



Date: Monday 24 April 2023

Annual Budget 2023-2024

Local Board Not Supplied

**WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 4
(33676-34358)**

Sub #	Organisation Name	Local Board	Volume
33676		I don't know	4
33681		I don't know	4
33722	New Zealand Advertising Producers Group	I don't know	4
33727		I don't know	4
33734		I don't know	4
33749		I don't know	4
33760		I don't know	4
33764		I don't know	4
33808		I don't know	4
33852		I don't know	4
33858		I don't know	4
33861		I don't know	4
33887		I don't know	4
33894		I don't know	4
33950		I don't know	4
33953		I don't know	4
33959		I don't know	4
34087		I don't know	4
34180		I don't know	4
34181		I don't know	4
34183	J R McKenzie Trust	I don't know	4
34185	Social Policy And Parliamentary Unit (Salvation Army)	I don't know	4
34186	Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC)	I don't know	4
34189	Lake House Arts Centre	I don't know	4
34196		I don't know	4
34197	Campaign for Better Transport (CBT)	I don't know	4
34202		I don't know	4
34233	Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA)	I don't know	4
34236	Mussel Reef Restoration Trust	I don't know	4
34262		I don't know	4
34271	Regional Tourism New Zealand	I don't know	4
34276		I don't know	4
34281	Tourism Export Council of New Zealand	I don't know	4
34286	Unitec and Manukau Institute of Technology both divisions of Te Pukerua	I don't know	4
34296	Regional Leadership Group	I don't know	4
34298		I don't know	4
34311		I don't know	4
34313	Eastern Beach Action Network Inc	I don't know	4
34317	Pukekohe Business Association	I don't know	4
34320		I don't know	4
34349		I don't know	4
34350	Hobsonville Point Residents Society Committee	I don't know	4
34351		I don't know	4
34352		I don't know	4
34357		I don't know	4
34358		I don't know	4



33676



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: 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: Please see attachment

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: Please see attachment

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? Please see attachment

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.¹

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 suggests² 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;³
- (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;

¹ *Creative Sector Auckland 2020*, R Wilson November 2020, executive summary.

² Summary of Annual Budget 2023/2024 p 1

³ 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.⁴

⁴ 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.⁵ 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.

⁵ Budget document pp 36-37.



But for one exception (Aotea/Great Barrier⁶), 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%⁷, 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.⁸
- (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

⁶ Considerably higher at 13%.

⁷ The Budget document says 13.5% but, on the stated ratio of revenue to % rates increase, that seems light.

⁸ \$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.⁹ 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

⁹ 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



33681



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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: 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

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Tell us why: I am all for a rate increase to make sure the arts are kept alive.

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What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

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Sent: Tuesday, 7 March 2023 4:29 pm

To: Annual Budget <annualbudget@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>

Subject: Budget

kia ora,

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I am all for a rate increase to make sure the arts are kept alive.



33722



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): New Zealand Advertising Producers Group

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: The New Zealand Advertising Producers Group (NZAPG) would like to express their serious concerns regarding the proposed Auckland Council budget cuts for 2023/24.

In particular, the proposed budget cuts at Tataki Auckland Unlimited are very troubling, constituting a massive percentage of their current working budget.

We understand that COVID-19 and the recent flooding events have had dire consequences on the Auckland Council economy, but wholesale cuts of this magnitude will decimate the Auckland creative and events sector. And while the last few years have been tumultuous for all of us, the Screen Industry has been immensely successful and a real growth industry. But we fear the proposed budget cuts will put a stop to our continued growth and significantly hamper our ability to attract future investment to the city.

Proposed cuts:

- Reducing Auckland Council's role in marketing Auckland internationally to attract investment, business and visitors

- A material reduction in the economic growth and visitor attraction activities, including reduced spend in support for business events and major events attraction and bidding, and the marketing of Auckland as a tourist destination

As we know, Tataki has two functions:

- Supporting the Auckland creative sector
- Economic development and tourism attraction

These two goals go hand-in-hand. One feeding the other. For the Screen Industry, the “build it and they will come” approach has proven exceptionally successful for both Auckland and our country as a whole. Government incentives, combined with infrastructure investment and international promotion by Auckland Council, has proven incredible successful in growing our industry.

The Screen Sector now contributes 1.5 billion dollars and 8500 jobs to the Auckland economy each year. And over the last 4-5 years our industry has grown by close to 10% year on year. Few industries can make that claim. The business case for continued support is strong.

Now this success does not happen in a vacuum. It takes times and it takes investment. And it has given local talent the opportunity to build a competitive and world-renowned industry, including the ability to bring capital investment and economic growth to our city.

While we understand budget cuts are necessary, we believe the proposed cuts are completely disproportionate to budget cuts within other Council departments and CCOs. And we fear that the proposed temporary cuts will become the new status quo.

While the Screen Industry supports balancing the needs of our industry and the city within the current economic reality, we urge the Mayor and local Councillors to take a more balanced and sensible approach that doesn't gut Auckland's very successful creative sector.

We are available to assist if needed, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Thank you for your consideration.

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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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).	
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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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Friday, 17 March 2023

To: Wayne Brown, Mayor of Auckland
Auckland Councillors

From: New Zealand Advertising Producers Group

CC: Tataki Auckland Unlimited
Screen Auckland
Film Auckland
New Zealand Film Commission
Screen Production and Development Association (SPADA)
All Members of Parliament for Auckland

GRAVE CONCERNS AROUND THE PROPOSED AUCKLAND COUNCIL BUDGET CUTS

The New Zealand Advertising Producers Group (NZAPG) would like to express their serious concerns regarding the proposed Auckland Council budget cuts for 2023/24.

In particular, the proposed budget cuts at Tataki Auckland Unlimited are very troubling, constituting a massive percentage of their current working budget.

We understand that COVID-19 and the recent flooding events have had dire consequences on the Auckland Council economy, but wholesale cuts of this magnitude will decimate the Auckland creative and events sector. And while the last few years have been tumultuous for all of us, the Screen Industry has been immensely successful and a real growth industry. But we fear the proposed budget cuts will put a stop to our continued growth and significantly hamper our ability to attract future investment to the city.

Proposed cuts:

- Reducing Auckland Council's role in marketing Auckland internationally to attract investment, business and visitors
- A material reduction in the economic growth and visitor attraction activities, including reduced spend in support for business events and major events attraction and bidding, and the marketing of Auckland as a tourist destination

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33722

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While we understand budget cuts are necessary, we believe the proposed cuts are completely disproportionate to budget cuts within other Council departments and CCOs. And we fear that the proposed temporary cuts will become the new status quo.

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We are available to assist if needed, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, on behalf of NZAPG:

/ /

NZAPG Board Member / Film Auckland Board Member

Mob:

Email:

Endorsed and Supported by NZAPG membership:



33727



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 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.

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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

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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.

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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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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:

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

Free Licenses Programs

Youth

Fund Day (Free)

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33734



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

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?

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

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Tell us why:

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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

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What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

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Youth

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33749



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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:

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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? 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

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Tell us why:

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

Ōtara-Papatoetoe 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 support most priorities

Tell us why:

Please rank our proposed local board priorities from most to least important to you
1 = most important, 5 = least important)

Rank	Proposed Priorities
0	Explore initiatives and actions raised through the safety networks to improve safety in our town centres and neighbourhoods
0	Invest in closing the digital divide by supporting community groups to upskill all residents with technology to enable work, schooling, and connection
0	Fund programmes aimed at upskilling our residents, particularly youth, for emerging sectors
0	Continue to improve our sports fields and facilities to encourage active participation and access to sports and athletic activities for organised and informal use
0	Continue to support environmental activities and initiatives, including community-led activities, to respond to climate change, reducing waste and protecting our environment

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

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What do you think of these proposals?

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Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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- 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 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.



33760



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: I feel like we can cut some but not all

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? Other

Tell us why: I don't think this is a good idea because what of family struggles right now. The economy is already bad

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: Spend less money on it or just don't

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.	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.	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?

Library opening hours, local community events, community facilities and service

Important privacy information

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33764



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 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: As a citizen of Auckland, I can not in good faith allow this government to cut spending to services of which helps the most vulnerable among us

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: This is a chief fiscal manipulation, we should keep our share in the Auckland Airport. It is my belief that it be beneficial in the long term that we keep it.

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: I think we could increase the rates, should it be found to be an adequate way of dealing with costs

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: I believe it right to make use of government spending to safeguard us from environmental disaster

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	I don't know

(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.	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? None so that I haven't already expressed in this form

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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33808



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: I am not sure how neglecting and reducing these groups will benefit the economy/the individuals. These are the groups that will and are pouring into the economy. Why would we continue to discriminate the homeless and youth. We need to empower them because they are our future. What do we plan on doing to replace these programmes?? Then we have groups out committing crimes and have lost dreams. Traffic is already an issue

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: I don't believe that we should take the full hit and should be share. Either way we will all feel it.

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? 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	
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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).	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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33852



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: One of the reductions that I would not proceed with would be

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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33858



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 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? 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? 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	Do not 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.	
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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33861



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 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? 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? 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	Do not 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.	
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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33887



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 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: Childhood education services. Reducing regional services community education. Community empowerment funding. Youth centers.

These are the needs of the community - to remove them would be impacting a sense of loss and uncertainty.

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: Reduction of partial cost.

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: increase gives optional choices for better outcome.

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 impact of such events is more costly physically, mentally, and emotionally.

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.	
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.	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?

Priorities are an evaluation basis of practical important needs. Wants for improvement the services provided within a structural involvement.

Childhood Education/Youth. Empowerment Services/Arts Culture programmes - these are important basic fundamental

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33894



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).

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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: We just need to build playgrounds so our kids can be kids

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
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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? 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.

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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.	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).
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- 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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33950



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?

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? 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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- 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? 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	Do not 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.	
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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33953



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
- 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: I think it's sensible

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).	I don't know
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.	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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33959



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 some reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: I would propose looking at selling airport shares and also borrowing more debt. I would only say up to \$50 million needs to be borrowed too.

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 still need to keep things to generate future 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? 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	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.	
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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34087



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 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? Other

Tell us why: Is there no other way?

If selling shareholding, where are you selling it to? Are you selling it to NZ shareholders or overseas? China?

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: \$3 a week appears to be doable

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.	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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34180



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 attached

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

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34181



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:

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.

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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?

Please see attached

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34183



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): J R McKenzie 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).

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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 attached

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:

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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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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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Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024 Feedback

Introduction

Netball Northern Zone Incorporated, is a regional sport organisation, affiliated to Netball New Zealand, responsible for supporting and assisting its members to administer, promote, develop and deliver Netball in Auckland and Northland.

Within the Auckland Council area, there are 10 netball centres which collectively provide opportunities for over 40,000 participants as well as many volunteers to engage in sport. Netball remains the most popular team sport for secondary school girls.

Netball is unique in that it is predominantly a female sport, although it has a growing participation by boys / men. Netball has played a leading role in the development of girls and women, through their experiences of participating in the sport as players, coaches, officials, and volunteers. Netball produces significant role models whose integrity, athleticism, hard work, and humble values have inspired many. Our netball centres play valuable roles in their communities as hubs of social, physical, and cultural interaction, where regardless of your economic status, everyone can safely participate, have enjoyable experiences and form life-long relationships.

The value of sport and active recreation is demonstrated through the many contributions that it makes to individuals, whānau, communities, and Tāmaki Makaurau as a whole:

- Underpins good health and supports good mental health
- Teaches basic and more advanced physical skills, and essential life skills
- Promotes connection, social cohesion, and a sense of belonging
- Delivers personal financial and wider economic benefits
- Provides a platform for achievement, which helps build confidence

Several proposals within the Annual Budget will detrimentally impact on the ability of our netball organisations to deliver community sport and will result in less people, particularly tamariki and rangatahi, from being active.

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

1. Removing / reducing Recreation Facilities Operating Grant

- Our largest Netball Centre – Auckland Netball Centre – has over 400,000 visitors per year attracting many large community events and functions across the year – not just netball but across many different sports, arts, culture and entertainment. These events servicing the local as well as wider Auckland Community.
- The 2268m² Indoor Arena, 30 Outdoor Netball Courts and 800 carparks all require significant investment in maintenance and upkeep, well above the current level of funding. As an example, replacement outdoor lighting is required urgently and Auckland Netball will need to find around \$500,000 for this project alone.
- The Operating Grant that Auckland Netball Centre receives is vital to the ongoing success of this organisation. The grant enables these wonderful facilities to be maintained to a high standard and to be made available to the wider public, not just the netball community.
- Netball Northern Zone strongly recommends that the Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant is not removed or reduced.

2. Removing / reducing the Regional Sport & Recreation Programme Grant

- Netball Northern Zone has utilised this grant in the past to support the promotion of netball and the growth of our sport.
- We have not always been successful in receiving funding and this is because the fund is always over-subscribed, meaning there is significant need for the funding across the sport and recreation sector.
- Rather than removing this grant we would prefer that it is maintained to ensure that the most worthy applicants can still access some level of funding.

3. Reducing local board funded activities across all boards

- Many Local Boards have suggested a reduction in community grants as part of their cost cutting measures.
- We do not support this as many of our Centres access this funding to provide much needed sporting opportunities for the local tamariki and rangatahi to access.
- Particularly in lower socio-economic areas where other funding is hard to access these funds are vital. A lack of funding leads to a loss of participation opportunities.

4. Amendments to Community Occupancy Guidelines

- The proposed building maintenance and administration fee guidelines represent a significant increase for community organisations already facing higher operating costs.
- Invariably these charges will be passed on to the participants making sport more expensive and likely leading to a reduction in participation.
- Auckland Council should be supportive of activities that increase participation not putting barriers in place that may result in reduced participation.

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.

Yours sincerely

CEO



34185



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Social Policy And Parliamentary Unit (Salvation Army)

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: Please see attached

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:

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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Tell us why:

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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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What do you think of these proposals?

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Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024 consultation
Salvation Army New Zealand Fiji Tonga and Samoa Territory Letter

1. The Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit (SPPU) of The Salvation Army is a small policy and advocacy unit, working across social policy areas relating to children and youth; crime and punishment; housing; social hazards (addictions and financial hardship); and work and incomes. The SPPU has an office in Manukau (with 2 staff) and another office in Wellington (with 3 staff members).
2. The SPPU is primarily working in national policy analysis and advocacy areas relating to Parliament. We do not often comment on local government issues. But we have, in the past, made submissions to the Auckland Local Alcohol Plan and other critical local government matters around the country. This letter has been prepared by the SPPU staff in Manukau, South Auckland. Additionally, this letter has been endorsed/supported by Captain David Daly, Area Officer for the Auckland Area Pilot (formerly the Northern Division of The Salvation Army).
3. In this context, we provide this brief letter to raise our concerns about some of the key community-related proposed budgetary cuts. The Auckland region's network of community organisations is vital to supporting local communities, especially the most vulnerable and poorest in our communities. Whether the organisation is connected to or funded (partially or fully) by the Council, or is an independent NGO, church or community organisation, this web of support is hugely important for people and whanau. Furthermore, the funding for these organisations is often limited and precarious, especially in this cost-of-living crisis we are all living in.
4. That is why any cut or stopping of funding to these groups will damage both these organisations *and* the communities they serve. Of particular concern to us are the proposed budgetary cuts that will impact CABs, local community grants (which are heavily relied on by smaller organisations), youth events and youth centres, and key community events like ANZAC celebrations.
5. Our own region-wide services across Auckland – with our network of Salvation Army churches, family stores, and social services (e.g., financial mentoring, social work, housing support, AOD treatment services, gambling harm services, Positive Lifestyle Programmes, and numerous others) will all be impacted to varying degrees by the proposed community-related cuts to the Budget. The community, charities or for-purposes sector is already stretched in Auckland with limited contestable funding, ever-increasing social needs and the growing cost-of-living squeeze on people and families.
6. Again, from a community perspective, this is the most concerning aspect of the proposed budget for The Salvation Army. The proposed community-related cuts would save about \$40m (i.e., pages 30-32 of the Proposed Budget). But we submit that this impact would be much more significant because the services, support, and intervention these areas offer are immeasurable and once they are lost to our communities, it would be hard to build that goodwill and support

networks again. Furthermore, these cuts would just create more pressure for churches and NGOs who are not Council funded like The Salvation Army. **We would expect to see a major increase in the demand for our services across the Auckland region if these cuts were to happen as proposed.** This is extremely difficult given how stretched thin and under-funded the non-Council funded churches and charities sector is in the region.

7. Still, the \$295m hole in the Council's Budget is massive. All the decisions made to try and balance this budget are difficult decisions as they involve people's jobs and critical services for Aucklanders. The levers Council is proposing will clearly impact all Aucklanders. The proposed rate increase of 7% is lower than inflation, but it will again place greater pressure on Aucklanders owning homes facing increase mortgage repayments. Again, we acknowledge that all of these are hard decisions. But the measures the Council is taking are drastic and will have long-lasting impacts that will take a long time to 'come back from.' We submit there are other options available that could be further explored which would reduce the need to make cuts in the community sector. This also needs to be balanced with the need to continue to invest for the region, especially around infrastructure. One option could be borrowing more. In the proposed Budget, \$75m is proposed to be borrowed to make the Budget work. Has the Council looked at options of borrowing more and balancing this with not crippling future Aucklanders with greater debt? Our understanding is that the Council has internal policy settings that limit the amount that can be borrowed. Maybe greater debate is needed to scope how more can be borrowed within the internal policy settings.
8. Connected to this is the huge spending going into expensive projects like the City Rail Link and endless cycleways that are often under-utilised, especially in the communities that we predominantly serve throughout Auckland. Cuts need to be made because of this Budget deficit. But the drive to balance this Budget as per stated statutory obligations is short-sighted given the short, medium, and long term impacts these cuts will have. That is why exploring other debt options, or more support from central government, or more revenue generating options such as increasing parking charges or even charging cyclists (who essentially use the roads for no charge) are ideas worthy of exploring to help reduce the negative effects of these Budget cuts.
9. Finally, we want to specifically note our strong opposition to the proposed cuts in funding to:
 - a. CABs
 - b. Education services (especially those related to libraries)
 - c. Council coordination and funding of homelessness initiatives.
 - d. Regional contestable community grants
10. Thank you for the opportunity to have our say on this difficult Budget discussion. As a Christian church, we are praying for the Mayor and the staff who are all affected by these pending changes. And we are praying for those people, whanau and communities who will be greatly affected by these proposals. God bless, ma te Atua e manaaki!



34186



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC)

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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AK Have Your Say,
Auckland Council,
Private Bag 92 300,
Auckland 1142.
Via email akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.



16 March 2023

Kia ora

Submission on the Auckland Council Budget 2023 / 2024

1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023 / 2024
2. Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC) was founded in 1931, and advocates for New Zealand's backcountry and outdoor recreation on behalf of over 22,000 members in 100 clubs nationwide. The Society's objectives are to promote non- commercial outdoor recreation, the conservation and wise management of, and public access to, New Zealand's natural areas, mountains, lakes, rivers and coast.
3. In the Auckland Regional Park Management Plan 2022 FMC is referenced as a regional stakeholder Umbrella Organisation representing Tramping Organisations.
4. In that capacity we have a primary interest in tracks and other recreation inspiring facilities in all of Auckland's regional parks. In addition, it is critical that there are a broad range of outdoor spaces in the Auckland region that encourage Aucklanders to engage in pursuits that benefit their physical and mental health and wellbeing, despite all their many day to day pressures.
5. We acknowledge the difficult budgetary problems faced by Auckland Council, and would urge that now is the time to seriously consider how existing, limited funds are spent to achieve the best possible real outcomes for all Aucklanders.

Regional Park Recreation Plans

6. Prior to the latest storm events there was a committed action by Auckland Council to embark on the next stage of track (re)opening plans, especially in relation to the Waitakere Ranges and the combined Hunua regional parks.
7. It is obvious that the recent storm events have set that process back considerably, especially given the major damage to some of the already open tracks.

8. Rather than trying to treat the repairs assessment and future track reopening as separate activities, it is critical that these are taken together, and involve an immediate consultation with outdoor recreation groups. It is well acknowledged that some hard, practical decisions may need to be taken, but these should only be done within the context of the wider recreational landscape and engaging with the recreational community. We are ready now and keen to engage with Regional Parks Management in a constructive assessment of how to move forward with enduring results for all Aucklanders.
9. Over the last five years there have been many views expressed, including through our own submissions, that the expenditure on track upgrades was expensive for what was actually achieved and represented a huge ongoing maintenance commitment. This prediction has unfortunately been realised with the latest storm events, where recent expensive track upgrades (now sitting at the bottom of cliffs) have a similar - or higher - reinstatement cost, effort and time requirement.
10. It is important from now on that the regional parks track construction standards are simplified to reduce cost, time to implement, and cost to repair following these inevitable major storm events. It is still possible to protect kauri and other important native trees without kilometre after kilometre of imported materials that then get significantly damaged during every major storm event.
11. It cannot be stressed enough that the large population of Auckland City, the wider Auckland region, and beyond has a huge need for local recreation, so the provision of significant and varied recreation options within all our regional parks is critical for the health of the region, and therefore for continued support from the Auckland Budget. Especially significant in that regard are the Waitakere and combined Hunua regional parks

Kauri Dieback Research

12. FMC welcomed last year's outcome of the first Waitakere Ranges kauri baseline monitoring, including the unexpected results of concentrated coastal pockets of kauri dieback (with historical linkages), and a much lower incidence along walking tracks and in the interior of the regional park. A different picture from what had been assumed and disseminated as fact over the last 5 years.
13. A baseline survey has one major assumption - that it must be repeated without fail on a regular basis, so as to best learn on a solidly scientific basis how the infection rate of the disease is changing. This is a programme that must not be subject to short term budget cuts, because it is critical to determine a sound basis for managing kauri for the longer term.
14. Similarly, there was a commitment to perform a kauri baseline survey for the combined Hunua regional parks - an area where no kauri dieback has been found to date. It is critical too that last year's commitment to a Hunua kauri baseline survey for this year is not delayed. Too many tracks in these parks remain closed despite an initial commitment in 2018 of a "temporary" closure.

Other Items in the Submission Template

15. This submission is on behalf of Aucklanders of all ages, gender and ethnic background - we are a very diverse city and it is in everyone's interests to be able to engage in recreation in our regional parks and other open spaces.

16. The salary and wages bill each year for Auckland Council employees is massive with thousands of 6 figure salaries. That too should be subject to serious scrutiny in the search for cost savings in the same way that meaningful service functions are now under the surgeon's knife.
17. Storm response budget of \$20 million per year ? Given the scale of the recent damage, is that not a fraction of the total cost of such events ?
18. Golf courses. If these are not currently financially self sufficient and are considered, in consultation with local communities, to be surplus to requirements / benefit just a few Aucklanders, then they are a prime location for native forest replanting, thereby assisting with Auckland Council's emissions reduction targets.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Annual Budget 2023 / 2024

Yours sincerely,

Convenor - FMC North
Federated Mountain Clubs



34189



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

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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: Please see attached.

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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:

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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:

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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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To: AUCKLAND COUNCIL - Mayor Wayne Browne Councillor Watson, Councillor Walker, Councillor Fletcher, Councillor Fairey, Councillor Baker, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Williamson, Councillor Fuli, Councillor Filipaina, Councillor Dalton, Councillor Newman, Councillor Bartley, Councillor Darby, Councillor Hills, Councillor Simpson, Councillor Sayers, Councillor Henderson, Councillor Turner, Councillor Lee, Councillor Leoni.

Re: The Auckland Council Annual Budget of 2023/2024, and its impact on the arts and communities in Tāmaki Makaurau

March 25th 2023,

Tēnā koutou Mayor Browne and Councillors of Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland.

I write to you today on behalf of myself, and our local community organisations, facilities and initiatives.

I disagree with Auckland Council's proposed funding cuts, particularly those to Arts and Community. Investment in the Arts sector provides enduring "bang for buck".

The sector is largely supported by volunteers who, with limited financial support from Council, leverage and amplify the effect of those funds, through their own grassroots toil and engagement.

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Sector struggles to prove its value to the wider community. Everywhere we look and listen, art and music seem to be "free".

Few people actually want to pay for the real costs and value of what is now under threat. People enjoy concerts, music and art lessons, and art to improve their home and life, in part because of "free" exposure. We see "free" art, culture and heritage everywhere. A comparably tiny amount of public funds achieves so much for our people.

This is not a one-off event. The Arts economy is often on the knife-edge of financial viability, much of it will never come back.

Funding cuts will lead to the closure of orchestras, exhibitions, and theatres. Artists will not be able to earn a living, and 1.5 million yearly recorded attendees will miss out on events and experiences that are crucial in building community and fostering creativity.

The Arts sector is a quiet part of our local economy and business development; its loss will mean job losses and economic decline. One example: Sculpture on the Gulf saw 16,400 visitors to the Te Whetumatarau Headland in March 2022, returning \$650,000 to local artists and suppliers. In FY19, 1.6 billion dollars in revenue was recorded as directly attributable to Arts, Culture, Heritage and related Tourism. A small investment for a much larger return.

The removal of funding will impact connectivity between people and intergenerational learning. Arts, culture and heritage provide opportunities for people to come together, share ideas and experiences, and learn from one another across generations.

Access to affordable learning, creating a sense of place, and providing support networks and places for mental health and personal growth will all be impacted. Grassroots initiatives, youth, and emerging artists will be left unable to access affordable or free learning opportunities, limiting creative growth and talent development. Lake House Arts is a launch pad for emerging arts, essential for future industries like music, design, practical skills and the fine art economy.

After two years touring Auckland Region Lake House Arts will wrap its “Tipua” Sculpture Tour, an absolutely unique experience enjoyed free by over 100,000 people across the region, including the 20 participating artists. This, and the Sculpture Symposium hosted at Lake House Arts now under threat from the proposed cuts.

The education sector will also be impacted by the loss of accessible and affordable classes and learning, leading to a loss of income for independent teachers and art educators. The loss of art and cultural development education programs will lead to students missing out on important brain and skill development essential for personal growth and well-being. Lake House Arts students like one we will call Belinda, who is disabled, lives in over the bridge and buses over to Lake House every week. Her sister tells us she does this because it gives her world shape and meaning. It's essential for her livelihood. There are so many others like Belinda.

Another great community contribution example outside of arts, is the local volunteer organisations that conserve, tidy and protect our local environments and share wisdom and learning – Kaitiakitanga – locally. In my opinion every dollar invested in supporting so many volunteers is immeasurably better ROI than contracted Council Services that are not connected to or invested with our communities.

Locally driven facilities organisations and initiatives are building resilient communities with proven services are now under threat.

It is essential and incumbent upon you, our Local Board and Councillors to support, advocate and lobby for the continued if not increased funding of arts, culture, heritage and community to ensure all of our survival and continue community building.

If removed, facilities, organisations and initiatives with decades of operation and proven impact for communities won't come back from this.

I believe that Council has overstated this financial crisis, with their own reports showing better than expected fiscal outcomes for two years in a row.

This entire process is rushed, incredibly opaque, and offers no view of the forward financial trajectory – it is just shadow-boxing for us ratepayers.

I encourage all of you to fight for a better budget, one with a greater vision for our future and our people. A better budget that addresses appropriate rates increases that don't kick rates/inflation related catch-up down the line. A better budget that addresses money wasted in our infrastructure development and bureaucracy. A better budget that will address fees on parking and public transport, road use and invest in eco-economy. A better budget that leverages Private Public Partnerships to invest in our communities' future. In short - a better budget.

With more vision, more partnership and more investment, we ensure a better future for all our people. I encourage you all, and I encourage Auckland Council to share that vision and to Stop the Cuts.

Tena Koutou, Tena Koutou, Tena Tatou Katoa.

Chair

Lake House Arts Centre

Takapuna



34196



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

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Glenfield,
Auckland 0629

26th March 2023

To the Auckland Council

I wish to object to the lost of funding for the CAB, as it is a necessary service and a place for citizens to find out so many things. Especially our New Immigrants, who need to have a safe and knowledgeable place to learn about the running of our country and what is required of them.

For example: what are the working wage and hours?

Maybe, they need to speak to IRD or for legal services.

Then there is ACC and health providers or about home ownership and requirements like Insurance.

It could also be about Driving Licences requirements. What to do in a Violent or abusive situation, maybe complaints about sexual abuse at work.

I have only a small list here but the CAB do so much more for our community and there are so many reasons why the CAB can be called upon.

Otherwise, where do people go when they need help??

Yours sincerely



34197



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Campaign For Better Transport

28 March 2023

AK Have Your Say

Auckland Council

AUCKLAND

Sent via e-mail: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

AUCKLAND COUNCIL ANNUAL BUDGET 2023/24

The Campaign for Better Transport Incorporated (**CBT**) wish to put forward our comments in relation to the Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/24. The CBT is not in favour of the budget in its present form.

Planned Bus Service Cuts

The CBT welcomes the reversal of Auckland Transport's original proposal to make the temporary November 2022 bus service suspensions permanent. Had this taken place, it would have resulted in the destruction of the frequent network and would have seen some Isthmus corridors having a worse level of service than they did in the dark days of the 1990s.

Auckland Transport is planning to cut 588 bus services per week, most of which are peak services on the Isthmus. Given most of those routes are well above a minimum acceptable frequency (approximately a service every 10 to 15 minutes), the question is whether there has been a sufficient reduction in demand to justify such service cuts – and the CBT is no longer convinced this is the case. Anecdotally, we are regularly hearing stories of passengers being left behind on some of the busiest routes in Auckland. Auckland has a history of public transport not being all that demand responsive, and our concern is that if these cuts are baked into the timetable, we might end up with delays in the restoration of service with the result that passengers are discouraged from using the system due to overcrowding.

In short, it is a vicious circle with reduced services equalling passengers left behind equalling more frustration equalling giving up and returning to cars equalling less passengers equalling a reason to reduce services. This is the opposite of what is needed.

Auckland Transport's Approach

The CBT notes that Council has an objective of achieving a net saving from Auckland Transport of \$25 million. This can be achieved through cost reductions or revenue increases, and we are concerned there has not been enough focus on revenue increases, particularly through attracting passengers.



Auckland has currently got some of the best conditions for a boost in public transport patronage. Aucklanders are keen to make use of public transport for environmental reasons. Aucklanders are also facing petrol prices which, but for action by central government, would be around \$3 per litre. Unfortunately, there have been reliability issues which have resulted in these conditions being unable to be exploited.

A longer standing issue has been the unreliability of transfers. The bus network changes between 2016 to 2018 saw Auckland move from a point-to-point network to a hub and spoke network. One of the key vulnerabilities of a hub and spoke network are the transfers. Using Papakura as an example, 26% of feeder buses are timed to depart within 3 minutes of the train's scheduled arrival time, with an extra 22% of feeder buses being timed to depart within 4 or 5 minutes of the train's scheduled arrival time. The trains themselves are notorious for running late, with a quarter of Southern Line train services running more than 5 minutes late, as well as an additional number of services running up to 5 minutes late. For a passenger who might rely on transfers, this can mean extensive waits for the next feeder bus service, especially in the evening when frequencies drop to once hourly. We would suggest that a low/no cost way of encouraging people onto the network is for Auckland Transport to provide a little flexibility to the bus companies, and the bus companies in turn giving a little flexibility to their drivers to wait for connecting train services and departing when passengers have been able to make their transfer instead of leaving on the dot when the timetable says so.

The other reliability issue is around the lack of bus drivers, and we question whether Auckland Transport are doing enough to resolve this issue or whether they are simply bowing to the bus operators. After all, the bus operators have been contracted to provide a service and surely if the service is not provided then there would be remedies under the contract. On behalf of all Aucklanders, Auckland Transport needs to push for those remedies to be made – if it is sufficiently onerous, then the bus companies may find it cheaper to pay bus drivers more than needing to pay fines to Auckland Transport for failure to provide services.

There are other areas that might be worth considering beyond service cuts. For some time, the CBT has noted some duplication between what Auckland Transport does and what the New Zealand Transport Agency does. Given the New Zealand Transport Agency has a much deeper budget, it might be time for Auckland Transport to step away from those non-core items to ensure that Aucklanders have good buses, good trains, good ferries, good roads, good cycle lanes and good footpaths.

Reallocation of Climate Action Targeted Rate

The CBT note that the proposed budget would see some reallocation of priorities arising from the Climate Action Targeted Rate. Whilst we would like to see the original programme maintained, we acknowledge that circumstances have forced some changes to Council, including the need to improve the 743 and 762 bus services to frequent bus routes to help support the Eastern Line rebuild, as well as ensuring that when the Northwestern Motorway bus improvements are complete that frequent routes (the 11, 12, 13 and Western Express) are available, thus unlocking the benefits of those improvements.

Our primary concern is the plan to reduce funding for wider service improvements in the year ended 30 June 2024, with half the funding being made available. Realistically, this is likely to mean that



Campaign For Better Transport

additional evening services, including the reinstatement of 15 minute frequencies on Isthmus routes is likely to be delayed. Should extra funding be made available, we would like to see the original Climate Action Targeted Rate programme restored.

Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway

The CBT are disappointed that we are seeing no movement toward the ambitious 550 million annual public transport patrons by 2030 goal that was set by the previous Council in August 2022. We would understand this if there had been a significant turnover in Council membership, but 13 of the 20 Councillors were re-elected in the last local body elections which mean a majority of the present Council voted in favour of this ambitious plan.

By way of comparison, Sydney's public transport patronage was 802 million¹ in the last full year before the pandemic, while Melbourne's public transport patronage was 567 million² in the same period. This is in spite of both cities having three times the population of Auckland and long standing, extensive, highly developed public transport networks.

This budget needs to include the first steps toward achieving the ambitious target set in August.

If the Council has any further queries, please contact us at committee@bettertransport.org.nz. We will be pleased to comment further if requested.

Yours faithfully

The Campaign for Better Transport Incorporated

Convenor

¹ <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/data-and-research/passenger-travel/all-modes-patronage-historical/all-modes-historical-patronage>

² <https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/monthly-public-transport-patronage-by-mode>

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34202



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

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34233



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA)

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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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 attached.

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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:

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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

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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Submission to the

Auckland Council

on the

Annual Budget 2023/2024
Consultation Document

March 2023

28th March, 2023

Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
AUCKLAND

Submitted via email with Website form.

Kia ora,

Business Events Industry Aotearoa is pleased to submit this document to Auckland Council as it relates to Auckland Council's Annual Budget 2023/2024.

Our submission specifically relates to the Auckland Convention Bureau, part of the Arts, Entertainment & Events rūpū within the Tataki Auckland Unlimited structure. It does not reference Major Events, although the two can work in unison. For example, the Rugby World Cup and the Women's in Sport conference held in 2022.

As Chief Executive of BEIA, I would welcome the opportunity to represent our industry and speak directly to the Council on the importance to maintain the Auckland Convention Bureau, the value it brings to Auckland as a city, both economically and socially and the role it plays in promoting Auckland as a premium destination of choice.

With exciting developments ahead with the NZICC and the additional investment into hotel infrastructure, Auckland has never been better positioned to take its rightful place on the global stage and acquire business events which will support Auckland's aspirations for the future. It is imperative that we maintain the work done to date and ensure continuity against our global competition.

Thank you for considering our submission and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Ngā mihi nui

Chief Executive

E:

M:

AUCKLAND COUNCIL BUDGET 2023/2024 CONSULTATION

BY BUSINESS EVENTS INDUSTRY AOTEAROA¹

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Business Events Industry Aotearoa (“BEIA”) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Auckland Council Annual Budget 23/24 (“the Budget”) Consultation Document.
- 1.2 This submission specifically refers to the proposed budget cut of \$27.5M which impacts the events attraction and destination marketing function of Tataki Auckland Unlimited (“TAU”). More specifically, with reference to the Auckland Convention Bureau (“ACB”), a division of TAU with specific focus on the promotion of Auckland as a premiere business events (conferences, incentives, meetings and exhibitions) destination. BEIA is genuinely concerned that Council will seek a material reduction in support for business events, bidding in a competitive environment and subsequently deprive Auckland of the many benefits associated with this sector.
- 1.3 Reduction in spend on the ACB is counterintuitive to the objective the Council is seeking to achieve. The ACB is a commercially driven division which can demonstrate a financial ROI. For every \$1.00 spent by the ACB to promote or secure a business event, \$34.00 is generated by that event in Auckland city. This would include a combination of spend in accommodation, hospitality, transportation, excursions, and retail, not to mention the cost of the staging of the event and the multiple organisations involved. The sector, in Auckland, is acknowledged as having the highest spend, per person, within the visitor economy².
- 1.4 THE ACB also performs a destination promotion action through international trade shows and connections.
- 1.5 The ACB has over 130 members from across the business events, tourism, and hospitality industries. These members pay a membership fee which generates revenue of \$250K.
- 1.6 Business events require a long-term strategy of engagement to secure. Enquiries will be taking place now for an event in 2026 and beyond.
- 1.7 The ACB must continue to operate to maximise those long-term opportunities and ensure continuity for both members and customers.
- 1.8 As a sector, the Business Events industry delivers the highest daily yield of any sector across the visitor economy. It is high-quality, fast-growing, and with international conferences of scale will bring delegates who are higher-net-worth individuals and professionals with costs of their travel often covered by their employer.

¹ Background information on Business Events Industry Aotearoa is attached as Appendix 1.

² FY21 ACB invested \$2.2M in attracting 95 business events to Auckland, generating \$76M in spend.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 When Tataki Auckland Unlimited (under its previous name, ATEED), published its Business Events business plan in 2013, it announced that the sector will support Auckland's vision to be the world's most livable city by attracting more visitors, investment, and jobs.
- 2.2 At the time, BEIA (under its previous name, Convention and Incentive New Zealand) successfully lobbied the central government, in partnership with ATEED and SkyCity for a conference centre of international standing, capable of accommodating conferences of over 2,000 people. The NZICC was established and broke ground.
- 2.3 Before COVID, the business events sector was valued at \$1.6BN across New Zealand in direct spend, directly employing 22,000 people and is one of the largest contributors to tourism and hospitality. BEIA projects replicating those numbers in 2025 and surpassing them in 2026.
- 2.4 Despite the impact of COVID, BE has bounced back quicker than expected with a 13% YOY growth over FY21 and FY22. In Auckland, the increase is 17%. This is despite FY2022 experiencing some restrictions. This is a result of a pent-up demand to meet, but also the extraordinary marketing and promotion of Auckland as a vibrant, cosmopolitan city. This has been backed up at industry trade shows, held globally, where Auckland has held a visible presence.

3.0 BEYOND ECONOMIC AND TOURISM BENEFITS

- 3.1 Business events deliver beyond economic advantages, and we would welcome strong consideration of the broader benefits the sector provides to support the ongoing need of Auckland: -
 - 3.2 **Community Legacies:** Major business, academic and professional events generate key legacies within their community. They provide a destination profile, transfer skills and knowledge, new networks, and image enhancement. Any of these can be shaped and aligned to address priority community needs with Auckland's own priorities.
 - 3.3 **Talent and Investment:** International Business Events are magnets for individuals and investment resources that drive key development and professional sectors. They boost education, innovation and professional development of existing talent and attract new talent.
 - 3.4 **Path to Sustainable Development:** Business Events lead the "renewed" economy toward sustainable development (environmental, educational, social equity) that requires productive integrations to succeed. This supports many of Auckland Councils' own sustainable priorities.
 - 3.5 **Image and Reputation:** Prominent business events are another lever towards generating destination profile and prestige, working hand in hand with Tourism and destination marketing.
 - 3.6 **Multi-Sector Impacts:** Business Events can drive activation, renewal, and re-engagement across a range of economic (trade, investment, talent, reputational etc.),
-

social (health and wellness, education, housing, transportation, planning etc.), professional, academic, and business sectors.

- 3.7 **Industry Engagement via Ambassador Programme:** The Auckland Convention Bureau have an established Ambassador Programme. The approach involves working with local specialists and professionals, who have a major influence over their association's choice of conference destination; it is an approach that has proven to be successful and is now one of the most well-established programmes globally.
- 3.8 **Auckland Recovery:** During the COVID pandemic Auckland Convention Bureau maintained international influence with prospects, understanding their heightened desire to meet and connect face-to-face when the opportunity presented itself. During the recent flooding, the Bureau played an important role in identifying those events scheduled to run during that time.

"Now entering middle age, our industry is wondering what it wants to be when it grows up. Business Events professionals are asking: are we tourism? are we inward investment? are we drivers of economic change, or drivers of social change? The positive answer is that Business Events are all of those things... as our industry matures, so too does its reputation in profiling academic excellence in the host city, creating knowledge exchange, research collaborations and trade and business opportunities for the local industry. Looking to the future, the Beyond Tourism benefits of conferences, although harder to measure, are no less important"

Aileen Crawford, Glasgow Convention Bureau

CONCLUSION

Around the world, Business Events are being used as part of a destination's economic strategic plan and to align with specific economic objectives. It is an investment in long-term planning and the future of a mature city.

In Scotland, the importance of events has led to the launch of the Scottish Events & Festival Association to represent all involved in their NZD10M industry. Here in New Zealand, the Government have been presented with a framework to align the business events industry as a strategic imperative. The purpose is to use the sector to advance New Zealand's key priorities, whether that is access to international experts in specific subjects or using the platform to present New Zealand experts on a global stage. Auckland plays a critical role in this strategy.

Auckland will soon have its own Convention Centre of global standing, the NZICC. This building has been the catalyst for other investments in Auckland, with numerous hotels open or soon to open, to cater for the significant number of delegates who will be accessing the venue for international conferences. It will increase the number of people accessing Auckland Airport, utilising retail and hospitality outlets in the central city and generally providing a "vibe" into the central business district.

The ACB's work is critical to this future. BEIA welcome the opportunity to expand on any of these points as well as discuss a temporary solution to ensure the work and investment the ACB has done to date, is maximised and realised.

APPENDIX ONE

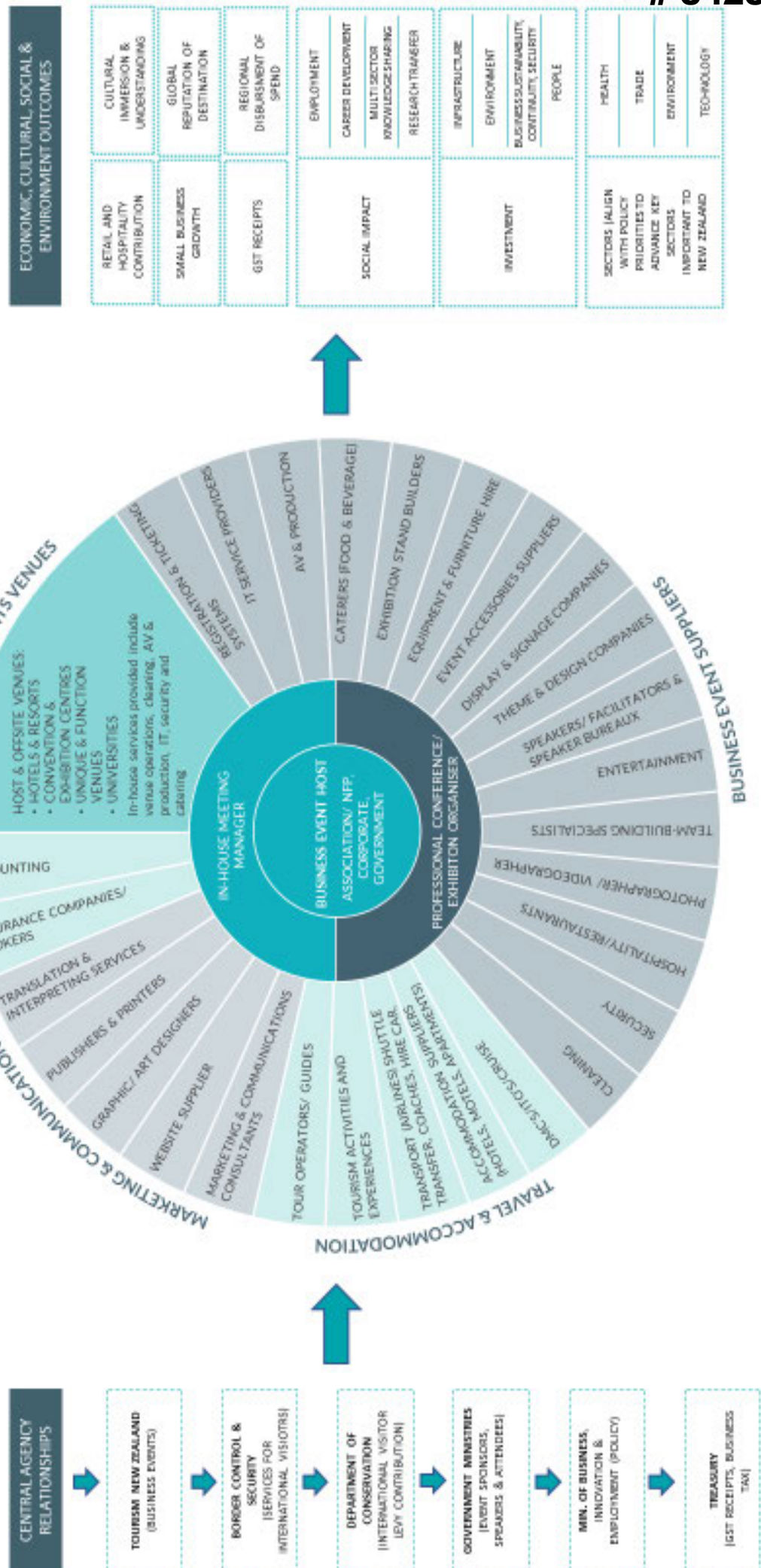
Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA) is the official membership-based association of New Zealand's business events sector. It has more than 460 members across a broad range of industries.

In 2019, the New Zealand business events industry was valued at \$1.45 billion per annum – with over 3.6 million domestic and international attendees—and employs 22,000 people.

BEIA works to actively promote the sector for its members and New Zealand. It provides advocacy with the central government; and offers assistance, information, professional development and business connections to its members.

APPENDIX TWO

PAN BUSINESS INTERACTION



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 attached.

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34236



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Mussel Reef Restoration 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
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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.

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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

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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.

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.	



Submission to: Auckland Council 2023/2024 Annual Budget Proposal

By email: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

28 March 2023

Contacts:

About us

1. The Revive Our Gulf project is an initiative to restore the seabed kūtai / green-lipped mussel (*Perna canaliculus*) reefs of Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Hauraki Gulf.
2. The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act recognises the national importance of Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui-ā-Toi/Hauraki Gulf, with Section 7 of the Act acknowledging the Park as nationally significant. Despite its cultural and economic value, the Hauraki Gulf has been subject to intense pressure from urban development, sedimentation, pollution, and commercial and recreational fishing activities, leading to significant decline.
3. Revive Our Gulf's vision is to restore the mauri/life essence of the Hauraki Gulf ecosystem and return it to a state of natural biodiversity and abundance.
4. The project has three core collaborative partners: the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust (MRRT), a NZ registered charity; The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a global environmental organisation; and the University of Auckland (UoA). The Revive Our Gulf projects are delivered in partnership with iwi / hapū across Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Hauraki Gulf.
5. The MRRT has been a recipient of funding through the Wai Ora Partnerships Team budget for FY2021 and FY2023.
6. The opinions expressed in this submission are those of the MRRT backed up by science from the UoA Institute of Marine Science. This submission does not reflect the views of TNC or our Tangata Whenua partners.

Submission points

7. We appreciate the Council's investment in the MRRT and the Revive Our Gulf project in recent years.
8. Your early investment in this research and restoration program has been vital in building diversity in our funding base and enabling a significant increase in our research and restoration activities, particularly by providing the capacity to partner with Tangata Whenua and professionalising the MRRT for scale.
9. We convey our support for the Council's long-term investments in climate action, climate resilience, and improved environmental outcomes through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate and Water Quality Targeted Rate. We applaud and value the Council's long-term commitments to active restoration and research, as initiated via these rates.
10. As we work towards the restoration of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, specifically the kūtai / green-lipped mussel, we recognise the interconnectedness and interdependence of ecosystems. The Council's investments in the Hauraki Gulf catchments and islands directly impacts the success of our active restoration work in the marine environment. For instance, land use practices and their knock-on implications for water quality in the Gulf can affect the outcomes of our shellfish restoration efforts.

11. It's essential to sustain momentum and strengthen efforts given that environmental gains can be quickly lost, as demonstrated by the 27 January storm and Cyclone Gabrielle this summer. Long-term investments in restoration are vital to improving environmental outcomes and increasing resilience to climate change.
12. We note that the proposed budget includes a temporary (one-year) substantial reduction to the Natural Environment Targeted Rate and Water Quality Targeted Rate.
13. While we acknowledge the fiscal constraints facing the Council in the 2023/2024 financial year, we urge the Council to continue the rate at the previous set levels, as planned in the following year (2024/2025).
14. MRRT would be concerned that continuing to delay investment in the programmes initiated under the Natural Environment Targeted Rate and Water Quality Targeted Rate would dramatically increase the cost of restoration for future generations. *"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now".*

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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34262



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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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: Proceed with some reductions.

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: Auckland should own more shares, or open to public.

Do not sell. I does promote Auckland pride and Auckland needs this.

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: \$4.66 would be manageable for a larger majority of ratepayers.

Surely with all the new townhouse, units etc, rates collected are going to rise.

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	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.	
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?

Keep airport shares, libraries, community houses and facilities.

Important privacy information

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34271



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Regional Tourism New Zealand

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 attached. (same as 24)

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

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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.	

28 March 2023

Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland

Submitted By: Consultation Website

Kia ora,

Regional Tourism New Zealand submission on Auckland Council's proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024

Regional Tourism New Zealand (RNTZ) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission on the Auckland Council ***Annual Budget 2023/2024 Consultation Document***.

Our submission is in relation to the proposed reduction of operational funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited of \$27.5 million.

Auckland Council retains its investment in Tātaki Auckland Unlimited

RNTZ asks that Auckland Council retains its investment in Tātaki Auckland Unlimited at an appropriate level so that it can continue to carry out its destination marketing and management functions, and event and business event functions. RNTZ strongly believes the reduction of funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited for core RTO functions will have a significant impact on Auckland as a destination and the rest of New Zealand as a whole.

Auckland Council should view its funding of destination marketing (including event attraction) as an investment with direct and indirect economic benefits to the region, rather than a cost. The activity undertaken contributes a substantial rate of return for the investment made.

It also has a responsibility to the residents of Auckland to effectively manage the destination as outlined in the destination management plans that have been developed for the region as a whole, and Waiheke Island, Aotea Great Barrier and the Matakana Coast.

These plans have articulated the future that communities want from tourism. The responsibility of delivering on the communities' expectations, falls collectively to a range of actors in the tourism system, including Auckland Council, and RTOs as leaders and coordinators across the tourism eco system.

Value of Tourism to New Zealand

Prior to Covid-19, in 2019 tourism was generating \$41 billion of visitor expenditure, contributing 8% to GDP and employing one in 10 people¹. It was New Zealand's largest export industry. These figures show the impact of tourism on the wider economy and society. Tourism creates significant benefits for communities by enabling job creation, business opportunities, better amenities and infrastructure and creating vibrancy.

Value of Tourism to Auckland

In Auckland's instance in the year to December 2019 tourism spend was \$8.88 billion and there were 7.5 million commercial guest nights². Auckland plays a crucial role in New Zealand as a visitor destination. Auckland is New Zealand's primary international gateway for international visitor arrivals, has a strong brand and experience offering, houses New Zealand's premier conference, cruise and event facilities, and is an important partner with government for Major Events eg FIFA bid and hosting. From a tourism perspective, if Auckland is strong, New Zealand is strong.

The role of a RTO

RTOs play an important role leading and facilitating the sustainable growth of their regional, district or local visitor economy to enable greater prosperity for all. RTOs coordinate the system to enable the sustainable development of the sector, address market failures, and are the conduit to bring together public and private sector objectives and interests pertaining to tourism. RTOs provide the support on the ground for Tourism New Zealand's activities, therefore without an adequately resourced RTO function, TNZ will struggle to engage effectively with Auckland in regards to campaign, trade, media and business events activity.

As further outlined by the World Bank on Destination Management³;

“Coordination is important because there is no single entity that is responsible for the functioning of all of the elements that make up the destination; Where there is a lack of coordination between these players, it is very difficult to achieve any of the aims of destination management.”

“Market failure needs to be addressed where the tourism economy is largely driven by competing private sector interests, each operator intent on maximising revenues. These practices can often come at the expense of the destination as a whole – ‘the public good’ – growing too fast, threatening communities and the environment, introducing congestion, pollution and behaviours that other stakeholders in the destination resent.”

Destination Marketing

International evidence demonstrates that when destinations reduce or stop destination marketing suffer, they suffer a sharp decline across key indicators such as visitation levels, spend and market share. This research indicates that if the proposed cuts are implemented, Auckland as a destination will experience reduced visitor activity and spending, with these losses being at a scale much higher than the proposed savings.⁴

¹ Tourism Satellite Account

² Auckland Destination Overview December 2019

³ World Bank Destination Management Handbook

⁴ What happens when you stop Marketing? The Rise and fall of Colorado Tourism
In, Dr Bill Siegel, Longwoods International, 2009

Destination Management

Over recent years the focus for RTOs and regions has shifted to enabling a more sustainable tourism industry that provides greater social, economic and environmental benefits for their communities. This is evidenced by the recent investment from central government for regions to develop their own Destination Management Plans (DMPs).

Auckland led the way with this, developing 'Destination AKL 2025' in 2018, which articulated a new direction for Auckland with an increased focus on destination management. Destination AKL focussed on ensuring that the visitor economy contributed to a sustainable future for the region and that Auckland as a great place to visit was also a great place to live, work and study.

Auckland has further strengthened its destination management approach with sub-regional DMPs recently developed for Waiheke Island, Aotea Great Barrier and the Matakana Coast. It is important that this focus and investment is maintained to enable the desired tourism outcomes as articulated by communities, mana whenua, industry and local government.

Through this work Auckland's tourism industry has clearly understood the interdependence and interconnectivity of tourism across all facets of the region and its communities, and contribution to the well-being goals of the Council.

Climate Change

More recently Auckland has also done some excellent work in understanding the carbon footprint of the tourism sector and is one of the first RTOs/Regions to develop a roadmap for the industry to become carbon zero. Given recent weather events, the tourism industry's understanding and response to climate change, mitigation and adaptation will require the guidance and support of Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to cope with future shocks.

Tātaki Auckland Unlimited supports visitors in region when unforeseen events occur, are able to work with other actors in the system, provide messaging through their communication and marketing channels, and attract visitors back into the region when appropriate.

Sustainable Funding Model for Tourism

RTNZ fully appreciates the considerable financial pressure that local governments across New Zealand are facing and that hard decisions and sacrifices need to be made.

As a sector, we are urgently looking at long term, sustainable funding models that provide the level of investment that is required to ensure the sustainable growth and development of the sector whilst also lessening the burden on ratepayers. There is a recognition that the current funding mechanisms are not fit for purpose and not meeting tourism's current or future investment requirements.

Once such piece of work is the third phase of the Government's Tourism Industry Transformational Plan which will be focussed specifically on Sustainable Tourism Funding. Work is due to start mid-year and RTNZ will be urging it to find solutions to better support the tourism system.

RTNZ Recommendation

That Auckland City Council retains an adequate level of investment in Tātaki Auckland Unlimited in this year's annual plan to enable them to continue their core marketing, destination management, and event and business event functions. This will allow RTNZ, TIA and key stakeholders to work collectively with local and central government to determine a way forward to put in place in a more sustainable funding mechanism that has the ability to meet the future investment needs of the tourism sector.

RTNZ would like to invite Auckland Council to contribute to this discussion and welcomes your views in regards to a sustainable funding mechanism to support regional tourism activities.

RTNZ is happy to answer any questions and would like to talk to this submission if there was an opportunity to do so.

Ngā mihi,

Chair

Regional Tourism New Zealand

About Regional Tourism New Zealand

RTNZ is the peak body for the Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) across New Zealand of which Tātaki Auckland Unlimited is a member. RTOs are each the representative of their Local Governments' (LG) investment in the tourism sector for their community. 90% of funding to RTOs comes from local government with \$45 million invested across 31 RTOs that make up the network.

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

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34276



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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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 attached.

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:

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.

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.	



34281

Making imaginary worlds a reality

Wētā Workshop – Submission to Auckland Council on 2023-2024 Budget Proposal

Kia ora Councillor,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Auckland Council's proposed 2023/24 budget.

Who we are

Wētā Workshop is an award-winning concept design and manufacturing facility founded by Richard Taylor and Tania Rodger. For over 30 years, we have applied our innovation and artistry to the world's creative industries. Our work spans across design and manufacturing for film and television projects, location-based experiences (LBE), tourism experiences, consumer products, interactive and game development.

Our Auckland connections

In Auckland, we operate the award-winning *Wētā Workshop Unleashed* experience in the SKYCITY precinct, which opened in December 2020. We designed and built the travelling *Bug Lab* experience which was hosted at Auckland Zoo in 2017-2018. We also collaborate with film and television productions based in Auckland and, most recently, worked on *Avatar: The Way of Water* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* and *M3GAN*, all of which were filmed or partly filmed in Auckland (ASB Showgrounds, Auckland Film Studios, Kumeū Film Studios).

For these reasons, we have a strong interest in the health of Auckland's creative, cultural and tourism sectors and the support these sectors need, especially as Aotearoa continues to build back from the impacts of COVID.

Our feedback

While Councils are having to adapt spending to a slowing economy and the impacts of COVID and the recent severe weather events across the North Island, we believe there is a critical role for local authorities to play in enabling and facilitating economic development opportunities and in promoting your region and city to potential visitors both in Aotearoa and offshore, notably Australia.

Specifically, the proposed significant reduction in budget for Tātaki Auckland Unlimited will materially affect the organisation's (and therefore the city's) ability to support the tourism and screen sectors.

These are both sectors that already make a major contribution to Tāmaki Makaurau's economy. The Auckland screen sector alone generates more than \$1.5 billion per annum and supports 8,400 jobs.

As inbound tourism continues to recover, this is a sector that could make a major contribution to Auckland and Aotearoa's economic recovery.

However, if your primary economic development agency is starved of resources – both human and financial, the key enabling function that supports activities such as screen production attraction, facilitation of screen projects and promotion of Auckland as a tourism, investment and creative destination will be lost.

We see this as an investment by the city that will definitely generate an economic return. Without it, opportunities will be missed not only in the short term, but over the medium and long term.

It should also be noted that Tātaki Auckland Unlimited does not operate in isolation in regards to promotion but that it plays a critical role in partnership with the business sector. It also works in tandem with central Government (e.g., New Zealand Film Commission, Tourism New Zealand, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise etc) to leverage the government's investment in and promotion of these sectors. For example, the government's investment via the Screen Production Grant incentivises and enables major film and television projects to film their projects in New Zealand. These opportunities rely on local authorities to facilitate and support projects through location and permitting advice, access to facilities and connections to local industry.

In a similar way, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited helps encourage tourism buyers, agents and aggregators and media, to promote Auckland to consumer and business travellers and for travel packaging and events. There is a risk that many of these opportunities could be lost without an active, resourced and engaged local government partner.

For these reasons, we would respectfully oppose the proposal to *“reducing funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to save a further \$27.5 million, with effects on service delivery (including economic development and tourism promotion).”*

We appreciate that there is an opportunity cost inherent in any decision to maintain, reduce or increase funding of Council activity.

In this case, however, we believe that a reduction in spending on economic development and on promotion and facilitation of sector activity will have a negative impact on regional GDP and, as Tourism Industry Aotearoa has pointed out, on the wider Aotearoa economy.

As the owner of a business in central Auckland, we would urge you to reconsider these proposed spending reductions and to find a more nuanced approach to balancing savings with investment.

Sincerely,

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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34281



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Tourism Export Council of New Zealand

Your local board: I don't know

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Rates

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- 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

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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:

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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.	
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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34286



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Unitec and Manukau Institute of Technology both divisions of Te Pukenga

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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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 attached.

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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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.

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Deputy Chief Executive Academic
MIT and Unitec, Te Pūkenga
Auckland, New Zealand

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28 March 2023

Jim Stabback
Chief Executive
Auckland Council

By email to: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Mr Stabback

Re: Submission on Auckland Council Budget 2023/2024

This submission has been prepared by and is submitted on behalf of Unitec and Manukau Institute of Technology, both divisions of Te Pūkenga.

The particular focus of our submission is the potential impact of the proposed budget reductions on the development of a skilled workforce for Tāmaki Makaurau. In making our submission, we are relying on the fundamental premise that the development of a skilled workforce is not solely the responsibility of educational institutions. It requires an ecosystem that provides the opportunities and affordances necessary for people to aspire to, access and engage with education and training. This takes place in homes, workplaces, on our campuses, online and at a range of public facilities.

Question 1 – Operating spending reductions

Public transport. Across Unitec and MIT we have about 2,000 kaimahi and well over 15,000 ākonga who travel between their places of home and work and our campuses (at Manukau, Otara, Mt Albert, Henderson, Auckland City and Mahurangi). Given the nature of education and training opportunities, which are full time, part time, from early in the morning until late in the evening, and increasingly on weekends, our travel requirements are not limited to weekday peak hours. The availability of public transport is of critical importance, not only to facilitate access to all these learning opportunities, but also to reduce CO₂ emissions, traffic congestion and parking challenges.

We are opposed to reductions in public transportation services.

City Rail. In relation to capital expenditure, while we all wish to see an optimal Auckland Waterfront, we believe that if tough choices need to be made in capital expenditure then the timely completion of City Rail is of higher importance.



Deputy Chief Executive Academic
MIT and Unitec, Te Pūkenga
Auckland, New Zealand

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We support the timely completion of City Rail as a capital investment priority.

Tātaki Auckland Unlimited. This organisation provides a pivotal leadership role in Tāmaki Makaurau for industries, employers and communities. Its unique focus and in-depth knowledge of our local communities and economy, make it the “go to” for guidance, support and connections to the multitude of government agencies, NGOs, employers and community groups operating and delivering economic development projects across Tāmaki Makaurau. Tātaki Auckland Unlimited initiates and connects. Any resulting reduction in its scope of service will leave a vacuum in having an all-of-Auckland focused, responsive leader in economic development. This current range of service delivery sets Tātaki Auckland Unlimited apart from other membership-based organisations that are focused solely on delivering to their constituent members.

We ask that the economic development role of Tātaki Auckland Unlimited be protected from budget reductions.

Question 5 – Local Board Priorities

Our ākonga come from every Local Board area. Therefore, our comments are applicable to all Local Boards.

Libraries. Many of our ākonga have home situations that are not necessarily conducive to after-hours study. For example, there can be limitations to the availability of quiet spaces, access to computing, copying and internet facilities. There can also be limitations upon the people from whom a learner can seek learning and research assistance. Of course, as a tertiary education institution we provide Library services online and at our campuses. However, public libraries significantly add to the ecosystem by providing safe and resourced spaces, resources and professional services that fulfil a key function within the city’s workforce development ecosystem. Often the public libraries are more proximal for learners than our campus libraries, and therefore more accessible especially on weekends and later in the evenings.

We are strongly opposed to any reduction in opening hours or in the provision of professional library services.

Youth Services. We are concerned about the rising number of youth aged 15-24yrs who are not in education, employment or training (i.e. NEETs). We are particularly concerned that our priority groups of Māori and Pacific people are disproportionately adversely represented among NEETs. We believe that the long-term impacts of NEETs on Tāmaki Makaurau can be very damaging personally, socially and economically. Reducing the number of NEETs –



Deputy Chief Executive Academic
MIT and Unitec, Te Pūkenga
Auckland, New Zealand

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particularly in a manner that addresses equity aspects – is a complex challenge but one of vital importance. We are in broad agreement with an analysis published by the Ministry of Education (<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/80898/not-just-about-neets>) noting that part of the solution involves developing young people's non-cognitive skills (aka "soft" skills). The development of these non-cognitive skills is important in helping people prepare for success in their tertiary training and education. These can be greatly enhanced through the provision of local youth services, which have the ability to engage with young people in a way that few other services and entities are able to do.

We are opposed to reductions in youth services, particularly in Local Board areas with significant Māori and Pacific populations.

Closing comments

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

We recognise the difficult budget situation facing Auckland Council, and note the need for some tough decisions to be made. We have been selective in the budget proposals we have addressed in this submission. However, please note that neither support nor opposition from us should be inferred in relation to budget proposals not addressed in this submission.

Ngā mihi

Te Pūkenga - Manukau Institute of Technology & Unitec



34296



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Regional Leadership Group

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

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

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Tell us why:

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This submission is made to the draft Auckland Council 2023/2024 budget.

The Tāmaki Makaurau Regional Skills Leadership Group was established in 2020. It is composed of employer, union, Māori, Pacific peoples, local government and community representation and has as its mandate to identify and support better ways to meet future skills and workforce needs in Tāmaki Makaurau, both now and in the future, and advise on actions to address these

Being the key labour market organisation in the region, the RSLG recognises that it can only undertake its work alongside strong regional and local government with strong and active economic development strategies, policies and programmes. We are very concerned that the draft AC budget proposals for 2023/2024 axes economic development from both itself (especially The Southern (and Western) Initiative and its CCOs, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (TAU) and Community Education Trust (COMET).

The draft Council 2023/2024 budget proposes a 36% or \$44.5 million reduction in Council funding for Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (TAU), Auckland Council's economic development agency.

If approved, this funding reduction will mean TAU will significantly reduce its role in economic development, destination marketing & tourism and major events. The purpose of TAU is 'enriching cultural and economic life in Tamaki Makaurau' and its strategic responsibilities are:

- Enhancing Auckland as a culturally vibrant city for all
- Expanding economic opportunities for all Aucklanders
- Achieving social, economic, cultural and environmental return on TAU's investment
- Enhancing Auckland's local, national and global reputation and appeal
- Increasing capital invested into Auckland for economic and cultural outcomes.

As an Auckland Council-controlled organisation, TAU is tasked with delivering a co-ordinated, region-wide programmes to meet its strategic priorities. It works with partners, including MBIE, on economic development, destination marketing & tourism and major events planning. The draft budget consultation document states that, 'Achieving the full savings.....will require the activities and services currently provided by TAU to be significantly reduced. Reduced funding for economic development activities would result in significant reductions in the delivery of economic development-related services. Economic development activities will be reduced in the following areas for the region:

- Reduction in job creation opportunities for the people of Auckland
- Decreased local tax revenue
- Lack of programmes to encourages Local Business Innovation
- Lack of economic, social and cultural development
- Lack of promotion of international trade and business opportunities
- Including overall reduction in creation of sustainable and equitable growth and improving the standard of living for the people of Auckland and society as a whole

Under the Local Government Act 2002 in New Zealand, local councils have a range of obligations related to economic development. These obligations are designed to promote the well-being of communities and ensure that economic growth and development is sustainable, equitable, and benefits all members of society. Some of the key obligations of councils related to economic development under the Local Government Act include:

- To identify the current and future social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities.
- To identify opportunities for economic growth and development, including identifying strategic assets and infrastructure that can support economic development.
- To engage with their communities to understand their economic aspirations and priorities, and to develop strategies that support these priorities.
- To work with other councils, government agencies, and community organizations to support economic development and promote the well-being of communities.
- To monitor and report on economic development outcomes, including the number of jobs created, the level of investment attracted, and the impact of economic development activities on the local community.

Overall, the Local Government Act places a strong emphasis on the role of councils in supporting economic development and ensuring that growth is sustainable and equitable. By fulfilling their obligations under the Act, councils can help to promote the long-term well-being of their communities and ensure that economic development benefits all members of society.

We believe the current budget proposals of AC are at odds with its obligations under the Local Government Act. For AC to eliminate all its funding for economic development under itself and TAU is short sighted and wrong. It destroys relationships that have been built up over the years and leaves huge gaps, especially for the economic and social development of the underserved communities in Auckland such as Māori and Pacific peoples and geographically in the South and the West.

The Tāmaki Makaurau RSLG is dedicated to improving the pathways, development, coordination, and application of skills required to support Auckland's economic development activities. The RSLG recently released the region's regional workforce plan, , [“Building the Workforce for Better Jobs”](#), which aims to work with the Auckland region to achieve a better coordinated regional labour market, resulting in higher productivity, a more skilled workforce, and an inclusive, sustainable, and productive future for the Auckland region. Such a plan can only come to fruition in partnership with AC and its relevant CCOs.

As the co-chairs for the Tāmaki Makaurau RSLG we work closely with TAU and The Southern Initiative within council and other regional groups with a stake in workforce development to identify and address regional priorities together. Given the proposed reduction in funding for TAU, COMET and TSI we are concerned that regional education, training, and upskilling is responsive to the needs of learners and employers at all stages will be impacted. We also foresee an impact on the ease for businesses to employ New Zealanders with the skills required for current and future jobs as reduced funding for TAU will impact regional economic development activities which set out regional aspirations, priorities, and actions for current and future workforce skills development in our region.

We strongly advocate for AC to retain an economic development function as required by the Local Government Act and is undertaken by TAU, COMET as CCOs and TSI / WSI / CSI within the Council. Not to do so will see a reversal of the significant economic and social development gains that have been facilitated by AC since its inception.

Tāmaki Makaurau RSLG Co-chairs

Contact details:

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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: I do not support these cost cuts. Such a sizeable reduction in funding will be a backward step. We should be growing Auckland Art and Culture not reducing it. The arts are vital for our sense of identity, increase wellbeing and inclusiveness in our multicultural city. They also bring tourism which directly benefits the local business and hospitality sector. If funding is reduced, our world class Auckland Art Gallery and the Zoo become unaffordable for the majority of the population Art and music in the city (and in suburban localities) are as important to mental wellbeing as sport and physical recreation. Reducing contestable grants funding would have a hugely negative effect on many art centres around the city. The Helensville Art Centre provides a hub for people of all ages to benefit from the skills of local artists and musicians, who hold classes and inspire children in school holidays and the general community.

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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.	
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?

We need to preserve as many of our green spaces as possible. They have proved to be affective soak pits in recent storms and they provide essential peace and space for a population now living in higher density.

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34311



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: Please see attached.

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.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Tues 28th March, 23,

SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL

Whilst the intent was to make money whilst creating an easier more efficient, more settled lifestyle for humanity, the ultimate result has revealed the cost of this human focus and bias to be incalculable. Changes are afoot. We can collectively no longer afford the waste of time, money and effort that our lifestyles operated on. A common observation of Auckland Council has been that it is a 'finger in the pie', 'gravity train'. And such a reflection of reality is easier to see in it, than in ourselves and along with the realism, it also carries an element of a modern apathy.

That we at last acknowledge we live in a time of environmental crisis is confronting to a largely urban based population. Up until recently we thought eco-nomic neglect and domination of the eco-logical environment was ok. Now, we'll have to consider the question of WHAT PERIMETERS THE ECO-LOGICAL ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE AFFORDS US!! That's one hell of a 'turn around'... Theory and practicality suddenly need to touch base with actualities like never before.

Effectively we're being forced to share our attention and resources in a totally new way between eco-nomy and eco-logy... Years ago, I noted that these two words shared a common root, 'eco'. Yet on the surface you'd be forgiven for thinking they had little relationship. The root is Greek, Oikos – 'to house' or 'The mutual relations that allows for a settled existence.

The high expectations we have of Auckland Council acting responsibly makes it so much easier to 'point finger' and discern its shortcomings and associated attitudes. However, Statistics N.Z. reveals that a high debt level is common in the general populous. Hence, that pointing finger that discerns a 'finger in the pie, and the 'gravity train' of contractors etc, has four fingers pointing at the pointer!

What is behind the inefficiency and overspending can I think be simply explained by again high expectations, and our habit of running on too loose a connection between 'theory' and actual 'practicality'. Such an ambivalent attitude was not open to earlier generations who'd have flowed through a tumult of World Wars, Great economic depressions, revolutions and extremes of change. But now, with relative peace we've inadvertently bred generations to have high expectations of what of right comes to them from those struggles. It is an attitude which the closing line of a familiar t.v. advert epitomises in the words, 'Because I'm worth it'...

In essence it's a question of navigation. Hence, we must ask for clarity when it comes to our individual and social reference points. Because whilst desire can have us seeking sound reference points to progress and work with, it can also see us project unreasonable expectations onto a reality we are out of 'sync' with. Good intentions and wishful thinking have become an all too common commodity today; so much so, we leave the future to chance, if we do not muster a level of consideration that matches what is today's new reality...

Yours Respectfully

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

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34313



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Eastern Beach Action Network 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
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- 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.

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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

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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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

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AUCKLAND COUNCIL'S ANNUAL BUDGET 2023/2024 – Have Your Say

On behalf of residents on the Bucklands and Eastern Beaches peninsula, I request that the council allocate funding to restore an area containing 5,000-year-old chenier ridges in Macleans Park at Eastern Beach. The site is used for recreation and part of it for overflow parking.

A bund on one side of a new stream channel prevents water from draining into that channel which has caused a large part of the area to become a swamp.

Professional geologists need to be consulted about remediation.

Eastern Beach Action Network Inc.

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34317



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Pukekohe Business Association

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

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

Tell us why: Please see attached.

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

Tell us why: Please see attached.

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Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024

Submission on behalf of the Pukekohe Business Association

To: AK Have your Say

Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024

akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

The Pukekohe Business Improvement District is run by the Pukekohe Business Association which represents over 700 businesses in the Pukekohe district. We promote, support and advocate on behalf of local businesses to help create a prosperous economic environment for them to operate in. Our role in the Auckland economy is to improve the business environment of our areas, promote innovation, prosperity and employment as well as attract new businesses, customers and visitors.

There are currently 50 BIDs in Auckland, with a combined capital value estimated at \$72.7 billion. We share this common goal with the Auckland Council group of promoting Auckland's economic prosperity. The Council group play a pivotal role in providing efficient and effective core services for the city. Auckland must continually strive to attract more visitors and bid competitively to host major events, as well as support economic development activities.

In the Pukekohe Business Associations feedback on the key themes that were identified in the Consultation Document, we want to speak about:

1. **The ongoing budget pressures**
2. **Managing rates and debt**
3. **The Storm Response**
4. **The Franklin Local Board budget reduction**
5. **Other matters important to us**
6. **Conclusion**

1. Budget pressures

We acknowledge that Auckland Council is facing significant budget challenges with a forecast budget shortfall of \$295 million and now also a huge cost blow-out of \$1 billion for the City Rail Link.

We strongly support Auckland Council holding "tough" talks with the Government to push it to pay more for the City Rail Link. This is a fundamental piece of national infrastructure as the reduction of congestion in the Auckland region will have benefits for the greater north island. This is a national asset and should always have been fully or mainly funded by Government. Hundreds of millions could be clawed back here by Council.

In terms of the need for efficiencies and savings, we ask that the detailed review of services across the Auckland Council group be progressed more quickly. We believe there should be a sharp focus on finding savings from the management of contractors and consultants by the Auckland Council group, as we still experience evidence of wastage.

For example, The Pukekohe Business Association is very concerned about the excessive costs associated with 'traffic management' that is curtailing our ability to hold events and utilise town beautification measures (Welcome flags). We know that our concerns are shared by several local boards and that Auckland Transport has been directed to reduce these costs.

We continue to get pushback from Auckland Transport regarding the installation of Flag Trax which would support local boards and business associations to install flags privately and safely without costly traffic management plans.

Overall, we support the following:

- We support a budget package that sharply reduces Auckland Council's group operating costs.
- We also support prudent borrowing even if it requires more than \$75 million of additional debt.
- We support the sale of some or all of the Council's shareholding in Auckland International Airport Limited.

As we expressed earlier, we do not support the \$27.5 million funding reductions proposed for Tātaki Auckland Unlimited. Instead, we ask that the budget for marketing Auckland and its individual townships internationally, attracting visitors, bidding for and hosting major events as well as supporting economic development activities to be maintained.

We also ask that the budget for local board-funded events, local economic development and town centre re-generation be maintained, however, we need to see increased support for the Franklin region if the funding is retained. These activities are what makes Auckland and our local town- centre a 'vibrant' place in which to live. A harsh austerity budget will be detrimental to the city's recovery from three years of COVID-19 disruptions.

2. *Managing rates and debt*

In terms of managing rates, we appreciate that this is important in terms of Council's budget challenge.

However, we do not support pausing the long-term differential strategy. The intention of the long-term differential strategy is for the share of general rates paid by business properties to be made fairer. However, every time there is a budget challenge, Auckland Council pauses the long-term differential strategy. We are strongly of the view that this is unacceptable.

We do, however, support an increase in general rates to 7.0 % or no higher than the rate of inflation. We also support the reduction to the Natural Environment Targeted Rate and the Water Quality Targeted Rate to reduce the overall average increase to 4.66%. We support the idea of using the money Council has already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes.

3. *The Storm response*

We agree that the impacts of the recent storm events over Auckland Anniversary weekend and Cyclone Gabrielle have been substantial for Council. They have also been very serious for many businesses in Pukekohe.

We have been concerned about the lack of ownership regarding the risks of flooding. We find it incredulous that core functions, such as keeping the drains free from blockages or maintaining stormwater pipes, fall between several agencies, and sometimes into some kind of void between Auckland Council and Auckland Transport or Waka Kotahi. We understand that the maintenance schedule was reduced to only once annually during 2020, and we all now know that this is hopelessly inadequate, and short-sighted.

This needs your urgent attention. Keeping the drains free and regularly maintained is core business, and the schedule needs to at least double to twice annually. We agree that the floods and slips mean that urgent repairs and replacements must be carried out ahead of less urgent work.

So, we absolutely agree with increasing operating budgets by around \$20 million to support the repairs and replacements as well as prepare for and respond to future storms and understand that this may raise rates by an additional 1%. However, we believe this should be a targeted rate that should be 'ring fenced' for these purposes.

4. *Franklin Local Board budget*

The Franklin local board has been asked to reduce their operating budget by \$796,000. This reduction will have detrimental effects on many facets of the Franklin community.

We support most of the priorities proposed by the Franklin Local Board, however, we are concerned that with the proposed budget cuts there will be little to no support for community-led activations, environmental and waste minimisation initiatives, events including ANZAC and Matariki celebrations, and town centre placemaking events. These events and initiatives are what make individual town centres thrive.

We support in principle a targeted rate for trials, however, we would want to see the proposed projects and a business case for what would be funded, and the amount that would be charged to each rateable unit. As part of these trail projects, we would like to see evidence of how these trails positively impact the economic growth and development of Pukekohe.

If funding for local board activities is reduced, we strongly oppose the reduction of discretionary local grants, recreation programmes in our parks, and local community events as this allows the local board to be agile in the way they can support local groups and Iwi for events, programmes and activations. These initiatives support local economic development and encourage people to visit and engage in our local town centre.

5. *What else is important to us*

Clean and tidy town centres- We oppose the proposal to reduce open space maintenance by removing 30 per cent of litter bins across the region, especially in our town centres. Ensuring town centres are tidy and free from litter is a health and safety issue and should be treated as core business. We also oppose the reductions in garden maintenance for 80 per cent of gardens.

Eke Panuku Development- We are especially concerned that if further cost reductions are required, Eke Panuku will exit from urban regeneration activities. This will be detrimental to the current Unlock Pukekohe project. The council-owned land in the Pukekohe town centre needs to be utilised and revitalised to support the growth of Pukekohe. Eke Panuku play a key part in this work, therefore, we completely support the continuation of this organisation.

Reliable and strong Public Transport- In regards to the diminishing reliability of the AT public bus service, we understand there are significant staffing challenges being experienced by Auckland Transport, but instead of maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services, we ask that they be increased as more staff become available.

We would also like to see the Pukekohe on-demand electric bus service initiative included in the bus services that are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.

6. *Conclusion*

As we enter another year where the resilience of small and medium-sized businesses will be tested, we ask the Council to consider carefully their needs as it makes decisions about the priorities and proposed savings in the Annual Budget 2023/2024.

We fundamentally believe greater savings can be made with a culture of efficiency being instilled across the council group. Now is the time for the council, and its significant number of employees, to adopt a rate-payer mindset. But the Council must not lose sight of Auckland's ongoing economic prosperity.

We ask that there be a focus on providing services which grow the economy and support local businesses, especially in our town centres.

We are grateful to have such a strong and well-represented Local Board. Changes to their ability to assist and fully support key areas of the Franklin community will have serious negative implications that will take years to recover from. We are a strong community however without the support from the local government we will lose what makes Franklin, and Auckland, a thriving city.

Kind Regards,

Manager
Pukekohe Business Association



Pukekohe Business Association
PO Box 1240, Pukekohe 2340

E. info@pukekohe.org.nz P. (09) 910 0137 W. pukekohe.org.nz

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? Please see attached.

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 attached.

Important privacy information

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34320



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?

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? Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year

Tell us why: I think it is important to think of the future for better infrastructure in buildings, road, drainage, and 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).	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.	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:

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

No because I find that no matter what feedback we put nothing ever changes for the good of South Auckland community.

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34349



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 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 very concerned about budget cuts to the Arts And The Entertainment Sector. They're

very important to people's lives to enrich their lives that matter to them. If we don't have them. It would be a very lifeless city and especially to people with special needs. They contribute hugely to our mental and social well being and way of life.

Callie Hunter

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

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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.

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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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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34350



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Hobsonville Point Residents Society Committee

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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- 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: Pleases see attached.

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:

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:

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.	

From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Cc:
Subject: HPRS Auckland Budget Submission
Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 7:06:31 pm

Tēnā Koutou

Re: Auckland Budget have your say

Hobsonville Point is Kāinga Ora's first high density urban development. When completed in approximately 2024 there will be 11,000 residents residing in 4,054 homes. The covenant for the area is governed by the Hobsonville Residents Society ("HPRS") committee. This society is the largest in both Auckland and New Zealand.

As a high density community, the residents of Hobsonville Point require public services from Auckland Council that might be different to other areas.

- Public transport is critical for access to other parts of Auckland. There is not enough parking in the area for 11,000 people to have a car and therefore options to cycle, bus and ferry provide flexibility for residents to get around.
- Community gardens and green spaces are our backyards. In a high density environment we share our green spaces and therefore need these maintained to be able to enjoy them with our neighbours.
- Community events and grants allow the community to connect and socialise. There are a lot of residents in one small area and therefore connection supports a thriving community

In consideration of our community values, HPRS makes the following submissions regarding the Auckland Council budget 2023/2024:

HPRS supports the Northern Western Busway Improvements. The addition of a Northern Western Busway service will give commuters more options and flexibility to be able to rely on public transport.

HPRS supports the continuation of the Climate Action Targeted Rate Fund provided it includes the construction of the Hobsonville Point cycle way. There are 4000 more residents expected in Hobsonville Point and therefore parking and traffic congestion will become more of a problem. It is a priority as a community that there are options to connect us to main centres such as Westgate in safe and easy ways. The cycleway is one way this can be achieved.

HPRS supports the ferry services not being impacted by budget cuts. The Hobsonville - Beach Haven ferry service is the crucial public transport connection to the City. It is the only direct public service transport option as the alternative public transport options are

limited. The ferry service is used daily by commuters and frequented by visitors on the weekends.

The local businesses in Catalina Bay benefit from the ferry service, in particular the Catalina Bay Farmers Markets. It would be good to see this service not only impacted but improved to have more regular sailings.

HPRS does not support the cancellation of community events such as Music in the Parks. These events are enjoyed by the community and were missed during the COVID-19 period. They provide a connection and socialisation point for the community which is critical in a high density area.

HPRS does not support the reduction of community grants. The Hobsonville Community Trust receives a community grant. Community members are able to apply for events that bring communities together. These events range from newcomers gatherings to performance showcases. There are more than 15 events being hosted by the Hobsonville Community Trust this year. In a high density area it is really important that everyone has the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and celebrate their cultures.

HPRS supports the continuation of Scott Point Sustainable Sports Park. This is an area that will be used by Hobsonville Point residents regularly.

HPRS supports the construction of the Marine Centre in Hobsonville Point. This is not specifically listed as an activity where funding is going to be withdrawn; however, HPRS is invested in the outcome of the Marine Centre. HPRS has contributed \$200,000 in support of the Marine Centre. It is important that this facility including essential storage goes ahead with building expected to commence this year.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if there are any follow up questions or you would like to meet with the committee and go through this.

Ngā mihi,

Chair of Hobsonville Point Residents Society

Deputy Chair of Hobsonville Point Residents Society

Hobsonville Point Residents Society Committee Member

Hobsonville Point Residents Society Committee Member

Hobsonville Point Residents Society Committee Member

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.	
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What do you think of these proposals? Pleases see attached.

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?

Pleases see attached.

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34351



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Tell us why:

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Tell us why:

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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: Keep Supporting CABs
Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 8:11:50 pm

28 Mar 2023

Continued Support for CABs

I strongly urge Auckland Council to maintain full financial support for CABs. They serve a massive and continuing swathe of residents, in ways that don't seem evident in some half dozen other countries I've lived in.

Personally, CABs have supported me on specific issues, but much more to the point, they support our fellow citizens and residents. The person in the street can't be expected to be on top of all items, given the complexities of modern life. CABs then fill the gap on information and advice. Staff are very well-informed, the process is confidential, and in very many cases the issues are resolved to an acceptable extent. (They can't of course work miracles: many present-day problems are intractable.)

CABs are a remarkably lean and reliable institution. It's good to know they also receive Government support, but they are in the unfortunate category of institution that should receive fully guaranteed and continuing tax and rate support. Ambulance care is another such category. But at this date, March 2023, the CABs' functioning is in doubt in Auckland City.

For the sake of the City, its communities and residents, it is vital for Auckland to continue its support of CABs. If doing so calls for borrowing, then so be it. It would still be within the financial window of City borrowing – it could take on debt without going into financial crisis.

Pt Chevalier

Some people fear we won't return to a pre-Covid world. Some of us fear we already have.



34352



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?

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

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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

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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.

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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What do you think of these proposals?

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

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From:
To: [Mayor of Auckland Media](#)
Cc: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: Light Rail system
Date: Thursday, 23 March 2023 6:20:01 pm

Dear Mayor of Auckland, Wayne Brown,

I know you have concerns regarding the cost and suitability of the proposed new light rail system from CBD to the airport. I agree. I wonder if you have been given a factual and unbiased idea of how close the technology is to deliver an alternative, highly flexible public transport system that will run on existing roads with almost zero operating costs.

I am talking about autonomous electric minibus/robotaxis. The technology required to achieve this utopian concept actually exists right now and even the most difficult problem (self driving) will achieve regulatory approval much sooner than the expected delivery of the light rail system.

Imagine a public transport system that is not constrained by rails and can go anywhere that passenger loads demand. Users will use their app to find when the next transport will arrive at their closest stop, direct them how to get there, tell the vehicle that someone is waiting and then advise the central planning software of the total demand on that route. More or less transports can immediately be redirected to balance available transports to demand. Most of this logic already exists in the current Uber and Tesla apps.

Transport vehicles will probably be much smaller 6-10 person vehicles that can be mass produced at lower cost per seat than large buses, take less space on the roads and allow better load balancing. Currently, vehicles can travel 500-800km on a single charge. That's around 10-15 return trips from CBD to Airport. Recharging the battery takes around 45minutes.

Running costs are tiny because:-

- there is no driver,
- power is generated by solar panels located at the terminal charging bays
- these vehicles have few moving parts so maintenance is minimal (my Tesla has had 1 minor fault in 6 years, no oil changes, no new brake pads).
- Tesla are building their first robo-taxi product in Mexico starting in 2024. Details to be announced in a few months.

Trip charging can be easily handled automatically by the app. Or maybe there is no need to charge at all, since operating costs are so low. Think what that would do for Auckland traffic.

Since electric vehicles have no emissions, major routes by fully underground tunnels become realistic if traffic does become a problem. See Las Vegas tunnel system.

There is a great deal of mis-information from the media regarding Tesla vehicles and their self-driving capability but I have seen it working and they are 99% there. The edge cases being covered now will take some time to completely cover but the solutions to these are being driven by automated AI reviewing millions of miles of video from the 3 million vehicles already on the roads, being sent to Tesla in a continuous stream. It might take another year or two but there is no doubt that it will happen. Actual accident data on Tesla cars using self driving shows they already travel 10x as many miles between accidents as

the average across all vehicles.

I am sure you have access to the best technology experts in the country so I haven't attached supporting data to this email. However, I will be happy to do so if it helps.

This solution to Auckland's public transport problems looks like a no-brainer right now. Imagine how you would feel in 2030 when you unveil the first of our 19th century technology light rail system while the rest of the world has been using robo-taxis since 2025. Ouch.

Best regards,

Retired



34357



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

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From:
Sent: Friday, 24 March 2023 2:54 pm
To: AKHaveYourSay
Subject: Fwd: Submission on Auckland Council Budget 2023/24

While it is accepted that Auckland Council faces some tough decisions in relation to the 2023/24 budget, and beyond, there does appear to be some inequities within the proposals put forward to 'balance the books'.

Numerous commentaries have emerged on the need to reduce 'in house' spending for the general operation of Auckland Council, with a range of views as to how this is best achieved. It is for the Governing Body to make decisions on the best approach to this issue.

However much media attention has focused on cuts to a number of basic community services provided by Auckland Council. While it is just and proper for every part of Auckland Council funded activity to be 'put under the microscope', I would submit that there are better ways to achieve the result.

One example of a proposed cut in funding is the \$2,000,000 reduction in funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau. While not a huge amount in the overall Council picture, this reduction will severely curtail the activities of this well regarded basic service provided by Auckland Council.

There is an alternative to this funding cut to achieve the same level of saving.

All 'departments' of Auckland Council have been called upon to achieve a suitable level of cost reduction.

However at the Governing Body meeting to consider sending out for consultation the Operational Plan 2023/24 (budget) of the Tupuna Maunga Authority, the chair of the Authority made the point that this year's Operational Plan was within the levels stated in the 10 year budget 2021 - 2031.

The Funding Envelope for the Tupuna Maunga Authority for 2023/24, presented in the 10 year plan, was \$12,878,000.

While the Authority chair is correct with his statement, this disregards the requirement for all Auckland Council funded entities to achieve a suitable level of cost reduction in the coming year.

The Authority chair's statement that he was 'hopeful' that a level of saving could be achieved is simply not acceptable.

As an alternative to reducing funding of the Citizens Advice Bureau organisation by \$2,000,000, I propose the following reduction of funding to the Tupuna Maunga Authority for the 2023/24 year, based on costs contained in the Operational Plan 2023/24.

Note: All reductions in funding are from the Capital Expenditure budget. No reduction in the Operational Expenditure budget is proposed.

1) From page 26 - Network-wide Programmes

Capital Expenditure Programme
Protection and restoration of integrity of the Tupuna Maunga
Network-wide Vegetation Restoration programme to remove vegetation and
reinststate and/or revegetate in accordance with the
IMP. \$1,100,000

Note: This programme is for removal of non-native trees on the maunga and replanting of native species.

Based on previous years expenditure (obtained via LGOIMA request) it is possible to determine

that the replanting part of this programme is no more than \$60,000 of the total \$1,160,000 allocated to this programme.

2) From page 36 - Maungarei/Mt Wellington
Capital Expenditure Programme
Storytelling and Cultural Infrastructure
Programme to develop unique infrastructure that brings Mana Whenua stories and values to life on the
Maunga \$800,000

Note: Currently out for consultation is the Individual Maunga Plan for Maungarei/Mt Wellington.

This plan includes a proposal to build a 'Replica Pa' on the Maunga.
To spend \$800,000 on such a project in the current fiscal climate is completely unacceptable.



From page 45 - Maungawhau/Mt Eden
Capital Expenditure Programme
Ancillary visitor infrastructure
Upgrade of wharepaku/toilets and other visitor
infrastructure \$300,000

Note: The current toilet block on Maungawhau/Mt Eden was constructed in 2020.
To spend \$300,00 on upgrades to a three year old facility is completely unacceptable.



**Total reduction of funding for Tupuna Maunga Authority
2023/24**

\$2,200,000

This reduction in funding will have no detrimental effect on the maunga of Auckland, and will allow Auckland Council to continue funding Citizens Advice Bureau at the required levels.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sandringham
Auckland



34358



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: Submission re Ak Annual Budget Plan 2023
Date: Monday, 27 March 2023 5:47:55 pm

Submission re Auckland Annual Budget Plan 2023

From - Aged 75+ - Male Human

1 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

- I oppose the closure or retrenchment of any branches.

2 LIBRARY BRANCHES

- I oppose closure of any branch or restriction of operating hours.

3 FINANCING THE ABOVE

- DISBAND THE CONTROVERSIAL/DIVISIVE MAUNGA 'AUTHORITY' and
- HEAVILY REDUCE TOP-TIER MANAGEMENT SALARIES OF WATERCARE and OTHER CCOs
- REDIRECT FUNDS to maintain CAB, LIBRARY, ARTS and SOCIAL SERVICES.

4 MAUNGA ACROSS AUCKLAND ISTHMUS

- I oppose the threatened (arbitrary and complete) felling of exotic trees.
- Native trees should be planted alongside exotics and - when mature - **PERHAPS REMOVE** the latter species.
- Any such culling shouldn't be undertaken before a referendum of Auckland citizens approves the operation.
- I oppose the introduction of the "COMMERCIAL FRAMEWORK" for MAUNGA - as proposed in the Plan.

5 PUBLIC SWIMMING FACILITIES FOR AVONDALE

- Develop plans and timeline for providing a Council-owned pool complex in Avondale.

6 EREBUS MEMORIAL

- I oppose the concept of a Memorial to mark an ignominious disaster that should not be celebrated.
- I suggest that all elected Councillors and Board members should visit the mass grave of Erebus victims at WAIKUMETE CEMETERY.
- SINCERE QUESTION - How many of you know it exists?

- This long-established burial site and Memorial Structure is an aesthetically beautiful resting place.
- SERIOUS QUESTION - Why waste money and public space on an unnecessary edifice so long after the tragedy?

Thank you for reading this.

Avondale
Auckland 1026
Ph