communities of Glen Eden and Swanson. While the local board area is generally prosperous, with high levels of home



ownership, there are pockets of deprivation where social and economic outcomes are lower, more households rent, and incomes are lower. Many people in our area particularly older members maybe asset rich but cash poor. The area also has a large number of young people, as well as remote communities, all of whom require equitable and reliable access to services and support.

Rising housing costs, food insecurity, and increasing fuel prices are placing growing pressure on community members who are already experiencing vulnerability. These impacts are felt most deeply by those households that are already facing financial hardship and by whānau living in the more remote parts of the area.

He huanga mō Te Rohe Whakauka o Te Pae Maunga o Waitākere Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area outcomes





The Waitākere Ranges is a taonga (treasure) our local people are greatly proud of. The extent of the heritage area includes the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, the foothills and bush lifestyle areas. The area encompasses many places people live, love and play in. The area has intrinsic, cultural, and heritage values, offers living and recreational opportunities, is habitat to native plants, animals, and heritage fruit trees, collects 20 per cent of Auckland’s drinking water, and achieves atmospheric carbon capture.

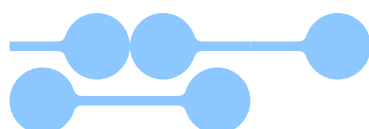
The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act (WRHAA) 2008 promotes the protection and enhancement of its greatly valued features for present and future generations. It recognises the Waitākere Ranges as a place of national significance – to be sustained, enhanced and celebrated.

The WRHAA acknowledges the relationship of tangata whenua with the Waitākere Ranges and establishes the need for the forum. A ‘Deed of Acknowledgement’ was signed in 2025 by Council, the Crown, and Te Kawerau ā Maki to formalise this. This further enhanced the relationship. The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum is now underway - its vision is being set, and it will support a kotahitanga – united approach to discussing and providing advice in relation to the taonga.

Local Area Plans have been developed under the WRHAA for Te Henga, Muddy Creeks (Parau, Laingholm, Woodlands Park and Waima), Waiatarua, Oratia and Henderson Valley.

The last five-yearly monitoring report, ‘State of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area 2023’, found that generally the objectives of the WRHAA were being met. An increase in native birdlife was a positive change.

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
 Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area outcomes	Partnerships, protection and enhance of our unique rohe (area)





Glen Eden Primary School – Kapa Haka Group.

Te hāpori Community

Sense of community in loved places, with a passion for arts and culture sustaining mental and physical wellbeing.

The place, the people

The Waitākere Ranges area has a proud history of people establishing mara kai and orchards, homes, and parks. People coming to live and visit are drawn to its natural resources, intrinsic beauty, black sand beaches, bush tracks, the eco-city ethos, and its easy proximity to the city. The Waitākere Ranges provides a dramatic landform and visual backdrop to metropolitan Auckland and is a nationally recognised *taonga* treasure that carries with it responsibilities of *kaitiakitanga* (guardianship) now and for the future.

The 17,000-hectare Waitākere Ranges Regional Park spans much of the area’s western flank, with 21,000 people living around the park in bush, coastal and rural foothills lifestyle environments and settlements. Many people have chosen bush living in south Titirangi and Laingholm, or have settled in coastal communities such as Huia, Karekare, Piha and Te Henga / Bethells Beach. These lifestyle opportunities spread people and facilities across a wide geographical area. Most people of the Waitākere Ranges however, live in the urban centres of Glen Eden, Sunnyvale, Swanson and Titirangi Village.

While much of the community has moved beyond the 2023 storms, some residents continue to face anxiety, financial pressure, and the rising cost of living. A key lesson from these events is the importance of strong community resilience, reliable transport, and continuity of electricity and communication services. The area’s challenging topography and spread population, makes this more critical.



The urban population is becoming increasingly ethnically diverse. Some in the community are doing it tough with high cost of living and squeeze on employment.

Parks, recreation and activities

Waitākere Ranges local board area includes over 200 local parks. These support health, cultural identity, youth development, sports, flood resilience, and connection to nature. These parks provide spaces for sports fields, playgrounds, natural areas, cycleways, dog walking, events, markets, film locations, and community facilities such as libraries, community houses, and community centres.

There is strong community interest in our area. People are empowered and in most cases community facilities in the Waitākere Ranges are run or owned by community organisations / clubs. This includes sports facilities, halls, art galleries, libraries, local history museums, and surf clubs. Climatic impacts may mean relocating some community facilities to safer areas.

The pending renewal of Council's parks and facilities maintenance contract/s needs to provide excellent value for money – but also high standards.

Arts, creative sector, and heritage

West Auckland has a well-developed arts and creative sector. Lopdell Precinct in Titirangi is a flourishing centre for arts and culture for people living in and visiting the west. Te Uru: Waitākere Contemporary Gallery and the Upstairs Gallery provide complementary exhibition spaces for the visual arts. McCahon House, and in future Shadbolt House, continue the area's tradition of being a home for creative people, and, as historic places, help preserve the area's heritage.

Waikumete Cemetery, the rail station building and Playhouse Theatre are prominent heritage features in Glen Eden.

Challenges

- Improving the community's financial, physical and mental wellbeing, especially for the roughly fifth who are doing it tough.
- The dozen or so distinct communities stretch our resources.
- Council has significant funding constraints, and park and facility maintenance costs are increasing.
- Council and community arts partners have significant funding constraints.

Opportunities

People / Place

- Engage with youth and celebrate our increasingly diverse communities.

Parks and the environment


















- Support the role of mana whenua as the kaitiaki of te taiao and incorporate mātauranga Māori.
- Support the volunteer sector, who manage and promote sports clubs, support environmental programmes, and run halls, emergency services and local community services.
- Engage with Hoani Waititi Marae on future plans for the marae, e.g. the aspiration for a Whare Wānanga.

Climate Action



- Continue to implement learnings from past storms to be better prepared and resilience.
- Tree protection and increase tree cover.
- Protection of foothills rural land for potential future food basket (as climate pressures trigger a rethink).

Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)	
People from our diverse communities are connected and proud.	Provide community spaces, services and events that meet peoples' needs.	 
	Support initiatives around pride in the Waitākere Ranges, its communities, and its valued heritage.	 
	Improve engagement with our culturally diverse communities.	 
Enhanced wellbeing and resilience of local communities.	Support storm preparedness and recovery, efforts related to greater community resilience (include with power generation and storage), and identification of future risk.	 
	Investigate opportunities to promote kai sovereignty.	 
Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for recreation, sport, play, and enjoyment.	Realise the potential of parks and open space like Waitipu (the former Waitākere Quarry), Ōkaurirahi Ceramco Park, the Kay Road bale fill site, some Glen Eden neighbourhood parks, and <i>possibly</i> the southern side of Waikumete Cemetery.	
	Open the Waitipu Park (former Waitākere Quarry).	
	Add accessibility features / elements to playgrounds developments where it is feasible.	
	Ensure our parks and parks assets are well-looked after and improved.	
	Prepare a Waitākere Ranges Local Parks Management Plan for our 200 local parks.	
	Support community-led sport and cultural activities within local parks.	 



Parks and facilities are adaptable in the face of climate change, growth pressures and changing community needs.	Support the relocation of Bethells Beach Surf Lifesavings Patrol clubhouse in Te Henga.	
	Support <i>well sited</i> tree planting in parks.	
	Investigate a solar panel pilot on a community facility.	
Sustain a network of vibrant arts and cultural organisations facilities and events that enable and enliven the west.	Continue to fund and support arts and culture programmes through community partners such as Te Uru, Upstairs Galley, Glen Eden Playhouse, and the West Coast Galley.	
	Fund and support arts and culture events that support and connect our creative communities.	
Libraries and facilities provide welcoming spaces at the heart of the community.	Continue to activate library spaces with programmes, services and events that engage all our communities and inspire learning and participation.	
	Continue to support a network of community places, such as community centres, houses, and halls.	

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
Seek regional and / or government research on slip prone land and support in mitigating at risk sites.	Governing Body Government
Regional funding to support resilient communities.	Governing Body
Funding to implement Local Area Plans.	Governing Body
Regional investment in Waitipu Park.	Governing Body
Funding to support Te Henga marae development.	Governing Body
Acquisition of new parkland and funding upgrades within existing parkland to support a growing population and diverse recreational needs.	Governing Body
A track and recreation plan for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and improved communication on the track reopening programme.	Governing Body
Support for continued recreational use of the Avondale Racecourse, at least one more swimming complex in the west, and funding for Te Whau Pathway.	Governing Body





Whatipu

Te taiao māori

Natural environment

Forest (Ngāhere) and waterways are protected and restored, and people can access nature in a responsibly way.

Waitākere Ranges

The Waitākere Ranges forest, Te Wao Nui a Tiriwa, is the largest contiguous native forest on the Auckland mainland. It is rich with native flora and fauna. Its coastal edge is outstanding with many impressive geological formations. It is part of Auckland's identity as a place, akin to the Hauraki Gulf, its maunga and harbours.

The quietness and darkness of its central areas are valued, and plans are afoot to formally recognise the area as a Dark Sky place.

Much of the adjacent private land is vegetated. This further enhances the landscape and biodiversity value of the Waitākere Ranges and Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Biodiversity

The native flora and fauna of New Zealand and the Waitākere Ranges is both unique and susceptible to pest plants and animals. The Waitākere Ranges have regenerated notably since being historically logged. Pest management programmes are carried out throughout the Waitākere Ranges and across other parkland, roadside and on private land. There are 27 environmental volunteer groups active in the local board area. These



groups putting in countless hours to enhance biodiversity. Their work is greatly valued. They informally network through the Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance. Greater coordination and networking may be their next step.

Kauri dieback led to the temporary closure of the Regional Park and many tracks through local parks and reserves. While some tracks will remain closed permanently, a reopening programme is progressing well. People want access for hiking, day walks, and trail running — but this must be balanced with strong biosecurity and kaitiakitanga to protect the forest and its iconic kauri.

Water

The inner bays of the Manukau Harbour are somewhat urbanised with single lot bush living. Septic tank, road and pipe-network run-off and leaks, Wood Bay and Fosters Bay are subject to frequent health warnings. This also occurs at Piha and Bethells lagoons on the West Coast.

Riparian planting and restoration along the Waikumete, Oratia, Opanuku and Swanson streams and tributaries help improve our urban stream quality, reduce erosion and flood risk, and connect our communities to nature, through a mix of council and community delivered programmes.

Air quality

The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area literally provides oxygen for Auckland. As discussed in the Transport Chapter, peak traffic worsens air quality that is harmful to human health. Additional ecological restoration in the eastern foothills can improve the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area ability to capture atmospheric carbon and filter our air.

Challenges















- Balancing access to the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and our local parks and reserves network and managing the health of forest.
- Coordinating restoration of significant ecological areas across public and private land means working with individual landowners, community groups and different parts of the council.
- The significant effects of climate change on native habitats and biodiversity are occurring more often, potentially including sediment in water systems, landslides, droughts, fires and floods.

Opportunities

- Restoring and enhancing ecosystems will reduce maintenance costs over time and improves their nursery functionality, mauri, interception of rain and attenuation of peak stream flows, and ability of the system to capture carbon.
- Together with mana whenua and Council whanau keep the community informed of the new Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum and the development of its long-term plan.
- Work with Te Kawerau ā Maki to improve environmental outcomes and cultural interpretation at key public entry points.
- Gain environmental insights from the Manukau Harbour and Waitākere Range Heritage Area forums.
- Scaled up management of weed material - green waste.



Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)	
Ecological areas (whether in public or private land) are protected, restored and enhanced.	Support the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum in developing a strategic plan.	  
	Increase community knowledge and understanding of the Waitākere Range Heritage Area and how to manage pest plants and animals	 
	Support pest plant and animal controls on our key ecological areas.	
	Maintain our kauri dieback hygiene stations in local parks with kauri.	
	Support ecological habitat in local parks and reserves.	
Manukau Harbour beaches are swim safe.	Support the strategic priorities of the Manukau Harbour Forum and act as a voice for improving the harbour’s water quality. Support oversight of septic tanks to protect water quality.	
Streams and wetlands are healthy, restored, and better able to support natural flood processes.	Continue support for restoration and maintenance of stream banks to reduce erosion, improve amenity, support stream dynamics, and improve habitat – especially during high flow.	
	Continue restoration of the Piha wetland to improve natural hydrology may also support flood storage benefits during heavy rainfall.	
	Support Project Twin Streams review.	
We seek to understand climate change risks, take action to reduce climate impacts, and prepare to adapt and respond to future events.	Continue to implement (including through community and / or youth led) priority actions from the Waitākere Ranges Climate Plan, including insulation upgrades, shade sails, and drinking fountains.	
	Support and engage with coastal communities on shoreline and flood risk adaption planning related to council assets.	



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
Increased funding to restore and enhance the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.	Governing Body
Continued education, research, and controls of kauri dieback.	Governing Body
Work and funding to address water contamination in our waterways, harbour, and coastal areas.	Governing Body
Increased funding for Waicare, to support community water quality monitoring.	Governing Body
Funding for remediation and planting of landslides and storm affected properties.	Governing Body
Funding to scale up management of weed material that ensures the health of the ngāhere – forest.	Governing Body





Titirangi Village

Te taiao kua hangaia

Built environment

Choice of housing, distinctive areas, bush clad lifestyle, with highest density housing near centres, services, and transport connections.

Lifestyle choices

The Waitākere Ranges are a defining aspect of the area - a major draw for residents and visitors. Most people live in the following living environments:

- Urban areas of Glen Eden, Sunnyvale, Swanson and Titirangi.
- Bush living throughout Titirangi south and Langholm (for example).
- Coastal lifestyle living places like Laingholm, Huia, Karekare, Piha and Bethells Beach – Te Henga.
- Rural foothills living opportunities.

Development types expected in bush, coastal and rural foothills living areas – typically suburban / single house lots - are very different from what is appropriate in and around the Swanson or Glen Eden town centres.

Housing growth

We're now seeing more terraced housing around Glen Eden and Swanson. We have also seen apartment developments in Glen Eden. Planning rule changes may enable more of this type housing development, reflecting both Council and the governments priorities to boost housing supply close to rail stations.



The Westlight apartments, with a six-star rating for accessibility and sustainability, next to the Glen Eden Train Station and town centre, demonstrates the *type* of development that can do the *heavy lifting* - in terms of delivering greater numbers of homes. The 171 units sit on less than 3,000m². It delivers the equivalent of 600 dwellings per hectare, or something like 40 to 50 dwellings over a typical 800m² lot.

Terraced housing has its place. However, when it is wide-spread, it may not be entirely aligned with objectives of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area - where the built environment is subservient to the natural environment. Nevertheless, the terraced housing and apartments, if well sited and of good quality, have their place near our train stations. This, in turn, supports a sustainable approach, greater economic activity, and town centre revitalisation, it can also preserve leafy suburbs, and improve utilisation of public transport, such as the rail upgrades that are scheduled to come into effect through 2026.

Challenges

- Protecting urban tree cover from development not aligned with the objectives of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act.
- Lack of resourcing and master planning of housing developments and neighbourhoods and town centres.
- Lack of funding for town centre upgrades.

Opportunities

- To incorporate Māori identity and mana whenua perspectives in planning and design.
- Work with partners to promote Glen Eden town centre as a cultural place, a centre of economic activity, and with a compact urban form with great transport connections.
- Use storm buy out land for community good.

Our Plan

Refer to the Economic Development chapter for our approach to placemaking.

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
Successful and resilient centre that attract further investment, development and jobs.	Support the delivery of placemaking and economic outcomes to protect and enhance our special places, town, villages and settlements. Work with Business Improvement Districts and other partners to promote prosperity, vibrancy and safety.



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
That the unique Māori identity and mana whenua perspectives are part of planning and design.	Developers Governing Body
A planning framework that delivers quality housing developments that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hold inter-generational value and are sought after. • create a sense of place and pride. • retain suburban tree cover. • have the necessary services from day one. 	Governing Body
Planning rules where the built environment is subservient to the natural environment (as per the objectives Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act).	Governing Body
Planning rules that support the highest level of development around train stations. And, considering further height at Glen Eden with placemaking or social betterment dispensations.	Governing Body
A funded programme to manage and upgrade stormwater pipes, channels and culvert that are better suited to future climatic events.	Governing Body
Funding for the Making Space for Water programme for areas with higher flood risk.	Governing Body





Tradesman

Te whanaketanga ā-ōhanga

Economic development

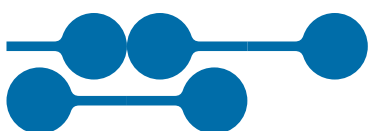
People experiencing our centres, spaces, culture, facilities and parks - uplifting communities.

The aspiration to upgrade The Mall in the Glen Eden town centre, is seen as a potential catalyst for greater foot traffic, improved safety, and in turn improved economic prosperity. The City Rail Link (CRL) project and associated transport investments will also support this.

Most people of the Waitākere Ranges local board area seek employment beyond our boundary. Initiatives like the CRL project (once open) will make it easier for many to do so. However, the movement of people to the south, seeking employment opportunities, is generally car reliant (congested, unreliable, and makes people time poor). Having a reliable and frequent public transport connection to the south would support people's economic wellbeing.

Henderson, New Lynn and Rosebank are key employment areas for our residents. Glen Eden's light industrial belt may not be on the same scale as these. However, it is an important asset for Glen Eden and the surrounding area. Key services operate from there that support growth and prosperity.

Having fast internet supports business activity generally. It also supports running business activities and working from home. This in turn supports local businesses with more people seeking local services. It can also reduce household travel costs.



Arts activities throughout the Waitākere Ranges attract visitors and contributes to the local economy. Titirangi has a cluster of such activities including the Te Uru: Waitākere Contemporary Gallery and the Lopdell Precinct, including galleries, and a theatre. Titirangi War Memorial Reserve is a cornerstone of village life with a library, community centre and community house. Glen Eden Library is a key destination in Glen Eden, and sits alongside community run facilities, such as the Playhouse Theatre and RSA.

The Waitākere Ranges attracts domestic and international visitors. The film industry is also drawn to the area for similar reasons. The effects of these activities are generally well managed with economic and cultural benefits for the community.

Challenges

- Lack of funding to implement the Glen Eden Town Centre Plan.
- Attracting funding for town centre and place upgrades.
- The area’s low ratio of jobs per 1,000 residents.

Opportunities

- An economic development plan for the local board area or West Auckland.
- More people working from home reduces travel cost and supports local businesses.
- Support environmentally sensitive homebased economic activity.
- Support Hoani Waititi Marae with its focus on education and training for rangatahi and community and Te Kawerau ā Maki’s plan to grow the Māori economy.
- Encourage new visitor activity - be great hosts, manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga.

Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)	
A successful and resilient Glen Eden that attracts further investment, development and jobs	Support the delivery of placemaking and economic outcomes.	 
	Work with Business Improvement Districts and other partners to promote prosperity, vibrancy and safety.	
Economic wellbeing for rangatahi	Support local partners providing foundational skills for rangatahi.	
	Support acceleration of the Māori economy.	
Sustainable economic activity	Support growth of sustainable tourism around arts, accommodation, nature and dark skies.	
	Continue support for local markets in public spaces.	



Continue support for filming activities and promote and value the role Waitākere Ranges plays in the screen industry.



Continue to invest in the arts and creative sector to recognise the role they play in our cultural and economic prosperity.



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
Well planned development at Glen Eden and Swanson.	Developers Governing Body
Inclusion of Glen Eden as a priority location under the Urban Regeneration Programme.	Governing Body
Procurement of local suppliers for Council maintenance contracts. Contracts to contain strengthened accountability clauses.	Governing Body
Funding for sustainable tourism through Te Kawerau ā Maki’s proposed tourism plan.	Governing Body Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum
Fibre roll-out to all areas.	Chorus
Electricity resilience to reduce power outages including undergrounding and tree trimming around lines.	Vector





Swanson Train Station

Tūnuku

Transport

Reliable, safe and sustainable transport options.

Most employment is outside the Waitākere Ranges local board area. The population is dispersed, requiring longer travel times. Aside from recent rail upgrades, the area has historically lacked multi-modal transport investment. There is no public high school in the local area.

As a result, residents are highly car dependent and peak congestion is common — especially affecting those travelling longer distances. In urban parts of the Waitākere Ranges, traffic pollution worsens air quality and contributes to poor health outcomes across Auckland. Hundreds of premature deaths are linked to poor air quality in the Auckland region each year.

With car numbers continuing to rise while road capacity stays fixed, investment in projects that move more people safely and reliably must accelerate.

Transport is Auckland's largest greenhouse gas emitter, and halving emissions will require more than just electric vehicles. Freeing up road space for those without alternatives (e.g., tradespeople) is essential.

The City Rail Link (CRL) will be transformational for Glen Eden, Sunnyvale, and Swanson when it opens in 2026, reducing emissions and providing faster, more reliable city connections. However, increased train frequency will worsen delays and safety risks at level crossings — especially in Glen Eden — and these need urgent action.



Improved rail services will also boost demand for Park and Ride spaces and nearby roadside parking. Better access to train stations will strengthen local town centres and enhance the CRL's benefits.

Demand for on-street parking near up-scaled housing projects is significantly higher. More and better transport options are needed so people living in these developments (generally permitted near transport connections) may not need multiple vehicles per household.

While the CRL improves east-west connections, many residents commute south to Onehunga, the airport precinct, and East Tāmaki. These travel patterns need investigation and targeted solutions.

Safe travel to school remains a priority. Safe speeds around schools and town centres should be an option where there is strong community support. Smaller greenway extensions should progress alongside advocacy for larger regional projects. E-bikes and E-scooters are making longer distance 'wheeled' trips more accessible for some residents.

Extending the bus network with right-sized vehicles can improve mobility, protect vulnerable rural roads, and reduce emissions.

Finally, the 2023 storms exposed the fragility of critical rural roads — improving resilience is essential.

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

- Providing quality transport options for local people seeking employment, education and social opportunities within and outside of the local board area with constrained regional / national budgets.
- Providing people who live on bush, coastal or foothills living areas with resilient transport options.

Opportunities

- Work on, and advocate for, projects and programmes that support people having transport options and reduce transport emissions.
- Make critical roads (that carry lifeline pipes and cables) more resilient.
- Extend the bus network to places like Piha and use appropriately sized buses in bush areas.
- Investigate commuter trips toward the south-east.
- Use Park and Ride in Glen Eden to increase rail travel and increase local economic activity.

Our priorities

Set out below, are the transport priorities for the Waitākere Ranges local board 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)	
Support a variety of safe and sustainable transport options for the people of, and those visiting, the Waitākere Ranges local board area	Deliver safe travel to school initiatives as budget is available.	
	Greenways projects / extensions and other related community led active transport initiatives.	
	Greenways projects / extensions and other related community led active transport initiatives.	
	Investigate electric vehicle chargers on council land.	
	Safe traffic speeds near schools and centres where those communities support it.	
Fund initiatives that support more people using buses and trains.		
A bus or shuttle services to places like Piha, and appropriately sized buses on narrow / vulnerable bush clad routes.		
Direct, reliable and frequent public transport option/s in response to west Aucklanders commuting south-east for employment.		
Our roads are critical to our dispersed communities - their management needs to respond to our unique needs.	Urgent replacement of level rail crossings with over or under passes.	
	Culverts, stormwater pipes and roadside drains that are kept in great order.	
	A programme to identify a response to storm related risks to our roads. Upgrade critical roads (that also carry lifeline services) so they are more resilience to storm impacts.	
	The consideration of the safety of people using bikes - as future maintenance is carried out - on a few key and agreed rural roads. For example, possibly widening the sealed shoulder or other similar treatments.	



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:

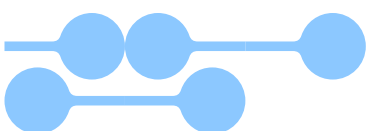
- operating expenditure (opex): to maintain and operate local assets like libraries, pools and parks, and to provide local activities and services
- capital expenditure (capex): to renew and develop local assets.

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

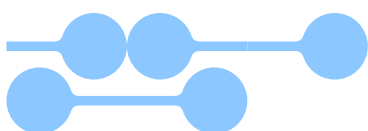
Levels of service

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.*

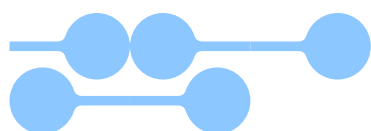
The statement of service provision, default levels of service statements, performance measures and performance targets from our last long-term plan can be found in section 2.6 in [volume 2 of the 10-Long-term Plan 2024-2034](#). The local board’s performance measures and performance targets, can be found in the Waitākere Ranges 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.



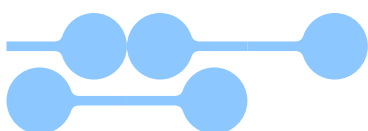
Tirohanga take pūtea whānui

Financial overview

The estimated costs shown in the table below for major service priorities are high-level, indicative only, and subject to change. These figures should not be relied upon as final and will be reviewed and updated 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	13,202	13,709	13,941	14,192
Targeted rates	114	110	112	114
Fees and charges	78	80	82	86
Other revenue	460	462	471	480
Total operating funding	13,854	14,361	14,606	14,873
Operating expenditure				
Community services (Community)				
Libraries	2,104	2,146	2,189	2,233
Maintenance	6,139	6,240	6,386	6,490
Utilities	526	609	659	681
Other community expenses	2,698	2,856	2,893	2,962
Local Environmental Management (Natural Environment)	1,465	1,480	1,505	1,530
Local Planning				
BIDs	114	210	112	114
Local Governance	810	820	862	863
Total operating expenditure	13,854	14,361	14,606	14,873
Net operating funding	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Capital funding				
Increase in debt	5,175	5,361	5,471	5,579
Total capital funding	5,175	5,361	5,471	5,579
Capital expenditure				
Community services (Community)	5,175	5,361	5,471	5,579
Total capital expenditure	5,175	5,361	5,471	5,579
Net capital funding				

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



Ngā Mema o tō Poari ā-Rohe o Waitākere Ranges

Your Waitākere Ranges Local Board members



Mark Allen
Chairperson

Phone: 021 378 791

mark.allen@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Greg Presland
Deputy Chairperson

Phone: 021 998 411

greg.presland@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Allan Geddes

Phone: 027 263 2835

allan.geddes@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Jess Rose

Phone: 027 264 9230

jess.rose@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Michelle Lucke

Phone: 027 778 6834

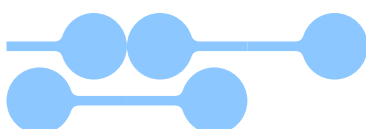
michelle.lucke@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Hannah Slade

Phone: 027 240 0931

hannah.slade@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz





Auckland Council disclaims any liability whatsoever in connection with any action taken in reliance of this document for any error, deficiency, flaw or omission contained in it.
© 2026 Auckland Council, Waitākere Ranges Local Board

**Tāmaki Turuki.
Altogether Auckland.**

