



Date: Monday 24 April 2023

Annual Budget 2023-2024

Regional Organisations

**WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 1
(8889-36421)**

Sub #	Organisation Name	Local Board	Volume
8889	Sistema Aotearoa		1
10192	Afghan Family Services Charity NZ		1
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13702	The Music Association of Auckland	Regional Organisation	1
13921	NZ Sikh Women's Association	Regional Organisation	1
16806	New Zealand Opera	Regional Organisation	1
21945	Cancer Society Auckland Northland New Ze	Regional Organisation	1
22166	New Zealand African Community Health Se	Regional Organisation	1
22728	The Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Wh	Regional Organisation	1
23192	EMA	Regional Organisation	1
23527	Music Producers Guild New Zealand Ltd.	Regional Organisation	1
23540	Scouts Aotearoa	Regional Organisation	1
24305	Auckland Regional Public Health Service	Regional Organisation	1
24785	Hotel Council Aotearoa	Regional Organisation	1
25039	National Council of New Zealand Tamils	Regional Organisation	1
25081	Creative New Zealand	Regional Organisation	1
25082	Tourism Industry Aotearoa	Regional Organisation	1
25250	Greenpeace Aotearoa	Regional Organisation	1
25267	Library and Information Association of Aot	Regional Organisation	1
25388	New Zealand Writers Guild Inc Puni Taatu	Regional Organisation	1
25987	New Zealand Music Commission	Regional Organisation	1
26406	Engineering NZ Transportation Group (Auc	Regional Organisation	1
26951	Squash Auckland	Regional Organisation	1
27673	Auckland Cricket Association Inc	Regional Organisation	1
27717	Auckland marina Users Association Inc	Regional Organisation	1
28384	Northern Region Football	Regional Organisation	1
28681	New Zealand Disability Support Network	Regional Organisation	1
29011	Air New Zealand	Regional Organisation	1
33697	Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust	Regional Organisation	1
34175	AKTIVE	Regional Organisation	1
34178	Federated Farmers of New Zealand	Regional Organisation	1
34182	Restaurant Association of NZ	Regional Organisation	1
34190	Northern Regional Office (Heritage New Ze	Regional Organisation	1
34193	Grey Power North Shore	Regional Organisation	1
34227	Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust (Plunket)	Regional Organisation	1
34252	Regional Tourism New Zealand	Regional Organisation	1
34654	Yachting New Zealand	Regional Organisation	1
34682	Sport Auckland	Regional Organisation	1
36266	Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society	Regional Organisation	1
36420	Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust	Regional Organisation	1
36421	Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust Board	Regional Organisation	1



8889



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Sistema Aotearoa

Your local board: Regional organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Protect arts and culture 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? Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt

Tell us why: These are longterm investments which the council should more proactively manage.

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Alter depreciation policy. Long-term debt for multi-generational contributions to infrastructure spending now.

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Arts and Culture funding

Important privacy information

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SISTEMA AOTEAROA SUBMISSION

1. We are an equity-focused organization building orchestral music skills among young people in South Auckland. We are based at the Ōtara Music Arts Centre. We were founded in 2011 with the support of the APO, the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, and a private donor. We have been an independent charitable trust since 2018.

In 2022, we delivered and participated in over **64 events**, reaching an audience of **10,138**. The vast majority of these events were in Ōtara, either at ŌMAC, in the town square, at Te Puke ō Tara, or with the wider South Auckland community at Due Drop Events Centre.

2. We receive funding from Auckland Council through the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board through a number of funding routes. We raise most our funds independently of the Council to support our programmes.

Funding Type	Agreement	Funding Towards	Funded since	Amount (p.a - not subject to GST)	Funded until
Locally-driven initiatives (LDI) Funding	Annual Funding Agreement	Operational Costs	2012	\$11,000 (\$5,500 in FY2023)	June 30 2023
Community Empowerment Unit	Annual Funding Agreement	Events connecting Sistema Aotearoa ākonga with Senior Residents	2019	\$10,000	June 30 2023
Revitalising Town Centres	Contestable Grant Funding Agreement	Community Festival-April 2023	2022	\$10,500	Completion of project (April 2023)
			Total (F23)	\$26,000	
We pay for:			How we fund this	Amount	Proposed budget Impact
Venue Hire	Rental agreement OMAC	"community rate" at 50% discount.	Funded by charitable donations	\$25,761	Additional \$10,000
Venue Hire	Community office space	"community rate"	Funded by charitable donations	\$501	

3. Orchestral music is not elitist; it is a part of our every day. We are part of the ecosystem of music and the arts in Auckland. Our rangatahi, tutors and musicians are building a multi-cultural pathway for young people into professional practice, personal growth and social wellbeing.
4. Youth engagement has a material impact on positive behaviours. Cuts to arts and culture activities will have a particular impact on young people. We strongly urge councillors to consider what happens when young people are not engaged in opportunities for participation in arts, culture, sport and other social activities.
5. Cuts to Local Boards for arts and cultural activities have an impact on equity and opportunity, especially in socially and economically disadvantaged areas of the city where private and personal funding of discretionary activities (for example, participation in music-making) is limited.
6. As the largest city in Oceania, Auckland is a leader in the economy of the arts and culture. By hollowing out arts and cultural activities, we will be encouraging skilled young people to move to other parts of New Zealand or join the exodus to Australia (Sydney and Brisbane in particular). This is not “fixing” Auckland. Economic viability and cultural vibrancy go hand in hand.
7. What will be lost? The implications of the Council budget are more than financial. The council has seriously under-invested in Auckland’s unique identity. We urge councillors to consider that further withdrawal from arts and cultural activities will result in lost external investment opportunities. Auckland’s social capital will wither from lack of watering. Once an initiative shrivels, it is more difficult to revive. Once an opportunity is ignored, it may never return.

An example is the loss of performance opportunities for musicians in public spaces and prestigious places. As part of our 10th birthday celebrations, we performed for the Auckland Arts Festival. Some of our families came to the Aotea Centre in Auckland for the first time in their lives. The feedback was that it made them feel part of the mainstream of the city, gave young people and their families motivation and purpose. The investment (in a discounted venue hire, and a bus subsidy) was not great – but it made a difference.

To be included in the big party, everyone needs to feel invited. Councillors, please don’t take these opportunities away from us.



10192



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): **Afghan Family Services Charity NZ**

Your local board: **Regional organisation**

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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: 1. Reduction of public transport.

2. reduction of regional Services and education.

3. Reduction of local board funding.

4. Change for Wast management.

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: The deficit of money of Auckland Council is temporary. If you sell the share all or a part of it, you lose control for an extended period.

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

Tell us why: Borrow from banks for a limited period.

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: Flooding was a temporary case, not every year.

5. Local Boards

Albert-Eden Local Board

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

Tell us why: The project brings benefits to Auckland Societies.

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?) Community development and support, Sports and activities in parks, Protection and restoration of local waterways

Tell us why these are most important to you: These projects are essential.

Whau 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: The projects are not so big to affect Auckland's budgets.

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?) Community programme delivery, Protection and restoration of local waterways, Local community grants

Tell us why these are most important to you: These projects are essential.

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Do not support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	I don't know

What do you think of these proposals? A loan from merchants equipment.

Put one of your services on hold.

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11654



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Rainbows End and Rivers Environmental Group Inc

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

Rodney 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?** Other

Tell us why: These projects should be reviewed and phased or delayed to ensure money is available to continue to support community reserves and maintenance and pest control projects. See attached.

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?) Grants for community groups / organisations, Environmental volunteers in local parks, Open space low / no mow areas

Tell us why these are most important to you: See attached

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

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**SUBMISSION ON AUCKLAND COUNCIL'S 2023-2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL
BY RAINBOWS END AND RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP INC (REaREG)**

REaREG represents residents in the Rainbows End settlement and Green Road, Matakana, Auckland.

Having considered the budget proposal we would comment as follows.

Firstly, as a rural community we are very disappointed at the focus on reducing amenities enjoyed by rural communities by reducing funding to our local board. As it is, rural communities do not have easy access to a number of large community resources funded by Council, but our local reserves and parks are an appreciated local amenity which we, as a community, help to look after and enhance in partnership with relevant Council officers.

From our perspective it is interesting that the priorities listed in the budget consultation document all seem to be big ticket items which will come at significant cost. Given that the cost of supporting smaller community reserves (and similar) would surely be quite low in comparison, perhaps Council should be looking for some cost efficiencies in those big ticket items, or take a phased approach to implementation, which would allow Council to continue to support existing reserves, which are very important to their local communities.

REaREG strongly believes that Council should be making no or minimal change to supporting environmental volunteers in local parks and reserves and ecological restoration programmes. Many of these programmes have been going for years and making good progress. If there is a major cut in support for these activities, this good work will be lost and it will take a long time to bring back. How quickly things can degenerate without ongoing work was illustrated during Covid when community working bees were put on hold.

Community pest control projects have been making good progress in controlling pests on our peninsular. This has resulted in the return of many native bird species to our grassed and headland reserves. If support is withdrawn for this work, it will not take long for the pests to return with a negative effect on our environment. We strongly disagree with support being removed for this valuable work.

Once again, Council reserves used for recreation and relaxation by communities are an important asset for rural communities. These need to be mowed regularly. This wet summer has illustrated what happens when regular mowing was disrupted and our reserve became unusable in parts. Mowing of these reserves should be a priority. And we ask that our rubbish bin is not removed.

REaREG asks that Council and the Rodney Local Board consider delaying or cutting back on larger or new projects and continue maintaining their support of community groups who contribute many hours to maintain and improve their local reserves and environment.

**Jo Haswell
REaREG President**

21 March 2023



13702



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): The Music Association of Auckland

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Other

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Do not reduce funding for community groups. Reduce Council's other costs!! Community activities enable us to live in harmony and share out diversity and to be inclusive. We often step up for any matters that have affected all communities i.e. Cyclone Gabrielle

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: Strongly opposed to 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? Other

Tell us why: Do not agree in putting up rates

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: Reckon Council not prepared and we agree spend \$20 million and be prepared for future cyclones and torrential rain.

5. Local Boards

Albert-Eden Local Board

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

Tell us why:

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

Tell us why these are most important to you: Maintain funding and grants for cultural and arts programmes as its important to connect with the community.

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? No more rates

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?

No more road bumps!

More on cleaning stormwater and sewerage problems.

Prepare for future floods.

Important privacy information

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



13921



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): NZ Sikh Women's Association

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Proceed with the proposed reductions

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Community organisation to carry on their usual activities.

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: climate change

5. Local Boards

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu 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:

Please rank our proposed local board priorities from most to least important to you:

Rank	Proposed Priorities
1	Investing in initiatives to reduce the impact of climate change, including tree planting, education programmes and environmental volunteers

Rank	Proposed Priorities
2	Continue to provide residents with better quality facilities, parks and open spaces
3	Promoting activities to showcase our local arts and culture talent into career pathways
4	Continue to identify procurement, quality employment and social enterprise opportunities for our residents
5	Improving the well-being of our locals by supporting our local economy to become more efficient, resilient, and sustainable through our reduced budget

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

Tell us why these are most important to you: Community grants, events and Arts and culture programmes.

How do you think we could support our communities to be better prepared and resilient to extreme weather events like the recent Auckland storm?

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Community is important.

Important privacy information

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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.



16806



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): New Zealand Opera

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Do not cut funding to the arts

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

Waitematā Local Board

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

Tell us why:

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?) Arts and community centre programmes (at Ellen Melville Centre and Studio One Toi Tū), Local community events e.g. Parnell Festival of Roses, Community programme delivery e.g. community networks, youth and arts

Tell us why these are most important to you:

Do you think there are other areas where we could make savings to our local budgets?

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	I don't know
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	I don't know
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	I don't know

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

We strongly oppose funding cuts to the arts sector

Important privacy information

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22 March 2023

AUCKLAND COUNCIL DRAFT BUDGET SUBMISSION 2023/2024

Submission: We would like to add our voice to the collective voices of the Auckland arts community in strongly opposing Auckland Council's proposed funding cuts to the arts sector.

New Zealand Opera is a national arts company sitting at the forefront of professional opera in Aotearoa. The "total theatre" nature of our work nourishes and nurtures many branches of the creative ecosystem in our home city of Tāmaki Makaurau and across Aotearoa, from performers and creatives to technical, production and construction. We collaborate with many other Auckland arts organisations including the Auckland Arts Festival, the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, the Black Grace Dance Company and Auckland Live venues. We take a leadership position within the sector; helping train the next generation of singers, répétiteurs, directors and designers, offering resources and mentorship to smaller project-based companies, and commissioning new operas that tell distinctly New Zealand stories, such as our current production *The Unruly Tourists* which originated from a headline-grabbing incident on Takapuna Beach in 2019.

Like the vast majority of arts organisations, we are already facing huge challenges following three years of Covid disruptions, with ramifications that will be felt for many years. Our arts sector in general is currently facing a skills and knowledge emergency, with COVID-19 cancellations having taken away the livelihoods of many individuals and threatened the future of arts organisations large and small, through brain drain, forced career changes away from the arts and the lure of lucrative non-arts contracts and overseas opportunities. Work that is of a vocational nature is being put increasingly into question since it is often part-time in a sector that is traditionally underpaid, and this situation is being further eroded by the cost-of-living crisis.

At NZ Opera, with our 20+ year track record of successful delivery, we are working hard to provide development pathways to boost the arts sector and provide career opportunities, all against a backdrop of constantly having to fundraise to support our core business of opera production, as well as our wider remit of training, participation and outreach. We are by no means the only significant Auckland arts company already struggling to fund our programmes in an increasingly difficult economy, and a further blow to the broad infrastructure of arts funding in our city as proposed in the Auckland Council budget will only send our industry backwards.

We strongly believe that the heart of a coherent and healthy city includes having a vibrant and flourishing creative sector, including offering free events such as Music in Parks and making available high-calibre venues such as the Aotea Centre and other Auckland Live venues. The net effect of the proposed sizeable reduction in funding will be a huge negative impact on the local economy and devastation of Auckland's culture, art and community sectors. Our arts events, music, cultural festivals, theatre, dance, comedy and other creative activities bring life to our city, bring Auckland communities together, and attract domestic and international tourists. This also has a positive knock-on effect to our restaurants, hotels, transport and other sectors.

Without funding, most of Auckland's cultural events and festivals will be cancelled or scaled back, leading to a reduction in the diversity and vibrancy of the city's cultural scene. 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. They impact the quality and diversity of education programmes both directly in schools and those provided by arts organisations.

On a national level, the arts have already been downsized at all levels of education. There has been a shift of emphasis to "STEM" subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). Many arts advocates support adding the Arts to those priorities ("STEAM" rather than "STEM"), not least because of the proven benefits of creative expression to people's wellbeing. Auckland as our largest city should be seen to be leading the way rather than serving a further blow to the arts. Community arts and cultural events are a source of social connection, community engagement, and personal growth. Cutting arts funding will negatively impact on our already fragile community well-being, particularly for vulnerable or disadvantaged groups.

We recognise that of course our society has other urgent needs such as its health system, the cost of living and recent cyclone damage. That does not lessen the importance of the arts. They have always been a source of strength in troubled times. For a community to lose its culture is to risk losing its heart and spirit. Without support for art and cultural organisations, Auckland's cultural heritage will be neglected or lost forever, leading to a loss of identity and history for the city.

This is not the time to be cutting back. Now is the time to invest in the future of Auckland's arts and cultural sectors.

Below are two of our core values at NZ Opera which could not be more relevant at this time –

Mana Toi

He toi whakairo. He mana tangata

Where there is artistic excellence. There is human dignity

Auhatanga

Poipoia te kākano kia puāwai

Nurture the seed and it will blossom

Ngā mihi nui,



Thomas de Mallet Burgess

General Director

New Zealand Opera



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Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Cancer Society Auckland Northland New Zealand

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

I don't know

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Please refer to question 7 for a full response

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: Question not applicable Please refer to question 7 for a community organisation response.

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: Question not applicable Please refer to question 7 for a community organisation response.

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: Question not applicable Please refer to question 7 for a community organisation 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).	
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? Question not applicable Please refer to question 7 for a community organisation response.

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

The Cancer Society Auckland Northland team wish to empathise with the current situation that Auckland Council must consider budget cuts to their operations in the proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024.

We would like to respond to the proposed \$ 55 million of

Important privacy information

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



22166



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): New Zealand African Community Health Services

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Services proposed for reduction such as art and culture programmes are the essence of this diverse city

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

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

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

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

What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares? 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: This can help reduce more borrowing

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Please don't increase rates but make greater use of debt

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

Henderson-Massey Local Board

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

Tell us why:

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?) Programmes and activations in community facilities

Tell us why these are most important to you: Minorities communities use these services a lot

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Do not support

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Important privacy information

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22728



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): The Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket)

Your local board: Regional organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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

Albert-Eden Local Board

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

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Awhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Community leasing charges

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Awhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

Devonport-Takapuna 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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Charges relating to community leases and licences

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?)

Franklin 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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Council funded community lease maintenance

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

Our communities have told us that providing a network of pathways (walkways and cycleways) between and within our local villages and town centres will help locals access services and facilities, and live healthy active lifestyles.

Our budgets cannot deliver a network of this scale without additional funding such as via a targeted rate. To implement a new rate, we would have to investigate further and consult with you again in a future Annual Budget process.

Do you think we should investigate a local targeted rate to fund a network of pathways across the Franklin Local Board area?

Henderson-Massey 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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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

Tell us why these are most important to you:

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

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

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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

Tell us why these are most important to you:

Howick 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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Community facilities and services

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

Kaipātiki 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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Community leasing charges

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?):

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu 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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

Please rank our proposed local board priorities from most to least important to you:

Rank	Proposed Priorities
0	Investing in initiatives to reduce the impact of climate change, including tree planting, education programmes and environmental volunteers
0	Continue to provide residents with better quality facilities, parks and open spaces
0	Promoting activities to showcase our local arts and culture talent into career pathways
0	Continue to identify procurement, quality employment and social enterprise opportunities for our residents
0	Improving the well-being of our locals by supporting our local economy to become more efficient, resilient, and sustainable through our reduced budget

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?) Community lease charges

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

How do you think we could support our communities to be better prepared and resilient to extreme weather events like the recent Auckland storm?

Manurewa Local Board

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

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Community lease charges

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Community leasing charges

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?)

Do you think there are other areas where we could make savings to our local budgets?

Ōrākei 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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Community leasing charges

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

In the Mayoral Proposal, agreed by the Governing Body, the proposed reduction in operating costs would require the Ōrākei Local Board to find \$650,000 in savings in 2023/2024 from a discretionary budget of \$1.4 million. In the time frame available to us this discretionary budget is the only one we can access to make these savings. We have proposed where these savings might come from and how they would effect the activities and services we provide in our supporting information (pages 158-161)

.What do you think of the savings we've proposed across our activities and services? Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board

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

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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

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

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

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

Papakura Local Board

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

Tell us why:

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?) Community lease charges

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

Puketāpapa 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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Community lease charges

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

Rodney 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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Community centres programmes and subsidies for hall users

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

Upper Harbour Local Board

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

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Community lease charges

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

Waitākere Ranges 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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Community lease charges

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

Waitematā 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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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

Tell us why these are most important to you:

Do you think there are other areas where we could make savings to our local budgets?

Whau 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?** Other

Tell us why: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

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?) Community lease charges

Tell us why these are most important to you: Please refer to attached letter, as the submission from the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust, (Whānau Āwhina Plunket) regarding the proposed increase to Community Lease charges.

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Important privacy information

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27 March 2023

Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

via 'have your say' online survey

To whom it may concern

Re: Annual Budget 2023/24 Proposed Community leases fee increases

I am writing about the proposed amendment to the Community Occupancy Guidelines giving local boards greater discretion over admin and maintenance fees for community leases; and the impact this may have on Whānau Āwhina Plunket.

Whānau Āwhina Plunket is a unique service in Aotearoa New Zealand. Founded in 1907, we have a long history supporting generations of families.

We are a charity and the country's largest FREE health and wellbeing support service for tamariki – seeing 290,000 under-fives. About 80% of newborns are enrolled with Whānau Āwhina Plunket each year.

Pēpi, tamariki and whānau are at the heart of Plunket. Our nurses provide clinical assessments, and along with Kaiāwhina and Community Karitāne, support whānau and families, through home and clinic visits, as well as PlunketLine 0800 933 922, a free 24/7 telephone advice service for parents.

We are a Non-government organisation (NGO) that receives some funding from the Government but this does not cover the cost of running all our support services. As such we rely heavily on sponsorship, partnership, donations, and the kindness of New Zealanders to keep those support services going for whānau in need. These include before school checks, injury prevention education, support groups, playgroups, toy libraries, coffee groups and more.

We are a respected community service that has always appreciated the support given by Auckland Council. The long-standing Peppercorn rent charged by Auckland Council assists us to ensure we can deliver our trusted services, reaching whānau across Auckland. If the proposed charges were to be approved, we estimate (detailed in the table below) that the financial impact to Whānau Āwhina Plunket would be \$130,800 per year, which we simply cannot afford in this current climate. With limited Government funding we would need to find that money internally, which could impact our ability to provide services or appropriately resource our Plunket workforce.



Whānau Āwhina Plunket currently leases twenty seven (27) Auckland Council premises, fourteen (14) buildings on land leases and also hires 30 other Council owned/operated venues (under Venue Hire management).

Impact of proposed costs from 1 July 2023:

Lease type	#	Administration fee, per annum charge			Building Maintenance fee, per annum charge			
		Current	Proposed	Cost to Plunket		Current	Proposed	Cost to Plunket*
Full lease / exclusive use 27	23	\$1	\$1,300	\$35,100	< 100m ²	\$250	\$2,500	\$57,500
	4				> 100m ² & < 500m ²	\$500	\$5,000	\$20,000
	nil				> 500m ²	\$1,000	\$10,000	
Ground lease	14	\$1	\$1,300	\$18,200	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$0
Total per annum				\$53,300				\$77,500

* estimated

Total potential cost to Whānau Āwhina Plunket \$130,800 per annum.

We understand that we are just one of the many community organisations the Council and Local Boards support, however we would like to request that the proposed changes are reconsidered to ensure Whānau Āwhina Plunket can continue providing free health and wellbeing support to Auckland families with children under-five.

We hope that our submission will be given due consideration allowing for the potential implications to our already constricted budget and service delivery. We would be happy to meet with Council or Local Board representatives to discuss further, if requested.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Kenny

General Manager Finance Technology and Commercial

Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust

Ph 021 465 662

matthew.kenny@plunket.org.nz



23192



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): EMA

Your local board: Regional organisation

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: As an organisation the EMA has significant concerns about cutting too deeply into the city's economic development and events programmes have both have the potential or long-term damage if cut and not replaced. New Zealand is already in a race for global talent and much of the talent comes to Auckland. Without ongoing promotion of the city and attraction of new business opportunities Auckland and New Zealand will fall further behind in that race for talent. Events are a proven attraction for both domestic and international tourists and at the moment the city's events programme appears to fall off a cliff following the FIFA Women's World Cup Football. tataki is also the driver of the city's movie attraction strategy and we can't afford to lose that knowledge.

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: It makes little sense to hold onto these 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? Other

Tell us why: The EMA has long supported the ongoing reduction in the business rates differential and to have it deferred again is something we oppose. The continuing reliance on rates as a major source of funding is not sustainable if we are to replace and upgrade a

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

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23527



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Music Producers Guild New Zealand Ltd.

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Council should increase rates and make greater use of debt as appropriate in order to reject the proposed cuts to arts & culture funding and protect the cultural wellbeing of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

Albert-Eden Local Board

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

Tell us why: We don't see how those priorities can truly be worked on with funding cuts. Environmental planning and community resilience require resources and funding in order to be successful.

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?) Local arts programmes, Local community events, Protection and restoration of local waterways

Tell us why these are most important to you: I wish I could select them all. But in the interest of the arts, events and arts programming cannot be cut. All environmental protection and restoration measures are important as well.

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	I don't know
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	I don't know

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

The proposed Budget, which would reduce both investment and community participation in creative and cultural activities including music, does not achieve the fundamental purpose of Local Government. It poses an immense and imminent risk to our cultural we

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23540



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Scouts Aotearoa

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Cutting the budget this way will contribute to further inequity across our city and reduce the quality of life for people in Auckland.

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: As we are in a financial crisis I believe that we should sell some assets to fund the shortfall. However, we should also retain some investment as once assets are sold, it is extremely different to get them back.

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: We should not be cutting the budget but using rate increases and increasing debt to cover the shortfall of the budget.

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

Henderson-Massey 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: Our Local Board does a good job, and I agree they focus on the correct things. Thanks, West Auckland, for being onto it!

It sucks that Wayne Brown is a terrible Mayor and is focusing on the wrong things that detract from the excellent work of local boards

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?) Programmes and activations in community facilities, Library hours, Community-led environmental and water quality initiatives, and volunteer activities

Tell us why these are most important to you: I would select all boxes if I had the option to, as I deeply support the work of our local board and do not want to see their funding cut whatsoever!

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Do not support

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

The proposed increase of fees for community lease buildings maintenance and administration will have an extremely detrimental impact on the ability of Community Organisations to provide service to the community. I work for Scouts Aotearoa, and we provide

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24305



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Your local board: Regional organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Please refer to attached submission document, containing a formatted and referenced version of the below response.

Impacts of Spending Reductions on Equity:

ARPHS are strongly committed to achieving equitable health outcomes for all people in Tāmaki Makaurau. Social, economic, environmental, and cultural factors are strongly linked to the wellbeing of communities, and equitable access to these determinants is vital for achieving health equity. ARPHS are concerned that the reduction in funding and coordination for a number of regional and local services will exacerbate and entrench existing inequities across Tāmaki Makaurau. Some specific areas of concern include;

- Reducing or stopping targeted regional social and community programmes will have disproportionate impacts on those already experiencing high levels of social and economic deprivation. These impacts will be strongly felt through the cessation of funding for homelessness initiatives and the Citizen's Advice Bureau, and reduced funding and support for community empowerment initiatives, youth centres, the Western Initiative, and the Southern Initiative. Delaying or discontinuing these programmes will not only entrench inequities, but also remove the advocates for those who are marginalised. This risks further minimising the voices of marginalised communities in Tāmaki Makaurau, exacerbating

social and economic inequities, and acting in direct opposition to the visions of the Ngā Hapori Momoho Strategy 2022-2032.

- Reductions in local board funding will also disproportionately impact communities that are already socially and economically disadvantaged. Many local boards have identified the need to discontinue, reduce spending, or increase fees across community and youth programmes, local economic initiatives, and community facilities. The essential role of community investment in responding to Tāmaki Makaurau’s growing social, economic and health inequities is indisputable. This is realised under the Council’s Ngā Hapori Momoho Strategy 2022-2032 and the health sector’s Te Pae Tata. If local board funding must be reduced, ARPHS recommend that the local board funding formula (90% population base, 5% deprivation and 5% land area) is modified to redistribute funds and mitigate the inequitable impacts of reduced spending.
- Specific reductions in operating spending under the current budget will disproportionately impact disabled Aucklanders. Compared with non-disabled people, disabled people in Tāmaki Makaurau experience poorer social, economic, and health outcomes. Local government have an obligation to respond to these inequities. ARPHS are concerned that by defunding the Citizen’s Advice Bureau, Council is removing a vital support for the disability community in responding to experiences of discrimination and marginalisation. Furthermore, reductions in opening hours of libraries and recreational facilities will have an inequitable impact on disabled people who are overrepresented in unemployment figures and hence rely more heavily on these facilities. ARPHS would also like to see reassurance that the Total Mobility scheme is protected amongst operating spending reductions, as an indispensable scheme that supports those who cannot use public transport. Finally, in order to fully understand the inequitable impacts of the budget on disabled people, it is imperative that the voices and interests of the disability community are fairly reflected through the consultation process and strongly considered in further budgetary decision-making.
- Council-funded public community events provide many opportunities for equitable services, including health, to engage directly with populations. For example, the Stroke Foundation’s mobile blood pressure team engage directly with priority population groups to run health checks and provide advice on healthy lifestyles at such events. High blood pressure is the main risk factor for stroke. Māori and Pacific people are more at risk of stroke. Without events like Polyfest, health promoters lose a valuable interactive hub through which to engage with priority populations.

Additional public health impacts of the Auckland Council 2023/2024 budget are detailed below, including in the areas of community gardens, sport and leisure facilities, transport, education, smoke-free initiatives, and natural environments. Equity considerations are further detailed with respect to each topic.

Recommendation – Prioritise the reduction of social and health inequities when considering spending reductions and revenue-raising mechanisms.

Recommendation: Modify the local board funding formula (90% population base, 5% deprivation and 5% land area) to help address health and social inequities.

Community Gardens and Nutrition:

Adequate fruit and vegetable intake are dietary factors that are protective against many chronic diseases but their cost in comparison to foods high in fat, sugar and salt, means they can be difficult for people to choose or consume in adequate amounts. Having access to adequate nutritious food is a basic human need and a fundamental human right.

Many community gardens in Tāmaki Makaurau sit on Council owned land, are run by community volunteers and require funding to maintain garden establishment, expansion⁸, equipment and resources. Stopping or reducing funding can make resources (including volunteers) and the community garden itself difficult to maintain and ultimately remove access to nutritious produce for many community members.

Higher deprivation communities are less likely to have access to fresh fruit and vegetables are more likely to experience chronic health conditions such as diabetes⁶. New Zealand literature shows that community gardens contribute to community wellbeing by providing access to fruit and vegetables, increasing nutritional intake, reducing chronic health conditions, increasing physical activity, supporting financial wellbeing, improving environmental sustainability, revitalising culture and helping to develop a sense of community.

Community gardens are particularly important in promoting Māori health. Gardening your own produce has strong social and cultural roots in Aotearoa, New Zealand. For Māori, gardening was not only a survival skill to feed whānau and hāpouri (communities) nutritious produce but was interconnected with Te Ao Māori social and spiritual dimensions, the retention, affirmation and acquisition of mana and the exchange of mātauranga Māori. Māra (garden) enrich all four domains of Te Whare Tapa Whā⁸. Māra are effective and acceptable Māori health promotion initiatives, empower Māori

to take control of their own health and lives, allow reconnection to customary Māori knowledge and practices, and provided a channel to sustain healthy Māori communities.

Furthermore, community gardens mitigate the inequitable impacts of social, environmental, and economic crises on food security. Most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic and severe weather events highlighted existing inequities, created new challenges to food access, availability and affordability, and highlighted chronic food insecurity in many communities. Community gardens support community recovery and resilience in these events and provide a stable known food source in times of hardship. For example, after the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, community gardens acted as a place for the community to access fresh produce, de-stress, share experiences, find community support, and partake in social interaction and community bonding in a safe environment.

Recommendation – ARPHS recommend retaining existing funding for community gardens to strengthen community wellbeing and give effect to the Auckland Plan 2050 and Auckland's Climate Plan. If funding must be cut, Council should support community garden initiatives to secure alternative funding streams.

Sports and Recreation:

Environments that promote physical activity are a critical factor in achieving population wellbeing. We are concerned about the regressive impacts of reduced funding to sport and leisure facilities on the wellbeing of Aucklanders.

Seventy-eight percent of Auckland residents participate in at least one recreation and sport activity a week and eight to nine out of ten young people aged, five to 18 years, take part in at least one recreation and sport activity regularly (one or more times per week).

Despite those numbers, supporting many of the community sports clubs and regional physical initiatives is not without barriers. Financial stability was one of seven challenges recently identified as a cause for falling junior memberships.

According to the Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan (ASARSAP) 2014-2024, sport and recreation make a major contribution to our quality of life, health and wellbeing. Yet, the proposed cuts in the 2023/24 budget are directly opposed to all four priorities set out in the ASARSAP.

With a proposed \$20m funding cut to regional services, \$5.65m cut to regional contestable grants, and a \$16m cut to local board funding, Aucklanders face significant negative impacts to their health and wellbeing. Leisure centres with reduced opening hours and deferred infrastructure maintenance for sports fields are a few of the likely outcomes should Council make these cuts.

In lieu of council budget cuts, the cost burden will fall to non-profits. Sports and other non-profit community organisations occupying council facilities at a nominal fee will face large rises. Small buildings will cost \$2500 instead of \$250 for "a building maintenance fee" and bigger facilities would go from \$500 to \$5000 and \$1,000 to \$10,000. All of the organisations using such facilities would see their administration fee rise from \$1 to \$1300.

Recommendation – If funding must be reduced, ARPHS recommend that Council consider a structured withdrawal from contestable and regional grants with a focus on equity. Simply pulling funding is a one-dimensional approach that fails to facilitate or guide any transition to other commercial funding streams. Small, part-time organisations may not have the capacity or experience to explore switching funding streams.

Transport:

Maintaining and improving the use of range of active travel and public transport options within Auckland is of high importance.

Active travel has considerable positive effects on physical and mental health of individuals, improving heart health, reducing risks of some cancers and improving sleep quality and stress. The current budget proposes a reduction in bike hub services and opening hours in both Waitematā and Albert-Eden local boards. Bike hubs provide equitable access to bike ownership within communities, as well as opportunities to engage in core bike services and education in the absence of significant financial barriers. Evaluation of bike hubs in New Lynn has demonstrated that bike workshops are effective drivers of community economics and community cohesion, producing \$103,280 of value in 2017-2018 period, and 84% of respondents considering them an important part of the community¹⁶. In addition, international evidence shows that community cohesion is supported through these bike hubs, promoting social wellbeing and increasing rates of cycling among the local community. The proposed reduction will likely reduce the accessibility to bicycles for lower-income users, in particular, and compromise community sustainability. These impacts will limit Council's ability to achieve its commitments under the Auckland Climate Plan and Transport Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) of increasing cycling rates to 7% through the provision of infrastructure and community initiatives.

In addition to the impacts of reduced funding for active transport, the budget proposes a reduction of 588 bus services a week across the city. ARPHS recognises that the reduction in bus services may be in part due to driver shortages. However, the provision of quality bus services has significant public health benefits through promoting physical activity

and reducing vehicle emissions. Evidence shows that there is 8-33 minutes of additional physical activity a day for people who use public transport and wider use of public transport can significantly contribute to decreasing physical inactivity in populations. Furthermore, modelling has suggested that even a 2.87% increase in public transport use instead of single occupancy vehicles for travel in Auckland can have substantial reductions in emissions that harm human health. Vehicle emissions are responsible for 763 premature deaths annually in Auckland.

Council has previously demonstrated a recognition of the importance of accessible active and public transport for supporting an equitable, healthy, thriving, sustainable Tāmaki Makaurau. The Climate Action Plan commits to “make travel by public transport faster, more frequent and reliable over a wider network”. TERP commits to increase bus trip share to 13% by 2030 through the delivery of “a frequent, reliable and accessible PT network capable of achieving 550 million trips per year.” ARPHS expect to see these commitments given effect in the current budget.

Recommendation – It is expected that the transport proposals in the budget will have inequitable impacts on population wellbeing in Tāmaki Makaurau by decreasing active transport and contributing to high vehicle emissions. ARPHS recommend that Council give effect to their commitments under Auckland’s Climate Plan and the Transport Emissions Reduction Plan in the 2023/2024 budget.

Education:

Kauri Kids;

ARPHS are concerned about the inequitable public health impacts of stopping the provision of Council-operated early childhood centres in Tāmaki Makaurau.

The first 2000 days of a child’s life (from conception to age 5) are foundational for lifelong positive health outcomes for tamariki. The Auckland Plan 2050 acknowledges that children have a right to an education and that there is consistent evidence linking good quality education, especially childhood education, with improved skills development and lifelong learning. In addition, Auckland Council’s Child and Youth Strategic Action Plan (I Am Auckland) prioritises children and young people supported at all levels of education, from early childhood education.

Ten not-for-profit, council-operated Kauri Kids Centres have been operating for up to several decades and fill a unique gap in early learning services. Parents have chosen to enrol their children to these centres as they are low-cost and highly flexible options for whānau compared to for-profit private organisations. The nature of these centres means that children living in areas of high socioeconomic deprivation are able to access quality education at a young age. All Kauri Kids centres are located within or next to existing council facilities (community houses, pool or leisure centres) that promote supportive environments for whānau to participate in community initiatives.

Kauri Kids centres are also case studies on healthy kai and wai through initiatives such as the Healthy Environment Approach. The project at Kauri Kids centres (and Out of School care (OSCAR) programmes) aimed to get better equity with health outcomes in South Auckland and led to 8000 healthier meals at Kauri Kids since October 2019. These best-practice community initiatives should be preserved to ensure children continue nourishing kai from an early age.

The proposed removal of council funding for early childcare education facilities will shift demand to the market, increasing financial barriers and decreasing access to early childhood education for whānau experiencing socioeconomic deprivation. Aotearoa has some of the highest childcare costs in the Western world. According to the latest OECD data from 2018, a typical couple who both earn the average wage and have two kids spends 28% of their income on childcare. The majority of kindergartens, a cheaper alternative, have waiting times for children aged four years.

Recommendation – ARPHS encourage Council to retain funding for the direct delivery of early learning services through the Kauri Kids programme, in particular, ensuring the EQI 1-3 centres remain open (Otara, Clendon, Papatoetoe) and centres in suburbs with high need (Birkdale, Beach Haven). This will enable Council to meet their commitments under the Auckland Plan 2050 and Auckland Council’s Child and Youth Strategic Action Plan.

Enviroschools;

ARPHS are concerned about the impacts of reduced funding of the Enviroschools programme on achieving healthy environments and supporting positive community relationships.

A whole-of-school approach is recognised by the World Health Organization as being important to achieve healthy environments. Enviroschools supports this kaupapa by teaching children and young people about the environment, sustainability and wider food systems. The result of this programme is empowering young people to design and lead sustainability projects in the community.

Auckland Council’s Child and Youth Strategic Plan (I Am Auckland) Annual Update in 2021 acknowledges that Enviroschools is a pivotal programme for students to connect with the environment and lead sustainability actions in the

community and also links this to the Auckland Plan 2050 Focus Area 3 (Strengthen rangatahi leadership, education and employment outcomes). A 2015 independent evaluation revealed that, nationally, students were participating in over 10,000 sustainability-focused actions in multiple action areas inside and outside schools and early childhood education centres. EnviroSchools are actively connecting with community organisations (88%) and forming positive relationships with whānau and the wider community. This process enabled students to be more aware of tikanga Māori as they “celebrate and respect the atua and Kaitiaki.”

Recommendation – ARPHS recommend retaining funding for EnviroSchools to preserve existing schools’ sustainability journeys and positive community relationships already seen to uphold Auckland Plan 2050 Focus Area 3 (Strengthen rangatahi leadership, education and employment outcomes) and Auckland Council’s Child and Youth Strategic Action Plan.

Smokefree:

ARPHS emphasise the importance of the Council giving effect to the Smokefree Policy 2017–2025 in the 2023/2024 budget, in order to achieve the Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 goal. The Smokefree initiative has a significant impact on equity, population health and wellbeing, and the prosperity of Tāmaki Makaurau. Achieving the goals of Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 requires action from local government, including through funding and implementing activities that support smoke-free compliance, such as raising community awareness through public communications and smoke-free signage. Continued investment in these activities is especially important in the 2023/2024 annual budget period in order to meet Auckland Council’s commitment to be smoke-free by 2025.

Recommendation – ARPHS recommend continued Council investment in activities under the Smokefree Policy 2017–2025 in order to achieve the goal of Smokefree Aotearoa 2025

Natural Environment and Climate Change:

The budget commits to implementing Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland’s Climate Plan in 2023/2024. ARPHS supports the retention of this work in the budget, as climate change affects many dimensions of human health and wellbeing.

It is of concern, however, that many of the proposed cuts to Council services, such as reduced bus services, are not aligned with the commitments of Auckland’s Climate Plan. In addition, many of the cuts at local board level relate to services, programmes and initiatives that aim to improve the quality of our natural environment, including the expansion of green spaces.

“Are we building harder, hotter cities?”, the recent report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, contains recommendations specifically for councils regarding their role in achieving equitable expansion and improvement of green spaces. Councils are asked to acknowledge the key environmental, recreational and cultural services that green spaces provide and the extent to which these can be compromised by urban development. (See Section 5; recommendations 1, 6 and 7) .

Pro-equity funding options for green spaces are proposed in the report, e.g., hypothecated rates levy and targeted levies as ways to “improve equitable access to green space by focusing spending on existing suburbs with the lowest quality green space” (page 147).

Recommendation – Ensure that the budget does not privilege hard infrastructure projects for transport and urban development over projects that expand green space and protect the environment. This should be part of the council honouring “Auckland’s Climate Plan”.

Recommendation – Apply an equity lens when proposing council-led and/or local body budget cuts that involve initiatives relating to green space as well as those that improve the quality of water, air and other aspects of the natural environment.

Recommendation – Retain sufficient budget to implement the council-specific recommendations (1, 6 and 7) in the report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

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 refer to attached submission document, containing a formatted and referenced version of the below response.

1. Overview

For Tāmaki Makaurau to prosper, its people require good health, productive lives and to feel included in society. Good health

Important privacy information

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

28 March 2023

Auckland Council
akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Submission on the *Annual Budget 2023/2024*

Thank you for the opportunity for the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) to provide a submission on Auckland Council's Annual Budget 2023/2024.

We welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss our submission.

The primary contact point for this submission is:

Megan Howson
Policy Analyst
Auckland Regional Public Health Service
09 623 4600
mhowson@adhb.govt.nz

Ngā mihi/Yours sincerely,



Kathy Bendikson
Acting General Manager
Auckland Regional Public Health Service

1. Overview

For Tāmaki Makaurau to prosper, its people require good health, productive lives and to feel included in society. Good health is determined by strong communities, socioeconomic resources, easy access to public and active transport, quality education, and a health-promoting physical environment. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental human right¹. Providing the social, economic, cultural, and environmental conditions that promote well-being within present and future communities is one of the main purposes of local government².

The Auckland Council Budget 2023/2024 aims to take steps towards achieving a resilient and prosperous city, in accordance with the needs and desires of those who call Tāmaki Makaurau home. ARPHS acknowledges the complexities confronted by Auckland Council (Council) in addressing major financial challenges in a region facing significant social, economic, and environmental pressures. As a health organisation in the Auckland region, we care about achieving equity for our community and we are concerned about the potentially regressive impact of some operational spending reductions. We urge Council to prioritise cost-saving and revenue-raising mechanisms that advance equity. In a budget that aims to deliver what Aucklanders want, it may also be appropriate to reflect upon whose voices have not been heard in this consultation process.

Tāmaki Makaurau faces a number of challenges such as rising inequality, increasing numbers of residents, an ageing population, climate change and a rising incidence of long-term health conditions. In addition, our hāpouri (communities) are experiencing harms to mental health and other detrimental impacts associated with tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse. Addressing these issues is essential to improve population health and reduce inequity. These are the concerns that inform the comments below on the Auckland Council Budget 2023/2024.

Key points that ARPHS would like you to consider include the following:

1. Ensure that local government's commitment to uphold the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi is reflected in Council budget processes and decision-making.
2. Prioritise the reduction of social and health inequities when considering spending reductions and revenue-raising mechanisms.
3. Balancing long-term goals against the current needs of Tāmaki Makaurau will help Council to make decisions around budgetary levers and spending initiatives that promote intergenerational equity. By incorporating a long-term lens into decision-making, Council can help to protect future generations from inheriting an unfair burden of social, environmental, and economic challenges.
4. Consider and analyse the extent to which the budget gives effect to existing Council strategies, including the Auckland Plan 2050, Ngā Hapori Momoho Strategy/Thriving Communities Strategy 2022-2032, Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri/Auckland's Climate Plan,

¹ <https://www.who.int/about/governance/constitution>

² Local Government Act 2002, section 10 (1)

Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway, Auckland Council's Child and Youth Strategic Action Plan, and the Smokefree Policy 2017-2025.

5. Strive for inclusive, accessible, and transparent local government consultation processes in order to capture and reflect the voices of marginalised communities.
6. Modify the local board funding formula (90% population base, 5% deprivation and 5% land area) to help address health and social inequities and provide guidance and direction to local boards as to the intended use of the targeted funds.
7. Where a reduction in local board funding impacts the viability of a community programme or initiative, a council-led process for supporting local boards to secure alternative funding would facilitate a transition and reduce the likelihood of an important initiative ending.
8. Ensure the provision of infrastructure and services that promote healthy and sustainable environments and communities, prioritising areas of high socioeconomic deprivation. From a public health perspective, this includes the provision of community gardens, sports and recreation facilities, smoke-free environments, accessible active and public transport options, affordable early childhood education, strong social infrastructure and healthy natural environments.

The following sections contain more detailed commentary on the Auckland Council Budget 2023/2024.

2. Responses to Consultation Questions

The priorities and concerns raised in ARPHS' submission are in response to the following consultation questions;

- Question 1: Operating spending reductions
- Question 7: What else is important to you?

Te Tiriti O Waitangi

Whilst ARPHS recognise the limited scope of a budget consultation document, the omission of any reference to Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the Auckland Council Budget is not only problematic but undermines the people that ARPHS and the Council serve. Implementing Te Tiriti o Waitangi in this document endorses the Council's commitment to partnering with the community.

ARPHS aligns our public health evidence-based practice with the World Health Organization principles¹. Te Tiriti o Waitangi—in particular, Article 3 (Ōritetanga)—guides our approach to public health in Aotearoa New Zealand. ARPHS' approach and role as a Crown agent is to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi to ensure equitable physical, mental and social well-being and health outcomes, for all in Tāmaki Makaurau. To enable the success of our public health approach, ARPHS is committed to Māori partnership at all stages and levels of decision-making; across policy development, implementation, evaluation, and fiscal decisions³.

³ [The Waitangi Tribunal's WAI 2575 Report: Implications for Decolonizing Health Systems – Health and Human Rights Journal \(hrjournal.org\)](https://hrjournal.org/)

There are many benefits of local government sharing power and reciprocal decision-making with Māori. Power sharing and reciprocity enables initiatives to flourish, ensures transparency, and encourages public participation in the consultation process. Article One (kāwangatanga) and Article Two (rangatiratanga) of Te Tiriti o Waitangi provide guidance for these relationships. Meaningful application of these articles by local government is essential to achieve optimal health and wellbeing in our communities. ARPHS encourage Council to strongly consider how it can honour Te Tiriti in the development of future budgets including the upcoming 10-year budget. These engagement processes gain the greatest traction by being transparent and reflected in public consultation documents.

Furthermore, ARPHS are concerned about the potential lack of awareness in the wider Auckland community of the Auckland Council budget consultation, and the accessibility of the process for those who are marginalised. The Council has a responsibility to ensure that the voices of Māori, Pasifika, disabled people, tamariki/youth, refugees, new migrants, the LGBTQIA+ community, and other diverse communities are represented and reflected in their decision-making. This concern is heightened by the likelihood that the current proposed budget will disproportionately impact those whose voices are least heard. For future decision-making, including for the upcoming 10-year budget, ARPHS encourages Council to undertake an inclusive consultation process that amplifies the voices of those who are marginalised.

Moreover, ARPHS are eager to see Council's commitment to ōritetanga (equality) and wairuatanga (wholistic wellbeing of an individual) reflected in budget decision-making. This commitment can be demonstrated through the prioritisation of budgetary levers and spending initiatives that address the economic, social and health inequities which exist for our community as a whole, including for those who are disadvantaged. Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi by protecting the wairuatanga of all who call Tāmaki Makaurau home will positively reflect on Council's dedication to achieving a resilient and prosperous city.

Recommendation: Ensure that local government's commitment to uphold the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi is reflected in Council budget processes and decision-making.

Impacts of Spending Reductions on Equity

ARPHS are strongly committed to achieving equitable health outcomes for all people in Tāmaki Makaurau. Social, economic, environmental, and cultural factors are strongly linked to the wellbeing of communities, and equitable access to these determinants is vital for achieving health equity. ARPHS are concerned that the reduction in funding and coordination for a number of regional and local services will exacerbate and entrench existing inequities across Tāmaki Makaurau. Some specific areas of concern include;

- Reducing or stopping targeted regional social and community programmes will have disproportionate impacts on those already experiencing high levels of social and economic deprivation. These impacts will be strongly felt through the cessation of funding for homelessness initiatives and the Citizen's Advice Bureau, and reduced funding and support for community empowerment initiatives, youth centres, the Western Initiative, and the Southern Initiative. Delaying or discontinuing these programmes will not only entrench inequities, but also remove the advocates for those who are marginalised. This

risks further minimising the voices of marginalised communities in Tāmaki Makaurau, exacerbating social and economic inequities, and acting in direct opposition to the visions of the Ngā Hapori Momoho Strategy 2022-2032⁴.

- Reductions in local board funding will also disproportionately impact communities that are already socially and economically disadvantaged. Many local boards have identified the need to discontinue, reduce spending, or increase fees across community and youth programmes, local economic initiatives, and community facilities. The essential role of community investment in responding to Tāmaki Makaurau's growing social, economic and health inequities is indisputable. This is realised under the Council's Ngā Hapori Momoho Strategy 2022-2032 and the health sector's Te Pae Tata⁵. If local board funding must be reduced, ARPHS recommend that the local board funding formula (90% population base, 5% deprivation and 5% land area) is modified to redistribute funds and mitigate the inequitable impacts of reduced spending.
- Specific reductions in operating spending under the current budget will disproportionately impact disabled Aucklanders. Compared with non-disabled people, disabled people in Tāmaki Makaurau experience poorer social, economic, and health outcomes. Local government have an obligation to respond to these inequities. ARPHS are concerned that by defunding the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Council is removing a vital support for the disability community in responding to experiences of discrimination and marginalisation. Furthermore, reductions in opening hours of libraries and recreational facilities will have an inequitable impact on disabled people who are overrepresented in unemployment figures and hence rely more heavily on these facilities. ARPHS would also like to see reassurance that the Total Mobility scheme is protected amongst operating spending reductions, as an indispensable scheme that supports those who cannot use public transport. Finally, in order to fully understand the inequitable impacts of the budget on disabled people, it is imperative that the voices and interests of the disability community are fairly reflected through the consultation process and strongly considered in further budgetary decision-making.
- Council-funded public community events provide many opportunities for equitable services, including health, to engage directly with populations. For example, the Stroke Foundation's mobile blood pressure team engage directly with priority population groups to run health checks and provide advice on healthy lifestyles at such events. High blood pressure is the main risk factor for stroke. Māori and Pacific people are more at risk of stroke. Without events like Polyfest, health promoters lose a valuable interactive hub through which to engage with priority populations.

Additional public health impacts of the Auckland Council 2023/2024 budget are detailed below, including in the areas of community gardens, sport and leisure facilities, transport, education, smoke-free initiatives, and natural environments. Equity considerations are further detailed with respect to each topic.

⁴ Auckland Council (2022) Ngā Hapori Momoho / Thriving Communities Strategy 2022-2032.

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/topic-based-plans-strategies/community-social-development-plans/docsthivingcommunities/nga-hapori-momoho-strategy-2022-2032.pdf>

⁵ Te Whatu Ora (2022) Te Pae Tata Interim New Zealand Health Plan 2022. <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/publications/te-pae-tata-interim-new-zealand-health-plan-2022/>

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Ratonga Hauora-ā-Iwi ō Tāmaki Makaurau

TeWhatuOra.govt.nz | arphs.health.nz

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Recommendation: Prioritise the reduction of social and health inequities when considering spending reductions and revenue-raising mechanisms.

Recommendation: Modify the local board funding formula (90% population base, 5% deprivation and 5% land area) to help address health and social inequities.

Community Gardens and Nutrition

Adequate fruit and vegetable intake are dietary factors that are protective against many chronic diseases but their cost in comparison to foods high in fat, sugar and salt, means they can be difficult for people to choose or consume in adequate amounts⁶. Having access to adequate nutritious food is a basic human need and a fundamental human right⁷.

Many community gardens in Tāmaki Makaurau sit on Council owned land, are run by community volunteers and require funding to maintain garden establishment, expansion⁸, equipment and resources. Stopping or reducing funding can make resources (including volunteers) and the community garden itself difficult to maintain and ultimately remove access to nutritious produce for many community members⁷.

Higher deprivation communities are less likely to have access to fresh fruit and vegetables are more likely to experience chronic health conditions such as diabetes⁶. New Zealand literature shows that community gardens contribute to community wellbeing by providing access to fruit and vegetables, increasing nutritional intake, reducing chronic health conditions, increasing physical activity, supporting financial wellbeing, improving environmental sustainability, revitalising culture and helping to develop a sense of community^{8, 9, 10, 11}.

Community gardens are particularly important in promoting Māori health. Gardening your own produce has strong social and cultural roots in Aotearoa, New Zealand⁸. For Māori, gardening was not only a survival skill to feed whānau and hāpouri (communities) nutritious produce¹⁰ but was interconnected with Te Ao Māori social and spiritual dimensions⁸, the retention, affirmation and acquisition of mana and the exchange of mātauranga Māori¹². Māra (garden) enrich all four domains of Te Whare Tapa Whā⁸. Māra are effective and acceptable Māori health promotion initiatives, empower Māori to take control of their own health and lives, allow reconnection to

⁶ Earle, M. D. (2011). Cultivating health: Community gardening as a public health intervention (Doctoral dissertation, University of Otago).

⁷ Toi Te Ora - Public Health Service, (2013). Growing Healthy Communities- Food Security Toolkit for local government, Bay of Plenty District Health Board.

⁸ Egli, V., Oliver, M., & Tautolo, E. S. (2016). The development of a model of community garden benefits to wellbeing. Preventive medicine reports, 3, 348-352.

⁹ Bowers, S., Carter, K., Gorton, D., Heta, C., Lanumata, T., Maddison, R., ... & Walton, M. (2009). Enhancing food security and physical activity for Māori, Pacific and low-income peoples. August 2009. Wellington: Clinical Trials Research Unit, University of Auckland; GeoHealth Laboratory, University of Canterbury. Health Promotion and Policy Research Unit, University of Otago

¹⁰ Hond, R., Ratima, M., & Edwards, W. (2019). The role of Māori community gardens in health promotion: a land-based community development response by Tangata Whenua, people of their land. *Global Health Promotion*, 26(3_suppl), 44-53.

¹¹ Heerink, S., Sinclair-Phillips, V., Jagger, A., & Hay, K. (2021). Expanding field education: Hope trust community garden. *Aotearoa New Zealand Social Work*, 33(1), 112-115.

¹² Earle, M. D. (2011). Cultivating health: Community gardening as a public health intervention (Doctoral dissertation, University of Otago).

customary Māori knowledge and practices, and provided a channel to sustain healthy Māori communities¹⁰.

Furthermore, community gardens mitigate the inequitable impacts of social, environmental, and economic crises on food security. Most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic and severe weather events highlighted existing inequities, created new challenges to food access, availability and affordability, and highlighted chronic food insecurity in many communities¹³. Community gardens support community recovery and resilience in these events and provide a stable known food source in times of hardship. For example, after the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, community gardens acted as a place for the community to access fresh produce, de-stress, share experiences, find community support, and partake in social interaction and community bonding in a safe environment¹⁴.

Recommendation: ARPHS recommend retaining existing funding for community gardens to strengthen community wellbeing and give effect to the Auckland Plan 2050 and Auckland's Climate Plan. If funding must be cut, Council should support community garden initiatives to secure alternative funding streams.

Sports and Recreation

Environments that promote physical activity are a critical factor in achieving population wellbeing. We are concerned about the regressive impacts of reduced funding to sport and leisure facilities on the wellbeing of Aucklanders.

Seventy-eight percent of Auckland residents participate in at least one recreation and sport activity a week and eight to nine out of ten young people aged, five to 18 years, take part in at least one recreation and sport activity regularly (one or more times per week).

Despite those numbers, supporting many of the community sports clubs and regional physical initiatives is not without barriers. Financial stability was one of seven challenges recently identified as a cause for falling junior memberships¹⁵.

According to the Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan (ASARSAP) 2014-2024, sport and recreation make a major contribution to our quality of life, health and wellbeing. Yet, the proposed cuts in the 2023/24 budget are directly opposed to all four priorities set out in the ASARSAP¹⁶.

With a proposed \$20m funding cut to regional services, \$5.65m cut to regional contestable grants, and a \$16m cut to local board funding, Aucklanders face significant negative impacts to their health and wellbeing. Leisure centres with reduced opening hours and deferred

¹³ Dombroski, K., Diprose, G., Sharp, E., Graham, R., Lee, L., Scobie, M., & Martin-Neuninger, R. (2020). Food for people in place: Reimagining resilient food systems for economic recovery. *Sustainability*, 12(22), 9369

¹⁴ Shimp, N., Wesener, A., & McWilliam, W. (2019). How community gardens may contribute to community resilience following an earthquake. *Urban forestry & urban greening*, 38, 124-132.

¹⁵ Return to Play Survey, 2020, Active.

¹⁶ Sport and Active Recreation in the lives of New Zealand adults 2013/1014 Active New Zealand Survey Results Sports New Zealand.

infrastructure maintenance for sports fields are a few of the likely outcomes should Council make these cuts.

In lieu of Council budget cuts, the cost burden will fall to non-profits. Sports and other non-profit community organisations occupying council facilities at a nominal fee will face large rises. Small buildings will cost \$2500 instead of \$250 for "a building maintenance fee" and bigger facilities would go from \$500 to \$5000 and \$1,000 to \$10,000. All of the organisations using such facilities would see their administration fee rise from \$1 to \$1300 ¹⁷.

Recommendation: If funding must be reduced, ARPHS recommend that Council consider a structured withdrawal from contestable and regional grants with a focus on equity. Simply pulling funding is a one-dimensional approach that fails to facilitate or guide any transition to other commercial funding streams. Small, part-time organisations may not have the capacity or experience to explore switching funding streams.

Transport

Maintaining and improving the use of range of active travel and public transport options within Auckland is of high importance.

Active travel has considerable positive effects on physical and mental health of individuals, improving heart health, reducing risks of some cancers and improving sleep quality and stress. The current budget proposes a reduction in bike hub services and opening hours in both Waitematā and Albert-Eden local boards. Bike hubs provide equitable access to bike ownership within communities, as well as opportunities to engage in core bike services and education in the absence of significant financial barriers^{18,19}. Evaluation of bike hubs in New Lynn has demonstrated that bike workshops are effective drivers of community economics and community cohesion, producing \$103,280 of value in 2017-2018 period, and 84% of respondents considering them an important part of the community¹⁶. In addition, international evidence shows that community cohesion is supported through these bike hubs, promoting social wellbeing and increasing rates of cycling among the local community.²⁰ The proposed reduction will likely reduce the accessibility to bicycles for lower-income users, in particular, and compromise community sustainability. These impacts will limit Council's ability to achieve its commitments under the Auckland Climate Plan and Transport Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) of increasing cycling rates to 7% through the provision of infrastructure and community initiatives.

In addition to the impacts of reduced funding for active transport, the budget proposes a reduction of 588 bus services a week across the city. ARPHS recognises that the reduction in bus services may be in part due to driver shortages. However, the provision of quality bus

¹⁷ <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/auckland-mayor-aims-for-7-percent-rates-increase>

¹⁸ Fehnker, L. (2018). New Lynn Bike Hub Impact Evaluation.

¹⁹ Alexandre Rigal (2022): Changing habits in the cycling subculture: the case of two bike workshops in France, *Mobilities*, DOI: 10.1080/17450101.2022.2071630

²⁰ Meixner, 2017

services has significant public health benefits through promoting physical activity and reducing vehicle emissions. Evidence shows that there is 8-33 minutes of additional physical activity a day for people who use public transport and wider use of public transport can significantly contribute to decreasing physical inactivity in populations.²¹ Furthermore, modelling has suggested that even a 2.87% increase in public transport use instead of single occupancy vehicles for travel in Auckland can have substantial reductions in emissions that harm human health²². Vehicle emissions are responsible for 763 premature deaths annually in Auckland.²³

Council has previously demonstrated a recognition of the importance of accessible active and public transport for supporting an equitable, healthy, thriving, sustainable Tāmaki Makaurau. The Climate Action Plan commits to “make travel by public transport faster, more frequent and reliable over a wider network”. TERP commits to increase bus trip share to 13% by 2030 through the delivery of “a frequent, reliable and accessible PT network capable of achieving 550 million trips per year.” ARPHS expect to see these commitments given effect in the current budget.

Recommendation: It is expected that the transport proposals in the budget will have inequitable impacts on population wellbeing in Tāmaki Makaurau by decreasing active transport and contributing to high vehicle emissions. ARPHS recommend that Council give effect to their commitments under Auckland’s Climate Plan and the Transport Emissions Reduction Plan in the 2023/2024 budget.

Education

Kauri Kids

ARPHS are concerned about the inequitable public health impacts of stopping the provision of Council-operated early childhood centres in Tāmaki Makaurau.

The first 2000 days of a child’s life (from conception to age 5) are foundational for lifelong positive health outcomes for tamariki.²⁴ The Auckland Plan 2050 acknowledges that children have a right to an education²⁵ and that there is consistent evidence linking good quality education, especially childhood education, with improved skills development and lifelong learning.²⁶ In addition, Auckland Council’s Child and Youth Strategic Action Plan (*I Am*

²¹ Rissel, C., Curac, N., Greenaway, M., & Bauman, A. (2012). Physical activity associated with public transport use--a review and modelling of potential benefits. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 9(7), 2454–2478. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph9072454>

²² Páraic Carroll, Brian Caulfield, Aoife Ahern, Measuring the potential emission reductions from a shift towards public transport, *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, Volume 73, 2019, Pages 338-351

²³ Kuschel et al (2022). Health and air pollution in New Zealand 2016 (HAPINZ 3.0): Volume 1 – Finding and implications. Report prepared by G Kuschel, J Metcalfe, S Sridhar, P Davy, K Hastings, K Mason, T Denne, J Berentson-Shaw, S Bell, S Hales, J Atkinson and A Woodward for Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Health, Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, March 2022.

²⁴ Te Whatu Ora, Te Aka Whai Ora (2022). Te Pae Tata: Interim New Zealand Health Plan.

https://www.teakawhaiora.nz/assets/Uploads/Publications/TePaeTata_Oct_2022_a5_A4s.pdf

²⁵ United Nations General Assembly (1989). Convention on the rights of the child.

²⁶ Auckland Council (2018). Auckland Plan 2050: Opportunity and prosperity. <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/auckland-plan/about-the-auckland-plan/docsprintdocuments/section-7-opportunity.pdf>

Auckland) prioritises children and young people supported at all levels of education, from early childhood education.²⁷

Ten not-for-profit, council-operated Kauri Kids Centres have been operating for up to several decades and fill a unique gap in early learning services. Parents have chosen to enrol their children to these centres as they are low-cost and highly flexible options for whānau compared to for-profit private organisations. The nature of these centres means that children living in areas of high socioeconomic deprivation are able to access quality education at a young age. All Kauri Kids centres are located within or next to existing council facilities (community houses, pool or leisure centres) that promote supportive environments for whānau to participate in community initiatives.^{28,29}

Kauri Kids centres are also case studies on healthy kai and wai through initiatives such as the Healthy Environment Approach.³⁰ The project at Kauri Kids centres (and Out of School care (OSCAR) programmes) aimed to get better equity with health outcomes in South Auckland and led to 8000 healthier meals at Kauri Kids since October 2019.^{31,32} These best-practice community initiatives should be preserved to ensure children continue nourishing kai from an early age.

The proposed removal of council funding for early childcare education facilities will shift demand to the market, increasing financial barriers and decreasing access to early childhood education for whānau experiencing socioeconomic deprivation. Aotearoa has some of the highest childcare costs in the Western world. According to the latest OECD data from 2018, a typical couple who both earn the average wage and have two kids spends 28% of their income on childcare.³³ The majority of kindergartens, a cheaper alternative, have waiting times for children aged four years.³⁴

Recommendation: ARPHS encourage Council to retain funding for the direct delivery of early learning services through the Kauri Kids programme, in particular, ensuring the EQ1 1-3 centres remain open (Otara, Clendon, Papatoetoe) and centres in suburbs with high need (Birkdale, Beach Haven). This will enable Council to meet their commitments under the Auckland Plan 2050 and Auckland Council's Child and Youth Strategic Action Plan.

²⁷ Auckland Council (2021). I am Auckland implementation and evaluation annual update 2021 <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/topic-based-plans-strategies/community-social-development-plans/annualreports/i-am-auckland-annual-update-2021.pdf>

²⁸ Auckland Council (2023). Kauri Kids early childhood education centres. <https://aucklandleisure.co.nz/kaurikids/>

²⁹ Ministry of Education, New Zealand Government (2021). Education Counts, Early childhood services: ECE directory builder. <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/directories/early-childhood-services#>

³⁰ The Southern Initiative (2023). Resources. <https://www.tsi.nz/resources>

³¹ The Southern Initiative (2020). South Auckland leisure centres helping kids eat healthy. <https://www.tsi.nz/news/creating-a-healthier-environment-for-good-kai>

³² The Southern Initiative, The Western Initiative (2020). The Southern Initiative - Year in Review 2019. <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/media/1868/southern-initiative-auckland-year-in-review-2019.pdf>

³³ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2021). Net childcare. <https://data.oecd.org/benwage/net-childcare-costs.htm>

³⁴ Ministry of Education (2018). Understanding waiting times and occupancy rates: Results from the 2018 early childhood education census. https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/196577/Understanding-ECE-Waiting-Times-and-Occupancy-Rates.pdf

Enviroschools

ARPHS are concerned about the impacts of reduced funding of the Enviroschools programme on achieving healthy environments and supporting positive community relationships.

A whole-of-school approach is recognised by the World Health Organization as being important to achieve healthy environments.³⁵ Enviroschools supports this kaupapa by teaching children and young people about the environment, sustainability and wider food systems.³⁶ The result of this programme is empowering young people to design and lead sustainability projects in the community.

Auckland Council's Child and Youth Strategic Plan (*I Am Auckland*) Annual Update in 2021 acknowledges that Enviroschools is a pivotal programme for students to connect with the environment and lead sustainability actions in the community and also links this to the Auckland Plan 2050 Focus Area 3 (Strengthen rangatahi leadership, education and employment outcomes).³⁷ A 2015 independent evaluation revealed that, nationally, students were participating in over 10,000 sustainability-focused actions in multiple action areas inside and outside schools and early childhood education centres.³⁸ Enviroschools are actively connecting with community organisations (88%) and forming positive relationships with whānau and the wider community. This process enabled students to be more aware of tikanga Māori as they “celebrate and respect the atua and Kaitiaki.”

Recommendation: ARPHS recommend retaining funding for Enviroschools to preserve existing schools' sustainability journeys and positive community relationships already seen to uphold Auckland Plan 2050 Focus Area 3 (Strengthen rangatahi leadership, education and employment outcomes) and Auckland Council's Child and Youth Strategic Action Plan.

Smokefree

ARPHS emphasise the importance of the Council giving effect to the Smokefree Policy 2017–2025 in the 2023/2024 budget, in order to achieve the Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 goal³⁹. The Smokefree initiative has a significant impact on equity, population health and wellbeing, and the prosperity of Tāmaki Makaurau. Achieving the goals of Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 requires action from local government, including through funding and implementing activities that support smoke-free compliance, such as raising community awareness through public communications

³⁵ World Health Organization, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (2021). Making every school a health-promoting school - Implementation guidance. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240025073>

³⁶ Toimata Foundation (2017). Enviroschools: Key results of the 2017 Enviroschools nationwide census. https://enviroschools.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Enviroschools_Census_2017.pdf

³⁷ Auckland Council (2021). I am Auckland implementation and evaluation annual update 2021 <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/topic-based-plans-strategies/community-social-development-plans/annualreports/i-am-auckland-annual-update-2021.pdf>

³⁸ Crockett A, King J, McKegg K, Oakden J (2015). The Enviroschools programme: summary of evaluation and return on investment scenario analysis. <https://enviroschools.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Enviroschools-Evaluation-and-ROI-Summary-Report.pdf>

³⁹ Auckland Council (2017). Smokefree Policy 2017–2025. <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-policies/Documents/smokefree-policy-2017-2025.pdf>

and smoke-free signage. Continued investment in these activities is especially important in the 2023/2024 annual budget period in order to meet Auckland Council's commitment to be smoke-free by 2025.

Recommendation: ARPHS recommend continued Council investment in activities under the Smokefree Policy 2017-2025 in order to achieve the goal of Smokefree Aotearoa 2025

Natural Environment and Climate Change

The budget commits to implementing Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan in 2023/2024. ARPHS supports the retention of this work in the budget, as climate change affects many dimensions of human health and wellbeing.

It is of concern, however, that many of the proposed cuts to Council services, such as reduced bus services, are not aligned with the commitments of Auckland's Climate Plan. In addition, many of the cuts at local board level relate to services, programmes and initiatives that aim to improve the quality of our natural environment, including the expansion of green spaces.

"Are we building harder, hotter cities?", the recent report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, contains recommendations specifically for councils regarding their role in achieving equitable expansion and improvement of green spaces. Councils are asked to acknowledge the key environmental, recreational and cultural services that green spaces provide and the extent to which these can be compromised by urban development. (See Section 5; recommendations 1, 6 and 7) ⁴⁰.

Pro-equity funding options for green spaces are proposed in the report, e.g., hypothecated rates levy and targeted levies as ways to "improve equitable access to green space by focusing spending on existing suburbs with the lowest quality green space" (page 147).

Recommendation: Ensure that the budget does not privilege hard infrastructure projects for transport and urban development over projects that expand green space and protect the environment. This should be part of the council honouring "Auckland's Climate Plan".

Recommendation: Apply an equity lens when proposing council-led and/or local body budget cuts that involve initiatives relating to green space as well as those that improve the quality of water, air and other aspects of the natural environment.

Recommendation: Retain sufficient budget to implement the council-specific recommendations (1, 6 and 7) in the report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

⁴⁰ Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. Are we building harder, hotter cities? The vital importance of urban green spaces. March 2023

3. Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Auckland Council's Annual Budget 2023/2024.

Appendix 1 - Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Auckland Regional Public Health Service is part of the NPHS Northern region. The NPHS began on July 1 2022 when a new national health service Te Whatu Ora was established under the Pae Ora (healthy future) legislation.

Public health services in Auckland work alongside whānau, iwi, communities and organisations to create and support healthier communities and to reduce or eliminate the cause and spread of infectious diseases. This also means collaborating with communities and those in other sectors to improve the wider determinants that affect people's health, like housing or transport.

Our staff includes medical officers of health, senior medical officers, health protection officers, public health nurses, health promoters and those in systems, intelligence and planning roles, and management. We fulfil a range of regulatory roles around alcohol licensing, smokefree compliance, infectious disease management and environmental health.



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Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Hotel Council Aotearoa

Your local board: Regional organisation

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: The reduction in spending on destination marketing and event attraction is excessive and mis-timed.

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 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.

28 March 2023

Submitted online https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/feedback-forms-annual-budget-2023-2024/survey_tools/annual-budget-2023-2024-feedback-form
only:

Auckland Annual Budget 2023/2024

Hotel Council Aotearoa (HCA) is the national industry body for New Zealand's hotel sector. Our Board and members have vast experience in hotel development and operations, including considerable cumulative expertise managing hotels and tourist attractions in many overseas markets.

We write to give formal written feedback on Auckland Council's draft Annual Budget for 2023/2024 (the **Budget**). We have read a draft of the feedback given by Tourism Industry Aotearoa, and we endorse and support that feedback. We gave oral feedback to Auckland Council at a Budget feedback session on 20 March 2023.

In addition, we note the following:

- **APTR remains a dark cloud hanging over Council and the sector:** Auckland Council and industry are currently awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court on whether the Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate (**APTR**) was illegal and unfair. The APTR targeted overnight accommodation providers to fund up to 50% of the cost of Auckland Council's destination marketing and event attraction work through a targeted rate designed to replicate a "bed tax" of 3-5% of hotel revenues. In terms of design, the APTR was completely without precedent anywhere in the world, as well as signposting a significant change in New Zealand local body funding whereby a regional authority attempted to levy a business revenue tax by proxy. When hotels and motels started accumulating significant losses as a result of COVID and closed borders, Auckland Council was left with little choice but to suspend collection of the APTR or deal with business failures. If the Supreme Court upholds the Court of Appeal's ruling, then Auckland Council may be required to refund APTR amounts collected up to the point of suspension.
- **APTR did not work and is now largely unsupported:** Few people within the Council bureaucracy now express any support for the APTR as a collection mechanism and many privately acknowledge that it does not work. It was accepted during the APTR litigation that accommodation providers are not the principal beneficiary of local government's tourism marketing and generally receive no more than 10% of tourist spending. The lion's share of benefit flows to other tourism-connected businesses such as restaurants, retailers, transport providers and attractions, yet the APTR made no attempt to collect contributions from these other businesses. The APTR could not be "passed through" to hotel guests as a percentage add-on to the bill, which meant it distorted the cost structure at hotels and was inequitably distributed between different hotels.
- **HCA has repeatedly called for dialogue and co-operation:** HCA has repeatedly called on Auckland Council to engage in proper dialogue with industry around fair, reasonable and best-practice alternative funding methods to the APTR. HCA anticipated Auckland Council's funding challenges long before Auckland Council did. In September 2021 [we called on](#)

[central Government to fund Auckland Unlimited for three full years after COVID](#). These requests for support and direct dialogue on better solutions have been made publicly and privately, including in previous budget consultation exercises with Auckland Council, in HCA press releases and in national media:

[Auckland Council to appeal Mayor Phil Goff's controversial bed tax in the Supreme Court - NZ Herald](#)

[Budget 2021: Hotels' plea to Government - NZ Herald](#)

[Road pricing and bed taxes get green light from Govt review panel | Newsroom](#)

- **HCA has supported the work of Tataki Auckland Unlimited:** Notwithstanding HCA's principled and consistent advocacy against the APTR *as a collection mechanism*, HCA has remained supportive of the work carried out by the Tataki Auckland Unlimited team. We have a good working relationship with Tataki Auckland Unlimited's executive leadership.

Our feedback to Auckland Council on the Budget is as follows.



We acknowledge that Auckland Council has a mandate and obligation to cut operational expenditure in the aftermath of COVID and the 2023 weather events. However, we consider the proposed cuts to destination marketing and event attraction are excessive. The cuts will be damaging in the long-run. While expenditure on destination marketing and attractions must be cut *for now*, it seems likely that this work will be dialled up again in future. It will be much harder – and much more expensive in the long run – if the team and connections must be recreated from scratch. The team should be retained and reduced funding allocated for their work – **some level of funding must remain**. It is very difficult for industry to collaborate with Tataki Auckland Unlimited on interim funding and marketing solutions if Auckland Council makes no material investment in continuing this work.

It is a common refrain that Auckland should “be more like Melbourne” when it comes to creating a calendar of international-standard events supported by tourists and locals alike. We note that in the year ending June 2022, [the State Government of Victoria contributed AU\\$130 million in annual funding to Visit Victoria](#) (see p. 47), or equivalent to NZ\$40 million when adjusted for Auckland’s population. Funding for destination marketing and event attraction in Auckland might well fall below the Melbourne-equivalent level of \$40 million, but *it should not be reduced to zero*.



Council once considered event attraction and destination marketing to be so important that it justified creating an entirely new targeted rate (the APTR) and sticking by that targeted rate through expensive and drawn-out litigation. The draft Budget effectively signposts a complete change in direction. We submit a more sensible approach would be to retain the event attraction and destination marketing team, provide reduced but still adequate funding, and direct Tataki Auckland Unlimited to work more closely with industry (including HCA) on **principles for a fair, reasonable and nationally-endorsed funding model for the tourism economy that draws upon international best-practice and robust research**.



Tourism is highly cyclical. It seems obvious to industry experts that now is not the time to be eliminating all destination marketing and event attraction when, internationally, destinations are competing for visitation as borders re-open and international travel movements return to normal/pre-COVID levels. A recovery in tourism and visitation is unquestionably going to be a significant contributor to Auckland's overall economic recovery after the upheaval of the last three years.



No other comparable destinations are cutting back on destination marketing at this point in the cycle. It might have made sense to pause tourist marketing expenditure while borders were closed and COVID was rampant worldwide. It is highly counter-intuitive for Auckland Council to end destination marketing and event attraction work at the very point when most destinations are *increasing* their focus on attracting tourists.



We have all seen what CBD Auckland looks like without tourists, and it's not pretty. Tourists create activity and atmosphere in the city-centre. [The surveillance effect helps reduce crime and anti-social behaviour](#). Auckland Council has in recent years invested considerable amounts into physically improving the CBD – such as the increased pedestrianisation of Queen Street and the Quay Street rebuild and beautification. Tourists are now needed to activate those physical spaces and ensure ratepayers receive value-for-money from past investments in infrastructure. Without tourists, empty shops will remain vacant and further redevelopment and renewal will stall.



HCA understands and acknowledges that we have a “tourism funding problem” in New Zealand. Central government collects vast amounts of tax from tourists and tourism businesses, including 15% on top of every \$1 spent by tourists in Auckland. Communities want change in the way tourism is managed and funded in New Zealand. Industry is investigating models that include collection of new money to increase the funds available for reinvestment in tourism. However, it is important that central government and local authorities are prepared to enter into genuine dialogue around the problem. **To be clear, HCA supports a national tourism funding model that would result in Auckland Council receiving considerably more than \$34 million annually, being the amount allocated towards event attraction and destination marketing in the period prior to COVID. Such monies that would not come from ratepayers.** HCA needs engagement from Auckland Council and the Mayor to bring this about.



Hotels are generally located within city centres. The hotel sector supports higher levels of marketing and promotion of New Zealand's cities. There is no reason why Auckland cannot be marketed as "100% Pure". The hotel sector is a major player in ensuring the success of Auckland's new convention centre. Meetings, incentive, convention and events (or "MICE") travellers are a key contributor to economic growth in cities such as Auckland, being New Zealand's largest economic centre and dominant international gateway. What's good for Auckland is good for the entire tourism industry in New Zealand.



It makes little sense for Auckland Council to respond to current budgetary pressures by completely dismantling its event attraction and destination marketing capability. If Auckland Council wants to be at the table in driving for a better – and more financially advantageous – long-term solution to the tourism funding problem, then Tataki Auckland Unlimited needs to "keep the lights on".

9

**Councillors can
help solve a
systemic
problem that
hurts
Aucklanders**

Next step – genuine engagement

Hotel Council Aotearoa is:

- available to the Mayor and **each and every Councillor who wants to better understand tourism and what is going on in Auckland, New Zealand and globally.** (Tourism is 9% of New Zealand's GDP and our largest export industry – if you do not "get" it, you are doing all ratepayers a disservice.)
- available to the **Tataaki Auckland Unlimited Board, who should be looking to engage directly with HCA** if TAU's future funding depends on industry advocacy and voluntary contributions – and it *does*!
- committed to finding a fair, reasonable and nationally-endorsed solution to New Zealand's tourism funding problem.

HCA
HOTEL COUNCIL AOTEAROA

James Doolan
james@hotelcouncilaotearoa.com
021 0651 0485

In each of the previous two years, Hotel Council Aotearoa has invested considerable time in responding to Auckland Council's request for feedback on its Annual Budget. Not once have we received any material feedback, follow-up or engagement in response to our work. Once again, we extend an invitation for greater dialogue and collaboration on the important issues highlighted in this document.

Yours sincerely
Hotel Council Aotearoa



James Doolan, Strategic Director
james@hotelcouncilaotearoa.com



25039



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): National Council of New Zealand Tamils

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: - Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, arts and culture programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$20 million

- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million

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: Long term gain by shares and it's dividends are worth holding on to.

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Infrastructure projects cost a lot of money and Aucklanders have to cover this and also debt level can be increased. Services shouldn't be cut.

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: With global warming, it's better for us to be prepared.

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

Waste management rates changes	
---------------------------------------	--

Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	I don't know
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Support

What do you think of these proposals? Rates should reflect the actual cost of the service.

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?

Golf course could be sold to reduce some of the increased costs instead of cutting services and selling airport shares.

Important privacy information

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



25081



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Creative New Zealand

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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: 'Creative New Zealand is the national arts development agency of Aotearoa New Zealand, responsible for delivering government support for the arts. Our organisation does not support the Council proceeding with:

- Reducing \$20 million across a range of regional, community and social services;
- Reducing regional contestable community grants to save \$3 million;
- A \$16 million reduction to local board funding per annum for 2023/2024;
- Reducing the council operating expenditure funding provided to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited by \$27.5 million.

Creative New Zealand does not support these cost reductions because:

- A. Arts, culture and creativity are a vital part of Auckland's communities.
- B. The proposed cuts in the draft Annual Budget will have a long-term, negative impact on Auckland's arts and culture ecosystem – with direct impacts on Auckland communities.

C. Investment in arts and culture is investment in Auckland's social, economic and cultural wellbeing, and will help with its recovery.

D. Auckland Council has a crucial role in funding arts and culture in Auckland. Creative New Zealand is already a significant investor in the region and is not in a position to fill the gaps that would be created by the proposed reductions.

E. Creative New Zealand supports the exploration and consideration of alternative approaches to making up the budget shortfall.

Please see attached as a supporting document our substantive submission that expands on these points.

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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- 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?

(Themed as attached)

Important privacy information

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28 March 2023

AK Have Your Say
Auckland Council | Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau
Private Bag 92 300
Auckland 1142

By email to: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou

Submission to: Auckland Council | Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau
Subject: Draft Annual Budget 2023/2024
From: Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative New Zealand)

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to submit feedback on the Auckland Council's draft Annual Budget 2023/2024.
2. We acknowledge the pressures faced by Auckland Council in navigating Auckland's recovery from recent severe weather events and the ongoing impact of COVID-19. As a central government organisation, we are weathering our own financial pressures and constraints, and understand the need for sharpening strategic focus to effectively respond to challenging and dynamic times.
3. Arts, culture and creativity will support Auckland's strength and recovery from its current challenges by helping build connected, healthy and socially cohesive communities.
4. Two in three Aucklanders agree that arts and culture have a vital role to play in the future of where they live.¹ There is increasing support for Auckland Council to fund the arts in Auckland, with Aucklanders recognising the benefits of the arts to the economy and wider New Zealand society.² The creative economy in Auckland is also growing and makes up 5 percent of Auckland's economy.
5. **We remind Auckland Council of its obligations to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of its communities, and encourage Council to maintain investment in community wellbeing, connection and social cohesion through arts and culture in the draft Annual Budget 2023/2024.**

¹ *New Zealanders and the arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2020). Creative New Zealand. Available at: [New Zealanders and the arts - Ko Aotearoa me ōna Toi | Creative New Zealand \(creativenz.govt.nz\)](https://www.creativenz.govt.nz/new-zealanders-and-the-arts-ko-aotearoa-me-ona-toi)

² Auckland residents survey findings in *New Zealanders and the arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi*, page 18. [Auckland Report New Zealanders and the Arts 2020: Attitudes, attendance and participation \(creativenz.govt.nz\)](https://www.creativenz.govt.nz/new-zealanders-and-the-arts-2020-attitudes-attendance-and-participation)

SUMMARY

6. Our response focuses on Council's proposals for **Operating Spending Reductions** in the Annual Budget 2023/2024 Consultation Document.
7. Creative New Zealand **does not support** Council's following proposals:
 - Reducing \$20 million across a range of regional, community and social services
 - Reducing regional contestable community grants to save \$3 million
 - A \$16 million reduction to local board funding per annum for 2023/2024
 - Reducing the council's operating expenditure funding provided to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited by \$27.5 million.
8. Our feedback has the following **key points**:
 - A. Arts, culture and creativity are a vital part of Auckland's communities.
 - B. The proposed cuts in the draft Annual Budget will have a long-term, negative impact on Auckland's arts and culture ecosystem – with direct impacts on Auckland's communities.
 - C. Investment in arts and culture is investment in Auckland's social, cultural and economic wellbeing, and will help with its recovery.
 - D. Auckland Council has a crucial role in funding arts and culture in Auckland. Creative New Zealand is already a significant investor in the region and is not in a position to fill the gaps that would be created by the proposed reductions.
 - E. Creative New Zealand supports the exploration and consideration of alternative approaches to making up the budget shortfall.
9. We are aware of other submissions on the draft Budget from arts and cultural organisations based in Auckland, including WeCreate and Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi, along with organisations that receive investment from both Auckland Council and Creative New Zealand. We encourage Council to closely consider these submissions and listen to their concerns.

CREATIVE NEW ZEALAND'S INTEREST IN THE ARTS IN AUCKLAND

10. Creative New Zealand is the national arts development agency of Aotearoa New Zealand, responsible for delivering government support for the arts. We're an autonomous Crown entity under the [Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa Act 2014](#).
11. Our legislative purpose is to *encourage, promote, and support the arts in New Zealand for the benefit of all New Zealanders*. We do this by *Investing in the arts, Developing the arts, Advocating for the arts*, providing *Leadership in the arts*, and by *Partnering for the arts*.
12. Creative New Zealand receives funding through Vote: Arts, Culture and Heritage and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board Te Puna Tahua. In 2021/22, Creative New Zealand **invested \$74 million in the arts**.

13. In 2021/22, we invested **\$20.9 million** of direct financial support in Auckland, 28 percent of our total investment by region. In addition, our investment in activity that takes place nationwide (12 percent) and online (7 percent) sees benefits flow to Auckland by supporting arts and cultural experiences presented in the city; and our international programme (5 percent) adds additional investment to Auckland via artists based in the region. Our funding continues to match significant population bases and investment in Auckland is proportional to the population (2018 census).
14. Our direct support for arts and culture in Auckland includes:
 - funding for over **30 major Auckland-based arts organisations**, including orchestras, theatre companies, festivals, opera, craft/object and art galleries, dance companies, publishers and residencies through our multi-year Investment programmes (Toi Tōtara Haemata and Toi Uru Kahikatea) providing three and six-year funding contracts. The total value of these contracts in 2023 is **\$17.6 million**.
 - under the Creative Communities Scheme, we provide funding to territorial authorities to support local arts activities. The annual allocation to Auckland Council under the scheme is **\$1,032,540**. In 2021/22, this funding supported approximately 259 approved **projects** which engaged 13,772 participants and 227,346 audience members.
 - project-based funding to Auckland-based artists, arts practitioners and arts organisations to support a range of activities. In 2021/22, this funding **totalled \$9.4 million** to support **168 projects**.
15. Twenty seven of our 78 staff are based in our Auckland office and maintain close relationships with arts communities throughout the city.
16. We work strategically with key investors in the arts in Auckland, including Auckland Council, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, Foundation North, and Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi through the Auckland Arts Investors Forum to coordinate our investment in Auckland-based arts.
17. We note that Creative New Zealand's investments are one part of central government's overall investment in arts and culture in Auckland. Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage provide direct funding to the Royal New Zealand Ballet, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Te Matatini and other organisations, alongside their own funding programmes.

RESPONSE TO DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET 2023/2024

A. Arts, culture and creativity are a vital part of Auckland's communities.

18. Arts, culture and creativity make a significant contribution to community resilience, wellbeing and social cohesion. Engagement with arts, culture and creativity positively enhances wellbeing, and means communities are more likely to have strong connections to community, land and place.³

³ Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in the Waikato: Understanding the impact of arts, culture and creativity on the people of the Waikato region. (2022). Available at: <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/advocacy/researchandreports>. Creative Waikato Toi Waikato.

19. Our [*New Zealanders and the arts – Ko Aotearoa me ona Toi*](#) research demonstrates that arts and culture make these contributions in Auckland:⁴
- **Two in three** Aucklanders agree that arts and culture have a vital role to play in the future of where they live.
 - **Sixty-three percent** of Aucklanders felt the arts improve New Zealand society, including by helping people to understand others' differences, and enhancing community cohesion, mental stimulus and fulfilment.
 - **Forty-two percent** of Aucklanders felt the arts were important to their personal wellbeing for reasons including the arts being a source of self-expression, and having positive impacts on mental health.
 - **More than six in ten** Aucklanders agree the arts contribute positively to our economy and help improve society.
20. Arts and culture's role in Auckland's economy is significant. Tātaki Auckland Unlimited's data in 2022 found the creative economy in Auckland:
- **Made up 5 percent of Auckland's economy**
 - Directly employed more than 57,500 people
 - Generated \$7.8 billion in GDP
 - Grew by 5.4 percent on average over the past five years, outpacing the rest of the Auckland economy.
21. Arts and culture are essential infrastructure for strong, prosperous, connected and healthy communities. This infrastructure includes community hubs, arts centres, festivals, creative skill development workshops, education programmes, residencies, talks, master classes, exhibitions, performances, makers' spaces, internships, among many others. As with other infrastructure such as transport and housing, arts and culture requires secure, stable investment from core funders to survive and service the city.
- B. The proposed cuts in the draft Annual Budget will have a long-term, and negative impact on Auckland's arts and culture ecosystem – with direct impacts on Auckland's communities.**
22. Despite the draft Annual Budget's short-term focus, Council's proposals to reduce operational spending will significantly disrupt arts and culture in Auckland, with a direct impact on communities throughout the city.
23. Council has an obligation to manage its finances in a way that promotes the current *and future* interests of the community, including cultural wellbeing.⁵ Council's proposed reductions in funding will have a **significant and irreversible impact on Aucklanders** – from the survival of arts organisations, collectives and groups, wage reductions and people leaving their professions, to people losing opportunities to develop skills, and spaces to connect with their culture and identities. Recent research from Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi on Council's draft Annual Budget, shows 96 percent of respondents felt that the proposed cuts would have adverse impacts on services delivered through the arts, cultural and creative sectors.

⁴ Auckland residents survey findings in *New Zealanders and the arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2020).

⁵ Local Government Act 2002, section 101.

24. Arts and culture in Auckland depend on a delicate funding ecosystem with many interdependencies. We know from our work as part of the Auckland Investors Forum that this ecosystem is fragile, and still recovering from the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 that disproportionately impacted the arts and cultural sector in Auckland. Auckland Council's investment is a crucial component of this ecosystem.
 25. We know first-hand that creative practitioners and arts organisations in Auckland – from major companies to community programmes – are **currently under significant financial strain and operating with very limited resources**. Careers in the arts, culture and creativity sector are also currently unsustainable and support for the sector is crucial for its resilience. Creative New Zealand's recent *Profile of Creative Professionals* research with Kantar Public found the median income for creative professionals is \$37,000, substantially less than the median income for those New Zealanders earning a wage or salary (\$61,000).
 26. The spending cuts will also **disproportionately impact marginalised communities** who rely on Council funding of arts and cultural experiences including Māori, Pacific peoples, the Rainbow community, young people, migrant communities, and people with disabilities.
 27. Council's proposals will have an adverse impact on the ability of these members of Auckland's communities to engage and participate in the arts. This is significant given Auckland has the largest Pacific and Asian communities in Aotearoa. From our research, young people, Māori, Pacific peoples and Asian New Zealanders are more likely than other Auckland residents to agree that the arts are an important way of connecting with their culture, and taking part in the arts supports their identity.⁶ Our research indicates that Pacific arts participation is significantly higher in Auckland compared to the rest of New Zealand.⁷ Disabled people also participate highly in the arts and need more accessible and inclusive environments to support their engagement. Council's proposals will have an adverse impact on the ability of these members of Auckland's communities to engage and participate in the arts.
 28. Cultural infrastructure that has taken many years to build in Auckland also risks being lost from the reductions in spending. For example, Te Pou Theatre was established in 2015 in New Lynn and, with support from the Auckland Council, recently opened its newly refurbished theatre at the Corban Estate Arts Centre in Henderson. A kaupapa Māori driven project, the theatre is designed to showcase Māori performing arts and provide a performance and rehearsal space for indigenous theatre. It is much harder to rebuild this infrastructure, than to maintain it.
 29. **We encourage Auckland Council to undertake further analysis and research on how their funding will impact arts and culture in Auckland before it makes further decisions.** We are concerned that Council is not adequately taking into account, or understanding, the impact of the proposed spending cuts for the arts and culture ecosystem, and the people it supports and services. Future decisions should consider the implications for communities participating in the arts and culture ecosystem throughout Auckland.
- C. Investment in arts and culture is investment in Auckland's social, cultural and economic wellbeing, and will help with its recovery.**
30. Investment in arts and culture is investment in community wellbeing.
 31. Auckland Council has a responsibility under the Local Government Act 2002 to promote Auckland's cultural wellbeing, alongside social, economic, and environmental wellbeing.⁸

⁶ Auckland residents survey findings in *New Zealanders and the arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2020).

⁷ *New Zealanders and the arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2020).

⁸ Local Government Act 2002, section 10(1)(b).

32. The *Future for Local Government Review Draft Report* has recently noted that local government's role in providing services to communities that support wellbeing includes funding for arts and culture.⁹
33. In its consultation document, Auckland Council identifies community connection, resilience, placemaking and community empowerment as key priorities in a number of areas, including for local boards throughout Auckland in 2023/24. However, we note the reductions in spending will impact arts and cultural organisations who deliver these outcomes. Arts and culture are a vital tool for Council to achieve these priorities by strengthening communities through connection, empowerment and placemaking, and will support Auckland through the current challenges it faces by helping build healthy and strong communities.
34. Aotearoa knows the importance of arts and culture in recovery from previous, and recent, experience. In Christchurch, strategic investment in arts and culture strengthened the social, cultural and economic life of the city after the earthquakes in 2010/2011.¹⁰ More recently, the government targeted investment into the arts and culture sector as part of its COVID-19 Recovery Budget to protect jobs and support livelihoods as well as enable the arts to continue bringing New Zealanders together in a time of crisis.
35. Investment and support in arts and culture from Council is needed to enhance the accessibility and availability of arts and cultural experiences for Aucklanders. Our 2020 research found half of the Aucklanders we surveyed saw the arts playing a vital role in Auckland's COVID-19 recovery. There is also increasing support for public funding of the arts in Auckland (up from 53 percent to 60 percent since 2017), alongside a demand for greater accessibility.¹¹ However, Auckland residents were less likely than other New Zealanders to agree that they could easily access the arts in their community (46 percent of Aucklanders versus 53 percent of all New Zealanders).
36. Support for the cultural wellbeing of communities also supports social, economic and environmental wellbeing. Creativity and culture create jobs, drives economic recovery, and enhances social wellbeing. They increase the attractiveness of places as destinations to live, visit and invest in. Strong arts organisations and regular arts and culture experiences feed other parts of the creative ecosystem and Auckland's economy including education, health, trade and enterprise, hospitality, retail and tourism.
37. Culture and creativity transform local economies in various ways. Smartly managed culture-led urban regeneration can breathe new life into decaying neighbourhoods. A recent study by the Knight Foundation found that "Across demographic groups, people who say their neighborhood has easy access to arts and cultural amenities are more satisfied with their city as a place to live, identify more with the local lifestyle and culture, and invest more time and resources in their communities."¹²
38. There is also a healthy market for a diverse range of arts and cultural experiences in Aotearoa with 3.9 million adults in the market for New Zealand arts and culture (96 percent of

⁹ Review into the Future for Local Government (2022) *He mata whāriki, he matawhānui: Draft report*, Wellington: New Zealand. Available at: [Draft report – He mata whāriki, he matawhānui \(futureforlocalgovernment.govt.nz\)](https://futureforlocalgovernment.govt.nz) page 190.

¹⁰ *Gauging the Impacts of Post-Disaster Arts and Culture Initiatives in Christchurch – a Literature Review*, prepared by Life in Vacant Spaces Charitable Trust for the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. Available at: [Gauging the Impacts of Post-Disaster Arts and Culture Initiatives in Christchurch – a Literature Review » The Hub \(swa.govt.nz\)](https://www.mca.govt.nz/publications/gauging-the-impacts-of-post-disaster-arts-and-culture-initiatives-in-christchurch-a-literature-review)

¹¹ Auckland residents survey findings in *New Zealanders and the arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2020).

¹² '[Landmark study reveals value of the arts in communities nationwide](https://www.knightfoundation.org/press-releases/landmark-study-reveals-value-of-the-arts-in-communities-nationwide)' *Knight Foundation* (published 15 July 2020).

New Zealand's adult population – proportionally higher than markets in the United Kingdom (85 percent) and China (60 percent).¹³

39. Investment in arts and culture by Auckland Council in this budget cycle presents an opportunity for Auckland to not only recover from recent challenges, but to grow and thrive.
- D. Auckland Council has a crucial role in funding arts and culture in Auckland. Creative New Zealand is already a significant investor in the region, and is not in a position to fill the gaps that would be created by the proposed reductions.**
40. We note Council's intention in its consultation document to collaborate with central government, and encourage partners affected by proposals to seek alternative funding or services provision through central government.
 41. Responsibility for supporting cultural wellbeing through funding arts and culture in Aotearoa New Zealand is shared between local and central government, with input from the private sector. Many arts organisations and community centres across Auckland receive core funding from Auckland Council, Creative New Zealand and Foundation North such as Pacifica Arts Centre and Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery in West Auckland.
 42. Council's investment is vital for a strong and resilient arts infrastructure in Auckland. Without local government contributions, the city's arts and culture services risk being lost, as funding is not guaranteed from other sources.
 43. We wrote to Mayor Brown in December 2022 as a co-investor to raise our concerns about the Mayor's draft proposal for the Annual Budget and offered to work in partnership to help Council understand the impact of proposed cuts.
 44. Creative New Zealand is experiencing unprecedented demand for funding, and our own ability to support the sector is under strain. Our support for arts and culture in Auckland is already extensive compared to other regions (see paragraph 14 above). **We will not be in a position to fill gaps left by the withdrawal of Auckland Council's funding, or a reduction in its investment in arts and culture.**
 45. We support the need for ongoing collaboration between central and local government to invest in a resilient and supported arts and cultural sector in Aotearoa. A collective approach ensures arts and culture can deliver value to all New Zealanders and communities across Aotearoa.
 46. However, this approach relies on Council **maintaining its contributions and investment** and we strongly encourage Council to ensure retaining funding support for arts, culture and creativity remains a critical factor in its budget deliberations.
- E. Creative New Zealand supports the exploration and consideration of alternative approaches to making up the budget shortfall.**
47. We do not support Council proceeding with the reductions to operating spending cuts that impact arts and culture and encourage Council to explore and consider alternative options to address the budget shortfall including a higher rates package, asset sales, or increasing debt.

¹³ Morris Hargreaves McIntyre. (2020). Audience Atlas Aotearoa. Available at: <https://creativenz.govt.nz/Development-and-resources/Research-and-reports/Audience-Atlas-Aotearoa-2020>. Creative New Zealand.

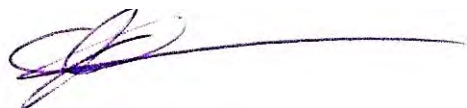
48. We note Council's intention to consider longer-term options for managing budget pressures, including a systemic look at the services Council provides to the community, and the council's role in delivering the services. As explained, the proposals for **operating spending reductions will have a long-term and permanent impact on arts and culture**. As a result, they **should be explored as part of Auckland Council's Long-Term Plan**, rather than an Annual Plan, with greater research and analysis into their impact and input from Auckland's communities.

CONCLUSION

49. Auckland Council's investment in arts, culture and creativity is investment in Auckland's recovery, wellbeing and future resilience. Arts and culture play a vital role in your city by creating connected, healthy and strong communities.
50. Rather than operating spending cuts, the draft Annual Budget 2023/24 presents an opportunity for Council to make decisions that strengthen arts and culture in Auckland. Now is the time to maintain investment in arts and culture, for the recovery and resilience of Auckland communities.
51. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.
52. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this submission further. The key contact person is:

Name: Elizabeth Beale
Position: Acting Senior Manager, Strategy and Engagement
Contact: elizabeth.beale@creativenz.govt.nz

Ngā mihi maioha



Caren Rangi, ONZM
Chair, Arts Council



25082



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): Tourism Industry Aotearoa

Your local board: Regional organisation

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?

(Themed as attached)

Important privacy information

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

28 March 2023

Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
AUCKLAND

Submitted By Consultation Website

Kia ora

Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024

Tourism industry Aotearoa welcomes the opportunity to make this submission on the Auckland Council *Annual Budget 2023/2024 Consultation Document*.

Our submission is regarding the further proposed budget cuts of \$44m for the destination marketing and events attraction functions of Tātaki Auckland Unlimited.

TIA strongly considers that a budget cut of this magnitude will be detrimental to the Auckland visitor economy. **TIA's key points** in this submission are:

1. Destination Marketing, an Investment not a Cost. TIA submits that Auckland Council should view its spending on the destination management and event attraction management as an investment that will generate a substantial rate of return, directly for Council and indirectly by businesses and people across the Auckland region.
2. Retaining Capability. TIA submits that Auckland Council makes every effort to ensure that the specialist skills and capabilities of the people within Tātaki Auckland Unlimited are retained in the interest of the current and future work to ensure the positive functioning of the Auckland visitor economy over the long term.
3. Sustainable Industry Funding. Auckland Council should align its decisions around the funding of the destination management and event attraction functions of Tātaki Auckland Unlimited with a number of wider processes underway relating to tourism industry funding.
4. COVID Recovery. TIA submits that Auckland Council deliberately supports the important functions of Tātaki Auckland Unlimited in shaping and enabling recovery of the Auckland visitor economy so that it delivers the strongest benefits for Auckland, recognising there are significant down-side risks of not doing so.

TIA requests that Auckland Council retains the existing funding for Tātaki Auckland Unlimited and, if that is not possible, ensure that the funding reduction is limited to so that the capability of the destination marketing and events attraction functions are retained with sufficient capacity so that can quickly rebuild as funding returns.

Tourism Industry Aotearoa

TIA is the peak body for the tourism industry in Aotearoa New Zealand. With around 1,200 members, TIA represents a range of tourism-related activities including

hospitality, accommodation, adventure and other activities, attractions, retail, airports and airlines, transport, as well as related-tourism services.

TIA is sharply focused on ensuring the sustainable future of the industry, and this is clearly articulated in our key guiding documents and programmes. These include the **tourism industry's strategic framework**, *Tourism 2025 & Beyond – A Sustainable Growth Framework Kaupapa Whakapakari Tāpoi* and the **industry's sustainability platform** *New Zealand Tourism Sustainability Commitment - He kupu taurangi kia toitū ai te tāpoitanga*.

TIA is currently updating this industry tourism strategy and a key aspect of this work will be around the funding systems for enabling a wide range of actions across the industry to support its sustainable development over the long term. This work, we believe, is closely related to some of the funding issues contained in the draft Budget and particularly as it relates to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited.

In preparing this submission, TIA notes the pending judgment from the Supreme Court on **Auckland Council's Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate (APTR)**. TIA's stated position on the APTR is that it is not a fair or appropriate funding tool for raising funds for regional tourism functions.

The tourism industry

At its most basic level, tourism is the movement of **people to places where they don't** normally live to do, see, visit or experience. Pre-COVID, this amounted to expenditure of \$41.4 billion nationally, or directly 5.6% of GDP and 7.9% of employment.¹

These figures are important because they illustrate the role of tourism within the wider economy and society. Tourism plays a key and often understated role in enabling and supporting jobs, business opportunities, community vibrancy, better amenities, better social connections, better transportation options for business and trade, and so on. In addition, tourism is always **tied to 'place' which** means there is an important interface with the communities at these places.

For these reasons, there are tremendous benefits for destinations to invest in ensuring the tourism system operates as effectively as possible in their respective regions. The importance of this has been evidenced by the recent investment from central government for regions to develop their own Destination Management Plans to better allow them to manage their places for community-wide benefit.

Auckland plays a significant role in the New Zealand tourism system: it is the main gateway to our nation and a major destination in its own right. In the year to March 2019, \$8.3 billion was spent by international and domestic visitors in Auckland, and there were 7.45 million guest nights in commercial accommodation.² These are significant figures and demonstrate the role of tourism as part of the fabric of Auckland as a major city and visitor destination. However, consistent investment over time is required to ensure visitor spending continues to recover and grow and the widespread benefits from tourism and events are delivered to best effect.

Key points for Auckland Council consideration

1. Destination marketing is an investment, not a cost. Investing in the tourism activities of Tātaki Auckland Unlimited is an investment, not a cost. As an investment,

¹ Tourism Satellite Account, YE March 2022, Stats NZ, December 2022.

² Auckland Destination Overview, ATEED, March 2019

resources spent in this area generate a return over and above the direct cost, and that is why countries and cities around the world invest in these areas. Generally, for every \$1 invested in the local visitor economy there is a direct return for the funding party, such as the local government entity, and a larger benefit for businesses and people working in the local economy. This is the globally accepted rationale for destination marketing and events attraction activities.³

In cases where such funding has been withdrawn, the consistent outcome is a discernible decline in activity and, over time, reinstatement of the funding, followed by a period of catch up. The case study evidence shows that when tourism related investment is cut, visitor spending starts reducing immediately and continues to decline. Fortunately, there are not too many of these case studies because funding reductions are actually quite rare meaning regional tourism is highly valued.

The Colorado example is widely held as the classic case study (Attachment 1). When **Colorado's** \$12m tourism marketing budget was cut to zero in 1993, visitor spending reduced by \$1.4b initially and then to \$2b annually. With re-instatement of funding to \$17m in 2006, the advertising spending of \$10.7m generated an additional \$2.1b of visitors spend and additional tax revenue of \$139m. For the State funder, for every dollar it spent, it received an additional \$12.96 of tax revenue, a 13:1 return.

Similarly, in 2013 the San Diego Tourism Authority had its budget reduced by 85%. Over the following year, this rapidly impacted the performance of the San Diego hotel industry, with room demand, occupancy and price levels all trailing other regional and national destinations that had maintained funding. As funding was returned, the market position was restored reasonably quickly.

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

2. **Retaining Capability.** Destination marketing and events attraction functions are specialised activities requiring a set of distinct skills, experience and relationships. TIA considers that it is most important that the capability of Tātaki Auckland Unlimited is not degraded as it will be at the proposed budget levels.

With respect to the capability that attracts events to Auckland, this is a long-term exercise that gains meetings, conferences, sporting and cultural events that are scheduled often years ahead. This is a specialised function, and one where continuity of the capability to deliver this function is very important, with significant risks if fewer or lower quality events are in the schedule. The importance of events as a stimulus to travel makes it an essential part of the wider destination marketing programme. TIA notes that in the 2022/23 year, the estimated value of business events was \$73.7m from a \$2.1m investment, a 35:1 return.⁴

³ There is extensive literature on the Return on Investment from destination marketing. However, there is a vast number of ways ROI can be calculated depending on the methods used. What is common is that the ROI is invariably positive, and usually strongly positive. In analysis by Oxford Economics for the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) the following ROIs were cited: Visit Denmark: ROI 16:1, Visit Scotland: ROI 20:1; **Australia's 'A Different Light campaign':** ROI 64:1; Canada Tourism Commission: ROI 38:1; Visit California: ROI of between 25:1 and 200:1 depending on target market.

⁴ The Value of the Visitor Economy to Tāmaki Makarau Auckland, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, Miles Partnership, October 2022.

With Auckland being New Zealand's global city, and with the New Zealand International Convention Centre soon to become a large scale internationally competitive venue, it is important that the capability to attract events of all sizes is retained within Tātaki Auckland Unlimited. This is a long-term function given the lead times for attracting and scheduling the large events in particular. This is a typical function for cities and territories, with Australian states all having significant budgets to attract events, for instance, Victoria \$5.6m across two programmes and Queensland \$7m to attract business events.⁵

Key point: TIA submits that Auckland Council makes every effort to ensure that the specialist destination marketing and events capabilities of the people within Tātaki Auckland Unlimited are retained in the interest of the current and future work required to ensure the positive functioning of the Auckland visitor economy.

3. Sustainable Industry Funding. How important tourism-related functions are funded at appropriate levels is a key industry consideration at present. TIA considers that tourism suffers from a systemic and structural deficiency around the way several key functions are funded (or not), such as destination marketing, research and data, sustainability capability, and others. The result of this deficiency has been unstable funding streams and a lack of ability to perform important functions at the scale and depth needed.

The current situation in Auckland reflects this challenge with Council experiencing difficulties in generating direct revenue while the industry is experiencing difficulties in setting up a contribution mechanism. TIA strongly considers that there should be national solutions to these problems, as opposed to a number of ad hoc solutions.

TIA requested that Government establish a third phase of the Tourism Industry Transformation Plan, or similar mechanism, to be focussed specifically on Sustainable Tourism Funding, and we are pleased that this will take place. Work is due to start mid-year and TIA will encourage it to find equitable ways to fund a range of industry activities. For instance, finding ways to fund regional tourism functions with a view that consistent, nationally applied, solutions will be much better than multiple solutions around the country.

Related to this, TIA is currently conducting a major project to reset the Tourism Industry Strategy. This project will spend considerable time and effort on the key enablers of actions to address the systemic issues facing the industry so that the identified impediments can be substantively addressed. Industry funding mechanisms, including at a regional level, will form a major part of this conversation.

Key Point: There are several important processes underway or pending that will inform the tourism system on how it should be funded to deliver key functions. TIA submits that Auckland Council should see these processes through before it implements the proposed budget reductions, which will have immediate effects on visitation and tourism businesses.

4. COVID Recovery. A final point is around the importance of ensuring the capacity exists to support an orderly recovery from the COVID-19 period. In this, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited has a very important role to play and this will very likely be material for how the Auckland tourism system operates for years to come.

⁵ The Value of the Visitor Economy to Tāmaki Makarau Auckland, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, Miles Partnership, October 2022.

Key Point: After two or so years of a highly constricted Auckland tourism sector through the COVID-19 period, it is important that the recovery has both support and directional guidance, both of which are important functions delivered by Tātaki Auckland Unlimited. It is important that this function is delivered effectively, with significant down-side risks of not doing so.

Summary

Overall, Auckland Council should view its investment in tourism marketing as an investment with direct and indirect economic benefits to the region, rather than a cost. International evidence highlights the importance of destination marketing and the negative consequences that can result when funding for such marketing is reduced or **eliminated. It is crucial that Tātaki Auckland Unlimited retains its key capability to** both support an orderly recovery from the COVID-19 period and optimise the industry for the future. TIA urges Auckland Council to consider the key points raised and adopt a long-term approach towards its tourism funding to sustain and increase Auckland's appeal as a visitor destination.

TIA would be most happy to expand on any points raised in this submission.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any queries. Bruce Bassett can be contacted on 021 609 674 or bruce.bassett@tia.org.nz.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Ingram', followed by a period.

Rebecca Ingram
Chief Executive

Attachment 1: Outcomes from Reducing Destination Marketing

This material sets out published studies on the impact of cuts to destination marketing budgets. As such funding reductions are actually quite rare, there are limited well-studied case studies. The Colorado example below is widely held as the classic example.

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

In 1993, Colorado became the only state to eliminate its tourism marketing function, when it cut its \$12 m budget to zero. Within two years reduced visitation translated to the equivalent of over \$1.4 billion annually in lost revenue with this increasing to \$2 billion from the third year. The impact was largest for high-yield customers. By 2000, limited funding of \$5m was reinstated and visitation lifted. Based on this evidence, in 2006 the marketing budget was increased to \$17m and a Longwoods evaluation found that the campaign created a halo effect on specific attributes that motivate people to visit the state and that intentions to visit were significantly higher because of the campaign. Key Longwood analysis metrics:

Advertising Spend	\$10.7 million
Total Visitors Generated	5,973,000
Total Spending Generated	\$2,078 million
Tax generated	\$139.3 million
Visitor spend per Ad dollar	\$193
Tax return per Ad spend	\$12.96

Key takeout: Cuts in marketing spend had a deep impact on Colorado visitation and spend. On re-establishment of funding, studies found a strong recovery that amounted to a 13:1 return for the State funding body (its extra tax revenues compared to its spend on advertising).

San Diego Tourism Marketing District Funding Frozen by Litigation, Competitive Analysis of Illinois Tourism Marketing Funding, Tourism Economics, 2016.

In 2013, the San Diego Tourism Authority had its budget reduce to 15% of its normal budget and over the following year was reflected in the performance of the San Diego hotel industry, with room demand, occupancy and price levels all trailing other regional and national destinations that had maintained funding. As funding was returned, the market position was restored reasonably quickly.

Key takeout: Cuts in marketing spend had a rapid impact for San Diego hotels compared to a competitor set as expressed as room demand, occupancy and price.



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Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Greenpeace Aotearoa

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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- Reducing regional 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?

Important privacy information

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A statement on the Auckland budget cuts - Greenpeace Aotearoa

28 March 2023

In 2019, Auckland Council declared a climate emergency.

In 2023 we've seen record rainfall, flooding and a cyclone.

This is not a time for an austerity budget. Identifying, developing and scaling up projects towards climate mitigation and adaptation should be an urgent priority.

However the 2023 Auckland budget review proposes sweeping cuts to services, community programs and ecological restoration.

This proposed budget would maintain a fragile, short term status quo that would leave us less prepared for the extreme weather events to come.

Auckland has bold climate targets, for example the Transport Emissions Reduction Plan goal to halve emissions by 2030. If approved, this proposed Budget will likely mean we won't reach that goal.

The Annual Budget 2023/2024

- We fully support the Council's stated directive to prioritise projects that will make Auckland a resilient city. To make Auckland a resilient city will need investment and smart design. We need to align transport, sustainable housing, new development, water and energy use in a way that protects people, and works interconnectedly with the ecosystems we depend on.
- We are opposed to Council reducing the Water Quality and Natural Environment Targeted Rates by two-thirds. This is especially irresponsible in the wake of substantial damage to our local environments and waterways caused by recent flooding. Work must continue to protect kauri and our natural environment.
- We support an increase of the operating budgets, or 'storm response investment'. We must build back better. By protecting and restoring

natural ecosystems like urban forests and wetlands, we can protect our communities.

- We are opposed to the 'reprioritisation' of \$10.5m of Climate Action Targeted Rate (CATR) funds. These funds are meant to provide for the expansion of buses, ferries, walking, cycling and the urban ngahere (forest). These funds should be used to expand the bus and cycle networks, and help grow use of public transport.
- We are opposed to any reduction of bus services, and opposed to increasing the cost of catching them. We support increased investment to encourage the growing use of accessible public transport. We need to enable more people to use public transport in order to transition to a low-carbon transport system, reduce emissions and unclog our motorways.
- We support increased investment in parks and community facilities, urban regeneration and cultural development, and environmental management.
- We are opposed to the proposed reduction of community and education programmes, arts and culture programmes, and social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres.

Scaling back public transport options and community services will mean Auckland loses momentum towards building towards resilience. For example less bus services will decrease confidence and use, and increase more use of fossil fueled private vehicles, clogging up the highways.

Even worse, cutting, delaying and avoiding effective policies and projects could remove the ability communities already have to support themselves, that can't be replaced.

Invest in social infrastructure

Why is a strong, connected community important? The physical infrastructure of our cities are important, but less visible are the social infrastructure that allow cohesion. Because they aren't visible they can be taken for granted.

To highlight one effective and essential service - Greenpeace Aotearoa is opposed to ending the funding of Citizens Advice Bureaus (CABs) in Auckland. CAB Auckland is halfway through their funding round and this Budget pulls the rug from underneath them.

The Auckland CABs are run by 900 trained volunteers who help around 160,000 Aucklanders every year. The CAB service maximises their time and skills. The Auckland CABs enable community empowerment by giving people independent information and advice about their rights and how to find a way forward when they feel stuck.

Council funding also takes advantage of part funding from the central government. Ending its funding would remove a layer of volunteer activity from the region.

Ending the funding for Auckland CABs would harm the social fabric of the city at a time when community resilience is most needed.

Leave no one behind

We need to invest and expand this city's transition for a safe climate future in a way that is just for all. Social equality and taking climate action goes hand in hand.

Strengthening social infrastructure means including all voices. Council needs to make decisions in equitable and inclusive ways and work in partnership with mana whenua, local communities, the private sector, science bodies and traditionally marginalised groups, including youth, disabled communities and ethnic minorities.

Prosperity, not austerity

Council can meet its climate goals with better activity, not less activity. Council needs to take advantage of opportunities to invest in policies and projects that will save lives and future costs. The dollar amounts are easy to measure, and need to balance - but lack of investment now would be disastrous long term. A more resilient city will have advantages in the future that are priceless.

In this way we will protect people and step towards a thriving future.

In the face of new challenges our regional governance needs to adapt and get up to speed quickly. We need vision and leadership. This is not the time to scale back and go on 'as normal'. If we don't change, we will be changed.

Greenpeace Aotearoa

Greenpeace is an independent, global environmental campaigning organisation. Thousands of people take action with Greenpeace Aotearoa every month to ensure Earth's ability to nurture life in all its diversity. The largest number of Greenpeace members are based in the Auckland region.



25267



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Library and Information Association of Aotearoa New Zealand Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa

Your local board: Regional organisation

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.

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

Tell us why:

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

Tell us why:

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

Tell us why:

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Feedback from the Library and Information Association Aotearoa New Zealand is uploaded below.

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Te Rau Herenga O Aotearoa | Library and Information Association of New Zealand

CONSULTATION ON AUCKLAND COUNCIL DRAFT BUDGET 2023/2024

Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) is the national organisation supporting institutions and professionals working in library and information services throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. Founded in 1910 the association serves and promotes the interests of the Aotearoa New Zealand library and information sector.

LIANZA is commenting on the [Annual Budget 2023/24 Consultation Document](#). We want to reinforce the value and essential service of public libraries in their local communities. LIANZA is concerned that the proposed Auckland Council budget will reduce local board activities including library services, at a time when many local communities are in need of additional support – not less.

We value the comment in the plan to “Ensuring our community centres and libraries meet the changing needs of our community...” (p.63). However we are concerned that proposed budget reductions will have a negative impact on libraries, their staff and most particularly, their ability to respond to the diverse needs local communities throughout the city.

We want Auckland Council to seriously consider the critical role that public libraries and qualified librarians play in community and economic wellbeing. Libraries are no longer defined by the number of physical books issued. They provide diverse support in response to the changing needs of their local communities. Libraries are vibrant centres of local activity and are an important hub for the community.

The role of libraries in Auckland communities

Libraries are not just a ‘nice to have’. Library services are essential to facilitate information literacy, promote reading for pleasure, provide community members with information, support literacy, reduce social isolation and play an important role in curating local heritage. Libraries are hubs within their communities where people come together from every walk of life, at every age, to learn, take part in activities, use technology, and connect with others.

People in Auckland are engaged in their libraries every day.

- Gaining digital access and building digital literacy
- Accessing trusted, independent sources of information
- Receiving support to access government, community and other services
- Learning about local issues, groups, and meeting community leaders
- Engaging in reading for pleasure

- Growing and improving literacy skills
- Gaining support to engage in the digital world
- Discovering local heritage
- Discovering new skills and ideas
- Using technology and learning new tools
- Accessing outreach services
- Participating in learning through reading, watching, and listening
- Connecting with others through programmes and activities.

Digital inclusion and equity are important elements of wellbeing. COVID lockdowns highlighted the impact of lack of access to digital devices and lack of digital skills on a person's health, learning and wellbeing. For many people in Auckland, their library provides essential digital access and support.

Libraries are often at the forefront of initiatives which reflect and respond to diverse groups in the community served, including support of Pacific Language Weeks, celebration of cultural festivals, storytimes offered in different languages, and world language collections in print and online. Libraries often employ staff from these diverse communities to help plan and deliver these programmes and services.

The impacts of recent climate events in Auckland have been severe and will continue to affect already vulnerable families and communities for months and years ahead. We know that the library service will play an essential role in alleviating individual stress and building community resilience for the future of the city.

The increasing demand for library services in Auckland

The demand for resources, programmes and events provided by Auckland Libraries continues to grow, showing the importance that libraries play in the lives of Aucklanders.

In 2017/18 13.34 million physical items including books were withdrawn from Auckland Libraries. This borrowing decreased over five years by 32% to 9.10 million in 2021/22 (Public Libraries New Zealand, 2022). It is important to note that this period of time included extensive lockdown periods during the COVID 19 pandemic, when people were not able to physically enter their library. However library staff developed innovative click and collect services to maintain access to books for users during this unprecedented time.

A broad range of digital services are consistently available from Auckland Libraries and recent years has shown an increase in demand digital resources. In 2017/18 2.02 million e-issues were borrowed. This borrowing increased over five years by 97% to 3.98 million e-issues in 2021/22 (Auckland Libraries, 2023).

There was a huge increase in demand for eBooks and digital resources throughout New Zealand during lockdowns. In 2020, Auckland Libraries were one of only two library systems in the Southern Hemisphere to lend over 2 million eBooks. In 2021, this demand continued with over 3.5 million eBooks being borrowed by Aucklanders (Library Life, 2022).

Auckland Libraries provides eBook and audio book platforms, LinkedIn Learning, Press Reader, Ancestry.com, many databases and e-journals, Beamafilm, its own podcast service and YouTube

channel. These digital collections are provided for free and require specialist library skills to ensure they meet the needs and interests of diverse learners, communities and are accessible.

Digital services offered by libraries are heavily used and highly valued. Libraries are seen as places to get help with all aspects of the digital world, whether job seeking, setting up a device or responding to the census. Library staff often help people with their online life administration, meaning they can become privy to personal information and can be trusted to do so. This is a unique role. Libraries offer digital skills programmes, one-on-one or in groups, and thousands of people take advantage of these programmes because they feel confident to do so. They see libraries as safe digital spaces within an increasingly unsafe digital world.

Reduction in opening hours

Budget proposals by local boards in the [Annual Budget 2023/2024 Supporting Information for Consultation Document](#) include the reduction of opening hours in many libraries from seven to six days per week.

This proposal will mean Auckland may be the only city in New Zealand that will not have its central city library open seven days a week.

While a network approach will enable seven-day library services within local boards, we believe that this approach will have a negative impact on people who have less resources and ability to travel greater distances to visit their library service to access digital technology, engage in literacy and learning, and gain support from library staff. This reduces equity of access, increases the digital divide, limits access to the safe space of their library and will disproportionately impact Auckland's most vulnerable communities.

We believe that reducing access to the valued services and resources of local libraries, through reduced opening hours, will negatively impact the social and economic well-being of community members, particularly the most vulnerable.

The value of qualified library staff

In media reports it has been suggested that budget cuts may be achieved by replacing paid library professionals with volunteers. We note that replacing trained and qualified library staff with volunteers has not been proposed by any local boards.

Libraries provide a valuable service to so many people young and old across the city. We view using volunteers simply a recipe for shorter hours and a run-down in services. To deliver effective library services staffing levels must be sustainable and run by trained, experienced, and qualified professionals.

Librarians are professionals and are critical to providing high-quality information and resources their communities need. They are experts in information management, research, and technology, and are dedicated to helping people find the resources they need to succeed in education, work, and life. In public libraries, a wide range of skills are needed: from programme management and communication to dealing with complex social situations and research and analysis skills. While

volunteers are used in libraries, they cannot be a substitute for trained and qualified librarians and library assistants.

Auckland Libraries employs the equivalent of 850 FTE library staff. Approximately 10% of staff hold LIANZA professional registration, which is a requirement for senior and specialist roles. Professional registration assures their employer of the currency of their expert knowledge and professional competence. To gain professional registration, library professionals must hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree and many staff may hold post-graduate qualifications, with the requirement to revalidate their registration every three years.

Replacing trained and qualified librarians with volunteers would result in a decline in the level of service and support available in libraries as volunteers do not have the same level of expertise, training, and experience.

LIANZA is also concerned that budget reductions may particularly affect specialist library research services at a time when quality research is needed to counter misinformation and is essential to support key education curriculum priorities such as the New Zealand histories curriculum introduced this year.

Library staff across Auckland have played a key role in the Auckland Council emergency response, providing support to individuals impacted by recent floods. Their professional skills and community connections have played a key role in the Auckland Council response to communities in need.

References

Auckland Libraries data collection 2018-2023

Libraries and information services respond to COVID. (February, 2022). *Library Life* (489), 8

Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ) Data Collection 2018-2022



25388



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): New Zealand Writers Guild Inc | Puni Taatuhi o Aotearoa

Your local board: Regional organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: I am strongly opposed to the proposed cuts and support a more evidence-based approach to the budget decisions of New Zealand's biggest city – Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

No one can answer this question accurately, as Auckland City Council have not provided enough information to support their position on these reductions in spending. As far as I can see through the paperwork provided, is that this is an ideological budget, made on agenda based "ideas" rather than strategic future focused decisions that create a flourishing and thriving Auckland city.

Questions for Auckland City Council:

1. What economic analysis has been done by Council on the impacts these cuts will have on Auckland's economy and employment, over the short, medium, and long term?
2. How many Aucklanders' jobs will be at risk, both via direct and indirect employment loss?
3. What are the long-term effects of the proposed cuts to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited?

I also support the Better Budget and support the proposal:

Not to proceed with any reductions and instead unfreeze the Water Quality and Natural Environment Targeted Rates, increase borrowing, and maintain the general rates package.

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: This is short term thinking. The sale would mean one off injection and then no further returns as the funds are no being re-invested.

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Where is the option for Business to have rates increases, why is this all lumbered to residential? This could answer how to more fairly distribute the cost of living and running a business in Auckland.

I also support the Better Budget and support the pro

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 have serious concerns around the impact of continued underinvestment in infrastructure. Especially in light of predicted increases in the frequency of extreme weather events.

5. Local Boards

Henderson-Massey 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: This is an incredibly leading question. I support the local board and ALL of their priorities.

This question indicates that cuts will come no matter what residents and rate payers say in their submissions.

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?) Discretionary community grants, Library hours, Funding and grants for arts centres and partners

Tell us why these are most important to you: Again - another incredibly leading question. This type of popularity voting is biased, short term thinking, and ideologically driven.

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Do not support

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

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Tēnā koe,

Thursday, 23 March 2023

TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU SCREEN SECTOR RESPONSE TO AUCKLAND COUNCIL'S PROPOSED BUDGET 2023-24

Screen Production is good business for Auckland.

Screen Auckland's 2022 Data Overview shows that:

- Screen (including production, post-production, and visual effects) is worth \$1.523 billion to the Auckland economy.
- The sector directly employs 8405 people in Auckland, up from 7500 in 2021.
- There are 2322 screen business units located here, 48% of the national screen sector.

Of the \$800+ million spend on production in the Auckland region 60% of that, almost half a billion dollars, was spent with Auckland businesses – hotels and restaurants, vehicle and equipment hire businesses, all of which did it tough during the Covid-19 restrictions.

In a recent economic impact report of screen production activity in New Zealand¹ less than 40% of spend on a film or TV show is screen-industry. Attracting and servicing screen production in Auckland makes very good financial sense, for those who work on productions, but even more so for the city as a whole.

We support the Auckland Plan 2050's aim that 'Auckland is prosperous with many opportunities and delivers a better standard of living for everyone'. Auckland Council has an economic development plan for the region – the most recent of these for 2021-2024 has the objectives of:

- Attracting people and investment
- Enabling thriving local economies
- Supporting quality jobs and skill development
- Preparing businesses for Auckland's future
- Infrastructure that enables economic development
- Regulations that enable economic development

Now is the time to invest in Auckland's future. Continuing to support screen directly through Tātaki Auckland Unlimited in turn supports the local economy, the hospitality sector, tourism, and retail to generate much needed revenue. A thriving city improves social cohesion, wellbeing, and our quality of life. It makes a city more inclusive and welcoming. Helps to attract and retain new residents and industry. A thriving city also boosts the local economy, creates jobs, and makes for a more prosperous city.

QUESTIONS

1. What economic analysis has been done by Council on the impacts these cuts will have on Auckland's economy and employment, over the short, medium, and long term?
2. How many Aucklanders' jobs (outside those at Council and within CCOs) will be at risk, both via direct and indirect employment?
3. What are the long-term effects of the proposed cuts to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited. On last year's figures, the proposed \$2 million saving will cost the city \$800 million of lost activity. Is that the intended outcome?

Screen production is a dynamic and complex ecosystem, and a change of this magnitude will have long term impacts. We are very concerned that the Budget proposals have been prepared without due diligence, and the potential negative impact on the future of the screen sector in Auckland has not been properly considered and understood.

¹ Olsberg Report: <https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/resources/olsberg-spi-report-economic-impact-new-zealand-screen-production-sector>

ALTERNATIVE

We recommend the Auckland City Council continue to invest in its economic development programmes, and to increase borrowing and/or raise rates for residential and business ratepayers to cover that cost.

Other Councils, such as in Wellington, have decided to confront reality with a proposed 13% rates rise to fill the shortfall and make the necessary investment in a thriving and resilient city.

CONCLUSION

The interconnectedness of the screen sector ecosystem is equivalent to the Auckland City Council's ecosystem. What may look like a small change in one area can have unexpected consequences or impact. The screen sector also knows how hard it is to make budgets go the distance. Budgets are always tight and are getting tighter by the day. We believe that continuing to invest in story, in people, in culture, in what connects with people's hearts and minds, is the key to success both now and in the future. We believe it will also be the key to the Auckland City Council's continued success – invest, grow, and prosper.

The signatories of this letter, the representative bodies of the individual screen practitioners and businesses, call on you to consider the economic, social and wellbeing impacts of these budget cuts, specifically to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited.

Yours Sincerely,

Co-Authors

[Film Auckland Inc](#) and [SPADA](#)

Signatories

Directors and Editors Guild of Aotearoa New Zealand

DocEdge

Equity New Zealand | Mana Taurite Aotearoa

New Zealand Cinematographers Society

New Zealand Writers Guild | Puni Taatuhi o Aotearoa

Ngā Aho Whakaari | Māori in Screen

Pan Asian Screen Collective

Screen Industry Guild of Aotearoa New Zealand

Script to Screen

Women in Film and Television New Zealand

FilmAuckland

spada^{nz}
the screen production
and development association

degnz
directors & editors guild of nz
ngā kaiwherawhera kiriata

**doc
edge**

equity
NEW ZEALAND

NZCS

NZWG
New Zealand Writers Guild
Puni Taatuhi o Aotearoa

**NGA
AHO
WHAKAARI**
MĀORI IN SCREEN

**P-A
S·C** PAN-ASIAN
SCREEN
COLLECTIVE

**SCRIPT TO
SCREEN**
TE TARI TUHI KUPU A WHAKAAHUA

**SCREEN
INDUSTRY
GUILD**
AOTEAROA • NEW ZEALAND INC

WIFT NZ
WOMEN IN FILM & TELEVISION
NGA WĀHINE O TE ARO WHITĀHUA



25987



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): New Zealand Music Commission

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Council should increase rates and make greater use of debt as appropriate in order to reject the proposed cuts to arts and culture funding and protect the cultural wellbeing of Tāmaki Makaurau

Auckland.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: Auckland Airport will increase in value over the coming years and provide economic benefit to Auckland.

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Council should increase rates and make greater use of debt as appropriate in order to reject the proposed cuts to arts and culture funding and protect the cultural wellbeing of Tāmaki Makaurau

Auckland.

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

Waitematā 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:

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?) Library opening hours and services, Arts and community centre programmes (at Ellen Melville Centre and Studio One Toi Tū), Community programme delivery e.g. community networks, youth and arts

Tell us why these are most important to you: All of the above priorities would have been selected if the option was available. Local Board investment makes Auckland a more vibrant, liveable city.

Do you think there are other areas where we could make savings to our local budgets?

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).	Other
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.	Other
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Other

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

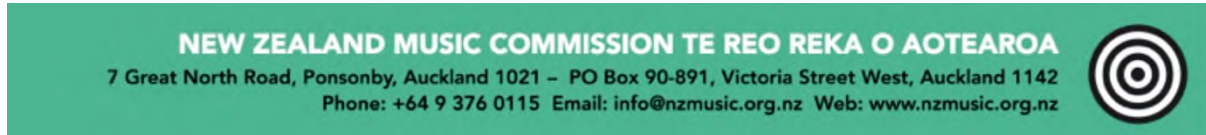
- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Changes to fees and charges (page 53 in the consultation document).

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

The proposed Budget, which would reduce both investment and community participation in creative and cultural activities including music, does not achieve the fundamental purpose of Local Government. It poses an immense and imminent risk to our cultural we

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27 March 2023

Auckland Council – Proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024

Kia ora koutou

I am the Chief Executive at the New Zealand Music Commission Te Reo Reka o Aotearoa. The Music Commission's purpose is to support a thriving New Zealand music sector culturally, economically and globally. Our role includes programmes and initiatives to support music from Aotearoa within the domestic context, including initiatives to grow sustainable careers and promote local talent. Additionally, the Music Commission is the lead agency supporting the export of New Zealand music.

Music weaves its way through not only our creative and cultural sector, but it is also integral to the overall wellbeing of Aotearoa. Among its many benefits, music reflects our identities, improves our mental health, brings communities together, and is a valuable contributor to our economy. In 2020, the PWC report 'The Economic Contribution of the New Zealand Music Industry' estimated that the New Zealand music industry contributed over \$730m to New Zealand's GDP.

Analysis undertaken by PWC estimated the Auckland music industry directly contributed \$133m to New Zealand's GDP in 2018, and \$294m in total (after accounting for multiplier effects). PWC also estimated the music industry directly contributed around 1,265 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in Auckland, and over 2,651 FTEs in total. It is a significant part of the Auckland economy.

Auckland Council's proposed Budget poses an immense and imminent risk to prosperity and opportunities for Aucklanders and their businesses, which will have a consequent economic effect nationally, and on the talent pipeline and international reputation of Aotearoa.

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and its people are still recovering from the lasting impacts of COVID restrictions and recent severe flood and cyclone damage - including many people like me working in our music, arts and cultural sectors who have suffered through two years of job losses and cancelled events.

Now is not the time to undo the hard work of our sector and Auckland Council's previous investment by taking away the things that makes the city vibrant and which keep people wanting to work, learn and visit here – all contributing to the economy in Tāmaki Makaurau.

The proposed cuts to arts and culture funding would stifle the music ecosystem and the benefits that music provides, and threaten the cultural well-being of our communities and the overall liveability, vibrancy, social cohesion and identity of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Of particular concern to the Music Commission are:

- **The reduction of budget for Tātaki Auckland Unlimited**, who play a critical role in ensuring Auckland is a world class city through their work creating economic and cultural opportunities in Tāmaki Makaurau.
- **The reduction to Regional Services** such as music programmes; community development groups; regional events; social services; local board funding; and Eke Panuku Development Auckland Limited.
- **The negative impacts the proposed budget cuts will have on under-represented groups** such as Māori, Pasifika, youth, refugee, new migrant and rainbow communities who will be impacted disproportionately through the proposed cuts to Regional Services' cultural initiatives.

These proposed cuts will inevitably result in:

- **Job and income loss** for both artists and those working in the music sector.
- **Fewer music events** and resulting economic opportunities.
- **Reduced Tourism**, particularly in the youth tourism market which the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) estimates to be nearly 25% of international travellers.
- **Harm to our cultural heritage and community well-being.**

Response to Auckland Council's Request for proposed solutions

We understand and appreciate the enormity of the task Council faces. However, it is difficult to propose detailed solutions/options to overcome the Budget shortfall due to the lack of detailed financial information, and especially economic analysis of the impacts of the proposed cuts on Auckland's economy and employment prospects in the *Consultation Documents*.

No evidence base for the proposed budget has been made available, and the impact on current and future generations of Aucklanders of the proposed budget cuts is not illustrated in the documentation.

How much will Auckland's economy lose by making these cuts?

Request of Council - We urge Councillors to:

Reject this current Budget proposal – specifically, the cuts proposed to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, Regional Services, Eke Panuku, Local Board Initiatives and Contestable Grants.

Reconsider the proposed approach to addressing the current shortfall. We request that Council considers a different mix of financial levers other than decimating community investment (such as targeted rates increases, borrowing and/or asset sales) when preparing a revised budget.

Undertake robust analysis of the impact that any revised proposal will have on the long-term prosperity and prospects of all Aucklanders.

As is reflected in Council's own Toi Whīkiti - Auckland's Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan - 88% of Aucklanders believe that the arts are good for you, 86% agree the arts help to improve society and 90% agree that they learn about different cultures through the arts.

Music is the most accessible of all artforms, able to be enjoyed almost anywhere by anyone at any time - and it plays a vital part in nearly all arts and cultural events and initiatives.

Music Boosts the local economy.

Music Supports education and creativity.

Music Enhances Auckland's identity.

Music Fosters community.

Music Improves wellbeing and quality of life.

Music helps make a city live, and be liveable.

Noho ora mai,

Cath Andersen

NZ Music Commission Te Reo Reka o Aotearoa



26406



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Engineering NZ Transportation Group (Auckland Northland Branch)

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
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- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Other

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

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Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE

Auckland Northland Transportation Group

28 March 2023

Dear Auckland Council

About us.

The Transportation Group is a special interest group of Engineering New Zealand, representing over 1,100 members. The purpose of the Transportation Group is to advance the technical knowledge, planning and management of land-based transportation facilities, networks, and systems for the movement of people and goods¹.

This submission and documents reviewed.

This submission relates to public consultation that is open on the Auckland Council budget for the 2023/24 financial year and has been prepared on behalf of the Transportation Group Auckland Northland division. The submission is focused solely on transportation matters arising from the proposed budget.

Transportation matters arising from the proposed budget.

The following items are open to consultation:

- Holding public transport services around current levels by not reinstating all trips removed as part of the driver shortage.²
- A partial reprioritization of funding for new bus services from the Climate Action Targeted Rate (CATR).³
- It is proposed to defer the following public transport service improvements from September 2023 to March 2024:
 - Reinstatement of 15 minutes services to midnight on all city centre routes.
 - Delivery of frequent route 65 on the central Isthmus.
 - Delivery of higher frequency services in brownfield development sites.
 - Extend the NX1 to Hibiscus Coast every 15 mins, 7am-7pm, 7 days a week.
 - Later evening services across several routes in south Auckland.
- It is proposed to use the funding for new North-Western bus services. Four new frequent North-Western bus services were included in the 10-year budget 2021-2031 and co-funding with Waka Kotahi was approved. However, Council no longer has funding available for their share of operating costs for those bus services.

¹ More information about the Transportation Group is available from our website. [Home - Transportation Group NZ](#)

² On 6 November 2022, AT removed over 900 bus services from the timetable. This was to reduce the frequency that bus services were cancelled and to give public transport users more certainty so that they could plan their journeys using public transport.

³ Refer to Part 2, Section 2.2 Proposed changes to rating policy of the *Annual Budget 2023/2024 Supporting Information Document*.

- Reprioritized CATR funding will be used for two new frequent bus services in Glen Innes, which will help manage the impact of the partial closure of the Eastern Train Line.

Transportation matters not open for consultation (“for implementation”)⁴:

- Increase public transport fares by a weighted average of 6.5%, to be implemented in the current financial year⁵.

Transportation Group Response

Regarding the reduction in public transport services:

- Monthly public transport boardings to the end of December 2022 were 4.6 million, compared to a target of 5.7 million (which represented 85% of the 12 months to the end of December 2018). Monthly public transport patronage is about 70% of pre-COVID 19⁶.
- The Government’s current 50% off public transport fares resulted in a short-term increase in public transport patronage in Auckland. However, survey results indicate new public transport users have more negative sentiments towards public transport, their overall experience was not significantly impacted by affordability, and they were no more likely to perceive public transport as a feasible option⁷. Infrequent and cancelled services impacted people’s perceptions.
- Research for the Regional Public Transport Plan 2018-2028 indicates that customers want public transport services that can be accessed conveniently, operate when customers need them to, are frequent and turn up on time. Reducing the frequency of bus services will increase waiting time (and therefore total journey time) and reduce the customer experience. This will make using public transport less convenient and less attractive.
- Reducing the attractiveness and convenience of using public transport will make it harder to increase the proportion of people who use public transport and therefore reduce the amount that people drive. In turn, this will make it more difficult to achieve our climate change commitments articulated in Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan.

The Transportation Group limits our comments on changes to specific bus services and routes to the following:

- There may be reputational risk for Waka Kotahi and Auckland Transport if north-western bus services are not provided as significant investment has been made in bus improvements and infrastructure in the area. It makes sense to re-prioritise CATR funding to provide these services.

⁴ Refer to Part 1, Section 1.1 Budget context of the *Annual Budget 2023/2024 Supporting Information* document.

⁵ From 2 April 2023, public transport fares will increase in Auckland. Source: [Public Transport fare changes 2023 \(at.govt.nz\)](https://www.at.govt.nz/public-transport/fare-changes-2023/)

⁶ Auckland Transport Monthly Indicators Report December 2022. Source: [Attachment 1 - Auckland Transport Monthly Indicators Report July 2021](https://www.at.govt.nz/monthly-indicators-report-july-2021/)

⁷ Waka Kotahi Research Note 009 – Impact of half price public transport fares – a research note. Source: [RN 009 – Impact of half price public transport fares – a research note \(nzta.govt.nz\)](https://www.nzta.govt.nz/research/research-note-009-impact-of-half-price-public-transport-fares/)

- However, the Transportation Group would support Auckland Council and Auckland Transport to consider alternative revenue or funding sources to provide the CATR bus services and to support maintaining, if not increasing, the overall number of public transport services.

Further comments on revenue and funding sources:

- Charges and fines for car parking, on-street and off-street. In some locations, the cost of on-street parking has not changed since 2017. Many of the Park and Ride locations across Auckland are free⁸. The Draft Parking Strategy sets out Auckland Transport's policies on how on street and off-street parking will be managed, including through pricing. The Draft Parking Strategy has not yet been endorsed by Auckland Council or approved by the AT Board⁹. Increasing the cost of car parking could be used to help fund maintenance costs for these assets. This could enable funding to be reprioritized for public transport.
- Congestion charging. This would require enabling legislation by Central Government equity-related impacts would also need to be considered against potential increase in revenue. However, revenue could be used to reinvest in public transport to provide people with alternatives to driving (to avoid paying the charge).
- Regional fuel taxes. From 2018-2028, Auckland Council is permitted to collect a 10 cents per litre (plus GST) fuel tax on petrol, diesel, and their bio-variants. Between 2018 and 2021, the fuel tax raised \$515 million dollars. Increasing regional fuel taxes would also require changes to legislation by the Government and equity-related impacts would also need to be considered against potential increase in revenue. However, revenue could be used to reinvest in public transport to provide people with alternatives to driving.

The Transportation Group is happy to provide further details, if required, to support this submission.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Hoyle

Chair of Engineering NZ Auckland Northland Transportation Group

⁸ Source: [Park & ride \(at.govt.nz\)](mailto:park&ride@at.govt.nz)

⁹ By June 2023, it is anticipated that the Parking Strategy will be submitted to Auckland Council's Transport and Infrastructure Committee and then submitted to be approved by the AT Board. Source: [Auckland's draft Parking Strategy](#)



26951



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): Squash Auckland

Your local board: Regional organisation

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: Reducing regional contestable grants to save \$3 million - community clubs and organisations rely on these grants to maintain their facilities and continue to provide their vital services to their communities.

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Council debt levels are already very high - the vast majority of Auckland homeowners will be able to cope with the proposed rates hike.

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

Kaipātiki 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:

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?) Community programme delivery, Local community grants, Environmental restoration and pest control

Tell us why these are most important to you:

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?): Local community events, Parks and open space low / no mow areas, Local business support

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

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27673



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Auckland Cricket Association Inc

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

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Auckland Cricket – Submission to Auckland Council re Annual Budget 2023/24

Providing a great place to live

- Auckland is growing and will continue to grow significantly in the long term. Ensuring that this growth is managed in a way that allows all Aucklanders to have spaces and places that contribute to wellbeing and an active and healthy lifestyle are crucial parts of the Council Annual Budget 2023/24.
- Auckland Cricket and its clubs strongly support continued investment in new and existing facilities, new sports and recreation spaces, and operational cost support that will provide the essential community touch points that create social connection and make Auckland a great place to live.
- The impact of COVID-19 on the physical health and mental wellbeing of our community has highlighted the positive role that sports organisations and clubs play in bringing people together and providing opportunities for physical activity and social interaction. Now, more than ever, it is vital that all Aucklanders can take part in sport and be a part of a wider, healthier community.
- Auckland Council is a major provider of our sports and recreation facilities – we greatly appreciate this support and investment. Without it, much of what happens in our sector wouldn't be possible.
- Auckland Council provides critical sector funding through the Sport and Recreation Facility Investment Fund, the Regional Facility Operating Grant and The Regional Sport and Recreation Grants Programme – let's ensure this continues.

The Auckland Cricket Community

- Over 40,000 people play cricket across a summer and the experience they have is driven by a number of factors – the level of service they receive from their club or school, the suitability of the ground and pitch that they play on, and the quality of the supporting facilities.
- Auckland is a diverse and multi-cultural city and Auckland Cricket is reflective of that - over 50% of our playing base identifies as an ethnicity other than NZ European.
- We recognize the need for all Aucklanders to be active as a part of contributing to their general wellbeing and long-term health. Consequently, we are running programmes that engage in low decile areas with populations that have higher levels of inactivity and greater deprivation.
- As our playing base grows, so too does our need for quality facilities and playing wickets. The 2017 SANS Report (as commissioned by Council) projects that across Auckland there will be significant shortfall of wickets by 2033, with Central Auckland facing a potential deficit of 137 wickets.
- We aim to be innovative and ahead of the curve in how we deliver our competitions. Scarcity of wickets and increasing playing numbers means we have changed traditional timeslots for cricket and added in more midweek competitions, allowing us to best-utilise available fields. Despite these innovations, we are still challenged by ground shortages.

Council Budget and Sport and Recreation Investment

- Auckland Cricket invests heavily in our clubs to ensure that they are strong and vibrant organisations that can effectively service their community. To ensure they can continue to do so, we need assistance from Council by investing in sportsfields and facilities to meet growing demand.

- A lack of inclusion and underinvestment in play, active recreation and sport in Auckland, particularly around our spaces and facilities, will have a negative effect on Auckland, our communities and the economy.
- It's critical that investment meets growth. It's essential that growth in population both at the urban fringe and in the existing urban area is matched by investment in sufficient new facilities to meet the current demand and the future growth.
- We would like to highlight the important role that sports facilities, and the sports club network, play in providing a focal point for communities and fostering social cohesion. Investment in these facilities remains vital.
- We operate in an ever-changing landscape and recognise the need to evaluate the way we operate. Facilities such as Kolmar provide an example of how focussed investment into one multi-use facility can benefit multiple user groups and provide a greater return on investment for community organisations and Council.
- Sport and Recreation connects people and communities which is more important than ever given the challenges of Covid 19 and the recent natural disasters. All Aucklanders deserve opportunities to participate.

The Budget and Local Board Priorities

- Auckland Cricket works closely with our clubs and Local Boards to identify areas of investment that will benefit our sport and the wider community.
- Various Local Boards have identified key initiatives which support active and healthy lifestyles for Aucklanders and promote investment in greenspace, sportsfields and the development of facilities for our communities to use. Auckland Cricket is fully supportive of Local Boards that are taking an active role in providing opportunities for Aucklanders to become and remain active.
- We encourage Council to support initiatives promoting investment in sport and recreation and would like to see increased focus across the city that recognizes the pressing need to provide sport and recreation infrastructure which has the capacity to cater for Aucklanders now and in the future.
- Local Boards are key supporters of local initiatives that have local benefits. Auckland Cricket understands the financial pressures Auckland Council is under but would stress that reducing their budgets will directly affect sport and recreation and the benefits it brings at a local level across Tamaki Makaurau.

Thank you

- We would like to thank Auckland Council for their ongoing support of sport and recreation across Auckland.
- We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Council for their assistance and support in providing quality facilities for the cricketing public and want to highlight the need for continued investment in facility development and maintenance to cater for a growing sporting population and request that this is appropriately reflected in the Annual Budget.
- We applaud the investment that Council has made to the sport and recreation sector via the Recreation Facility Investment Fund, the Regional Facility Operating Fund and the Regional Sport and Recreation Grants Programme. These funds are critical to the continued development of sport across Tamaki Makaurau and we urge Council to maintain this investment.



27717



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

I don't know

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

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

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

Tell us why:

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Auckland Marina Users Association Inc and Auckland Yacht and Boating Association believe there is an urgent need for a comprehensive assessment of current and future marine recreational needs including the use of the regions marinas as a network of focal

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“AK HAVE YOUR SAY”

Questions Relating to the Annual Budget 2023/2024

ATTACHMENT TO QUESTION 7 – “What else is important to you?”

SUBJECT – ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

SUBMISSION BY AUCKLAND YACHT AND BAOTAING ASSOCIATION Inc and AUCKLAND MARINA USERS ASSOCIATION INC

1. SUMMARY

In prior years (2019/20 and 2020/21) AMUA and AYBA have made submissions calling for funding for a region wide marina strategy which was endorsed by the then Planning Committee in 2019 and then rescinded by the same committee in 2021.

Two recent decisions relating to the marinas at Bayswater and Orakei have highlighted yet again that the region lacks a plan that will enable Aucklanders to easily access our most valuable marine recreational asset – the waters and beaches of our harbours and the Hauraki Gulf.

The decisions at Bayswater and The Landing have clearly illustrated the lack of reliable regional demand and supply data to support decision making. As a consequence the decisions have been assessed against local impacts rather than the regional impacts that will result from those decisions.

In particular we advocate the need for:-

- a comprehensive assessment of current and future marine recreational needs including the use of the regions marinas as a network of focal points for marine recreational activities and related infrastructure and services; and
- an inclusive engagement with mana whenua and stakeholders for the identification of current and future demands and issues affecting the regions marinas.

We wish to strongly advocate that a Steering Committee, including mana whenua and stakeholder representatives be established to achieve a cost effective approach through input to the development of the scope and budget and the staged delivery of a demand assessment and delivery plan. In this regards stakeholders such as AMUA and AYBA have the resources and capability to assist in minimising expenditure.



2. NEED FOR A REGIONAL PLAN

Waterfront land is a valuable asset and an essential component in facilitating access to the marine recreational environment. Locations which are suitable for the infrastructure and open space needed to support marine recreational activities is scarce.

AMUA believes there are a broad range of reasons why a comprehensive and integrated plan is required at this time. Reasons include:-

- A. The NPS-UD and Plan Change 78 will change the face of Auckland in terms of density of urban development. With a denser city comes the need to preserve and develop the urban opportunities for recreational activity and thereby reduce the demand for recreational travel.
- B. The spatial requirements and pattern of participation in marine recreational activities dictates the need for flexible open space as well as waterfront access. For example:-
 - a. Vehicle and trailer access and parking is incidental to boat ramps and necessary to launch and retrieve small power boats, trailer sailers, dinghies and jet skis; and in addition sufficient space is required to rig and derig some craft.
 - b. Group activities such as waka ama, sail training, dinghy racing and rowing regattas and the like can place additional demands on open space and integrate with other infrastructure such as marina amenities.
 - c. The storage of watercraft at waterfront locations reduces the demand for trailer parking. Trailer boat numbers are growing substantially and storing trailerable boats in “dry stacks” is a more efficient use of land but requires waterfront access.
 - d. The pattern of participation in primary activities is not regular and has significant peaks and is heavily influenced by a number of factors including weather and tides, weekends and holidays.
- C. Ferries operate from some marinas and typically require public transport services, park and ride and kiss and ride. The pattern of these ferry related activities and related public transport (bus) services is dictated by ferry operations and bears no relation to the pattern of use associated with marine recreational activities. The differing patterns of use between ferry and other marina activities may present the opportunity for efficiencies through the sharing of car parking spaces.
- D. Marinas have many of the attributes needed to facilitate the varied marine recreational and public transport needs. It is important to note that marinas are “finite resources” as envisaged by s7(g) of the RMA because of the difficulties in consenting new marina developments. There are few locations around the Auckland coastal fringe that can provide the space and amenities needed to



support access to the sea for a wide range of activities in an integrated and efficient manner.

- E. All watercraft entering or leaving and moving about the marine environment pose a degree of marine bio security risk. As a part of the Regional Pest Management Plan required by the Bio Security Act, Council has imposed regulations on all owners of watercraft. To date Council has focussed on education and enforcement but also has a role to “provide leadership in activities that prevent, reduce or eliminate adverse effects from harmful organisms present in Aotearoa New Zealand”. As the authority responsible for the AUP Council has the obligation to make available, through the AUP provisions suitable and sufficient locations needed for such operations.
- F. In keeping with the need to take a long term view of marine recreational activities and the utilisation of finite waterfront resources for supporting infrastructure AMUA believes there is a need for assessments to consider effects related to latent and future demand associated with the changes now occurring in the density of development. Changes which were not anticipated by the AUP’s original zoning provisions.

3. URGENCY

The urgency of this issue is demonstrated by three factors:-

- a) AUP provisions that will result in the loss of marina zone land to higher value residential and commercial developments.
- b) A significant deficiency in the capacity of existing haul out and hardstand facilities to enable antifouling and hull cleaning which in turn impacts on boat owners ability to comply with hull bi fouling standards imposed under the RPMP and Bio Security Act.

This situation is particularly urgent because Council’s sampling hull inspections in calendar years 2021 and 2022 indicate that some 50% of the moored boats (9-10,000) are non-compliant.

This situation is being exacerbated by the closure of Pier21, The Landing, and Little Shoal Bay, Milford (reduced), Goldhole (threatened); and Pine Harbour and Hobsonville marinas where planning provisions enable the higher value use of residential development on the existing hardstand and haul out =25% of current capacity.

The consequence of Council’s inaction to date is an increase in marine bio security risk – rather than action to prevent, reduce or eliminate adverse effects as required by the Bio Security Act.



- c) The expiry dates of existing seabed and/or berth licences at 5 of the region's largest marinas and the lack of, AUP or by-law provisions for the licencing of future operations.

- Westhaven 2026 and 2029
- Bayswater 2031
- Hobsonville 2025 (renewable to max 2035)
- Pine Harbour 2038
- Gulf Harbour 2028 (renewable to max 2088)

The terms and conditions of the original instruments were drawn up to protect the interest of Council, the neighbouring community and marina users. The issue is – what happens when existing licences and leases for marinas expire?

Unless Council develops plans to address this issue the commercial terms and conditions governing licences and leases will likely lapse on expiry (or surrender) of the existing instruments.

4. RELEVANT BACKGROUND FROM PREVIOUS ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSIONS

AMUA, AYBA and other stakeholders made submissions to the 2019-20 and 2020/21 Annual Plan AKHaveYourSay Process calling for funding for the region wide marina strategy. A considerable amount of the information submitted at that time remains relevant.

In addition AMUA made a submission to the 2020/21 Emergency Budget where we suggested priority actions to protect strategic options. We would be pleased to adopt a similar approach in relation to this submission.

In total six organisations including AMUA and AYBA made written submissions in 2019/20 and 2020/21 and AMUA made a presentations to the stakeholder events.

- Northern Reclamation Yacht Clubs Working Group – Royal New Zealand Yacht Club, Ponsonby Cruising Club, Richmond Yacht Club
- West Harbour Residents Group
- Auckland Yachting and Boating Association
- Akarana Marine Sports Charitable Trust
- Bayswater Community Committee Inc
- Auckland Marina Users Association Inc – Westhaven, Pine Harbour, Gulf Harbour, Bayswater, Hobsonville



AMUA asks that Council take account of the wide and continuing interest in the issues that have been identified in this submission.

Richard Steel – On Behalf of Auckland Marina Users Association Inc

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Email – richard.alecia.steel@gmail.com

Andrew Barney – On Behalf of Auckland Yacht and Boating Association

Mobile +64 21 744 799

Email - A.R.Barney@massey.ac.nz



28384



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): Northern Region Football

Your local board: Regional organisation

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).	0
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.	0
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.	0

What do you think of these proposals? The addition of a targeted rate for sport and recreation.

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 the attached letter uploaded under the supporting information section.

Important privacy information

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Tēnā koutou

Re: Submission to Auckland Council on the 2023/24 Budget

Football and futsal connects Auckland and Aucklanders, offering health and community benefits to a diverse range of players and clubs.

Northern Region Football wholeheartedly thanks Auckland Council and Local Boards for their ongoing support, providing the majority of football fields and futsal courts used by our community. Without this investment, our games would simply not be possible.

We wish to make the following submission to the Auckland Council Budget 2023/2034 consultation, as the proposed budget will significantly impact active recreation and our clubs' ability to offer football and futsal to their members.

NRF does not support these aspects of the proposed budget:

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

These proposals will negatively impact our clubs' ability to deliver community sport, resulting in less people, particularly tamariki and rangatahi, from connecting and being active through our game.

With the eyes of the world on Tāmaki Makaurau for FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, we believe reducing football activity in our city sends the wrong message to young Aucklanders wanting to be part of our game.

Direct positive impact for Auckland and its people

Communities connect with each other through football and futsal – thousands of Aucklanders visit their local parks every weekend to kick a ball around, either casually with friends or as part of an organised club or association.

There are 55 affiliated football clubs, with over 35,000 members, including players, coaches, and match officials in Auckland. As most of our membership is junior footballers 5-18 years old, the total football community is over 100,000, made up of parents, caregivers and grandparents. not including school or ad hoc footballers.

Sport and recreation are key in meeting Auckland Council's mental and physical health, social, cultural, and economic outcomes.

Research tells us Auckland has an issue with an inactive population, which leads to obesity - we know active play has an important role in addressing our inactive population, and that investment in sport and recreation assets, for the delivery of Football and Futsal, will help



address some of Auckland's health issues. In the winter sports season, 950 games of football will be played each weekend, or 22,000 games a year.

Compounding issues and the rapidly rising cost of sport

The cost of sport is rising. Sports clubs rely on the support of volunteers and parents to operate, and we've seen a drastic drop in volunteer numbers since Covid-19. This is compounded by rising living costs and reduced disposable income for families. We understand the need to redirect funding to address the impact of flooding and Cyclone Gabrielle, but ask that Council review the proposed decreases in service levels to parks and an increase to clubs leases and occupancy rates, as these costs will impact on those clubs' ability to deliver football and futsal.

Clubs in this position may struggle to manage the operational side of facilities and leave them at risk of financial duress, adding pressure to volunteers and reduce the delivery of football and futsal. In turn, this risks a loss of membership through higher participation costs and unsatisfactory playing facilities. The unintended impact of these changes will make football and futsal unaffordable for many Aucklanders.

Exacerbating current network challenges

Our greenspace network is broken - we work with Council staff to address these issues and appreciate the team is doing their best in a tough environment.

Football has challenges with the lack of field and turf space in the summer and winter seasons. Clubs' consistent feedback on playing field quality relates to holes on the playing surface, line marking, fields being out of action from overuse or weather events and fields just not being set up for play.

Despite futsal being one of the fastest growing sports in New Zealand and Auckland, there is a shortage of indoor court space and we consistently struggle to access enough indoor courts for our competitions. We currently share space with codes like netball, who have purpose-built facilities and priority of use, which limits our ability to grow this fast paced game with particular appeal to young Aucklanders.

The proposed reduction in capital expenditure will greatly affect our ability to meet the demand for fields and indoor courts, and encourage Aucklanders to be active and build a love of movement and play.

We ask that Auckland Council:

- Keep the lease agreements and occupancy rates to historic levels. This is to ensure that the community led sporting clubs can continue to offer the health benefits and social good to their communities
- Continue to fund the ongoing maintenance and repairs of sports fields to current levels and ensure that any repairs outside of existing maintenance contracts are actioned, to ensure playing surfaces and equipment are fit for purpose
- Retain the current investment for the capital improvements program for sports fields and indoor court spaces be maintained and improved. There is a shortfall in court and field space currently within Auckland, and any reductions will have a negative impact on keeping our communities active
- Maintain the current funding for the Recreation Facilities Operating Grant and Regional Sport and Recreation Programme Grant

We would propose that Auckland Council look at other avenues to fund the deficit like:



- Create a partnering system to move the daily and weekly field mowing to clubs to maintain football fields
- Offering a targeted rate for sports and recreational facilities as part of property rates.

Sport and Recreation is part of who we are, and crucial to the health and wellbeing of Aucklanders.

We know that futsal and football is having a positive impact on the daily lives of young people, families, and communities and we thank you for your continued support.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Laura Menzies | CEO



28681



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): New Zealand Disability Support Network

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: New Zealand Disability Support Network is the peak body for disability support and service providers. We have a significant number of members that provide support and services to disabled people in the Auckland area. We have tried to answer the submission template questions from the perspective of our member organisations.

First and foremost, NZDSN would like to point out that the information about proposed cuts has not been made available in accessible formats or plain English, so many disabled people are disadvantaged and are not able to make a submission.

NZDSN opposes the proposed cuts and prefers the Council to increase debt. The proposed cuts will directly impact on communities and social supports. Considering that disabled people heavily rely on community services, they will be disproportionately affected by any closure or reduction of such services. For instance, due to digital exclusion, disabled people rely on their local libraries to access technology and fill in forms and look up services. And blind or vision impaired people use libraries to access audio books. If these services are discontinued or reduced, there will be a gap in service provision. There will also be negative impacts on mental health and well-being of disabled people.

Disability service providers would like to acknowledge Auckland Council's positive contributions for the disability community, such as funding and subsidisation of the New Zealand Sign Language interpretation as well as audio description. This has been significant in facilitating the participation of disabled people in community activities. The disability community is concerned that budget cuts will result in these initiatives being discontinued or significantly reduced.

In addition, disability service providers feel this proposal creates a real challenge for participation of disabled people in community activities. Service providers heavily rely on free access libraries, parks, museums, and galleries to support the participation of their clients into the community. If these services are cut, those disabled people with high and very high needs will be disadvantaged. This will be contrary to the principles of Enabling Good Lives (EGL) that is currently being rolled out aiming at providing disabled people with choice and control over their lives.

Disability service providers are already struggling with increased costs and funding issues. They believe if the proposed cuts go through, their staff and clients who use public transport to access services will be impacted. Many disabled people cannot drive and hence, rely on public transport. Increased prices will mean less funding to provide support to families with disabilities. So, service providers will not be able to fully provide the support given for the disabled, their reach and the opportunities to serve young people will be limited. These will result in reducing opportunity for community engagement and participation. Reducing social interaction and inclusion, reducing wellbeing and social equity, and reducing access to services further inhibit progress towards independence and self-determination. To do this, service providers need money and staff, as well as continued access to libraries, art spaces, parks, and other events and services.

Furthermore, the proposed cuts in local board grants will negatively affect many charities and community organisations that rely on these grants to provide services to disabled people. For instance, almost 40% of children with Down syndrome are only able to access speech language therapy through such grants.

The proposal suggests significant cuts (resulting in increased prices) in events, arts, youth development, heritage, and sport. Most of these are free, accessible, and available activities for communities including disabled people. So, the disability community will be significantly impacted due to reduced provision of accessible events and activities.

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: Considering the alternatives (increasing rates and/or debt), NZDSN prefers the sale of all shares in AIAL and the use of proceeds to reduce debt.

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

properties, so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer. Our proposal is to put this change on hold for one year

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Considering that council can borrow up to \$140 million, our preferred option is to set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt. We believe higher rates increase will cause difficulties for property owners including disabled people and

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: While NZDSN is not in support of higher rates, we acknowledge the importance of preparation and readiness for future weather events. Disability community was disproportionately impacted by the recent flooding and cyclone in Auckland. Many services were di

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Do not support
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	
Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	Do not support
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	Do not support

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Important privacy information

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29011



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Air New Zealand

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Other

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	

Changes to other rates	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	0
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.	0

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

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28 March 2023

Contact: Niels Meinderts - Regulatory
Affairs Manager - Air New Zealand
Email: niels.meinderts@airnz.co.nz
Address:
Air New Zealand - Hub
185 Fanshawe Street
Auckland 1010
New Zealand

For Auckland Council

Submission on funding for Tātaki Auckland Unlimited - Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/24

- 1 Air New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024. We write in support of maintaining Tātaki Auckland Unlimited's (TAU) funding at the current level.
- 1.1 Air New Zealand values TAU's impact on lifting Auckland's reputation as a visitor destination, providing immediate and long-term benefits to the prosperity and vibrancy of Auckland for both businesses and residents. Pre Covid-19, international and domestic visitors spent \$8.45 billion annually¹ in Auckland. This spending directly benefitted Auckland businesses, including accommodation, attractions, transport, and retail. Latest MBIE data indicates that visitor spend in Auckland had recovered following Covid-19 to reach \$2.35 billion by domestic visitors and \$766 million² by international visitors - still someway off pre-Covid-19 levels.
- 1.2 In our view, TAU is one of the most high-performing RTOs in New Zealand and has a key role to play in the further recovery of Auckland's visitor economy. It targets promotion and marketing effort efficiently and effectively. The approach taken by TAU, and the expertise of its staff, gives Air New Zealand a high degree of confidence to regularly partner with TAU and invest in tourism promotion activity for Auckland. This includes:
 - (a) Air NZ retail marketing campaigns promoting travel to Auckland in all our international markets.
 - (b) Profiling destination Auckland and Auckland tourism activities in Kia Ora magazine.
 - (c) Hosting international media to Auckland to generate positive media coverage for Auckland and promoting Auckland to international travel trade by facilitating travel to Auckland.

¹ Source: MBIE, Monthly Regional Tourism Estimates, year ended October 2020

² Electronic card transactions only. Source: MBIE, Tourism Electronic Card Transactions, year ended Jan 2023

- (d) Partnership marketing campaigns with TAU to promote Auckland in the Australian market; and
 - (e) Promoting New Zealand as a Business Events destination in international markets.
- 1.3 We hope to be able continue this important programme of work with a suitably resourced TAU and further help Auckland's visitor economy recover from the impact of Covid-19.



March 2021

Niels Meinderts
Regulatory Affairs Manager



March 2021

Mat Bolland
Chief Corporate Affairs Officer



33697



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: Please see attachment

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Please see attachment

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: Please see attachment

5. Local Boards

Waitākere Ranges Local Board

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

Tell us why: Please see attachment

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

Tell us why these are most important to you:

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Please see attachment

Important privacy information

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

AUCKLAND COUNCIL PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION

2023

TE KAWERAU A MAKI



"Kawerau Iwi, Kawerau Mana, Kawerau Tangata"

*Karanga mai Tainui waka!
Karanga mai ko Te Kawerau ā Maki!
E ki ana te korero
Ko ngā Rau Pou ā Maki ngā tohu whakahi
Ko Te Wao nui ā Tiriwa te ngahere
Mai Waitākere awa ki Wai ō Pareira
Mai Te Korekore ki Nga Tai ā Rakataura
Na Maki te mana me te rangatiratanga
Tihei mauri ora!*

Tēna koutou,

I write on behalf of Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust (the iwi development subsidiary of Te Kawerau Iwi Settlement Trust). These entities represent the uri of Te Kawerau ā Maki. I write to Auckland Council in the spirit of partnership.

Te Kawerau ā Maki acknowledge the difficult challenges faced by Auckland Council including the challenges of climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, the housing crisis, Covid-19 recovery, aging or insufficient infrastructure, population growth, regulatory changes, and now the cyclone and storm recovery. We acknowledge the \$295m budget deficit that Council needs to find ways to address. Te Kawerau ā Maki, as the iwi of West Auckland and Upper Harbour, have felt the acute impacts of these challenges including the recent cyclone on our rohe and in our communities. Te Kawerau ā Maki is committed to working with the Council to help tackle the challenges. In doing so our role is to advocate for the whenua, advocate for our people, and advocate for our West Auckland communities.

We understand that Council can consider a broader range of options to address the budget deficit including reviewing what council invests in and finding new ways to work with central government and other external partners. This could involve looking at the services Council provides to the community and how they are delivered. The proposed budget package for 2023/2024 includes (1) reduction in operational costs by \$125m, (2) rates increase of 4.66% (around \$3/week for an average property), (3) sale of Airport shares, and (4) borrowing up to \$75m.

We support Council's efforts in seeking to strike a balance while continuing to invest where it is needed most. Our submission however is that the budget as proposed may undermine the whenua and our West Auckland communities. There are also matters specific to our iwi that we need to work with Council on in the spirit of true partnership. To this end we include feedback on the proposed budget and well as identifying areas where we see a need to work with us specifically.

At a general level we appreciate and absolutely support the protection of the Māori Outcomes Budget. This budget is vital if we are to reverse the poor outcomes for Māori in the region and meet the Māori wellbeing objectives of the Auckland Plan and the duties under Te Tiriti. We are concerned more broadly about the scale of the cuts to regional services and programmes (community, economic development and environmental) and Local Board funding (related to community and environmental programmes). These regional and local services and programmes are vital to the wellbeing of those without a voice (te taiao) and our most vulnerable people. A civilised society can be judged by how it treats it vulnerable and right now our environment and our West Auckland communities need support. We understand savings must be made, but we think that these could be achieved in part if meaningful budgets are passed over to iwi and the community to deliver the outcomes. It is iwi and community who have the most at stake in the wellbeing of our area and have proven that we can deliver efficiently and effectively on the ground.

Auckland Council as an agent of the Crown has a partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and as legislated under the Te Kawerau ā Maki Claims Settlement Act (2015), the Resource Management Act (1991), the Local Government Act (Auckland) (2009) and as acknowledged in the Auckland Plan and Auckland Unitary Plan. Treaty Partnership means making decisions together and acting together wherever possible. Under our partnership and our rangatiratanga we have a decision-making role over matters that directly affect our wellbeing and our rights over our lands, waters, customary resources and other taonga. This role needs to be better supported and integrated with Council. Three key moves to achieve this are (1) a clear agreement of how Te Kawerau ā Maki and Council can work together, (2) an increase in baseline capacity funding (currently set at \$50k since 2010 without any CPI adjustments), and (3) a shared annual work programme. These three moves can help us develop a stronger relationship and help ensure that our shared mahi is an efficient and effective use of time and money that helps take both parties forward in meeting our mutual goals including those of the Auckland Plan.

Te Kawerau ā Maki also wants to work together with Council and Government on projects that directly impact our cultural, social, environmental, and economic wellbeing. Four key projects are (1) Te Henga marae and papakāinga, (2) Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Deed and a new Forum and Plan, (3) Te Onekiritea (Hobsonville) cultural precinct, and (4) Riverhead forest development. These items are all high priority matters in our own strategic and annual plans and directly link to our wellbeing.

We seek to 'reset' our relationship with Council, building off our positive collaboration with the Council in the Waitākere Ranges and at the Henderson Civic, and to help Council deliver better value-for-money with the iwi by negotiating a programme of work that achieves mutual and strategic outcomes. The operationalisation of such a work programme through Council Annual and Long-Term Plans is a key step.

We look forward to working together in partnership.

Noho ora mai,



Deputy Chair and acting CEO
Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust

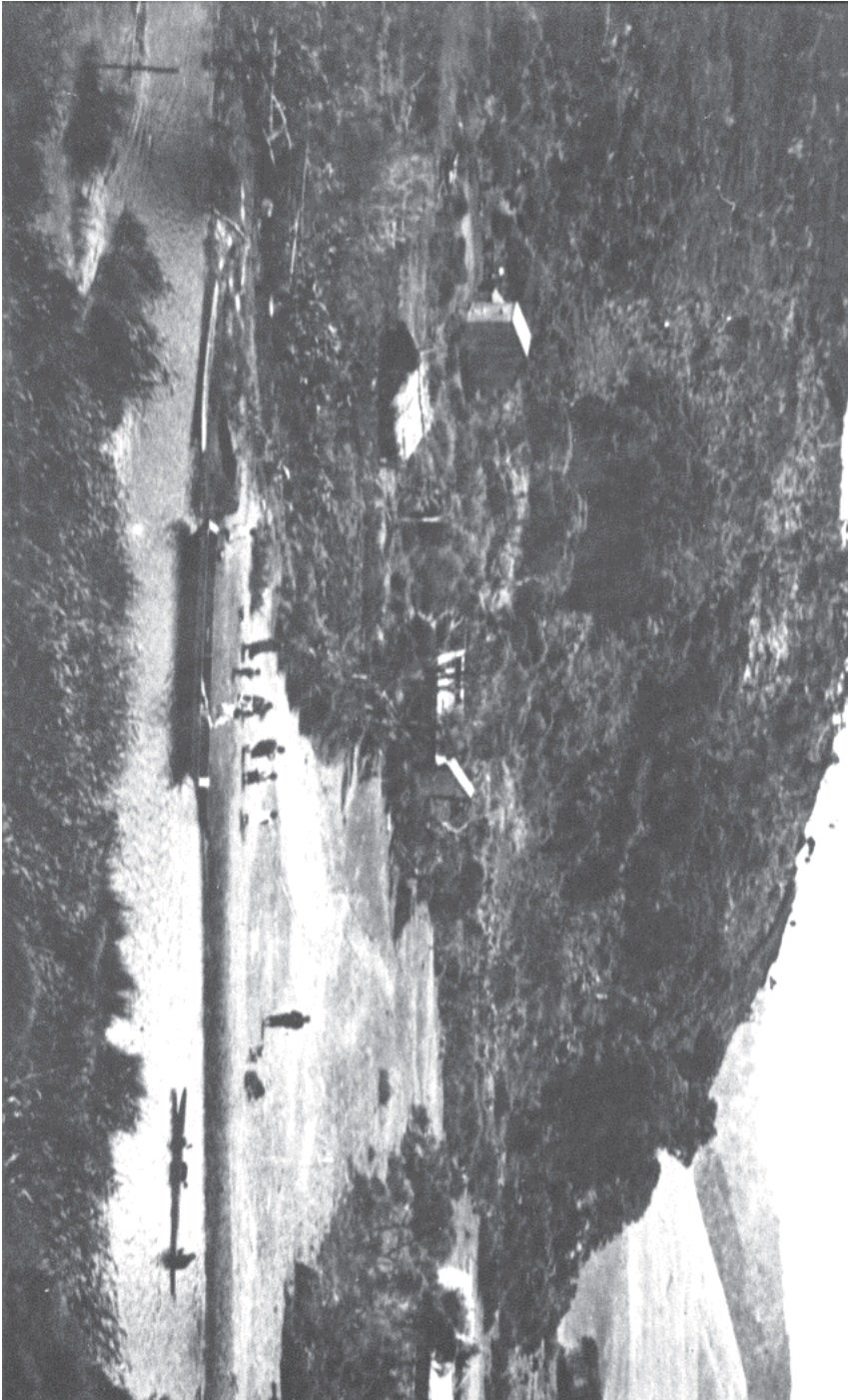
Te Kawerau ā Maki Submission on the Auckland Council Annual Budget (2023)

Provision	Support/ Oppose/Partial	Relief Sought	Budgetary Implication	Legal and Policy Alignment
Māori Outcomes Budget is retained	Support	This fund is vital to reversing the poor outcomes for Māori and in meeting LGA and Te Tiriti commitments	Carried over	Auckland Plan, LGA, Te Tiriti
Environmental Targeted Rate (NETR) is reduced 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	Oppose	This targeted rate is vital if we are to address the triple perils of climate change, degrading environment, and biodiversity loss. It was taken to the public and had a strong mandate from both the community and iwi. It was ring-fenced for a reason and should be left alone.	TBC/Carried over	Auckland Plan, LTP
Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) is reduced 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	Oppose	This targeted rate is vital if we are to address the now long overdue need to improve water quality. It was taken to the public and had a strong mandate from both the community and iwi. It was ring-fenced for a reason and should be left alone.	TBC/Carried over	Auckland Plan, LTP
Storm response increase operating budgets by around \$20m	Support	Storm response will increase operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve 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	1% rate increase	LGA
Reducing Tātaki Auckland Unlimited funding to save \$27.5m	Partial	Retain budget to support Waitangi Day and Matariki events, and budget for TKaM to lead Creative Henderson/West project in partnership with Tātaki	TBC	Auckland Plan
Reducing regional services to save \$20m	Partial	<p>We believe the bulk of the services and budget should be retained and supported, but that there is room for savings if the funding and delivery of some community, economic development, and environmental programmes is passed to iwi and community in partnership with Council. An operational cost saving could be achieved by removing some management and decision-making layers and processes.</p> <p>We also consider that the community social economic innovation budget targeted to West Auckland specifically (i.e. Western Initiative), if not retained in its current form, should have a significant portion of the budget re-directed to Te Kawerau ā Maki who can work in partnership with West Auckland mātauranga entities (e.g. Waipareira Trust) to manage and direct the fund</p>	~0.5-1% rate increase	Auckland Plan, LGA, AUP, WRHAA (for Waitākere items)

		to meaningful outcomes on the ground for our communities in need. By empowering the West Auckland iwi and mātāwaka to deliver these outcomes, particularly at a time of crisis, would show true partnership and trust.		
Reducing local board funding to save \$16m	Partial	We appreciate there is likely some savings to be found, however we are of the view that the community and environmental programmes and grants local boards run are vital to the whenua and people, who rely on this funding to help deliver outcomes on the ground. Therefore we think the cut should be significantly reduced.	~0.5% rate increase	Auckland Plan, LGA, AUP, WRHAA (for Waitākere items)
NEW PROVISION: Te Henga Marae	N/A	The Te Henga marae and papakāinga project is known as the Kainga Whakahirahira (settlement of significance) to Te Kawerau ā Maki. It represents the return or renaissance of the iwi within its tribal heartland and is central to the cultural and social wellbeing of Te Kawerau ā Maki. Te Kawerau ā Maki are currently the only mana whenua iwi without a marae and papakāinga in the Auckland region with our last one flooded when Council constructed the dam at Waitākere. The establishment of a Te Kawerau marae at Te Henga was a longstanding legacy commitment of the former Waitākere City Council and goes back to around 1992. Te Kawerau ā Maki will require ongoing support from Council in the establishment of the Te Henga marae as the project is an absolute cultural and social priority for Te Kawerau ā Maki and is subsequently a key Maori well being project for Council as defined in the Auckland Plan. We seek 10 years of marae funding at \$170k per year in advance (\$1,700,000), and 10 years of papakāinga funding in advance (\$1,700,000) to assist with meaningfully mobilising the project. Taking this project forward \$170k at a time is an impossible challenge. We will then seek other external and internal funding to deliver the project in stages (note a meaningful contribution by Council in advance will enable us to bring together the balance of funding with total project cost likely around \$10-\$12m). We note Council has committed similar amounts to other marae and papakāinga projects in the past notably mātāwaka projects.	Nil (Māori Outcomes Budget - \$3,400,000 from 10 years in advance)	LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 2 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 4 TKaMCSA Part 2 WRHAA s7(2)(j) AUP RPS B6.2 AUP RPS B6.4 Te Tiriti Article II

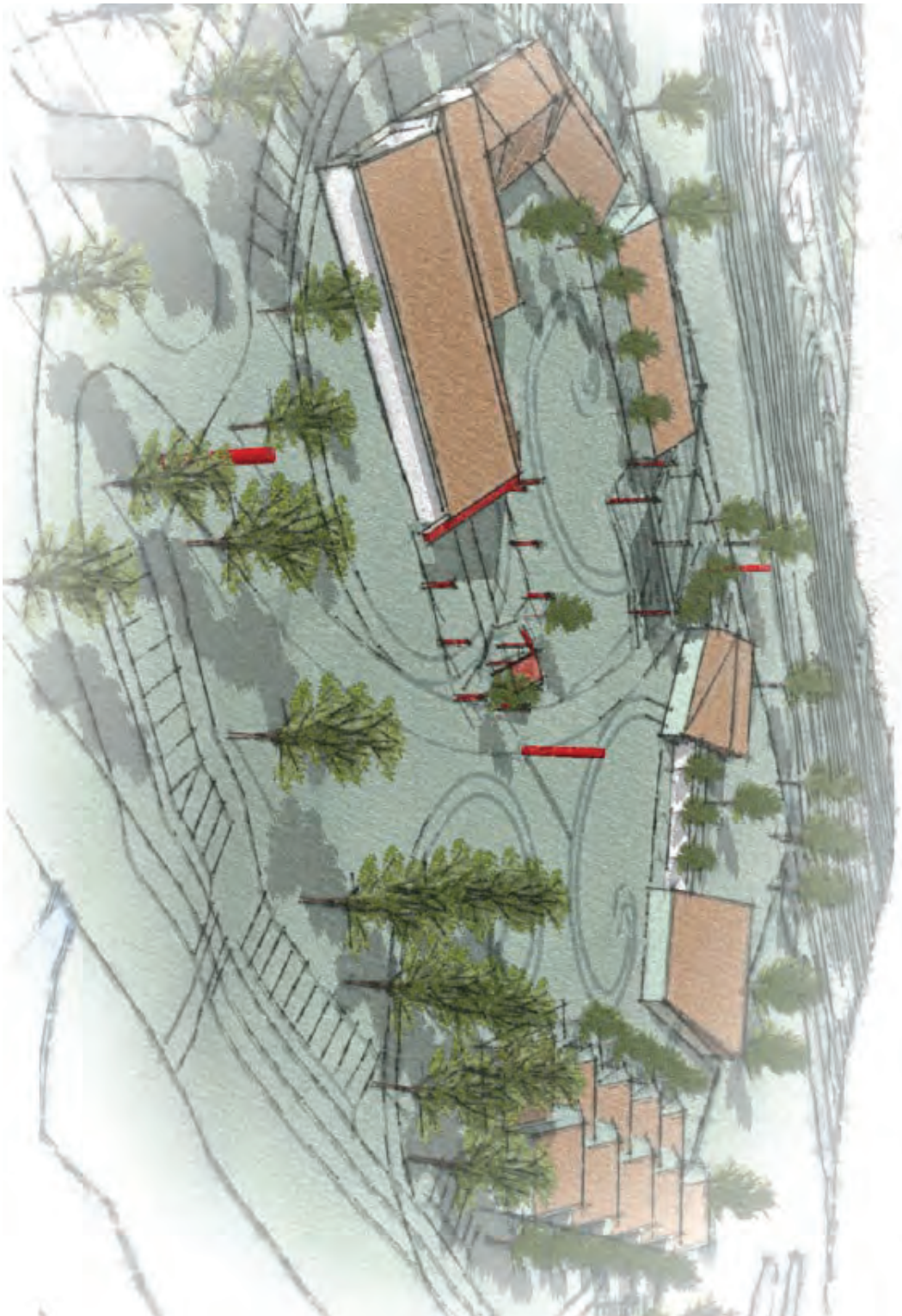
NEW PROVISION: Riverhead forest plan change	N/A	Te Kawerau ā Maki own in fee simple approximately 3,275 ha of Riverhead Forest. This was received as the main component of commercial redress within the 2015 Treaty Settlement and is the key strategic asset from which to drive the economic wellbeing of the iwi into the future. During the Unitary Plan hearings Te Kawerau ā Maki sought to have a precinct placed over the Riverhead Forest Treaty land to recognise its unique status as commercial redress land inextricably bound to the economic development of the iwi, and to enable Te Kawerau ā Maki to work with Council jointly on a solution that unlocked the potential of the land in a sustainable way. Due to the compressed timeframes of the PAUP process, Council went on the record noting that there was not the time or adequate information at hand to agree to the full scope requested by Te Kawerau ā Maki, but that as with other iwi submissions through the PAUP there would be future opportunity for a Council assisted plan change. Te Kawerau ā Maki see opportunity to work with Auckland Council and the Government to help address the current Auckland Housing Crisis, and potentially also assist with the planting of permanent native trees at a significant scale. Te Kawerau ā Maki have ambitions to provide large scale and strategic master planned community solutions at Riverhead staged over a 100-year timeframe. We request a dedicated Council officer resource of 0.1FTE to work with us on the initial plans for this, eventually leading to a Council-supported plan change.	Nil (relocation of existing 0.1 FTE, assistance with plan change)	LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 2 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 TKaMCSA Part 3 RMA Part 2 AUP RPS B6.2.1(3) AUP RPS B6.2.1(4) AUP RPS B6.4.1 Te Tiriti Article II
NEW PROVISION: Te Onekiritea Point (Hobsonville)	N/A	Te Kawerau ā Maki owns 0.3 ha of land at Te Onekiritea (Hobsonville Point) as cultural redress land and has an exclusive right of refusal to purchase the surrounding 11ha of the Point through our Treaty Settlement. This is a key piece of our commercial redress opportunity. It is currently administered by Kainga Ora on behalf of the Crown and is surplus land. The ability to purchase the RFR is contingent on whether Council first wishes to purchase the land for open space (in which case the RFR transfers to Council). Council has confirmed it only requires a maximum of 4ha. Te Kawerau have for many years tried to acquire our redress at Te Onekiritea and develop a cultural precinct including the cultural redress land already owned by us in an integrated manner. We seek active support from Council to progress and formalise the matter including through a collaborative masterplan. We seek a formal non-monetary commitment from Council to assist us in resolving the matter, in terms of a 0.2 FTE Council officer.	Nil (relocation of existing 0.2 FTE)	LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 2 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 TKaMCSA Part 3 RMA Part 2 AUP RPS B6.2.1(3) AUP RPS B6.2.1(4) AUP RPS B6.4.1

NEW PROVISION: Regulatory Role and Partnership (Capacity Building)	N/A	Te Kawerau ā Maki has regulatory functions under the RMA, WRHAA and our Treaty Settlement Act. Our participation and partnership with Council in undertaking these functions is ad-hoc and project-specific, and a significant amount of this work (between 40-60%) is unfunded, with the burden falling directly on the iwi and making capacity building difficult. We note our current level of funding is 0.26% of a local board on average (\$18M+) and well below some other regions. We seek Council funding to support our genuine participation in the regulatory functions to cover the shortfall, and to help us build our capacity. The increased funding provides a baseline business case from which we can develop other capacity and capability. We seek this baseline funding be increased to \$200,000 as a start given the difficult fiscal situation (1% of average local board funding).	Nil (Māori outcomes budget \$200,000 p/a)	LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 TKaMCSA s9 WRHAA s7(2)(j) RMA Part 2 NZCPS AUP RPS B6.2 AUP RPS B6.3 AUP RPS B6.5 Te Tiriti Article II Tikanga
NEW PROVISION: Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Deed and Partnership	N/A	The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act (2008) stipulates that a Deed of Recognition can be entered into with Te Kawerau ā Maki in recognition of its tangata whenua status over the area. Te Kawerau ā Maki has identified a desire to progress the Deed in their feedback to the 10-year WRHA review. Te Kawerau interests and rights over the Waitākere Ranges are also enshrined in legislation through the Te Kawerau ā Maki Treaty Settlement. Te Kawerau are currently working closely with Council and DOC since declaring a rāhui over the forested area in 2017. We seek to formalise this relationship through the Deed. The budget indicated relates to legal and technical drafting work of the Deed and a ToR and WRHA Plan scoping.	Nil (likely can be found within existing budgets - \$150,000)	LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 4 TKaMCSA s9 TKaMCSA Part 2 WRHAA s7(2)(j) WRHAA s29 RMA Part 2 NZCPS AUP RPS B6.2 AUP RPS B6.3 AUP RPS B6.5 Te Tiriti Article II Tikanga
NEW PROVISION: Waitākere Ranges Kaitiaki Monitoring	N/A	Te Kawerau ā Maki heartland is the Waitākere Ranges, and we have stepped up to protect the environment here through the 2017 rāhui and many other projects and actions. This is our duty as kaitiaki, however this comes with an operational burden. We seek Council support in funding two full-time Te Kawerau ā Maki rangers to work alongside our Council peers in protecting the ngahere and WRHA in the spirit of partnership.	Nil (likely can be found within existing budgets related to WRHA - \$160,000 p/a)	Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 TKaMCSA Part 2 WRHAA s7(2)(j) WRHAA s43 RMA Part 2 AUP RPS B6.2 AUP RPS B6.3 AUP RPS B6.5 Te Tiriti Article II Tikanga
NEW PROVISION: Te Kawerau ā Maki and Council Relationship Agreement / Mana Whakahono and Annual Plan	N/A	Te Kawerau ā Maki do not have a formal relationship agreement with Auckland Council, despite having drafted one and lodging it as draft in 2017. We seek to integrate this with beginning the formal process of drafting a Mana Whakahono document under the provisions of the RMA.	Nil (reallocation of existing 0.2 FTE)	RMA Sections 58L to 58U LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 AUP RPS B6.2 TKaMCSA s9 Te Tiriti Article II Tikanga



Waiti Kaainga c1910





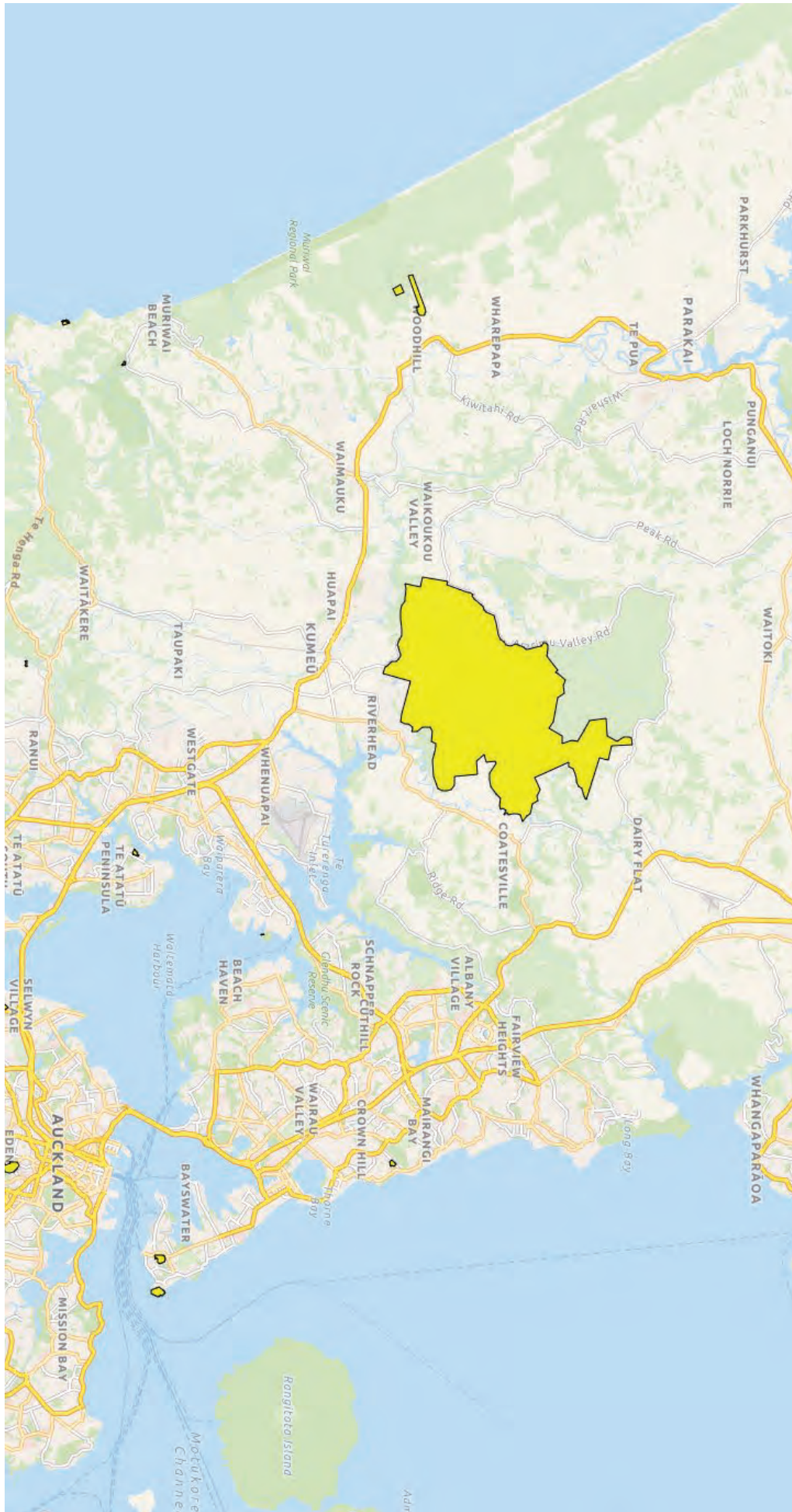
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Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): **ACTIVE**

Your local board: **Regional organisation**

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: Active does not support the level of cuts proposed to the Tātaki Auckland Unlimited Budget which will impact achieving legacy outcomes through the hosting of major events.

Major events do not only drive significant economic returns but enable investment in our community sport infrastructure beyond what would normally be possible through carefully designed leverage and legacy plans. Most recently, as part of legacy planning for three women's world cups (Cricket, Rugby and Football), we have seen significant investment from multiple agencies into community facilities to ensure they are welcoming and appropriate for women and young girls.

Many of the facilities that have benefited from this investment are located on council owned land and are part of our club network. This investment will enable these three codes to build on the success of these events and provide pathways for our underactive wahine toa. The investment also provides an improved community asset for wider community use which supports encouraging physical activity of our people.

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?

Aktive does not support the proposal to cut the Regional Sport and Recreation Programme Grant

Aktive does not support the proposal to cut the Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant

(noting the consultation documents do not use the correct name of

Important privacy information

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AK Have Your Say Submission Auckland Council – Annual Plan 2023-2024

Executive Summary

Introduction

Aktive is a charitable trust that was established to support Auckland becoming the world's most active city. We value being a strategic partner of Sport NZ, Auckland Council and major grant-makers and funders. With this support, Aktive is able to invest into a range of delivery partners, organisations and projects that will get more people active and playing sport in Tāmaki Makaurau, with focuses on young people (tamariki and rangatahi) and communities.

More than one million Aucklanders – adults and children – are active each week. They are supported by over 300,000 volunteers and more than 10,000 employees dedicated to keeping the sport and recreation sector moving. This sector contributes at least \$2.6 billion to the Auckland economy and an estimated \$585 million in annual healthcare savings in Auckland¹. Sport, recreation, physical activity connects Tāmaki Makaurau, and delivers significant physical and mental health and wellbeing, social connection, economic and educational benefits.

Acknowledgement

Thank you. Auckland Council is the major provider of our city's sport and recreation facilities. We sincerely appreciate this support and investment – without it most of the great outcomes delivered by our sector simply wouldn't be possible.

Council's current commitment to the sector provides positive outcomes across the region for a diverse range of codes, demographics, cultures, ages and abilities. We also wish to acknowledge the significant commitment of council staff in supporting the sector.

We recognise the challenge Council faces with balancing the various competing demands currently impacting Auckland, such as growth, climate change and the recent climate events within a context of falling revenue.

We appreciate Auckland Council is facing unprecedented budgetary constraints and commend a financially prudent approach.

This submission by Aktive is based on evidence including bespoke research, desktop research, code plans, plans adopted by Council and insights from recent sector engagement.

¹ Active Citizens Worldwide, Auckland City Report, Portas Consulting, 2019

Our key submission points are set out below.

Response to the Annual Plan Consultation Documents

1 Strategic Context

Sport, play and recreation contributes to achieving the six Auckland Plan outcomes, particularly Belonging and Participation, Māori Identity and Wellbeing, and Homes and Places. There is a significant amount of research demonstrating the benefit of play, sport and recreation on the outcomes of the Auckland Plan:

- Physical activity brings \$372 million of healthcare savings for Auckland and contributing to 279 fewer deaths²;
- Participation in sport brings 74.3 million hours of meaningful, positive social interaction each year³;
- Evidence is emerging that underspending on facilities leads directly to lower participation levels⁴;
- Sport and recreation operating spend has a direct and significant correlation with participation levels⁵;
- Physical activity has a positive link to improved educational outcomes, leading to an increased \$8.6 million of GDP growth for Auckland⁶;
- Physical activity brings \$210 million of savings to Auckland through increased productivity levels, due to reduced sickness costs⁷.

The Auckland Plan Belonging and Participation Outcome includes two directions:

1. Foster an inclusive Auckland where everyone belongs; and
2. Improve health and wellbeing for Aucklanders by reducing harm and disparities in opportunities.

Focus area 7 of this Outcome recognises the value of arts, culture, sports and recreation to quality of life.

The Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan: *“Get more Aucklanders living physically active lives through participation.”*

We do not see how and where this strategic context is reflected in this Annual Budget.

We believe that this Annual Budget, as proposed, will have a significant social cost and cause long term irreparable damage to our sector.

2 Consultation document

It is unfortunate that the consultation document did not provide a wider range of options so people could understand the impact on service levels based on a range of rates rises. The consultation essentially presents as a solely two choices between a 7% rise or a 13.5 % rise.

Ensuring a genuine consultation process, whereby community understands the detail provided and the associated consequences is also not aided by having the proposed changes to the Community Occupancy Guidelines set out in the Supporting Information document rather than the Consultation Document. Furthermore, this significant change is not discussed or acknowledged in the Feedback Form.

² ACW Auckland City Report 2018, Portas Consulting

³ ACW Auckland City Report 2019, Portas Consulting

⁴ ACW Auckland City Report 2019, Portas Consulting

⁵ ACW Auckland City Report 2019, Portas Consulting

⁶ ACW Auckland City Report 2019, Portas Consulting

⁷ ACW Auckland City Report 2019, Portas Consulting

3 Regional Sport and Recreation Funding

Aktive does not support the proposal to cut the Regional Sport and Recreation Programme Grant

Aktive does not support the proposal to cut the Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant

(noting the consultation documents do not use the correct name of this Fund).

3a Regional Sport and Recreation Programme Grant

The proposed removal of the Regional Sport and Recreation Grants programme will impact tamariki and rangatahi, particularly those in high deprivation communities. This grant funds programmes which directly benefit our tamariki and rangatahi with a focus on a number of underactive communities. The programmes provide opportunities for many who would not be able to participate otherwise.

Budget constraints aside, it is difficult to understand why Auckland Council would cut funding to initiatives such as Water Skills for Life, which delivered critical water safety lessons to around 2000 tamariki last year using this fund; this off the back of two summers with devastating drowning numbers.

3b Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant

The proposed cuts to the Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Operating Grant will have a significant detrimental impact on the 12 facilities that currently receive this funding. We understand that Council will honour the third year of the current funding which is welcomed. However, we believe that a number of these facilities will not be able to survive the loss of the Fund.

It is noteworthy that a number of the facilities, such as AUT Millennium and Otara Rugby League and Sports Club, were at the heart of their communities during the recent climate events and are important 'hubs' in their respective communities. Most facilities provide far more than just sport and active recreation to their communities. We would encourage Council to recognise the value of this role in their deliberations.

To survive sustainably in the absence of this Fund, these facilities will need to increase the fees they charge the community. This will result in people being less active and impact our communities of greatest need as we embark down the path of access only for those that can afford to pay. This risks active recreation and sport becoming elitist pursuits, entirely at odds with Council's equity lens as detailed in the Auckland Plan and Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan.

If savings are to be sought through this Fund, we recommend a transition period whereby the funding is reduced over a number of years to enable each facility to adjust to the reduced operational support.

4 Local Board Funding

Aktive does not support a \$16 million reduction to local board funding per annum for 2023/2024.

We acknowledge the need for Council to find operational savings but the extent of these cuts is too great and will impact our sector and diminish the roles Local Boards can play in their communities. The loss of community grants, changes to open space maintenance and parks activations programmes will damage our club network and result in less people being active. The Parks activations programmes such as Out and About provide fun and innovative ways for people, particularly tamariki, to be active. The future absence of such programmes will create harm to tamariki and rangatahi who live in areas of high deprivation.

5 Increased facility hire costs

Aktive does not support the increased costs to access council owned active community sites.

At the same time as Council is cutting regional and local funding to our sector, this budget is proposing to increase charges for the community to access Council owned facilities. As discussed earlier, increased charges create barriers for many across Tāmaki Makaurau and will impact tamariki and rangatahi, particularly those who already miss out and are disproportionately underactive. Access to council facilities will be increasingly unaffordable for many and sport and active recreation will only be accessible to those who can afford to pay.

It is most unfortunate to note feedback on this proposal is not explicitly requested in the feedback form.

6 Amendments to the Community Occupancy Guidelines

Aktive does not support the proposed amendments to the Community Occupancy Guidelines.

Again, we see Auckland Council increasing fees and charges to our volunteer-based sector at the same time as reducing regional and local grants. We oppose the proposal to charge maintenance to organisations in Council facilities and strongly oppose increasing peppercorn leases (rents) from \$1 in most cases to \$1,300 per year.

This proposal will impact our club network significantly. Most clubs operate on very low margins, and few have any reserves post COVID-19. Starting each financial year needing to find \$1,300 is potentially an insurmountable challenge. Very few clubs are able to generate income by raising registration/ membership fees without that impacting on playing numbers. Again, tamariki and rangatahi, particularly those in high deprivation communities, will miss out.

It is again unfortunate to note the proposed amendments to the Community Occupancy Guidelines are only included in the Supporting Document information and are not directly addressed in the feedback form. We further note that the proposed changes are already made in the Guidelines and do not follow standard policy update protocols to demonstrate where changes have been made through the use of strike through and underlined text.

7 Cuts to the Tātaki Auckland Unlimited Operating Budget

Aktive does not support the level of cuts proposed to the Tātaki Auckland Unlimited Budget which will impact achieving legacy outcomes through the hosting of major events.

Major events do not only drive significant economic returns but enable investment in our community sport infrastructure beyond what would normally be possible through carefully designed leverage and legacy plans. Most recently, as part of legacy planning for three women's world cups (Cricket, Rugby and Football), we have seen significant investment from multiple agencies into community facilities to ensure they are welcoming and appropriate for women and young girls.

Many of the facilities that have benefited from this investment are located on council owned land and are part of our club network. This investment will enable these three codes to build on the success of these events and provide pathways for our underactive wahine toa. The investment also provides an improved community asset for wider community use which supports encouraging physical activity of our people.

8 Alternative Funding Sources

The consultation documents refer to "*seeking alternative funding sources*" - for our sector the options are limited and already constrained. There is no "magic bucket" of funding our sector can dip into as needed.

Many of the Class 4 Gaming facilities have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 and Council's sinking lid policy. Other funders have also been impacted by the current economic environment which has reduced the amount of funding available. Additionally, most contestable funds are vastly oversubscribed nationally.

The terms of many Council leases and the manner in which Council interprets the Reserves Act 1977 means clubs have very limited opportunities to generate operational funding from their own facilities. Furthermore, central government agencies advise us that community development is Council's responsibility.

9 What is core Council business?

The budget documents speak to "core" Council business.

Our sector believes Play, Active Recreation and Sport is just that and as we have noted Council is the key player in this space. If Council can no longer see the value in our sector, then who will?

10 Alternative budget opportunities

We believe there is value in Council introducing a Sport and Recreation Targeted Rate as part of the next Long-term Plan consultation. This rate could be used to cover many of the operational costs facing our sector and potentially capital costs. This would be of significant benefit to our sector and has been used to great effect in the Northland region. Aktive could work with Auckland Council and Sport New Zealand through our Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan (ASARSAP) Leadership Group to provide further feasibility on this opportunity.

As discussed above we request that Council look at its interpretation of the Reserves Act 1977 and associated lease conditions to enable many clubs to generate more income.

Concluding comments

Aktive believe all Aucklanders, regardless of age, ethnicity or where in Auckland they reside, should be able to participate in sport, active recreation, play in fit-for-purpose facilities and spaces. In achieving this, we know Aucklanders will be better able to connect with their communities and live active, healthy lives. Aktive do not support a Tamaki Makaurau where many of our tamariki and rangatahi miss out and where inequities grow.

Aktive value our relationship with Auckland Council and the ongoing opportunity to work together to ensure the social, cultural and economic value of the sport and recreation sector are recognised in order to realise the vision of Auckland becoming the **World's Most Active City: Tāmaki Makaurau – te tāone ngangahau rawa o te ao.**



34178



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): Federated Farmers of New Zealand

Your local board: Regional organisation

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: Please see attached

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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: Please see attached

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 regarding General comments & Changes to the budget

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SUBMISSION



TELEPHONE 0800 327 646 | WEBSITE WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ

To: Auckland Council

Via email: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Date: 28 March 2023

Submission on: **Annual Plan 2023/2024**

Submission by: Federated Farmers of New Zealand

Contact:

PRESIDENT AUCKLAND FEDERATED FARMERS

Address for service:

GRADUATE POLICY ADVISOR

Federated Farmers of New Zealand

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Auckland Province of Federated Farmers (Federated Farmers) appreciates this opportunity to submit on the Auckland Council (**AC** or **Council**) draft Annual Budget (**AB**) for 2023/24.
- 1.2 We acknowledge any submissions from individual members of Federated Farmers.
- 1.3 Federated Farmers is focused on the transparency of rate setting, rates equity and both the overall and relative cost of local government on rural ratepayers.
- 1.4 We submit on Annual Plans (**APs**) and Long-term Plans (**LTPs**) throughout New Zealand and make constructive proposals whenever the opportunity is provided.
- 1.5 We also submit on central government policies that affect local government revenue and spending, with the aim of ensuring that local government has the appropriate resources to carry out their functions.
- 1.6 We base our arguments on the considerable cost of rates to farm businesses, in terms of the value and relative accessibility of farmers to ratepayer funded services, the rates levels on farms compared to other residents and businesses, and the failure of property value to reflect the incomes of farmers and their relative ability to pay.
- 1.7 Federated Farmers submission is focused on the changes to AB to reduce the budget shortfall and Council's proposals regarding the Storm Response. Federated Farmers is overall supportive of Council's proposals and the emphasis on cutting excess spending and getting debt under control.
- 1.8 Federated Farmers is conscious that there may be significant 'consultation fatigue' out in the community, with both local government and significant central government proposals occurring in the last 12-18 months.
- 1.9 Our members do not want their busy silence to be misconstrued as disinterest in rates or the proposed budget changes. Given the challenging regulatory and economic environment we are currently in, we acknowledge this may result in a low response rate to the consultation process.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS

- 2.1 Federated Farmers congratulates Council on their proposed AB.
- 2.2 We acknowledge that 2023 has been an unprecedented year to date, with recent weather events. We also note that it is another uncertain year for all ratepayers, as well as Council. Inflation is rising, the long-term impacts of recent weather events and the COVID-19

pandemic are unknown, and the future regulatory environment Councils will operate in has some unknowns.

- 2.3 Further, a culmination of factors is putting families under significant pressure at the moment. Our members as farmers also face additional substantial challenges, including recovery efforts, labor shortages, increasing compliance costs, supply chain problems and increases in farm input costs.
- 2.4 We encourage Council to focus on 'must do' projects, keep spending under firm control, and strive for value for money in order to reduce pressure on our members as significant ratepayers. In this regard we endorse the Mayor's comment on page 8 of the consultation document that Council has "... worked hard to resist the temptation of adding excessive rates costs..."

3. CHANGES TO THE BUDGET

- 3.1 Federated Farmers appreciates Council's transparency regarding the Council's \$295 million budget shortfall.
- 3.2 AC proposes to utilise four options to make up the budget shortfall for 2023/2024.
- 3.3 At a high level, FFNZ supports this approach of using multiple options to reduce the budget shortfall. We provide specific comments on each option below.

Sale of shares

- 3.4 Federated Farmers supports Council's proposed amendment to its Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholdings Policy to allow Council to sell all of its shares in AIAL.
- 3.5 Federated Farmers submits that Council's alternative option of a partial sale of shares would contribute less towards reducing the budget shortfall and put pressure on Council to consider other less attractive options to reduce interest costs. We see no case to for maintaining a 10% blocking stake.
- 3.6 Federated Farmers therefore supports the full sale of shares to reduce interest costs, especially if Council is proposing to increase debt related to capital expenditure and address storm related infrastructure challenges.

Recommendation:

- Council proceeds to sell all its shares in AIAL.

Debt

- 3.7 Federated Farmers supports Council's proposal to increase debt to fund planned capital expenditure for 2023/2024.
- 3.8 Financing capital expenditure with borrowing rather than operating revenue produces more manageable rate increases and achieves intergenerational equity.
- 3.9 Federated Farmers submits that Council prioritise capital investment/expenditure to avoid taking on too much debt, agreeing that it does not resolve underlying operating cost challenges.

Rates

- 3.10 Federated Farmers understands that rate increases are inevitable when addressing a budget shortfall of \$295million. We appreciate Council's efforts to reduce the rate increase for the average value residential property, understanding that this category includes farm/lifestyle properties in rural areas.
- 3.11 Federated Farmers supports the Council's proposals to reduce the impact of general rate increases.
- 3.12 Federated Farmers supports the Council's proposal to pause the Long-Term Differential Strategy (LTDS) for one year. We believe that this is an appropriate temporary response to ease some cost pressure on residential rate payers.
- 3.13 Federated Farmers also support Council's proposal to reduce the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR). We submit that Council should of course continue efforts to improve the natural environment and water quality, while balancing this with affordability.
- 3.14 Federated Farmers submits that Council avoid increasing average general rates more than what is being proposed given the cost-of-living situation for many residents. In this context we support the emphasis on responsible and affordable budgeting, and the focus in this draft plan on a no-frills approach to reducing debt while maintaining core infrastructure commitments.
- 3.15 Federated Farmers has been following the litigation around the Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate (APTR). We were disappointed that this rate had to be removed from the rating policy following the Court of Appeal decision in 2021 and we support the concomitant reduction in Tataki Auckland Unlimited 10-year budget as it is important that general rates do not make up the shortfall.

Recommendations:

- Council pause the LTDS for one year as proposed.

- Council reduce the NETR and WQTR as proposed.
- Federated Farmers submits that general rates are not used to compensate Tataki Auckland Unlimited Budget shortfall arising from the removal of the APTR from Council's rating framework.

Reduce Operating Expenses

- 3.16 Federated Farmers generally supports the Council's proposed reductions in operating expenses, and the ongoing effort to simplify council processes and reduce duplication and redundancy.
- 3.17 We support transport initiatives as obvious cost savers, increase in fares to generate more revenue. Overall, we fully support the programme increases to the range of fees and chargers shown on page 58 of the consultation document. This reflects a valuable user pays emphasis that over time will most certainly improve council's non rate revenue.
- 3.18 Federated Farmers is however concerned about Councils' proposal to reduce funding for Local Boards. Local boards are an efficient way for council to ensure that service and community work is driven locally by communities, especially isolated Rural communities.

Recommendation:

- That Council proceeds with cuts to operating expenditure as part of the effort to rectify the budget shortfall. We however contend that the proposal to reduce the Local Board budget be revisited as these reductions, will have an effect on rural communities.

4. STORM RESPONSE

- 4.1 Federated Farmers supports Council's proposal to increase its operating budget by \$20 million per year in response to the January and February storm events. While we are pleased to see a strong emphasis in this budget on spending less, it is clearly logical and appropriate that Council deploy resources for the purpose of storm recovery.
- 4.2 Federated Farmers has considerable experience with assisting rural communities through adverse events. We have heard a great deal from our members about the effects of substantial rainfall on local roads and their drainage systems.
- 4.3 In light of this, we support the triage approach to addressing the immediate infrastructure needs and ensuring resilience going forward. We would urge council to emphasise rural roading and drainage in its recovery expenditure strategy.

Recommendation:

- Council emphasise rural roading and drainage in its storm recovery expenditure strategy.

Federated Farmers thanks Auckland Council for considering our submission.

About Federated Farmers

Federated Farmers of New Zealand is a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents the majority of farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers.

The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities.





34182



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Restaurant Association of NZ

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

- Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
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- Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million
- Reducing regional grants to save \$6 million
- No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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: Please see attached

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Please see attached

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FEEDBACK

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Council Budget 2023/2024 Consultation

28 March, 2023

Restaurant Association of New Zealand feedback to
Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Council

(09) 638 8403

info@restaurantnz.co.nz

Restaurant Association of New Zealand
45 Normanby Rd, Mt Eden
Auckland 1024

Executive Summary

The Restaurant Association of New Zealand (the Restaurant Association) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Auckland Council Budget 2023/2024 consultation.

The Restaurant Association supports prudent financial management, and the ongoing evaluation of the services council provides that may address greater efficiencies in the delivery of council services.

However, we do not support the approach that will limit our local economic recovery and have long-term detrimental impact to our local tourism and hospitality growth.

We urge Councillors to:

- Reject this current Budget proposal; specifically, the cuts proposed to Auckland Council and Council Controlled Organisations, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, Eke Panuku, Regional Services, Local Board Initiatives and Contestable Grants.
- Reconsider the proposed approach to addressing the current shortfall. We request that Council considers a different mix of financial levers other than decimating community investment (such as targeted rates increases, borrowing and/or asset sales) when preparing a revised budget.
- Undertake a cost benefit analysis of the financial impact of the proposed cuts and the consequences of the cost of cutting services and funding.

Introduction

1. The Restaurant Association welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Auckland Council proposed Annual Budget 2023 / 2024. Specifically, we would like to address the proposed cuts to our economic development agency and the three out of seven proposals set forward that propose budget cuts that will directly impact Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland's arts and culture.
2. We believe the draft budget is taking an approach that will have widespread, long-term financial impacts that will hinder our recovery, and ultimately damage our local economy, the tourism industry and the city's global reputation. The flow-on impact resulting from a lack of investment in economic development will be felt across many industries, including tourism and the hospitality industry, which we represent. Almost 40 per cent of the hospitality industry's

venues and people are located in Tāmaki Makaurau, however, the proposals seek to limit revenue streams and will impact employment opportunities and the future prosperity for Aucklanders and our businesses.

Tāmaki Makaurau's hospitality industry, value to the city

3. The latest data for Auckland hospitality shows that:
 - 3.1 Auckland hospitality sales in 2022 were \$5.5 billion (nationwide the industry's sales in 2022 were \$14 billion).
 - 3.2 Auckland hospitality sales grew 20.4 per cent from 2021 – 2022.
 - 3.3 There are 7,482 Auckland hospitality outlets - 38.5 per cent of the total industry.
 - 3.4 Auckland employs 50,000 hospitality employees - 37 per cent of the total industry.
 - 3.5 The Restaurant Association represents more than 1,000 hospitality businesses in Tāmaki Makaurau.
4. Over the past 3 years, the livelihood of every tourism and hospitality operator has been at stake as we've grappled with closed borders and enforced trading restrictions that have affected revenue opportunities. As we come out of this pandemic trading environment, now is the time to look at the long-term and invest in our recovery and future prosperity. It is the time for both central and local governments to support and promote what makes the tourist experience in Tāmaki Makaurau so great.
5. The Mayor has said that promotion of the city for events is up to the central government, a view that we are extremely concerned by. Not least because the latest Tourism Sentiment Index report (Q4 2022), provided by Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, saw:
 - 5.1 Auckland rated as +21, an increase of 2 points from Q4 2021,
 - 5.2 Auckland ranked #245 out of over 21,000 destinations, and

- 5.3 the top contributor to Auckland's overall performance was Restaurants & Dining (30%), which ranked amongst the top destinations in the world with a global rank of #16 this quarter.
6. The diverse range of businesses that make up Tāmaki Makaurau's vibrant hospitality industry, and the people that own and work in them, are increasingly finding a place among the world's best. With this global recognition comes the opportunity to enhance our profile as an outstanding destination for the world's culinary tourists, boosting our regional economy. Reducing Auckland Council's role in marketing Auckland internationally to attract investment, business and visitors and reducing spend dedicated to marketing Auckland as a tourist destination is a short-sighted approach that will severely affect our ability to continue to mark our presence on the world stage.

Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (TAU)

7. Alongside managing and operating 18 regional facilities like the Zoo, Art Gallery, Maritime Museum and stadiums, TAU also delivers major events like Elemental AKL, the Lantern Festival, Pasifika, Diwali and programmes that inadvertently support both the tourism and the hospitality sectors.
8. TAU's events portfolio over the Summer season saw Auckland's economy receive a \$38.2 million boost. This benefit was seen by our hospitality businesses who report on the boost they receive when these key events are on, whether it be a sporting fixture, concert, or one of the city's outstanding cultural events, the benefits felt to Auckland businesses is widespread.
9. We know that as a council-controlled organisation, TAU is committed to helping close the budget gap Auckland Council faces and acknowledges the challenges ahead for council and the region and the need to operate as efficiently as possible. However, the proposed cost-cutting initiatives for TAU may jeopardise the ability for some of these key events to grow in presence, or even continue. This will have a devastating effect on our local economy.

Our live music industry, arts and culture

10. The Restaurant Association's representation of the hospitality industry sees us work alongside OneMusic as the key representatives of the music industry. We

support the views outlined by OneMusic on the Auckland Council budget proposals.

11. Auckland City of Music outlined in their 2023 Strategy, “Auckland is one of the most diverse cities in the world. Its 1.72 million residents span more than 220 ethnic groups, and four in ten Aucklanders were born overseas. It is also home to a large Pacific population and 60 per cent of Māori live in Auckland and surrounding regions. The creative sector is an integral part of Tāmaki Makaurau’s economic prosperity, contributing 3.6% of the city’s GDP and employing 32,000 people. Forty-nine percent of people employed in New Zealand’s creative sector reside in Auckland.”
12. Having a strong creative economy supports a broad range of revenue streams, from those directly employed, be they music creators, managers, professionals, technicians, trade workers, clerical and administrative workers, sales workers, marketing, machinery operators and drivers, labourers, choreographers, dancers. And those indirect employment opportunities for Hospitality, Retail, Accommodation and Tourism industries, with revenue streams generated from the supply of food, refreshments, to parking or transportation, accommodation, merchandising and gift or souvenirs, even childcare.
13. Without Auckland Council’s continued investment, growth will be limited and therefore limiting the current and potential income that music and cultural expression brings. In reflection with our neighbours, The Economic and Cultural Value of Live Music in Australia study, found that there was a 3:1 cost-benefit ratio for contributions to live music in Australia; essentially, for every dollar spent, \$3 of benefit is returned to the wider community. For Aotearoa, in 2019, Infometrics estimated that New Zealand’s core night-time economy was worth almost \$10 billion in economic activity and supported over 180,000 jobs (7% of total employment).
14. A Council which provides our diverse communities a platform to celebrate their differences and come together ensures the well-being and inclusiveness of our colourful city, including and beyond economic value. Auckland Council’s own Toi Whītiki - Auckland’s Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan, reports 88% of Aucklanders believe that the arts are good for you, 86% agree the arts help to improve society and 90% agree that they learn about different cultures through the arts.

Impact to Aotearoa

15. Tāmaki Makaurau is the gateway to Aotearoa for our tourists. The Association is aligned with the position of our business organisation partners, Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA), who stress that it is important that Auckland's tourism system is working well to ensure the quality and vibrancy of the visitor experience and for New Zealand's prosperity.
16. The proposed cuts to marketing Tāmaki Makaurau as a tourist destination, cutting spending to attract major events and reducing arts and culture funding will curb the future resiliency and prosperity of Tāmaki Makaurau and the extensive list of industries that benefit from and contribute to our tourist economy.

Storm Response

17. It is clear that extreme weather events like those we experienced early this year will only become more common as a result of climate change.
18. While the hospitality industry is doing what it can to reduce the carbon footprint of our sector, we would like to work more closely with the Council to help better prepare and, in turn, mitigate the impact of unforeseen events to small businesses across the Hospitality sector.
19. The Restaurant Association supports the proposed increase in council's operating budget to improve its ability to prepare for and respond to future storms.
20. We recommend that the Council engages with industries such as ours to assist with the design of storm response plans, particularly as they relate to the post-storm recovery period.

Summary

21. The Restaurant Association supports prudent financial management, and the ongoing evaluation of the services council provides that may address greater efficiencies in the delivery of council services. However, we do not support the approach that will limit our local economic recovery and have long-term detrimental impact to our local tourism and hospitality growth.

22. We urge Councillors to:

- Reject this current Budget proposal; specifically, the cuts proposed to Auckland Council and Council Controlled Organisations, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, Eke Panuku, Regional Services, Local Board Initiatives and Contestable Grants.
 - Reconsider the proposed approach to addressing the current shortfall. We request that Council considers a different mix of financial levers other than decimating community investment (such as targeted rates increases, borrowing and/or asset sales) when preparing a revised budget.
 - Undertake a cost benefit analysis of the financial impact of the proposed cuts and the consequences of the cost of cutting services and funding.
-

About the Restaurant Association

23. The mission of the Restaurant Association of New Zealand is to be the link between good food and good business so that our Member's restaurant or café can succeed. We're passionate about our vibrant industry, which is full of interesting, talented and entrepreneurial people.
24. Since 1972, the Association has worked to offer advice, help and assistance in every facet of the vibrant and diverse hospitality industry. We are the representative body for more than 2,500 hospitality businesses, with Members covering the length and breadth of the country. We are organised into 13 regional branches and led by a national office located in Mt Eden, Auckland.



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Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Northern Regional Office (Heritage New Zealand)

Your local board: Regional organisation

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).
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28 March 2023

File ref: AKC AB 23/24

AK Have Your Say
Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Auckland 1142

akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION OF HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND POUHERE TAONGA TO AUCKLAND COUNCIL'S ANNUAL BUDGET 2023/2024

1. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) is an autonomous Crown Entity with statutory responsibility under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA) for the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of New Zealand's historical and cultural heritage. HNZPT is New Zealand's lead agency for heritage protection.
2. HNZPT acknowledges the Council is managing a challenging budgetary situation for the next financial year 2023/2024. The focus of HNZPT's submission relates to the proposed wholesale removal of funding in the community, in particular the funding for historic heritage and maintenance of heritage archives.
3. Council is required under the Local Government Act (LGA) to 'promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future' (section 10(1)(b), LGA), and sets out the role of Council to 'perform the duties, and exercise the rights, conferred on it by or under this Act and any other enactment' (section 11(b), LGA). Council has obligations under the Resource Management Act to ensure the protection of its historic heritage through statutory means.¹ Dovetailed with this statutory framework is the HNZPTA which promotes New Zealand's historic heritage and cultural heritage to be identified, protected, preserved, and conserved.
4. These statutory processes can be seen as a hardship on private land owners of heritage places toward maintaining and protecting these places for the 'public good'. Council has, to date balanced this with incentives, such as local Board and regional funding programmes, free access to archival information advice and support, encourages landowners of historic heritage places to engage with the maintenance, restoration, retention of these places and with various groups in community who wish to assist and participate in this process.
5. Though the Council funding may be seen as an expendable cost when considering the budget's bottom line, for the owners of the historic heritage places, the value of the opportunity to gain financial support for their stewardship of those places identified in the Unitary Plan Schedule has wider benefits. Such as the ability to leverage additional funding for other sources to enable a

¹ The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) identifies historic heritage is a matter of national importance that must be protected (section 6(f)).



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**HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA**

project to be completed and for good heritage outcomes to be achieved adding intrinsic value for the benefit of present and future generations.

6. HNZPT considers the wholesale loss of local board funding and regional heritage grant programmes that provide funding for Heritage as proposed in the 2023/24 Annual Budget has a strong potential not only for existing heritage projects yet to be completed to cease, but for the unique historic heritage of Auckland to be eroded. Although the impact may not be immediately obvious the long-term cost to the community of the incremental loss of its finite heritage resources will be problematic for place setting and sense of place for both existing communities and future generations.
7. The budget proposal to remove all community/regional funding for historic heritage adds to the potential for the loss of the City's sense of place. It is acknowledged that there is a cost to private landowners of historic heritage places to ensure the on-going maintenance, protection, and retention of these places. The provision of funding also provides for both Council's financial and political commitment to the protection and enhancement of historic heritage places that are scheduled in the district plan or at risk of loss.
8. HNZPT is aware that Council's existing funding supported historic heritage landowners until its deferral in the present 2022/23 budget to assist with savings. The Built Heritage Protection Fund of approximately \$30 million to purchase at risk heritage buildings, such as St James Theatre; and the Regional Historic Heritage Grant that was annually allocated with a maximum of \$50 thousand per application. While the deferral was disappointing HNZPT understood this was to be a temporary situation. However, the proposed wholesale removal of all grants including heritage funding from the budget is in our view, detrimental to the cultural wellbeing of the city and may lead to the long term or permanent loss of funding that will not be reinstated.
9. The provision of different funding sources for heritage ensures programmes that promote the participation of individuals, iwi, community groups etc that seek to contribute to the protection and improvement of regionally significant historic heritage places. This in turn provides for a creative and vibrant City with a strong cultural identity representative of its diverse cultural heritage.
10. HNZPT objects to Council's direction for the proposed wholesale loss of all financial support for historic heritage places, in particular those places identified in the Auckland Unitary Plan Heritage Schedule.

Yours sincerely

pp for

Address for service:

PO Box 105 291
Auckland City 1143



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Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Organisation (if applicable): Grey Power North Shore

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

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

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What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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Tell us why:

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

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

Tell us why: Please see attached

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

Tell us why these are most important to you:

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?)

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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What do you think of these proposals?

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

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P.O.Box 32-041, Devonport, Auckland

Email; greypowers@gmail.com

Phone: 09 445 3370 027 445 3371

North Shore Association

Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024

AKHAVEYourSay

Your Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Name:

Email address:

Authority to submit on behalf of the organisation: Yes

Organisation: Grey Power North Shore

Grey Power North Shore has 2,100 members across the North Shore. In previous years Grey Power submissions have been seriously mis-handled.

Please recognise that Grey Power is the major advocacy group for the senior community and give the submission the appropriate weighting in the assessment of the consultation numerical results, and ultimate decision making.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

Grey Power acknowledges that the activities being raised are not necessarily in the direct control of the Local Board, but would ask for the Board to take an innovative and active lead in pursuing and promoting the proposals within the broader Council context.

Grey Power across Auckland has adopted a more focused "project" approach rather than the passive policy submission process of the past, and looks forward to working with you to achieve positive results for our community on issues and activities important to seniors.

1. Strong Active Support for the Preservation of Devonport/Takapuna and Broader North Shore Heritage and Special Character Areas.

Grey Power strongly opposes the intensification measures imposed by the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply) Amendment Bill 2021 and the earlier NPS-UD, and the seriously detrimental impact it will have on the North Shore heritage, community character and environment.

In its submission to the Select Committee Grey Power called for recognition of the special heritage, environmental and geographic situation limitations of Auckland's North Shore, and asked for a special exemption from the intensification requirements.

The special situation of the North Shore was recognised as such by the old Auckland Regional Authority who gave Devonport an exemption from the intensification planning around transport hubs at that time.

Grey Power calls for a similar exemption for the Devonport/Takapuna area by Council and Government from the current intensification impositions.

The current proposals from Auckland Council for the Devonport Special Character Area is completely unacceptable.

Grey Power fully supports Devonport Heritage and community campaign for the full retention of the Special Character Areas.

2. Development and Expansion of Senior Housing in the Council Courts in The Local Board Area.

Current Council policy in regard to the senior Courts affordable housing now managed by Haumaru is that when re-development and intensification takes place, the policy is to maintain only the existing number of units on the site with part of the site being sold reputedly to pay for the development of the units. This is not necessary as the re-development is basically self funding from the rental income flow.

Grey Power core policy is that all land should be retained and extra units build at the time of re-development,

The Local Board must work with Council/Haumaru to have this happen on the senior Courts in the Local Board area, particularly in the light of the major Ngati Whatua and Housing Corporation taking place.

3. Retention of Proceeds of Sale of Haumaru Sites in Local Area – Handley Court Proceeds to Be Spent in Devonport/Belmont

As part of 3. any proceeds from the sale of Haumaru Courts must be spent on providing alternative senior housing sites in the local area. The proceeds of the recent Handley Court sale must be retained for land purchases in the Devonport/Belmont area.

4. SuperGold Parking Concession For Seniors

SuperGold parking concessions of free parking for designated times need to be introduced in the Takapuna Car park and in other community centres.

Seniors need some parking in the Takapuna Centre for access to community facilities and the shopping centre. It is not possible for many older people to walk any distances particularly with packages and the loss of the Takapuna Car Park in particular will create difficulties, an issue ignored by Panuku in the submission process.

This will be an extension of the Council specific disabled parking currently provided. Special parking for seniors close to entrances should be introduced as well.

5. Restoration of Historic Cemetery at Mt Victoria/Takarunga

September 2022 was the 150th anniversary of the death of the Nga Puhi rangatira Patuone and his burial in the Mt Victoria in 1872.

An extremely urgent requirement of the Local Board/Auckland Council is to begin restoration and improved maintenance to the poor current state of the cemetery in recognition of this special occasion.

The Local Board has an obligation to both Ngati Whatua and Ngati Paoa in regard to the Mt Victoria cemetery over a serious disagreement in 2016 on the disrespectful state

of the urupa. This a planned Council ceremony on the return of heritage *tuku* *tuku* panels to Council in Jo Begin's time to honour Patuone at his grave site to be cancelled at Nga Puhi insistence and moved to the Council chambers.

With the current focus on Te Ao Maori by Council and the Local Board to not have met this obligation is seriously disrespectful to both Nga Puhi and Ngati Paoa as well as the community whose ancestors are buried there as well.

It needs to be done.

6. Retention of Proceeds of Panuku Land Sales in Local Board Areas.

The Council/Panuku policy of community asset sales to finance the overall Council budget deficit is leading to millions of dollars being taken out of North Shore communities for the cost of major projects with minimal benefit to North Shore communities.

The community ownership and contribution over generations is not being acknowledged or recognised.

The Local Board is asked to develop an equitable policy on the retention of the proceeds for North Shore community and infrastructure projects, and for a designated part of the proceeds to be dedicated to the support of community facilities and groups. A community funding trust should be established to handle this process.

Important:

6. Survey of Operations and Activity State of Senior Community Organisation in the Local Board Area .

Many senior community, social and sports groups are under pressure with the changes in the city and the digital environment, some closing down and other struggling at a time when the senior population is growing. The survey will assess the state of the sector, and what support is required to ensure that the community facilities for the senior community continue in a sound position.

This should be co-ordinated with the current consultation on the community and library services in Takapuna involving the Community Centre and the Mary Thomas Centre/

The outcome of the survey will lead to the development of appropriate support measures by the Local Board in conjunction with other North Shore Local Boards.

7. Senior Citizens Association Protection

Linked with 6. there are a number of Senior Citizens Associations formed in the 1960's who have their own premises financed by community fundraising, on Council lease or their own freehold land. as social centres for seniors and the wider community in the early days of the North Shore development. These are invariably now outdated and need to be upgraded and blended into the current planning for city centres.

It is necessary to formally recognise the continuing need for such facilities, recognise the financial equity of the Associations in the properties, and ensure they are not over-ridden by Council redevelopment and planning programmes.

It is also necessary to develop a programme for administrative and operational support.

8. Free Parking at North Shore Hospital Provided by Auckland Transport From Wider AT Parking Charge Revenues

The cost of parking at the North Shore Hospital is a long standing issue that impacts on the senior community. Auckland Transport is now deriving significant parking from the Takapuna Car Park building, and street meters including those introduced in the hospital precincts.

The Board is requested to negotiate an arrangement with Auckland Transport and the WDHB where the parking at the North Shore Hospital is free, or heavily subsidised, for the senior community in particular and for the wider general public.

9. Retention of Devonport Timber on Council Lease in Lake Rd, Devonport.

A long simmering issue has been the situation of the timber and building supply centre operated by Devonport Timber at Lake Rd in Devonport. This is a critical local community need, and the facility must be retained. The alternative is travelling to Wairau Rd, a major community inconvenience, the loss of a major local business, and is contrary to Council current focus on climate change and emission reduction.

Grey Power has made submissions to Council and to the Unitary Plan for the whole Lake Rd block ex gas works owned by Council to have a special new zoning category "Community Commercial Zone" that retains the area for light industry/commercial usage controlled by the Local Board to ensure key commercial facilities like the timber yard and garden centre, recycling/rubbish facility are retained for Devonport residents.

Already the basic shopping facilities for local residents in Victoria Rd are being squeezed out by the hospitality and tourism focused businesses who force rent levels up, and this should not extend to the Lake Rd precinct.

This option should be pursued with vigour by the Local Board as extension of the soccer field re-development, the Clay store upgrade and other activity in the area.

10. Restoration of Historic Cemeteries at Mt Victoria/Takarunga and O'Neills Point.

Grey Power has a focus on heritage projects in its overall interaction with Auckland Council, a major item of which is the neglect of our City's heritage cemeteries which with a little bit of effort and innovation can be transformed into attractive urban heritage parks.

The principal one is the Symonds St Cemetery where Capt Hobson is buried along with many of our city's early settlers.

Both the Mt Victoria and O'Neil's cemeteries have volunteer groups involved in their maintenance, and the Local Board is asked to take a strong leadership role in co-ordinating these activities and ensuring Council steps up with their involvement and funding support.

I have mentioned the Local Board obligation to both Ngati Whatua and Ngati Paoa in regard to the Mt Victoria/Takarunga cemetery. the Board must be pro-active in getting Council action on these two projects.

11. Re-establish Heritage As a Significant Factor In Devonport's Planning and Development

The over-arching nature of Devonport's heritage and historic character and ambience must be re-established in the Local Board and Council consciousness and action.

This is not only important to ensure the long established character and heritage of our community is not over-ridden and lost through insensitive and inappropriate development, both by Council and commercial interests, but also to retain the tourist value of the "historic village" promoted by Council to visitors.

A pro-active relationship and programme must be developed with DOC, Ngati Whatua, and the Tupuna Maunga Authority for the restoration and presentation of the historic Ft. Takapuna heritage buildings, particularly the 1880's fort and military features etc, and the two Devonport maunga.

The Kennedy Park military heritage features must also be included in this programme.

This has already been discussed in a meeting with Auckland Unlimited CEO Nick Hill.

12. Museum For Auckland

Grey Power has made submission to both Auckland Museum and to MOTAT about the need for a "Museum for Auckland" as this part of our city's history and stories are not being covered adequately at a time when this is a serious cultural deficiency at a time when our local history is a key part of the new Government history curriculum for schools.

There is a need for a review of both institutions to meet this need, and submissions are being made to the main Council DAP in regards to this. In the light of the significant part our community plays in our city's history, you are asked to take a particular interest in this review process.

13. Tamaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumatua – Age Friendly City Action Plan.

Auckland Council has adopted the Action Plan and has just been advised it has been approved as a WHO Global Age Friendly City Network member. North Shore people played a significant role, particularly Dr Judy Blakey, as did Grey Power in obtaining this result.

At this stage Council funding is minimal, and we look to the Board for getting the full impact of the Action Plan up and running, and becoming a cornerstone of Council policy formation.

It is appreciated that this is not the usual submission, but outlines succinctly some of the issues that are important to the senior community in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area, and the North Shore community.

We ask you to work pro-actively to follow through on the points raised and Grey Power looks forward to being part of this process.

As Ruth Ell mentioned at an earlier HaveYourSay meeting it is time for the Board to "shout".



34227



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust (Plunket)

Your local board: Regional organisation

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.

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27 March 2023

Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

via 'have your say' online survey

To whom it may concern

Re: Annual Budget 2023/24 Proposed Community leases fee increases

I am writing about the proposed amendment to the Community Occupancy Guidelines giving local boards greater discretion over admin and maintenance fees for community leases; and the impact this may have on Whānau Āwhina Plunket.

Whānau Āwhina Plunket is a unique service in Aotearoa New Zealand. Founded in 1907, we have a long history supporting generations of families.

We are a charity and the country's largest FREE health and wellbeing support service for tamariki – seeing 290,000 under-fives. About 80% of newborns are enrolled with Whānau Āwhina Plunket each year.

Pēpi, tamariki and whānau are at the heart of Plunket. Our nurses provide clinical assessments, and along with Kaiāwhina and Community Karitāne, support whānau and families, through home and clinic visits, as well as PlunketLine 0800 933 922, a free 24/7 telephone advice service for parents.

We are a Non-government organisation (NGO) that receives some funding from the Government but this does not cover the cost of running all our support services. As such we rely heavily on sponsorship, partnership, donations, and the kindness of New Zealanders to keep those support services going for whānau in need. These include before school checks, injury prevention education, support groups, playgroups, toy libraries, coffee groups and more.

We are a respected community service that has always appreciated the support given by Auckland Council. The long-standing Peppercorn rent charged by Auckland Council assists us to ensure we can deliver our trusted services, reaching whānau across Auckland. If the proposed charges were to be approved, we estimate (detailed in the table below) that the financial impact to Whānau Āwhina Plunket would be \$130,800 per year, which we simply cannot afford in this current climate. With limited Government funding we would need to find that money internally, which could impact our ability to provide services or appropriately resource our Plunket workforce.

P 04 471 0177

Plunket Support Office, Level 3 Simpl House, 40 Mercer Street, Wellington 6011

Plunket Support Office, PO Box 5474, Wellington 6140



Whānau Āwhina Plunket currently leases twenty seven (27) Auckland Council premises, fourteen (14) buildings on land leases and also hires 30 other Council owned/operated venues (under Venue Hire management).

Impact of proposed costs from 1 July 2023:

Lease type	#	Administration fee, per annum charge			Building Maintenance fee, per annum charge			
		Current	Proposed	Cost to Plunket		Current	Proposed	Cost to Plunket*
Full lease / exclusive use 27	23	\$1	\$1,300	\$35,100	< 100m ²	\$250	\$2,500	\$57,500
	4				> 100m ² & < 500m ²	\$500	\$5,000	\$20,000
	nil				> 500m ²	\$1,000	\$10,000	
Ground lease	14	\$1	\$1,300	\$18,200	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$0
Total per annum				\$53,300				\$77,500

* estimated

Total potential cost to Whānau Āwhina Plunket \$130,800 per annum.

We understand that we are just one of the many community organisations the Council and Local Boards support, however we would like to request that the proposed changes are reconsidered to ensure Whānau Āwhina Plunket can continue providing free health and wellbeing support to Auckland families with children under-five.

We hope that our submission will be given due consideration allowing for the potential implications to our already constricted budget and service delivery. We would be happy to meet with Council or Local Board representatives to discuss further, if requested.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Kenny

General Manager Finance Technology and Commercial

Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust

Ph 021 465 662

matthew.kenny@plunket.org.nz



34252



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Regional Tourism New Zealand

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

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

Tell us why:

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Tell us why:

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What do you think of these proposals?

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34654



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Yachting New Zealand

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

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Tell us why:

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7. What else is important to you?

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27th March 2023

RE: SUBMISSION TO THE AUCKLAND COUNCIL BUDGET 2023-2024

To whom it may concern

Yachting New Zealand (YNZ) is the national sports organisation (NSO) for sailing in New Zealand. YNZ represents over 25,000 members in 108 yacht clubs from Taipa in the north to Bluff in the south – also affiliated are 52 class associations and 40 maritime associations. 40 of these clubs are in the Auckland region.

Auckland Councils proposed Budget will significantly impact clubs in our boating community as well as the wider play, active recreation and sport sector.

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

1. Reducing local board funded activities across all boards
2. The proposed changes to the Community Occupancy Guidelines with regard to increased maintenance costs and the \$1,300 annual rental charge.
3. Removing/ reducing the Regional Sport & Recreation Programme Grant

These proposals will detrimentally impact the ability of our sailing and boating clubs to deliver community sport and will result in fewer people, particularly tamariki and rangatahi, being active. In a time when we are working hard as a sport to engage with more diverse communities and those missing out the proposed Budget will result in an increase in the cost of sport including club membership which will certainly affect participation.

This proposed Budget will impact play, recreation and sport organisations across the sport and recreation 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.

Kind regards

Chief Executive
Yachting New Zealand



34682



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Sport Auckland

Your local board: Regional organisation

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.

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AK Have Your Say Submission

Auckland Council – Annual Budget 2023-2024

Introduction

Sport Auckland, founded in 1992, is one of 18 Regional Sports Trusts in Aotearoa New Zealand. Predominantly, we are funded by Government and Local Government. We receive funding from Sport NZ (via Aktive), Te Whatu Ora, Foundation North and Auckland Council. Other Class 4 funding rounds of our revenue streams.

Our vision is to inspire our communities to live healthy active lifestyles. We are community focussed. We achieve our vision by delivering play, sport and active recreation initiatives in areas of need. We collaborate and partner with a vast array of community organisations who are aligned to our vision and our initiatives. On the one hand we aim to address inequities and inactivity in our communities by increasing opportunities for tamariki and rangatahi to participate in play, sport and active recreation; and on the other hand, we help build the system and capability of all clubs and organisations that deliver play, sport and active recreation opportunities within our communities.

Sport Auckland works closely with Auckland Council's Sport and Active Recreation team, the Active Communities Team, the Community Brokers and eight Local Boards (Aotea/ Great Barrier, Waiheke, Waitematā, Ōrākei, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Puketepāpa, Albert-Eden and Howick). We deliver to the community, for the community based on the voice of the participant and knowing our communities' needs. We sincerely appreciate and value the close working relationships we have with Auckland Council, its staff and the eight Local Boards.

Our submission

Sport Auckland is cognisant of the challenges that currently face Auckland Council both in the upcoming annual budget for 2023/24 and for the future years ahead of us. We are aware of the unpalatable and unworkable \$295m financial deficit facing Auckland Council and the proposed budget that aims to address this deficit.

As you would most likely assume, in this submission, Sport Auckland would like to address the physical activity aspect that will be affected if the proposed cuts to community services eventuate.

The value of physical activity can never be underestimated. For us physical activity in the shape of play, sport and active recreation adds so much value to everyone's wellbeing, sense of belonging, cultural identity, knowledge and skills and social connections. All of these attributes have of course been cemented in the 30-year Auckland Council Plan as being of prime importance to our city and its people.

It is a fact that more than one million Aucklanders – adults and children – are active each week. They are supported by over 300,000 volunteers and more than 10,000 employees dedicated to keeping the play, sport and active recreation sector moving. This sector contributes at least \$2.6 billion to the Auckland economy and an estimated \$585 million in annual healthcare savings in Auckland. Play, sport, and active recreation delivers significant physical and mental wellbeing to our community. If we were to see cuts in community services the pressure and burden this will place on our already burgeoning health system crisis will be insurmountable. It is under that premise that we make our submission on the Annual Budget.

Regional Sport and Recreation Funding

Sport Auckland does not support the proposal to cut the Regional Sport and Recreation Programme Grant

The proposed removal of the Regional Sport and Recreation Grants programme will negatively impact tamariki and rangatahi, particularly those who we are working with directly, in our communities in need. The programmes provide opportunities for many who would not be able to participate otherwise.

We would not like to see funding cuts to the Water Skills for Life initiative which since 2013 has delivered critical water safety lessons to tamariki who would otherwise have missed out on these opportunities. With Tāmaki Makaurau surrounded by water and with the increase in drownings over the last few years it is imperative that prevention and education remains as a key tool to be used in the saving of lives. Sport Auckland adds its support to the more tailored submission that we are aware that Drowning Prevention Auckland will make to this point.

Sport Auckland does not support the proposal to cut the Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant

The proposed cuts to the Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Operating Grant will have a significant detrimental impact on the twelve facilities that currently receive this funding. These facilities are at the heart of our community and address the inequities and barriers that exist in our communities that prevent people from participating in physical activity. As an alternative to a straight out cutting of these operating grants we recommend a transitional period of reduced funding while working with these facilities to determine a more sustainable future financial model.

Local Board Funding

Sport Auckland does not wholly support a \$16 million reduction to local board funding per annum for 2023/2024.

Community is at the heart of what Local Boards focus on. If community grants that Local Boards can deploy are taken away then physical activity in the form of play, sport and active recreation will not be able to continue. The impact will lead to all the issues we have already highlighted which are so important to an inclusive society. The very people who are missing out now will continue to miss out; the inequities we are trying to address will be amplified and we will have created more social issues than already exist. We should be supporting the strong club, community organisations and volunteer network that already exist and not see this area as a “soft and easy option” to focus on when budget cuts are to be had. The unintended consequences of such decisions far outweigh the short-term, balancing of the budget.

Increased facility hire costs

Sport Auckland does not support the increased costs to access council owned active community sites.

In this regard we are totally aligned with our partner, Active, who have highlighted in their submission that while the budget proposes to cut regional and local funding to our sector, there is a simultaneous proposal to increase charges for the community to access Council owned facilities. That is a blunt two-edged sword that local communities will be faced with.

Again, we emphasise this will have the unintended consequence of hurting the very people who are already missing out on physical activity due to financial constraints and pressures. One of the main barriers to a large proportion of our community is the cost to participate in play, sport and active recreation; yet this barrier ought to be reversed so that people can participate in physical activity and our city reap all the benefits that comes with physical activity. At times, investment in the very areas that matter should be either increased, or at the very least, maintained.

Sport Auckland would also like to highlight that we have entered a Joint Venture (JV) partnership, with Auckland Council being one of the parties to our JV, to deliver the Te Whatu Ora/Ministry of Health Green prescription programme. That programme sees the JV deliver to 8,000 participants annually across Central and South Auckland a Health & Wellness programme addressing inactivity, obesity and other health issues. It's a programme that has been in train for over twenty years now and guides participants toward self-management of healthy, active lifestyles. Within the JV Auckland Council have agreed to offer council owned community facilities at reduced rates so that the 8,000 participants can undergo the Health and Wellness programme. Increased facility hire costs would be at odds with our signed JV.

Amendments to the Community Occupancy Guidelines

Sport Auckland does not support the proposed amendments to the Community Occupancy Guidelines.

Part of our charitable work in the community is guided by the Sport New Zealand Locally-led Approach. That Approach is founded on five key principles being: -

1. Know your community.
2. Work with others in partnership.
3. Focus on strengths and assets.
4. Learn as you go.
5. Enable Leadership.

The volunteers-based communities, that are the backbone of our sector, are fundamental to the delivery of play, sport and active recreation in our communities. We should be supporting them more than ever, with an emphasis on principle three above. Clubs operate on low margins and are volunteer based. Part of their ability to survive is the very fact that they operate on a peppercorn lease. To increase this cost could again have unintended consequences where these organisations may not continue to survive. And who misses out – the very people we need to participate in physical activity. The proposed budget is looking to reduce community access grants and at the same time raise occupancy rates. We believe this proposal will negatively impact our club network, and participants, significantly.

Major Developments for 2023/24

In the annual budget proposals, Sport Auckland supports the:

- Sports field capacity development programme.
- Stage Two of the Michaels Ave Reserve project
- Continuation of the Urban Regeneration programme

Regarding the Urban Regeneration programme, we urge all parties to include in their plans the provision for open green space for communities to be able to participate in play and active recreation initiatives.

Alternative budget options

Sport Auckland supports its partner Active wherein their submission they have suggested introducing a Sport and Recreation Targeted Rate as part of the next Long-term Plan consultation. In their submission it is stated that such an initiative has already been used to great effect in the Northland region. This rate is used to cover many of the operational costs and potential capital costs that our play, sport and active recreation sector face.

For quite some time now Sport Auckland has been raising the issue of the Reserves Act 1977 and the current limitations that Act has on sports clubs' opportunity to generate alternative sources of revenue. We believe it is time the Act is seriously reviewed particularly around purpose and relevancy. If amendments could be made that allowed clubs to generate more revenue from their current assets (or from future multi-sport hubs/facilities) then a lot of barriers and cost pressures could be advantageously addressed.

Conclusion

In summary, Sport Auckland sincerely appreciates the opportunity we have had to make these submissions on the Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/24. We do not envy the financial position that Auckland Council finds itself in. To that end, we look forward to continuing our strong working relationship with Auckland Council and the eight Local Boards we work with.

We look forward to helping Auckland Council, where we can, to help find funding solutions to our city's financial situation particularly where it relates to our play, sport and active recreation sector. We look forward to helping in any way we can to strengthen our play, sport and active recreation sector. And we look forward to helping address the inequities and inactivity that is prevalent in our society today, so that we can help our communities live healthy active lifestyles.



36266



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): Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

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

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

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What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

Tell us why: Please see attachment

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

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

Tell us why: Please see attachment

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
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What do you think of these proposals? Please see attachment

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2022/2023 (page 53 in the consultation document).
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Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society
PO Box 160, Coromandel 3581
24 Wharf Road, Coromandel
Phone: 07 866 1011
Website: <http://www.ngaatiwhanaunga.maori.nz/>



28 March 2023

Governing Body

Ak Have Your Say
Auckland Council
Freepost Authority 182382
Private Bag 92 300
Auckland 1142
New Zealand
Email akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
Website: akhaveyoursay.nz/budget

Tēnā koutou,

Re: Submission on Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024 – Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's Annual Budget 2023/2024. We are providing this submission on behalf of Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society (**Ngaati Whanaunga**). We can confirm that we have authority to submit on our organisation's behalf.

1 About Us

1.1 Whakapapa

Ngaati Whanaunga is an independent iwi and is made up of several distinct hapuu and whaanau. Whanaunga's father was Marutuahu. Marutuahu is the name of Whakaminenga (a confederation) of tribes of Pare Hauraki. It comprises iwi who are descended from Marutuuahu's marriages to two sisters from Ngaati Pou (te uri o Poutukeka) of the Wharekawa and Taamaki. Their names were Paremoehau and Hinerunga, both daughters of Ruahiore. The tribes who constitute this Whakaminenga, have taken the names of the children from the marriages described above.

From the first marriages came Tamatepoo, Tamateraa and Whanaunga (Ngaati Whanaunga); from the second marriage came Te Ngako and Taurakapakapa. These tupuna are the progenitors of the tribes that make up the many hapuu of the Marutuuahu of Pare Hauraki.

Tamatepoo consists of (among others): Ngaati Rong-u, Ngaati Pakira, and Te Uringahau; Ngaati Tamateraa (of Tamateraa); Ngaati Whanaunga (of Whanaunga); Ngaati Maru (of Ngako and Taurakapakapa); and Ngaati Paaoa (of Tamateraa's granddaughter Tukutuku and her husband Paaoa of Waikato); and (all the aforementioned) hapuu. A detailed account of Ngaati Whanaunga historical relationships with hapuu of neighbouring iwi is described in the Ngaati Whanaunga Mandate Strategy (2011).

1.2 Rohe

The breadth and width of our tribal rohe is captured in the tribal saying “Mai Matakana ki Matakana” – it extends along the east coast from the sunken reefs of Ngaa Kuri-a-Wharei near Matakana Island in the south; up through parts of the Tamaki isthmus, Takapuna, Whangaparaoa, and Mahurangi to the Matakana River estuary in the north. The western boundary extends to Mount Te Aroha, along the ranges of Te Hapu-a-Kohe and the Hunua Ranges to Moumoukai and Papakura.

The seaward boundary of our rohe includes parts of Aotea (Great Barrier Island) to its origin of Ngaa Kuri-a-Wharei ki Te Arai o Tahuhuniarangi including the inner gulf islands of Tikapa Moana (Firth of Thames) and offshore islands along the eastern coastline of Te Tai Tamawahine excluding Tuhua Island (refer to Turoa 1997). We consider our rohe as a land and maritime empire. We nurture its resources so it (in turn) can nurture us.

Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society

On 29 June 2011, the Crown recognised the mandate of the Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society and the mandated negotiators to negotiate a comprehensive settlement of the historical te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngaati Whanaunga with the Crown. The mandated negotiators and the Crown entered into an agreement in principle equivalent on 22 July 2011. On 25 August 2017, Ngaati Whanaunga and the Crown initialled a Deed of Settlement (the Deed). The Deed is subject to ratification by the members of Ngaati Whanaunga and conditional on the enactment of the settlement legislation. Subject to ratification by the members of Ngaati Whanaunga, the Ngaati Whanaunga Ruunanga Trust will manage the settlement assets on settlement.

1.3 Strategic Direction

Ngaati Whanaunga's over-arching mission is “*to enhance the wellbeing of our people both now and in the future by ensuring the sustainable management of our resources.*” This is encapsulated in our vision “*Ngaati Whanaunga – Healthy and Prosperous People, Whaanau & Hapuu, Business and Environment.*” Our core objectives seek to ensure the long-term wellbeing of our land, freshwater, coastal and marine areas, biodiversity, air, culture, and heritage such as historic structures, archaeological sites, places of significance that may include nature features such as trees, springs, rivers, or mountains which were associated with historical or cultural activities or events. These areas help connect our people to the land and maintain our strong sense of belonging within the Auckland, Waikato, and Bay of Plenty Regions (ie. the extent of our rohe).

1.4 Approach

Ngaati Whanaunga recognise the interconnectedness between all living and non-living elements, their dependence on each other and the linkages between the life supporting capacity of healthy ecosystems and people's wellbeing.

These linkages are explained in the story of Ngaati Whanaunga's creation from Te Kore (the nothingness) through to Te Po (the night), to Te Ao Marama (the world of light). The latter explains how the landscape, people, plants, and animals came into being as children of Ranginui (our sky father) and Papatuanuku (our earth mother). Mauri is the essence by which we are all connected. It is the bond Ngaati Whanaunga share with the living, the non-living, past, current, and future generations to come.

Any degradation of this life force affects the wellbeing of the environment, and by association Ngaati Whanaunga's wellbeing as a people. For Ngaati Whanaunga, the inextricable kinship between people and the natural world creates an obligation to nurture the environment, so it (in turn) can nurture them. This relationship is expressed as kaitiakitanga – the cultural practice of guardianship and environment grounded in Maatauranga Maaori.

Ngaati Whanaunga rohe spans the following Local Boards: Albert-Eden; Aotea/Great Barrier; Devonport-Takapuna; Franklin; Henderson-Massey; Hibiscus and Bays; Howick; Kaipātiki; Māngere-Ōtāhuhu; Manurewa; Maungakiekie-Tāmaki; Ōrākei; Ōtara-Papatoetoe; Papakura; Puketāpapa; Rodney; Upper Harbour; Waiheke; and Waitematā Local Board(s).

1.5 Current Context

Challenges confronting our people include:

- Lack of resources
- Affordable housing
- Training and educational opportunities
- Transport accessibility
- Lower socio-economic people are struggling

1.6 Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society

On 29 June 2011, the Crown recognised the mandate of the Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society and the mandated negotiators to negotiate a comprehensive settlement of the historical te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngaati Whanaunga with the Crown. The mandated negotiators and the Crown entered into an agreement in principle equivalent on 22 July 2011. On 25 August 2017, Ngaati Whanaunga and the Crown initialled a Deed of Settlement (the Deed). The Deed is subject to ratification by the members of Ngaati Whanaunga and conditional on the enactment of the settlement legislation. Subject to ratification by the members of Ngaati Whanaunga, the Ngaati Whanaunga Ruunanga Trust will manage the settlement assets on settlement.

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heritage such as historic structures, archaeological sites, places of significance that may include nature features such as trees, springs, rivers, or mountains which were associated with historical or cultural activities or events. These areas help connect our people to the land and maintain our strong sense of belonging within the Auckland, Waikato, and Bay of Plenty Regions (ie. the extent of our rohe).

1.8 Approach

Ngaati Whanaunga recognise the interconnectedness between all living and non-living elements, their dependence on each other and the linkages between the life supporting capacity of healthy ecosystems and people's wellbeing.

These linkages are explained in the story of Ngaati Whanaunga's creation from Te Kore (the nothingness) through to Te Po (the night), to Te Ao Marama (the world of light). The latter explains how the landscape, people, plants, and animals came into being as children of Ranginui (our sky father) and Papatuanuku (our earth mother). Mauri is the essence by which we are all connected. It is the bond Ngaati Whanaunga share with the living, the non-living, past, current, and future generations to come.

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1.9 Working with Auckland Council

Ngaati Whanaunga has been working with Auckland Council (formerly the Auckland Regional Authority) at both a governance and operational level for several years. Recent governance level involvement has included inputs on the Auckland Plan 2050; Long-Term Plan 2018 – 2028; Long-Term Plan 2021 – 2031; 10 Long-Term Māori Outcome Priorities; Auckland Council Annual Budget (several); and a multitude of strategic policy documents and policies.

Operational level involvement has included inputting on: Local Board Priorities – Puketāpapa; Mangere; Otahuhu; Papakura; Otara; Papatoetoe; and Albert-Eden; Thriving Communities; Review of Council-Controlled Organisations (CCOs); Freshwater Management Policy; Tupuna Maunga Operational Plan; Climate Change; and Auckland Council's Water Strategy.

2 Understanding of the Proposal

We understand that Auckland Council has faced ongoing budget challenges for some time and, following recent rapid increases in inflation and interest rates, we now need to address a forecast budget shortfall that has grown to \$295 million for the 2023/2024 financial year. We have limited options available to manage our budget challenge in the next financial year, which begins on 1 July 2023.

Over the longer-term, we also understand that Auckland Council can consider a broader range of options including reviewing what council invests in and finding new ways to work with central government and other external partners. This could involve looking at the services we provide to the community and how they are delivered.

In the meantime, the Auckland Council proposed budget package for 2023/2024 includes:

- Reducing our operating costs by an additional \$125 million across Auckland Council and Council Controlled Organisations. This would impact some services that we currently deliver
- A rates package that would see a total rate increase for the average value residential property of around 4.66 per cent or \$154 a year (around \$3 a week)
- Selling our shareholding in Auckland International Airport (currently around 18% of the Airport's shares) to reduce our borrowing
- Borrowing no more than \$75 million of additional debt, so that we can cope with any future financial uncertainty (current policy allows us to further borrow up to \$140 million).

Following public feedback, if this proposed budget package is not supported or if our financial challenge worsens, we would need to make up the shortfall another way. We would need to consider:

- A higher rates package that could see a total rate increase for the average value residential property of up to 13.13 per cent or \$433 a year (\$8.30 a week)
- Increasing debt further. However, more debt will increase interest costs and doesn't address the need to spend within budget. It also makes it harder to respond to any unexpected financial shocks.

We provide specific feedback on proposals below.

3 Operating spending reductions

3.1 Proposal

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport, other Council Controlled Organisations and Ports of Auckland), with implications including staff reduction. Our proposal to save \$125 million would also require other reductions, including:

Proposal	Saving
Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024	\$21 million
Reducing our funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to save a further \$27.5 million, with effects on service delivery (including economic development and tourism promotion) and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland	\$27.5 million
Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, arts and culture programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres	\$20 million
Reducing local board funded activities across all boards	\$16 million
Reducing regional contestable grants	\$3 million
No longer directly providing early childhood education services	\$1 million

Note: that a 1 per cent change in general rates is equivalent to around \$20 million of revenue for the council

3.2 Implications for Ngaati Whanaunga

Proposal	Saving	Proceed	Key Considerations
Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024	\$21 million	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This seems sensible.
Reducing our funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to save a further \$27.5 million, with effects on service delivery (including economic development and tourism promotion) and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland	\$27.5 million	Yes	
Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, arts and culture programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres including the Southern Initiative; Low carbon living programme; climate action related activities; COMET – stop funding on education and skills across Auckland; other reductions in regional services	\$20 million	No	Retain regional services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of external funding Loss of staff with specific skills and capability Likelihood of not meeting all objectives and outcomes in Auckland Council documents and policies Loss of activities that have positive impacts on Maori, on rangatahi, kaumatua, kuia, taura, tamariki and whanau Regional services enhance our ability to engage with other communities Propose that we reduce savings across the four areas but provide a set amount for iwi who can efficiently run services to the community and are already doing this Erosion of community and social cohesion Lack of opportunities to teach climate change and management options The implications are endless...

Reducing local board funded activities across all boards	\$16 million	No	<p>Retain Local Board services our community depends on Local boards for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local events • Community grants • Community and environmental programmes • Opening hours and levels of service at council facilities • Opportunities such as Te Kete Rukuruku; Matariki; Tuia; rangatahi mentorship
Reducing regional contestable grants	\$3 million	No	<p>Retain regional contestable grants The following will have an impact on Maori organisations and grassroots roopu who rely on this putea</p> <p>Reduction in grants would effect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development • Events, Arts & Culture • Natural Heritage • Environment • Historic Heritage • Youth and sports programme <p>Stopping grants would effect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Arts and Cultural Grants Scheme - \$1m • Regional Events Grants Programme \$0.6m • Ngā Hapori Momoho Thriving Communities \$0.3m • Regional Sport and Recreation Programme Grants \$0.3m • Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grants • Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grants \$0.5m • Regional Historic Grants Programme \$0.5m
No longer directly providing early childhood education services	\$1 million	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is provision for early childhood services by several providers. Halting the service would enable others to step in.

3.3 Specific Feedback

Question: What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?	
Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
Do not proceed with some reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt	Please refer to the comments above.

3.4 Recommendations

1. Consider opportunities for Maori to deliver current Auckland Council services
2. Consider use of user pays levies
3. Take time to consider building on models successfully employed during COVID-19 and use funding to help Māori help themselves
4. Slow down and do the work to develop long-term, enduring solutions.

4 Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

4.1 Proposal

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 around \$1.9 billion. This is projected to reduce interest costs on our debt to save an estimated \$87 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 a 10 per cent shareholding (a so-called “blocking stake” – refer to page 89 of the consultation document). 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).

4.2 Specific Feedback

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

Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding shares retains an income earning asset and maintains future income streams • Opportunity exists for iwi to invest • Please advise us what the potential impacts for employment are; and be clear about the local, regional, and national implications for our identity

4.3 Recommendations

1. Retain assets to help ensure we can generate future wealth
2. Include success criteria that encompasses strategic outcomes relating to people and the environment

5 Managing rates and debt

5.1 Proposal

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rate 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 (see page 54 of the consultation document for more details).

Note: Check our online calculator to see how the proposal would change your rates: akhaveyoursay.nz/ratesguide

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.

5.2 Specific Feedback: Question: What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
Proceed with the proposed increases to rates (4.66 per cent overall for the average value residential property) and debt (up to \$75 million of additional debt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that many households are struggling

5.3 Recommendations

1. Undertake an external review of effectiveness and efficiencies
2. Accommodate the needs of people who are unable to afford rates increase
3. Acknowledge that more work needs to be undertaken to understand the impacts on people
4. Incorporate Treaty principles
5. Incorporate holism i.e., include success criteria that encompasses strategic outcomes relating to people and the environment

6 Storm response

6.1 Proposal

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).

6.2 Specific Feedback: Question: What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding recovery works such as clean up and repair costs; waste removal; building inspections; processing relief claims is crucial Redirect funds to marae and iwi organisations who have stronger relationships with the community and are able to respond more rapidly and efficiently Enable a community led response There is already evidence that a community led response – look at the response during COVID-19 and the floods The proposal to increase the operating budget will benefit future generations by replacing infrastructure and ensuring that it is fit for purpose It is an investment for the whole of the region and will benefit current and future generations

6.3 Recommendations

1. Help Maori with the setup of evacuation centres (especially marae)
2. Proactively address stormwater requirements
3. Work closely with local communities to find long-term solutions
4. Acknowledge that more work needs to be undertaken to understand the impact on people
5. Listen to the voices of those who will be impacted the most in the future. Primarily those advocates of climate change and for Mana Whenua

7 Local Board Priorities

Please refer to **Section 1.7** (above) for a description of our Local Boards.

7.1 Specific Feedback

Question: 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?

Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
Don't know	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See comment below.

7.2 Recommendations


1. Please contact us directly to discuss potential options and opportunities.

8 Others matters of importance to us

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2023/2024 (page 59 in the consultation document)?

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

8.1 Māori Land Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

<p>Question: We propose to amend the Māori Land Rates Remission and Postponement Policy to provide a partial remission of rates to general title papakāinga, where that land is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protected from being sold out of Māori ownership for the sole use of hapū/iwi. <p>We are proposing this remission to recognise the similarities between such properties, and papakāinga on Māori freehold land. The proposed remission would apply a discount like what is applied to Māori freehold land (up to ten per cent of the rateable land value). What do you think of this proposal?</p>	
Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are in favour of this proposal only as it relates to Mana Whenua iwi recognised by the Crown

Recommendation

- The model should reflect the Treaty of Waitangi principles
- Suggest inclusion into introduction to policy to read....” *providing assistance with rates through Maori land rates remission and postponement policy recognising the burden placed on owners and beneficiaries to the obligations associated with protecting taonga tuku iho*”.
- Suggest that the Policy further apply pursuant to Part 6: i.e., to an occupation order.
- Suggest that the conditions and criteria including the words “*beneficially at (e)*” to read, “*beneficially owned by more than 10 Māori either individually or through...*” this is because the examples used often only contain a few representatives who hold the land for the benefit of un-spoken others.
- Whether Mana Whenua can have an annual update of the rating units that qualify, since there are 89 Maori Freehold land blocks currently, it is expected that this scheme will apply to a great deal more and it would be beneficial to have this data. Consider including option to supply data to mana whenua in application.

8.2 Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan

- The Operational Plan has always been well consulted and inputted into; and results have been excellent
- Provides a good example of co-governance in action.
- It is a Te Tiriti redress for Mana Whenua/iwi that has been shared with all those in Tāmaki Makaurau as the hosts (kaitiaki). Auckland Council would be wise to remember that and not involve itself in decisions outside their remit

Recommendations

- The model needs to adhere to Treaty Principles

8.3 Mana Whenua Forums

Question: What is the value of the Mana Whenua Forum?		
Options	Support	Key Consideration
Tamaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum (Governance)	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is about acknowledging and upholding the principles of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi. These forums substitute for a lack of engagement by Auckland Council at the highest level and/kaitiakitanga
Panuku Mana Whenua Forum (Governance and Operational)	Yes	
I & ES (Operational Forum)	Yes	
Auckland Transport (Operational Forum)	Yes	

Recommendations

1. Retain engagement forums

Other Matters:

- Treaty partnerships
- Equitable opportunities for Maori
- Te Mana o te Wai and Te Oranga o Te Taiao
- Finding solutions for the mental health and housing needs of our whanau through social housing – Eke Panuku are a key stakeholder for this mahi
- Civil Defence and Emergency Events – We have seen an unprecedented amount of civil defence emergencies and are now planning resilience initiatives and would like to see how Auckland Council can support us in terms of these new activities. We are still working through the lessons learnt from the previous events and will determine appropriate figures. We would like to continue with this conversation

9 Summary Conclusions

We have provided Auckland Council with feedback on the specific proposal and identified additional matters that are important to us.

Recommendations

- Retain regional services
- Retain Local Board services
- Retain regional contestable grants
- Remember that people and the environment are important
- Develop more enduring, long-term solutions that reflect the needs of people and the environment
- Enhance the wellbeing of people and the environment through a sense of community
- Please accept our invite to the entire Auckland Council Leadership Team to come, share a meal, and meet with us

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Annual Budget 2023/2024. Please feel very welcome to contact us if you would like to discuss any aspects of our submission further.

Ngā mihi

Pongarauhine Renata

General Manager

Ngaati Whanaunga Incorporated Society

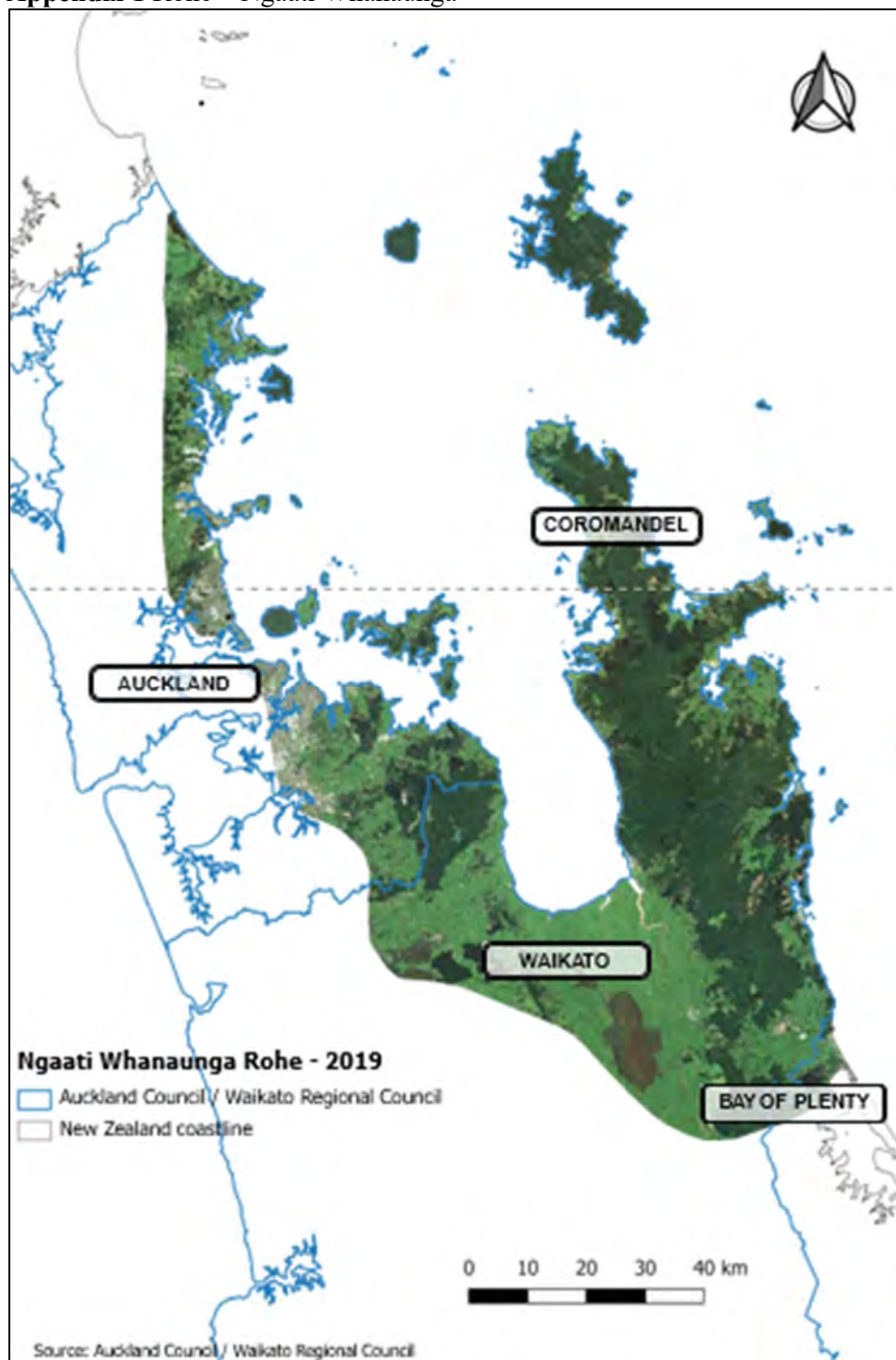
PO Box 160, Coromandel 3581

24 Wharf Road, Coromandel

Phone: 07 866 1011

Website: <http://www.ngaatiwhanaunga.maori.nz>

Appendix 1 Rohe – Ngaati Whanaunga





36420



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): Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Please see attachment (Themed as 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: Please see attachment (No comments re Airport shares in attachment)

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Please see attachment (Themed as 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: Please see attachment (Themed as attached)

5. Local Boards

Rodney Local Board

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

Tell us why: Please see attachment

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

Tell us why these are most important to you:

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals? Please see attachment

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Please see attachment

Important privacy information

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

Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust
PO Box 117, Warkworth 1910
2-4 Elizabeth Street, Warkworth
Email: info@Ngatimanuhiri.iwi.nz
Phone: 021 385 548
Website: <https://www.Ngatimanuhiri.iwi.nz>



28 March 2023

Governing Body

Ak Have Your Say
Auckland Council
Freepost Authority 182382
Private Bag 92 300
Auckland 1142
New Zealand
Email akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
Website: akhaveyoursay.nz/budget

Tēnā koutou,

Re: Submission on Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024 – Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's Annual Budget 2023/2024. We are providing this submission on behalf of Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust (**Ngāti Manuhiri**). We can confirm that we have authority to submit on our organisation's behalf.

1 About Us

1.1 Whakapapa

*Ko Tainui me Moekaraka nga waka
Ko Tamahunga te maunga
Ko Hauturu O Toi te Motutere Rongonui
Te Moananui O Toi te Pataka Nui*

By the fourteenth century migrations associated with some of the famous ancestral canoes had begun to influence the Mahurangi area. These migrants conquered and absorbed the Maru iwi and the descendants of Toi. From the North came the Ngai Tahu people, the descendants of Tahu. From the south came the descendants of Tainui waka who had settled around the Waitemata Harbour. These people, who also had Arawa affiliations, had by the sixteenth century become known by the general name Ngāhō. They had intermarried with the earlier tribal groups, including Ngai Tahu who they pushed to the north, and were in occupation of all the land between the Waikato River and the Kaipara Harbour entrance, including

Mahurangi. The Kawerau people (are) descended from a large group of Ngāti Awa people who had migrated north to the Tamaki isthmus from Kawhia in the 1620's.

Led by Maki, the most famous ancestor of the Mahurangi people they initially settled at Rarotonga (Mt Smart). Then over the next generation they spread northward conquering the islands of the Hauraki Gulf north to Hauturu (Little Barrier Island), the Kaipara district north to the harbour entrance, as well as the east coast from Takapuna to Te Arai. This conquest included Mahurangi, where the people of Ngaoho and Ngai Tahu were defeated and absorbed. Maki had four sons Manuhiri, Maraeariki, Ngawhetu and Tawhiakiterangi. These children all had associations with the Mahurangi. Manuhiri has upheld and maintained the customary rights and principles since then to present day. Ngāti Manuhiri has strong links to the confederation of tribes known as Te Kawerau who descend from Maki and his children.

1.2 Rohe

Ngāti Manuhiri boundaries (rohe) encompass Bream Tail / Mangawhai to the north and extend south to the Okura River mouth south of Whangaparaoa. Our easterly boundary takes in the islands of Hauturu O Toi (Little Barrier), Kawau O Tumaro, Tiritiri Matangi, Panetiki, the Mokohinau islands, Hawere a Maki, Motu Tohora, Motuihe, Moturekareka, Motuketekete, Motutara, Te Haupa and associations in the Waitemata and the lower Hauraki Gulf. The western boundary starting in the North at Patumakariri, Kaipara, Moturemu, Arapareira, Makarau through to Oteha /Takapuna. Please refer to **Appendix 1** for a map of our rohe

1.3 Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust

In 2012, Ngāti Manuhiri achieved and settled their Treaty Settlement with the Crown. The Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust is a post settlement governance entity (PSGE) who are mandated and approved entity to represent Ngāti Manuhiri and its environs.

The purpose of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust is to receive, administer, manage, protect and govern the Trusts assets to ensure the cultural, commercial, and social development of Ngāti Manuhiri for the benefit of its members.

Our strategic priorities include:

- Treaty Partnership
- Restoration of who we are as Ngāti Manuhiri

1.4 Current Context

Challenges confronting our people include:

- Affordable housing
- Employment
- Ensuring peoples basic needs are met
- Geographical isolation
- Health services for elders
- Health services for younger people

1.5 Working with Auckland Council

Ngāti Manuhiri has been working with Auckland Council (formerly the Auckland Regional Authority) at both a governance and operational level for several years. Recent governance level involvement has included inputs on the Auckland Plan 2050; Long-Term Plan 2018 –

2028; Long-Term Plan 2021 – 2031; 10 Long-Term Māori Outcome Priorities; Auckland Council Annual Budget (several); and a multitude of strategic policy documents and policies.

Operational level involvement has included inputting on: Local Board Priorities – Puketāpapa; Mangere; Otahuhu; Papakura; Otara; Papatoetoe; and Albert-Eden; Thriving Communities; Review of Council-Controlled Organisations (CCOs); Freshwater Management Policy; Tupuna Maunga Operational Plan; Climate Change; and Auckland Council's Water Strategy.

2 Understanding of the Proposal

We understand that Auckland Council has faced ongoing budget challenges for some time and, following recent rapid increases in inflation and interest rates, we now need to address a forecast budget shortfall that has grown to \$295 million for the 2023/2024 financial year. We have limited options available to manage our budget challenge in the next financial year, which begins on 1 July 2023.

Over the longer-term, we also understand that Auckland Council can consider a broader range of options including reviewing what council invests in and finding new ways to work with central government and other external partners. This could involve looking at the services we provide to the community and how they are delivered.

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Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024	\$21 million
Reducing our funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to save a further \$27.5 million, with effects on service delivery (including economic development and tourism promotion) and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland	\$27.5 million
Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, arts and culture programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres	\$20 million
Reducing local board funded activities across all boards	\$16 million
Reducing regional contestable grants	\$3 million
No longer directly providing early childhood education services	\$1 million

Note: that a 1 per cent change in general rates is equivalent to around \$20 million of revenue for the council

3.2 Implications for Ngāti Manuhiri

Proposal	Saving	Proceed	Key Considerations
Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024	\$21 million	Yes	
Reducing our funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to save a further \$27.5 million, with effects on service delivery (including economic development and tourism promotion) and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland	\$27.5 million	No	
Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, arts and culture programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres including the Southern Initiative; Low carbon living programme; climate action related activities; COMET – stop funding on education and skills across Auckland; other reductions in regional services	\$20 million	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These services are vitally important to us
Reducing local board funded activities across all boards	\$16 million	Yes	Reduce 21 Local Boards by 50% to 12 local boards to provide services to community groups.
Reducing regional contestable grants	\$3 million	No	Retain regional contestable grants

			<p>The following will have an impact on Maori organisations and grassroots roopu who rely on this putea</p> <p>Reduction in grants would effect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development • Events, Arts & Culture • Natural Heritage • Environment • Historic Heritage • Youth and sports programme <p>Stopping grants would effect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Arts and Cultural Grants Scheme - \$1m • Regional Events Grants Programme \$0.6m • Ngā Hapori Momoho Thriving Communities \$0.3m • Regional Sport and Recreation Programme Grants \$0.3m • Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grants • Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grants \$0.5m • Regional Historic Grants Programme \$0.5m
No longer directly providing early childhood education services	\$1 million		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lack of provision for early childhood services.

3.3 Specific Feedback

Question: What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?	
Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
Do not proceed with some reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt	Please refer to the comments above.

3.4 Recommendations

1. Consider opportunities for Maori to deliver current Auckland Council services

4 Managing rates and debt

4.1 Proposal

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rate 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 (see page 54 of the consultation document for more details).

Note: Check our online calculator to see how the proposal would change your rates: akhaveyoursay.nz/ratesguide

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.

4.2 Specific Feedback: Question: What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that many households are struggling

4.3 Recommendations

1. Accommodate the needs of people who are unable to afford rates increase
2. Acknowledge that more work needs to be undertaken to understand the impacts on people
3. Incorporate Treaty principles

5 Storm response

5.1 Proposal

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).

5.2 Specific Feedback: Question: What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding recovery works such as clean up and repair costs; waste removal; building inspections; processing relief claims is crucial Redirect funds to marae and iwi organisations who have stronger relationships with the community and are able to respond more rapidly and efficiently Enable a community led response There is already evidence that a community led response – look at the response during COVID-19 and the floods The proposal to increase the operating budget will benefit future generations by replacing infrastructure and ensuring that it is fit for purpose It is an investment for the whole of the region and will benefit current and future generations

5.3 Recommendations

1. Help Maori with the setup of evacuation centres (especially marae)
2. Proactively address stormwater requirements
3. Work closely with local communities to find long-term solutions
4. Acknowledge that more work needs to be undertaken to understand the impact on people
5. Listen to the voices of those who will be impacted the most in the future. Primarily those advocates of climate change and for Mana Whenua

6 Local Board Priorities

Please refer to **Section 1.7** (above) for a description of our Local Boards.

6.1 Specific Feedback

Question: 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?	
Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
Don't know	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See comment below.

6.2 Recommendations

1. Please contact us directly to discuss potential options and opportunities.

7 Others matters of importance to us

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2023/2024 (page 59 in the consultation document)?

Retain the Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Forum

This forum enables mana whenua to work together with Auckland Council on a raft of highly strategic issues and opportunities.

8 Summary Conclusions

We have provided Auckland Council with feedback on the specific proposal and identified additional matters that are important to us.

Recommendations

- Reduce composition of Local Board from 21 to 12 and reduce services
- Retain regional contestable grants
- Remember that people and the environment are important
- Develop more enduring, long-term solutions that reflect the needs of people and the environment
- Enhance the wellbeing of people and the environment through a sense of community
- Please accept our invite to the entire Auckland Council Leadership Team to come, share a meal, and meet with us

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Annual Budget 2023/2024. Please feel very welcome to contact us if you would like to discuss any aspects of our submission further.

Ngā mihi

Nicola MacDonald
CEO

Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust
PO Box 117, Warkworth 1910
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Appendix 1 Rohe – Ngāti Manuhiri





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Annual Budget 2023/2024

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

Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotearoa Trust Board

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

I don't know

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Please see attachment (page 4 -6) (Themed as 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? I don't know

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) by two thirds

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea relies on the consistency of the conservation and

environmental projects on Aotea. As the kaitiaki for our land, forests, and seas, we have an obligation to

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: We support any work and increased budget to improve the infrastructure. For Aotea, as a

remote community we have unique needs and challenges that must be considered when

making decisions about investment needed infrastructure development. Based on our

rem

5. Local Boards

Aotea/Great Barrier 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: Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea is heavily reliant on local events, community grants, and community and environmental programmes provided by the Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board.

Resources help us realise our social, economic, environmental, and cultural aspirations.

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

Tell us why these are most important to you:

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

We request Auckland Council:

☐ Reject the proposal to reduce the Natural Targeted Rate (NETR) by two thirds; and to recognise that programmes progressed by Auckland Council are reliant on continued funding to keep the tremendous positive momentum (and 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 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.



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Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust Board
PO BOX 5
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Aotea 0963
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Website: www.ngatirehua.com

28 March 2023

Governing Body

Ak Have Your Say
Auckland Council
Freepost Authority 182382
Private Bag 92 300
Auckland 1142
New Zealand
Email akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
Website: akhaveyoursay.nz/budget

Tēnā koutou,

Re: Submission on Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024 – Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's Annual Budget 2023/2024. We are providing this submission on behalf of Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust Board. We can confirm that we have authority to submit on our organisation's behalf.

1 Introduction

Ko Motu Tohora i whaka kohatu ngia kei Te Tai Tonga,
Ko Hauturu kei Te Tai Hauauru,
Ko Nga Taratara of Toi te Huatahi kei Te Tai Tokerau,
Ko Rakitu kei Te Tai Rawhiti,
Ko Hirakimata te maunga tapū kei waenganui,
Ko Aotea moutere rongonui, Aotea whakahirahira, Aotea utanganui, Aotea tāonga maha
te rohe,
Ko Ngāti Rehua te Iwi.



Who are we?

Ngāti Rehua - Ngāti Wai ki Aotea Trust Board (NRNWKA) are the mandated authority representing the tangata whenua of Aotea (Great Barrier Island), this includes the people of te iwi o Ngāti Rehua who hold mana whenua rights and mana moana rights over Aotea (Great Barrier Island), Hauturu (Little Barrier Island) and the surrounding small islands, we also represent Ngāti Wai ki Aotea who have customary rights on Aotea through intermarriage and whanaungatanga.

A key obligation for the Trust Board is to provide support to ngā uri o Ngāti Rehua and Ngāti Wai ki Aotea, ngā marae o Aotea, te hāpori o Aotea, in the pursuit of rangatiratanga and ora.

We have a responsibility as the only legitimate entity to speak on behalf of tangata whenua, and as such any matters relating to Aotea, Hauturu or the surrounding islands that require tangata whenua input and/or representation should be directed to Ngāti Rehua-Ngāti Wai ki Aotea Trust Board.

History of Ngāti Rehua and Aotea

Ngāti Rehua are descended from the great explorer Toi te Huatahi (Toi the Lone born) who captained his waka from Hawaiiki to Aotearoa sometime in the 13th century. The people of Toi settled Aotea (Great Barrier Island) and the surrounding Islands, Toi's name remains today on several important landmarks including Te Moana nui o Toi (The Great Sea of Toi), Nga Taratara o Toi (The Needles) and Te Hauturu o Toi (The Winds of Toi – Little Barrier Island).

The founding ancestor of Ngāti Rehua is Rehua who in the late 17th century together with his son Te Rangituangahuru led a War Party of Te Kawerau Warriors from Mahurangi supported by Ngāti Manaia allies to conquer Aotea. The mana whenua and mana moana held by Ngāti Rehua in relation to Aotea stems from take raupatu or right of conquest, all of our ancestral rights and obligations relating to Aotea and its environs stem from this raupatu and we alone have maintained continuous occupation (ahi ka roa) and Kaitiakitanga from the time of Toi te Huatahi in the 13th century to modern times.

Through protection of our air, water, and of our land itself, and of the health and existence of our communities, we reinforce the message that the old values of looking after the welfare of our future generations still has meaning and, perhaps most importantly, still remains.





2 Understanding of the Proposal

We understand that Auckland Council has faced ongoing budget challenges for some time and, following recent rapid increases in inflation and interest rates, we now need to address a forecast budget shortfall that has grown to \$295 million for the 2023/2024 financial year. We have limited options available to manage our budget challenge in the next financial year, which begins on 1 July 2023.

Over the longer-term, we also understand that Auckland Council can consider a broader range of options including reviewing what council invests in and finding new ways to work with central government and other external partners. This could involve looking at the services we provide to the community and how they are delivered.

In the meantime, the Auckland Council proposed budget package for 2023/2024 includes:

- Reducing our operating costs by an additional \$125 million across Auckland Council and Council Controlled Organisations. This would impact some services that we currently deliver
- A rates package that would see a total rate increase for the average value residential property of around 4.66 per cent or \$154 a year (around \$3 a week)
- Selling our shareholding in Auckland International Airport (currently around 18% of the Airport's shares) to reduce our borrowing
- Borrowing no more than \$75 million of additional debt, so that we can cope with any future financial uncertainty (current policy allows us to further borrow up to \$140 million).

Following public feedback, if this proposed budget package is not supported or if our financial challenge worsens, we would need to make up the shortfall another way. We would need to consider:

- A higher rates package that could see a total rate increase for the average value residential property of up to 13.13 per cent or \$433 a year (\$8.30 a week)
- Increasing debt further. However, more debt will increase interest costs and doesn't address the need to spend within budget. It also makes it harder to respond to any unexpected financial shocks.

3 Operating spending reductions

3.1 Proposal

Auckland Council have already decided to reduce costs by simplifying management structures and sharing resources more across the Council group (including Auckland Transport, other Council Controlled Organisations and Ports of Auckland), with implications including staff reduction. Our proposal to save \$125 million would also require other reductions, including:

Proposal	Saving
Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of	\$21 million



December 2022) for 2023/2024	
Reducing our funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to save a further \$27.5 million, with effects on service delivery (including economic development and tourism promotion) and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland	\$27.5 million
Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, arts and culture programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres	\$20 million
Reducing local board funded activities across all boards	\$16 million
Reducing regional contestable grants	\$3 million
No longer directly providing early childhood education services	\$1 million

Note: that a 1 per cent change in general rates is equivalent to around \$20 million of revenue for the council

3.2 Implications for Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea

Proposal	Saving	Proceed	Implications
Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024	\$21 million	Yes	<p>Key considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavioural changes due to COVID-19 impacted PT patronage usage to only 67% pre-COVID levels AT proposes to hold public transport services at the current levels AT will continue to seek further efficiencies to limit the timetable and service frequency impacts <p>Implications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, 138 fewer bus trips per week will operate in 2023/2024 reflecting: 588 fewer bus trips Up to 450 more bus trips following Northwest Busway Improvement service changes Ferry services will remain the same Train services will be impacted by KiwiRail stages track closures <p><i>This proposal is not anticipated to impact on our whanau.</i></p>
Reducing our funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to save a further \$27.5 million, with effects on service delivery (including economic	\$27.5 million	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed reductions will have significant impact on activities and services TAU will be able to deliver next year

development and tourism promotion) and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums and venues in Auckland			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be notable implications for service delivery and pricing at the Zoo, Art Gallery, stadiums and venues and a material reduction in spend related economic development TAU have identified a range of proposed actions to achieve the total reduction in council funding
Reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, arts and culture programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres including the Southern Initiative; Low carbon living programme; climate action related activities; COMET – stop funding on education and skills across Auckland; other reductions in regional services	\$20 million	No	<p>Implications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of external funding Loss of staff with specific skills and capability Likelihood of not meeting all objectives and outcomes in Auckland Council documents and policies
Reducing local board funded activities across all boards	\$16 million	No	<p>Potential effects on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local events Community grants Community and environmental programmes Opening hours and levels of service at council facilities <p>All have the potential to directly, and detrimentally effect our whanau</p>
Reducing regional contestable grants	\$3 million	No	<p>Reduction in grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Development Events, Arts & Culture Natural Heritage Environment Historic Heritage Youth and sports programme <p>Stopping grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Arts and Cultural Grants Scheme - \$1m

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Events Grants Programme \$0.6m Ngā Hapori Momoho Thriving Communities \$0.3m Regional Sport and Recreation Programme Grants \$0.3m Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grants Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grants \$0.5m Regional Historic Grants Programme \$0.5m <p>All have the potential to directly, and detrimentally effect our whanau</p>
No longer directly providing early childhood education services	\$1 million	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts ECE across ten sites within six Local Board areas currently catering for 300 children There are over 1400 providers and over 60,000 children receiving these services making the Councils provision small <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service operated at a loss of \$0.2m Rent costs an estimated loss of \$1m

3.3 Specific Feedback

Question: What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?	
Options	Feedback [Tick one]
Proceed with the proposed reductions	
Do not proceed with some reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt	
Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt	
Other	
I don't know	Yes



4 Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

4.1 Proposal

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 around \$1.9 billion. This is projected to reduce interest costs on our debt to save an estimated \$87 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 a 10 per cent shareholding (a so-called “blocking stake” – refer to page 89 of the consultation document). 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).

4.2 Implications for Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea

Unknown

4.3 Specific Feedback

Question: What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?	
Options	Feedback [Tick one]
Proceed with the proposal to enable the sale of all our shares in AIAL and use the proceeds to reduce debt and therefore annual interest costs by around \$87 million per year	
Enable a partial sale of our shares, maintaining a 10 per cent shareholding in AIAL (reducing our interest costs by around \$40 million per year), and further increase rates and/or debt	
Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt	
Other	
I don't know	Yes

5 Managing rates and debt

5.1 Proposal

To help with our budget challenge, we propose a total rate 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 (see page 54 of the consultation document for more details).

Note: Check our online calculator to see how the proposal would change your rates: akhaveyoursay.nz/ratesguide

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.

5.2 Implications for Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea

Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) by two thirds

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea relies on the consistency of the conservation and environmental projects on Aotea. As the kaitiaki for our land, forests, and seas, we have an obligation to care for our environment, not only to honour past generations but to provide for those yet to come.

As the Auckland Council State of the Environment Report (2015) states “*a declining health of land and water environments as a result of past decisions and development to provide for a growing population, changes to land use and how we use the land, as well as climate change were identified as adding to the pressure on the natural environment*”.

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea relies on the projects funded by the NETR to protect our natural environment and tackle the pests, weeds and diseases that threaten our native species. Reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) will risk the success of the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea led project - Tū Mai Taonga; undermining the inputs of local communities who have invested substantial time and resource into pest management; planting; weed control; and control of kauri dieback. We implore Auckland Council to recognise that these projects require sustained resource investment to maintain current momentum and achieve future success.



Specific Feedback

Question: What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?	
Options	Feedback [Tick one]
Proceed with the proposed increases to rates (4.66 per cent overall for the average value residential property) and debt (up to \$75 million of additional debt)	Yes
Set a higher general rates increase	
Make greater use of debt	
Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt	
Make less use of debt and set a higher general rates increase	
Other	
I don't know	

6 Storm response

6.1 Proposal

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).

6.2 Implications for Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea

We support any work and increased budget to improve the infrastructure. For Aotea, as a remote community we have unique needs and challenges that must be considered when making decisions about investment needed infrastructure development. Based on our remoteness, we don't think that has been done well in the past.

We had significant damage to the roading infrastructure through slips and loss of communications. Loss of roads means that people lose mobility. This poses significant risks for the health of residents, making it difficult to ascertain if our whanau are safe and/or get them the medical care they need (if required).

We fully support Auckland Council's desire to proactively manage stormwater infrastructure. Being proactive requires a commitment to understand updated risk levels as per climate change projection models, a place-based review for Aotea on the ability of our lifelines infrastructure to cope, and putting the necessary resources in place to strengthen our vulnerable environmental infrastructure.

Our priority is ensuring environmental resilience. The recent weather events have strengthened the case for greater protection and restoration of our environment on Aotea



especially indigenous forest. This can be achieved via continued support for environmental projects such as Tu Mai Taonga. We suggest investing into initiatives that fortify our whenua, our land such as protecting and restoring wetlands and trees; and managing flood risk is a more sustainable and cost-effective approach, so suggest resources should be focused here.

6.3 Specific Feedback

Question: What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?	
Options	Feedback [Tick one]
Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year	Yes
Do not proceed with the proposal	
Other	
Don't know	

7 Local Board Priorities

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea rohe spans the following Local Boards:

*Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board

7.1 Implications for Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea is heavily reliant on local events, community grants, and community and environmental programmes provided by the Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board.

Resources help us realise our social, economic, environmental, and cultural aspirations for people and the environment. We implore Auckland Council to consider values over and above monetary cost. Success will only be achieved by considering factors over and above money.

7.2 Specific Feedback

Question: 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?	
Options	Feedback [Tick one]
I support all priorities	Yes
I support most priorities	
I do not support most priorities	
I do not support any priorities	
Other	
Don't know	

8 Change to other rates and fees and charges

8.1 Proposal

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. What do you think of these proposals?

Proposal	Support	Do not support	Other	I do not know
Waste management rates changes				
Cost changes in waste management, including:				
a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase,	Yes			
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	Yes			
c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Yes			
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	Yes			
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.		Yes		
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.	Yes			
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.	Yes			

9 Decisions Sort

We request Auckland Council:

- **Reject the proposal to reduce the Natural Targeted Rate (NETR) by two thirds;** and to recognise that programmes progressed by Auckland Council are reliant on continued funding to keep the tremendous positive momentum (and not undermine efforts) to date.
- **Reject the proposal to reduce Local Board funded activities across all Local Boards and recognise that success is evaluated by a lot more than money.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Annual Budget 2023/2024. Please feel very welcome to contact us if you would like to discuss any aspects of our submission further.

Ngā mihi
Opo Ngawaka
Chair - Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotearoa Trust Board