



**Date: Monday 24 April 2023**

---

**Annual Budget 2023-2024**

**Local Board Not Supplied**

**WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 6  
(34608-34777)**

---

Sub #	Organisation Name	Local Board	Volume
34608	Disabled Persons Assembly NZ	I don't know	6
34621	Blind Citizens NZ	I don't know	6
34628	Kindergarten Association	I don't know	6
34665	Bike Auckland	I don't know	6
34667	Arts Access Aotearoa	I don't know	6
34668	Auckland Basketball Services	I don't know	6
34669	Netball New Zealand	I don't know	6
34670	Save our Gallery	I don't know	6
34672	Tamaki Youth Council	I don't know	6
34678	SPCA	I don't know	6
34689		I don't know	6
34691		I don't know	6
34692		I don't know	6
34706	Historic Places Auckland Tamaki Makaurau	I don't know	6
34709		I don't know	6
34732		I don't know	6
34734		I don't know	6
34737		I don't know	6
34739		I don't know	6
34760		I don't know	6
34771		I don't know	6
34775		I don't know	6
34777		I don't know	6



# 34608



# 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): Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

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





**Disabled Persons** Assembly NZ

March 2023

To Auckland Council

Please find attached DPA's submission on Annual Budget 2023/24

For any further inquiries, please contact:

Regional Policy Advisor (Local Government)

# Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

## We work on systemic change for the equity of disabled people

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a not-for-profit pan-impairment Disabled People's Organisation run by and for disabled people.

### We recognise:

- Māori as Tangata Whenua and [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](#) as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand;
- disabled people as experts on their own lives;
- the [Social Model of Disability](#) as the guiding principle for interpreting disability and impairment;
- the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) as the basis for disabled people's relationship with the State;
- the [New Zealand Disability Strategy](#) as Government agencies' guide on disability issues; and
- the [Enabling Good Lives Principles](#), [Whāia Te Ao Mārama: Māori Disability Action Plan](#), and [Faiva Ora: National Pasifika Disability Disability Plan](#) as avenues to disabled people gaining greater choice and control over their lives and supports.

### We drive systemic change through:

- **Leadership:** reflecting the collective voice of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally.
- **Information and advice:** informing and advising on policies impacting on the lives of disabled people.
- **Advocacy:** supporting disabled people to have a voice, including a collective voice, in society.
- **Monitoring:** monitoring and giving feedback on existing laws, policies and practices about and relevant to disabled people.

## United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

DPA was influential in creating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD),<sup>1</sup> a foundational document for disabled people which New Zealand has signed and ratified, confirming that disabled people must have the same human rights as everyone else. All state bodies in New Zealand, including local and regional government, have a responsibility to uphold the principles and articles of this convention. These are the UNCRPD articles particularly relevant to this submission:

- **Article 3: General principles**
- **Article 9: Accessibility**
- **Article 19: Living independently and being included in the community**
- **Article 20: Personal mobility**
- **Article 24: Education**
- **Article 27: Work and employment**
- **Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation and sport**

## New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026

Since ratifying the UNCRPD, the New Zealand Government has established a Disability Strategy<sup>2</sup> to guide the work of government agencies on disability issues. The vision is that New Zealand be a non-disabling society, where disabled people have equal opportunity to achieve their goals and aspirations, and that all of New Zealand works together to make this happen. It identifies eight outcome areas contributing to achieving this vision. There are a number of Strategy outcomes particularly relevant to this submission, including:

- **Outcome 1 – Education**
- **Outcome 2 – Employment and economic security**
- **Outcome 3 – Health and wellbeing**

<sup>1</sup> United Nations. (2006). *United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities*. Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Office for Disability Issues. (2016). *New Zealand Disability Strategy*. Retrieved from: <https://www.odl.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/>

- **Outcome 5 – Accessibility**
- **Outcome 7 – Choice and Control**
- **Outcome 8 - Leadership**

## **The Submission**

### **Introduction**

Fiscal cuts must not be at the expense of community services and funding which are so vital to disabled people and other members of the Auckland community.

Auckland Council's proposed cuts will adversely impact on disabled people who are one of the most socioeconomically disadvantaged and marginalised communities in this country.

DPA Auckland members have raised with us several concerns about the proposed budget including participation and inclusion within the community and exacerbation of existing inequities between disabled and non-disabled people.

DPA believes that if Auckland Council chooses to move forward with these cuts, then it will violate the key principles of the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Act 2019 which requires all local authorities: *“to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.”*<sup>3</sup>

If these cuts progress, Auckland Council will also be contravening several articles of the UNCRPD (see above), especially those relating to its general principles, living independently and being included in the community, personal mobility, education, access to information, work and employment, and participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport.

We outline the impact this proposed budget will have on disabled people using each of the above-mentioned community wellbeing principles of the Local Government Act as a guide.

<sup>3</sup> Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Act 2019, s 3(d).

One in four New Zealanders have a disability or long-term health condition. Māori and Pacific peoples have an even higher-than-average rate of disability. There were approximately 271,000 disabled people residing in Auckland in 2013 (the latest data available), a number which rises to over 300,000 when accounting for current population increase.<sup>4</sup> Around public transport, DPA and Waka Kotahi undertook joint research during 2021 which noted the lack of progress on making our transport system more accessible around the country, including in Auckland.<sup>5</sup> Our recent hui on this budget with Auckland members also highlighted the continuing issues with transport accessibility and usability for disabled people in the region.

Furthermore, disabled people in Auckland face an increased risk of living in poverty largely due to lower incomes and extra resource requirements compared to non-disabled people.<sup>6</sup> Statistics also show that disabled New Zealanders are grossly overrepresented in unemployment rates; two-thirds of disabled people earn less than \$30,000 per annum, increasing the likelihood of poor socio-economic outcomes.<sup>7</sup>

## **Impact of the proposed budget cuts on disabled people**

### **1. Social and cultural wellbeing of disabled people**

The social wellbeing of disabled people will be severely impacted in numerous ways by the proposed budget cuts.

DPA believes that the cuts will have negative ramifications on the ability of Auckland's disabled community to participate in community activities and programmes.

<sup>4</sup>Statistics New Zealand. (2013). New Zealand Disability Survey. Retrieved from [http://archive.stats.govt.nz/browse\\_for\\_stats/health/disabilities/DisabilitySurvey\\_HOTP2013.aspx#gsc.tab=0](http://archive.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/health/disabilities/DisabilitySurvey_HOTP2013.aspx#gsc.tab=0) 5

<sup>5</sup> Doran, B., Crossland, K., Brown, P., & Stafford, L. (2022). Transport experiences of disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand (Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency research report 690). Retrieved from <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/research/reports/690>

<sup>6</sup> Wilkinson-Meyers et al. (2015). To live an ordinary life: resource needs and additional costs for people with a physical impairment. *Disability & Society*, 30(7), 976-990.

<sup>7</sup> King, P. T. (2019). Māori with Lived Experience of Disability Part II. Commissioned by the Waitangi Tribunal. Retrieved from [https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/Documents/WT/WT\\_DOC\\_150473583/Wai%202575%2C%20B023.pdf](https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/Documents/WT/WT_DOC_150473583/Wai%202575%2C%20B023.pdf)

DPA also believes that the cuts will contravene the principles of Enabling Good Lives where disabled people are supported to live the good lives they choose in the community utilising every day spaces, places and natural supports.<sup>8</sup>

### **1.1 Cuts to libraries**

Libraries act as important community hubs as they are places where community events are held, free access to services are provided including sessions with local councillors and Justices of the Peace, and where people can just simply go and relax with a good book or digital resource.

Given that disabled people are more likely to be underemployed or unemployed, retired and/or on low incomes, often a trip to the local library can be a real lifeline in terms of not only borrowing books and other resources but also as a means of social connection for many within the disabled community who experience social isolation and marginalisation more greatly than non-disabled people do.

Cuts to library services through reducing both staff numbers and opening hours will deprive many disabled people of the ability to borrow and/or browse books and other resources for free from public libraries.

Members of the blind and low vision community are regular borrowers of audio resources and have access to free screen readers at Auckland's many public libraries. If library staff are cut and replaced by – as Mayor Brown has suggested – volunteers, then the institutional knowledge that librarians have about the availability of these, and other resources will likely go with them.

Disabled people also access public libraries as they provide access to digital and information resources that would otherwise not be accessible to them at home. This is the case as disabled people are more likely to experience barriers to digital access, particularly when it comes to the internet and other technologies.

These barriers include the inability to afford internet connections or purchase computers due to cost. Another factor is the disabling nature of the internet given

<sup>8</sup> Enabling Good Lives. (2023). About enabling good lives New Zealand. Retrieved from <https://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/about-egl/>

that many websites are inaccessible, especially for blind and low vision people and people with learning disabilities.

Having access to the internet and other digital resources at libraries is very important for disabled people as in those spaces staff are available to train, support and guide disabled and non-disabled people in accessing the internet if needed.

## **1.2 Cuts to regional and local board regional and community grants**

DPA believes that cuts to community funding for other programmes will have serious negative consequences, including for disabled people.

DPA is concerned by the proposal to cease delivery of Community and Social Initiative (CSI) Department programmes (except those aimed at Māori) including The Southern Initiative and The Western Initiative, Youth Connections, and Youth Empowerment.

These initiatives, blending programmes designed to reduce economic, social and environmental inequities in the West and South Auckland areas are innovative, unique and have delivered results that, in many instances, cannot be measured just in monetary terms alone for the people they benefit, and this includes for the disabled people of those areas.

DPA believes that cuts to community contestable grants in the form of regional grants for arts, events, sport and recreation, environment, waste minimisation as well as grants by local boards to support community organisations and activities will be devastating for disabled people and other marginalised communities.

Programmes run and led by disabled people, disability service providers and other community agencies aimed at disabled people and their families/whanau will either not be fully supported to the extent they currently are or will fold altogether.

In the arts, events, sporting and recreational spaces, disabled people will have either reduced or no access to things like audio description and NZSL interpreting at arts, cultural and sporting events, and accessible information about environmental issues including waste and recycling.

DPA is concerned about the proposal to stop support for the development of groups working with Māori, Pasifika, youth, refugee, new migrant, and rainbow communities. Disabled people are members of each of these communities due to the natural intersectionality which exists in our society. We believe that cutting funding for such groups would withdraw much needed support for things like peer support groups which are needed as a means of maintaining community connectedness and wellbeing.

### **1.3 Cuts to homelessness programmes**

Another programme that we are disappointed to see being considered for elimination is the Council's coordination and funding of homelessness initiatives. It is astonishing to believe that during an ongoing housing crisis that Council is considering abdicating its responsibilities towards one of the most marginalised groups in our society – homeless people and their families/whanau.

Disabled people are one group who are very disproportionately impacted by homelessness. This is due to disabled people being overrepresented amongst low-income earners while also facing higher living costs due to disability. For this reason, disabled people are more likely to be renters; 2018 data from Statistics New Zealand shows that 47% of disabled people rent compared to 35% of non-disabled people.<sup>9</sup>

Accordingly, disabled people are at greater risk of homelessness due to the lack of security around ongoing tenancy and this is exacerbated by the low number of accessible houses not only in Auckland but throughout the country.

The loss of Council-provided homelessness support services will mean that disabled people and their families/whanau will have one less supportive resource to turn to if they face a housing crisis and one which has good community networks and knowledge at that.

<sup>9</sup> Statistics New Zealand. (2018). The disability gap 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.stats.govt.nz/infographics/the-disability-gap-2018/#:~:text=Home%20life-,Of%20disabled%20New%20Zealanders%20aged%2015%E2%80%9336%20years%20in%202018,percent%20of%20non%20disabled%20people>.



#### **1.4 Cuts to Citizens Advice Bureau network**

DPA is especially concerned about the proposed cuts to the Council's funding of Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) around Auckland.

Disabled people will be one of the population groups most impacted by any reduction or complete loss of service from Auckland's CAB network.

As we noted earlier, many disabled people are not able to easily access digital information and communications in the same way as non-disabled people and for this reason are mainly reliant on community agencies, including CABs, to provide free, impartial, confidential information about community services, supports and rights.

If, for the sake of just \$2 million annually, CABs are cut leading to large scale closures or even a complete halt to operations in Auckland, this will mean that another vital resource to disabled and non-disabled people alike will go with negative ramifications that will become evident within the community as the burden will then shift to other CABs throughout the country and already under-resourced, stretched agencies to do the work that they perform now.

#### **1.5 Cuts to outdoor experience programmes**

Council proposals to potentially de-fund or reduce funding for the Outdoor Experience programme which supports young people, including disabled people, to experience outdoor physical activity, leadership development and skill building will be detrimental for Auckland's disabled youth.

The axing of specialised Outdoor Experience programmes for disabled youth and others must not proceed. Any reductions in funding for these types of programmes which provide recreational and leisure opportunities for disabled people who would otherwise be denied them would mean the loss of social connection and skill development that they represent.

#### **1.6 Ending Early Childhood Education provision**

DPA believes that Auckland Council's proposal to end direct provision of Early Childhood Education (ECE) services will be very detrimental to the wellbeing of tamariki/children and whanau/families who use this service.

Auckland Council has long provided affordable, flexible childcare to many whanau in the region, including to both disabled parents and their children and the non-disabled parents/whanau of disabled children.

This availability of affordable ECE has been invaluable to many disabled whanau - especially where one or both parents/caregivers are disabled people themselves or are the parent/caregiver of a disabled child – enabling them to engage in paid or voluntary employment, community or recreational activities.

Early childhood services are becoming more expensive for families/whanau and the proposed privatisation/contracting out/axing of ECE provision will create anxiety and uncertainty for the many whanau who currently use these services.

### **1.7 Transport cuts will affect disabled Aucklanders**

DPA believes that cuts to the Total Mobility Scheme and a rise in bus fares will restrict disabled people's movement and ability to socially connect and participate in society.

**Recommendation 1:** that Auckland Council reverse all the above proposed cuts and engage in constructive, open and transparent dialogue with disabled people and disabled people's organisations, around how best to maintain investment in programmes that promote social and cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing.

## **2. Economic wellbeing of disabled people**

DPA believes that the proposed budget will impact on the economic wellbeing of disabled people in the Auckland region, given the poor socioeconomic statistics we cited at the beginning of this submission.

These statistics will not change and only stand to worsen if programmes vital to the economic wellbeing and participation of disabled people are either reduced or eliminated.

## 2.1 Cuts to public transport

The provision of public transport services is important for disabled Aucklanders in terms of the ability to undertake social connection, inclusion and participation in their communities. Cuts in this area will hit disabled people hard.

Auckland Transport's (AT's) proposal in the Budget to maintain service levels at reduced Covid-19 levels will effectively reduce public transport options for Aucklanders and this includes for disabled people who use buses. Moreover, many disabled Aucklanders are still not able to fully access public transport services due to the inaccessibility of some buses and other transport modes.

The Budget proposals to only maintain existing transport services and not grow them - including the absence of any serious plan to improve their accessibility - will mean that they remain under patronised, including by disabled people. Effectively maintaining the exclusion of considerable numbers of disabled people from public transport services is intolerable and this is an issue that must be tackled by AT, even in the current economic climate.

**Recommendation 2:** that Auckland Transport fully invest in improving the accessibility of all public transport services and modes through a comprehensive plan developed in partnership with disabled people, leading to their increased use by disabled people.

Also, how will services improve without investing the necessary funding for AT to recruit more drivers? Central government have already provided significant funding to regional councils to enable this to occur, so Council (through AT) will now have to come to the party on this too.

One of our Auckland members outlined why there is a need to actively recruit bus drivers through supporting pay increases and better conditions for them:

*“One of the reasons that people do not use public transport at the moment is that it is super unreliable. The working conditions of bus drivers need to be addressed. If it was more reliable, it would be more profitable.”*

**Recommendation 3:** that Auckland Council use additional government funding provided to regional councils to raise bus driver pay rates to address driver recruitment and retention issues.

Another Auckland DPA member said that due to the current lack of buses in the city that more of them were running either close to or at full capacity, creating further access barriers for disabled people using them:

*“Auckland’s buses are packed. People with small children and wheelchair users shouldn’t be competing for space but they are. Currently there is only half the number of scheduled buses which should be working – that locks it in. This means that people are standing for more time. It also means that wheelchair users and their friends can’t catch buses together as there too few accessible seats available.”*

While not specifically linked to this budget, AT’s fare rises slated for introduction on April 1 will see even fewer Aucklanders accessing buses and this includes disabled people and their families/whanau. This also raises the question of how the number of passenger trips will be grown if fares keep rising?

Another DPA member spelled out what this could mean for them, especially after the comparatively lower fares of recent years:

*“As an Aucklander who struggles to use public transport, when reduced fares came in, my use of transport went up. The idea of fares increasing just blows my mind. ... They’re wasting the spend that has happened to date.”*

We acknowledge that the rise in fuel and other costs have led to these fare increases but Auckland Council should apply to central government for more funding to cover them so that fares can be reduced again.

**Recommendation 4:** that Auckland Council apply to central government for more funding to cover transport cost increases so that this can be passed on in lower fares to AT public transport users.

DPA is also very concerned about the potential for any cuts to the Total Mobility scheme by Auckland Council.

**Recommendation 5:** That Council retain the permanent 75 percent fare subsidy which came into effect last year.

## **2.2 Cuts to Auckland Council staff numbers**

Mayor Brown and senior management have recently indicated that staff reductions could be on the cards at Auckland Council because of the budget. We noted earlier the suggestion by the mayor that librarians could be replaced by volunteers. Our concern also extends to suggestions that staff within all branches of Auckland Council could be impacted by cuts. We are especially concerned about the impact this will have on disabled staff.

New Zealand has an ongoing issue with comparatively high unemployment and underemployment rates for disabled people when compared to non-disabled people. Therefore, DPA believes there should not be any cuts made to services that would result in redundancies, particularly for disabled staff.<sup>10</sup>

For this reason, if job losses happen, Auckland Council should be aware of the ramifications this will have for affected disabled people made redundant including that any job search will be more prolonged than for their non-disabled counterparts.

If any redundancies result from the budget process, DPA believes that disabled employees should be afforded as much protection as possible against redundancy given that disabled employees possess many skills that have contributed to the work of council and the loss of these skills would be considerable.

**Recommendation 6:** Ensure that disabled council employees are not disproportionately affected by any potential redundancies.

## **2.3 Cuts to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited**

The proposed cuts at Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, in terms of funding for museums, art galleries and the city's zoo, will have impacts in terms of the ability for everyone, including disabled people, to enjoy connection within Auckland's cultural, recreational and community spaces. For many disabled people, an outing, whether it

<sup>10</sup> Statistics New Zealand. (2022). Labour market statistics (disability): June 2022 quarter. Retrieved from <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/labour-market-statistics-disability-june-2022-quarter/>

be to the city's various museums, art galleries or zoo, is often a low-cost way to fully participate in the community.

DPA is also concerned that if the review of pricing, opening hours, staffing costs and programmes offered at community facilities by Tātaki results in the introduction of user pays for areas not currently charged for, then this will have negative impacts on disabled people in terms of the ability to easily and affordably access community, recreational, sporting, cultural and other opportunities. If undertaken, these changes will contribute to further social isolation, marginalisation and loneliness within Auckland's disabled community which will have further negative downstream impacts on health and other community services.

**Recommendation 7:** that Tātaki Auckland Unlimited not introduce user pays or increase admission charges to community facilities in any areas where these are not currently charged.

DPA is very concerned that Tātaki might also have to draw back from supporting new businesses and start-ups given that some will be led by disabled entrepreneurs and/or employ disabled people within them. Any cuts to council economic development programmes will have ramifications for not only disabled people and other employment marginalised groups but the whole city economy.

DPA also opposes the proposal to de-fund COMET, the council-controlled organisation supporting skills training as this will impact on disabled jobseekers who are seeking to train or re-train before entering or returning to the workforce.

### 3. Environmental wellbeing of disabled people

The disabled community are already being severely hit by the impacts of climate change and are expected to be one of the hardest hit population groups going forward, locally, nationally and internationally.<sup>11</sup>

DPA found that after reaching out to our members in Auckland following the recent weather events that while many disabled people were resilient and had withstood the

<sup>11</sup> Schulte, C. (2020, March 28). People With Disabilities Needed in Fight Against Climate Change. Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/28/people-disabilities-needed-fight-against-climate-change#:~:text=People%20with%20disabilities%20are%20at,said%20in%20a%20recent%20report.>

floods well, others had not as we heard stories about the impact that weather-enforced homelessness had on disabled people, especially given the lack of accessible housing.

DPA is supportive of all efforts to both manage and reverse climate change and prevent any further damage to the planet we live on, not only for disabled people but for every one of us.

### **3.1 Cuts to environmental programmes**

DPA believes that both central and local government have a joint responsibility to fund, lead and coordinate programmes in partnership with local communities to address the impact of climate change and environmental degradation head on.

DPA are very disappointed at budget proposals which will see funding for various Council-based environmental programmes reduced, effectively undermining *Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri*, the city's climate plan. We share the concerns of environmental organisations including Forest and Bird about this and other proposals to reduce funding around environmental programmes and infrastructure.<sup>12</sup>

### **3.2 Cuts to weed control and mowing programmes**

Reducing funding for stormwater management following the recent weather events, community-led environmental programmes like weed and predator control, and even funding for grass mowing around footpaths and in parks and recreational spaces will all negatively impact Auckland's environment. On this last point - reducing the ability of Council to manage grass, weeds and other natural hazards - will create accessibility barriers for disabled people and others in our community who will find it increasingly difficult to navigate around overgrown grass and hedges.

### **3.3 Cuts to Eke Panuku urban regeneration**

DPA is concerned about Eke Panuku delaying several planned sustainable urban regeneration projects because of these budget cuts, which will delay accessibility improvements. Urban regeneration offers the opportunity to upgrade Auckland's

<sup>12</sup> Forest and Bird. (2023, February 9). *Climate Cuts Rife in Auckland Budget Proposal*. [Media release]. <https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK2302/S00218/climate-cuts-rife-in-auckland-budget-proposal.htm>

communities to make them more user friendly and accessible for everyone, including disabled people, who will benefit from having more mobility curb cuts, safer footpaths and easier access to community facilities including shops, schools and workplaces.

### **3.4 Cuts to public transport**

As pointed out earlier, we noted the negative impacts of the proposal to maintain Auckland Transport bus services at their Covid-19 levels on disabled people.

DPA believes that maintaining a lower level of public transport services will impact on Auckland's ability to contribute towards this country's goals of being carbon neutral by 2050. It will also undermine the Council's own stated goals of progressing the delivery of public transport improvements designed to reduce carbon emissions.

Inevitably, if environmental funding is cut, then for every day it remains cut, the prospect of an even harder blow back for the city in terms of even worse climate events occurring than those experienced this summer will be inevitable.

If these and other cuts are avoided then the impact of climate change will continue to be disproportionately visited on some of the most marginalised groups in the Auckland community, including disabled people.

## **DPA's recommendations**

**Recommendation 1:** that Auckland Council do not proceed with proposed cuts and engage in constructive, open and transparent dialogue with disabled people and disabled people's organisations, around how best to maintain investment in programmes that promote social and cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing.

**Recommendation 2:** that Auckland Transport fully invest in improving the accessibility of all public transport services and modes through a comprehensive plan developed in partnership with disabled people, thereby enabling greater use by disabled people.

**Recommendation 3:** that Auckland Council use additional government funding provided to regional councils to raise bus driver pay rates to address driver recruitment and retention issues.



**Recommendation 4:** that Auckland Council apply to central government for more funding to cover transport cost increases so that this can be passed on in lower fares to AT public transport users.

**Recommendation 5:** That Council retain the permanent 75 percent fare discount for the Total Mobility scheme, which came into effect last year.

**Recommendation 6:** Ensure that disabled council employees are not disproportionately affected by any potential redundancies.

**Recommendation 7:** that Tātaki Auckland Unlimited not introduce user pays or increase admission charges to community facilities in any areas where it is not currently charged.



# 34621



# 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): Blind Citizens NZ

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Blind Citizens NZ**

28 March 2023

Auckland Council

Email

[akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Auckland Branch

2/13 Upland Road

Remuera

Auckland 1050

Phone

Mobile

Web [www.abcnz.org.nz](http://www.abcnz.org.nz)

Email

## **Submission from Auckland Branch Blind Citizens NZ re Auckland Council Budget 2023-2024**

### **Introducing the Auckland Branch of Blind Citizens NZ**

1. Founded in 1945, Blind Citizens NZ is the oldest disability consumer advocacy group – disabled people's organisation – in New Zealand. We write on behalf of blind, deafblind and vision impaired members of the Auckland Branch. Our members are proud to be Aucklanders and we accept and enjoy our responsibilities to participate in our community as much as we can.
2. New Zealand signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Disability Convention) in 2007 and ratified it in 2008. The purpose of the Disability Convention is to promote, protect, and ensure universal human rights and fundamental freedoms for disabled people, and promote respect for their dignity. It recognises the right of disabled people to make free and informed decisions about their own lives. It sets out in practical terms how the rights of disabled people can be realised. All rights discussed in the Disability Convention are also established in current New Zealand law. Local government, including Auckland Council and its council-controlled organisations, is bound to honour the Disability Convention.
3. The Disability Convention articles most relevant to our submission are:
  - Article 4.3 Involving disabled people and our organisations in decisions that affect us;
  - Article 9: Accessibility;
  - Article 19: Living independently and being included in the community;
  - Article 20: Personal mobility;
  - Article 21: Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information;
  - Article 28: Adequate standard of living and social protection;
  - Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport.



4. The New Zealand Government policies and strategies which are relevant to this submission include:
  - New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026:
    - Outcome 3 - Health and wellbeing;
    - Outcome 5 - Accessibility.
5. The Auckland Branch does not comment on potential changes to council revenue. This is because we don't have a clear view from the majority of members. However, we are very aware that most of our members have low incomes and they will be gravely disadvantaged by any service reductions or price hikes in services.
6. We have read and strongly support the Submission from Auckland members of Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA).

### **Our Auckland Branch Submission**

7. The Auckland Branch agrees with DPA's assertion that if Auckland Council chooses to go ahead with the proposed budget cuts, council will violate the key principles of the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Act 2019 which requires all local authorities "to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future."
8. There should be no cuts to Auckland Libraries. The libraries have many audio books and large print books. Their qualified staff also help blind and low vision people to access information (through reference services) as well as leisure reading.
9. Proposed cuts to regional and local board regional and community grants will lead to reduced or no inclusion in arts, events, sporting and recreational spaces. Blind people will have reduced access to audio description at arts, cultural and sporting events, and accessible information about environmental issues including waste and recycling.
10. In particular, we stress the importance of audio description at Auckland Live, Auckland Theatre Company, Tim Bray Theatre Company, The Auckland Arts Festival, the Art Gallery and from other arts providers. We want more, not less.
11. We strongly oppose cuts to the Citizens Advice Bureau network. Among everything else, the CAB is committed to helping people who are offline. many of our members are on the wrong side of the digital divide. We can go to the CAB to have free, impartial and confidential help with reading documents, and filling in and signing forms.
12. There's also the maintenance by Auckland Council of trees, berms, and stuff growing across footpaths. This is a health and safety issue which can lead to slips, trips, falls and injuries for blind people who cannot see the hazards and negotiate safely around them.

13. We very strongly oppose cuts to public transport. We cannot drive cars and must rely on public transport including Total Mobility taxi services to get around Auckland. Sometimes we can call on family and friends if they are available, but this reduces our independence and limits our access to and inclusion in our communities.
14. Auckland Branch advocacy about public transport is grounded on the principle of the Accessible Journey – “The accessible journey covers all the steps needed for a person to get from their home to their destination and return. All steps in the accessible journey are interlinked and are of equal importance. If one link is inadequate, the whole journey may be impossible”. See The Accessible Journey: Report of the Inquiry into Accessible Public Land Transport, Human Rights Commission, September 2005, <https://www.hrc.co.nz/our-work/people-disabilities/past-projects/accessible-journey/>.
15. The Auckland Branch of Blind citizens NZ went to the Human Rights Commission (HRC) mediation with AT in May 2017 citing various issues with the inaccessibility of public transport in Auckland:
  - Blind people having to wave down buses even though we can't see there destination boards, an issue not even beginning to be resolved;
  - Next Stop audio announcements on buses are only being rolled out now (6 years on from the mediation) and this programme isn't set to finish until late 2023 – assuming the budget for the onboard equipment needed isn't cut.
16. Not all buses in Auckland are wheelchair accessible and even when they are, we hear of numerous instances of drivers not being willing to make the bus kneel or give passengers sufficient time to get themselves safely secured on the bus.
17. Turning to trains, maintenance by Kiwi Rail will close each train line for some time from 2023 to 2025 forcing passengers on to buses. This will further disrupt travel for blind people and anyone who uses a walker or wheelchair or who has mobility difficulties because Auckland Transport has been unable to guarantee the accessibility of their buses replacing the trains.
18. Lack of full accessibility to public transport is particularly egregious for disabled passengers over the age of 65. Seniors can travel on Auckland's buses, trains and ferries at no charge from 9:00am until the final services of the day. Seniors unable to use public transport must take taxis or rely on family and friends to get around.
19. Total Mobility provides a subsidy to eligible disabled people to enable us to use taxis at a discounted rate. The funding for the subsidy is split between Auckland Transport (AT) and Central Government. The 75% subsidy on Total Mobility taxi fares is now permanent. Auckland Council funds Auckland Transport who administers Total Mobility. We are aware of a proposal to cut the budget for the Total Mobility scheme which we strongly oppose. As we have said above, we can't drive cars and Auckland Transport has not made our public transport fully accessible. We must rely on taxis to get around our city to medical appointments and visits to friends, family and community outings.

20. In conclusion, we are dismayed about the sudden and extreme budget cuts proposals that in our view violate Auckland Council's legal responsibility "to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future". We urge Auckland Council to find ways to fund the continuity of the services we have come to value. As well, council must make a genuine, long-overdue effort to improve public transport so that it becomes fully accessible for all.

---

rer

Auckland Branch

Blind Citizens NZ

Postal: 2/13 Upland Road | Remuera | Auckland 1050 | New Zealand

Email:

Phone:

Mobile:

Trading as Blind Citizens NZ, the Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated is a registered charitable entity <https://www.charities.govt.nz>. Number CC41040.





# 34628



# 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): Kindergarten 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:

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

PO Box 6933  
Wellesley Street  
Auckland 1141

Tel 09 373 5635  
Email [info@aka.org.nz](mailto:info@aka.org.nz)  
[www.aka.org.nz](http://www.aka.org.nz)



**AUCKLAND  
KINDERGARTEN  
ASSOCIATION**



28 March 2023

## **Submission on changes to community leases 23/24 Auckland Council Annual Budget**

Ngā Tamariki Puāwai o Tāmaki | Auckland Kindergarten Association (AKA) is concerned about proposed administration and maintenance fees on publicly owned land and community facilities that we currently lease from Auckland Council. We understand charges will be at the discretion of Local Boards who administer leases. Because Local Boards have been asked to look for budget cuts, we would like to highlight the impact of any potential increases.

### **The Impact of Cost Increases**

We have a long-standing historic partnership with Council that has benefited many generations of children and underpins AKA's leadership in early childhood education. Together, we have made a valuable contribution to the education and development of the city's tamariki. If Auckland Council changed its long-standing practice of providing public facilities and/or land for early childhood education at peppercorn rental as it has done for 100 years, AKA may face substantially higher costs, which would be then passed on to whānau.

Currently, we are under huge cost pressures. COVID-19, this year's flood damage, returning to a 100% qualified teaching workforce, construction and material cost increases, and overall cost of living increases means last year we operated at a deficit. We continue to advocate for early childhood education to Central Government, particularly to meet growing demands for additional learning support. Teachers have also been lobbying Central Government for higher salaries and improvements to their collective agreement. AKA and our kindergarten communities continue to fundraise as we can, but not all communities have the same capacity for fundraising and several years of COVID-19 closed many opportunities to do so. Our purpose is to provide excellent early childhood education, but we find ourselves already stretched over property maintenance, fundraising, and supporting the complex needs of tamariki and whānau.

Our ability to suddenly increase our revenue is constrained. Most of our Council leases run until 2035 with right to renew, and we cannot plan strategically or operate in the short-term with the prospect of unexpected increases.

If there were to be Council-imposed increases, we would need to pass them on to whānau by raising fees across our network. Many families could not afford a rise, and this would prohibit some families from participating in early childhood education, to the detriment of tamariki and the future of the city. Cost of living increases means many parents and whānau need to be in paid employment. If they can't access affordable, high-quality early childhood education, it will impact the city's workforce and economic engine. For future generations, the cost of lost education would be substantial, particularly if we had to close some of our services to make up the shortfall.



PO Box 6933  
Wellesley Street  
Auckland 1141

Tel 09 373 5635  
Email [info@aka.org.nz](mailto:info@aka.org.nz)  
[www.aka.org.nz](http://www.aka.org.nz)



We ask for your continued advocacy of all tamariki, and your invaluable support of Ngā Tamariki Puāwai o Tāmaki | Auckland Kindergarten Association.

## Who We Are

Ngā Tamariki Puāwai o Tāmaki | Auckland Kindergarten Association is a not-for-profit charitable organisation whose purpose is to provide excellent early childhood education, accessible to all tamariki in Auckland. We operate on 116 sites in neighbourhoods across the city, including 107 kindergartens and 4 KiNZ centres. We have 5 Playgroups, which operate on school sites.

Up to 10,000 tamariki come to our kindergartens each year. All our funds go directly into supporting education. We are community-led, with our democratic constituency made up of Parent Whānau Group Chairs. Our partnership with mana whenua is embedded in our Constitution, with a Māori Director from Ngāti Whatua contributing to our governance. We serve a diverse range of tamariki and whānau from Mangawhai to xx, Waitakere to Maraetai. We respond to changing needs in our communities, and have just opened a new Pasifika kindergarten (Fonua 'Alaha Manongi) in partnership with the Tongan community.

We have been able to provide services at relatively low cost, or completely free to some parents and whānau, in part because our kindergartens are on publicly owned land. Of these, 43 are located on Auckland Council land, with most of the rest on Crown land.

## Long-standing Mayoral and Council Support

With the support of Auckland Council, we have been a stable provider of early childhood education since our first kindergarten opened in 1910. Auckland Council support dates back to those beginnings, when we were housed in temporary accommodation provided by Council in the Victoria Park Pavilion. We have been supported by numerous mayors of Auckland, dating back to Sir John Logan Campbell who, with his wife Lady Campbell gifted us the Campbell Free Kindergarten. Sir John said: "May the children be destined to go forth as well-ordered and worthy citizens of the land – the ripened fruit of the free kindergarten." The site was opened by another Mayor - L.J Bagnall.

Our Myers Park site was a gift to the young children of Auckland by Arthur Myers (also a Mayor of Auckland) and his family. The Foundation Stone was laid by Mayor James Gunson. That historic site is still open today, continuing a legacy of yesterday's business leaders and councillors, who understood early education as a civic ideal. Their contributions ensured early education was accessible in some of the poorest parts of the city, as they believed that: "the best way of ridding the state of criminals is to stop raising them." It was a holistic approach to education aimed at whole human development, that continues to evolve as our qualified early childhood teachers gain fresh insights into neuroscience and child cognition.

PO Box 6933  
Wellesley Street  
Auckland 1141

Tel 09 373 5635  
Email [info@aka.org.nz](mailto:info@aka.org.nz)  
[www.aka.org.nz](http://www.aka.org.nz)



As more kindergartens opened on public lands from the 1920s onwards, the children of Auckland have benefited from free or low-cost early childhood education with us, with Council support integral to providing child-centred play-based discovery and learning.

### **The Importance of Excellent Early Education**

Excellent early education is a priority, particularly following the disruption experienced by tamariki during the past years during a pandemic described by UNICEF as a “children’s crisis.” It is widely recognised internationally that the pre-school years are crucially important for tamariki, providing the foundations for life-long learning. Not only does early childhood education provide the social, physical, cognitive and emotional competencies needed for a strong transition into primary school; excellent education also fosters mana atua | wellbeing and mana whenua | belonging among tamariki. These are particularly crucial in Tāmaki Makaurau, where we have highly mobile families and communities experiencing housing insecurity and social upheaval.

Intensification of housing also means many children no longer have access to private gardens. Our kindergarten outdoor learning environments are more important than ever, empowering children to learn mana aotūroa | exploration and gain confidence in their bodies. We also have 38 Enviroschools, supported by Auckland Council, where tamariki learn about sustainability of people and place. The importance of empowering our youngest residents has been highlighted in these times of climate crisis.

### **Challenges for AKA**

Through a combination of government funding for teacher salaries, grants for resources, public leases from Council and the Ministry of Education, parent fees and fundraising we have been able to maintain our services for 115 years. This is becoming increasingly difficult for us, especially as grant funding is reduced, including Council grants.

The Government’s funding model means we receive Government funds for attending children only – which meant we received less funding during last year’s Omicron outbreak and a difficult winter of RSV and other childhood illnesses. During the Auckland Anniversary Weekend floods, some of our sites flooded and had to close for a period of time. We face costs associated with closures, including no fees from parents. Unlike schools we do not receive any funding for capital maintenance and works.

Building maintenance has been an ongoing issue for kindergarten associations. Kindergartens have seen a decline in funding over the last ten years. Due to our belief in accessible high quality early childhood education for all, we have not responded by substantially increasing fees. Increasing fees would prohibit some parents and whānau from affording early childhood education for their tamariki.

PO Box 6933  
Wellesley Street  
Auckland 1141

**Tel** 09 373 5635  
**Email** [info@aka.org.nz](mailto:info@aka.org.nz)  
**www.aka.org.nz**



It is becoming increasingly difficult to absorb all the costs we face. We follow exacting regulations to ensure that our buildings and play areas are safe, but we have in some cases been forced to defer maintenance or property upgrades.

## **Recommendation**

We recommend that local government continue to provide public lands at low cost and take responsibility for building maintenance when leasing to early learning services. Not-for-profit education providers are not best placed to own or maintain property assets, and it is becoming more difficult to do so in an environment with increasing costs due to property prices and health and safety requirements. Removing this obligation from education providers would enable providers, especially those who are not profit-driven, to continue to provide affordable high quality education to our young learners.

Public land is for all residents, and AKA kindergartens provide benefits not just for the communities of today, but for the city of the future. We ask that you continue to put the public good ahead of cost-cutting, and maintain our historic lease agreements.

Chief Executive



# 34665



# 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): Bike Auckland

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:** Bike Auckland does not support:

Reduction of public transport services

Reduction of climate action related programmes

Cuts to Local Board funding

### 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:** Bike Auckland does not support:

- Selling 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:

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

#### Debt

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

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

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

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

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

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

## 7. What else is important to you?

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

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

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

Bike Auckland does not support:

- Public transport fare increases
- Changes to the Climate Action Targeted Rate
- Reduction of climate action related programmes

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



## Council Budget Submission

### Part 1: Establishing context

Bike Auckland is a registered charity based in Auckland with a mission statement to make Auckland a better place for anyone who rides a bike.

Bike Auckland believes that more people riding bikes makes for a better city. Cleaner air; streets with birdsong; neighbours who know each other; elderly people staying active and healthy; children playing on quiet roads. Resilient, eco-friendly multi-modal communities which have long term sustainability. We can create this liveable city by investing in walking, cycling, and public transport. We know that investing now will save us more money in the future, and that we owe it to our future selves, and future generations, to not just kick the can down the road.

As an organisation, we possess considerable expert transport knowledge, and represent a diverse membership and subscriber base, many of whom care deeply about action on climate change. We are aware of the interconnectedness of transport, and the desire for multi-modal transport behaviour in our region.

#### **Policy context:**

- The Emissions Reduction Pathway (TERP) sets a plan to halve regional emissions by 2030 (against a 2016 baseline), including reducing transport emissions by 64% by 2030. Right now, only 17% of trips are made by walking, cycling or public transport; if we are to meet our targets, this needs to increase to at least 62%
- Te-Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan includes a target of 7% cycling mode share (by distance) by 2030
- Tāmaki Makaurau is currently a C40 city; but we can lose that status if we do not meet our commitments
- Vision Zero sets a target of zero deaths and serious injuries on our transport system by 2050, including a target to reduce deaths and serious injuries by 60% on AT roads by 2027. Safer speeds and safe cycleways are key to reaching this target; especially as research shows that protected cycle infrastructure makes the street safer for all modes, drivers and walkers included.
- 50% of Aucklanders would ride more if it was safe to do so - TRA research commissioned by Auckland Transport
- "63% of Aucklanders feel building more cycleways is a long-term strategic priority for [Tāmaki Makaurau] Auckland." (TERP) So why do we delay?

## Case studies

### Seville, Spain - population 700,000

2005 - 2010: went from a virtually non-existent network to 120kms of separated bike lanes, 2,500 shared bikes & 250 secure docking stations. This delivered a 5-fold increase in the amount of cycling, with travel by bike account for 10% of travel made everyday

### Paris, France - population 2.2m

2015 - 2020: 'Plan Velo' 5-year plan, investing 10% of the transport budget for cycling & 10% for walking by 2020 to build 1,000kms of safe bike lanes. This created a 70% increase in the number of cyclists and 15% of all trips are made by bike. The Mayor who led this was re-elected, and in 2021 Part II of Plan Velo was announced with an aspiration to make Paris entirely bike able safely by 2026, add an additional 130 kms of safe cycle pathways, remove 70% of remaining on-street parking, and triple secure bike parking.

### Greater Manchester, UK – population 2.8m

2018: 'Made to Move Programme' launched. 1,125kms of safe infrastructure to be added over 10 years. Aspiration for it to be safe for a 12-year-old to use because this makes it safe for all other groups. Notably, they estimated that **the cost of doing nothing is \$7.3bn a year** – due to cost of congestion, air quality, traffic casualties, inactivity, and the impact of global warming.

## From these we can learn:

- Investing in a fast roll out of a safe cycle network works!
- People **will** transition from the car to the bike

## We also know that...

- Investing in safe walking, cycling and public transit makes areas more livable, more equitable, more environmentally friendly, and brings economic gains.
- Investing in safe cycle infrastructure leads to money savings over time (saving money on healthcare, road maintenance, congestion costs).
- Cities with safe cycleways have greater resilience. Bikes are lightweight and space efficient; they can go around obstacles easily, do not get stuck in traffic, can go over rough terrain, and do not rely on petrol. This makes them ideal vehicles during and after emergencies. We need safe cycleways now to build the community's confidence and capability to ride bikes so that they can use them when they need to.
- Active travel creates more community resilience. When people walk, cycle, and use mobility aids they are more likely to make eye contact, to say hello, and to make connections with their neighbours (than if they drove). Studies show that neighbours know each other better on streets with less car traffic. These community connections are vital for community resilience during emergencies.
- The benefit to cost ratio (BCR) of investment in cycling is estimated to be between 3:1 and 14:1, with BCRs increasing when the project is connected into a wider network.
- A recent poll released by 1 News revealed that 54% of Kiwis think the government should act with more urgency on climate change.

**Can we afford the long term costs of not investing?**

## Part 2: High-level Support Statements

### **Bike Auckland supports:**

- More investment in safer streets; including safe cycleways
- Reducing speed limits to 30 km/ph to make streets safer with a priority on residential areas, around schools, and through local shopping areas.
- Reallocation of road space to make fast, affordable, safe cycleways and convenient public transport.
- More investment in convenient and regular public transport.
- An increase in operating budgets towards preparation for, and response to, future storms.

### Part 2a: Support Specifics

**Position:** Bike Auckland supports investment in Auckland Council to enable them to embed the Auckland Climate Plan, Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri, into their planning and decision making process in 2023 – 2024.

**Position:** Bike Auckland supports investment in and progress on the City Centre Master Plan which includes improvements for walking, cycling, and accessibility in the city centre.

**Position:** Bike Auckland supports *more investment* towards vision zero; safer speeds, and traffic calming. Since June 2020 the Auckland region has had an overall 9% increase in road deaths. However, in areas where speeds have been reduced, there has been a 30% reduction in deaths. Streets that are 30km/hr are safer for people to share, and become more pleasant for everyone. This is one of the cheapest and fastest ways to make safer streets for all.

**Position:** Bike Auckland supports the reallocation of road space to make fast, affordable, safe cycleways (eg. pop up bike lanes) and convenient public transport (eg. bus priority lanes). This means replacing parking spaces, medians or existing traffic lanes with a protected cycleway. It also includes “building back better”; providing for safe walking, cycling and public transport when doing road renewals, giving all people safe options for getting around by any transport mode in a faster, more affordable way.

**Position:** Bike Auckland supports *more investment* in public transport, walking, and cycling projects, and is opposed to the proposed budget cuts which would result in poor public transport services.

Having a functional public transport network is fundamentally important for getting people to use public transport - research shows that the three most important factors for getting people to choose PT are connectivity, frequency, and timeliness. More people using public transport, walking, and cycling means fewer cars on the road, and more benefits for the region. Bike Auckland understands the importance of multi-modal travel; being able to use bikes and public transport together to form a complete journey. For some people, using public transport and cycling together as a combo is crucial for their trips for instance if they are travelling longer distances or if they are avoiding areas with no safe cycle infrastructure. We also support the provision of secure bike parking at public transport hubs and safe cycleway connections to public transport hubs to enable multimodal travel.

**Position:** Bike Auckland supports investment in Eke Panuku Development Auckland. Eke Panuku projects often include improvements for walking and cycling, setting up safe connections through town centres, or alongside streams.

**Position:** Bike Auckland supports investment in local boards towards local board priorities, especially where these are focused on walking, cycling, safer streets, public transport, climate change, and other actions towards reducing emissions. Bike Auckland supports the Franklin Local Boards proposal for a new targeted rate for building trails.

**Position:** Bike Auckland supports an increase in operating budgets towards preparation for, and response to, future storms. This is important especially in the context of climate change, with increasing instances of severe weather.

## Part 3: High-level DNS Statements

### **Bike Auckland *does not* support:**

- Changes to the Climate Action Targeted Rate
- Reduction of public transport services
- Selling Airport shares
- Reduction of climate action related programmes
- Cuts to Local Board funding
- Public transport fare increases

## Part 3a: DNS Specifics

**Position:** Bike Auckland *does not* support changes to the Climate Action Targeted Rate. This rate should be used for its original purpose of delivering walking, cycling and public transport projects as well as urban ngāhere. Additionally, the aim for public transport services should be to continue to increase the level of service to be better than it was pre-covid.

**Position:** Bike Auckland *does not* support the proposal to sell Council owned shares in the airport. We should be building convenient and safe walking, cycling and public transport connections to the airport, and it would be harder to do this in a cohesive way if it were privately owned.

**Position:** Bike Auckland *does not* support the reduction of climate action related programmes. These programmes include; Live Lightly and the Climate Action Grant, both of which often encourage people to change their transport behaviour; to cycle, walk, and take public transport. For our region to thrive, we need to continue initiatives like these.

**Position:** Bike Auckland *does not* support cuts to Local Board funding.

**Reasoning:** Local Boards often fund walking and cycling projects which are important to their local area. For example their local bike hubs. There are currently 9 community bike hubs operating from shipping containers across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, and, because of an awesome programme run by Auckland Transport, there will soon be around 6 more sprouting up with the support of their local communities. These hubs become important community spaces for resilience during emergencies; for example, Ōtara Bike Burb became a hub for getting meals, bikes, and other relief items out to their community during lockdown. Also, Tumeke Cycle Space was flooded during the recent storms but the community came together to clean the area and help them get set back up - something that wouldn't happen without a robust community which cares deeply for this community space.

**Position:** Bike Auckland *does not* support increasing public transport fares. Public transport costs should be competitive with the price of cars. As it is with the constant service cancellations, the services should *at least* be affordable to compensate.

**Reasoning:** Many people who walk or cycle to get around depend on PT to fill in the biggest chunks of their journey. It should be affordable to bridge those gaps without having to use a car.

## Part 4: Where does the money come from?

There are many places the funds could be raised from. Bike Auckland thinks it would be appropriate to follow the example set by many overseas countries, using the following means which can also boost incomes:

- Raise parking fees  
Aside from provision of mobility parking, car parking fees should reflect the true cost of a car park, and should be encouraging people to try other modes of transport. It should be cheaper to catch public transport than to drive and pay for parking!
- Raise rates in line with inflation  
This is an equitable way to fund the delivery of safe and convenient walking, cycling and public transport for the whole region.
- Increase debt now for savings in the future  
Investing in safe cycleways leads to longer term savings and creates overwhelming benefits.

## We need a resilient and sustainable budget

We believe that a resilient and sustainable budget should:

- “Super charge walking and cycling”
- “Make public transport competitive with driving across the region”
- “Prioritise and resource sustainable transport”
- “Make neighbourhoods safer with less traffic”
- be investing in the transport we want to see used in our region

The quotes we have used in this list are pulled from the Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway (TERP), and we absolutely agree! Let's build a region that people want to invest in.

*Consent is granted for this submission, without changes, to be hosted, referenced, or published in the public interest.*

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Kind regards,

Chief Biking Officer  
Bike Auckland





# 34667



# 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): Arts Access Aotearoa

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?

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



T +64 4 802 4349  
E [info@artsaccess.org.nz](mailto:info@artsaccess.org.nz)  
Toi Pōneke Arts Centre  
Level 3, 61-63 Abel Smith Street  
PO Box 9828, Wellington 6141  
[www.artsaccess.org.nz](http://www.artsaccess.org.nz)

**arts  
access  
aotearoa**  
Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa

Tena koe Mayor Wayne Brown:

28 March 2023

Arts Access Aotearoa recognises the huge and challenging job to rebuild homes and infrastructure following the floods and cyclone and the impact of these and other matters on the 2023/2024 budget. Precisely because of these issues it's essential to protect the brand and unique character that Auckland Council itself sees are important economic, social and wellbeing benefits delivered by arts events and people participating in a thriving culture.

Over many years, and powerfully in response to Covid 19, the experienced leadership by individuals and organisations of the arts and cultural sector has greatly helped maintain Auckland's reputation and the wellbeing of its communities. This leadership is exemplified by its festivals, performances and venues, and in its 27 community based creative spaces such as Toi Ora and Mapura Studios for people who are disabled or marginalised.

Our concern is that cuts would be damaging to the city's brand, its social cohesion and the mental health of Aucklanders. They would tarnish the very attributes the Council has promoted that make Auckland unique: the economy, Māori identity, cultural diversity, nature and urban-ness.

Cuts to arts sector funding will result in:

- Damage to the brand of Tāmaki Makarau Auckland and the reputation of its vibrant arts and cultural organisations;
- Diminished ability for the arts sector to contribute to the economy, and to strengthen community wellbeing and support people in need;
- Fewer Aucklanders being able to access and participate in the arts.

It is essential to maintain the commitment made by Auckland Council in the strong strategic goals of the [Toi Whāitiki Arts & Culture Strategic Plan \(2015-2025\)](#): in particular, "All Aucklanders can access and participate in the arts".

Now is the time to maintain investment in arts and culture and the vibrant brand of Auckland. Arts Access Aotearoa asks you to maintain sustainable investment by Auckland Council in the arts and other social services. This investment will help carry the city through these difficult times. In the long run, maintaining investment will provide the economic cultural and social benefits that all Aucklanders deserve and for the city to thrive.

Nāku noa, nā

Executive Director

**Arts Access Aotearoa Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa is the national organisation that advocates for all people in New Zealand to have access to and participation in the arts and culture of Aotearoa.**



# 34668



# 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): Auckland Basketball Services

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?

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

## AK HAVE YOUR SAY

### Annual Budget 2023/2024 Feedback Form

---

First and last name

Email or postal address

Local Board

Multiple

Name of organisation

Auckland Basketball Services  
(owned by Waitakere-West Auckland Basketball, Basketball Auckland, Counties-Manukau Basketball)

---

#### My/Our submission

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

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

1. Removing/ reducing the Regional Sport & Recreation Programme Grant
2. Removing/ reducing Recreation Facilities Operating Grant
3. Reducing local board funded activities across all boards
4. Increased costs to hire and use Council operated recreation facilities

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

Explain how (or delete this)

1 – the Regional Sport & Recreation Programme Grant supports delivery of community activity that others funders do not meet, this enables us to be agile and innovative in how we utilise the funds, an example of which is “mobile basketball delivery” which uses an enclosed trailer and portable hoops to enable basketball activity to be delivered in local spaces, avoiding the need for expensive facility hire.

2 – the Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant gives key venues an important boost in meeting their costs – the effects of this are twofold – (a) it lessens the costs that need to be passed onto users making activities in those venues more accessible for low-income participants and (b) it reduces the need for the venues to accept commercial bookings to drive the income they need to make ends meet, this means the venues have more court space available to deliver community activities such as activations, clubs and leagues. When



numerous studies have shown greater Auckland to have a deficit of 40-50 indoor courts then time available on the existing courts becomes even more valuable.

3 – local board grants are a key income source for our organisation, enabling more delivery to the local community and/or reduced cost falling directly on participants. Examples of the benefit of those grants include court time and coaching hours to deliver programmes, payment of BBNZ affiliation fees (which would otherwise fall as a direct cost to participants, as many other sports do) and purchase of equipment to accommodate more participants.

4 – increasing the costs charged by council facilities is a direct inhibitor on participation as either (a) less participants can be accommodated in funded programmes if more budget is taken by facility charges, or (b) a larger direct cost falls on participants. Basketball is already considered an expensive sport and that is led by the cost of accessing safe and suitable facilities – despite being the most popular sport for young people in some of Auckland's poorest communities. Many players wishing to pursue a pathway can only do so with the assistance of organisations such as Variety Club or private philanthropists – any increases to the cost of participation impacts at both a community level and inhibits the ability of talent athletes to follow their aspirations.

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

Signature

**Chief Executive  
Auckland Basketball Services**



# 34669



# 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): Netball New Zealand

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

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

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

## AK HAVE YOUR SAY

### Annual Budget 2023/2024 Feedback Form

---

First and last name

Email or postal address

Info@netballnz.co.nz

Local Board - all of Auckland Council Board areas

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

Name of organisation - Netball New Zealand (NNZ)

#### Our submission

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

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

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

Netball provides participation opportunities for approx. 40,000 participants and 4,000 volunteers, predominately women and girls, in 10 Netball Centres across Auckland Council Boards.

Changes to the above points (1-5) will result in significant additional costs being passed on to participants and will detrimentally impact on the ability for Netball to deliver community sport outcomes resulting in less people, particularly tamariki and rangatahi, from being active.

Netballs Strategy, Poipoia, focusses on Netball being affordable and accessible and NNZ have made a commitment not to increase participant affiliation fees for 2023, understanding the impact of both Covid, weather events and the economic climate on all communities with a particular impact on those living in areas with the highest deprivation index.

The 2022 Voice of Participant survey, conducted by Sport New Zealand, identified that Auckland Netball participants were less satisfied than the national average for Value for Money, (60/62%) and cost to play was identified as a key factor in decision making by families as to whether children and adults were able to play.

There is a strong link between participation in sport and the positive social impact on communities, with sport participation being a vehicle for positive growth in Rangatahi with 60% of Rangatahi more likely to have better wellbeing than those who don't play in sport.



This proposed Budget will impact on all play, recreation and sport organisations across the sector and drive poor community outcomes. Cuts to funding support for sport providers as outlined in points 1-5 are likely to have significant impact on other community outcomes which may result in future additional costs to other areas of Council provision and services.

Sport is critical to making Auckland a great place to live. We rely on hard working volunteers and building strong communities – Council's support is critical to enable sport to achieve what it does.

Signature

27 March 2023

**How to submit this form**

Email - Scan your completed form and email it to [akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

In person - Drop your completed form off at your local library or service centre.

By post - Place your completed form in an envelope and send it to freepost address: AK Have Your Say, Auckland Council, Freepost Authority 182382, Private Bag 92 300, Auckland 1142.

Note: Your feedback will be included in public documents. All other personal details will remain private.

This submission can also be done online if you prefer:

[https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/feedback-forms-annual-budget-2023-2024/survey\\_tools/annual-budget-2023-2024-feedback-form](https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/feedback-forms-annual-budget-2023-2024/survey_tools/annual-budget-2023-2024-feedback-form)



# 34670



# 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): Save our Gallery

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

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

Auckland Council draft budget 2023/2024

28 March 2023

**Submission: Do not proceed with reducing funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, (TAU) as it affects the operating budget of the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. Do not proceed with reduced opening hours or introduction of entry charges at the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki.**

A public art gallery is an institution for human flourishing, guiding us all to new possibilities as we imagine and create more fulfilling lives and thriving communities. Art changes lives and the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki provides transformational experiences to a diverse audience.

Cuts already proposed to the Gallery's operating budget leave it with a bare bones operating budget of \$9.5m pa, after shared TAU services fees are deducted. This is compared to \$32.2m and \$18.6m that Auckland Museum and MOTAT received in full respectively in 2022-2023. This imbalance between the city's major cultural institutions leads to a great visual art loss for the city – of tangata/people, of access to and care of the art taonga/treasures and of the future creation of culture in Aotearoa. And, unbelievably, TAU is expected to propose even more cuts.

The team at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki believe deeply in the significance of art to impact our everyday lives. Their knowledge and experience cannot be replaced. Highly skilled in developing visual art exhibitions, public programmes and valuable archives in-house, they provide stimulation, education, identity, creative knowledge and well-being for all who visit the gallery. Close to 500,000 will visit in 2023. (MOTAT, 2022: 100,554 visits, Museum, 2022: 488,553 visits)

As kaitiaki/guardians, skilled visual art specialists care for the Gallery's irreplaceable collection of national and international importance. The 17,000 artworks are our national treasure, owned by the citizens of Auckland. As a leader, the Gallery then attracts bequests, gifts and long-term loans.

Entry charges do not work. There is plenty of data from independent researchers to demonstrate that the introduction of entry charges to the Gallery in 2018 caused significant harm for the gallery – around 30% less visitors, 60% less people joining guided tours and significant losses for the Gallery's other income revenue offerings, such as the shop and the café.

We strongly advocate for Council to recognise how vital it is to support the very core of the human creative spirit in the city through the work of the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. The Gallery provides opportunities for people to understand and celebrate who they are, were, and might be. A well-resourced public gallery is at the heart of a city's creative economy and can lead change for our future. We need art to re-imagine that new future, for our communities and cities as creativity is fast becoming an influential force driving today's global environment. The Gallery and the visual arts enables Auckland Council to achieve its goals in the Local Government Act for the four well-beings: social, cultural, environmental and economic – all four, through visual arts, deliver a flourishing city.

**The Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki is a world class public art gallery where creative talents can shine** –let it grow and flourish through an equitable and sustainable funding partnership between Tātaki Auckland Unlimited and Auckland Council.

*"We need to build a city where the creative talents of all people are used to foster personal, social and economic fulfilment. Culture delivers identity, provides inspiration and delivers creative opportunities for everyone. Isn't this a major aspiration for local and central government?" Robert Gardiner ONZM, CNZM, founder of the Chartwell Trust.*

Yours sincerely,

-Save Our Gallery co-ordinators 2017/18.

More information:

- The Gallery's ability to generate and keep its own income from events at its own venue must be retained to benefit the Gallery's operations. The RFA had taken this income away from the Gallery. Ensure the TAU has reversed this situation.
- The Gallery must not have budget cuts for public programming and education programmes. Research clearly demonstrates that visits to art museums/galleries can change a young person's future.
- If visitor numbers drop at the Gallery, due to a lack of services, bare bones budget cuts or the introduction of entry charges, then this must not damage the Gallery's ability to meet its KPIs.
- The Gallery must retain the position of professional visual arts specialist Director, and visual art curatorial team.
- The public art collection, cared for by the Gallery, is of national significance so central Government could be approached to develop a national fund to support the care of collections of national significance around New Zealand.



# 34672



# 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): Tamaki Youth Council

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:** The proposed cuts will have irreversible long-term impacts and proposes cuts to many of the things we value about living in our city. The axing of operational spending could mean a permanent end to the services and institutions that help to make Auckland a community.

We must maintain these regional and social services. Our cultural events celebrate and nurture diversity and community development. Our community, education and library services and programmes offer shelter to vulnerable communities, and support community safety and social cohesion. Māori and Pasifika employment support equitable, personal and economic development. Citizens Advice Bureau allow people to access their minimum legal rights, many of whom are immigrants and elderly.

We suggest: Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt.

Our communities are more important than ever. Cyclone Gabrielle and the recent floods show that community organisations (such as Visionwest Community Trust, which will be affected by the cuts) are essential as a source of food, shelter, and social support in times of emergency. These organisations make a community resilient. Eliminating these organisations makes individuals and communities more vulnerable and precarious.

## 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:** 'Selling the airport shares does not add up. The loss of the 18% shareholding in Auckland International Airport would make the city permanently poorer and would remove people's level of control over a strategic asset. The Council proposal does not consider

## 3. Managing rates and debt

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

### Rates

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

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

### Debt

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

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

**Tell us why:** Please see attached.

## 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:** In 2023, with the climate crisis landing on our doorstep, we've seen the results of decades of underinvestment in our critical infrastructure. It's high time we start investing in making Auckland more resilient in the face of climate change and extreme weather.

## 5. Local Boards

### Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board

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

**Tell us why:** We want to give feedback on the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area.

We suggest: support all priorities.

**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?)** Programming at Te Oro, Oranga and Onehunga Community and Arts Centres, Local community events, Community climate action and sustainability activities

**Tell us why these are most important to you:** 'This was very difficult to answer as all are important.

However, as a local community group ourselves, we strongly support building the capacity of local community groups and supporting community programmes that promote wellbeing, belonging and connected

**If funding for local board activities is reduced, which three of our services would you be prepared to have funding reduced for? (i.e. which are least important to you?)** Mowing service levels on reserves, Local community events, Community leasing charges

**Do you think there are other areas where we could make savings to our local budgets?** Although these are our suggestions, we oppose the idea of cuts to these crucial services and events.

## 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 suggest: - - - Support changes to waste charging as all areas should have food waste collection available, Support the swimming pool compliance targeted rate changes, Oppose the Climate Action Targeted Rate changes. We have concerns with Council reprio

## 7. What else is important to you?

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

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

- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

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

### Important privacy information

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



**Tāmaki Youth Council Submission to the Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024****Question 1:****What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?**

The proposed cuts will have irreversible long-term impacts and proposes cuts to many of the things we value about living in our city. The axing of operational spending could mean a permanent end to the services and institutions that help to make Auckland a community.

We must maintain these regional and social services. Our cultural events celebrate and nurture diversity and community development. Our community, education and library services and programmes offer shelter to vulnerable communities, and support community safety and social cohesion. Māori and Pasifika employment support equitable, personal and economic development. Citizens Advice Bureau allow people to access their minimum legal rights, many of whom are immigrants and elderly.

We suggest: Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt.

Our communities are more important than ever. Cyclone Gabrielle and the recent floods show that community organisations (such as Visionwest Community Trust, which will be affected by the cuts) are essential as a source of food, shelter, and social support in times of emergency. These organisations make a community resilient. Eliminating these organisations makes individuals and communities more vulnerable and precarious.

**Question 2:**

Selling the airport shares does not add up. The loss of the 18% shareholding in Auckland International Airport would make the city permanently poorer and would remove people's level of control over a strategic asset. The Council proposal does not consider the loss of a stake in the airport's extensive landholding. It will be very difficult to return the land and future value of the shares to the public once these shares are sold. This has implications for:

- Māori land interests: the Waitangi Tribunal cannot recommend return of private land, so airport land will be permanently alienated from Māori.
- Future climate and other emergencies: we need coordinated transport hubs, which is harder when airports are privatised.

This is not an astute time to sell these shares - at a low point in the market - and once they are gone, this asset can no longer be leveraged or support future revenue raising for Council.

We suggest: Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt.

However, we support the further increase of some rates which the budget has little impact on. The budget proposes a rates increase of 4.66% – for the average property \$154 more a year, or around \$3 a week. That's below the current rate of inflation, which sits at 7.2%. Therefore, we support it.

**Question 3:**

Our city, communities and neighbourhoods are built with collective, public investment that is funded by rates, taxes, and fees. Debt can also be used to spread the costs of investment that will have future benefits for our communities.

Cuts to services are far from an inevitability; they're irresponsible in the midst of a climate and inequality crisis. Reducing the Water Quality and Natural Environment Targeted Rates by two-thirds is especially irresponsible in the wake of substantial damage to our local environments and waterways caused by recent flooding. Auckland Council can increase rates and/or take on more debt, allowing much needed investment and preventing cuts to social services.

The Council proposal says the financial pressures come from an expansion in services and assets that has brought higher maintenance costs, worsened by high interest rates and inflation. Cyclone Gabrielle and recent flooding events have added further financial strain.

Based on Auckland Council's assumptions and modelling, the highest possible rates increase that they investigated (>13%) would fall well within the boundaries of what they consider 'affordable' (that is, less than 5% of the median annual household income). The difference in affordability between a 7% general rates increase and 13.5% general rates increase is 0.2% (see page 26 here on internal staff advice). In practice, that's about the price of a cup of coffee per household per week - which, at scale, would help pay to fix long term underinvestment.

Recent years have also seen increased inflation and interest rates. But some of the pressures on Council are temporary and others have been overstated. A major reason for revenue being lower than it otherwise would be is COVID-19, a pandemic experienced by thousands of councils and governments worldwide. Non-rates revenue has remained steady based on Auckland Council Financial statements from 2018/2019, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. Revenue from Council venues, services, and public transport is likely to grow over time as Auckland recovers from COVID-19.

Interest rates are projected to fall over time (<https://www.opespartners.co.nz/mortgage/interest-rates/interest-rate-predictions>) and Council acknowledges that 80-100% of its borrowing is at fixed rates – which means only a small part of its borrowing is affected by short-term increases in interest rates. The budget was prepared before floods and Cyclone Gabrielle; these events will require reconstruction, but central government has partnered for that.

Auckland Council is not facing a debt crisis: Auckland's debt is at 250% of its revenue, well below the 290% debt ceiling. Total debt as a ratio to revenue has been relatively stable based on Auckland Council annual reports 2018/19 and 2020/21. The cost of servicing interest increased in 2022 as a proportion of total revenues, but the overall trend is declining.

Citizens Advice Bureaus face closure as a result of proposed cuts. Going by 2022 figures, this is estimated to impact 163,000 people seeking access to assistance concerning their legal rights, including in relation to immigration, MSD, and KiwiSaver.

There are many more options available than what the Budget Proposal suggests. The proposal suggests the public will have to accept the budget, or face a 13.5% increase in rates, or increased borrowing. But many other combinations of rates, borrowing, charges, and central government support are possible, such as:

- Further central government support
- Increase borrowing
- Further increase general rates

- Unfreeze targeted rates
- Introduce new targeted rates
- Increase parking charges

When considering alternative options, a starting point is that the Council does not have to run a 'balanced budget'. The law says councils have a Balanced budget requirement but that they only have to 'balance the books' if it would not be "financially prudent" to do so (for example, if cutting services creates its own financial costs), factoring in the need to maintain services set out in a long-term plan. But if the Council is intent on 'balancing the books', another budget is possible. The Council has not made it easy to construct another budget by imposing a very short (one month) timeframe on the consultation process, but a budget does not need to be finalised until June and it is still feasible to develop alternative proposals.

Council is opting to pause two important targeted rates and they don't have to do that. The Council says its reserves from the Water Quality Targeted Rate and the Natural Environment Targeted Rate are not spent, and that these rates can be suspended for a year. Now is not the time to freeze funding for water quality or the natural environment.

Increase borrowing avoids the need for community cuts and sale of airport shares.

Council can borrow more. The Council is proposing to borrow \$75 million. Council says that it cannot borrow more than \$140m without breaching internal policy, but as the Council these policies can be adjusted (as the Council has recognised by acknowledging it would need to amend its airport shareholding policy to sell off its shares). Combining borrowing with a strong revenue plan, ensures Auckland's strong credit rating is not impacted.

Here is an alternative budget plan:

<b>Unfreeze targeted rates:</b>	<b>\$50.9 million</b>
<b>Existing Council rates package:</b>	<b>\$93.2 million</b>
<b>Extend borrowing:</b>	<b>\$150.9 million</b>
<b>Alternative budget revenue:</b>	<b>\$295 million</b>

The existing rates proposal will provide necessary revenue. This general rates increase, along with increased borrowing and unfreezing targeted rates, can provide \$295m in revenue. The Council says a \$295m financial hole needs to be filled. This alternative budget plan will address the shortfall and provide the foundation for a budget that is more flexible, fairer, and better for Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland over the long-term. Building on this foundation, Auckland Council should be investing now – in tourism, public transport, the arts, and other social services. Investing in the city will bring revenue back. That investment can be funded through the same mix of borrowing and rates set out here. This plan demonstrates that the budget shortfall can be addressed, if necessary. Cutting and selling are no way to bring Auckland back on its feet – and back to its best.

In reference to the \$50.9 million, to reach this figure, we take the 2018-2028 10-year Budget's projections for the Water Quality Targeted Rate (\$452 million over 10 years) and Natural Environment Targeted Rate (\$311 million over 10 years), take an annual figure for each targeted rate from this ten year projection ( $452/10=45.2$  for the WQTR and  $311/10=31.1$  for the NETR), and then calculate what an annual two-thirds reduction would be in light of what is said in the Budget consultation document at page 52, rounding to one decimal place ( $76.3 (2/3)=50.87$ ).

In reference to the \$93.2 million, we adopt the Council's own assumption that "a 1 per cent change in general rates is equivalent to around \$20 million of revenue for the council" ( $20 \times 4.66 = 93.2$ ): <https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/budget-reductions-operational-spending>  
We have assumed that the proposed Council rates package can be directed to addressing the Budget shortfall. Nowhere in the Budget consultation document does it say that any of the rates package has already been accounted for. If some of the rates package has already been 'banked' (for example, 3.5% under the LTP) then some further revenues may have to be secured from additional increases in general rates, additional borrowing, or any other options listed on the previous page.

We suggest: 'Other' and that Council should both set a higher general rates increase AND make greater use of debt.

#### **Question 4:**

In 2023, with the climate crisis landing on our doorstep, we've seen the results of decades of underinvestment in our critical infrastructure. It's high time we start investing in making Auckland more resilient in the face of climate change and extreme weather events.

We suggest: Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year.

It is important it is for us to invest in stormwater infrastructure, especially in light of recent extreme weather events.

#### **Question 5:**

We want to give feedback on the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area.

We suggest: support all priorities.

#### **Which three of our services do you not want to reduce funding for?**

This was very difficult to answer as all are important.

However, as a local community group ourselves, we strongly support building the capacity of local community groups and supporting community programmes that promote wellbeing, belonging and connectedness. Reducing or cutting off these services, programmes and activities will have ramifications on our collective wellbeing as a community.

These priorities support social cohesion, community participation and development. They stimulate innovation and growth and reinforce effective relationships.

We also support climate action and sustainability. Climate change is exacerbating, as we are already seeing, current threats such as food and water scarcity, which can also lead to conflict. Auckland Council has a responsibility to continue learning from our indigenous communities - and educating and empowering others to take action.

We suggest:

- Programming at Te Oro, Oranga and Onehunga Community and Arts Centres
- Local community events

- Community climate action and sustainability activities

**Which three of our services would you be prepared to have funding reduced for?**

We suggest:

- Mowing service levels on reserves
- Local community events
- Community leasing charges

Although these are our suggestions, we oppose the idea of cuts to these crucial services and events.

**Question 6:**

Targeted rates allow Auckland Council to raise funds for specific services and projects, such as climate action. There are a number of very specific rates referenced in this public feedback form but most importantly, the Council plans to plunder the funds from the very popular Climate Action Targeted Rate (CATR) to avoid Auckland Transport paying for intended bus services, and reduce the total investment in bus services.

We suggest:

- Support changes to waste charging as all areas should have food waste collection available
- Support the swimming pool compliance targeted rate changes
- Oppose the Climate Action Targeted Rate changes

We have concerns with Council reprioritising the Climate Action Targeted Rate which was established just last year with overwhelming public support:

<https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/news/2022/05/consultation-finds-strong-support-for-mayor-phil-goff-s-climate-action-targeted-rate/>

The Council is now planning to plunder the Climate Action Targeted Rate fund to reduce costs to Auckland Transport - who are also proposing to permanently cut hundreds of buses a day - instead of using it to improve and increase services. We suggest to support more investment in buses, walking and cycle-ways.



# 34678



# 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): SPCA

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



**Submission by the**  
**Royal New Zealand Society for the**  
**Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc.**  
  
**On**  
  
**Auckland Council Annual Budget**  
**2023/2024**

28 March 2023



## Executive Summary

- SPCA supports the adoption of a 'One Welfare' approach which recognises the interconnectedness of human wellbeing, animal welfare, and the environment.
- SPCA is alarmed at the proposed response for responding to challenges for local boards includes cuts to ecological restoration and waterway protections, community climate action, environmental education, protecting wildlife on West Coast beaches. Our organisation anticipates this to have significant negative impacts on people and animals.
- SPCA supports the encouraging and facilitating of responsible dog ownership (including properly containing, identifying, registering, desexing, and providing appropriate and adequate socialisation and training of dogs).
- SPCA supports educating dog owners and non-dog owners of all ages about dog behaviour, and how to properly read dogs' body language, approach and react to dogs to reduce the risk of dog bites.
- SPCA encourages dog owners should seek out professional help from trainers that use positive instead of negative training methods to help reduce the risk of dog bites.



## Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	1
Introduction .....	3
Submission .....	3
Proposed cuts that impact the welfare of native wildlife and people.....	3
Increasing dog fees to promote more responsible dog ownership and desexing .....	5
Increased awareness and understanding of dog behaviour .....	5
Considerations at home .....	6
Provision of adequate and appropriate socialisation of puppies .....	6
Training and professional support .....	6
Considerations when dogs are in public .....	7
Establishing more spaces for exercising dogs .....	7
Conclusion .....	7
References.....	8



## Introduction

The following submission is made on behalf of The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (trading as SPCA).

SPCA is the preeminent animal welfare and advocacy organisation in New Zealand. The Society has been in existence for over 150 years with a supporter base representing more than 100,000 New Zealanders across the nation.

The organisation includes 31 Animal Welfare Centres across New Zealand and approximately 60 inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

SPCA welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024.

## Submission

### ***Proposed cuts that impact the welfare of native wildlife and people***

SPCA advocates that New Zealand wildlife should have good lives. Our organisation is deeply concerned about New Zealand's native animals and recognise that protecting biodiversity and the welfare are interrelated. Native wildlife should experience positive welfare, which requires ecosystems that allow them to meet their needs such as finding food, nesting, rearing offspring, socialising with each other, exploring, playing, resting, and learning important skills that allow them to thrive as individuals and as a species.

SPCA supports the adoption of a 'One Welfare' approach which recognises the interconnectedness of human wellbeing, animal welfare, and the environment. 'One Welfare' is the internationally recognised framework based on the concept that animal welfare depends on and influences human wellbeing, biodiversity, and the environment (Pinillos, 2018).



SPCA is alarmed that the 2023/2024 Auckland Council Annual Budget proposes cuts to ecological restoration and waterway protections, community climate action, environmental education, and protecting wildlife on West Coast beaches at the local board level. Our organisation anticipates this to have significant negative impacts on people and animals.

We are disappointed that there are proposed cuts to the protection of wildlife on West coast beaches, especially when this is home to vulnerable native wildlife, including New Zealand Dotterels, Australasian Bitterns, Fernbirds, Caspian Terns, Pipits, Marsh Crakes, Dabchicks, White-fronted Terns, Banded Dotterels, Variable Oystercatchers, and Pied Stilts, and New Zealand Fur Seals. All of these animals are impacted by human activities, and reducing their protection whilst further reducing funding for environmental education sends the wrong message about the value of wildlife and the environment.

People are happier and healthier when they have experiences in nature; decades of research has demonstrated the importance of nature for human physical and mental wellbeing (Russell et al., 2013). Recent research in Wellington found that access to green spaces during the COVID-19 lockdowns was motivated to protect wellbeing (Mackinnon et al., 2022). We urge Auckland Regional Council to revisit the proposed cuts to nature and environmental-based services, including those that protect wildlife.

SPCA is astounded that Council proposes cuts to services and programmes that aim to mitigate the risks of climate change. Given the most recent [IPCC report \(2023\)](#) is clear about the widespread impacts that have already happened and the challenges we all will face in adapting to climate change, we find it difficult to understand how Council would even consider cutting funding to climate mitigation programmes.

Climate change, including global warming, rising air and water temperatures, heat waves, droughts, water acidification, and extreme weather events all negatively impact the welfare of many animals (Aquirre, 2017; Almiron & Faria, 2019; Fraser et al., 2012). Farmed animals are vulnerable to heat stress, droughts, flooding, increased disease, and poorer food quality (Kuczynski et al. 2011; Thornton et al., 2009). Wild animals are vulnerable to ecosystems disruption resulting in heavily degraded environments where meeting basic biological needs





become more difficult, and the burden of increased disease processes (Aguirre, 2017; Groner et al., 2016; Shields, 2019).

### ***Increasing dog fees to promote more responsible dog ownership and desexing***

SPCA is supportive of Auckland Council promoting more responsible dog ownership and desexing in areas with high volume dog attacks.

Dog bite incidents are multifactorial and associated with the individual dog's genetic makeup; socialisation; training experiences (especially during sensitive periods of development); physical and psychological health; and the context of the incident including the behaviour of the victim and dog handler (Matos et al., 2015; Overall, 2013; Overall & Love, 2001; Shuler et al., 2008). Dog bite incidents can occur because dogs are not properly socialised, trained or contained are (Gershman et al., 1994; Overall & Love, 2001; Shuler et al., 2008). Some dog owners have a preference for dogs that are perceived to be aggressive (Wells & Hepper, 2012).

Dog owners have an important role in identifying and managing risks of dog bite incidents. This includes having their dogs desexed, properly socialising and training dogs using only positive training methods, supervising interactions between children and dogs, not routinely chaining dogs (as chained dogs are more likely to bite than unchained dogs (Gershman et al., 1994)) and early identification and treatment of injury or illness (as dogs that are in pain are more likely to bite; Overall & Love, 2001).

### **Increased awareness and understanding of dog behaviour**

- Both dog owners and non-dog owners benefit from increased understanding of dog behaviour and body language, and appropriate ways to interact with dogs to prevent bite incidents (Lakestani et al., 2014; Reisner & Shofer, 2008; Spiegel, 2000; Wan et al., 2012).
- Parents need to be aware of the risks of children interacting with dogs, especially when their contact is not wanted by the dog or is inappropriate. The majority of dog bites incidents involve children under the age of 15 (Jalongo, 2008; Lakestani et al., 2014;



Overall & Love, 2001; Reisner & Shofer, 2008; Spiegel, 2000). Children should always be supervised when interacting with animals. Educating children and parents about appropriate behaviour around dogs is likely to reduce the occurrence of dog bites (Chapman et al., 2000; Jalongo, 2008; Lakestani et al., 2014; Overall & Love, 2001; Reisner & Shofer, 2008; Spiegel, 2000; Wilson et al., 2003, RSPCA UK, 2016).

### **Considerations at home**

- Dog owners properly fencing off their properties is likely to decrease the incidence of dog bites. Studies show that between 13% and 25% of dog bites occur when a dog is 'at large' (Overall & Love, 2001), so steps should be taken to ensure that dogs are not permitted to roam.
- Dogs should not be routinely chained/tethered at properties as chained dogs are more likely to bite than unchained dogs (Gershman et al., 1994).

### **Provision of adequate and appropriate socialisation of puppies**

- Socialisation of puppies is important, especially during the sensitive period of 3-12 weeks of age. Safe and positive experiences during this critical period reduce the incidence of behavioural problems, including aggression (Bennett & Rohlf, 2007; Kutsumi et al., 2013; McMillan et al., 2011; Scott & Fuller, 1965; Seksel et al., 1999; Tiira & Lohi, 2015).

### **Training and professional support**

- Dogs implicated in serious bite incidents are more likely to have previously exhibited behavioural problems (Bennett & Rohlf, 2007). Addressing problems early with professional help (using appropriate training methods) can help reduce the risk of subsequent dog bite incidents. However, it is essential that owners seek out professionals that use positive instead of negative training methods. Negative training methods are associated with an increased risk of behaviour problems in dogs, including



aggression (Arhant et al., 2010; Blackwell et al., 2008; Blackwell et al., 2012; Herron et al., 2009; Hiby et al., 2004; Hsu & Sun, 2010; Schalke et al., 2007).

### **Considerations when dogs are in public**

- Having a dog on a lead reduces the risk of uncontrolled and/or inappropriate interactions with people and other animals and, consequently, reduces the risk of dog bite incidents. However, it is worth noting that only a small proportion of dog bites occur when dogs are loose in public places (Cornelissen & Hopster, 2010; Overall & Love, 2001).
- Dog owners being more considerate of other people and dogs whilst in public, along with steps taken to educate all members of the public about dog behaviour and body language (regardless of whether they are dog owners themselves), would reduce the risk of uncontrolled and/or inappropriate interactions and consequently help to reduce dog bite incidents.

### **Establishing more spaces for exercising dogs**

- Increased access to a variety of safe areas to exercise would allow dogs the ability to express their normal behaviour, socialise with people and dogs, release energy etc, and therefore reduce potential frustration and unsociable behaviour which can lead to aggression (Bennett & Rohlf, 2007).
- Establishing more spaces for exercising dogs could help to reduce the number of dogs being exercised on the streets. This would help to reduce the likelihood of uncontrolled and/or inappropriate interactions with children, adults and other animals which may pose a bite incident risk.

### **Conclusion**

SPCA appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024. We welcome further engagement on this topic.



## References

- Arhant, Christine, Bubna-Littitz, Hermann, Bartels, Angela, Futschik, Andreas, & Troxler, Josef. (2010). Behaviour of smaller and larger dogs: Effects of training methods, inconsistency of owner behaviour and level of engagement in activities with the dog. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 123(3–4), 131-142.
- Aguirre, A. A. (2017). Changing patterns of emerging zoonotic diseases in wildlife, domestic animals, and humans linked to biodiversity loss and globalization. *ILAR Journal*, 58, 3, 315-318.
- Almiron, N., & Faria, C. (2019). Climate change impacts on free-living nonhuman animals. Challenges for media and communication ethics. *Studies in Media and Communication*, 7, 1, 37-48.
- Bennett, P. C., & Rohlf, V. I. (2007). Owner-companion dog interactions: Relationships between demographic variables, potentially problematic behaviours, training engagement and shared activities. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 102(1-2), 65-84.
- Blackwell, E. J., Twells, C., Seawright, A., & Casey, R. A. (2008). The relationship between training methods and the occurrence of behavior problems, as reported by owners, in a population of domestic dogs. *Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research*, 3(5), 207-217.
- Blackwell, Emily, Bolster, Christine, Richards, Gemma, Loftus, Bethany, & Casey, Rachel. (2012). The use of electronic collars for training domestic dogs: estimated prevalence, reasons and risk factors for use, and owner perceived success as compared to other training methods. *BMC Veterinary Research*, 8(1), 93.
- Chapman, S., Cornwall, J., Righetti, J., & Sung, L. (2000). Preventing dog bites in children: Randomised controlled trial of an educational intervention. *British Medical Journal*, 320(7248), 1512-1513.



- Cornelissen, J. M. R., & Hopster, H. (2010). Dog bites in The Netherlands: A study of victims, injuries, circumstances and aggressors to support evaluation of breed specific legislation. *Veterinary Journal*, 186(3), 292-298.
- Fraser, D. (2012). A “practical” ethic for animals. *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*, 25, 721-746.
- Gershman, K. A., Sacks, J. J., & Wright, J. C. (1994). Which dogs bite? A case-control study of risk factors. *Pediatrics*, 93(6 I), 913-917.
- Herron, M. E., Shofer, F. S., & Reisner, I. R. (2009). Survey of the use and outcome of confrontational and non-confrontational training methods in client-owned dogs showing undesired behaviors. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 117(1-2), 47-54.
- Hiby, E. F., Rooney, N. J., & Bradshaw, J. W. S. (2004). Dog training methods: Their use, effectiveness and interaction with behaviour and welfare. *Animal Welfare*, 13(1), 63-69.
- Hsu, Y., & Sun, L. (2010). Factors associated with aggressive responses in pet dogs. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 123(3–4), 108-123.
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2023). Synthesis report of the IPCC sixth assessment report (AR6). Retrieved from: [https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC\\_AR6\\_SYR\\_SPM.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf)
- Jalongo, M. R. (2008). Beyond a pets theme: Teaching young children to interact safely with dogs. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 36(1), 39-45.
- Groner, M. L., Maynard, J., Breyta, R., Carnegie, R. B., Dobson, A., Friedman, C. S., ... Harvell, C. D. (2016). Managing marine disease emergencies in an era of rapid change. *Philosophical Transactions B*. 371, 20150364.
- Kuczynski, T., Blanes-Vidal, V., Li, B., Gates, R. S., de Alencar Nääs, I., Moura, D. J., Berckmans, D., & Banhazi, T. M. (2011). Impact of global climate change on the health, welfare, and productivity of intensively housed livestock. *International Journals of Agricultural and Biological Engineering*, 4, 2, 1-23.



- Kutsumi, A., Nagasawa, M., Ohta, M., & Ohtani, N. (2013). Importance of puppy training for future behavior of the dog. *Journal of Veterinary Medical Science*, 75(2), 141-149.
- Lakestani, N. N., Donaldson, M. L., & Waran, N. (2014). Interpretation of dog behavior by children and young adults. *Anthrozoos*, 27(1), 65-80.
- Mackinnon, M., Mackinnon, R., Zari, M. P., Glensor, K., & Park, T. (2022). Urgent Biophilia: Green Space Visits in Wellington, New Zealand, during the COVID-19 Lockdowns. *Land*, 11(6). <https://doi.org/10.3390/land11060793>
- Matos, R. E., Jakuba, T., Mino, I., Fejsakova, M., Demeova, A., & Kottferova, J. (2015). Characteristics and risk factors of dog aggression in the Slovak Republic. *Veterinarni Medicina*, 60(8), 432-445.
- McMillan, F. D., Duffy, D. L., & Serpell, J. A. (2011). Mental health of dogs formerly used as 'breeding stock' in commercial breeding establishments. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 135(1-2), 86-94.
- Overall, K. L. (2013). *Manual of Clinical Behavioral Medicine for Dogs and Cats*. Saint Louis, MO, USA: Saunders.
- Overall, K. L., & Love, M. (2001). Dog bites to humans - Demography, epidemiology, injury, and risk. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 218(12), 1923-1934.
- Pinillos, R. G. (2018). *One welfare : a framework to improve animal welfare and human well-being*. CABI International.
- Reisner, I. R., & Shofer, F. S. (2008). Effects of gender and parental status on knowledge and attitudes of dog owners regarding dog aggression toward children. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 233(9), 1412-1419.
- RSPCA UK (2016) Breed Specific Legislation – A dogs dinner. Available from: [https://www.rspca.org.uk/webContent/staticImages/Downloads/BSL\\_Report.pdf](https://www.rspca.org.uk/webContent/staticImages/Downloads/BSL_Report.pdf)  
Accessed 11.8.16.





- Russell, R., Guerry, A. D., Balvanera, P., Gould, R. K., Basurto, X., Chan, K. M. A., Klain, S., Levine, J., & Tam, J. (2013). Humans and nature: How knowing and experiencing nature affect well-being. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 38, 473–502. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-environ-012312-110838>
- Schalke, E., Stichnoth, J., Ott, S., & Jones-Baade, R. (2007). Clinical signs caused by the use of electric training collars on dogs in everyday life situations. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 105(4), 369-380.
- Scott, J.P., & Fuller, J.L. (1965). *Genetics and the Social Behaviour of the Dog*. Chicago, IL: University Chicago Press.
- Seksel, K., Mazurski, E. J., & Taylor, A. H. (1999). Puppy socialisation programs: short- and long-term behavioural effects. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 62(4), 335-349.
- Shuler, C. M., DeBess, E. E., Lapidus, J. A., & Hedberg, K. (2008). Canine and human factors related to dog bite injuries. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 232(4), 542-546.
- Shields, J. D. (2019). Climate change enhances disease processes in crustaceans: Case studies in lobsters, crabs, and shrimps. *Journal of Crustacean Biology*, 1-11.
- Spiegel, I. B. (2000). A pilot study to evaluate an elementary school-based dog bite prevention program. *Anthrozoos*, 13(3), 164-173.
- Tiira, K., & Lohi, H. (2015). Early life experiences and exercise associate with canine anxieties. *PLoS ONE*, 10(11).
- Wan, M., Bolger, N., & Champagne, F. A. (2012). Human Perception of Fear in Dogs Varies According to Experience with Dogs. *PLoS ONE*, 7(12).
- Wells, D. L., & Hepper, P. G. (2012). The personality of "aggressive" and "non-aggressive" dog owners. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 53(6), 770-773.



Wilson, F., Dwyer, F., & Bennett, P. C. (2003). Prevention of dog bites: Evaluation of a brief educational intervention program for preschool children. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 31(1), 75-86.



# 34689



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Community services are crucial & cost effective. The cost of not having these services would well outweigh the savings. Cutting the value community led initiative during a climate crisis is inappropriate outrageous. They have suffered form under funding for years and in fact need more supporting during the cost of living & climate crisis, not less. Community initiatives such as community of education programs, arts & culture programmes, regional events, economic development & other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment & funding for youth.

### 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:** Our community have paid the taxes to have their airport built historically. It would remain in public ownership. The airport locks the hands away from public ownership from Maori.

### 3. Managing rates and debt

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

#### Rates

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

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

#### Debt

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

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

**Tell us why:** Set a higher general rate increase & make great use of debt. The weekly rate increase for the average land owner, that would save crucial services is roughly the price of a cup of coffee per week. Rate payees will suffer from the cost of increased cri

### 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:** Increase your budget but don't reduce the communities funding which enables their preparedness & resilience in emergency response. Why not just avoid operating spending reduction to make up the climate action investment and the storm 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 (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Do not support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Do not support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Do not support

**What do you think of these proposals?** CATR should remain as established and not paused or stopped as proposed in question 1. Don't use CATR to fund public transport and do not cut funding to public transport.

## 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 consider the alternative budget proposed for Auckland communities. A better budget for Auckland (BBA, see attached).

Wayne Brown should not lead as mayor of Auckland based on the proposed changes. I don't have faith in his vision for Auckland. Loca

## Important privacy information

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



# 34691



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

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

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



Ko                               toku ingoa

How do I know this? For more than four decades, I have established, led and supported an array of arts and cultural projects and organisations, mostly in Auckland. A strong focus on my work has been supporting the viability and resilience of creative people, cultural organisations and arts-led businesses for long-term success.

- The Big Idea | Te Ara Nui, which is the online hub for the arts in New Zealand
- ART Venture – a world-leading acceleration programme for creative entrepreneurs, and
- FutureMakers – inspiring creative young people to utilise their creative powers to advance responses to the many issues besetting us all, locally and globally

One of our initiatives this past year, made possible with a regional grant from Auckland Council, has been delivering the *Tāmaki Makaurau Dance Enquiry*. This major research project is looking closely into what is needed to support the sustainable development of dance creatives, groups and organisations working here.

The arts contribute significantly to social cohesion. They make our city more inclusive and welcoming. The arts also help us to attract and retain new residents and industry, boost the local economy, create jobs and overall make the city more prosperous.

In this challenging era where everyone's contribution to positive change is vital in the context of 'the new normal', 'soft' infrastructure delivered through arts and culture is wholly necessary alongside 'hard' infrastructure to provide adaptable and sturdy responses that enhance, serve and nurture people and their communities.



Hard infrastructure is easily recognised and defined as physical amenities above and below the ground.

Soft infrastructure on the other hand includes the networks, intellectual capital, learning programmes, community based services, special events, conferences, festivals, tools and equipment, and field/discipline knowledge – all developed to provide Tāmaki Makaurau with its unique cultural identity and sense of place.

If hard infrastructure is likened to the physical living body, then the elements of soft infrastructure are the air, the nutrients, the nerve signals and the brains waves that maintain, manage and animate the body.

It is through the addition and application of people – their talents, skills, ideas and effort – all elements of soft infrastructure, that buildings and equipment, and suppliers and service providers show their true value and relevance.

Intertwined and working together, Auckland's hard and soft infrastructure has, over many decades, generated a unique, active and rich arts and cultural ecology of facilities and enabling systems that have strengthened the city's sense of place, illuminated its soul through its unique history, and enhanced the mauri – of people, communities and society.

When considered as essential 'soft' infrastructure - jobs, organisations and facilities in the city's creative sector are not nice-to-haves that can be turned off at will.

Financial cuts in the realm of \$74 million in total to arts and leisure programmes; contestable regional arts, culture and events grants; festivals; cultural celebrations; and regional events like Music in Parks, as well as to organisations such as Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, will gut the city's soft-infrastructure and have an outsize impact on the wellbeing of people, communities, organisations, groups and local board areas across the city.

I join with many, many others who say it is time to invest, not a time to cut.

This is the time for Auckland Council to empower 'soft infrastructure' to bring the people with you. No change is possible without that and there is no doubt in the minds of many that significant change is required given the environmental challenges facing not just Tāmaki Makaurau but many towns, communities and people throughout Aotearoa (and the world at large).

This is the time to appreciate the importance and contribution of the arts. Artists, arts organisations and creative people across the arts and creative industries sectors have been wellsprings of strength in troubled times, contributing as we have our ideas, skills and goodwill to help communities get through the latest, but not the last, hardships caused by climate change and other systemic issues.

The arts powerfully and positively affect people's hearts, mind and connections. We need to invest in the arts – and therefore Auckland's people to grow the resilience of local communities, to promote our national and international identity and to restore the mauri of our environmental assets, for example the city's network of waterways and harbours.

Therefore, I do not support cost reductions for:

Tātaki Auckland Unlimited // Regional services // Local Board funded activities // Regional contestable grants

Reductions in these areas will send our city backwards and cost us a lot more in the long run.

*Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa // Let us keep close together, not far apart*



# 34692



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Cut funding in local board funded activities \$16m.

Cut contestable grants \$3m.

### 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:** Better to sell some or all shareholding when tourism is peaking and collect 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?** Set a higher general rates increase

**Tell us why:** Stay away from increasing debt, as interest rates are high for borrowing. The rates increase is your last mechanism to increase after making general cuts to budget. The Auckland Council resident pays for the changes and should.

### 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:** Necessary to negate the effects of storm and environment impacts.

### 5. Local Boards

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

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

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



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

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

## 7. What else is important to you?

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

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

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

## Important privacy information

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



# 34706



# 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): Historic Places Auckland Tamaki Makaurau

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:** Object to reducing regional services as impacts on the poorest members of our Society, inclusive policy for our heritage legacy.

Object to reducing Climate Action Grant. Present flood destruction is a lesson to be learned for the future, start now to save our heritage

Public Transport operating service timetables be increased and an inner-city parking levy be set higher enough on all car parks within the CBD to discourage car usage and carbon emissions.

Support the CATR

Sustain funding for events and programmes as opportunity to increase participation as a revenue raising process as with 'shadow economics,' from a heritage perspectives are understated as an economic benefit contributor to the city business sector.

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

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:** Keep AIAL shares, retain from overseas interests as bad time to sell

## 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:** Rates GST to go to an Auckland Council Trust Fund to loan on

for support of heritage & environment sustainability programs.

Government enacted the GST change, a publicity campaign.

Wealthcare Fees be placed on Overseas Banks based on financial.

Forei

## 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:** Comprehensive strategic review of infrastructure capacity

so unique and present heritage landscapes are maintained and can

stabilizes properties for the storm surges.

## 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?** Support all recycling projects and avenues for a sustainable city. Adopt the Global Sustainable Cities Bristol Charter.

## 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 ISSUES: CONCLUSIONS

Strongly advocate for budget support for community Arts and

Heritage as the link is important for the CULTURALCARE of

Auckland city at a time of polarization of values when differing

values and ethnic diversity are barriers o

## Important privacy information

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

**Submission of Historic Places Auckland Tamaki Makaurau.**

Annual Budget Submission 2023/2024

Contact Name.

Organisation: Historic Places Auckland-Tamaki Makaurau.

Phone:

Email:

Postal Address: Auckland 1052

Introduction:to the

Historic Places Auckland -Tamaki Makaurau is a non-profit public interest group with the focus on the protection of heritage culture sites as a legacy for all future generations. Auckland is a Branch of Historic Places Aotearoa and relates its beginnings to the 1953 destruction of the Partingtons Windmill with the public outcry and the resulting enactment of the Government Legislation of Heritage property protection and the formation of the Historic Places Trust, today Heritage NZ.

The Aims of the HP Auckland-Tamaki Makaurau include: **CULTURECARE!**

1. Educate persons on the importance of culture and heritage of our nation being New Zealand – Aotearoa. *Ko te manu e kai ana I te matauranga; non ate Ao.*
2. Conservation & preservation of heritage, in all its ASPECTS. *Whatungarongaro te tangata,toitu te whenua*
3. Proactive in supporting all groups and individuals in protecting the birth wright culture of our indigenous & pakeha ancestors. *Rurea, taitea,kia tu ko taikaka anak.*

Having read the document to emphasis our response importance the focus will be on Section 5, Local Boards. Page 3. Minimum points are made on other relevant sections.

1. Operating spending reductions.
  - a. Object to reducing regional services as impacts on the poorest members of our Society, inclusive policy for our heritage legacy.
  - b. Object to reducing Climate Action Grant. Present flood destruction is a lesson to be learned for the future, start now to save our heritage
  - c. & g. Public Transport operating service timetables be increased and an inner-city parking levy be set higher enough on all car parks within the CBD to discourage car usage and carbon emissions.
  - d. Support the CATR
  - e. Sustain funding for events and programmes as opportunity to increase participation as a revenue raising process as with 'shadow economics,' from a heritage perspective are understated as an economic benefit contributor to the city business sector.
2. AIAL.
  - a. Keep AIAL shares, retain from overseas interests as bad time to sell
3. Managing rates and debt.
  - a. Rates GST to go to an Auckland Council Trust Fund to loan on for support of heritage & environment sustainability programs.  
Government enacted the GST change , a publicity campaign.
  - b. Wealthcare Fees be placed on Overseas Banks based on financial. Foreign currency transactions.
4. Storm Responses
  - a. Comprehensive strategic review of infrastructure capacity so unique and present heritage landscapes are maintained and can stabilises properties for the storm surges.

**5. Local Boards Priorities-CULTURECARE a “Carrot Approach”**

- a & b. Support for the present Local Board priorities and with administration & management structures potential savings could be made. A pro-active response asking for community groups to offer cost saving schemes they have undertaken to reduce costs and contribute the saved funds to Local Board administration costs. A 12 % increase in admin. funds could be the difference for Local Boards to meet their own audit cuts. There is a wide disparity between community groups means of making funds. Many organisations have liquor licenses and can host hospitality revenue functions while arts and heritage don't have a recourse to be able to raise such revenue because of license restrictions, Court Consent Orders & Council bylaws are all restrictions that arts, heritage groups face.
- c. Volunteers provide an important community asset and are of great value in providing the resources for maintaining heritage/culture properties as well as providing social well-being support for community members needs to be acknowledged.
- d. Comprehensive economic “input & output” analysis of visitor destination spending at art & heritage/culture sites offer economic benefit to local business activity is under stated.
- e. Support designated Heritage sites by having Blue Plaques as key attraction points. Civic Trust UK scheme, puts up Blue Plaques to educate and attract visitors to art and heritage sites Only one Blue Plaque in the Auckland region successfully attracting overseas and NZ visitors.
- . A Green Plaques needed indicating significant environment protected sanctuaries of native habitat increase visitors.
- f. Support the Maori responsive plan Waitakere ki Tua and Te Kete Rukuruku project.
- g. Local Board adopt the ICOMOS charter for deciding arts and Heritage consent order processes of protection categories.



6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges.

- a. Support all recycling projects and avenues for a sustainable city. Adopt the Global Sustainable Cities Bristol Charter.

**7. IMPORTANT ISSUES.-CONCLUSIONS**

Strongly advocate for budget support for community Arts and Heritage as the link is important for the CULTURALCARE of Auckland city at a time of polarisation of values when differing values and ethnic diversity are barriers of, a racial segregated Society based on skin colour, spiritual beliefs and gender differences. Only with commonality of a shared history of arts & heritage, will instil future generations with hope of a a shared heritage to bond into a trust for the future legacy of this vibrant, diverse and culture/heritage City.

Nga mihi nui..

Date of submission 28 March 2023.

Historic Places Auckland  
Tamaki Makaurau



# 34709



# 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:** Budget cuts - Do not cut the amount you give to organizations that help at risk youth.

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

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

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

#### Rates

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

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

#### Debt

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

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

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

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

Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
<b>Changes to other rates</b>	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

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

## 7. What else is important to you?

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

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

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

## Important privacy information

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

**# 34709**

**From:**  
**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Subject:** Budget cuts Do not cut the amount you give to organizations that help at risk youth  
**Date:** Tuesday, 28 March 2023 11:41:49 am

---

Sent from my Galaxy



# 34732



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** I feel as if some reduction are not as important as other ones, such as the early childhood education services. While all the options are rather important, things such as public transportation can be reduced and be turned into biking, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:** i honestly don't understand this, but IMP, the best option is to take things slowly - partial sale - instead of all of it

### 3. Managing rates and debt

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

#### Rates

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

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

#### Debt

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

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

**Tell us why:** from what i can tell, this is about saving, etc.

Housing in NZ is already so expensive soo...

### 4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:** I agree with making our country more safe from future storms, i also think this should be applied to more natural disasters.

### 5. Local Boards

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

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

<b>Waste management rates changes</b>	
---------------------------------------	--



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

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

## 7. What else is important to you?

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

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

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

## Important privacy information

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



# 34734



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

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

#### Rates

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

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

#### Debt

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

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

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

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

## 7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

I live on the Whangaparaoa peninsula and outside of the rush hour I see most buses go past with next to no passengers. I have been observing this for several years. The capital cost, depreciation and operating costs for these frequent but underused or not

## Important privacy information

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

**From:**  
**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Subject:** 2023-24 Budget  
**Date:** Wednesday, 1 March 2023 6:13:10 pm

---

I live on the Whangaparaoa peninsula and outside of the rush hour I see most buses go past with next to no passengers. I have been observing this for several years. The capital cost, depreciation and operating costs for these frequent but underused or not used at all bus services must be a major drain on the council's funds. What a pity that this is exacerbating the council's deficit and polluting the environment. Also it is hard to comprehend that the council is seeking hundreds of bus drivers from overseas when there are unused and unnecessary bus routes operating for hours in my suburb.



# 34737



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** I am submitting on the Auckland Council budget today to oppose ALL cuts to community services.

I prefer rates increases at least in line with inflation and increased borrowing to the selling of assets and cutting of community services and cutting back of arts and cultural events which make Auckland the special place it is.

Do not reduce library, swimming pool, museum, zoo and other community resource hours so vital to families and elderly. Do not increase entrance fees.

Do not close Citizens Advice Bureau.

Homelessness funding is essential.

Cheap Public transport and alternatives in the form of cycleways and walkways are essential.

arts funding cuts are unacceptable as are culture amenities and programmes. e.g. Unesco City of music, Diwali,

Polyfest.

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

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:** Do not sell off 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:

- 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

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

**From:**  
**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Budget cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, 28 March 2023 4:39:17 pm

---

I am submitting on the Auckland Council budget today to oppose ALL cuts to community services.  
I prefer rates increases at least in line with inflation and increased borrowing to the selling of assets and cutting of community services and cutting back of arts and cultural events which make Auckland the special place it is.

Do not sell off airport shares.

Do not reduce library, swimming pool, museum, zoo and other community resource hours so vital to families and elderly. Do not increase entrance fees.

Do not close Citizens Advice Bureau.

Homelessness funding is essential.

Cheap Public transport and alternatives in the form of cycleways and walkways are essential.

arts funding cuts are unacceptable as are culture amenities and programmes. e.g. Unesco City of music, Diwali, Polyfest.



# 34739



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

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

#### Rates

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

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

#### Debt

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

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

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

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

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

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

## 7. What else is important to you?

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

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

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

I recommend CUT "light Rail" in Dominion Road completely.

Reduce Road Cones by 50% (I've head they cost \$50 each.) Do not buy any more until we have used the excess.

Much better dog control. Any dog off lead where they are not supposed to be, take into

## Important privacy information

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

**From:**  
**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Subject:** Auckland Council BUDGET  
**Date:** Monday, 27 March 2023 3:36:43 pm

---

I recommend CUT "light Rail" in Dominion Road completely.

Reduce Road Cones by 50% (I've head they cost \$50 each.) Do not buy any more until we have used the excess.

Much better dog control. Any dog off lead where they are not supposed to be, take into dog pound for 2 weeks. If Dog owner has not claimed or fees not paid, dog should be "put down."

Eg too many dogs off lead on Vellenoweth Green and surrounding streets. A danger to children and disabled people.

Licence dog breeders. Heavy fine for dogs bread with out a licence. Dogs put down.

Same for cats.

Fines for cyclists using a mobile phone while riding. I have been almost run over by cyclist riding on foot path using phone. Another cyclist seen on The Parade, using a phone with no hands on bike.

Fix the fence between Vellenoweth green and Crochet club. It is falling over path making it almost impossible to pass in places. Many prickly weeds projecting.

Recommend a Colour Steel fence to replace hedge.

Fix St.Heliers Library. Then keep it open at least 6 days per week. Reduce opening hours if necessary.

One of my nephews preferred to go to St.Heliers library as a small boy, rather than play on the beach. He now has a D.Phil. University of Oxford, England.

Thanks from Auckland Rate Payer.

Auckland.

1071. Email: [Z](#)





# 34760



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

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

#### Rates

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

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

#### Debt

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

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

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

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

## 7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Liesure centre Stanmore Bay and all other council pools. Sorry if this is not the right place

to send this but I could not find where to send it

Tell us what the problem is and more details about the location.

My son is 17 soon to be 18 and is in year 12.

## Important privacy information

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

From:

Sent Date:03-01-2023 08:30:40 PM

Original Subject Line:Auckland Council online enquiry - Something else

Enquiry type: Something else

Tell us more about the location of the problem or enquiry:

Liesure centre Stanmore Bay and all other council pools. Sorry if this is not the right place to send this but I could not find where to send it

Tell us what the problem is and more details about the location.

My son is 17 soon to be 18 and is in year 12. He loves swimming as he is autistic and it releases anxiety and tension. However he now has to pay \$6 to use the local pool or \$13.60 a week as a member pool only. He does not earn money so I have to find it for him to be able to use the local pool at the Liesure centre in Stanmore bay. My complaint is school children regardless of age should not be required to pay and for some that means like my son they will be 19 when finishing. University and other education sure have a student fee but education should be free as should our council pools while they are at school. I struggle to find that money each week and as some weeks due to school commitments he can't use more than two times if at all paying \$13.60 a week seems a waste. He needs this exercise as a release from his anxiety and swims two to three km twice a week but presently I just can't afford it. Maybe council should change its rules to all school children free. Kind regards

Contact details

First name

Last name

Contact phone

Email address

[Have your say on Auckland Council's annual budget 2023 and 2024.]

CAUTION: This email message and any attachments contain information that may be confidential and may be LEGALLY PRIVILEGED. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure or copying of this message or attachments is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email message in error please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We do not accept responsibility for any viruses or similar carried with our email, or any effects our email may have on the recipient computer system or network. Any views expressed in this email may be those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views of Council.



# 34771



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 3. Managing rates and debt

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

#### Rates

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

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

#### Debt

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why:**

### 5. Local Boards

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

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

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



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

What do you think of these proposals?

## 7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

To whom it may concern,

My children attend our local charitable community kindergarten that operates out of a council owned building & grounds. We have been informed that in the proposed 23/24 budget, our rent/admin & maintenance fees would substa

## Important privacy information

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

**From:**  
**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Subject:** Auckland Council Budget 23/24 Feedback Submission  
**Date:** Friday, 24 March 2023 4:52:30 pm

---

To whom it may concern,

My children attend our local charitable community kindergarten that operates out of a council owned building & grounds. We have been informed that in the proposed 23/24 budget, our rent/admin & maintenance fees would substantially increase, placing a lot of pressure on operations of the kindy & already struggling families.

I firmly believe costs need to be kept low for charitable community organisations so they can continue to operate and support local families.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Kind regards,



# 34775



# 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 do not support these cost reductions. The net effect of such a sizable reduction in

funding will negatively impact the local economy and devastate Auckland's culture, art and community sectors.

This is not the time to be cutting back. Now is the time to invest in Auckland's future.

When Auckland's communities are thriving and our arts and cultural sector is prospering, the entire city benefits. These services directly improve social cohesion, wellbeing and our quality of life. They make our city more inclusive and welcoming helping us to attract and retain new residents and industry. They also boost the local economy, create jobs and make the city more prosperous.

## 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

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

**From:**  
**To:** [AKHaveYourSay](#)  
**Subject:** Arts funding cuts  
**Date:** Thursday, 23 March 2023 9:36:21 am

---

I do not support these cost reductions. The net effect of such a sizable reduction in funding will negatively impact the local economy and devastate Auckland's culture, art and community sectors.

***This is not the time to be cutting back. Now is the time to invest in Auckland's future.***

When Auckland's communities are thriving and our arts and cultural sector is prospering, the entire city benefits. These services directly improve social cohesion, wellbeing and our quality of life. They make our city more inclusive and welcoming helping us to attract and retain new residents and industry. They also boost the local economy, create jobs and make the city more prosperous.





# 34777



# Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

## Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: I don't know

## Your feedback

### 1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

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

**Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any:** Please see 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:** Council should not sell it's stake in Auckland Airport'

### 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

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

## Auckland Council 2023-2024 budget

1. This submission is by .
2. I live in with my partner and daughter.
3. I am blind and much of my submission will focus on the impact of the proposed cuts on disabled people and on poorer Auckland communities.
4. If Auckland Council goes ahead with these cuts it will be violating the key principles of the Local Government (community Wellbeing) Amendment Act 2019 which requires all local authorities: *“to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.”*
5. Council will also violate key Articles of the United Nations convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) particularly those related to: its general principles, living independently and being included in the community, personal mobility, freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information, work and employment, participation in political and public life, and participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport.  
The Budget's Impact on the Social and Cultural Wellbeing of Disabled People
6. The social wellbeing of disabled people will be adversely impacted in numerous ways if these cuts are enacted.
7. Cuts to libraries – There should be no cuts to libraries. Libraries are a vital community service: in Mangere Bridge our local library is the only community service open to the public seven days a week.
8. As a blind person I use the library for audio books, which are way more limited than print books, but they are the only books I can borrow from the city's libraries.
9. Blind and disabled people don't have the same access to the internet as non-disabled people because of the lack of accessible software and hardware, lack of training and money to afford data costs. Auckland libraries provide access to NV Access a free screen reader for blind people. They also provide support from staff on using this software. Cuts to libraries will mean that blind people lose this access to the internet and the support of library staff.
10. Libraries are also a hub of community information and support: their loss or reduction in hours will seriously impoverish communities.
11. Cuts to Local Boards and Community Funding – such cuts will affect poorer communities disproportionately. Community groups are vital for healthy connected communities.
12. A small amount of money given to Community groups by Council leverages thousands of volunteer hours and other in-kind support, actually saving Council a fortune.
13. De-funding the Southern Initiative – This is a blatant attack on South Auckland and will lead to poorer economic and social outcomes for one of Auckland's poorest areas.
14. Cuts to Citizens Advice Bureau – It is unthinkable to be cutting funding to CAB just after the recent cyclones and flooding. CAB is a free service where people who can't afford a lawyer go.
15. Blind people use CAB for access to JP's to witness and sign documents as well as legal and dispute resolution information. It is one of the few places we can go to have documents confidentially read to us.
16. This is a miserly cut as CAB costs Auckland council only \$2 million annually.
17. Cuts to homelessness services – disabled people are at a disproportionate risk of homelessness. At a time of a national housing crisis, it is abhorrent that Council is even considering cuts to homelessness co-ordination and funding of homelessness initiatives.

18. Cuts to Early Childhood Education – ECA is expensive for many poorer families and Council ECA provision is a lifeline for many. I oppose any cuts in Council ECA services.
19. Cuts to the Outdoor Experience Programme – this programme provides young people, including disabled young people, outdoor experiences, leadership skills building. Cuts to these programmes will mean a loss of social connection, opportunities for outdoor experiences and will result in young disabled people being isolated and stuck at home.
20. Cuts to groups supporting Māori, Pacifica, refugees and the rainbow community. Disabled people are members of all these communities, so will be disproportionately impacted by such cuts.

## Impact of Budget Cuts on the Economic Contribution of Disabled People

21. Transport cuts will hit disabled people particularly hard. Public transport enables many disabled people to access the community, work and medical appointments
22. The budget proposal to maintain services at the reduced COVID19 levels effectively reduces public transport options for people. Those disabled Aucklanders who don't drive will be most effected by these reductions in services.
23. Fare rises from 1 April this year, though not part of this budget, will again impact the poorest people.
24. Proposed cuts to the Total Mobility Scheme – blind people can't drive and as AT tells us we have to flag down buses we are pretty much totally reliant on the total Mobility Scheme. Rumoured cuts to the TM Scheme are outrageous: why are disabled people being punished again and prevented from getting out and about. TM should not be cut in anyway – in fact given the inaccessibility of much public transport to disabled people it's funding should be increased to enable us to get out and about.
25. Cuts to Council staff – Auckland council has an appalling record when it comes to employing and retaining disabled staff. Council must ensure that given that it employs so few disabled staff that they aren't made redundant because of budget cuts.
26. The reduction in Council staff will again affect the poorest and most marginalised in our community as services are reduced.
27. Cuts at Tātaki Auckland Unlimited – these proposed cuts will have a huge impact on poor and disabled people. There should be no charges introduced in areas that are currently free of charge.
28. Auckland Live and the Auckland Art Gallery provide some bespoke services to enable disabled people to participate in the cultural life of our city. Audio described tours and shows for blind people enable us to enjoy art and culture as do New Zealand Sign Language tours and interpreted shows for Deaf people. Any cuts to these services will be extremely detrimental to blind and Deaf people: we are excluded from so much of the arts and culture that the few accessible events are so important to our social and cultural wellbeing.
29. De-Fund COMMET – I oppose the proposal to de-fund COMET, a CCO that supports skills training, this will adversely impact disabled and poor people.

## The Budget's Impact on Environmental programmes

30. Disabled people are amongst the most adversely affected by climate change and the least able to mitigate against it.
31. Cuts to climate programmes undermine *Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri, the city's Climate Plan*.

- 32. *To even be considering cuts to storm water management given the recent weather events is criminal.*
- 33. *Reducing mowing of birms and pruning trees poses a serious danger to blind and disabled people: overgrown grass and weeds are a trip hazard and overhanging branches could severely injure blind people.*
- 34. I am extremely unhappy about Eke Panuku having to delay several planned sustainable urban regeneration projects because of proposed cuts.

#### What Council should do?

- 35. Council should increase rates instead of cutting services.
- 36. Council should borrow, rather than cut services.
- 37. Council should sell redundant assets such as golf courses.
- 38. Council should not sell it's stake in Auckland Airport.

#### Conclusion

- 39. The proposed budget cuts will rip the heart out of Auckland's poorest communities and will further marginalise some of the most marginalised people.
- 40. Auckland council must meet it's duties under the Local Government (Community and Wellbeing Act) 2019 and it's obligations under the UNCRPD.