



Date: Monday 24 April 2023

Annual Budget 2023-2024

Local Board Not Supplied

**WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 5
(34361-34585)**

Sub #	Organisation Name	Local Board	Volume
34361		I don't know	5
34362		I don't know	5
34368		I don't know	5
34369		I don't know	5
34381	CPR Consultants (Comparative Performance Resources)	I don't know	5
34383		I don't know	5
34394		I don't know	5
34397		I don't know	5
34402		I don't know	5
34409		I don't know	5
34423		I don't know	5
34430	Philanthropy New Zealand	I don't know	5
34432	Waimuku Scouts Committee	I don't know	5
34435	The Tree Council	I don't know	5
34436		I don't know	5
34453		I don't know	5
34461	The Tindall Foundation	I don't know	5
34473		I don't know	5
34475		I don't know	5
34480		I don't know	5
34483		I don't know	5
34487		I don't know	5
34488		I don't know	5
34498		I don't know	5
34502	Massey & Birdwood Settlers Association Incorporated	I don't know	5
34509		I don't know	5
34515		I don't know	5
34523	Lake House Arts	I don't know	5
34528	Auckland Action Against Poverty	I don't know	5
34530		I don't know	5
34532		I don't know	5
34535	Friends of the Earth	I don't know	5
34545		I don't know	5
34551		I don't know	5
34556		I don't know	5
34558	Akina Foundation	I don't know	5
34567	West Auckland Collective Voice	I don't know	5
34571	Snells Shoreline Conservation Community	I don't know	5
34575	Wiri Business Association	I don't know	5
34585		I don't know	5



34361



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.

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Important privacy information

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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: No Cuts To Arts
Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 7:54:46 pm

Dear Ak Council,

It's vitally important to keep funding for the arts, museum, libraries and Citizens Advice Bureaus.

I entreat all in council to vote against the \$36.5 M cuts that have been proposed.

I have used all the services mentioned and find them important to keep me connected with research, education and legal matters.

I am a practitioner in the arts.

I have helped new migrants write letters on the library computers, I've also used the WI-FI myself.

One of the hardest things for me during lockdown was not being able to access the libraries . I'm very pleased that they are open again and not charging overdue fees.

I have used the CAB in relation to family violence, legal advice and signing documents.

I see MANY older people who are not computer literate using the CAB and library services, as well as young people improving their literacy in the libraries. Librarians are hard working professionals and can't be replaced by volunteers.

Societies dispense with the arts and social networks at their peril. They help to keep us cohesive.

I suggest borrowing money to get through this next period - Auckland is still being affected by COVID-19 related changes.

One thing that could be cut, if Central Govt would agree, is halting the light rail project.

Nga mihi,



34362



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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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 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: Community services and regional grants are very important and support for local

events eg: arts, critical for a functional community. Sports receive substantial funds, as do youth projects. Art events benefit older citizens who have contributed much during their lives and their interests should be given equal consideration in funding allocations.

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:

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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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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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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: Regional grants
Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 3:25:18 pm

Community services and regional grants are very important and support for local events eg: arts, critical for a functional community. Sports receive substantial funds, as do youth projects. Art events benefit older citizens who have contributed much during their lives and their interests should be given equal consideration in funding allocations.



34368



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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: I strongly object to the cuts in Budget proposed by Auckland Council which will take much needed support

from a large range and number of community facilities which exist to enhance the arts and provide social, legal and environmental support to community well-being.

As well as a focus on material aspects of property, buildings and rates, Council has a significant role to play in the well-being of local communities. Community well-being relates not just to shared geographical position, features, climate etc but also to facilities shared and enjoyed by community members. As an island with a diverse geography and socio-economic population, Waiheke character differs markedly from other Auckland suburbs; we are particularly dependant on our community facilities for well-being .

The role of community facilities administered by Council is particularly significant to community well-being here.

The Waiheke Library, Artworks, Art Gallery, parks, reserves, sports facilities and other facilities are well used and much needed features of our life here. That these should face the threat of funding cuts is reprehensible, particularly as many of them already rely hugely on volunteer labour to function. Funding cuts will severely reduce their ability to function effectively, as will the threat of increased rental for facilities on Council owned land. Such intent is deplorable.

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:

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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: Objection to Proposed Auckland Council Budget Cuts
Date: Saturday, 25 March 2023 4:46:09 pm

I strongly object to the cuts in Budget proposed by Auckland Council which will take much needed support from a large range and number of community facilities which exist to enhance the arts and provide social, legal and environmental support to community well-being.

As well as a focus on material aspects of property, buildings and rates, Council has a significant role to play in the well-being of local communities. Community well-being relates not just to shared geographical position, features, climate etc but also to facilities shared and enjoyed by community members. As an island with a diverse geography and socio-economic population, Waiheke character differs markedly from other Auckland suburbs; we are particularly dependant on our community facilities for well-being .

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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: Submission on Auckland Council Budget. Judith Tizard.
Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 9:25:12 pm

Submission to Auckland Council Annual Budget, 2023/2024 consultation document.

I note that the Local Government Act 2002 states that,
...the purpose of local government is - (a)to enable democratic local decision-making and action by and on behalf of communities
and (b) promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present, and for the future.

Similar choices, like those, being presented in the Discussion document by the Council have recurred reasonably frequently, over the history of Auckland.

I hope that the stark choices offered to Councillors, Local Board members, and to the residents and ratepayers of Auckland, are at best, an attempt to focus minds, and at worst, catastrophising.

I recognise that Auckland Council along with the rest of New Zealand faces major financial challenges. These have been compounded by the not unexpected storms that have hit Auckland and the rest of New Zealand recently.

The idea that libraries, galleries, museums, community cultural and sporting facilities, halls and community events, built and developed over the history of Auckland, should all be destroyed, this year, in response to these challenges would seem to be an irresponsible overreaction to short term pressures

All of Auckland's facilities and activities represent the investment of rates, donations and private equity, staff, training and voluntary input. These along with community goodwill, will be impossible to replace if they are lost.

Long-term damage can be done to the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of Auckland now, and in the future, if ill considered, short term measures are taken with no serious concern for the consequences.

Many Aucklanders, of all ages, now work in the creative sectors, including event management (including sports events), film and television sectors, the digital gaming industry, music, comedy, theatre, visual arts, dance and community festivals.

Without the opportunities for people to craft their skills in these areas and in the many community facilities, halls and centres, provided by AC, Auckland's economy, including hospitality and tourism, will be damaged along with its social and cultural wellbeing. This will result in less revenue able to be used to improve the environment as well.

I further, observe that during the 18 years I served as an Auckland Member of Parliament, and the 9 years I was Associate Minister for Arts Culture and Heritage, Associate Minister of Transport and Minister for Auckland, my test for advocating Government investment, was the level of investment Local Authorities had committed, and planned to commit for the future of any project.

If this Council does not think the organisations, facilities and activities that you are proposing will be cut back or destroy, are worthy of Aucklanders' investment, I see no reason taxpayers across New Zealand should be expected to fill the gaping holes you have created.

I ask the council to look at innovative and cost-effective ways to use our wide range of facilities better, to increase that infrastructure and to include as many Aucklanders as possible, especially young people, in a wide range of community activities that may lead to business and career opportunities alongside the "well-beings".

I did not see anyone elected to the Auckland Council, proposing this destruction of Auckland's economic, social and cultural infrastructure during the recent election campaign.

I had hoped to see and hear positive, innovative, contemporary, broad ranging and inclusive suggestions for Auckland's future. That is not what I see in your discussion document.

I urge Councillors to consider all four aspects of the purpose, set out for them, in the local Government Act 2002.

Ponsonby
Auckland 1011.



34381



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): CPR Consultants (Comparative Performance Resources)

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Please see attached.

Important privacy information

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34383



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:

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? 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	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.	Do not support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

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34394



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?

Other

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: False economy to reduce CAB and other community services. This could result in many extra phone calls to Auckland Council for info and advice which they are not qualified or able to answer - so who/where would they refer people to if the appropriate agencies had been axed/reduced?

However, some savings could be made, e.g. in libraries, who could ask their customers for suggestions.

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: Get professional economic advice from someone who can look at ALL costs vs. benefits and freeze unintended consequences as much as possible - an overseas expert perhaps who has already been through this sort of exercise.

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? I don't know

Tell us why: It depends - businesses which can claim tax on their rates could pay more (equivalent to receiving contribution from central govt.) Perhaps some cut of spending scale to give relief to small businesses?

Residents cannot usually claim rates against tax. B

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.

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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.	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? Tricky - some services should be free to encourage their use, some could be more "user pays". Again, get advice from overseas countries who have already been through these issues? E.g. UK for decades have utilised receptacles in supermarkets/libraries wh

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?

Deeply disappointed with the local "Have You Say" forums. Ours was like a cocktail party without the cocktails. We needed board members to address us with the salient points then ask the audience for their reactions, suggestions, show of hands, etc. AND t

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34397



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: 1) Agree with 99% of the budget, honesty is great to see our money being valued.

2) Don't agree with the Citizens Advice cuts,

I know people who I have taken and have used citizen advice services, very very useful for people who don't know where to turn and have limited resources

This will have unintended consequences

3) Wondering though the budget online is very time consuming and not ebay to do. This really needs to be worked on for future years.

Overall, I'm very happy.

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

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Debt

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: Re Budget
Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 8:26:51 pm

Hi Team

I will keep it short

- 1) Agree with 99% of the budget, honesty is great to see our money being valued.
- 2) Don't agree with the Citizens Advice cuts,
 - I know people who I have taken and have used citizen advice services, very very useful for people who don't know where to turn and have limited resources
 - This will have unintended consequences
- 3) Wondering though the budget online is very time consuming and not ebay to do. This really needs to be worked on for future years.

Overall, I'm very happy.
Regards



34402



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 services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$22 million
- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Please see attached.

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34409



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
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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: My concern is for the arts. No civilisation is without arts. A city such as this, a major

urban centre for the Pacific, cannot afford to be unfriendly to the arts.

This is because:-

1. The arts are an industry in themselves. Grants from the authorities serve as “pump primers” for an important aspect of the economy.
2. The arts are central to tourism.
3. The arts are central to education, teaching children important life skills.
4. The arts contribute to New Zealand's being a good place to live. New Zealand depends heavily on skilled immigrants.

Accordingly I am opposed to any cuts in expenditure which affect the arts. On the

contrary, I would support increases. If inflation is running at 7.5% it will require an increase in expenditure of 8.1% just to stand still.

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: I have no comments on these.

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?

Tell us why: In my view the Council should prefer to increase the rates rather than to borrow more.

Interest rates are currently high, and unlikely to fall to pre-Covid levels. Borrowing shifts the burden forward to people other than the current voters who will have to

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: I have no comments on these.

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).	
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? I have no comments on these.

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

I have no comments on these.

Important privacy information

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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Date: Thursday, 23 March 2023 11:43:56 am

4 Fantail Crescent
Maraetai
Auckland
2018 New Zealand

Auckland Council

By email

Tel.

23 March 2023

Dear Sirs,

Have your say

I write to respond to your invitation to respond to the consultation on Auckland's budget. I have tried to complete the online form, but find it impossible to copy or scan it. Therefore I write instead.

Operational Spending reductions

My concern is for the arts. No civilisation is without arts. A city such as this, a major urban centre for the Pacific, cannot afford to be unfriendly to the arts. This is because:-

1. The arts are an industry in themselves. Grants from the authorities serve as "pump primers" for an important aspect of the economy.
2. The arts are central to tourism.
3. The arts are central to education, teaching children important life skills.
4. The arts contribute to New Zealand's being a good place to live. New Zealand depends heavily on skilled immigrants.

Accordingly I am opposed to any cuts in expenditure which affect the arts. On the contrary, I would support increases. If inflation is running at 7.5% it will require an increase in expenditure of 8.1% just to stand still.

Managing rates and debt.

In my view the Council should prefer to increase the rates rather than to borrow more. Interest rates are currently high, and unlikely to fall to pre-Covid levels. Borrowing shifts the burden forward to people other than the current voters who will have to repay the sums borrowed. Whilst debt is often a sensible investment when inflation is high, this only applies when incomes rise to keep pace with it. Currently they do not; net income is falling in real terms.

The Auckland rates represent good value for money. I do not think taxation is pernicious.

34409

The great American jurist, Oliver Wendell Holmes, in a 1927 judgment, famously said “Taxes are what we pay for a civilised society Arguably Auckland rates are currently too low. I certainly do not support reduced expenditure.

The rest of your questions

I have no comments on these.

Yours faithfully,



34423



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? 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? 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:

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.	Do not support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

More kids arts events

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34430



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Philanthropy 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
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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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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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34432



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Waimuku Scouts 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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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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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	
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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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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Cc:
Subject: Motutara Waimauku Scouts Glasgow Park
Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 8:47:40 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.gif](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hi there

I would like to oppose the proposed change to the council land lease fee from \$1 to \$1300 per annum.

An increase to \$1300 per year would put added financial pressure on our community groups already strained budget.

These costs would need to then be passed onto the families of our youth, who struggle to pay the term fees we are forced to charge now, with the extensive general cost increases.

As a group, we deliver a programme of lifelong learning through the scouting system, I don't want any youth to miss out on this opportunity!

Looking forward, we not only have to pay for all the maintenance, insurance, power, and all associated costs with our facility, to think we may also have to now pay \$13,000 over 10 years, instead of \$13 is unthinkable!!.

That's a completely unacceptable increase that we are going to get absolutely no benefit out of.

We aim to make our programme and facilities accessible for a minimum cost for as many youth in our community that can afford to access our full range of programmes on offer.

Please don't do this, it will have many significantly negative effects on our community


Waimauku Scouts Committee member
Parent of Scout youth



	qual 
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www.thetravelbrokers.co.nz/tanyafranklin/aboutme

Note that I will help you with advice, but ultimately it is the traveller’s responsibility to ensure that all documentation for their destination and transit requirements for their to travel is current, complete and valid.





34435



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): The Tree Council

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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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.

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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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Tell us why:

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Submission by The Tree Council on Annual Budget Proposal 2023-24, March 2023

28 March 2023

From: The Tree Council

Contact: , Secretary
, Titirangi, Auckland 0642

info@thetreecouncil.org.nz

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Thank you for the opportunity to present **The Tree Council's** submission on the **Annual Budget Proposal 2023-24**.
- 1.2. This submission is made by The Tree Council, an independent, voluntary organisation, a non-profit incorporated charitable society which has been serving the Auckland community since 1986 in the protection of trees and as advocates for the significant benefits and services that our trees and green spaces provide.
- 1.3. We wish to speak to our submission if that opportunity is provided.

2. Submission

- 2.1. The Mayoral budget is not currently focused on the priority areas that Auckland Council should be working on in the light of the climate change weather disasters we are facing with increasing frequency. Cuts to environmental and education programmes, public transport, libraries and essential social services such as

Citizen Advice Bureau are all part of the proposals and this will undermine and stop the responses that need to happen. Instead we want to see a stronger focus on the following priority areas in the budget.

3. We consider that these priority areas for investment should be:

- 3.1. Restoring access and services to areas affected by recent climatic events.
- 3.2. Working with the Government, EQC and insurance companies to give certainty to homeowners and offer to buy out those adversely affected by flooding or landslips.
- 3.3. These properties should have the dwellings removed, be converted to parks and planted with native trees to stabilise the land, soak up stormwater and restore our urban forest.
- 3.4. A comprehensive strategic region-wide review of infrastructure capacity and development zoning to indicate those areas of the city that can safely be intensified, as well as those that cannot.
- 3.5. All properties within potential flood zones (as indicated in Council Geomaps) should be given the option over time to be bought out and converted to park land. Our future city should plan to restore wetlands and forests in vulnerable areas with intensive well serviced development in safe areas.
- 3.6. Long term and regular monitoring and analysing of assets and infrastructure, including natural assets such as urban tree cover, so that investment in improvements and their effectiveness can be maximised.
- 3.7. Infrastructure renewals and more frequent maintenance, particularly of stormwater assets to ensure they will operate as designed when required. So much flooding of homes was caused by blocked drains.
- 3.8. Educational, public transport and social infrastructure also needs to be able to absorb intensification in these areas. Funding for community groups, such as those restoring the environment and providing social support to our communities, as well as services such as CAB, libraries and community houses should be increased (not cut) as the social and environmental outputs they produce far outweigh the small amount of funding they receive. Most of this funding comes from the discretionary Local Board budgets as well as the Natural Environment Targeted Rate and Grant Funding such as RENH and CCF.

4. Regarding the specific budget proposals we consider that:

- 4.1. Rates should increase to the current rate of inflation (7.2%). Anything less than this is a net cut at a time when the repair job for Auckland is of utmost importance.
- 4.2. Instead of making these drastic proposed cuts to operating budgets and services Council should increase borrowing up to the limit of its ability.
- 4.3. We oppose cuts to Local Board funding. If there are to be cuts to Local Board funding these cuts should be shared equally between all Local Boards.

- 4.4. We oppose cuts to environmental services. If there is one thing that recent events have shown it is how threatened our environment is and how much we rely on it. Now is the time to enhance environmental protection, not degrade it. Essential environmental programmes that are crucial to protecting everyone from severe weather should be enhanced, not cut by two-thirds. Essential work is at risk, like improving stormwater management and restoring wetlands to reduce the impact of floods.
- 4.5. We oppose cuts to funding grants for community groups. These groups perform a great deal of good, fill in the gaps where Council cannot afford to do the work themselves and cutting their funding at a time where community resilience is at a premium is a retrograde step to take. It will be terminal for many of these groups, which rely on a huge amount of volunteer effort, but need a paid coordinator to organise and implement that. This really is cutting off your nose to spite your face.
- 4.6. We oppose cuts to the Arts Sector. Out west the Arts are a major contributor to our quality of life as well as a huge benefit to the local economy. Council's investment in this area has direct tangible social and economic benefits for the entire region. We cut support at our peril.
- 4.7. As far as possible debt should be used to fund all activities where there is a long term benefit.
- 4.8. We oppose the sale of Airport Shares. These will start paying dividends again later this year and are appreciating in value. Selling them now will cost us in the long term.
- 4.9. We oppose cuts to public transport services. At a time when we have just experienced what climate change will bring more frequently we need to invest in getting more people out of their cars and onto public transport, not reducing service levels and making it harder to make that transition. We oppose the cutting of 588 bus trips per week.
- 4.10. We oppose the proposed "pause" in the Natural Environment Targeted Rate. This rate funds kauri dieback track upgrades, treatment support for landowners with kauri dieback, monitoring of the health of our forests and education for visitors to prevent further spread of the disease and predator control on our islands and the mainland. All this work supports the health of our environment and we need this to be healthy to keep us healthy by filtering our water, catching and intercepting rainfall, holding our soils and slopes together and cleaning our air. Having spent 5 years with large parts of the track network closed to protect kauri it is important to ensure this work continues as planned to enable safe access to our wild places, which are so important for mental and physical health and the health of our forests.
- 4.11. We oppose cuts to library services, Citizens Advice Bureau, homelessness services as these are essential for everyone's welfare in our region.
- 4.12. We oppose cuts to regional events and cultural programmes such as Music in Parks, CultureFest, Mahurangi Regional Park events, Arataki Visitor Centre events and Botanic Garden events, Auckland Heritage Festival, Pacific Arts

programming, Proud Centres and UNESCO City of Music along with support for exhibitions in council art facilities.

- 4.13. We oppose cuts to the Te Whau bike pathway and other green infrastructure to help people get out of their cars and reduce emissions.



34436



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.

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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.

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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 do you think of these proposals?

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

Tēnā koutou Mayor Brown and Councillors of Tāmaki Makaurau,

In solidarity with arts organisations, venues, companies, collectives, and artists across the region, we write to you to ensure that the voices of our artists, local communities and audiences are heard in the ongoing consultation of the Auckland Council Annual Budget of 2023/2024. We know that arts are part of the fabric that binds our communities together. They unite, they bring purpose, they tell our stories, and they represent the value of the city and what we can create together. Even just recently, events like Polyfest, Te Matatini, Pasifika Festival, Auckland Pride - not to mention the hundreds of events happening otherwise - demonstrate the immense value added to our collective culture: bringing people together, and even enabling the moving of pūtea for our hospitality, accommodation, and tourism sectors. We're calling for you to reconsider the balance sheet for the Annual Budget. Cutting local board community grants, programmes for regional events, and social services available to our artists and audiences creates conditions where artists lose incomes. This isn't a necessity and will undermine the conditions for artists to create, survive and live in this wonderful city.

Rather, we ask Auckland Council to consider the submission of A Better Budget For Auckland, which describes a variety of other ways the books can be balanced: increasing borrowing, the existing proposed rates increase, unfreezing the Water Quality Targeted Rate and the Natural Environment Targeted Rate, possible further rates increases or new targeted rates, and requesting further support from central government in the context of the recent floods and cyclone are all still on the table.

Our sector has had it hard the last few years, and we recognise this is a lived experience for many across Tāmaki Makaurau with the budget needing to take into consideration much-needed resourcing across the city. And yet, we know that you can choose to prioritise the liveability of the city, the value of our arts and culture rōpū, and the impact we have on making this city the best it can be. Support our sector.

Noho ora mai,

Co-authors

Basement Theatre

Artspace Aotearoa

Objectspace

Silo Theatre

Corbans Arts Estate Centre

Te Pou Theatre

Whammy Bar

Signatories

Youth Arts New Zealand

Massive Theatre Company

PANNZ (Performing Arts Network NZ)

D.A.M.N

The New Zealand Dance Company

Q Theatre Ltd

Te Uru

Musical Theatre New Zealand

Te Whare Roto o Toi - Lake House Arts

Ngā Rangatahi Toa

Indian Ink Theatre Company

NIGHTSONG

Experimental Dance Week

New Zealand Dance Festival Trust/Tempo

Auckland Pride

Auckland Chamber Orchestra

New Zealand Writers Guild | Puni Taatuhi o Aotearoa

Vunilagi Vou

Whau the people

Proudly Asian Theatre

Red Leap Theatre

SquareSums&Co. Ltd

The Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi

Arts Makers Aotearoa

Auckland Writers Festival

Audio Foundation

The New Zealand Comedy Trust | Producers of the NZ International Comedy Festival Taurima

Vibes

The Hollywood Avondale
DEPOT
Gus Fisher Gallery
Black Creatives Aotearoa
Prayas Theatre NZ
Me

(Also I am dyslexic, so there maybe a few mistakes :))
Ngā manaakitanga (With Best Wishes)



34453



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

Please see attached.

Important privacy information

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From:**Sent:** Monday, 27 March 2023 4:14 pm**To:** Mayor Wayne Brown <Mayor.Wayne.Brown@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>**Subject:** Saving Auckland City Costs

Dear Mr Mayor,

I love the cost cutting approach you are taking and thought I would add some comments that hopefully you accept with interest.

I am an ex General Manager with an engineering, manufacturing and marketing background and I just love studying spreadsheets to identify opportunities to cut costs and/or that offer opportunities to do things better.

(I also was a 'work study' engineer and once saved a factory worker walking 20 km per day .) I'll give you a brief example in a moment that I've just recently 'dreamt up' but also thought there are probably dozens if not hundreds of retired guys just like me that at our age think we know everything and have heaps of ideas, so why not get a group together and challenge us to brainstorm and constructively analyze some of the council's recent budgets to identify meaningful areas to be addressed. (How about \$200 per 4 hour days, and an incentive being a small percentage of the savings made? Not bad when I used to charge \$2,000 per day)

My latest idea:

Background. It has always annoyed me when Watercare spends many hundreds of thousands of dollars persuading us to 'save water', because they hadn't planned for an adequate supply.

My approach is that they should have so much water that they are letting everyone use as much as they like and making a **profit** from their sales. (The profit plus marketing cost savings would be meaningful.)

One of the possible design concepts:

- a. Establish several additional holding 'lakes or similar'. Consider large 'poor or waste land' areas that could be converted into a reservoir, and/or old quarries (e.g. Hunua and Stevenson's), or areas like the Waikato North Head NZ Steel mine site.
- b. Cover these storage areas with solar panels.(Above max water level.) These will run your pumps as well as their shadows will minimize evaporation losses. And the annual power generated would probably give an additional income.
- c. Negotiate access to pump water from meaningful several rivers and streams on the basis that water the extraction will primarily occur immediately prior to, during and immediately after heavy rain fall and flooding periods. (Hopefully even minimizing some flooding affects) Some such agreements would probably be for additional periods when the river levels allowed for it. E.g., the Waikato river)
- d. If these water supply arrangements were at a nil purchase price (free water), had no pumping costs due to your solar supply to your pumps, you would certainly be better off on several fronts, especially to your bottom-line costs, and also to your long-term planning for a critical product needed for a city that will continue to grow.

Kind Regards



34461



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): The Tindall Foundation

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.

Waste management rates changes	
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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).
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27th March 2023

Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
AUCKLAND 1142

Via email: Mayor.Wayne.Brown@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
Desley.simpson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Submission from The Tindall Foundation to Auckland Council on the Proposed 2023-24 Budget

This submission is made in respect of the proposed Auckland Council budget for the 2023-24 financial year. In particular, it focuses on the budget's proposals with regard to the Council's future funding for the social and community sector.

The Tindall Foundation

The Tindall Foundation is a family philanthropic funder and investor in community and environmental projects. While it has a national focus, a significant proportion of its annual funding (\$12-14M) is distributed to community and environmental groups in the wider Auckland region. The Tindall Foundation has a long history of working in relationship with Auckland Council, co-funding and supporting initiatives that reflect our shared interest in improving the communities and environment of Auckland, especially for those who are less privileged, marginalised or excluded.

The Social Impact of Council's Proposed Budget

The Foundation appreciates that the Council faces financial challenges, and its proposed budget sets out some options to address them. We are, however, very concerned about the reduction in funding for community groups and initiatives, and the impact this will have on those services, the communities they serve now, and for future generations of Aucklanders.

The Council proposes saving \$20M by reducing the number of Council-delivered community and social programmes, and a further \$16M by reducing the funding allocation to Local Boards by 5%. We also note the suggestion that Local Boards recover actual maintenance and lease costs from community leaseholders.

Council documents acknowledge the impact this reduction will have on local community programmes - fewer activities and services, affecting those who are especially reliant on those services. A reduction in Council and Local Board discretionary opex funding will put at risk programmes in areas such as homelessness, connected communities, economic and social transformation in South and West Auckland, and youth skills training and development. In many cases it is acknowledged by Council, that this will result in the permanent closure and loss of those services.

Many of those services have been developed over years of careful relationship-building across communities. Capacity in the community sector is always limited, and capability is hard to recapture once lost. It will not be easy to regain those relationships and community knowledge, or to restart those services when they are needed again in the future.

Building Resilience in Communities

The recent weather-related events in Auckland required an immediate response from community organisations. That response came largely from groups and organisations which will be impacted by the Council's proposed budget cuts. Key to building resilience in communities is the need to have enduring institutions that we can always rely on in times of crisis or other need. The Council's proposed cuts undermine the social infrastructure which is key to the resilience of communities to be prepared for those times.

Devaluing of the Community Sector

The Tindall Foundation has long-standing relationships with the community and environmental sectors. Over time we have witnessed the gradual devaluing of those sectors by statutory funding agencies through underfunding and underinvestment in their future capacity and capability. The proposed cuts to Auckland Council's community services budgets are a further blow to the morale of a sector already struggling to cope with increasingly complex demands. It demonstrates to those sectors that, despite our reliance on them, to Auckland Council they are not a priority.

Philanthropy Can't Fill the Gap

In its budget documentation, the Council appears to assume that the risk from cuts to its community funding can be mitigated by funding from alternative sources, including community funders like The Tindall Foundation. To our knowledge, there has been no engagement by Council with the philanthropic funding sector about the likelihood of the funding gap being filled. While The Tindall Foundation and other community funders enjoy co-funding relationships with Auckland Council, we are unable to collectively fill the gap that will be left, especially as we face increased demands this year from communities affected by economic recession and natural disasters.

As well as the loss of community services, those co-funding relationships will also be lost. It is disappointing that the Council doesn't acknowledge the value of those co-funding relationships in any of its budget documents.

From the material provided by the Council in the consultation process, there are clearly other options available, including increasing the Council's debt, holding targeted rates, and selling all or part of the Council's shares in Auckland Airport.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide a brief submission. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this further.

Ngaa mihi,

Co-Founder

Manager



34473



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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- 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: Please see attached.

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: Have my say about the Budget...
Date: Sunday, 26 March 2023 10:00:56 am

Hi Mr. Brown,

I would suggest:

- * sell shares in Auckland Airport
- * borrowing should stop
- * new developments have to wait...

With money from shares, pay off debt...

All the projects, which were started, should be finished in order of priority...

When there is no money available, some of those projects have to be stopped until there is money available...

We have to learn, to work within a budget...

The rates rises have to stop.

Cheers,

Wellsford.



34475



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 regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Proceed with the proposed reductions

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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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? 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.

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(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:

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34480



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: I write to you now as an individual volunteering with the Centrestage Theatre in

Orewa, which is engaged in the delivery of Arts, Culture and Heritage in outer Auckland Area. I implore you to reconsider the potentially harmful impacts on everyone, if such drastic funding cuts are made to the numerous Arts, Culture and Heritage Events held each year.

It will have such negative effects on the many Facilities, Organizations and individuals involved in creating the vibrancy that makes Auckland and its surrounds such a great place to live. Auckland's people are what make this city, and it is quantifiable and proven that 1.5 million of them enjoy the existing levels of Arts, Culture and Heritage on offer

at present.

I hope you will consider what it means to take 36 million dollars (from Local Board

Allocations, Regional Arts and Heritage Funding, Grants and More) away from

those people

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Tell us why:

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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:

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

Important privacy information

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Subject: Proposed budget cuts

Kia ora Koutou,

I write to you now as an individual volunteering with the Centrestage Theatre in Orewa, which is engaged in the delivery of Arts, Culture and Heritage in outer Auckland Area. I implore you to reconsider the potentially harmful impacts on everyone, if such drastic funding cuts are made to the numerous Arts, Culture and Heritage Events held each year. It will have such negative effects on the many Facilities, Organizations and individuals involved in creating the vibrancy that makes Auckland and its surrounds such a great place to live.

Auckland's people are what make this city, and it is quantifiable and proven that 1.5 million of them enjoy the existing levels of Arts, Culture and Heritage on offer at present.

I hope you will consider what it means to take 36 million dollars (from Local Board Allocations, Regional Arts and Heritage Funding, Grants and More) away from those people.

Orewa



34483



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:

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

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What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

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----- Forwarded message -----

From:

Date: Tue, 28 Mar 2023, 11:27

Subject:

My letter below as to why we must not cut back on Auckland Library Services was published in the Auckland Herald on .

Regards

----- Forwarded message -----

From:

Date: Sat, 25 Mar 2023, 16:46

Subject:

To:

As an immigrant to Auckland, what I loved the most about this city is its excellent world class library system.

I understand there are 55 branches in the greater Auckland area. One one can search for, reserve, hold and request the book or dvd to be sent to one's nearest library branch to be picked up.

This is even better than in Sydney for example where one can only request and reserve resources from the particular area of Sydney one lives in.

It is also much better than my original home nation which,although it is a developed nation, has few libraries, unlike Auckland.

Therefore. please do not cut down our library services and resources as the libraries are a vital resource for the community. It is a great place to hang out, to read, use the internet, and also take part in various activities like book clubs for example.

We are paying very high rates for a relatively small city population wise so I expect our excellent library services to be maintained.

If the intention is to cut down the expenses of the cash strapped Auckland Council, I would suggest reducing the numbers of staff who are earning more than \$100000 per annum and stop employing consultants or contractors who over-charge and then do a bad job. We can also cut down on expensive projects in the future.

In addition,we can earn more revenue by imposing a surcharge on foreign tourists staying in our hotels and motels,especially in the 3 stars and above category.

Written by:

Auckland 2105



34487



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

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What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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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:

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

Tell us why:

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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

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What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

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From:

Sent: Friday, 24 March 2023 5:23 pm

To:

Subject: Funding Cuts impacts to Arts and Culture

Kia ora Koutou,

I write to you now to implore you to reconsider the impacts on everyone if funding is cut to arts, culture and Heritage events, facilities, organisations and individuals.

Auckland's people and experiences are what make this city, and it is quantifiable and proven that 1.5 million of them enjoy arts, culture and heritage at a community and transitional community to professional level. This figure does not include the countless others also enjoying and experiencing Arts, Culture and Heritage at professional, festival and large-scale event levels.

I hope you will consider what it means to take 36 million dollars (from Local Board Allocations, Regional Arts and Heritage Funding, Grants and More) away from those people. The impacts this will have on many levels will damage the fabric of our community, now and in the future...

Artists such as myself, will not be able to survive without avenues of income. Many artists rely on funding to support their work, and without it, we may not be able to create art or earn a living.

As a visual artist who has recently exhibited in several community art galleries/institutions, including the Angela Morton Room at the Takapuna Library, The Franklin Arts Centre, Lake House Gallery and Northart, I have experienced the value of these institutions in providing not only wonderful exhibition venues and sites of high public exposure, but extensive community involvement in topics relevant to the communities and society as a whole.

An example of this was a talk facilitated in conjunction with my investigative work on Te

Maketu, as part of the exhibition *This Place* at the Franklin Art Centre. This talk involved the Kaumatua and National Treasure, Sir Harre Williams, speaking on-site at the Te Matuku Reserve, cemetery and Pa site in Ramarama. He spoke about the history of the site and the wider area and generously shared his cultural insights and wisdom with the audience. More than sixty people attended this event, including the old and young. He summed up his talk with the following.

"We stand for something, now the envy of nations, Manaakitanga, Aroha, Rangatiratanga, Kaitiakitanga...for all that is fair in an unequal world - which is more inclusive and embracing". Sir Harre Williams

The proposed cuts to contestable grants, regional services, local board funding and Tātaki Auckland, while small in terms of the Council's overall budget, will have an outsize impact on our arts, culture and creative sector. These exhibitions and associated events would not have been possible without the support of the community institutions involved, and the subsidising of costs with very modest community arts grants. Not only are the community arts an important part of the fabric of our society, but they also play an important role in building awareness, and understanding and help to create a path toward a harmonious future.

Arts and cultural practices have been shown to promote mental health and well-being. Cutting funding in this area will have negative impacts on the mental health of individuals in the community.

Accessibility for grassroots initiatives, youth and emerging artists access to learn and share their talents will also be affected by the lack of funding. Community organizations and groups will not be able to provide affordable or free learning opportunities, which will limit the development of talent and creativity in the community.

The local economy will also be impacted by the lack of arts and heritage funding. The arts and cultural sectors contribute significantly to the economy, creating jobs and opportunities for local businesses. Without proper funding, this sector may suffer, leading to job losses and economic decline.

The removal of funding will negatively impact the connectivity between people and intergenerational learning. The arts and cultural practices often provide opportunities for people to come together, share ideas and experiences, and learn from one another across generations. Removing funding from this area will lead to a loss of these valuable opportunities for connection and learning.

Access to affordable learning, making community group partnerships, fun, social cohesion, recreation, creating a sense of place, and providing support networks and places for healing and personal growth can also be negatively impacted by the removal of funding. These practices often provide a sense of community and belonging and can be crucial in building support networks for individuals and groups who may be struggling or marginalized.

Thousands of exhibitions will disappear, and tens of thousands of artists will be directly affected by the lack of funding. Art exhibitions provide opportunities for artists to showcase their work and earn income, and without them, many artists may struggle to make a living.

The Council's continuing support for our creative community, commissioning of creative work, the grants available to support arts organisations, and the Council's support for arts infrastructure, such as our galleries, is essential to our recovery from Covid 19. I ask Auckland Council not to proceed with the proposed cuts to contestable grants, regional services, local board funding and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited.

1.5 million participants and attendees will miss out on the cultural events and experiences that the arts provide at a community level (not counting the millions who enjoy free festivals and events provided to communities). These events will be crucial in building community, fostering creativity, and providing opportunities for learning and growth.

Arts, culture and heritage funding cuts in Auckland will have a significant negative impact on education, particularly in terms of accessible and affordable classes, as well as the livelihoods of independent teachers and art educators. According to a report by The Conversation, affordable and accessible classes, often not available elsewhere, will be unavailable, and independent teachers will lose the accessible and affordable space to deliver classes. The loss of art education programs for both adults and kids will lead to the loss of income for thousands of teachers and the livelihoods of thousands of art teachers, as classes or students/parents may not be able to afford them.

Moreover, the loss of accessible art education programs will lead to students young and old losing precious brain and skill development essential for a full life. Confidence and resilience can also be lost through a lack of training, which is crucial for personal growth and well-being.

The arts sector is a crucial part of the economy, contributing significantly to economic growth and job creation. The arts and cultural sector in Auckland generates approximately \$1.5 billion in GDP annually and employs more than 18,000 people. However, if funding is removed, sector-based employment will decrease, which can cause a ripple effect on the local economy, leading to job losses, reduced investment in the sector, and decreased revenue for local businesses.

Moreover, the removal of funding will make it harder for people, especially those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to access arts, culture, and heritage services. This is concerning as the arts can be used to build confidence and resilience and provide a sense of identity and belonging. Without access to these services, people may miss out on the benefits that come with engaging in the arts.

The arts generate significant revenue for the economy, with artists and art workers often reintroducing funds into the local community through their work. If funding is removed, businesses that rely on the arts sector may suffer as a result, leading to a reduction in sustainability opportunities.

Furthermore, the removal of funding may cause a blocking of creative pathways for those transitioning into arts for a living. The arts provide an important career pathway for people, and without access to funding, the sector's profitability will be diminished, making it harder for those transitioning into a career in the arts to succeed. Finally, once the profitable arts sector is gone, it may be challenging to replace it and the impact of this loss on the local economy could be long-lasting.

I urge Auckland Council to reconsider these proposed cuts, as the impact on our community, arts and culture events and organisations, and the local economy will be significant. As a community, we must stand together to ensure that funding for these important services is maintained and that Auckland continues to be a vibrant and culturally rich city.

Thank you for your attention.

Best regards,



34488



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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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:

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Tell us why:

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34498



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Your local board: I don't know

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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

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?

You can start budgeting and focusing on problems by cutting all of these completely as they produce no physical benefit and are absolutely wasteful in terms of resources spent:

- The Disability Advisory Panel
- Ethnic Communities Advisory Panel
- Pacific

Important privacy information

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34502



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Massey & Birdwood Settlers Association Incorporated

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: In principle our Association stands with Council and the Mayor in the call to have as low as possible rate rise, and believe it is possible for Council, as any organisation or individual is able, to have a zero increase in charges, with good management.

In order to achieve a zero or nil increase may require an organisation to forego expansion plans for a year or two, restructure by finding areas where services are duplicated, cut costs or a combination of the three. The other way is to raise a loan or perhaps income or revenue by doing things differently.

From reading correspondence and press releases it would appear the Mayor is investigating all options and should be applauded for doing so.

CAB funding. The Massey CAB started many years ago in our hall. In Massey area at least the closure of Massey Matters in order to ensure the CAB remains operational would be justified.

Raise more money for capital works from loans.

Decrease the funding of Auckland Transport taking into account item 9.

Yours sincerely

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: Sale of Airport Shares – a partial sale may be justified however not a total sale as the shares are likely to provide a reasonable dividend

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: 1. Rates are of course the general method of raising revenue and it is noted that a rise in rates of around 4% is mooted. What we are concerned about is the increase in revenue for consent fees and similar with no matching increase in service.

It is noted

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?

We do not believe Eke Panuku Development is necessary as Council does much of this work in house, and therefore Eke Panuku could be removed from the Council list of CCOs completely. A saving of \$73 million.

The Ports of Tauranga are an example of Council

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MASSEY & BIRDWOOD SETTLERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

On the Fourth Day of September 1925

Representing the Massey & Birdwood Residents and Ratepayers

C/- P O Box 79508 Royal Heights Auckland, Telephone 09 8336972

Email – masseybirdwood@gmail.com website – www.masseybirdwoodsettlers.org Charities registration number - CC38099

27 March, 2023

The CEO and Mayor
Auckland Council

Re- submission Auckland Council Budget

Dear Sirs

Could you please add this letter to your proposals for Budget constraints.

In principle our Association stands with Council and the Mayor in the call to have as low as possible rate rise, and believe it is possible for Council, as any organisation or individual is able, to have a zero increase in charges, with good management.

In order to achieve a zero or nil increase may require an organisation to forego expansion plans for a year or two, restructure by finding areas where services are duplicated, cut costs or a combination of the three. The other way is to raise a loan or perhaps income or revenue by doing things differently.

From reading correspondence and press releases it would appear the Mayor is investigating all options and should be applauded for doing so.

Our Views

1. Rates are of course the general method of raising revenue and it is noted that a rise in rates of around 4% is mooted. What we are concerned about is the increase in revenue for consent fees and similar with no matching increase in service.

It is noted that Council is now valuing properties based on how many dwellings that may be able to be placed on a property. Surely this is a flawed approach and leads to be people selling properties being sold to developers and being turned into multi unit properties unnecessarily.

The time to charge a property increased rates is when it has multi dwellings on the property and not before.

Each property owner should be allowed one free Lim report every three years. If these reports are held digitally, they should not in effect cost much to access and may allow a property owner to undertake a basic three yearly risk assessment of their property

2. Should residential homes be subsidizing businesses? Most businesses are able to pass on costs, while residential home owners are not able to so. However it would be easy through technology to increase rates of residential properties used as rental properties or that are body corporates. We see no reason why businesses cannot pay more in rates, no matter they type of business or non residential type property.
3. Government has its SOEs why cannot Council float create the opportunity for people to hold shares in some of the money making arms of Council, such as the Ports of Auckland, Auckland Unlimited and Watercare?

We do not believe Eke Panuku Development is necessary as Council does much of this work in house, and therefore Eke Panuku could be removed from the Council list of CCOs completely. A saving of \$73 million.

The Ports of Tauranga are an example of Council floating some of its shares successfully, and I am sure many Aucklanders would equally jump at the opportunity of owning some of the Zoo or an Art Gallery. Should the central Government elections see Three Waters be removed legislation, I am sure Aucklanders would also welcome the chance to hold shares in Watercare.

4. Our hall is on Government land, we pay insurance of \$12000 per year, from what we understand the facility on Triangle Park, operated by Massey Matters have their insurance, maintenance, repairs and so on subsidized by Auckland Council while collecting the income from the rents they charge, with no return to Auckland Council. Is this fair?
5. Does the Auckland Council know the value of all Government owned properties throughout Auckland? If not why not, and is the Government paying its fair share of rates and development costs and consents when required? The exercise may be worth doing as a matter of interest if for no other reason. When Wellington is asked for more money for the CRL perhaps it is justified that they should be paying the increased cost. As Government is likely to own so much property it is fair that they may receive a discount on their rates bill, however the bill may not be enough, the flip side is they might be and as a tax payer most rate payers may want the question answered.
6. Sale of Airport Shares – a partial sale may be justified however not a total sale as the shares are likely to provide a reasonable dividend
7. CAB funding. The Massey CAB started many years ago in our hall. In Massey area at least the closure of Massey Matters in order to ensure the CAB remains operational would be justified.
8. Raise more money for capital works from loans.
9. Increase funding to repair roads (potholes, cracks in footpaths), clearing storm water drains and gutter cleaning, park maintenance, however decrease for new roading for a year, cycle lanes, bus lanes, change of speed limits.
10. Decrease the funding of Auckland Transport taking into account item 9.

Yours sincerely



34509



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
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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

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).	
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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From:

Sent: Sunday, 26 March 2023 9:50 pm

To:

Subject: Auckland Council Budget and preserving our environment and community engagement

Dear Shane

I am writing to you as a Councillor who cares about the environment and community engagement to encourage you to do all you can to minimise cuts to the various budgets for our environment.

It is vitally important that Council doesn't undercut the high return on investment that derives from the burgeoning community-led groups across local board areas in protecting our environment.

Compared with contractors, volunteers supported by community groups such as Restore Hibiscus Bays, Pest Free Kaipātiki, Pest Free Howick, PFUS, and most other parts of our region not only get careful attentive work done cost effectively, they also engage and motivate the community in an enduring way that Council contractors can't achieve.

I expect you'll be aware of many areas where Council could be getting better value for money with more enduring environmental and community outcomes by utilising volunteer skills and local knowledge supported by a core team rather than contracting companies.

It is important that funding continues from Council and via local boards to these groups across our region.

Cutting back on this funding, at a time when these groups are maturing, would create long term harm to community motivation and commitment. And to the essential tasks of protecting our biodiversity and protecting environmental resilience in the face of climate change

Please do all you can to support community led environmental restoration groups.

Many thanks

Volunteer in a local bush reserve and its halo for many years



34515



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?

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? 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 need to make sure drop offs is important and given time frame to drop off.

Also car parks are just too expensive.

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: With the high of living costs, water rates need to be reduced which is affordable for low income.

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: Alerts have been great. We need to promote for low income earners who cannot afford resources.

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,	I don't

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).	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.	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?

Landlords need to be reasonable for costs as rentals are very expensive.

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34523



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Lake House Arts

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.

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

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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 Brown and Councillors of Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland.

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

Wayne Brownes' proposed funding cuts will greatly, negatively impact the local economy, community services, cultural experiences arts opportunities, and the heritage and education sectors. It will damage the mental health and wellbeing of our people.

Both small and large business development, which grows our local economy, will suffer. Arts and cultural sectors contribute significantly to the economy, and these cuts will lead to substantial job losses, a decline in professional opportunities, a diminishment of sector vibrancy and economic decline. A recent example of the potential impact of the cultural sector is Sculpture on the Gulf, which attracted 16,400 visitors to the Te Whetumatarau Headland in March 2022 and was able to return \$650,000 to local artists and suppliers, including almost a quarter of a million in small art works sales alone. Community art centres, like Lake House in Takapuna, are places where artists and creatives gain vital experience and return their service back to the community and wider economy. There is a significant return on investment that's often overlooked. In FY19, 1.6 billion dollars in revenue was recorded as directly attributable to Arts, Culture, Heritage and related Tourism. Given this, Auckland Council's current funding contribution is a small investment for a substantially 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, accessible hubs for development opportunities and belonging, a sense of place and identity, and providing support networks and places for healing 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 and

professional growth and development. Lake House Arts is a testing ground for emerging arts, essential for future industries like music and the fine art economy.

In the arts sector, funding cuts will almost certainly lead to the closure of orchestras, exhibitions, and theatres. Artists will not be able to earn a living, and at a community level, 1.5 million recorded participants and attendees will yearly miss out on cultural events and experiences that are crucial in building community, fostering creativity and Auckland Council's own vision for a thriving city. 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 that would take away \$20,000 in funds which enable these to go ahead. That's 20 cents per participant and attendee.

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 development essential for personal growth and well-being. Arts students come from all walks of life, and for some living with disabilities or personal life challenges, Lake House has become absolutely essential to wellbeing and meaning in their life. We do not respect creativity and social life as a vital human experience enough.

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 they provide much better short-term result and long-term return on investment than contracted Council Services that are not directly connected to or invested with our communities.

Locally driven facilities, organisations, initiatives and the people who commit enormous energy and time to their communities, are contributing to building resilient communities, even more important in the wake of pandemic and natural disasters. These events have proven that services are needed, wanted and 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.

The truth is the Arts, Culture and Heritage Sector has struggled to prove its value to the wider community, we could call them "The Unconverted". Those who don't truly understand the real costs and value of what is now under threat. People pay for concerts, music and art lessons, art to improve their home and life, in part because of "free" exposure to arts, through free public events and concerts, seeing murals on suburban power-boxes and buildings, statues and sculptures in our streets, and having free access to public

exhibitions and experiences. Our communities are exposed to “free” art, culture and heritage everywhere without needing to consider the actual small cost they contribute. A comparably tiny amount of public funds achieves so much for our people.

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. I encourage the members to fight for a better budget, one with a greater vision for our future and our people. A budget that respects Council’s own duties and function to ratepayers. A better budget that addresses appropriate rates increases that don’t kick rates/inflation related catch-up down the line. A better budget that will retain assets 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.



34528



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Auckland Action Against Poverty

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 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 want Wayne Brown to know that we DO NOT SUPPORT his budget - we don't

support the raising of any rates, cutting operational costs,

The communities that we support through the work we do NEED THESE SERVICES. Our communities are already stretched - they're already under-invested in, they're already high deprivation areas - the services and programmes and free community events put on as a result of this council funding keeps these communities together. Allows them spaces to celebrate who they are. Allows us to deepen and strengthen our relationships to each other.

When the floods happened, it was the community response that was epic, and these communities can't afford to lose what little they already have. What Wayne Brown is proposing is to gut the heart of our communities. We're not going to let him do that. We're

strongly suggesting that Auckland council borrow this money.

We will continue to keep an eye on this space.

AUCKLAND ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

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: We want Wayne Brown to know that we DO NOT SUPPORT his budget we don't

support selling off the airport shares to

plug this hole of \$295M. We're clear that we want the council to BORROW THE MONEY

to STOP THE CUTS because the council is nowhere near reachin

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

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From: [Auckland Action Against Poverty](#)
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: FEEDBACK FOR AUCKLAND BUDGET FROM AUCKLAND ACTION AGAINST POVERTY
Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 2:15:31 pm

We'd like to submit feedback on the current Auckland Council Budget.

We're Auckland Action Against Poverty and we work in the Māngere Town Centre. We're a small group of advocates that support people navigate Work and Income and also campaign against the government so our communities can be supported to be well.

We want Wayne Brown to know that we DO NOT SUPPORT his budget - we don't support the raising of any rates, cutting operational costs, selling off the airport shares to plug this hole of \$295M. We're clear that we want the council to BORROW THE MONEY to STOP THE CUTS because the council is nowhere near reaching it's debt ceiling, and it won't impact on it's credit rating.

The communities that we support through the work we do NEED THESE SERVICES. Our communities are already stretched - they're already under-invested in, they're already high deprivation areas - the services and programmes and free community events put on as a result of this council funding keeps these communities together. Allows them spaces to celebrate who they are. Allows us to deepen and strengthen our relationships to each other. When the floods happened, it was the community response that was epic, and these communities can't afford to lose what little they already have. What Wayne Brown is proposing is to gut the heart of our communities. We're not going to let him do that. We're strongly suggesting that Auckland council borrow this money.

We will continue to keep an eye on this space.

AUCKLAND ACTION AGAINST POVERTY



34530



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?

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: I'm writing to give feedback about the budget proposal that Wayne Brown is trying to put

through.

I DO SUPPORT BORROWING ALL THE MONEY NEEDED TO PLUG THE GAP OF
\$295M

Council has a good credit rating and contrary to what's being pushed, this credit rating will not be impacted. Stop likening council debt to household debt, it's really different and only pushes fear into our communities about what needs to be cut. Nothing needs to be cut.

I DO NOT SUPPORT RAISING RATES

I DO NOT SUPPORT OPERATIONAL CUTS

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: I DO NOT SUPPORT SELLING OF AUCKLAND AIRPORT SHARES

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: FEEDBACK ON AUCKLAND BUDGET - ITS SHIT
Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 2:19:01 pm

I'm writing to give feedback about the budget proposal that Wayne Brown is trying to put through.

I DO NOT SUPPORT SELLING OF AUCKLAND AIRPORT SHARES

I DO NOT SUPPORT RAISING RATES

I DO NOT SUPPORT OPERATIONAL CUTS

I DO SUPPORT BORROWING ALL THE MONEY NEEDED TO PLUG THE GAP OF \$295M

Council has a good credit rating and contrary to what's being pushed, this credit rating will not be impacted. Stop likening council debt to household debt, it's really different and only pushes fear into our communities about what needs to be cut. Nothing needs to be cut.



34532



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Organisation (if applicable):

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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:

4. Storm Response

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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?

My key response is in regard to buses. I understand the proposal is to maintain current services and increase the fare.

I am a daily bus user - Northcote to City and return - and am not opposed to fares returning to full rate nor even a small incremental

Important privacy information

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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: Feedback on proposed Auckland Council budget
Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 8:36:03 am

Kia ora

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed budget for 2023/2024.

My key response is in regard to buses. I understand the proposal is to maintain current services and increase the fare.

I am a daily bus user - Northcote to City and return - and am not opposed to fares returning to full rate nor even a small incremental increase (eg 10c a fare). However to have my support on that, the bus service needs to be improved. Maintaining current services doesn't serve the Auckland population well enough - colleagues from other parts of Auckland and I regularly have buses cancel or simply not show which means we end up late for work or appointments.

In addition the traffic has got increasingly worse in my suburb with grid lock regularly starting from 650am. If the bus service is unreliable people will likely use cars instead creating further traffic issues and all of the environmental impacts of that.

Rather than cancelling buses it would be prudent to increase them to encourage people to use them.

In summary please return the bus services to the timetable (and potentially put on more buses) if the plan is to increase fares.

Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone



34535



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): Friends of the Earth

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

Please see attached.

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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: Friends of the Earth Submission
Date: Sunday, 26 March 2023 4:41:13 am
Attachments: [Friends of the Earth Submission on Recovery Budget.docx](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

Dear Recipient,

In this case I am submitting our commentary on the current Auckland Council Budget in the form, firstly of this covering letter, and secondly our submission, not on the current budget, but on the Auckland City Council "Recovery" Budget of 2021-31. It is my belief that the priorities, problems and solutions in this older but still operational budget are virtually the same as those being raised by the yearly budget of 2023.

The current budget is being presented by the mayor as a crisis document to deal with a \$295 million shortfall in income to deal with council spending. But when we look back over the past 2-4 years we see that budgets have consistently been presented in these terms, including the Te Tahua Putea Tau budget, still current. In this budget we see that the structure of the situation and council's response to it is virtually unchanged now. There appears to be a consistent format which involves the claim of some kind of financial shortfall that in turn necessitates some kind of crisis funding. The mantra of dramatic fiscal shortfalls is, as you would expect of a mantra, repetitive.

It has become a standard public relations exercise, firstly to convince the citizens that there is an emergency; secondly to say the emergency is a financial shortfall; thirdly to agonise over the raising of rates, because raising rates is unpopular and might threaten the careers of incumbent councillors and the mayor; and fourthly to say that the way out of the 'crisis' is to 'make savings' by cutting social services, selling council property and cutting down on its environmental programmes.

It is then stated that the council is obliged by law to balance its budget. It goes unmentioned that there are other ways of balancing a budget than by a fire sale severely damaging social and environmental services and functions.

We therefore advocate in this letter, as we did in our 2021-2031 submission, that the way of balancing the budget is to show some political courage and raise the money required by equitable rating. It avoids the social damage of destroying or running down social and environmental resources. This is a 're-distributionist' approach. But it is generally avoided in contemporary politics, we suspect because it involves taxing the rich at higher rates than the poor. This causes a dread among our elected representatives of being perceived as socialists or left-wing extremists.

There are some changes in the circumstances surrounding respective budgets of the last two years. For instance, the redundant road to nowhere that was to run off from Redoubt Road into South Auckland has, we hope, permanently been abandoned. And on the constructive side, the rail running to Whangarei and beyond, which we mentioned as a way of lessening the construction of climate-unfriendly roads north of the city, has been upgraded - not by the Council but by central government.

But the anomalies surrounding this 2023 'recovery' budget remain largely the same as in budgets two years ago. For instance, the situation of the Leys Institute, slowly deteriorating, is unchanged and it continues to deteriorate. The dysfunctional approach to

conserving and increasing our vitally needed urban trees - the urban forest concept - continues to be dysfunctional The proposals to economise on social services contain some new and even less credible ideas attached to them. The mayor's idea of having our massive, socially important and complex library system staffed by volunteers is a case in point, and one we trust will not be implemented. One particularly anti-social plan seems to have been added to the 2021-2023 demolition of social services - the closure of Citizens' Advice Bureaux to achieve \$2 million of "savings" This indicates the mayor, councillors and their advisors do not know what results in real gains and losses. Citizens' Advice Bureaux, far from costing our city money, actually generate it. It is estimated that every dollar spent on the bureaux in helping citizens generates \$13 dollars in the long term.

With regional transport, plans to devise a climate-friendly public transport system are languishing as they were two years ago. Cancellation of bus services has become systemic; policy settings for getting people out of cars remain timid and wholly inadequate in the face of the rate of climate change. This largely is due to failures both by local and central government to craft adequate policy.

We admit the extreme rain events and the cyclone of the past weeks pose huge new problems for which the mayor and council cannot be blamed; but such events and the social suffering they are causing should more strongly influence the council and mayor not to punish vulnerable lower income citizens with a withdrawal of vital social services. Parks and libraries become more important than ever in this situation. We reiterate - balancing the budget must be achieved without destructive sell-offs but by a graded rates increase that rates most those that can afford to be rated most..

We look forward to next year's budget in the hope its design by then has avoided the discredited and backward - looking stratagems of this 2023 budget. We also advocate for the remedies to this current budget, as discussed above and foreshadowed in our older submission. .

Yours sincerely,

Dr

March 26th, 2023

Spokesperson for

email, office,

email home,

phone, , mobile , office,

Friends of the Earth Submission on "Recovery" Budget
Of Auckland City Council, 2021-2031, Te Tahua Putea Tau

Summary

1. No public asset "recycling" (sales)
2. The simplest and least disruptive way of dealing with budgetary shortfalls is to raise the rates by 5% and keep them raised. To be done in such a way that poorer ratepayers pay no greater rate rise (5%) than richer ratepayers. Full exemption from the rise for any ratepayers genuinely too poor to pay it.
3. No losses to cultural and community services acceptable. In fact, we advocate for their increase, particularly as Auckland is undergoing rapid population growth.
4. Immediately budget for and repair Leys Institute. Re-establish it as a library and community facility.
5. Immediately re-activate the Register of significant trees and greatly increase the legal protection of those trees.
6. Press central government to immediately pass the law concerned with the protection of urban trees that was repealed by the Key government.
7. We support budget proposals for street trees and native forest plantings and believe they should be increased.
8. We oppose any sales of parks. We oppose particularly the "Plan Change 60" small park sales prematurely approved, it seems, before the "Recovery" budget was properly circulated.
9. We support initiatives to increase use of public transport, trains, buses, and to increase cycling and walking
- 10., We support attempts to reduce the numbers of any kind of private car, but believe the Council needs to hugely increase the rate of transition from private to public transport.
11. We support the purchase of electric buses and believe these purchases need to be speeded up.
12. We oppose the purchase and deployment of hydrogen powered buses.

Body of Submission

Friends of the Earth NZ has had its main office in Auckland city since 1975. Since then we have been involved, locally, nationally and , at times, internationally with issues such as food irradiation, nuclear power, indigenous forest protection, genetic engineering, bio-solids disposal and transport. In the immediate past we submitted to prevent the use of explosives in the deepening of the Rangitoto Channel. In the distant past our opening campaign was an Auckland one: the retention of the city's electric trolley bus system. This particular campaign, and the fact that Auckland Regional Council chose to ignore our arguments about clean energy transport, resonates now as the full gamut of climate change unfolds. The council locked us in to diesel buses, a decision that impacts directly and negatively now.

How much trouble would have been saved if this electric public transport system had been maintained, extended and integrated into an electric train network . In 2021 we have to start again to deal with a problem for which we had a solution in 1975. Is it possible that we could learn from this ?

The "Recovery" budget is a very mixed bag indeed. It has good features. It perpetrates and perpetuates mistakes and misconceptions. It is founded on economic, even social premises that are at best unproven, at worst unsustainable. At its economic core there is a shortfall in earnings at the beginning of this ten year financial cycle of the Council. This shortfall is particularly problematic because considerable rises in expenditure must occur in Auckland throughout this period. Some cost rises are due to an increasing regional population: some to the need for infrastructural maintenance and development; some due to the covid impact on council income. The main solution offered is to achieve savings. What does this mean? One obvious way of achieving savings is to deal with the question of high salaries received by many council employees. I have noticed no mention of this in the report on the budget, but I mention it as a simple step to take and does actually end up in a real time lowering of Council costs, Of itself it cannot solve many problems, but to admit to it, at least in principle, is to admit that simple, rational steps are available in the context of solving the Budget.

The main means of achieving savings is more problematic. It raises the question: what are genuine savings? The Budget plan is to sell \$70 million of public assets a year over the next three years. It is describes euphemistically as an "asset recycling target" (1). This figure is connected with a further one of \$90 million "as permanent ongoing savings" per annum, resulting, presumably after ten years either in capital of \$900 million or new assets of that

value. The exact relation between the public asset sales cash and the "permanent and ongoing savings" is not clear - whether the one will contribute to the other.

Public asset "recycling" is, generally unacceptable to us and socially negative. It is driven, or at least justified in quasi-ideological terms. Several such statements exist in the budget. On p. 80 we are told the council is "letting go of some of our less well-used assets to help us pay for new ones that will help us deliver better services to the community." (2) Really?

What is a "less well-used asset"? Perhaps it is the Leys Institute, or the artist's studios on the corner of Hepburn Street and Ponsonby Road, or the suite of small parks planned to be sold under "Scheme Change 60", or swimming pools that have not not been so extensively used through the year of covid. Whatever the public assets are, the argument that their alienation from our ownership by sale will result in better public assets (that, presumably will continue in the same function that the worse assets fulfilled) is economic nonsense. To regain the family silver that has been sold, and, in some cases destroyed, is expensive - probably in every case very much more expensive than retaining the tarnished silver we already have. We should be instead doing some intelligent and imaginative maintenance on the tarnished silver.

Sale also creates a break or reduction in service provision that can last sometimes for many years while the "better" replacement is made. It means the destruction and wastage of valuable building materials and the general inconveniencing of the public. By whose judgement is "better" assessed? Is it by the judgement of the developer/builder who may have been paid very generously indeed to destroy and rebuild the asset; or by the judgement of a council designer, not necessarily well-versed in the design say, of a music studio or concert auditorium?

Must we remind the Council of the disastrous "better" acoustic that still plagues us in the main auditorium of the Aotea Centre - an acoustic that is as bad as it is because the advice of a world-class acoustic engineer, Harald Marshall, was ignored. This theatre has become, for musical purposes, a semi-stranded asset. Musicians are unified in damning it and have voted with their feet, their vocal chords and their instruments to return to performing in the Town Hall.

The Aotea Centre auditorium is now what we might call "less well-used."

Please let us have no more of this kind of "better".

Another and worse rationale is given for sales than "better". On p 77 of the budget the statement is made:

"Over time we propose to consolidate the number of our community facilities and services (which may result in some services being closed) and instead focus on multi-use facilities and on-line services to provide for our diverse communities"

Firstly a question. Is "consolidating the number" of facilities an ungrammatical way of saying "reducing" the number? It is hard to see what else it might mean. Secondly, what is multi-use in this context? Might a gym for instance also be used as a dance studio or a venue for a jazz performance or a space for a community meeting? If that is the case, then most of our community facilities are already multi-purpose and are used to the absolute maximum. No social gain will be made by selling them and lessening their numbers. It will simply mean a lessening of public amenity and opportunity in a city with a rapidly growing population. I use community facilities, such as halls. I know just how extensively used they already are. Getting a booking can be a complex exercise.

The real barb in the statement is the proposed substitution of "on-line" services as a replacement for real world services. "On-line" can no longer be regarded as the cool, trouble-free technology of an electronic utopia. There are plenty of sociologists who would say it represents an impoverishment of experience and social life and an impediment to in-depth learning. This writer is certainly an on-line sceptic and does on-line only when forced to do so by profit-driven institutions such as banks. They represent a clear example of on-line services meaning a lessening of service.

There is an implicit threat in "on-line" to the "on-going" of actual libraries, actual performances, actual tuition. While a zoom society may be temporarily useful in getting us through a covid pandemic, as general social practice, it is pitiful. To what extent therefore does the council intend to replace actual facilities with virtual ones as a money-saving strategy? "Virtual" ignores the centrality of real-time, real-place human contact. In this case it implies also the sale and removal of historic structures from public hands. In private hands they become more liable to demolition and replacement by commercial infrastructure.

"On-line" is now known to have climate change implications. Digital activity is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Servicing the networks, keeping the servers cool, now contributes 2-4% of world greenhouse gas net emissions. This is as much as the world's entire aviation industry pre-covid in 2019. To this must be added the effects of the roll-out of the 5G system and its associated "internet of things" - a cluster of consumer/digital activities that, according to some estimates, could result in as much as a tenfold increase in digital activity. Can the greenhouse world afford this?

When local governments therefore casually mention "online" as a way of bettering, changing, or increasing social services they should, in a time of "climate emergency" do very careful analyses of the the greenhouse gas emissions involved in these projects. They should take similar care in regard to costs Digital is not cheap. Our recent history has frequent instances of digital budget blowouts. The likelihood of it representing a genuine

"saving" we suspect is negligible. We retain our social and economic faith in real facilities, staffed by real people, carrying out real interactions and transactions. These *are* society. The digital alternative tends to robotic meaninglessness, algorithmic standardizing of judgements and formulaic interconnections of separated people. It seems a sham solution to a non-existent problem - the equitable supply of social services in the actual world of Auckland city. We say non-existent because it is a problem with cheaper and simpler solutions.

The Council has already indicated that it will raise rates by 5% over the next three years. To this we would not object, provided it has the proviso that poorer ratepayers suffer no greater proportion of the rate rise than wealthier ones. Yes. This is socialism, and it needs to be applied here. Taking myself as a ratepayer I know I can easily afford a 5% rate rise. I speak as one with a well-below -median income, who is the part-owner of the house in which I live. The 5% rise would represent to me and my partner an increase per week of \$2 each. This is sustainable for the foreseeable future. We would rather pay the rate and get proper services than go through the destructive shambles of public asset sales and the inevitable loss of service that creates. We have not forgotten the Rogernomic dispossession of the public in the 1980s, and the huge social damage that created - damage that we are repairing to this day. There are hundreds of thousands of ratepayers in a situation similar to our own; and there are tens of thousands who are wealthier and can afford to pay more. This can be achieved with full protection of impoverished ratepayers.

Bite the bullet. Raise the rates. Raise them fairly and equitably. And raise them for the ten year budget period. Pay the bills. Pay them without permanently destroying our "commons" of public facilities by selling them.

A final comment. The Council needs to avoid financial failures of judgement such as the recent loss of future income caused by buying into a hedge-fund type investment. This locked it into a punishingly poor rate of return for a very long time. Of this episode, I have so far found no mention in the budget document. It should have been fully admitted.

The Leys Institute

The Leys Institute debacle is a public asset sale arrested in midflight. We intend it shall go no further. It is also an extraordinary failure of proper procedure and of due process in informing the owners, ourselves, the ratepayers, well before things happened, about what was intended to happen.

On Thursday December 19th, 2019, an email was sent by Council officials to the Leys Institute Library. The gist of it: that the Leys buildings, library and gym, were an immediate earthquake risk and had to be vacated by staff by 5pm on Friday, December 20th. No-one of the library staff and no resident of the Ponsonby, Freemans Bay, Grey Lynn district had the slightest intimation that the Leys Institute was an earthquake risk. Auckland is not, in any meaningful sense, an earthquake zone. The news was shocking and distressing to the staff and bewildering to the public. The facility had been used without major earthquake danger since its construction before World War I.

What had officials discovered? Had they known on December 18th that the library was a serious earthquake risk? Had they ever known that it was such a risk? There is certainly no information in the three engineering reports about the Leys complex that had appeared between 2016 and 2019 that there was such a risk. Where else might they have discovered such an imminent danger? To date, these questions remain unanswered.

At 4.30 on December 20th I was in the foyer of the Leys Library along with one of the researchers and directors of Friends of the Earth, Mr Bob Tait. We were there to communicate with members of the public coming in for their final visit to the Library. We asked them if they knew why the library was closing. Many were saddened, some confused, but virtually all of them said, "because it is an earthquake risk". This much by now they had heard through local intercommunication or media. Bob Tait is a qualified mechanical engineer. He had quickly located information on the building's earthquake status. This was summarized in two building certificates of fitness actually displayed in the library foyer. We invited library patrons to read the certificates and many of them did so.

One was a current "Certificate of Fitness" It attested that the building was safe for use up to June 2020. The other was a long-term assessment. It also attested to the safety of the

building, until 2053. The certificates did not lack comment on earthquake factors. In sum they said some minor earthquake re-mediation work needed to be done in the medium to long term. The work proposed was non-structural and did not reflect on the overall integrity of the building. The re-mediation work involves tying back the parapets to the roof structure so as to eliminate any danger of them collapsing onto the public passing along St Marys Bay Road. It also involves the decorative orbs of the parapets having steel supports put down through them and ties into supporting understructure. This is routine external strengthening for older buildings and is non-problematic. The details were not specified fully in the certificates but were discussed in the engineering reports concerning the Leys between 2016 and 2019. One of them, a 300 page document by EQStruc, specified the mediation work, designed the repairs and left the design with the Council. Council paid for the design, but by December 2019 had not carried it out. Clearly it was not believed by them to be urgent.

In November 2019 an engineering report by GHD recommended monitoring some cracks in the wall of the annex that stands on the southwestern corner of the main building. It is not structurally tied to that building. The cracks were not regarded as dangerous. GHD recommended they be water sealed. This project too was passed over to the Council. As with the parapet work, despite its being simple and low cost, it has not been carried out. In the last year a colleague of ours, Mr Guy Williams, a conservation builder and designer, who is in charge of the mammoth project of re-mediating Larnach's Castle in Dunedin, has informally assessed the building. In personal communications to ourselves he expressed astonishment that the Leys could, apart the decorative structures already discussed by the engineers, be regarded as an earthquake risk.

The library and the gym stand empty. and have done so since the panic evacuation of December 20th, 2019. They are surrounded by a rickety "safety" fence. This would protect no-one if there really was a significant earthquake. If the Council officials really had believed the building was such an earthquake risk they would have carried out the full and proper precautions against it. St Mary's Bay Road would have been closed off to any pedestrian or motor traffic at the same time as the library was closed. An earthquake of the kind the officials were describing would probably be accompanied by a collapse of the building's main structure or the northwestern portion of that structure, across St Mary's Bay Road. Sixteen months have passed and the road remains stubbornly open. Surely the officials are in dereliction of their duty by leaving it like this if there is such imminent danger.

In the meanwhile the building is exposed to the demolition by the neglect and abandonment that will overtake even the most robust of structures. We have no answers to these inconsistencies. Can it be that the officials know so little about earthquakes that they

do not appreciate the need, in a situation of immediate risk, to close the road. Or are they concerned that closing the road would bring the full glare of publicity to bear on their decisions - decisions that most kindly could be described as "over-reaction" or lack of judgement.

There are other dimensions to the Leys situation. It has an A Heritage Listing and cannot legally be demolished unless proven to be a very serious earthquake risk indeed, even under the terms of the earthquake code that applies in virtually earthquake-less Auckland. It is also a bequest. The terms of the bequest, made by the Leys family in 1904 are clear:

" That the said allotments Twelve, Thirteen and Fourteen so purchased
As aforesaid. are now and shall at all times hereafter be held for the
Corporation for the purposes only of an Institute in the nature of a Free
Library and Mechanics' Institute to be called 'The Leys Institute.' " (5)

This facility is not available for demolition, for sale, for alteration of function. Yet, within days of the closure, the Council's Community Services Director, Mr Ian Maxwell , was "speculating that it could be sold to a developer, along with adjacent land. (Presumably the courtyard, carpark and green space accessed from Dedwood Terrace)." (4)

Since then the Waitemata Community Board, which has powers to recommend to Council what might happen to the Leys facility, has agreed to advocate for its retention and for the remediation work recommended by the engineers to be carried out. They also strongly support its ongoing function as a library and community facility. This is a welcome, but fragile protection for this beautiful building. Any real power in regard to its fate remains with the Council. Its demolition and/or sale, and the sale of the land on which it stands, would be illegal. But illegal actions occur in this sphere of urban development. They can happen very quickly and if at night, in semi-secrecy. Witness the disgraceful destruction of the Brown's Mill Market in Auckland city, at the hands of its then owners, Mainzeal in the 1980s. The directors of Mainzeal were taken to court, paid a risible fine, from memory, \$500.00, and walked off scott free. Vandalism of this kind is long overdue for severe penalties, such as gaol terms, for the developers that carry them out.

The Leys is in danger. It needs to be brought back into use quickly, before neglect creates the excuse that it's become too problematic and expensive to re-commission. Its retention for its legal purposes could be fought for in court. The law, on the face of it, is absolutely on the side of its preservation and use as a community facility. But the law did not save Browns Mill. We advocate in this submission that the repair work on it start immediately and its restitution as a library be completed by the end of the year. Money is simply not the problem. We are already aware of overstatement of likely costs, made as "frighteners" to

the local rate-payers. We are already aware of just how modest the costs for its repair should be. We will be watching.

The Council is poised on a major sell-off of public assets. The Leys story to date is one of violation of procedure, of the conventions of keeping the stakeholding public informed, and the need for public statements by Council officials to be true and in conformity with the legal protections that apply to our buildings. Over these they hold guardianship, in a democracy, only by our consent. At this point in time we have real reason to distrust the Council in carrying out any further public asset sales.

The Urban Tree Situation

Auckland City has brought into the general notion of the "urban forest". Along with many other groups we have supported this idea for decades and are glad it has gained recognition at local government level. The "Recovery" Budget appears to support this ideal. It plans to plant 11,000 more street trees. They need to be appropriate to site. They plan to establish a nursery of 200, 000 seedlings, which presumably will provide the basis of a lot more planting. There is a statement of intent to plant 200 hectares of native forest. The type of forest and its location is not specified in the Budget document.

We support these ideas in principle and await their speedy actualization.

There have long been conflicting policies and individual actions in regard to urban trees. In "Climate Emergency" times we badly need a consolidated policy of tree protection and of maintenance of high levels of urban afforestation. There is the Urban Nghere Policy, but it is not consistently carried out. Inconsistencies and weaknesses in the establishment and retention of trees, both rural and urban, both indigenous and exotic are many. These constantly remind us that we have just emerged from a long pioneering period in the 19th and 20th centuries in which forests and trees were destroyed on an enormous scale. As a percentage of our land area, we have deforested Aotearoa New Zealand during this period as severely as the deforestation of the Amazon, mainly by Brazilians, that is happening right now. It is not a great legacy, and it's left some pretty unsympathetic mindsets in regard to the plant world generally. Such mindsets still occur in Councils, in the Government and among urban developers.

The most obvious expression of what we could call aboro-phobia or phyto-phobia was the repeal of the legislation that attempted to provide some protection for urban trees. This was done by the Key government, and has made tree protection in Auckland much more difficult. The immediate task of Council must be to persuade the current government to reinstate that law, updated and strengthened so as to allow us to fulfill our legal obligations under the 2015 Paris Accord in the matter of lessening greenhouse gas emissions. There is talk in the "Recovery" budget of climate issues, but now the time for coherent actions is here. The time for this to happen is decades ago. At the very least it should be happening very early in this ten year budget period.

We can only see, as members of the public looking in, that Council policy about protecting the urban forest is sketchy, half-hearted and, in effect, timorous. At the moment it appears to prioritise native plantings. This we broadly agree with. We do not agree, however, with the felling of mature and significant exotic trees on public or private property. There is a strong botanical case for the retention of both. Synergies can exist between them that are vital. The blanket destruction of mature exotics without compelling reason is not acceptable and is as stupid as the blanket destruction of our indigenous trees. In the complex and painful dispute about the maunga forest of Mt Albert there is a clear case for letting exotic trees last out their lifetimes and provide a nurse environment for indigenous species to come through. This is a cultural problem as well as a local government one, but the council should help establish clear lines of agreement in such situations. At the moment, the Council appears to have been absent in its duty to protect even iconic stands of indigenous trees. Here we cite the Canal Road travesty, where a developer has just got away with the felling of 39 mature trees: hinau, kawakawa, rewarewa, puriri, titoki and Hall's totara. We need Council regulation or national legislation to ensure that such developers just are not allowed to do this.

A law with real teeth is needed. We would be in favour of a criminal penalty being involved: that if an individual or organization willfully destroys a protected tree or group of trees, the individuals concerned should face the equivalent of a charge, in regard to human violence, of carrying out an assault with the intention of "causing grievous bodily harm." Instead we have a situation where another developer managed to persuade the Council to set aside its own protection provisions. This developer, wanting to cut down a mature, protected macrocarpa in Avondale, appears to have gained a non-notified consent to do so. A hopeless legal precedent has been set and could unleash a series of such non-notified consents.

Right now there is paralysis with the Council in regard to running the register of significant urban trees,. There is no mention in the budget or revitalizing this stalled registration

process, which at the moment is officially "closed" It is closed with just 587 trees registered in it. In a land area the size of Auckland city, tens of thousands of significant trees should be registered. Why is the register closed? Is it one of the ecological services that might have to be sacrificed in the name of "making savings"?

The world is now in major danger from ceaseless human violence against trees. It is an historical phenomenon that runs back at least to the establishment of agricultural systems in Babylonia and other early urbanizing civilizations. The first ecological casualty was forests. Nothing in this dynamic has changed in five millennia, except that, since the onset of the industrial revolution, the pace of the destruction has hugely increased. We are now at the edge of the cliff. Auckland is not a huge city, but it can set a significant example in building up real respect for our evolutionary ancestors, the vast families of plant life. Without them animal life would not have emerged. Without them we do not exist.

Transport

The "Recovery" Budget has much to say on transport. We favour its general intention to get people out of cars, into buses, trains, ferries, and onto feet and bicycles. We have to emphasise however that we are right at the beginning of this process. We have to swiftly reverse the effects of an attachment to the car that, at least since the Second World War, has become embedded in the national psyche. We now have an almost a pathological dependence on it as our method of mass transit. This has to be turned around, immediately.

This basic position of Friends of the Earth NZ on transport is in monograph published in 2011 and launched in parliament by the Green Party that year: *Cars at The End of An Era. Transport in the New Zealand Greenhouse*. Its central concept is that the use of the private car as a system of mass transit is an unmitigated and world-wide disaster. It is a disaster regardless of whether the vehicle is powered by fossil fuels or nominally more sustainable electric systems. It is a failed concept that results in vast wastage of space and materials, unalterable embedded energy costs in its manufacture, rates of death and injury that most societies would find unacceptable except in the most violent and hopeless of wars, the distortion of intelligent urban design and the prevention of any proper uptake of public transport. All these faults apply to it in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We certainly agree with the Council's - that fossil -fuelled cars are a greenhouse gas emitting problem. And we accept that cars have a use for essential service workers, farmers,

tradespeople , the disabled, the old, the taxi fleets- a very limited place in the ecology and economy of transport. Such cars should be electric and charged from genuinely sustainable sources. But their numbers must drop almost out of sight if we are really to have a transformational transport system. At present private vehicles in this country number around four million. A ninety percent reduction of that is seriously on the cards, if we are to achieve the transition that would enable us to meet the Paris Climate Agreement deadlines.

The Council's "Recovery" Budget does not provide more than the hint of the beginnings of such a transformation. It's full of let-outs in the situation that will continue to give citizens the view that the inalienable right to own and operate a car is forever. Public transport here is still used only by a tiny minority. Attempts to get people out of their cars are starting from a very small base. Further, the transport aspects of the "Recovery" Budget are very much affected by a legacy of large roading projects that are anomolous for an ecologically-friendly transport system. Some of the worst examples are in the Auckland City area, for instance, the city-extending rebuild of Redoubt Road above Papatoetoe, pointing to more loss of agricultural lands further to the south in areas around Papakura, Ardmore, Clevedon; the redundant northern motorway/"holiday highway" that will run from Puhoi north, eventually to Wellsford and perhaps beyond. This last is particularly inappropriate. A legacy of the Key government. Labour soldiers on building it. The City Council should be using its influence to get the billions that will be wasted on this project transferred to renovating, electrifying and expanding the rail link to Whangarei and beyond.

It is arguable that such projects might have some utility value for the movement of freight, but really we now are returning to a status quo when most freight must move on trains - electric trains. Culturally such lavish roading projects create the illusion for the private car owner that the world is theirs for squandering. This is the opposite mindset to the one we now need, and lessens the chance of a "road to Damascus" realization by the motorist that their transport behavior pattern must entirely change. We are told the Council wants a 91% Increase in uptake of public transport. But the overall number, as a proportion of travelers , is still very small. Further it is taken of the numbers base of 2020, a year when public transport usage was half of normal because of covid. The goal of 150 million public transport trips per year by 2031 is still pretty unambitious. If, hypothetically, in 2031, greater Auckland has 3 million people, that means just one public transport trip per person per week. That still means private car dependence. There would be need of at least ten times that number of public transport trips to indicate any meaningful abandonment of the car.

The problem is critical and needs to be acted on quickly At present transport causes 38 % of Auckland's greenhouse gas emissions. Much of that is the private car. We can hardly take the moral high ground with our farmers with this statistic hanging over our heads. The investigative journalist, Simon Wilson, sums up the dilemma:

"There's more at stake than just our cars. Aucklanders have no right to expect dairy farmers will reduce herd emissions if we are not prepared to match them with transport emissions costs." (6)

There are plans stated in the "Recovery" Budget for the introduction of electric and hydrogen buses. We welcome the electric ones. Hundreds of these are needed. Not just a handful currently running on Waiheke. We do not welcome hydrogen buses or the use of hydrogen in general as a fuel. Its merit is that it creates no greenhouse gases when it burns. That is its only merit. The creation of commercially significant amounts of hydrogen will probably depend on electrolysis. This is highly energy intensive. It is also a process in which the world's giant fossil fuel companies have a major interest. They want their fossil fuel to do the electrolysis. So that takes us back to Square One in the matter of Greenhouse Gas emissions with hydrogen. There's every chance with the ongoing dominance of the oil companies that they will supply the world with hydrogen that is burdened with a massive expenditure of fossil fuels in its production. It would also have a low to non-existent EROI (Energy Return on Energy Invested). For these reasons we believe it unwise for the "Recovery Budget" to commit itself to the purchasing of hundreds of hydrogen buses.

Conclusion

There are many issues we have not even touched on in the "Recovery" Budget The three we have managed to comment on, the sale of public assets, transport and urban trees all have significant green-house gas emission and climate change implications. Trees and transport are directly influential. Public asset sales have indirect influence. Insofar as the sales involve the demolition and the construction of new buildings greenhouse gases are caused, often a lot of them. Cities can no longer allow the casual demolition of buildings, old or new. These structures have a lot of greenhouse gases tied up in their in the making of their materials. They represent a way of storing these gases over long periods of time. When a building is demolished and replaced a whole new set of materials has to be made or grown. Timber is grown and directly sequesters greenhouse gases, taking them out of the atmosphere. But other materials that are manufactured and not grown, represent massive amounts greenhouse gases sent into the atmosphere. Concrete and aluminium are among the worst of these. To minimize the use of these, we minimize demolitions that will necessitate the

deployment of such material in replacement buildings. Public asset sales raise the likelihood of demolitions and replacement building.

Trees and urban forest contribute significantly to the thermal regulation of buildings and city precincts. They provide natural cooling and insulation when sited near buildings, and can lessen the need for air temperature regulation. It's win, win, because they also sequester greenhouse gases.

Transport is one of the largest single causes of greenhouse gases, climate disruption and air pollution. The main transition in the system, that has to happen worldwide is the change from all forms of road transport, particularly cars and trucks, back to rail systems; and the wholesale shift of human populations from private cars to public transport, in particular, trains, buses, ferries. Private transport that should be encouraged is the use of bikes and feet.

References

1. See 10 Year Budget, 2021-2031 p. 70
2. *ibid* p 83.
3. *ibid* p 77.
4. Helen Geary, cit Maxwell, *Ponsonby News*, February 2020, p 20.
5. Instruction Clause 1 of the Leys Bequest. Ts. Copy in possession of author.
6. Simon Wilson, "Emissions Talk Just a Lot of Hot Air" *NZ Herald*, 13/3/21.

Friends of the Earth NZ,

Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142



34545



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:

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?

Please see attached.

Important privacy information

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From:
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: Feedback on the Annual Budget 2023/24
Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 1:11:26 pm
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Dear Sir/Madam

Greenwoods Corner, Epsom, particularly businesses along the eastern side of Manukau Road, suffered extensive damage in the floods of 27th January, and that is our primary focus when responding to this budget.

The damage has resulted in insurance claims for numerous small businesses and enormous disruption to the operation of those businesses.

Many of our members are independent, small family-run enterprises, which we believe is one of Greenwoods Corner's great strengths, setting us apart from many other city-fringe suburbs.

In providing this feedback, we wish to highlight our concerns regarding: (i) the existing infrastructure in Greenwoods Corner and wider Epsom; (ii) the regularity of maintenance of our public drains and stormwater system; and (iii) the likelihood of increased premiums, increased excesses and flood exclusions to our members. The latter point contributing towards the already substantial operational costs of running a business.

A consistent concern raised by our member businesses is the state of our local stormwater system and the lack of regular cleaning of public drains in the Greenwoods Corner business centre.

While the rainfall on 27th January was unprecedented, Greenwoods Corner is an area with many mature trees, substantial leaf fall throughout the year and an aging stormwater system which is prone to flooding. Existing infrastructure and the regularity with which it is maintained has proved inadequate to discharge water away from both homes and local business. In fact, areas surrounding Cornwall Park, including Greenlane West and Farro Corner as well as other locations in Epsom are prone to flooding throughout the year notwithstanding that the events causing those floods are not significant rain events.

We support increasing Council's operating budgets to improve Council's capability and capacity to prepare for and respond to future storms. We agree that changes to Council's investment in land, infrastructure, buildings and equipment will be needed, with some new investments being delayed so urgent repairs and replacements can be undertaken.

We believe that the Council's drain and stormwater maintenance schedule must be increased in frequency for Greenwoods Corner, Epsom and necessary repairs undertaken to damaged or degraded pipes, given the regularity of flood-related issues that the area faces.

We support the investment in critical core infrastructure such as stormwater, water and sewage. Much of this infrastructure needs to be brought up to standard, particularly in and around Greenwoods Corner, Epsom.

Yours faithfully

of Greenwoods Corner Epsom Business Association*

image.png



*Greenwoods Corner Epsom Business Association is the operational name of Greenwoods Village Epsom Business Association Incorporated



34551



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?

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing

resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport, other Council Controlled Organisations and Ports of Auckland), with implications including some staff reduction.

NO REDUCTION of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to

NO REDUCTION in funding of Auckland Libraries!!!

REDUCE development funding and tourism promotion and CHANGE 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, arts and culture programmes,

Continue social services activities such as homelessness funding,

Reducing regional contestable grants to save \$3 million

No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

Do not proceed with all reductions and instead further increase rates

Do not proceed with ALL proposed reductions.

Increase debt

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: Sell some of AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or our shares in AIAL.
partial sale of our shares,

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Tell us why: We have limited options available to manage our budget

Finding new ways to work with central government and other external partners.

This could involve looking at the

services we provide to the community and how they are delivered.

a total rates increase

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: There will be additional costs associated with the storm events, but the proposed budget options remain valid.

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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akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

(On my computer, I was unable to complete online feedback form!).

The data below is a summary of my proposals. (I have copied and/alterd/ deleted sections of your questionnaire, to reflect my opinions.)

Thank you.

feedback on.

My email

First name:

Last name:

Email address as above

:

Your local board or suburb Unsworth Heights:

Feedback on behalf of myself

What is your gender: Male

Which of the following describes your ethnicity? (Please select as many as apply)
Pākehā/NZ European

We have limited options available to manage our budget

Finding new ways to work with central government and other external partners.
This could involve looking at the
services we provide to the community and how they are delivered.

a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around 4.66
per cent or \$154 a year (around \$3 a week)

-

Selling some shares in Auckland International Airport (currently around 18% of
the Airport's shares) to
reduce our borrowing

-

Borrowing no more than \$75 million of additional debt, so that we can cope with
any future financial uncertainty
(current policy allows us to further borrow up to \$140 million).

We would need to consider a higher rates package that could see a total rates increase for the average value residential property of up to 13.13 per cent or \$433 a year (\$8.30 a week)

Increasing debt further

Storm Events

There will be additional costs associated with the storm events, but the proposed budget options remain valid.

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, other Council Controlled Organisations and Ports of Auckland), with implications including some staff reduction.

NO REDUCTION of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to

NO REDUCTION in funding of Auckland Libraries!!!

REDUCE development funding and tourism promotion and CHANGE 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, arts and culture programmes,

Continue social services activities such as homelessness funding,

Reducing regional contestable grants to save \$3 million

No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

Do not proceed with all reductions and instead further increase rates

Do not proceed with ALL proposed reductions.

Increase debt

Shareholding Policy

Sell some of AIAL shareholding policy. This will allow us to sell some or our shares in AIAL.

partial sale of our shares,



34556



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: I fully concur with your plans for our city. So sensible. And I can understand everything that was explained.

So refreshing

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: I fully concur with your plans for our city. So sensible. And I can understand everything that was explained.
So refreshing

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: I fully concur with your plans for our city. So sensible. And I can understand everything that was explained.
So refreshing

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: I fully concur with your plans for our city. So sensible. And I can understand everything that was explained.
So refreshing

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).	
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? I fully concur with your plans for our city. So sensible. And I can understand everything that was explained.

So refreshing

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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So refreshing

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34556

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Thursday, 2 March 2023 2:51 pm

To: People's Panel <Peoplespanel@aklc.govt.nz>

Subject: ACC

I fully concur with your plans for our city. So sensible. And I can understand everything that was explained.

So refreshing

Thankyou

Sent from my iPhone



34558



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): Akina Foundation

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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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:

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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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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28 March 2023

To: Wayne Brown, Mayor of Auckland

Auckland Councillors

From: The Ākina Foundation

CC: Tataki Auckland Unlimited

Ākina concerns around the proposed Auckland Council Budget Cuts

The Ākina Foundation would like to express our serious concerns regarding the proposed Auckland Council budget cuts for 2023/2024.

In particular the proposed cuts to funding for Tataki Auckland Unlimited and Auckland Transport are very troubling, constituting a massive percentage of their current working budget.

We understand that the COVID 19 pandemic and the recent climate change related flooding and cyclone events have resulted in significant negative consequences for the Auckland Council economy. We have concerns that wholesale cuts of this magnitude will gravely affect the creative and small business sectors as well as set us back significantly in relation to climate goals at a time when we need to be taking bold action to mitigate climate risks and help businesses and communities to adapt.

Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata, haere whakamua
Care for the land, care for the people, go forward

The Ākina Foundation have been residents of the Grid/John Lysaght co working space on Pakenham Street in Wynyard Quarter since 2020. This space is home to some amazing businesses run by incredible people, many of them creating positive economic, social, environmental and cultural outcomes for our city. Many of these businesses have been supported by the Grid staff and space many connections have been formed leading to exciting collaborations that have helped businesses thrive in the face of the tough economic environment we have lived through these past three years. Some of the other residents of the Grid are also Ākina Impact Suppliers or Impact Investment Readiness grant recipients, meaning they create valuable impact for our communities and environment these include Brightly, Narrative Muse and For The Better Good (now Anew). We encourage the Council to continue to invest in spaces such as the Grid/John Lysaght to enable innovation and positive impact to continue the effects of which flow into our communities.

Like many Aucklanders, our staff rely on public transport to get around safely and affordably as well as to lower their carbon footprint. Safe and accessible public transport is an efficient way to tackle climate change. If, as proposed, the frequency of public transport is reduced and the cost is increased, it will not only make it less

accessible to Aucklanders, but it will also make it harder to address pollution and climate change. Aucklanders are already feeling the burden of both climate change and reduced train and bus services. The result has been a huge time cost to the public as they are forced to move around the city by car leading to increased congestion, pollution and frustration. A more sustainable approach with a long term view should be taken to public transport – invest in better infrastructure now for a more affordable and cleaner future for Aucklanders.

We do not believe these budget cuts are necessary at all. Auckland has very low debt relative to its assets, alongside a stellar credit rating. This combination of factors means it is not necessary to make the budget cuts proposed and in fact it would be more fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible to borrow. The Council is well positioned to take on a reasonable amount of debt within the very safe parameters that we are under. This debt can be used to invest in much needed long term infrastructure to ensure a safe, affordable, liveable city for years to come. A city that is resilient to the increasingly frequent and severe impacts of climate change, as evidenced by recent events.

We look forward to your considered response to these challenges and a revised budget that reflects the positive social, environmental and cultural impact that the Council can have on our biggest city.

He waka eke noa
We are all in this together

Ngā mihi mahana
The Ākina Foundation

Chief Executive Officer



34567



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): West Auckland Collective Voice

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:

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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?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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This petition is a unified collective voice from West Auckland, set in motion via karanga, pōwhiri, karakia, wānanga, kai and in good faith, hosted by Hoani Waititi marae on 03.03.23, representing the following factions;

1. Esteemed Kaumatua and Kuia, Mana Whenua, and as Tangata Whenua under Te Tiriti o Waitangi,
2. On behalf of ngā Tangata Tiriti [Pākehā] under the Treaty of Waitangi, and;
3. On behalf of *all* Citizens of West Auckland [past, present and future], with particular mention to our Pasifika nations connected via whakapapa as Te Moana Nui a Kiwa.

The above collective of West Auckland, are writing to express our concerns in response to Mayor Wayne Brown's proposed Annual Budget for 2023/2024. We state that the proposed cuts to community-facing activity such as regional services and local board budgets will undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on our community, particularly marginalised groups. We also believe that these proposed cuts are contrary to council's obligations and responsibilities and are not in the region's best interests.

In particular, we consider that the proposed Annual Budget does not align with the: purpose of local government as stated in;

- Section 3(d) of the Local Government Act 2002;
- Treaty of Waitangi & Co-Governance arrangements [13.2 & 13.1 - C];
- the Human Rights Act 1993 [10.4.5, Section -C.11];
- The council's Auckland Plan and associated policies
- The Economic Development Action Plan, Thriving Communities, I Am Auckland and Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau plans; and the;
- Independent Māori Statutory Board's Schedule of Issues of Significance 2022, Te Tiriti o Waitangi Audit 2021 and Māori Plan 2017.

The community of West Auckland is a vibrant and cultured part of the Super City that is Tāmaki Makaurau. Visitors to the West Coast feel the 'vibes' as they explore our taonga [treasures] and ngā taonga tuku iho [treasures passed on for future generations]. More warmth and connection has been generated in our communities through the pandemic, and, in recent times, through the national state of emergency. Seeing everyday citizens, many who are struggling themselves, step-in to support our emergency services and first responders, makes many of us proud West Aucklanders.

As was starkly demonstrated, the local government and government alone, cannot and should not, deal with crises communities face on their own, and this is where the potential for governments to come together in partnership with communities is yet to be harnessed.

In Covid responses alone, services provided to the West Auckland community coordinated by the Māori Thought Leaders Collective as *just one* example demonstrates a great need. In

partnership with collaborating service providers, to name a few; Hoani Waititi Marae, Community Waitakere, Southern and Western Initiatives, Vision West, Healthy Families, Sport Waitakere, The Pasifika Leaders Collective, who coordinated, networked, collaborated, problem solved and enacted *Manaakitanga* to care quickly and directly for the community of West Auckland, is something that the budget has failed to recognise.

While the argument can be made that these services aren't the responsibility of council, the community via this petition are of the opinion that they can't be easily separated. Many of the community volunteers are also local government employees, and continuously and consistently work in and out of their paid employment. The communities affected are the communities they live in. Our collective views these roles as roles that have mutual responsibility to uphold their employees [Auckland Council] obligations, but also must hold up the community's obligations simultaneously. In this sense they are an important mechanism for the Auckland council and it is via this petition that their democratic voice is heard as citizens.

At this pivotal time post Covid and Cyclone Gabriel, morale is swaying. Some of the consequences of government decision making to choose *economic sustainability* over *wellbeing sustainability* are now being experienced as; rising crime rates, desperate family situations and community disharmony as a few examples. Collapse of communities, and the loss of shared values systems in neighbourhoods are being seen worldwide where governments fail to put people first. If data is what we rely on to make decisions about how best to spend our taxpayers dollars, then we must look at *all* data and reconcile somewhere in-between.

By choice, the gaps continue to widen. Looking at wealth inequality as one example, chief economist David Norman states; *Pushed too far, wealth inequality can lead to a breakdown in the social contract, and resultant political and social upheaval. This inevitably has impacts on economic growth. If wealth inequality is not tackled, it will lead to worse socio-economic division and poorer upward mobility*¹. Some of the service provision cuts threaten to jeopardise the much needed longer-term systemic focus on how to tackle poverty overtime, particularly in West and South Auckland.

This collective finds it unfathomable that financial analysts and decision makers have failed to factor in and monetise the cost of more pressing issues that concern Aucklanders in particular, West and South Auckland who share close deficit statistics, across the board, decade after decade.

From the Consensus data, almost a quarter of all Māori, 23% and 64% of all Pasifika peoples in Aotearoa live in Tāmaki Makaurau. Most of us live in South or West Auckland. Auckland is the largest Polynesian city in the world and nowhere else has this concentration or scale of Māori and Pasifika peoples.

¹ Auckland's Economic Recovery and Council's Role: Context to support the development of Auckland Council's Economic Development Action Plan," Knowledge Auckland, March 2021, <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/media/2092/aucklands-economic-recovery-and-councils-role-edap-march-2021.pdf> (accessed on [21.03.23]).

All of the economic shocks have shown us that South and West Auckland, Māori and Pasifika are hit first, longest and hardest. Data from the Household Labour Force Survey show concrete examples of what occurred, and what we can learn from, after the last global financial crisis.

We are vehemently against the selling of any assets, and as citizens we have the rights to retain what we see as vital equity to hold on to, rather than to offload as a knee-jerk reaction to floods and infrastructure problems. We urge the mayor to look at the longer-term horizon, rather than reacting with short-term solutions that invariably add to the city's (already considerable) inequality.

Moving to what matters for the community. Events and community spaces across Auckland have the vital role of uplifting the wairua-spirit of the people. One of the most common voices on social media after the Waitangi Day concert held at Hoani Waititi Marae was '*we needed that*'. It was a magnificently uplifting time after weeks of chaos. Citizen scientists who rely on their networks to tackle wicked problems such as weed & pest control in the Waitakere Ranges are the modern day warriors. Not for Profits also have their roles and responsibilities to support volunteers and community service provision.

Taking away the fun, spirited, community-led movements, arts and events, is a step in the wrong direction, and is seen as a lack of ability to 'read the rooms' of our communities, at this time.

If we are indeed to strive for and achieve the vision of a 'Super City' where communities are thriving, we have the opportunity to be good ancestors now, and cutting and compromising services, and environmental efforts should instead have funding at the very least stabilised, and enabled to continue to address the inequity, inequality and disproportionate outcomes the government has created.

So that we [this collective] can make informed decisions we specifically request a conversation and a shared kai, in a safe space at Hoani Waititi Marae. The objective would be to walk and talk alongside and support the Mayor and nominated experts towards a 'between-world' approach where everyone wins, including a sustainable budget for the future, satisfactory to the council's legal obligations, some of which we have highlighted.

In the spirit of this open and transparent consultation process, our agenda for discussion relates to;

Matters Pertaining to the Local Government Act 2022, and the Independent Māori Statutory Boards Schedule of Issues of Significance. We request information as to;

1. How the Mayor reconciled the budget with the above-mentioned statutory instruments available, particularly the IMSB's Schedule of Issues of Significance, which we see as a

way to guide, partner and support in the navigation of issues and opportunities inside of planning and resourcing; and what is the evidence for this?

Matters Pertaining to the Human Rights Act 1993. We request information as to;

2. How the Mayor reconciled changes to service provision, and employees connected to these services, how this complies with the relevant components of The Human Rights Act - Section 10.4.5, and what is the evidence for this?
3. How the mayor proposes to ensure that citizen wellbeing and welfare will not be compromised as a result of this proposed budget, and what is the evidence for this?

Matters Pertaining to Te Tiriti and Co-Governance Arrangements 13. We request information as to;

4. How the Mayor stepped through due process as laid out under the Co-Governance arrangement, and what is the evidence for this?

We are less and less accepting of the archaic top-down approach to the things that affect us, particularly when there are laws in place which are there to support more evolved conversations in the co-governance spaces. We want to divert deficit conversations about who has authority and control over what, and bring it back to wellbeing. We want to find solutions together that strikes a balance between;

- keeping the city economically viable now and into the future [Economic Well Being]
- without compromising wellbeing any further, [Community Well Being]
- while addressing the low-bar of reaching equitable outcomes [moving Beyond Equity]
- while restoring papatūānuku, and *at all costs* the right to be able to supported via the budget to protect our forests, waterways and eco-systems [Ecosystem Wellbeing]

It's not a matter only for the mayor and decision makers on how to make this happen. This indeed requires varying degrees of partnership between government and community/citizens. We therefore acknowledge the very complex task of picking and choosing inside of a budget, while asserting our voice that there is more exploration to do.

This collective notes that we support publications [pending and published] which offer alternative strategies the Auckland Council could consider that are more aligned with the above dot-points. As one example, we support exploring the following concepts and ideas in this alternative budget: A Better Budget for Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Finally, it would be remiss for this petition to not hone in on whānau-families, our elders, our young people, tamariki-children, small business and communities who are genuinely going through unprecedented tough times. These are narratives and cases that aren't captured in the data collection nets, rather the data sets we have as community that echo the clear voice, that we no longer accept people being homeless in the wet freezing winter, we no longer accept

sewage where we swim and eat from, we no longer accept that our forests and oceans, are on the brink of ecosystem collapse.

We urge and *support* the Mayor and the Auckland Council to reconsider this budget, and future decisions, to demonstrate courageous leadership by accepting both the challenge, and invitation to work in partnership with this collective towards Thriving Communities that make up this Super City.

We again offer a warm welcome to meet face to face, hosted at Hoani Waititi Marae.

As a united collective, this petition and conversation has urged us to think how we can best work together to align with how we make services more connected and economically viable over time.

Those signing these petitions acknowledge the above communique, and affiliate with West Auckland in their own ways. As a Māori voice, we proudly represent all ethnic races as citizens in this communication.

Contact details

Westaucklandcommunityvoice@gmail.com



34571



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): Snells Shoreline Conservation Community

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Please see attached.

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.

From: [Snells Shoreline Conservation Community](#)
To: [AKHaveYourSay](#)
Subject: Submission - Budget 2023 - 2024
Date: Monday, 27 March 2023 5:42:15 pm

[View this email in your browser](#)



Kia ora Auckland Council

Our submission **Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024 – Have Your Say**

1. Why Auckland Council resources matter to Snells Shoreline Conservation Community volunteers

We recognise resources provided by Auckland Council upskill Snells Shoreline Conservation Community (SSCC) volunteers, enable us to meet our best practice principles and endorse our activities.

SSCC liaises between Auckland Council and our community volunteers to enhance the environment in our own backyard, public reserves and beach – competently and efficiently. The volunteer work council supports improves community awareness, unity and ownership of the ecological restoration at Snells Beach.

SSCC volunteers are the best placed to spread the word with the locals about environmental issues.

2. What Snells Shoreline Conservation Community achieves with minimal spending

Historic approaches to environmental protection at Snells Beach were ad hoc, unsustainable, inefficient, and divisive. We collaborate with Auckland Council and the community to achieve biodiversity goals, with minimal ratepayers' dollars.

SSCC bird monitoring and protection – 290 volunteer hours since November 2021
Snells Beach tidal flats see over 20 species of shorebirds, many of which are threatened species. We worked with council biodiversity and park ranger staff, and Ngāti Manuhiri, to raise awareness, and protect the shorebirds' environment.

Predator control – 305 volunteer hours in the field and 319 hours administration since November 2021
Council biodiversity and park rangers collaborated to establish predator traplines on Snells Beach reserves, which are now managed by SSCC volunteers. Additional traplines are planned.
Activity on public land is complemented with resources from Predator Free NZ to set up and manage traplines on private residential land.
Total catches since Jan 2022 = 500+ predators.

Water quality testing of Snells Beach northern stream – 60 volunteer hours since August 2022
Our volunteers monitor freshwater quality of our local stream every three months. Kit supplied by Wai Care, who are vital for collecting data to support work needed to improve our waterways.
Our stream lacks biodiversity with high levels of suspended sediment, low levels of dissolved oxygen, and surfaces exposed to sunlight resulting in high water temperatures. Long-term monitoring of stream's health is vital to encourage restoration of natural habitat, with supportive private landowners and Auckland Council.

Planting and weeding programmes – 126 volunteer hours since January 2022
Our volunteers collaborated with council park rangers and Mahurangi Land Restoration Project Ecological Restoration to launch our first community planting restoration project. We are restoring an area plagued by invasive weeds and bordering the stream. Council resources assist with site preparation, and we will continue planting the northern end of Snells Beach in stages throughout the next few years.
Minimal but essential council resources will support volunteers' on-going planting, maintenance and weed control to enhance freshwater aquatic life and reduce contaminants and silt flows into Kawau Bay.

Community events and communication – 145 volunteer hours since January 2022
Our goal is to develop a range of educational activities that share good practice on shoreline ecosystems and native life protection in Snells Beach.
Our volunteers have facilitated:

- A backyard guardian programme for children with the support of the Mahurangi East library.
- Celebration of the return of kuaka (bar-tailed godwits) free community event, offering educational and fun activities for families and residents.
- Attended public events co-ordinated by Restore Rodney East at Tāwharanui and Warkworth A & P Show to enhance community awareness and activate volunteer action.
- Online presence managed by volunteers to enhance the reach of our message.

3. Why Snells Shoreline Conservation Community wants Auckland Council to commit to reducing CO2 emissions by collaborating with environmental groups.

We've seen the impact of climate change, and community well-being is enhanced when people can take hands-on action to reduce CO2 levels and restore environments destroyed by severe climate events.

Summary

Auckland Council's support, training and supply of materials are a small cost compared to the many volunteer hours that are committed to improving local environmental outcomes for Snells Beach.

Since our inception we have spent at least another 600 hours on administration, planning and council compliance work.

Your small investment in ecological restoration projects delivers so much more than you can probably perceive. Don't break our spirit or undo the great outcomes already achieved by cutting back your funding for the future biodiversity of Aotearoa.

A hardcopy pdf of this submission is available [here>>>](#)

Ngā manaakitanga,

[Snells Shoreline Conservation Community](#), proudly a [Forest and Bird Warkworth Area](#) project

EM: snellsshorelineconservation@gmail.com

PROTECT – RESTORE – ENJOY



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34575



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Wiri Business Association

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

First, we absolutely 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, 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.

We support a budget package that aims to reduce Auckland Council's group operating costs by \$125 million.

We also support prudent borrowing even if it requires more than \$75 million of additional debt.

We do not support the \$27.5 million funding reductions proposed for Tātaki Auckland Unlimited. Instead, we ask that the budget for marketing Auckland internationally, attracting visitors, bidding for and hosting major events as well as supporting economic development activities be maintained. We also ask that the budget for local board funded events, local economic development and town centre re-generation be maintained. These activities are what makes Auckland 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. 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:

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- Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money we have already collected from these targeted rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
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Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Turning to 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 for business rates.

The intention of the long-term differential strategy is for

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: We 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, and many of our members have been witness to this devasta

5. Local Boards**Manurewa Local Board**

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

Tell us why: One of the headlines is that the Mayor is asking local boards to find 5% savings of our total budget.

If confirmed by Council the Manurewa Local Board's budget will be cut \$817,000 and Otara-Papatoetoe's budget by \$880,000.

Local environmental projects, t

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:

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?**

Tell us why: One of the headlines is that the Mayor is asking local boards to find 5% savings of our total budget.

If confirmed by Council the Manurewa Local Board's budget will be cut \$817,000 and Otara-Papatoetoe's budget by \$880,000.

Local environmental projects, t

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

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? We understand the staff 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.

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 are concerned about the proposal to reduce open space maintenance by reducing 30 per cent of litter bins across the region. In our view, keeping our region, but especially our town centres tidy and free from litter, is core business.

We are also concerned

Important privacy information

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SUBMISSION TO AUCKLAND COUNCIL ANNUAL BUDGET 2023/2024

25 March 2023

Introduction

The Wiri Business Association represents more than 800 businesses in the Wiri industrial area. Our members are mainly commercial and industrial.

There are currently 50 BIDs in Auckland, with a combined capital value estimated at \$72.7 billion.

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.

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.

The marketing of "Auckland Inc" firmly sits within the scope of council's core services - no other entity has the resources, nor the single-minded focus, to position our brand internationally. Council must continue investing in this important service to support economic development.

Turning to the key themes identified in your Consultation Document, we want to speak about:

- (1) Managing ongoing budget pressures
- (2) Managing rates and debt
- (3) The Storm response
- (4) Changes to other rates and fees and charges, and
- (5) Other matters important to us
- (6) Local Board Submission

(1) Managing ongoing 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.

First, we absolutely 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, 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.

We support a budget package that aims to reduce Auckland Council's group operating costs by \$125 million.

We also support prudent borrowing even if it requires more than \$75 million of additional debt.

We do not support the \$27.5 million funding reductions proposed for Tātaki Auckland Unlimited. Instead, we ask that the budget for marketing Auckland internationally, attracting visitors, bidding for and hosting major events as well as supporting economic development activities be maintained. We also ask that the budget for local board funded events, local economic development and town centre re-generation be maintained. These activities are what makes Auckland 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

Turning to 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 for business rates.

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 no higher than inflation.

We also support reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate and the Water Quality Targeted Rate by around two thirds and 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, and many of our members have been witness to this devastation.

We have been concerned about the lack of ownership regarding the risks from flooding and all the silos that operate within the Council group, which certainly came to the fore during and following the flooding events.

We find it incredulous that core functions, such as keeping the drains free from blockages or maintaining storm water 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 think this funding should be 'ring fenced' for these purposes.

(4) Changes to other rates and fees and charges

We understand the staff 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.

(5) What else is important to us

We are concerned about the proposal to reduce open space maintenance by reducing 30 per cent of litter bins across the region. In our view, keeping our region, but especially our town centres tidy and free from litter, is core business.

We are also concerned about the reductions in garden maintenance for 80 per cent of gardens. Again, we don't want to see this result in the reduction of amenity of gardens in our town centres.

We are also concerned that Eke Panuku Development plans to reduce or withdraw from public realm projects and local events in town centres, such as Matariki festivals, weekend workshops for kids as well as Christmas and cultural New Year celebrations. Again, we are concerned that these reductions will reduce the amenity and enjoyment of our town centres.

We are especially concerned that if further cost reductions are required, Eke Panuku will exit from urban regeneration activities in up to 11 priority locations across the region. We fear this will impact heavily on the amenity of our town centres as private development will continue, but without regeneration of the public realm.

(6) Manurewa and Otara-Papatoetoe Local Board Submissions

One of the headlines is that the Mayor is asking local boards to find 5% savings of our total budget.

If confirmed by Council the Manurewa Local Board's budget will be cut \$817,000 and Otara-Papatoetoe's budget by \$880,000.

Local environmental projects, the arts and community support will bear the brunt of these anticipated cuts.

Local Board funding is not the only area where cuts are proposed. The Mayoral budget also proposes a \$20 million reduction in general rates funding of regional services such as community and education programmes, regional events, economic development and other social activities as well as \$8 million in regional contestable grants.

We oppose cuts to local board funding. If there are to be cuts to local board funding these cuts should be shared equally between all local boards.

We also oppose cuts to environmental services. If there is one thing that recent events has shown it is how threatened our environment is and how much we rely on it. Now is the time to enhance environmental protection, not degrade it.

We oppose cuts to community groups. These groups perform a great deal of good and cutting their funding at a time where community resilience is at a premium is a retrograde step to take.

Conclusions

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

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 council must not lose sight of Auckland's ongoing economic prosperity.

Nonetheless, we ask that these services be retained:

- the marketing of “Auckland Inc” to especially position our city’s brand internationally;
- keeping the drains well maintained;
- retaining the existing number of litter bins in town centres; and
- retaining Eke Panuku Development’s plans for public realm projects and local events in town centres, such as Matariki festivals, weekend workshops for kids as well as Christmas and cultural New Year celebrations.”

Yours sincerely,

Wiri Business Association Manager

Email: [\[redacted\]](#)

Phone: [\[redacted\]](#)



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Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Don't cut critical community services among a cost of living standard and climate disaster.

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: Sell to central government because we don't want it to go to private ownership.

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: Set differential rates, businesses should be paying their fare shares.

NETR should not be cut and WQTR during a climate crisis.

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: We are pleased to increase the operating budget by 20 million, but do not cut the community services response to flood. Also increase the community budget response.

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.	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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