



**Date: Monday 24 April 2023**

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**Annual Budget 2023-2024**

**Local Board Not Supplied**

**WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 3  
(32360-33674)**

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Sub #	Organisation Name	Local Board	Volume
32360		I don't know	3
32361		I don't know	3
32362		I don't know	3
32363		I don't know	3
32364		I don't know	3
32365		I don't know	3
32366		I don't know	3
32367		I don't know	3
33405		I don't know	3
33413	Tiare Taina Trust	I don't know	3
33428		I don't know	3
33448		I don't know	3
33449		I don't know	3
33455		I don't know	3
33482		I don't know	3
33484		I don't know	3
33511		I don't know	3
33513		I don't know	3
33514		I don't know	3
33531		I don't know	3
33535	Citizens Advice Bureau - ACABx - Auckland	I don't know	3
33539		I don't know	3
33545	East Coast Bays Cricket	I don't know	3
33550	Animal Justice Party Aotearoa NZ	I don't know	3
33555		I don't know	3
33580		I don't know	3
33581		I don't know	3
33590		I don't know	3
33592		I don't know	3
33607	NZ Ethnic Women Inc	I don't know	3
33608		I don't know	3
33612		I don't know	3
33619	Community Law	I don't know	3
33621		I don't know	3
33626		I don't know	3
33628		I don't know	3
33632		I don't know	3
33636		I don't know	3
33639		I don't know	3
33642		I don't know	3
33643		I don't know	3
33646		I don't know	3
33653		I don't know	3
33654		I don't know	3
33665		I don't know	3
33668		I don't know	3
33674		I don't know	3



# 32360



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

Proceed with the proposed reductions

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Proceed with the proposal to enable the sale of all our shares in AIAL and use the proceeds to reduce debt and therefore annual interest costs by around \$87 million per year

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Proceed with the proposed increases to rates (4.66 per cent overall for the average value residential property) and debt (up to \$75 million of additional debt)

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Do not proceed with the proposal

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and	Do not support



c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
<b>Changes to other rates</b>	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

### What do you think of these proposals?

## 7. What else is important to you?

### Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

## Important privacy information

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# 32361



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

Do not proceed with some reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

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- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Do not proceed with the proposal

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Do not support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
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Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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# 32362



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

Proceed with the proposed reductions

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

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**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Proceed with the proposal to enable the sale of all our shares in AIAL and use the proceeds to reduce debt and therefore annual interest costs by around \$87 million per year

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

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#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Do not proceed with the proposal

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
<b>Changes to other rates</b>	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

#### What do you think of these proposals?

### 7. What else is important to you?

#### Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

Cityscape maintenance fee should be increased because it has high benefits on public investments.)

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# 32363



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

Proceed with the proposed reductions

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).



**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Enable a partial sale of our shares, maintaining a 10 per cent shareholding in AIAL (reducing our interest costs by around \$40 million per year), and further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

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#### Debt

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Other

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Do not support

### What do you think of these proposals?

## 7. What else is important to you?

### Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
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# 32364



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Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

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**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

Do not proceed with some reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

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**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Do not support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

## Important privacy information

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# 32365



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

I don't know

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Set a higher general rates increase and make less use of debt

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Do not support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

## Important privacy information

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# 32366



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

#### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Do not proceed with some reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Do not reduce budget on local services, education, arts and cultural projects)

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why:** There is a great quantity of land assets in airports. We should not sell public land assets, especially country lands in airports.)

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Make greater use of debt

**Tell us why:** It is more difficult to solve the budget gap by increase land tax comparing with increasing debts. Especially 1% percentage has been added to the original 4.66% to satisfy the needs of expanding caused by disasters.)

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas	Support

(80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
<b>Changes to other rates</b>	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

### What do you think of these proposals?

## 7. What else is important to you?

### Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

The maintenance cost of city appearance cleaning needs to be increased, because the public investment and maintenance benefits of city appearance are very high.

Citizen A. C.

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# 32367



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

Proceed with the proposed reductions

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Land tax is already high)

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Do not proceed with the proposal

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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# 33405



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

#### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** The proposed cuts mean reduced funding for all kinds of things that are important for making a thriving place where people want to live like homelessness initiatives, community gardens, youth centres, youth employment initiatives, Library services, music, theater, art, public events, public transport, climate and environmental initiatives and Town Centre regeneration. It will make it more expensive to use community facilities if these cuts go ahead as proposed. People's jobs will be at risk and the services available to the people in the community will suffer.

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less

towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Enable a partial sale of our shares, maintaining a 10 per cent shareholding in AIAL (reducing our interest costs by around \$40 million per year), and further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Set a higher general rates increase and make less use of debt

**Tell us why:** Sell off some of \$2.9 billion in golf courses owned by Council. These accommodate a less diverse percentage of Auckland's population than the other areas that are being proposed to be cut.

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

#### Albert-Eden Local Board

It is proposed to reduce funding by \$16 million across all local boards which will impact the activities and services delivered by local boards. Given this possible reduction in funding, **what do you think of our proposed priorities for services and activities in this local board in 2023/2024?** I do not support any priorities

**Tell us why:**



If funding for local board activities is reduced, which three of our services do you not want to reduce funding for? (i.e. which are most important to you?)

Tell us why these are most important to you: Arts and culture

CAB's

Libraries

These are absolutely necessary. The first thing oppressive regimes do is take expression through art from people.

## 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

What do you think of these proposals?

## 7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

These proposals are being put forward by a shortsighted, uncompassionate, incompetent Mayor whose only concern is balancing numbers to stroke his own ego. These budget cut proposals would NEVER be considered in another metropolitan city. So disappointed

## Important privacy information

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# 33413



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Tiare Taina Trust

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

#### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Proceed with the proposed reductions

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** This place Wharekoa (Hose of Love) contributes to the Welfare of the community meaning 60 plus and youth groups. Does help our groups because traditional arts and culture events like Tivaevae. Keep this house open please.

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Enable a partial sale of our shares, maintaining a 10 per cent shareholding in AIAL (reducing our interest costs by around \$40 million per year), and further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why:** We do need to keep and let share holding policy ongoing.

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt

**Tell us why:** I cannot afford to pay my rates. It is going on increase (going up). Therefore rates that I receive now should stay as is please.

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Do not proceed with the proposal

**Tell us why:** Reason has been that I have been having problems with my own home.

a) Pipe broken because of heavy winds/rain.

b) Pay rubbish bin remove all debris;

c) Plumbing repairs.

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

**What do you think of these proposals?** I support recycling bins (8L)

Food scraps (8l)

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

We need to keep our Arts and Crafts Centres and keep up our groups and Youth centres. We have exchange of knowledge of Cook Islands language and culture.

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# 33428



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:** Do not proceed with any increases. We aucklanders are already suffering to meet the living costs. Food, petrol, electricity, water, bills are already so costly. If you have debts, go find where you are spending unnecessarily instead of sucking more money

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

**Tell us why:** Don't increase tax. Find money somewhere else to pay your debts. We average income people are already having difficulty meeting our needs. We have been paying a high tax for so many years. Stop taking more money from us. I can't even use the whole road w

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?

**Tell us why:** We aucklanders don't have to pay you to prepare for disasters. We are already paying so much house insurance. As a government it is your job to prepare for disasters and chase the insurance companies.

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and	Do not support

c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
<b>Changes to other rates</b>	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Do not support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Do not support

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

Schools are getting hundreds of thousands of dollars to open Bilingual classes. What is the future for Bilingual classes. A lot of money goes towards that.

## Important privacy information

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# 33448



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

I don't know

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Other



**Tell us why:** Reduce Salaries

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	I don't know

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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# 33449



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

I don't know

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Other

**Tell us why:** No increases, manage better

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Other

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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# 33455



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

Proceed with the proposed reductions

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:** Keep all the shares

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Other

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Other

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

## Important privacy information

The personal information that you provide in this form will be held and protected by Auckland Council in accordance with our privacy policy (available at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy](https://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy) and at our libraries and service centres) and with the Privacy Act 1993. The privacy policy explains how we can use and share your personal information in relation to any interaction you have with the council, and how you can access and correct that information. You should familiarise yourself with this policy before submitting this form.





# 33482



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

I don't know

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Do not support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Do not support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Do not support

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

## Important privacy information

The personal information that you provide in this form will be held and protected by Auckland Council in accordance with our privacy policy (available at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy](https://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy) and at our libraries and service centres) and with the Privacy Act 1993. The privacy policy explains how we can use and share your personal information in relation to any interaction you have with the council, and how you can access and correct that information. You should familiarise yourself with this policy before submitting this form.



# 33484



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

#### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt

Tell us why, and which reductions you would **not** proceed with if any:

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

## Important privacy information

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# 33511



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

I don't know

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Do not support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	



Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Do not support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Do not support

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

## Important privacy information

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# 33513



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

Library hours

Grants - initiatives & events

Park activations

Mowing in parks

Recreation (facilities)

Libraries (Free wifi)

## Important privacy information

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# 33514



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

I don't know

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** I don't know

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Do not support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Do not support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Do not support

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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# 33531



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** I am writing to you today to express my concern regarding the current state of your budget and the way in which funds are being allocated. It has become apparent to me, and many others in the community, that there is a significant need to cut spending across the board in order to better manage the budget and provide the essential services that the council was first founded to deliver.

In particular, I strongly believe that discretionary spending and value-added services should be paid for by those who use them or want them. As ratepayers, we should not be expected to pay for services that we do not use or have no interest in. For example, childcare, unnecessary public transport, concerts, events, and other non-essential services should be managed and run by private, for-profit companies, rather than being funded by taxpayers.

Instead, I urge you to focus on the core, basic, essential services that the council was first founded to provide.

In summary, I urge you to cut spending across the board and focus on delivering essential services to the community. Please consider the needs and wants of ratepayers, and ensure that we are not paying for services that we do not use or need. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



## 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

## 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
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### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:** Furthermore, I would like to draw your attention to the high cost of living in Auckland, which has been exacerbated by the current inflation and cost pressures. Many ratepayers are struggling to make ends meet and are looking for smart ways to reduce thei

## 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

## 5. Local Boards

## 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

I am writing to you today to express my concern regarding the current state of your budget and the way in which funds are being allocated. It has become apparent to me, and many others in the community, that there is a significant need to cut spending across

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**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 March 2023 2:04 pm

**To:** Mayor Wayne Brown <Mayor.Wayne.Brown@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>; Mayor of Auckland Media <mayorofaucklandmedia@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>

**Subject:** Urging the Council to Cut Spending and Focus on Essential Services to Ease the Financial Burden on Ratepayers

Dear MR Mayor,

I am writing to you today to express my concern regarding the current state of your budget and the way in which funds are being allocated. It has become apparent to me, and many others in the community, that there is a significant need to cut spending across the board in order to better manage the budget and provide the essential services that the council was first founded to deliver.

In particular, I strongly believe that discretionary spending and value-added services should be paid for by those who use them or want them. As ratepayers, we should not be expected to pay for services that we do not use or have no interest in. For example, childcare, unnecessary public transport, concerts, events, and other non-essential services should be managed and run by private, for-profit companies, rather than being funded by taxpayers.

Instead, I urge you to focus on the core, basic, essential services that the council was first founded to provide. These services include things like road maintenance, waste collection, public safety, and other critical services that are necessary for the well-being of our community. By prioritizing these essential services, you will be better able to manage the budget and provide the services that we truly need.

Furthermore, I would like to draw your attention to the high cost of living in Auckland, which has been exacerbated by the current inflation and cost pressures. Many ratepayers are struggling to make ends meet and are looking for smart ways to reduce their expenses. It is time for council officials to do the same and find ways to cut spending in order to provide ratepayers with some relief. By focusing on essential services and cutting non-essential spending, the council can help to ease the financial burden on ratepayers and improve the overall well-being of our community.

In summary, I urge you to cut spending across the board and focus on delivering essential services to the community. Please consider the needs and wants of ratepayers, and ensure that we are not paying for services that we do not use or need. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Sincerely,

Furthermore, I would like to draw your attention to the high cost of living in Auckland, which has been exacerbated by the current inflation and cost pressures. Many ratepayers are struggling to make ends meet and are looking for smart ways to reduce their expenses. It is time for council officials to do the same and find ways to cut spending in order to provide ratepayers with some relief. By focusing on essential services and cutting non-essential spending, the council can help to ease the financial burden on ratepayers and improve the overall well-being of our community.

In summary, I urge you to cut spending across the board and focus on delivering essential services to the community. Please consider the needs and wants of ratepayers, and ensure that we are not paying for services that we do not use or need. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Abhy Batra



# 33535



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Citizens Advice Bureau - ACABx - Auckland

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

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**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Please see attachment

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

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**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

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The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

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**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

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Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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## **ACABx Submission to Auckland Council: Draft Annual Budget 2023/2024**

### **Introduction**

Auckland Citizens Advice Bureaux Incorporated (ACABx) welcomes the opportunity to provide a written submission on Auckland Council's Draft Annual Budget 2023/2024.

ACABx is the umbrella organisation representing 9 member CABs operating the 32 CAB sites across Auckland.

Our CABs are part of a nationwide, but locally based, community service - the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) service - that provides free, confidential, and independent assistance of information, advice, and advocacy. CABs help people know and understand their rights and responsibilities, to take steps to act on these, and to connect with additional community services they may need. The CAB service is universal, which means it is available to anyone who needs it, and the CAB will assist with any question or issue people come to us for help with.

The CAB service in Auckland is delivered by around 900 trained CAB volunteers from across Auckland. In the past calendar year (2022), amidst the ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19, our Auckland CAB volunteers assisted with over 163,000 client interactions across the range of issues that affect people in their daily lives.

We are making this submission to Auckland Council as one of the community organisations identified as having region-wide impact, for which Auckland Council funding is proposed to be cut or withdrawn under the Council's Annual Budget 2023/2024.

We are asking the Council to keep funding Auckland CABs and include our service within Council's strategies for supporting Auckland communities. In asking for this, we point to:

- Council's responsibility for community well-being.
- The important role Auckland CABs play in improving the well-being of Auckland people and communities - in supporting access and participation, creating community connection, and building community resilience.
- Funding of Auckland CABs as a cost-effective way to help Council achieve its well-being goals.
- The fact that Auckland CABs are already supported by central government through its funding of the service infrastructure and that there is no additional central



# Citizens Advice Bureau

Te Pou Whakawhirinaki o Aotearoa



government funding waiting in the wings for direct funding of Auckland CABs if Council cuts or withdraws its funding support.

- The inevitable closure of the CAB service in Auckland if Council removes its funding support.
- The erosion of the social support infrastructure and an increase in unmet need that would happen in Auckland should the city's CABs cease to operate.
- The passionate opposition of the public to the proposal to cut or withdraw Council funding of Auckland CABs - it is a service they need and value and want to keep.

In addition to the clear basis for continued funding, we also want to note our shock at finding ourselves listed in the category of services that could be cut from 1 July 2023 given we have a signed 3-year funding agreement with Council that goes through until 30 June 2024.

We are concerned that the advice to Councillors that Auckland Council is not obliged to fund ACABx for year 3 of the 3-year signed Funding Agreement is based on a misinterpretation of this Agreement and the Council's legal obligations under the Agreement.

Auckland Council has provided funding for the city's CABs for over 52 years, and we are not aware of any occasion where a funding agreement has been reviewed mid-way through - and it has certainly never been cancelled.

As a partner of Council for over 52 years, we would have reasonably expected that Auckland Council would support the CAB to find alternative, sustainable funding before withdrawing its financial support. As our submission will show, failure to secure replacement funding will mean the inevitable closure of the CAB service in Auckland.

## Why should Council fund CABs?

### **Council has a responsibility for community well-being**

Under the Local Government Act 2002 (section 10 (1)), Councils have a responsibility for the "social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities". This responsibility is reflected in Auckland Council's own Thriving Communities Strategy Ngā Hapori Momoho 2022 – 2032 in which the Council has committed to a number of well-being goals including increasing access and participation, growing community connection, and increasing community resilience.

### **Auckland CABs play an important role in the well-being of Auckland people and communities**

Citizens Advice Bureau plays a key role in supporting the well-being of the people and communities of Auckland by helping people with any question or problem they bring to us,



to know and understand their rights and responsibilities, their options, and the services available to them. The issues people bring to us cover the whole range of those that impact on well-being, for example including access to food assistance, managing noise and nuisance issues in the neighbourhood, housing and tenancy matters, water leaks onto property, problems at work, questions about rubbish disposal and recycling services - and many more issues that affect Aucklanders daily. In 2022, we helped over 163,000 Aucklanders with our CAB service.

The work that our CABs do to assist vulnerable people to resolve their questions and problems is a critical contributor to community well-being. This is the case regardless of whether those issues are seen as central government or local government issues - they all relate to the wellbeing of the people in our communities. Any analysis of the services the CAB provides needs to take cognisance of this.

Our work to assist people across the range of issues that affect their lives, and their well-being aligns with the Council's broad approach to community well-being in its 'Thriving Communities Implementation Plan'. In particular, our work supports one of the overarching directives of the Plan: to remove barriers to opportunity and participation, particularly for disadvantaged groups. The CAB service is a universal service which works across silos - including across both local and central government, as well as with other community services, and private sector organisations - to assist the client in whatever way we can, for the benefit of community well-being.

**Supporting access and participation:** Through our service, we support people to access their fundamental human rights to food, shelter, social security, justice, and equality. We also assist people to access a range of other economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. In doing so, we help to uphold people's well-being, dignity and ability to participate fully in society.

**Voices of 'Save Auckland CABs' petition signatories:**

*"These people helped me to see things another way, they gave me the time of day, they helped me unpack my issues. If it wasn't for the support, advice and compassion I may have been homeless. I am 20 now I was 17 years old then. People like me need people like them."*

*"I benefited highly from this service throughout the years. I have also been recommending them to international visitors and students for over a decade. It's part of Auckland's identity where you don't have to feel lost just because it's a big city and assume that everything costs money."*



*"I used CAB before. I was feeling very lost, financially strapped, and it was such a relief to talk and converse with people who knew what they were talking about and who could help navigate and advocate for one amongst the various health, social, employment, legal systems in NZ."*

*"As a new immigrant, I found this service very helpful. The information given is very useful."*

*"I cannot count how many times I have gone to CAB for advice, for legal help and for information."*

**Creating community connection:** We foster community connection within Auckland by connecting people with services as well as with community groups, clubs and activities that enable participation and support well-being, community cohesion and resilience.

We provide significant support for this through our comprehensive online community database. This is the biggest community directory of its kind in Aotearoa, containing over 9000 listings for community services and organisations across Auckland. Our community directory is actively managed and maintained by Auckland CABs. This resource helps people to connect up and access services, either through the service provided by our volunteers or through accessing the directory via our public website.

Our 32 CABs across the city are also significant places of community connection, belonging, and contribution for our substantial workforce of around 900 volunteers. Many thousands of Aucklanders have contributed their skills, time and aroha over the 50+ years of our service being a part of the city.

**Voices of 'Save Auckland CABs' petition signatories:**

*"As a foodbank, I have used them as a resource for people out of our area, to find help closest to them by calling the CAB in their area."*

*"When living in Auckland I volunteered at the St Luke's office and witnessed the gratitude of clients and commitment of staff many of whom were very well qualified in their field of expertise. The central location, next to the library, the availability of JPs, solicitors who also volunteered, parking, contributed to the well-being of many citizens."*

*"I have volunteered 10 years at the CAB at Pakuranga. It is a service that guides people to the right direction. It is so satisfying to have helped someone when they are not clear of their rights or have a voice to raise their concerns."*

**Building community resilience:** We contribute to community resilience, especially through



the additional help we provide in times of crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, as well as continuing to provide our core information and advice service, our volunteers also made thousands of phone calls to some of Auckland's most vulnerable community members, to check on their welfare. With the recent flooding in Auckland and state of emergency, we have helped people access emergency accommodation, food assistance, Civil Defence support payments, and advice about damage to property, blocked drains, trees, tenancy rights, and insurance.

Like our CABs in Christchurch have done since the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes, we expect to provide continued support in the coming months and years as people face the ongoing impacts of these significant civil emergency events.

Reflecting the whakataukī (proverb) *Taku pou whakawhirinaki i ngā wā o te porotaika*, from which our name in te reo Māori - Ngā Pou Whakawhirinaki o Aotearoa - is derived, we are a source of strength for people in their moments of adversity.

#### **Voices of 'Save Auckland CABs' petition signatories:**

*"This service is essential for people in the community now more than ever with so much upheaval in their lives after Covid & with the latest flooding issues as well as higher rates of crime & the homeless, this service is the only way some people have to find appropriate help they may need. Don't let this vital lifeline for many be discarded."*

*"I think CAB empowers people who can't afford to pay for advice, and it does so in every avenue of their lives. It is egalitarian and promotes equity for all races and people of different socioeconomic status. It is often people's last chance of support when times get tough."*

*"CABs provide essential guidance and assistance to ordinary people, like me, when dealing with increasingly complex bureaucracy."*

#### **Funding CABs is a cost-effective way to help Council achieve its well-being goals**

Funding Auckland CABs is a cost-effective way of promoting the well-being of Auckland communities because the CAB provides a significant return on investment for its funding. For example, an ImpactLab study of the measurable social good of the assistance provided by CAB North Shore for clients with relationship issues (relationship break-ups, property issues, care of children, etc) found that it delivered measurable social good equating to \$13.20 for every \$1 spent on the service, or \$654 social value generated per person assisted.



In 2022, Auckland CABs provided assistance for 4,156 enquiries about relationships; using ImpactLab's study of CAB North Shore as a benchmark, the social value generated by the CAB service in Auckland for relationship enquiries alone may be as much as \$2.7m - far in excess of the total amount of Council funding for the CAB. Considering that relationship enquiries make up only a portion of the enquiries Auckland CABs receive every year (around 9.5 % in 2022), this points to the significant social value the CAB is delivering in Auckland, and the value of what would be lost if the service is no longer able to operate.

The \$2m Council funding supports the operational delivery on the ground of the service which our 900 highly trained volunteers deliver to the Auckland public - over 163,000 members of the public in the past year. The CAB frontline service is the combination of the service provided by a trained CAB volunteer in a local CAB, supported by the Bureau and by the national systems administered by CABNZ, the national body of the CAB.

As PwC said in its 2018 report on its service review of Wellington City CABs: the CAB "provides a high return on investment, delivering a high quality, low cost service within tight funding constraints" and the CAB's services help funders reach those who are harder-to-serve "more effectively and inexpensively than funders can in-house, preventing greater vulnerability, building communities, and gathering data for actionable insights ... Because services are primarily staffed by volunteers, services are low cost. This volunteer workforce cannot be duplicated easily inside the public sector organisations who fund [them]" (PwC, Citizens Advice Bureau Wellington: Service Review, December 2018, pp.69 - 70).

#### **And for those who say that central government should be funding CABs:**

Auckland CABs do receive significant support from central government, via the CAB national body which receives central government funding to provide the underlying infrastructure of the service - including the website, IT system, intranet and knowledge base that volunteers in Auckland use to deliver the service, as well as learning and development resources, organisational policies, service standards, and other national systems that underpin the CAB service. These are significant essential costs that Auckland Council does not pay for, but for which Aucklanders - and Auckland Council - receive the benefits.

#### **Voices of 'Save Auckland CABs' petition signatories:**

*"Staffed by volunteers, this is an extremely cost-effective public service that will have a profoundly negative impact on the community if it were to disappear."*

*"CAB is an absolutely essential service. The value of free and accessible legal advice to communities is far beyond anything that can be gained through budget cuts."*

*"It would cost Auckland Council a lot more to take over the functions of the Citizens Advice Bureaux and employ full time staff."*



*“CAB gives the vulnerable the support they need to function in a complex society. They should receive 10 times their current financial support.”*

## **What will happen if the Council stops funding Auckland CABs?**

### **There is no central government funding waiting in the wings**

We wish to address the assumption that, if the Council removes its funding from Auckland CABs, central government will step in to fill the gap, enabling the CABs to continue providing the service.

To be clear, central government is not ‘standing in the wings’ with funding for Auckland CABs - this is a fanciful assumption - and a unilateral withdrawal of Council funding is not the way to increase central government funding either. The reality is, if funding is cut effective 1 July 2023, it will mean the inevitable closure of the CAB service in Auckland.

### **It would mean the inevitable closure of the CAB service in Auckland – within months**

With our main source of income removed and no replacement funding, we estimate it would be a matter of months before Auckland CABs would have to close.

In the immediate term, loss of Council funding would introduce a high level of uncertainty for the people who volunteer and work for Auckland CABs. Under these circumstances, it would be difficult, if not impossible to hold on to our volunteers and staff as people look for more secure volunteering and employment options elsewhere. Loss of Council funding would introduce uncertainty for the public too, creating the perception of the unavailability of the service even in the months it is still operating. This would have the effect of discouraging both existing and potential clients from seeking out the service and getting the vital help they need.

In this environment of high demand for both volunteers and employees, if we lose our workforce, it may be hard to get it back again in the future - even if funding were to be secured further down the track. It would also be hard to restore public confidence in the availability of the service, and to restore awareness of the service within the community.

### **Erosion of the social support infrastructure and an increase in unmet need in Auckland**

The combination of the following key features of the CAB service in Auckland enables us to meet community needs that Auckland Council and others cannot. Our service is:

**Universal:** We help anyone with any question or problem. Often, clients bring multiple and sometimes unconnected issues to us in the one interaction - through our universal service we can respond to the whole person and help them resolve the





questions and issues they need assistance with in a way that a single-focus agency is not able to. This is an approach that is truly about well-being.

**Free:** Providing the service for free is one of the factors that enables us to work with people who are vulnerable and have few resources to get help elsewhere - people do not have to discount themselves from being able to access our service because of cost, affordability and income.

**Multi-channel:** Through our 32 locations around the Auckland region and our technology infrastructure we offer a service that is available in all the ways people need - face-to-face, over the phone, via the chat function on the website, or by email. This makes our service accessible to both the digitally excluded and the digitally able, to people who like to do things remotely and to those who need in-person help. Note that our face-to-face help is in high demand - 53% of enquiries to Auckland CABs in the past year were kano ki te kano.

**Confidential and non-judgemental:** Our volunteers are trained to provide a confidential and non-judgemental service. Anyone can access our service regardless of who they are, and they don't have to register or meet criteria as is the case with many other services. Clients can remain anonymous and know their privacy will be respected.

**Non-time limited:** This allows our volunteers to provide the level of assistance a client needs from the service we offer, and to engage the kind of empathy that can be hard to find elsewhere.

**Independent:** The independence of the CAB is a key reason people seek out our service. Sometimes people prefer to get assistance from a non-government agency (whether local or central government), and the CAB is valued as an impartial, fair place to get information and support.

**Available in multiple languages:** We have many multilingual volunteers who can help clients in their own language, and we have access to a telephone and video interpreting service that complements our pool of multilingual volunteers. This ensures that language is not a barrier to people being able to get the help they need. The interpreting service is funded by central government.

There is no equivalent service to take the place of what Auckland CABs provide, should the CABs be forced to close through lack of funding support. Without the CAB, many Aucklanders - especially the vulnerable - will be without the assistance they need and will struggle to know and be able to act on their rights and responsibilities. If Aucklanders are not able to get help with their questions and concerns, this will exacerbate people's distress, intensify disadvantage and have negative impacts in our communities.



Access to other community services would also be impacted - not only would the CAB no longer be there to direct people towards the specialist community services they need, our CAB sites are used by a range of other organisations to hold face-to-face interactions with their clients e.g., Community Law, Financial Mentoring, Counselling, Employment Clinics, Migrant Clinics, and Family Court Navigators. Our CABs serve as community service hubs within neighbourhoods across Auckland - consequently, loss of our service would have a knock-on effect for other vital community services.

#### **Voices of 'Save Auckland CABs' petition signatories:**

*"I am a library employee. There are many expectations customers have for us and many that we cannot fulfil because the situations are unique or often too personal. This is when we rely on CAB to help too. If they can't do their job, there will be many, many people with nowhere to go for the help that they truly need!"*

*"Service has been great and been extremely useful for doing stuff which I would otherwise be unable to do myself without their help and would have to pay way too much/be unaffordable to do if they didn't exist."*

*"Our communities need and deserve our services and their lives would be so much more difficult if they did not have access to CAB advice and support."*

### **What does the Auckland public want to happen?**

#### **They are passionately opposed to Council cutting funding to Auckland CABs**

We are receiving overwhelming support from the public who are expressing passionate opposition to the proposed cut to funding for Auckland CABs. People are raising their voices on social media, radio talkback, in speaking with their Councillors, through signing our 'Save Auckland CABs' petition (which at the time of writing has over 14,000 signatures and is still climbing), and in other places. Everywhere we go, we encounter this incredible support with many people approaching us and asking us what they can do to help save the CAB.

For example, in just one day recently at the Onehunga Festival, we had 775 members of the public sign the hard copy version of our petition! In addition to the many thousands of people who use our service every year, the public reaction to the proposed funding cuts sends a clear message that the service we provide is very much one that Aucklanders need and value.

The people who are expressing their opposition to the funding cuts for CABs come from all walks of life and include people who have used the CAB service as clients, those who refer their own clients to the service, former volunteers, family and friends of people who have engaged with the service in some way, and those who may not have interacted with the





service directly but who understand and value the role the CAB plays in their community.

**Voices of 'Save Auckland CABs' petition signatories:**

*"I cannot believe this is even being considered! CAB is a hugely valuable organisation offering services to a massive cross-section of society, as it has always done since its inception."*

*"Along with our libraries, the CAB is a vital link in all communities; for information for resources and for reassurance. Please leave our essential services alone."*

*"I find it ridiculous that Council leaders will even think of closing this service. These are one of the public services which is utmost useful to all. There is wealth of knowledge and compassion offered by CAB folks, which cannot be replaced with any software. Please let it continue. By stopping it, I am afraid, there will be more sadness and injustice in our society."*

*"This is a free service that helps plug the holes in the grey areas between other services. It's essential it continues to be funded!!"*

*"This service is incredibly important to everyday people in the community. It would be a disgrace to lose it."*

The threat to our service that the funding cuts represent is also receiving a high degree of interest from the media and the story has been, and continues to be, reported across a wide range of outlets on TV, radio, newspaper, and online news sites. Outlets are keenly interested in the fate of our service and are following the story as it unfolds. The nature of the coverage our story is getting demonstrates an understanding within the both the public and media of the value the CAB service provides to the people of Auckland, the significance for the city if funding is cut and the service lost, and the importance of Council continuing to support organisations like the CAB which form the social fabric of communities.

A recent article published by Newsroom, written by former CAB volunteer - and client - legal researcher Devika Dhir, provides an example of this. In her article about the proposal to remove Council funding from Citizens Advice Bureau, Dhir writes:

*"Our support structures and sense of community require strengthening, not dismantling. This moment calls for not indifference but an unyielding commitment to one another. An unyielding commitment to those we share the street with, the local community with, the city with, the country with and the planet with. That starts with local government."*  
(Devika Dhir, 'A move to shred our social fabric', in [Newsroom](#), 26 February 2023, paras



13 & 20).

With the recent severe weather and flooding events in our city, and the likelihood of a higher frequency of such events as climate change continues, we are seeing a heightened sense of the importance of having in place strong social support structures to help Aucklanders navigate their way through the myriad of new and growing problems and challenges these changes are bringing. From the things members of the public are saying to us, and commentary we are seeing in the media, we are hearing that the loss of our Auckland CABs would be viewed as a retrograde step in terms of ensuring Auckland is best positioned to face current challenges and those that lie ahead.

#### **Voices of 'Save Auckland CABs' petition signatories:**

*"Please don't cut funding to this important service. CAB provides free advice and information, which is probably even more important and necessary now, for those affected by the cyclone."*

*"It would be a huge loss if it discontinued, especially to vulnerable communities who need at these tough times more support not less public service."*

*"This is a valuable essential service which must be retained particularly at this time when many people need a helping hand up from a free confidential service."*

## **What is the way forward for Council?**

### **Keep funding Auckland CABs and include them in strategies for supporting communities**

Pandemics, the cost of living, the growing impacts of climate change, and the strain these things are placing on social cohesion within and between neighbourhoods, mean that community assistance, like that provided by the CAB, is needed now more than ever. The CAB has a key role to play in ensuring people are connected to the information, advice, support and services they need to navigate life's problems and challenges - which, for many, are increasing and becoming more complex.

As the Council says in its Thriving Communities Strategy - Ngā Hapori Momoho 2022 - 2032, "Many Aucklanders are struggling to make ends meet and to participate meaningfully in community life. COVID-19 and the changing climate will make things harder for those already struggling."

The CAB is well-positioned to meet the changing needs of Aucklanders.



Supporting Auckland CABs must be part of the Council's strategy for meeting community need and supporting community well-being now and into the future.

**Voices of 'Save Auckland CABs' petition signatories:**

*"CAB provides a wide range of services to community members. It is the "go to" place for answers to many issues. There are often queues outside many CAB branches."*

*"This is such an incredibly important and necessary service to the community. There is no replacement."*

*"CAB provides services for the well-being of the community therefore it is council's responsibility to fund CAB."*

*"A community service run by members of the community should be funded by the council which is funded by the same community!"*

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions you may have in relation to our submission.

We look forward to appearing before the Council to make our oral submission on its Draft Annual Budget 2023/2024.



# 33539



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** I have heard that Auckland Council are considering abolishing CAB services as a way of saving money. This is an essential service in our communities. This a waste of very valuable resource including many specifically qualified volunteers. The alternative is for the general public to revert, in most cases, to solicitors, which they can ill-afford particularly in the current economic climate. Please think again about this. Council should be looking to cut non-essential services and not essential ones.

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less

towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and	

c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
<b>Changes to other rates</b>	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

### What do you think of these proposals?

## 7. What else is important to you?

### Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

I have heard that Auckland Council are considering abolishing CAB services as a way of saving money. This is an essential service in our communities. This a waste of very valuable resource including many specifically qualified volunteers. The alternative

## Important privacy information

The personal information that you provide in this form will be held and protected by Auckland Council in accordance with our privacy policy (available at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy](https://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy) and at our libraries and service centres) and with the Privacy Act 1993. The privacy policy explains how we can use and share your personal information in relation to any interaction you have with the council, and how you can access and correct that information. You should familiarise yourself with this policy before submitting this form.

**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Subject:** Council Budget  
**Date:** Friday, 3 March 2023 12:28:33 pm

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Dear Sirs

I have heard that Auckland Council are considering abolishing CAB services as a way of saving money. This is an essential service in our communities. This a waste of very valuable resource including many specifically qualified volunteers. The alternative is for the general public to revert, in most cases, to solicitors, which they can ill-afford particularly in the current economic climate. Please think again about this. Council should be looking to cut non-essential services and not essential ones.

Thanks



# 33545



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): East Coast Bays Cricket

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** We wish to make the following submission to the Auckland Council Budget 2023/2034 consultation. This proposed budget will significantly impact the play, active recreation and sport sector.

We do not support the following aspects of this consultation:

1. Removing/ reducing the Regional Sport & Recreation Programme Grant
2. Removing/ reducing Recreation Facilities Operating Grant
3. Reducing local board funded activities across all boards
4. Increased costs to hire and use Council operated recreation facilities
5. The proposed changes to the Community Occupancy Guidelines with regard to increased maintenance costs and the \$1,300 annual rental charge.

These proposals will detrimentally impact on the ability of our Club to deliver community sport and will result in less people, particularly tamariki and rangatahi, from being active.



We have been fortunate enough to have received Local Grants from both Upper Harbour and also Hibiscus and Bays. This has allowed us to deliver sport and recreation in our community at a cost level that allows our whole community to participate. Removal of that funding will mean we have to stop what we are doing or charge increased fees that will ultimately mean people will drop out.

We'd rather they were playing sport than carrying out ram raids.

This proposed Budget will impact on play, recreation and sport organisations across the sector and drive poor community outcomes. Our sector is critical to making Auckland a great place to be. We rely on hard working volunteers and build strong communities - Council's support is critical to enable our sector to achieve what it does.

## 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

## 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

## 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

## 5. Local Boards

### Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

It is proposed to reduce funding by \$16 million across all local boards which will impact the activities and services delivered by local boards. Given this possible reduction in funding, **what do you think of our proposed priorities for services and activities in this local board in 2023/2024?**

**Tell us why:** We wish to make the following submission to the Auckland Council Budget 2023/2034 consultation. This proposed budget will significantly impact the play, active recreation and sport sector.

We do not support the following aspects of this consultation:

1

**If funding for local board activities is reduced, which three of our services do you not want to reduce funding for? (i.e. which are most important to you?)**

**Tell us why these are most important to you:**

### Upper Harbour Local Board

It is proposed to reduce funding by \$16 million across all local boards which will impact the activities and services delivered by local boards. Given this possible reduction in funding, **what do you think of our proposed priorities for services and activities in this local board in 2023/2024?**

**Tell us why:** We wish to make the following submission to the Auckland Council Budget 2023/2034 consultation. This proposed budget will significantly impact the play, active recreation and sport sector.

We do not support the following aspects of this consultation:

1

**If funding for local board activities is reduced, which three of our services do you not want to reduce funding for? (i.e. which are most important to you?)**

**Tell us why these are most important to you:**

## 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	

Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	
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**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

We wish to make the following submission to the Auckland Council Budget 2023/2034 consultation. This proposed budget will significantly impact the play, active recreation and sport sector.

We do not support the following aspects of this consultation:

1

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## AK HAVE YOUR SAY

## Annual Budget 2023/2024 Feedback Form

First and last name \_\_\_\_\_

Email or postal address  
\_\_\_\_\_

Local Board \_\_\_\_\_ Upper Harbour; Hibiscus and Bays

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/how-auckland-council-works/local-boards/Pages/find-local-board.aspx>

Name of organisation \_\_\_\_\_ East Coast Bays Cricket

The following section is **optional**:

What is your gender

Male	Female	Another gender
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What is your age

Under 15	15-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
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What describes your ethnicity

Pakeha/ NZ European	Māori	Chinese	South East Asian	Samoan	Tongan	Indian	Korean	Cook Islands Māori	Other Specify
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### My/Our submission

We wish to make the following submission to the Auckland Council Budget 2023/2034 consultation. This proposed budget will significantly impact the play, active recreation and sport sector.

We **do not** support the following aspects of this consultation:

1. Removing/ reducing the Regional Sport & Recreation Programme Grant
2. Removing/ reducing Recreation Facilities Operating Grant
3. Reducing local board funded activities across all boards
4. Increased costs to hire and use Council operated recreation facilities
5. The proposed changes to the Community Occupancy Guidelines with regard to increased maintenance costs and the \$1,300 annual rental charge.

These proposals will detrimentally impact on the ability of our Club to deliver community sport and will result in less people, particularly tamariki and rangatahi, from being active.

We have been fortunate enough to have received Local Grants from both Upper Harbour and also Hibiscus and Bays. This has allowed us to deliver sport and recreation in our community at a cost level that allows our whole community to participate. Removal of that funding will mean we have to stop what we are doing or charge increased fees that will ultimately mean people will drop out.

We'd rather they were playing sport than carrying out ram raids.

This proposed Budget will impact on play, recreation and sport organisations across the sector and drive poor community outcomes. Our sector is critical to making Auckland a great place to be. We rely on hard working volunteers and build strong communities – Council's support is critical to enable our sector to achieve what it does.

Signature\_



# 33550



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Animal Justice Party Aotearoa NZ

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Please refer to attachment

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

**Tell us why:** Please refer to attachment

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

Please refer to attachment

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**Annual Budget 2023/2024: Submission on behalf of Animal Justice Party Aotearoa NZ**

Prepared by

Dear Mayor Wayne Brown

I am writing this directly to you because, as a former mayoral candidate, I have been subjected to your rhetoric on 'fixing Auckland'. I know what you promised, and how this differs from what you are proposing to deliver.

I am not constraining myself to a pre-filled form with loaded questions specially prepared. I conduct public health research on smoking cessation for a living, and I understand only too well the inherent and often unconscious biases in survey design.

This submission represents the views of Animal Justice Auckland (AJA), the entity I ran for Mayor under, and the Animal Justice Party Aotearoa NZ (AJPANZ). The latter is a political party that we hope to have registered in time for the 2023 general election. Our policy platforms are compassion, equality, non-violence, and a just transition to a more compassionate, low-emissions economy. We are also the only political party to give serious consideration to the liberation of animals from all systems of human exploitation.

This budget is antithetical to the principles of AJPANZ. It is cynical, self-serving and mean spirited. It also goes against the values of many decent New Zealanders who want a fair go for everyone.

The shortfall you mention is \$295 million. To make up for this, you are intending to cut services that will disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable. The proposals are to cut services to "community and education programmes, arts and culture programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres." AJA and AJPANZ oppose these cuts.

These are all public good services. Libraries raise levels of literacy generally. Youth services reduce ram raids and other crimes, as Councillor Alf Filipaina pointed out during the mayoral campaign. Homelessness funding and community empowerment assist the most vulnerable of our citizens.

And how much would cutting these vital services save? A paltry \$20 million! This is not a serious option!

I have a better idea for savings; the lands on which council golf courses stand is worth \$2.9 billion. This represents a massive subsidy to the already wealthy. If one tenth of the public golf courses were sold for development, this would raise the required funds as well as provide much needed housing. Housing can be designed in a way that will allow drainage, as shown by the success of the Stonefields development during the last of these 1 in 500-year storms we are having each year now. As an engineer, I would expect that you know about this.

There is no need to keep golf courses for drainage parks. Grass fields are not as efficient in drainage control as forests and wetlands, as the ponding in the Domain showed. If flooding really is your concern, then the rest of the expensive council land currently subsidising golfers could be converted to proper drainage reserves with wetlands, streams and riparian planting. This would certainly improve conditions for wildlife, something AJPANZ will be in favour of.

I remember being continually ear-bashed in the mayoral debates with descriptions of excessive amounts being spent on salaries and how you were going to cut out the dead wood at the top. You mentioned over 100 people getting over \$300,000 per year. What happened to your promises? Why are you forgetting your pledge to cut salaries for the rich and are instead cutting services for the poor?

Let's also think of the council car parks. These also take up expensive real estate and represent a subsidy to a mode of transport that is dangerous, damaging and disruptive. If Auckland Council is serious about its plans to promote more sustainable transport, then providing a good public transport service alongside selling car parks would be a good way to encourage sustainability and equity, and provide much needed funds.

In summary, Wayne, we ask you to keep your promises. Cut out dead wood at the top, not the lives of living people at the bottom. Make Auckland a sustainable and equitable city for human and non-human life, and not simply one for the wealthy to enjoy.



# 33555



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
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#### Debt

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
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Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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# 33580



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

#### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt

Tell us why, and which reductions you would **not** proceed with if any:

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

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**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

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**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

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# 33581



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

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- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** 'Auckland Council are proposing making cuts to the current funding provided to Citizen Advice Bureaus in the Auckland Council area.

In view of the Council's shortfall in operating funds, it is right that Council should challenge how much and what funding should go to CAB. Council should ALSO be considering whether CABs continues to receive funding, but to whom it should be paid in future. See below.

It is undeniable that CAB offers a valuable and needed community service for clients from all demographic types. What needs to be seriously considered in the review of future funding are three points:

- Where/ to whom should funding paid, ie local CABs as now, or central area management.

- What should the funding be used for ie infrastructure and/or operational services (phones, managers salaries etc). Council should and have a right to dictate this – for the benefit of the service and its users and to ensure Council is getting best value for money.

- Whats is National CAB's role and what can be pushed to them - to step up and reinvigorate the model CAB operates under and how it ensures there is consistent service available through face to face, online and telephone methods for all

clients. There also needs to be refinement of the national CABnet online information database - a very useful tool for volunteers and client that unnecessarily reproduces (sometimes word for word from many websites) information instead of simply providing website links to take the public to the same information. National CAB also need to set and enforce branch operating standards so there is relativity, equality, consistency and proportionality in the way the branches operate instead of the current method where operations are left for the local committee and outcomes vary greatly for both clients and volunteers.

I am a CAB volunteer (and sometimes committee member) who has volunteered in two bureaus – one managed and operated extremely effectively and the other very poorly. I have seen the use of community funds work extremely well and very ineffectively. In the poorly managed branch with a much lower client base, a manager who is paid far in excess of other managers in larger branches stays in her role because this branch is always “flush” with funds from the local community grants. The only beneficiaries of this “flush” funding is the manager who provides no greater or enhanced services, advertising or outreach for clients - while more effective managers who are paid less, often provide much greater services and benefits. This example shows the holes in the Council's current funding method, as well as National CABs operating model, and how other CABs can still operate effectively and provide superior service on less funds.

Future funding recommendations:

1. Any funding Council provides should be to the Regional office – not at a local Community/Board level.
2. Council should dictate what the Regional funds can and cant be used for, ensuring satisfactory client experience is No.1 measure and funds are distributed “equitably” and proportionally” ie based on branch size and service – made up of: client numbers; numbers and types of interaction (face to face, online/email, phone), volunteer numbers, hours of operation, bureau and outreach services provided etc.
3. The Regional Office should be required to report 6 monthly or annually on use of the funds with detailed stats by branch and client activity type. This information will help both CAB and the Council plan ahead on whether premises are required more or less for face to face or online/telephone servicing of clients.

## 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

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**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

## 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

### Rates

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### Debt

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#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

Tell us why:

## 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

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#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?

Tell us why:

## 5. Local Boards

## 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

#### What do you think of these proposals?

## 7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

'Auckland Council are proposing making cuts to the current funding provided to Citizen Advice Bureaus in the Auckland Council area.

In view of the Council's shortfall in operating funds, it is right that Council should challenge how much and what funding

### Important privacy information

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**Proposed funding cuts to Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)**

Auckland Council are proposing making cuts to the current funding provided to Citizen Advice Bureaus in the Auckland Council area.

In view of the Council's shortfall in operating funds, it is right that Council should challenge how much and what funding should go to CAB. Council should ALSO be considering whether CABs continues to receive funding, but to whom it should be paid in future. See below.

It is undeniable that CAB offers a valuable and needed community service for clients from all demographic types. What needs to be seriously considered in the review of future funding are three points:

- Where/ to whom should funding paid, ie local CABs as now, or central area management.
- What should the funding be used for ie infrastructure and/or operational services (phones, managers salaries etc). Council should and have a right to dictate this – for the benefit of the service and its users and to ensure Council is getting best value for money.
- Whats is National CAB's role and what can be pushed to them - to step up and reinvigorate the model CAB operates under and how it ensures there is consistent service available through face to face, online and telephone methods for all clients. There also needs to be refinement of the national CABnet online information database - a very useful tool for volunteers and client that unnecessarily reproduces (sometimes word for word from many websites) information instead of simply providing website links to take the public to the same information. National CAB also need to set and enforce branch operating standards so there is relativity, equality, consistency and proportionality in the way the branches operate instead of the current method where operations are left for the local committee and outcomes vary greatly for both clients and volunteers.

I am a CAB volunteer (and sometimes committee member) who has volunteered in two bureaus – one managed and operated extremely effectively and the other very poorly. I have seen the use of community funds work extremely well and very ineffectively. In the poorly managed branch with a much lower client base, a manager who is paid far in excess of other managers in larger branches stays in her role because this branch is always “flush” with funds from the local community grants. The only beneficiaries of this “flush” funding is the manager who provides no greater or enhanced services, advertising or outreach for clients - while more effective managers who are paid less, often provide much greater services and benefits. This example shows the holes in the Council's current funding method, as well as National CABs operating model , and how other CABs can still operative effectively and provide superior service on less funds.

**Future funding recommendations:**

1. Any funding Council provides should be to the Regional office – not at a local Community/Board level.
2. Council should dictate what the Regional funds can and cant be used for, ensuring satisfactory client experience is No.1 measure and funds are distributed “equitably” and proportionally” ie based on branch size and service – made up of: client numbers; numbers and types of interaction (face to face, online/email, phone), volunteer numbers, hours of operation, bureau and outreach services provided etc.
3. The Regional Office should be required to report 6 monthly or annually on use of the funds with detailed stats by branch and client activity type. This information will help both CAB and the Council plan ahead on whether premises are required more or less for face to face or online/telephone servicing of clients.



# 33590



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** I appreciate your plan to reduce your operating costs by \$125 million. It does not matter if it impacts few services.

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

## What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?

**Tell us why:** If you are strictly use the sale proceeds of your shareholding in Auckland International Airport, it is a good move.

Selling AIA shareholding to reduce your existing loan and borrowing additional \$75 million loan are contradictory and does not make sense.

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

## What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

**Tell us why:** I am not happy to learn that you are planning to increase the Rates. The reasons are:

- a) Mayor Wayne Brown had promised before the election that he will reduce the Rates based on which he is elected.
- 2) As the economy already started deteriorating and in

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

## What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

<b>Waste management rates changes</b>	
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Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
<b>Changes to other rates</b>	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

### What do you think of these proposals?

## 7. What else is important to you?

### Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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**From:**  
**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Subject:** AUCKLAND CITY ANNUAL BUDGET 2023-2024  
**Date:** Saturday, 18 March 2023 1:00:21 pm

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Hi There,

With reference to your e-mail dated 02.03.2023 on the above subject, I would like to comment as follows:

1. I appreciate your plan to reduce your operating costs by \$125 million. It does not matter if it impacts few services.
2. I am not happy to learn that you are planning to increase the Rates. The reasons are:  
a) Mayor Wayne Brown had promised before the election that he will reduce the Rates based on which he is elected. 2) As the economy already started deteriorating and inflation is constantly rising. Hence people cannot afford any increase in Rates.
3. If you are strictly use the sale proceeds of your shareholding in Auckland International Airport, it is a good move.
4. Selling AIA shareholding to reduce your existing loan and borrowing additional \$75 million loan are contradictory and does not make sense.

Thank you and with kind regards.



# 33592



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
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- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

I don't know

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms? Do not proceed with the proposal**

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	I don't know
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	I don't know

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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# 33607



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): NZ Ethnic Women Inc

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

#### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt

Tell us why, and which reductions you would **not** proceed with if any:

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Set a higher general rates increase and make less use of debt

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Do not proceed with the proposal

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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# 33608



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Please see attachment

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**



**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

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- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

**Tell us why:** Please see attachment

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

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Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

Please see attachment

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**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Subject:** Feedback on Auckland's 2023 budget.  
**Date:** Friday, 17 March 2023 12:29:49 pm

---

Hi there,

Here goes again. I sent in comments last year and did not receive any response. As a ratepayer, I do not see the point of consultation if there is no feedback taken into subsequent reviews.

The summary is quite frankly insulting and feels even worse than last year and does not enable me to make an informed decision. As such, I do not support the approval of the budget in the current form. The information presented is bereft of basic financial data and no comparative year data. It tells us nothing except you want to spend more even without the costs from the recent flooding too.

Secondly, you provided the supporting documents as the last link on the page, so you obviously don't want people to see it. I only saw the total expenditure of NZD6.384bn on pg 21. This should be the first figure ratepayers see.

The following basics of planning and presenting financial information is required.

1. How did the council perform vs history against key items in the last financial year. Budget vs actual figures. If your planning was horrible last year, why should we believe what you are proposing.
2. Not until pg 21 of the What efficiencies have you achieved in last final financial year by high level expenditure type (split out by region) so readers can see where our council bills is being spent.
  1. Provided on Pg21 but no comparative data!! NZD6.384b spending!!
  2. Why is Auckland Port expenditure included if the stake is to be sold. This would almost fill the hole of NZD244m??
  3. City link - NZD286m - when will this stop. How much to date and how much to go?
  4. Major developments 2023/24 - How much is the expenditure for each area. . Nothing for Takapuna, Devonport?? Regionwide is incorrect for the CRL. Does this cross over into North shore??
  5. Pg24 - you have reversed Capex and open categories from previous summary.
3. Use a waterfall analysis to show the plus and minuses to show real trends to presumably get to the NZD295m shortfall.
4. A regional breakdown of where the total spending is used. e.g. North Shore, West Auckland etc.
5. How can it be acceptable to have general rate rises of 13.5%. (Pg 17). How was this number arrived at?

On the basis of the above, I do not support the budget in the present form.

Kind regards

Begin forwarded message:



# 33612



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
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- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Tell us more about the location of the problem or enquiry:

Auckland wide, AC investment in environmental education projects, storm water drainage and transport efficiency are essential to keeping us moving forward in a changing world.

Tell us what the problem is and more details about the location.

We are very unhappy AC's new budget proposes cuts to weed and predator control, protecting taonga species, and restoring urban forests and wetlands that are valued for recreation, carbon storage, and flood protection. Please stop nickle & diming your

ratepayers with cuts to these necessary and most important initiatives!

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

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Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
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Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

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Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

Tell us more about the location of the problem or enquiry:

Auckland wide, AC investment in environmental education projects, storm water drainage and transport efficiency are essential to keeping us moving forward in a changing world.

Tell us what the pr

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From:

**# 33612**

Sent Date:03-13-2023 10:00:25 AM

Original Subject Line:Auckland Council online enquiry - Something else

Enquiry type: Something else

Tell us more about the location of the problem or enquiry:

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Contact details

First name

Last name

Contact phone

Email address

[Have your say on Auckland Council's annual budget 2023 and 2024.]

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# 33619



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Community Law

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Please see attachment

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**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**



**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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## **Auckland Council 2023-24 Budget Consultation Submission**

### **Submission by Community Law Centres o Aotearoa, March 21, 2023**

1. This submission is made on behalf of Community Law Centres o Aotearoa. Our contact person for this submission is CEO, Sue Moroney: [sue@clca.co.nz](mailto:sue@clca.co.nz)

#### ***Overview of our organisation and community***

2. Community Law Centres o Aotearoa (CLCA) is the peak organisation for the Community Law network. Twenty-four Community Law Centres (CLCs) work out of over 140 locations across Aotearoa to provide free legal help to those who are unable to pay for a private lawyer and who do not have access to legal aid. As well as around 250 staff, Community Law Centres' services are boosted by over 1,200 volunteer lawyers who run legal advice clinics and deliver free assistance.
3. Our services are targeted at clients who cannot pay for a private lawyer our 50,000 clients per annum are in the bottom 20% of income earners in Aotearoa-New Zealand or are in other situations of financial hardship. We work with clients across a broad range of legal matters and matters pertaining to employment, family and housing are at the forefront of our services in terms of volume.
4. There are six community law centres operating from Auckland City. Four of the CLCs are geographically-based, offering services across legal matters to their community. They are Auckland CLC, Waitemata CLC, Mangere CLC and South Auckland CLC. There are two specialist CLCs also operating from their base in Auckland – ADL, offering legal services to the disability community and YouthLaw, specialising in legal issues affecting those under the age of 25.

#### ***Summary of submission***

5. CLCA questions the need for such drastic cost-cutting measures to be taken as proposed by Auckland Council, given that the entity received a AA credit rating in 2022 from Standard & Poor which is an independent assessment of its financial stability.

6. We specifically oppose the proposed funding cuts to Citizen Advice Bureau services across Auckland City.
7. The services of CABs are an important part of how Auckland citizens have access to justice. The effects of people lacking access to justice are well-documented, with clear links to increasing social inequity, leading to social unrest and significant costs – both economically and socially .
8. CABs provide information for your residents on a range of issues and this assistance was available to 163,000 Aucklanders in 2022. CABs also help people navigate relevant information and direct them to other relevant organisations for assistance. Based on our experience, we expect an increased number of people will need CAB services in Auckland as the recover from the effects of the recent cyclones.
9. In 2022 CABs in Auckland referred 1087 people to community law centres who were eligible for our free legal support on their issues. Of the Aucklanders referred to our services via CABs, 20% identified as Maori; 22% identified as Pacifica and 26% identified as Asian.
10. Without information from a CAB, it is likely that these people would not have found their way to a community law centre. People frequently don't realise they have a legal issue that can be resolved and sometimes do not know they are eligible for free support from community law. CAB services help them identify access to relevant services, one of which is Community Law.
11. If Auckland City cuts funding to CABs and their services are no longer available, these 1087 people will lack access to justice. The consequences of not having legal support can be devastating for these individuals, particularly if it pertains to losing their job, losing access to their children or being kicked out of their home. When people suffer injustices, this impacts negatively on their lives and how they interact with their community.
12. The same set of issues may apply to the 163,000 Aucklanders who would no longer have information and navigation services available to them if CABs were forced to close. Where would they go? Many of them will not be eligible for Community Law

Services because they don't have a legal issue or because they do not meet our eligibility criteria. Community Law Centres would also not have the resources to deal with this volume of service.

13. A significant number of these 163,000 Aucklanders would have to turn to Auckland Council and councillors for support. The recently-published research from the University of Otago, *Expressed Legal Need in Aotearoa: From Problems to Solutions*, found that –

Some enquiries needed one-to-one advice because they engaged local regulations and by-laws. These should theoretically be answered by the local council, but we noticed a pattern of councils referring enquirers to CAB, including for the regulation of swarms of bees, pigs in urban areas, and the management of protected trees. These could be addressed by councils taking greater responsibility for providing information and answering enquiries specific to their area

14. If the cost of providing these services and support for residents of Auckland shifted to the Auckland Council, this would prove to be a more expensive and less-efficient way for Auckland Council's budget to deal with residents' issues.
15. Therefore, it is the informed view of Community Law Centres o Aotearoa that Auckland Council needs to retain and extend the funding of CAB services across the city if it is to maintain and build community resilience.



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

February 27, 2023

# **Auckland Council needs CABs for Community Resilience**

**Citizens' advice bureaux (CABs) are a bedrock part of community resilience and must be retained by the Auckland Council according to Community Law Centres o Aotearoa (CLCA).**

"It is alarming to see the Council move to close the CABs down at the very time when Aucklanders need support to navigate their way through increasingly complex situations," says CLCA CEO Sue Moroney. "Having CABs to help people find the information and support they need is a vital part of community resilience."

"CAB's regularly refer those who are eligible for community legal services to their local community law centre if they require legal support for their situations and we can vouch for the value of the service they provide."

"Auckland councillors need to know that Community Law Centres cannot absorb the significant gap that would be left if CABs were to close and that will therefore leave thousands of people without that information and guidance to get their issues addressed," says Sue.

Last year the CAB helped over 160,000 Aucklanders navigate issues and understand what their options were.

"Any sensible cost-benefit analysis would establish that this small amount of funding is money well-spent by Auckland Council given the social cost that will be borne by the community if CABs close and the flow-on effects of that," says Sue.

Unlike CABs, Community Law Centres provide free legal help for those who cannot afford a lawyer. Therefore, many people accessing CAB services will not be eligible for community legal services.

"Our message is clear – if Auckland councillors value community resilience, they need to stop the proposed funding cuts to CABs" says Sue.

### **Media contacts:**

Sue Moroney, CEO Community Law Centres o Aotearoa Ph 027 422-731; [sue@clca.co.nz](mailto:sue@clca.co.nz)

### **Background**

Twenty-four Community Law Centres work out of over 140 locations across New Zealand to provide free legal help and advice to those who are unable to pay for a private lawyer or who do not have access to legal aid. This advice covers all aspects of New Zealand's legal system, including family law, employment issues, housing problems, consumer advice and criminal law. As well as around 170 staff, Community Law's services are boosted by over 1,200 volunteer lawyers who run clinics and deliver free advice and assistance.



# 33621



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

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**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** ..it is easy to fix just take money from 3 train stops from Michael Wood worth \$500 million.

and found someone who will build this 3 train stops for \$205 million.

PROBLEM SOLVED

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towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

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**Tell us why:**

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**From:** on behalf of [People's Panel](#)  
**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Consultation: Annual Budget 2023/2024  
**Date:** Tuesday, 28 February 2023 4:32:34 pm

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Feedback emailed by a panellist below (think it should say \$500 million)

Ngā mihi nui,

**| Panel Specialist**  
**Auckland Insights Team | Auckland Council Governance**  
Ph  
Auckland Council, Level 25, 135 Albert Street, Auckland  
Have your say about Auckland, join the [People's Panel](#)

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 February 2023 4:19 pm  
**To:** People's Panel <Peoplespanel@aklc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: Consultation: Annual Budget 2023/2024

..it is easy to fix just take money from 3 train stops from Michael Wood worth \$5000 million.

and found someone who will build this 3 train stops for \$205 million.

PROBLEM SOLVED

Regards



# 33626



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Please see attachment

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

**Tell us why:** Please see attachment

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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16 March 2023

HW the Mayor and Councillors  
Auckland Council  
Private Bag 92300  
Victoria Street West  
**AUCKLAND 1142**

**And by email to: HW The Mayor and all ward Councillors**

Your Worship and Councillors

**SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED COUNCIL BUDGET AND ITS IMPACT ON AUCKLAND'S  
ARTS AND CULTURAL SECTOR**

**1. My background, qualifications to submit, and introduction to the issue**

I have played a leading role in the establishment of three performing arts venues in our city over the last 35 years. They are the Rose Centre in Belmont on the North Shore, The Bruce Mason Centre in Takapuna, and Q Theatre in Queen Street.

Between 2013 and 2019 I served for two terms on the Board of the then CCO, Regional Facilities Auckland ("**RFA**"), now merged into Tataki Auckland Unlimited ("**TAU**"). During my time with RFA, where I chaired the Audit and Risk Committee, I was intimately involved with funding issues affecting the performing and fine arts, venues such as the theatres just named, the Art Gallery/Toi o Tamaki, and the museum sector, not to mention the City's sporting venues.

My contribution to the arts and the Auckland Community were recognised in the 2023 New Years Royal Honours for New Zealand.

I speak with knowledge and experience of the importance of the arts to our city and of the grave danger that comes from an overreaction to financial constraints. During my time with RFA the previous Mayoral administration faced serious financial limitations that threatened arts funding. It pulled back from the worst of the proposals then being considered and averted what would have been huge damage to the creative fabric of Auckland. But the proposals made in the current Budget document dwarf those of any prior administration in their potential to hollow out the creative sector in this city.

The savings already required of TAU (and, through it, the Art Gallery and our performance venues) and the further cuts that are sought in the Budget proposal to operational arts-related support through Council, CCOs and Local Boards, are seen by those affected as the financial equivalent of bombing the artistic sector in Auckland back to the stone age. If they proceed in their present form and to their present proposed extent, there is a grave danger they will lead to a long-term creative malaise from which it will be difficult for Auckland to recover for several generations.

That should not be allowed to happen.





## 2. A reminder of the creative sector's importance to Auckland

The creative sector has been consistently recognised by Auckland Council as an important element in Auckland's economy and quality of life. That is reflected in several strategic documents including the Auckland Plan 2050, and Auckland Council's *Toi Whītiki* – Auckland's arts and culture strategic action plan, released in 2015.

Based on data for 2019, the Auckland creative sector is made up of 10,478 businesses which then comprised 5.2 per cent of all businesses in Auckland. The sector generated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$3.6 billion and employs 32,242 people, which was then 3.2 per cent of Auckland's total GDP and 3.6 per cent of Auckland's employees respectively.<sup>1</sup>

While the creative sector is broader than the arts and cultural sector as it is generally understood, these numbers are a reminder that budget constraints that affect the Council's interaction with the arts sector have the potential to impact a wide range of people and economic activity.

Moreover, artistic and cultural endeavour runs the gamut of activity representing different aspects of this country's heritage, from Te Matatini, to the Pasifika Festival, to the conservation and display of fine art works in The Auckland Art Gallery/Toi o Tamaki. It is integral to Aucklanders of all walks of life.

The creative and artistic sectors are neither insignificant nor elitist. They are crucially important to Auckland's success as a city and touch everyone.

## 3. Where does the budget problem come from?

There are several reasons why Auckland Council faces a budget deficit that must be funded. There is no doubt that what Council does has grown over time and that involves cost. But leading off with this, as the Budget summary document suggests<sup>2</sup> sets up the response that what Council is presently committed to do should now be cut. That ignores the real issues which seem to be:

- (a) Council carries significant debt, the servicing cost of which is rising with interest rates generally. This is said to be one of the "key drivers" of the budget deficit;<sup>3</sup>
- (b) Even if that debt has funded quality investment, the Council is required to fund depreciation on its capital assets. This creates a double whammy in the need to service the present costs of acquisition funding and the need to provide for future replacement through funded depreciation, even if replacement might not ultimately be required or could eventually be funded differently or more innovatively;

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<sup>1</sup> *Creative Sector Auckland 2020*, R Wilson November 2020, executive summary.

<sup>2</sup> Summary of Annual Budget 2023/2024 p 1

<sup>3</sup> Consultation topic – the Budget challenge a key driver with inflation on costs.



- (c) Many assets have been acquired, created and operate in the expectation that they would be supported by strong revenues from public patronage, much of which dried up during Covid. That is beginning to recover but is still a fiscal “hangover”.
- (d) Council is required to produce a balanced budget.
- (e) That poses a short term need to fill a deficit while it re-shapes its finances for the longer term.

It follows that there is an immediate issue that can be resolved with time, imagination, and ingenuity. Budget decisions should not be made for the 2023-24 year that will have longer term, more deeply disadvantageous outcomes to the creative sector than are absolutely necessary.

### **3. The proposed “levers” and what they entail**

The Budget proposal is based on “filling” a deficit of \$295 million using four main levers:

- (a) Operational savings - \$125 million.
- (b) A limited rates increase – estimated \$93.2 million.
- (c) Debt reduction by the disposal of a single asset (Auckland airport shares) – reducing debt servicing by \$87 million pa, and
- (d) Limited new borrowing \$75 million to meet budgeted expenditure (at a cost of about \$3.43 million pa).

I note first that these figures suggest that the four levers being proposed by Council go well beyond the deficit of \$295 million. Netting out the saving in borrowing costs from the sale of Airport shares with the interest that would be due on the proposed additional borrowing of \$75 million, the total raised or saved for 2023-24 using these levers is \$377 million. That suggests that within the figures there is room for proposed cuts to be recalculated to the extent of some \$82 million.

Quite apart from that, I note the following in relation to each of the four levers:

#### ***Operational savings***

The proposed savings affecting the arts and cultural sector are spread across Council, TAU and Local Boards. They relate to both direct funding and partner funding, ie funding to support mostly community-based organisations working in the creative sector. Before the proposed budget cuts, TAU had already been obliged to find savings of \$17 million in its operational budget. On top of those, it will now lose a further \$27.5 million from a budget that has been chronically underfunded for years. That is a total of \$44.5 million or fully 20% of the pre savings budget for TAU operations.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Post budget operational expenditure now to be \$182 million down from \$226.5 million: Budget Document p 38.





This is not just perpetuating the already gross undercapitalising of this Council business, which would be bad enough. It is tipping it into territory where the organisation and those it is intended to support are almost inevitably being set up to fail.

The additional cut of \$27.5 million represents 22% of the overall operational savings being required in the proposed budget. TAU is apparently the only CCO whose budget is being cut to this extent. By contrast, transport services through AT are being more permanently scaled back, but that is avoiding the cost of resuming services rather than cutting existing services further. Savings are to be sought from other CCOs but not to the extent of those required of TAU, nor by the slashing of their budgets.

The short point is that the cut to TAU funding falls disproportionately on the creative and recreational sectors. No other part of Council besides TAU is being asked to reduce its operations to this extent. That smacks of the creative and recreational sectors being seen and treated by Council as a lesser priority and as areas where the public can simply be expected to volunteer financial support to make up the lost Council funding. This is reflected in the somewhat cynical observation that TAU funding cuts will have effects on service delivery and pricing at venues such as the Art Gallery/Toi o Tamaki and other venues.<sup>5</sup> User pays will be the future mantra, to the detriment of creative and artistic infrastructure which will wither if people consider there are financial barriers to their involvement with the arts.

The proposed cuts will strip back the creative infrastructure of the city, apparently because the costs of maintaining other infrastructure are rising and must be met. Demanding that people voluntarily support creative endeavour while other activity is supported by the Council to a greater (albeit somewhat reduced) extent imposes a disproportionate and unfair burden on the creative sector. A different balance is required in how the proposed budget cuts fall, to ensure that damage to the creative sector is no greater than other sectors are being asked to bear.

In addition to TAU funding, cuts in funding through Council to regional arts initiatives and contested regional grants will starve creative organisations of what has often been “seed” funding for activities that would otherwise never be seen. These programmes have supported organisations that have started small and have grown to be mainstream participants in the performing arts. Stopping this funding risks choking off the next generations of artists and artistic craftspeople. These are things that cannot simply be turned on and off. Once they have gone it is incredibly difficult to re-establish them.

Operational savings also fall disproportionately on the artistic and creative sectors because of the extent to which they are supported through Local Boards and partnering relationships. An examination of the proposed reductions of funding to Local Boards shows that the projected consequences are predominantly in areas of community support and the arts.

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<sup>5</sup> Budget document pp 36-37.





But for one exception (Aotea/Great Barrier<sup>6</sup>), proposed cuts to Local Board funding track at between 3 and 5% of planned spending. However, the impact of this is likely to be felt much more keenly in the creative sector than the raw number suggest. Local Boards support grass roots creative and artistic endeavour. Their funding has always been limited but, despite that, great work has been done by many Boards to support these endeavours. Grass roots activity feeds a future thriving creative sector. That sector will inevitably be under enormous pressure because of Council's overall financial position. Reducing Local Board funding will unnecessarily prolong the negative impact of that.

### ***Limited rates increase***

The proposed rates increase is limited to a net (ie overall) 4.66%. The Budget document states that each percentage point of a general rates increase produces \$20 million in revenue. Assuming an average net rate increase of 4.66% the additional revenue generated amounts to \$93.2 million. On that basis the proposal states that the average additional contribution per residential property will be \$3 per week.

Using the rule of thumb that a 1% movement in rates produces \$20 million, funding the entire \$295 million deficit would require a rating increase of 14.75%<sup>7</sup>, which is clearly not sustainable. But these numbers suggest that some movement in the level of rates increase would be sustainable to preserve sectors that would otherwise be disproportionately affected by Council's proposed budget.

As an example, but without limiting the point, the proposed \$16 million in cuts to Local Board operational expenditure could be avoided entirely if the average net rate increased by only a further 0.8%. This would increase the proposed average rating cost per week by about 2 cents.

### ***Debt reduction***

This focuses on the sale of the Council's stake in Auckland International Airport. For the purposes of this submission, I note only the following:

- (a) The sale is to reduce borrowing costs by \$87 million pa.
- (b) That suggests an average borrowing cost to Council of about 4.57% pa.<sup>8</sup>
- (c) The net saving to Council in borrowing costs because of intended new borrowing of \$75 million is not \$87 million pa but \$83.5 million.

### ***Additional borrowing***

This is noted as being undertaken within the existing prudential limits of Council's borrowing policy. There are significant limitations in that policy but that is not a matter

<sup>6</sup> Considerably higher at 13%.

<sup>7</sup> The Budget document says 13.5% but, on the stated ratio of revenue to % rates increase, that seems light.

<sup>8</sup> \$87m on a share sale value of \$1.9 billion is 4.57%



for this submission. I leave this element of the proposed Budget on the basis that it and the debt reduction measure just referred to will go ahead.

**4. What should happen to protect the creative sector from unnecessary damage?**

The Budget proposal should be revised so that:

- (a) The additional savings sought from TAU are rescinded.
- (b) Funding to Local Boards is not reduced as proposed.
- (c) Regional funding to the arts remains as is, and
- (d) Regional contestable grants available to the arts and creative sectors are not cut.

From available information it is not possible to do more than work with gross figures cited in the Budget proposal. The total cost associated with these revisions is some \$63.5 million.<sup>9</sup> That could be made up from a combination of very modest additional rating revenue and borrowing. If that sum was to be raised *solely* by additional rating (which I do not necessarily advocate), a net average rates rise of some 7.8% would be required compared with the proposed 4.66%. That would amount to an average increase of \$5 per week per rated household (\$260 pa) compared with the proposed \$3 (\$154 pa), still a very modest increase.

Of course, that number falls if part of the reinstatement of this funding is supported by borrowing for the 2023-24 year. As an example, if \$40 million of the reinstated funding was added to the proposed borrowing of \$75 million, the funding costs to Council would be a modest \$1.8 million pa and would still leave considerable headroom under the present borrowing cap. Such borrowing would reduce the required level of rating so that the average net rating increase could be limited to 5.8%. That would reflect an increase in the average net rating cost of just \$3.75 per week compared with the proposed \$3 per week.

The mix of additional rating and borrowing can be adjusted in many ways. For present purposes I submit that such a mix is to be preferred over the proposed cutting of this expenditure and the enormous loss to the creative sector of our City that will inevitably follow from that.

**5. Summary and conclusions**

The above submissions can be summarised thus:

- (a) The creative and artistic sectors are vital components of any successful city. Years of effort have gone into building the arts infrastructure and creative sector of

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<sup>9</sup> Made up of TAU funding cuts \$27.5 m, Local Board funding cuts \$16 m and regional funding cuts \$20 m.





Auckland which is a huge contributor to the City's vitality. One way or another, the sector touches everyone. It is neither insignificant nor elitist.

- (b) Council faces relatively short-term financial challenges to structure a balanced budget for 2023-24. It needs time to address its finances longer term. It should not make funding decisions for the coming year that will have longer lasting deleterious affects if it can avoid that. The proposed expenditure cuts that affect the arts in Auckland for 2023-24 risk hollowing the sector out to an extent that could take generations to recover from.
- (c) The sums arising from the four suggested levers in Council's proposals seem to considerably over shoot the deficit that must be bridged to balance the 2023-24 budget.
- (d) Even if that is not the case the weight of the proposed cuts falls disproportionately on the artistic cultural and creative sector in that:
  - (i) Additional operational cuts to TAU's expenditure are a savage and disproportionate attack on its ability adequately to support the artistic and recreational sectors.
  - (ii) The loss of regional arts funding will choke off the source of seed funding that has promoted the development of the sector and ensure that the impact of cuts overall is embedded for much longer than it should be.
  - (iii) The curtailment of Local Board arts support will stifle grass roots artistic and cultural activity which builds the sector intergenerationally.
- (e) The proposed limited net rates increase has headroom for a reasonable increment above that suggested in the Budget document as does the suggested additional borrowing.
- (f) The cost of reversing the suggested cuts to TAU, Local Boards and to regional funding and grants, could be accommodated by a modest additional rating adjustment combined with a further very modest borrowed sum for 2023-24.
- (g) That would ensure that adverse and disproportionate impacts that could be irreversible are not imposed on the arts sector.

I would be happy to speak to this submission if that is considered helpful.

Yours faithfully



# 33628



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

#### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt

Tell us why, and which reductions you would **not** proceed with if any:

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Enable a partial sale of our shares, maintaining a 10 per cent shareholding in AIAL (reducing our interest costs by around \$40 million per year), and further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Make greater use of debt

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and	I don't know

c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
<b>Changes to other rates</b>	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

**What do you think of these proposals?** Encouraging people to compost food scraps and garbage waste to reduce waste management issues.

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

'Do not reduce funding for:

- Library services
- Budgeting services
- Safety on roads

## Important privacy information

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# 33632



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** I strongly urge Auckland Council to support the arts sector. It is one dimension of community that has an outreach to all citizens. The arts create a unity through diversity of culture and medium. We grow as a city, as a country, through intermingling and understanding of each other. The arts allows this to happen.

I urge decision - makers to enable this to further foster relationships, spirit and pride in our city.

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less



towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and	

c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
<b>Changes to other rates</b>	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

#### What do you think of these proposals?

### 7. What else is important to you?

#### Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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**From:**  
**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Subject:** Arts funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, 21 March 2023 9:57:36 pm

---

I strongly urge Auckland Council to support the arts sector. It is one dimension of community that has an outreach to all citizens. The arts create a unity through diversity of culture and medium. We grow as a city, as a country, through intermingling and understanding of each other. The arts allows this to happen.

I urge decision - makers to enable this to further foster relationships, spirit and pride in our city.

Respectfully,

Sent from my HUAWEI P30 Pro



# 33636



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

#### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** We are a group of older ladies who get together twice a month to provide warm knitted/crocheted garments for babies (up to one year old) for Kids First, Middlemore Hospital. The garments are distributed to families in need, in South Auckland, by midwives and other medical staff.

We have been given grants in the past, which we use to purchase yarn to make the garments. If there is no funding, or reduced funding, then our output will be reduced correspondingly.

Should the Council reduce our grant it will defeat its own community objective of providing help for needy families.

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called “blocking stake”). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council’s shares?**

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

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Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
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Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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**From:**  
**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Subject:** Grant request  
**Date:** Tuesday, 7 March 2023 4:11:36 pm

---

We are a group of older ladies who get together twice a month to provide warm knitted/crocheted garments for babies (up to one year old) for Kids First, Middlemore Hospital. The garments are distributed to families in need, in South Auckland, by midwives and other medical staff.

We have been given grants in the past, which we use to purchase yarn to make the garments. If there is no funding, or reduced funding, then our output will be reduced correspondingly.

Should the Council reduce our grant it will defeat its own community objective of providing help for needy families.

Thank you,  
Secretary  
Joan Loader Knitting Grannies Incorporated  
Dinie Green (Mrs)

Sent from my iPad



# 33639



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** I'm an artist living in Tamaki, I'm very concerned about the suggested budget cuts to Community arts in the region.

The arts community is fragile and precarious and is underfunded, this budget cut will have an inter generational effect. I have benefited from community arts grants with an artists mentoring

project. We pair up an established artist with an emerging younger artist, this has been very successful as knowledge is passed intergenerationally. We also secured funding to support arts

Advocacy in the region to provide resources and information.

The arts are more important than ever, post covid and now floods. The arts are always seen as low hanging and seen as a luxury, no it is a necessity.

I am all for a rate increase to make sure the arts are kept alive.



## 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

## 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
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### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

## 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

## 5. Local Boards

## 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

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Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
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Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
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Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 March 2023 4:29 pm

**To:** Annual Budget <annualbudget@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>

**Subject:** Budget

kia ora,

I'm an artist living in Tamaki, I'm very concerned about the suggested budget cuts to Community arts in the region.

The arts community is fragile and precarious and is underfunded , this budget cut will have an inter generational effect. I have benefited from community arts grants with an artists mentoring project. We pair up an established artist with an emerging younger artist, this has been very successful as knowledge is passed intergenerationally. We also secured funding to support arts Advocacy in the region to provide resources and information.

The arts are more important than ever, post covid and now floods. The arts are always seen as low hanging and seen as a luxury , no it is a necessity.

I am all for a rate increase to make sure the arts are kept alive.



# 33642



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** I am appalled at most of the cuts announced as I believe that they attack the wrong area's.

I also believe that the threat to increase rates by 10% if the proposed budget cuts are not enacted is a narrowminded 19th century economic approach which sees investment as cost. (i.e. an unwillingness to see the economic return in the long run)

Also the attack on social services across the board (including library's and arts) is an attack on investment in the people of Auckland.

It is small minded stupidity.

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

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**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:** One example of this is the proposed Auckland airport sell off. Auckland will get a \$39,000,000 return this year and for every other year in perpetuity. The idea that \$86million will be saved interest rates for the life of Ak Airport ignores the fact that

### 3. Managing rates and debt

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

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Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

'What then would I suggest?

It is glaringly obvious, if you listen to everyday complaints for citizens like me in a our daily conversations:

Services, once run by the council, have now been outsourced

The out source's are using this to wrort the council.

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**From:**

**Subject:** Have your say and help shape Auckland..???

Dear Madams and Sirs,

On the council web site there are 9 pages of "Have Your Say". I did not count them all, but the site says 164 topics.

Really?

This is disipating a central message. Perhaps that is the plan?

I sort of get it on the one hand, but equally dividing it up like this minimises the overall effect and does not allow for a general comment such as the below, relatively brief comment from me. So please read it.

I am appalled at most of the cuts announced as I believe that they attack the wrong area's. I also believe that the threat to increase rates by 10% if the proposed budget cuts are not enacted



is a narrowminded 19<sup>th</sup> century economic approach which sees investment as cost. (i.e. an unwillingness

to see the economic return in the long run)

One example of this is the proposed Auckland airport sell off. Auckland will get a

\$39,000,000 return this year

and for every other year in perpetuity. The idea that \$86million will be saved interest rates for the life

of Ak Airport ignores the fact that in virtually 2 years (@ \$39million - at least - return p.a. (council figures)) this

\$86 million will have been made up. from then on it is a gain, forever.

This is the type of weird spin/logic that we are having thrust at us.

Also the attack on social services across the board (including library's and arts) is an attack on investment in the people of Auckland.

It is small minded stupidity.

What then would I suggest?

It is glaringly obvious, if you listen to everyday complaints for citizens like me in a our daily conversations:

- Services, once run by the council, have now been outsourced
- The *out source's* are using this to wrort the council. We see it every day in the falling standards of service, coupled with the plethora of outward signs such as armies of traffic cones (each rented out at an exorbitant rate). Armies of workers in yeow coats standing arouns directing traffic.  
(e.g. On one recent such occasion in Cornwall Park, bordering Campbell Rd, I counted:
  - 6 traffic people with walkie-talkies, directing traffic
  - 6 contractors standing around, whilst 1 contractor was up a tree trimming away
  - two stationary contractors' trucks, engines runningThis went on for 5 days. At the end it appeared to me that one or two trees, inside the fence of the park, might have been trimmed back.)
- The point here is that massive \$\$\$'s are being wrorted out of the council. There is a lack cost management. The corporations and entities that have the contracts seem to have an open cheque book as far as the council is concerned. There seems to be an attitude of *business* "good and beyond reproach" thus for them "open-sesame", for them to charge, charge and charge and the council to pay, pay and pay! *Social investment*  
bad, bad and bad.
- If the council did proper due diligence, there would be no need for cuts to services and investment in the community.

- e.g. AS well (from personal experience and common experience from others) as this, getting, anything done that needs doing - well it very rarely happens quickly, if at all - so why are these guys getting paid?. (e.g. a dangerous footpath on my street. Trees over growing my property, grass berms that are close to knee high. A dirty filthy city that looks 3<sup>rd</sup> world in places.).... well it hardly ever happens when a problem is logged - still waiting.

THE POINT I AM TRYING TO MAKE IS:

instead of ravaging services and selling off shares in a valuable asset that will give returns in perpetuity, the council could save much more by "taking care of business" - making sure that the plethora of contractors ripping the city off are brought to heel. Perhaps a solution here is for the council to directly run these services themselves. If not then, the council and its army of well-paid managers, needs to do due diligence on these rip-off corporations and entities.

Invest in the people and pay for this by policing the corporate services providers realistically



# 33643



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** I write to you now as an individual and/or on behalf of my organisation, which is responsible for the delivery of Arts, Culture and Heritage in Auckland City. I implore you to reconsider the impacts on everyone if funding is cut to Arts, Culture and Heritage Events, Facilities, Organisations and individuals.

Auckland's people are what make this city, and it is quantifiable and proven that 1.5 million of them enjoy Arts, Culture and Heritage at a community and transitional community to professional level. This figure does not include the countless others also enjoying and experiencing Arts, Culture and Heritage at professional, festival and large scale event levels.

I hope you will consider what it means to take 36 million dollars (from Local Board Allocations, Regional Arts and Heritage Funding, Grants and More) away from those people. The impacts this will have on many levels will damage the fabric of our community, now and in the future...

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

## Important privacy information

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**From:**

**Sent:** Thursday, 9 March 2023 9:36 pm

**To:** Councillor Shane Henderson <[Shane.Henderson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Shane.Henderson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Annual Budget 23/24

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

*TO: Mayor Wayne Brown, Councillors' John Watson, Wayne Walker, Christine Fletcher, Julie Fairey, Andy Baker, Sharon Stewart, Maurice Williamson, Lotu Fuli, Alf Filipaina, Angela Dalton, Daniel Newman, Josephine Bartley, Chris Darby, Richard Hills, Desley Simpson, Greg Sayers, Shane Henderson, Ken Turner, Mike Lee, Kerrin Leoni.*

*Kia ora Koutou,*

*I write to you now as an individual and/or on behalf of my organisation, which is responsible for the delivery of Arts, Culture and Heritage in Auckland City. I implore you to reconsider the impacts on everyone if funding is cut to Arts, Culture and Heritage Events, Facilities, Organisations and individuals.*

*Auckland's people are what make this city, and it is quantifiable and proven that 1.5 million of them enjoy Arts, Culture and Heritage at a community and transitional community to professional level. This figure does not include the countless others also enjoying and experiencing Arts, Culture and Heritage at professional, festival and large scale event levels.*

*I hope you will consider what it means to take 36 million dollars (from Local Board Allocations, Regional Arts and Heritage Funding, Grants and More) away from those people. The impacts this will have on many levels will damage the fabric of our community, now and in the future...*



# 33646



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
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- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Please see attachment

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**



**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:** Please see attachment

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

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**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

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### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

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**What do you think of these proposals?**

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**We can (still) have nice things: on Auckland Council updated budget and directed cost-saving exercise**

Two weeks ago there were a number of media stories that drew attention to the peril continued operations of the Citizen Advice Bureau [CAB] network across Auckland was in: the CAB had been identified in an Auckland Council budgetary paper as a potential point for cost savings, savings which were needed because the Council, the network's funder, had 'run out of money'.

CAB is one of those services which is unlikely to be front of mind for most citizens and ratepayers. Many seeing those stories might have even been surprised that it is still a thing: "Isn't that what Google is for?" From a certain point of view (may I suggest, that of mortgage holders and salaried professionals?), CAB is an unlikely outlet for legal and/or customary advice. However, for others—migrants, the young, the old, low wage earners, renters—it is often an essential resource, admitting all comers to guide them through the winding corridors of our sometimes baffling social and legal frameworks. For those who get to be surveyed and have voted New Zealand and Auckland to the top of world rankings for 'ease of business' the CAB is probably something long forgotten; maybe your mother went there once on your behalf in response to you begging her for permission to join a local falconry club. However, it is still a presence, and very much a first port of call for those looking for, say, 'ease of secure and safe housing' after a once-in-a-hundred-years flood. It is a matter of record that following the flooding across Auckland during late January the CAB guided many Aucklanders through a wide range of complex issues. This activity is reported on [here](#). CABs are a going concern: they are representations and practical institutional demonstrations of our famed caring and egalitarian society. I feel this is something which should be supported, if not celebrated.

Yet this is not a nostalgia piece, nor is it specifically about the CAB. The media stories on the proposed cut worked as a kind of forewarning for me. Not long after they appeared I was contacted by the Council officers I have correspondence with in the course of my work at an Auckland arts centre. They were seeking our feedback on some initial advice which would cut or cancel the annual Council funding for operations at that arts centre. It was pretty easy to respond: despite being partnered by a privately funded charitable trust, without Council funding the arts centre would have to close. The public services offered through the arts centre would soon become unaffordable for the trust alone, which has its own overheads and operational costs beyond the arts centre operation. The activity would simply be cut from our own budget and the frankly difficult business of performing and delivering a public service as a private organisation would no longer pass through our hands. I would expect this to be experienced as a massive loss for the more than 100,000 people who come through the facility every year. What then would the trust do at the facility, which has had tens of millions of council dollars already spent on it to get it up to the adequate public use and art gallery standards? Well, given the circumstances, we would probably just squat in the building behind closed doors until our lease ran out. I imagine other community and arts organisations who found themselves with a similar conundrum would take similar action. What we will then see is Auckland as a closed city, with many fewer publicly accessible spaces, buildings, services and organisations.

What I would like to foreground here are the mechanisms of choice our Council are being forced to face and, consequently, the sort of environment Aucklanders will be left with if certain decisions are made. I started with the CAB because it seems to be the only threatened organisation and public service which has made some media cut through. Imagine my fascinated horror when I read the document in which the proposal is made and saw that it was far from alone on the list. That

document is entitled 'Draft Annual Budget 2023/2024 – Staff Advice to support Mayoral Proposal' and may be found [here](#).

It is difficult to know when this document first became publicly available—perhaps as early as the 5th of December 2022—as it had an embargo notice attached to it. This may explain why the CAB stories appeared only at the end of January. Reading the paper you will notice that the proposed CAB cut is one bullet point among scores of others, all of which have the commonality of being social, community and arts services. The other major proposal that the document contains is a sell down of Auckland International Airport shares, and there is a bit of time spent on explaining the good intentions of that divestment.

By now, observant readers will have recognised this economic playbook. It is one that we as a society have previously experienced extreme versions of. Have we not learned? Do we not know that social cohesion and happiness (another oft surveyed metric) is achieved not only through working storm-water (something else the paper proposes efficiency gains in) but also public, openly accessible organisations and spaces? More to my point though, the CAB cut is proposed in 'Appendix E', which are second tier 'opportunities for savings', those already deemed 'higher risk' or more difficult to implement – and certainly the push back on it proves that point. It is the content of 'Appendix B' which is rather more urgent. Appendix B lists cost saving proposals which should be 'immediate'. Included in this schedule are:

- Community and social innovation programmes
- Arts and Leisure programmes
- Regional (community) events
- Education programmes
- Economic development and employment activities
- Community Activations
- Grants for Community Development; Events Arts and Culture; Environmental and historical heritage; youth and sports programmes
- Local board programmes
- Services in and for parks and community facilities
- The 'Healthy Water programme'
- Early Childhood Education
- Reductions in Local Board funding
- Changes to grants and revenue
- Operations at Regional Facilities (including the Zoo, the Art Gallery, Maritime Museum, stadiums and event facilities)
- Inflation adjusted public transport fares, reduced services
- Local town centre developments
- Auckland wide festivals and programmes, including Lantern, Heritage and Matariki festivals

These are not 'back office' activities, and the intent is for year on year savings, meaning that cuts in these areas are fundamental and structural changes to Council activities, aiming to change the business and shape of Council altogether. Somehow, though, I really doubt that the total expenditure of all of these community, social and arts services thrown together in a pile would get anywhere near the quantum of additional savings that are suddenly needed. Another proposal in the paper seeks to cut the whole funding of the City of Manukau Education Trust ['COMET'], which is about \$600,000, and that's a whole CCO. Beyond the listed above there is also a proposed 5% cut

across all local board budgets, which would then be bulk funded. So why? What is the need for such drastic change to Council business? Some sense of the rationale may be discovered in the figures.

To work out the actual quantitative target for the annual savings you have to work through the 10 Year Budget 2021-2031 ['LTP'], the Annual Budget 2022/2023, a couple of extraordinary meeting agendas from late 2022, as well as the document already mentioned.

The trail of relevant numbers starts in the LTP where \$90 million was stated as the assumed budget gap. This had some uncertainty built into it, the gap could be as high as \$150 million, but the Council worked initially to the lower end of that range. Down the line we are told that \$57 million of this has already been 'solved' (ouch, hurt my ears that one). So we can assume that there is at least \$33 million of savings still being looked for under that initial budget figure. However, following the local body elections of 2022 and through the financial shocks experienced worldwide as well as here, along with supply chain issues and rising rates of inflation, a recalculation of the budget gap was done. The outcome of that reworking was brought to the Council and public attention by our new mayor, Wayne Brown, who was elected with a mandate to 'fix' Auckland.

The fix would be more expensive now: the Council budget gap blew out beyond its previously assumed upper limit of \$150 million to a whopping \$270 million. But that is not the end of it. After further recalculations on the back of the Reserve Bank's cash rate hike of November 2022 the total gap was measured at \$295 million. This figure is the amount that the Council would have to cut from its budgets if it wanted to continue a fiscally sound and indeed legislatively required balanced budget year on year. Previously the lower figure has been sought through a number of actions (or 'levers' as the documents call them) including day to day organisational efficiencies, 'asset recycling' (predominantly selling off underutilised property), cutting underutilised services and manipulation of borrowing and debt repayments. Obviously this is now an even more massive challenge coming off a target a third the size of the now expected annual savings across all Council activities including those of the CCOs. Yet for anyone reading the Council's expenditure and revenue figures, the budget gap does not make plain or immediate sense. Where is the gap, if the Council is achieving as per legislation a balanced budget or an operating surplus? From where to where is the gap to be found? The answer: in the treatment of depreciation. This is the key to understanding what is being asked of Council and Auckland as a whole.

Post super city amalgamation policies were put in place that would raise the percentage to which asset depreciation was funded in Council budgets from 63% to fully funded, 100%. Because you can't make that up in one year, multi-year financial planning is essential. An initial target of achieving full funding of depreciation by 2025 was set. The covid crisis necessitated enough of a disruption to this programme to extend that target out 3 years to 2028. This policy is a good one: it will lower borrowing for investing and renewal in the city's infrastructure. Even so, this is not what you call a naturally occurring operational gap. It is solely a function of a policy target. The measure by which the progress towards the target is marked may be observed through a number of calculations, one of the most important being the debt to revenue ratio, which in Council budgets is expressed as a percentage. This indicates how quickly Council can pay off borrowings. Under its financial policy the Council set a target at 270% in the Annual Budget 2022/2023, bringing it back from 290% in order to be more prudent and to provide 'debt headroom' in case of further unexpected shocks.

All fair enough, but let that sink in – this is not savings necessitated by run-away spending, or rampantly profligate council agencies, **it is entirely a product of policy settings**. It is an asset renewal and investment problem and not primarily an operating gap. I'm pretty sure most Aucklanders will not appreciate or understand the difference. I'm not even sure that our Council

representatives fully understand the difference, even while it is entirely within their control. Savings and efficiencies are admirable and should be goals, but at what cost are these pursued? This is what I would like our representatives to ask.

Our representatives (both in the media and in governance roles) should put the question back to the Mayor: why are these areas deemed ripe for cost savings? These are not back office operations, these are activities in and of the community. What is actually being saved? Have you revisited the debt ceiling? What job do you envisage for Council, what is its role in your view? Without answering these questions directly these budget initiatives look like an ideological exercise that has cynically taken the opportunity of an inflationary environment to reach out well beyond the assumed mandate. Is this how we thought Auckland would be fixed? Are we willing to downgrade Council from its contributions across community, social, and cultural sectors to a simple provision of hardware?

There is another point of view to the one of those who have forgotten the CABs. It is one which most who work in the community, social and arts sectors share. It foregrounds equality of opportunity, freedom of culture to be seen and shared. These should not be things open only to those who can drop some zeros at an art auction and take the coveted object home for private enjoyment. I urge our representatives to look at these current budget proposals closely, especially as updated revenue figures appear healthier than previous, to see how they are opportunistic and driven by a creaking ideology. To me, this is not some brave realism, it is mean and unimaginative. The public realm is still here and it needs to be financially supported by public money for the sake of freedom and connection. For years we have worked to make our city open, and welcoming, a creative and vibrant place. Let's not throw this out with the storm-water: we can still have nice things.

Auckland

11 February 2023



# 33653



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**



**Tell us why:** Today I signed up to Council's "Have your say" and I would like to comment on the Simon Wilson Herald article today that comments on Auckland Council mayor Wayne Brown considering selling the airport shares for around \$2 billion.

I'd like to make my comment

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	

Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
<b>Changes to other rates</b>	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

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**From:****Sent:** Monday, 27 February 2023 2:21 pm**To:** Consultation <[Consultation@aklc.govt.nz](mailto:Consultation@aklc.govt.nz)>**Subject:** Have your say

Today I signed up to Council's "Have your say" and I would like to comment on the Simon Wilson Herald article today that comments on Auckland Council Mayor Wayne Brown considering selling the airport shares for around \$2 billion.

I'd like to make my comment advising Council to instead sell some of the costly golf clubs owned by Council - even selling half of them would return well over \$2 Billion as a sensible transaction to reduce cost to ratepayers. Why is this not under serious consideration by Council. The sold clubs could be held in private hands and members pay fees to utilise the courses rather than ratepayers subsidising this leisure sport for those who have the time and wish to engage in it.

However so far as I can see invited comments on Council Budget are not subscribable until February 28 - while Simon Wilson is allowed to comment on the potential Airport share sale beforehand.

Please advise

CAUTION: This email message and any attachments contain information that may be confidential and may be LEGALLY PRIVILEGED. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure or copying of this message or attachments is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email message in error please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We do not accept responsibility for any viruses or similar carried with our email, or any effects our email may have on the recipient computer system or network. Any views expressed in this email may be those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views of Council.



# 33654



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

**What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:**

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

Several issue I have.

1 Do not plant trees on road kerbside reasons are many ie health and safety motorist die or get seriously injured in case of accident, high maintenance roots uplift the public access and the tar seal , in the event of extreme weather

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**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Subject:** Have my say  
**Date:** Sunday, 26 February 2023 9:52:35 am

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Several issue I have.

1 Do not plant trees on road kerbside reasons are many ie health and safety motorist die or get seriously injured in case of accident, high maintenance roots uplift the public access and the tar seal , in the event of extreme weather branches fall or trees get up rooted and damage publics property including cars. Very good example is on Roscommon Road between Brown Road and Weymouth Road in past someone got killed hitting of the trees there. These Eucalyptus trees are well overgrown and will kill some in future one day.

2 Auckland Transport wasting too much money on bus services instead of having a small minibus they are 500k bus to carry 5 to 10 passengers per trip utter waste of public's money, picking rubbish from roadside 1 guy picks up the rubbish followed by a UTE 2 large trucks and 1 traffic sign small truck this is diabolical, Road repairs pouring tar and laying metal chips on heavy truck and high volume roads in the heat of summer good example is Dome Valley it's not the first time in the news I have seen this happening year by year I have worked in Rodney district for 7 years now I work in south Auckland and north Waikato 9 years going, I have seen this practice of roads every time. This practice makes the judders and sinks bigger making the worse than it was. Common sense. Band are fix where is the accountability for re fixing of this habit.

Likewise, WaterCare utter waste of resources over staffed inefficient All local government entities are just wasting public's money without care because it's not coming out of their pockets they are to greed and rapping the system.

More coming later.

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# 33665



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

#### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** This budget will cause huge hardship to communities and the environment in the short term and the long term. We need to lift people up and support them and cutting funding will create longer term problems.

### 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?** Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt

**Tell us why:** Auckland Airport is a strategic asset for the people of Auckland. It is a valuable asset and has earned dividends in the past. I do not agree with selling an asset which will earn money well into the future.

### 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

#### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

#### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?** Make greater use of debt

**Tell us why:** Using more debt and a slightly higher than 4.6% rates increase needs to be used instead of cutting operational services to Auckland.

### 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?** Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year

**Tell us why:** The council needs to take a strong role in helping us all be prepared for future weather disasters.

### 5. Local Boards

### 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas	Support

(80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
<b>Changes to other rates</b>	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Do not support

### What do you think of these proposals?

## 7. What else is important to you?

### Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

- We need to invest in local boards as they are in a better position to support and foster solutions for their community and build climate resilience.
- We need to care for everyone in Auckland and wherever possible the council can support others in their

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## [Auckland Council Budget Feedback Form](#)

### Question 1 - Operating spending reductions

#### 1. What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

- ☐ Proceed with the proposed reductions
- ☐ Do not proceed with some reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt
- ☒ **Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt**
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I don't know

**Tell us why, and which reduction you would not proceed with, if any:**

This budget will cause huge hardship to communities and the environment in the short term and the long term. We need to lift people up and support them and cutting funding will create longer term problems.

### Question 2 - Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

The airport shares are

- ☐ Proceed with the proposal to enable the sale of all our shares in AIAL and use the proceeds to reduce debt and therefore annual interest costs by around \$87 million per year
- ☐ Enable a partial sale of our shares, maintaining a 10 per cent shareholding in AIAL (reducing our interest costs by around \$40 million per year), and further increase rates and/or debt
- ☒ **Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt**
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I don't know

#### 1. Tell us why

Auckland Airport is a strategic asset for the people of Auckland. It is a valuable asset and has earned dividends in the past. I do not agree with selling an asset which will earn money well into the future.

### Question 3 - Managing rates and debt

- ☐ Proceed with the proposed increases to rates (4.66 percent overall for the average value residential property) and debt (up to \$75 million of additional debt)

- ☐ Set a higher general rates increase
- ☒ Make greater use of debt
- ☐ Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt
- ☐ Set a higher general rates increase and make less use of debt
- ☐ **Other**
- ☐ I don't know

**# 33665**

## **Tell us why - in your own words**

Using more debt and a slightly higher than 4.6% rates increase needs to be used instead of cutting operational services to Auckland.

## **Question 4 - Storm response**

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

- ☒ Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year
- ☐ Do not proceed with the proposal
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I don't know

**Tell us why?**

The council needs to take a strong role in helping us all be prepared for future weather disasters.

## **Question 5: Local Board priorities**

- ☐ I support all priorities
- ☒ I support most priorities
- ☐ I do not support most priorities
- ☐ I do not support any priority
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Don't Know

**Tell us why:**

We need to increase, not reduce, funding for local boards so communities can create solutions for themselves. Councils need to empower local boards to do this.

B) If funding for local board activities is reduced, which three of our services do you not want to reduce funding for? ( i.e. which are most important to you?) **YOU CHOOSE**

**Tell us Why:**

**YOU CHOOSE**

## **Question 6: Changes to other rates, fees and charges**

## What do you think of these proposals?

# 33665

### Waste management rates changes

	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know
Cost changes in waste management, including: (A) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, (B) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and (C) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Changes to other rates

	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Do you have any feedback on the proposed changes in the tables above, or the other proposed changes to rates, fees and charges? Say what you think there**

## Question 7 - What else is important to you?

### Ideas for comments

- We need to invest in local boards as they are in a better position to support and foster solutions for their community and build climate resilience.
- We need to care for everyone in Auckland and wherever possible the council can support others in their goals to create a better Auckland.
- Collaboration between governmental groups and communities needs to happen now. It is imperative that Auckland Council work with communities to find solutions. Councils cannot solve these expensive issues on their own.
- We as a city need to lift people up through support and opportunities and creating inclusive environments.
- Auckland needs to continue to be a world class city to attract and retain skilled workers.
- These proposed cuts will damage tourism and hospitality due to fewer events and loss of city culture.



# 33668



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Thank you for the offer to comment: I know that tough choices will have to be made, but the proposed cut to the Citizens Advice Bureau would amount to kicking a community that right now is pretty down. I know this first-hand because I'm a CAB volunteer. Each week I try to assist people who have nowhere else to turn to in these troubled times.

As you will know from CABAC's representations:

- CAB can't operate without Auckland Council funding, and if this stops, then it's very likely that the CAB service will close in Auckland. The ability to secure replacement funding will be very limited in the current climate, and with the impact of the other cuts to community funding Auckland Council is proposing to make.
- Although Central Government already funds CAB's infrastructure including training of volunteers, Auckland Council funds the local operational delivery on the ground in Auckland.
- As you know, Auckland Council is required by law (Local Government Act 2002) to "promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities". The proposed cuts, not only to CAB's funding, but also to other community services and to local board funding, in my view run counter to this statutory obligation.



I very much hope that a solution can be found that will underpin CAB's service to the most deprived - and often digitally-excluded - members of the community. Best wishes

## 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

## 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

### Rates

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### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?**

**Tell us why:**

## 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

**What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?**

**Tell us why:**

## 5. Local Boards

## 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

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Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

**What do you think of these proposals?**

## 7. What else is important to you?

**Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:**

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?

## Important privacy information

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**From:****Sent:** Wednesday, 1 March 2023 11:11 am**To:** aucklandconversations <aucklandconversations@aklc.govt.nz>**Subject:** Re: Balancing the budget - have we got it right?

Kia ora

Yes please, although I meant **Citizens Advice Bureau** rather than Community Advice Bureau!

Nga mihi

On Wed, 1 Mar 2023 at 07:57, aucklandconversations <[aucklandconversations@aklc.govt.nz](mailto:aucklandconversations@aklc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kia ora Tim,

Thank you for your email.

Did you want the below sent to our feedback processing team as part of your feedback for the Annual Budget 2023/2024?

Thanks,

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**From:****Sent:** Tuesday, 28 February 2023 9:08 pm**To:** aucklandconversations <[aucklandconversations@aklc.govt.nz](mailto:aucklandconversations@aklc.govt.nz)>**Subject:** Re: Balancing the budget - have we got it right?

Thank you for the offer to comment: I know that tough choices will have to be made, but the proposed cut to the Community Advice Bureau would amount to kicking a community that right now is pretty down. I know this first-hand because I'm a CAB volunteer. Each week I try to assist people who have nowhere else to turn to in these troubled times.

As you will know from CABAC's representations:

- CAB can't operate without Auckland Council funding, and if this stops, then it's very likely that the CAB service will close in Auckland. The ability to secure replacement funding will be very limited in the current climate, and with the impact of the other cuts to community funding Auckland Council is proposing to make.
- **Although** Central Government already funds CAB's infrastructure including training of volunteers, Auckland Council funds the local operational delivery on the ground in Auckland.
- As you know, Auckland Council is required by law (Local Government Act 2002) to "*promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities*". The proposed cuts, not only to CAB's funding, but also to other community services and to local board funding, in my view run counter to this statutory obligation.

**# 33668**

I very much hope that a solution can be found that will underpin CAB's service to the most deprived - and often digitally-excluded - members of the community.

Best wishes



# 33674



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Note:** this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport and other Council Controlled Organisations).

Our proposal to save \$130 million would also require us to make other reductions, including:

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- Reducing our funding to Tataki Auckland Unlimited to save \$17.5m, with some effects on service delivery and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland
- Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

### What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** I am deeply concerned about the impact on Auckland's arts, culture and creative sector of the proposed cuts to Auckland Council's contestable grants budget, regional services budget, local board funding, and funding for Tataki Auckland.

I am just a mum, no special education or title. These programs, events and workshops have saved my life. Without them my son would not have a mother today. I have always been very isolated, through trauma and depression I have never felt worthy of life or living. I could never find a purpose or a reason to feel enough. I have managed to understand that this was down to me not having the opportunity to create and build my own identity culturally. With council funded activities, events and programs I have reconnected with myself and recognise my own purpose. I am alive, happy and well. My son is happy and well. My family are happy and well. I can understand that funds need to cut but please consider the damage that taking these away will cause. Just because this doesn't effect you personally I, it doesn't mean that it's not important or needed. You see the crime rate rising amongst youth, it's not a secret. I see it every time I leave the house, go on social media or watch the news. Have we ever thought that these kids are bad, they're bored with no feelings of purpose or worth? I truly feel like if we placed more effort in to creating environments for our youth to learn their cultural identity, new skill whether that be art based or otherwise and stopped trying to fit these young people into a corporate and professional environment/culture, there wouldn't be this excessive need to "make money". Because that's

what it is. Hustle culture at its most extreme. This is what we're taught in schools, make money be happy. NO! Teach kids that their abilities and interests are enough. Are enough to base their education off of and hopefully their future income. We need these programs and funding.

I oppose the proposed cuts one hundred and ten percent.

For three years, Aucklanders have had few opportunities to get together, to celebrate our diverse communities through festivals such as Matariki, Polyfest, Lantern Festival, Diwali and Pride. Our performing arts venues and the actors, dancers, musicians and comedians who use them, have struggled to stay afloat.

During Covid-19 I lived in an environment with a new baby, postpartum depression stemming from pre-natal depression and cptsd. Everyday was a struggle and a fight to live through everyday. I had no support or community and unfortunately my mental health declined to a point where death seemed like a choice I needed to make to ensure my son would be better than me. I found with these events and program a community of people that would allow safe spaces and understanding. They gave me the opportunity to share myself without judgement, doing the arts was a bonus. The people you connect with and meet through these things are amazing. I now have a sense of my own culture connection and identity and so does my son. These cultural events are necessary and needed, not just for my family but millions of families that live through diaspora and migration. Community and identity can contribute so much.

As Auckland recovers from the impacts of COVID-19, our city needs to invest in those activities which bring us together and build our communities. Our arts and culture sector, with its arts festivals, cultural celebrations, and community and professional arts organisations and facilities, are key to that. The loss of Council funding will mean the loss of much that brings light and life to our streets.

I hope that you will vote against the proposed cuts, and that Council will find alternative means of meeting its budget.

Mālo,

## 2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Our proposed budget includes a planned change to the AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or all our shares in AIAL.

Selling all our shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) would reduce our debt by an estimated \$1.9 billion. This would reduce interest costs on our debt by around \$88 million per year, which is greater than what we'd expect to earn from the dividends if we kept the shares.

We have also considered other options, including both keeping all our shares and a partial sale that reduces our shareholding while maintaining at least 10 per cent (a so-called "blocking stake"). These options would contribute less towards our budget reduction target and require other actions – most likely by further increasing rates or debt (within existing policy limits).

**What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?**

**Tell us why:**

## 3. Managing rates and debt

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around **4.66 per cent or \$154 a year** (around \$3 a week) and to increase our use of debt by up to **\$75 million** in 2023/2024.

### Rates

Our proposed 4.66 per cent total rates increase would be achieved by:

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- Pausing our change to the split between business and residential rates. Under our current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business (residential and farm/lifestyle) properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

### Debt

We propose to increase our use of debt by up to \$75 million for 2023/2024. This will be used to fund some capital expenditure (assets such as roads, pipes and buildings) that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue (such as rates and user charges). This will free up that operating revenue to help address our budget shortfall.

#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

Tell us why:

## 4. Storm Response

The impacts of the recent storm events beginning on Auckland Anniversary weekend could be substantial over time and we don't yet know the full costs.

Changes to our investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed. Some new investments will be delayed so we can undertake urgent repairs and replacements.

Additionally, from 2023/2024, we are proposing to increase our operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address our budget shortfall).

#### What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?

Tell us why:

## 5. Local Boards

## 6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We are proposing some changes to targeted rates as set out in the following table. The changes are mainly to ensure we are covering the necessary costs. If we do not proceed with the changes then the general rates increase may need to be higher than we have proposed.

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

#### What do you think of these proposals?

## 7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

Or is there anything further you would like to give feedback on?



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From

**Subject:** Proposed Budget Cuts for Auckland Arts, Culture, Creative, Grants Regional Services Budget, Local Board Funding, Tataki Auckland Funding.

Mālō,

I am deeply concerned about the impact on Auckland's arts, culture and creative sector of the proposed cuts to Auckland Council's contestable grants budget, regional services budget, local board funding, and funding for Tataki Auckland.

I am just a mum, no special education or title. These programs, events and workshops have saved my life. Without them my son would not have a mother today. I have always been very isolated, through trauma and depression I have

never felt worthy of life or living. I could never find a purpose or a reason to feel enough. I have managed to understand that this was down to me not having the opportunity to create and build my own identity culturally. With council funded activities, events and programs I have reconnected with myself and recognise my own purpose. I am alive, happy and well. My son is happy and well. My family are happy and well. I can understand that funds need to cut but please consider the damage that taking these away will cause. Just because this doesn't effect you personally I, it doesn't mean that it's not important or needed. You see the crime rate rising amongst youth, it's not a secret. I see it every time I leave the house, go on social media or watch the news. Have we ever thought that these kids are bad, they're bored with no feelings of purpose or worth? I truly feel like if we placed more effort in to creating environments for our youth to learn their cultural identity, new skill whether that be art based or otherwise and stopped trying to fit these young people into a corporate and professional environment/culture, there wouldn't be this excessive need to "make money". Because that's what it is. Hustle culture at its most extreme. This is what we're taught in schools, make money be happy. NO! Teach kids that their abilities and interests are enough. Are enough to base their education off of and hopefully their future income. We need these programs and funding.

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