



Date: Monday 24 April 2023

Annual Budget 2023-2024

Regional Organisations

WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 2 (36422-37357)

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36422	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua	Regional Organisation	2
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37357	Enviro Hubs	Regional Organisation	2



36422



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): Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua

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: 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? 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: Set higher general rates increase to cover the shortfall to avoid cuts highlighted above; and

Make greater use of debt to cover the shortfall to avoid cuts highlighted above.

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,	Support

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.	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?

a. Māori Land Rates and Remissions Policy

Firstly, the proposal to amend the Māori Land Rates Remission and Postponement Policy. Te Rūnanga agrees to the amendments in principle. However, there are a couple of considerations to be amended:

1. Suggest incl

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.



27 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 – [Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua]

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's Annual Budget 2023/2024. We are providing this submission on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua. We can confirm that we have authority to submit on our organisation's behalf.

1 Introduction

Ngāti Whātua are a confederation of autonomous whānau and hapū who are connected by tātai and long association over time. The term Ngāti Whātua is generally used to describe the descendants of Haumoewarangi and Tuperiri. Their rohe covers the whole of the Kaipara, some of Whangārei District and much of Tamaki Makaurau. It extends from Maunganui and Manaia in the north to the Tamaki River in the South. It is usually expressed as Tamaki ki Maunganui i te Tai Hauauru and Tamaki ki Manaia i te Rāwhiti. The northern boundary is expressed as Manaia titiro ki Whatitiri, Whatitiri titiro ki Tūtamoe, Tūtamoe titiro ki Maunganui. The Southern boundary is expressed as Te Awa o Tamaki.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua was constituted by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Act 1988 and has been in existence for 34 years (**the Rūnanga**). It is a Māori Trust Board under the Māori Trust Boards Act 1955.

The Rūnanga is the sole representative body and authorised voice to deal with issues affecting the whole of Ngāti Whātua. It is well known that within Ngāti Whātua and has a positive track record in representing iwi and the widespread support of Ngāti Whātua.

Since 1992, The Rūnanga has managed the WAI 303 iwi claim on behalf of all of Ngāti Whātua to ensure the iwi moves forward and settles its historical claims. In addition the Rūnanga is committed to providing a unified approach across Ngāti Whātua hapū who have unsettled claims.

In more contemporary times, the Rūnanga has been heavily involved in the Kaipara Moana settlement that has culminated in the Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme receiving one hundred million dollars towards the restoration of Kaipara Moana.

The Rūnanga has also had a key role in the Environment appeal against Auckland Council regarding the “Dome Valley” proposed landfill by Waste Management. If allowed to proceed, it would have catastrophic generational consequences if leachate from the landfill escaped into the nearby Hōteio and the Kaipara Moana. This area is of paramount cultural, and spiritual significance to the uri of Ngāti Whātua.

The Rūnanga is comprised of four entities that make up the 19 broader mana whenua entities within the Auckland region. These are:

- 1.1 ***Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua***: the mandated body for the purposes of negotiating the settlement of the remaining historical claims of Ngāti Whātua (that is, the iwi claim and the outstanding hapū claims);
- 1.2 ***Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust***: the PSGE for Te Uri o Hau;
- 1.3 ***Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Development Trust***: the PSGE for Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara ki te Tonga (ngā hapū o ngā marae e rima o Kaipara ki te Tonga – Reweti, Haranui, Kākānui, Araparera and Puatahi);
- 1.4 ***Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust***: the PSGE for Ōrākei (Te Tāoū (Na Tuperiri), Ngāoho and Te Uringutu).

This submission does not purport to speak for, or on behalf of entities above 1.2 through 1.4. We support any submissions that each entity may submit on its own behalf.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua is currently working through the completion of a Relationship Agreement as between Auckland Council Group and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua in addition to an increased Capability and Capacity Agreement and potentially a Master Services Agreement. We are grateful to your team at Ngā Mātārae for progressing these instruments.

2 Understanding of the Proposal

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua understands that Auckland Council has faced ongoing budget challenges for some time and, following recent rapid increases in inflation and interest rates, it now needs to address a forecast budget shortfall that has grown to \$295 million for the 2023/2024 financial year.

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

We also understand that following public feedback, if this proposed budget package is not supported or if the financial challenge worsened, Auckland Council would need to make up the shortfall another way. It is likely that it would need to consider:

- A higher rates package including 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); and
- Increasing debt further. However, more debt will increase interest costs interest rates are susceptible to unexpected financial shocks.

However, the recommendation from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua is to avoid (at all costs the) cost savings in the highlighted sections totalling \$39 million dollars and increase rates and increase debt where possible as these will have the greatest negative impact on Ngāti Whātua, Māori and the vulnerable in general. However, generally Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua does not support any of the cuts.

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

3 Specific Implications for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua uri

Proposal	Saving	Proceed	Implications
Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024	\$21 million	No	<p>Key considerations</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 • Train services will be impacted by KiwiRail stages track closures • Historically, where services are “maintained” but there is “cost” cuts, Māori are disproportionately affected whether it be as AT employees or as users of the service • Anecdotally, we know that Māori rely on public transport both for employment and domestic needs due to the costs of vehicle running costs, petrol and parking.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historically, we know that where savings are to be made, Māori are disproportionately affected whether it be as employees, contractors or artists. • A lack of funding for Māori artists will negatively impact on Toi Māori and there will be less Toi for the benefit of future generations of Māori and non-Māori alike.

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 • Loss of activities that have positive impacts on Māori, on rangatahi, kaumatua, kuia, tauira, tamariki and Ngāti Whātua whānui • Lack of support • Increased homelessness • Increased anti-social activity • Increased crime • Erosion of community and social cohesion • Lack of opportunities to teach climate change and ways to combat it • The implications are endless.....
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 • Disproportionate effects on Māori. Initiatives such as Te Kete Rukuruku, Matariki, TUIA rangatahi mentorship etc, Hoani Waititi funding, Waitakere ki tua etc. Te Ara Kotui, Governance action plan, community grants and Matariki at

			the Local Board level could be impacted.
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 • 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>Will all have an impact on Māori organisations and grassroots roopu who rely on this putea.</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 tamariki • There are over 1400 providers and over 60,000 children receiving these services making the Councils provision small

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4 General Reasons for Submission

The specific reasons for the submissions of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua are set out in detail below. However, at a general level and in relation to each aspect, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, seeks the following strategic outcomes within our Annual Plan which have the potential to be influenced (but not necessarily) by this budget as follows:

(a) The decline of Kaipara Moana and drive initiatives to remediate areas that have been degraded through siltation, by:

- a. Ensuring Kaipara Moana legislation is passed;
- b. Creation of a significant number of jobs;
- c. Supporting iwi/hapū nursery involvement in remediation programme; and
- d. Areas of particular importance to Ngāti Whātua are remediated.

(b) Ensure the health and well-being of Ngāti Whātua uri is being provided for through access to good hauora services, by:

- a. Work with integrated partners to develop care facilities that cater to the needs of vulnerable whanau in the rohe of Ngāti Whātua;
- b. Prioritise solutions for mental health and housing needs of whanau within the rohe.

(c) Establish an environmental unit that supports iwi, hapū, whānau, marae, and PSGEs to protect and develop natural resources according to Ngāti Whātua tikanga and aspirations, by:

- a. Increasing inhouse capacity to manage kaitiaki functions of the Rūnanga;
- b. Review contracts with Auckland Council and input into matters of relevance;
- c. Participation in high-level reviews and district and regional council planning;
- d. Support marae and hapū in opposing the Dome Valley Landfill; and
- e. Input and participation into Three Waters Reforms.

(d) Driving the collection of relevant social and economic data to help inform decisions made by the Board and management, including:

- a. Accessing social and economic data relating to Ngāti Whātua uri that can assist the Rūnanga to create and accurate profile;
- b. The housing needs of Ngāti Whātua and Māori within the rohe has been determined.

Our primary interests are decisions within the Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024 which:

- May affect our capacity and capability contract we have negotiated in principle and are happy with, which will be brought to the governing body for approval.
- Negatively impact the Kaipara Moana & Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme.
- May negatively impact on positive and appropriate solutions for mental health and housing needs of whanau.

5 Specific Reasons for Submission (without including rationale):

(a) Operating spending reductions:

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

(b) Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (**AIAL**) Shareholder Policy:

- i. Proceed with the proposal to enable the **sale of all** shares in AIAL and use the proceeds to reduce debt and therefore annual interest costs by around \$87 million per year.

(c) Managing rates and debt:

- i. 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); PLUS
- ii. Set **higher** general rates increase to cover the shortfall to avoid cuts highlighted above; and
- iii. Make **greater** use of debt to cover the shortfall to avoid cuts highlighted above.

(d) Storm response:

- i. Proceed with the proposal to increase the operating budget by around \$20 million each year and engage with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua on specific support it can provide moving forward.

(e) Local board priorities:

- i. We support most priorities but are hoping that the funding is not cut to local boards and therefore they are able to realise those priorities as it's difficult to see how they can realistically achieve those with the current proposal.

(f) Change to other rates and fees and charges:

- i. Support

(g) Additional matters that are important to us include:

- a. Māori Land Rates and Remissions Policy

Firstly, the proposal to amend the Māori Land Rates Remission and Postponement Policy. Te Rūnanga agrees to the amendments in principle. However, there are a couple of considerations to be amended:

1. Suggest inclusion into introduction to policy to read, “...providing assistance with rates through Māori land rates remission and postponement policy *recognising the burden placed on owners and beneficiaries to the obligations associated with protecting taonga tuku iho*”.
2. Suggest that the Policy further apply pursuant to Part 6: i.e. to an occupation order.
3. Suggest that the conditions and criteria including the words, “*beneficially at (e)*” to instead 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.
4. Whether Mana Whenua can have an annual update of the rating units that qualify, since there are 89 Māori 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 consent to the supply of data in the application form.





6 Additional matters that are important to us include:

a. Eke Panuku Development

- In light of paragraph 2b above, it is our primary focus to find solutions for the mental health and housing needs of our whanau through social housing. Eke Panuku Development is a key stakeholder in this priority outcome for this.

b. Civil Defence and Emergency Events

- We have seen an unprecedented amount of civil defence emergencies and we 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 learned from the previous events and will determine appropriate figures. We would like to continue this korero/conversation.

Organisation	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua
Date	27 March 2023
Signature	
Name	
Role	Kaitiakitanga and Natural Resources Manager
Address for Service	193 Lower Dent Street, Whangārei
Phone	
Email	



36525



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Organisation (if applicable): Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust

Your local board: Regional organisation

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

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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: Support proposed reductions however maintain the Māori Outcomes forecasted budgets and those of local boards. We also insist on ALL directorates maintaining and or creating in some instances there own Maori Outcomes budget so as to not just rely on the \$150m set aside. Please see attachment for further comments

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: We are acutely aware of sustainable income streams for our future generations and this sale on the front of it seems quite short sighted.

The proposed sale of Auckland Council's 18 per cent shareholding in Auckland International Airport Ltd (NZX:AIA) could

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Proceed with 4.66 % increases and make greater use of debt. Design this with Mana Whenua to ensure equity.

The proposed 4.66% increase aligns with inflation.

Using greater debt aligns with retaining the AIAL shares

Given the priority of required infrastr

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: We agree to proceed with the proposal and highlight again the absolute service provision our marae across Tāmaki Makaurau play in the health and wellbeing of our communities. The storm response fund should support nga marae and iwi who are tirelessly work

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

- Real Meaningful Partnership and upholding our Treaty Relationship
- Equitable Opportunities and Iwi Resilience and Sustainability
- Te Mana o Te Wai and Te Oranga o Te Taiao:

Three Waters

Housing

Education

Employment

Important privacy information

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36526



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): (in confidence)

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: Consider mitigations; identify cost savings; do not increase rates; increase the debt facility

Please see attachments for further comments

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: • Overall, good long-term investment.

- Protect our interest from overseas threats.
- Don't agree with rate increases.
- How is criteria factoring in people?
- Did modelling include the cumulative impact to whānau

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: • We need to decrease the stress caused by cumulative 'tax' increases to individuals and whānau.

- How will you manage this with an equity lens?
- What is Auckland Council's proposed strategy to help those that can't afford proposed rates increases?

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: • Enable marae to be in a position to help themselves and the community of which they all already do.

- Provide emergency housing when required and it is evident through COVID-19 that Iwi/Hapū and Marae are well equipped and able to mobilise quickly.
- Ha

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- 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 constant for Auckland Council is our people and te taiao.

2. We need to see more enduring, long-term solutions that reflect the needs of people and the environment.

3. We would like to see a budget that adds value and impact to the lives of our people

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36527



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Ngāti Paoa 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).

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

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

Proceed with the proposed reductions

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

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

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

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

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

What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares? 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: • Accommodate the needs of people who are unable to afford rates increase

- Prices are rising across New Zealand, finances are tight for a lot of households across the Auckland Region

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:• Proactively address stormwater requirements

- Work closely with local communities to find long-term solutions

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

- We don't envy the Council position and the tough decisions that need to be made. We simply support the initiatives the mayor says need to be implemented, to help address the debt deficit.
- After the recent climatic events, Councils priority should focus

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Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024

Ngāti Paoa Trust Board
Oral Submission to the Governing Body

Friday, 24th March 2023



Ngati Paoa Trust Board

About Us



Rohe



36527



Key Messages



Key Messages

You have a job to do that the people of Tamaki Makaurau voted you in to do, and we are supportive of their decision. The situation you have inherited needs to change and people need to understand that some things cannot continue as they were.



Specific Feedback



1. Operating Spending Reductions

Question: What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?		
Options		Feedback [Select one]
Proceed with the proposed reductions		X
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		
Proposal	Saving	Feedback [Select one]
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	

Recognise the benefits of enhancing the wellbeing of people and the environment

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

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	
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	Feedback [Select one] X
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	

3. Managing Rates & Debt

Question: What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?	
Options	Feedback [Select 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)	X
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	

Key considerations:

- Accommodate the needs of people who are unable to afford rates increase
- Prices are rising across New Zealand, finances are tight for a lot of households across the Auckland Region

“We are concerned about the effects of a rates increase for families that are already struggling.”

4. Storm Response

Question: What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?	
Options	
Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year	Feedback [Select one] X
Do not proceed with the proposal	
Other	
Don't know	

Key considerations:

- Proactively address stormwater requirements
- Work closely with local communities to find long-term solutions

5. Local Board Priorities

Ngāti Paoa rohe spans 8 Local Boards

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	
I support all priorities	Feedback <i>[Select one]</i> X
I do not support most priorities	
I do not support any priorities	
Other	
Don't know	

Please contact us to discuss Local Board Priorities further.

6. Additional Matters

- We don't envy the Council position and the tough decisions that need to be made. We simply support the initiatives the mayor says need to be implemented, to help address the debt deficit.
- After the recent climatic events, Councils priority should focus on assisting those ratepayers affected by them.
- We all know that Council is in financial trouble and although we focus on what we have been used to, instead we have to accept that things are not the same and we need to adapt to what is required.
- That's the mayors job, and we wish him well.

Conclusions & Decisions Sought



Conclusions and Decisions Sought

We request that Auckland Council:

- Local Board members contact us directly to discuss potential options/opportunities

“When making budget decisions, remember the importance of enhancing the wellbeing of people and the environment.”



Contacts



Our Contacts

Please feel very welcome to contact us anytime

Name	
Role	Principal Officer
Postal Address	PO Box 204 144, Highbrook, Auckland 2161
Email	nptb@ngatipaoatrustboard.co.nz
Mobile	
Website	https://www.ngatipaoatrustboard.co.nz/

“Work with us to help achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.”



36527





36528



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): TE WHAKAKITENGA O WAIKATO INCORPORATED

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

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What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares? 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: • Holding shares retains an income earning asset and maintains future income streams

- Short-term fix – doesn't negate the possibility of potential rates increases
- Need confidence that Auckland Council would utilise the proceeds of the sale well
- 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

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Debt

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

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

Tell us why: Minimise use of debt

- Application of a rates increase over a period of 5 years with a cap on the increase
- Allow ratepayers time to plan
- Provision for low-income people?
- Once debt is minimised, rates must be assessed again to look at reduction
- Inc

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: 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 m

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

Please see attachment (pg 16 onwards)

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Te Whakakitenga o Waikato
PO Box 648
HAMILTON 3240
Email:



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 – This response is filed for Waikato-Tainui by: Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's Annual Budget 2023/2024. We are providing this submission on behalf of Waikato Tainui. We can confirm that we have authority to submit on our organisation's behalf.

1 About Us

1.1 Whakapapa

This response is made on behalf of Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated (formerly known as Waikato-Tainui Te Kauhanganui Incorporated).

Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated (Waikato-Tainui) is the governing body for the **33 hapuu and 68 marae** of Waikato and manages the tribal assets for the benefit of over **80,000** registered tribal members.

1.2 Rohe

Waikato-Tainui are tangata whenua and exercise mana whakahaere within our rohe (tribal region). Our tribal rohe is bounded by Auckland in the north and Te Rohe Potae (King Country) in the south and extends from the west coast to the mountain ranges of Hapuakohe and Kaimai in the east. Significant landmarks within the rohe of Waikato include the Waikato and Waipaa Rivers, the sacred mountains of Taupiri, Karioi, Pirongia and Maungatautari, and the west coast harbours of Whaaingarua (Raglan), Manukau, Aotea and Kawhia moana, the eastern areas of Tikapa Moana (Firth of Thames), and principally, New Zealand's longest river, Te Awa o Waikato. Our tribal boundaries spans the following Local Boards: Franklin; Māngere-Ōtāhuhu; Manurewa; Maungakiekie-Tāmaki; Ōrākei; Ōtara-Papatoetoe; Papakura;

1.3 Current Context

Like many of the motu, high inflation, cost of living are having significant impact on our marae/hapuu/iwi that reside in Taamaki. It is exacerbated in Taamaki 10 fold because of the increased pressures for this region.

As we have stated throughout this submission, Waikato Tainui ask that the council take a measured approach to the budget to ensure minimal impact on those most vulnerable communities.

1.4 Waikato Tainui-Te Rautaki Taamaki-2020-2024

TE WHAKAKITENGA - VISION

Our vision, as set out in Whakatupuranga 2050, is inspired by Kiingi Taawhiao:

Maaku anoo e hanga i tooku nei whare	<i>I shall fashion my own house</i>
Ko ngaa pou oo roto he maahoe, he patete	<i>The support posts shall be of maahoe, patete</i>
Ko te taahuhu, he hiinau	<i>The ridgepole of hiinau</i>
Me whakatupu ki te hua o te rengarenga	<i>The inhabitants shall be raised on rengarenga</i>
Me whakapakari ki te hua o te kawariki	<i>And nurtured on kawariki</i>

Kia tupu he iwi whai hua, whai ora, whai tikanga, taakiri ngaakau, taakiri hinengaro
To grow a prosperous, healthy, vibrant, innovative and culturally strong iwi

TE WHAKAKITENGA-WAWATA – VISION-ASPIRATION

Our vision-aspiration is encapsulated in by following long-term outcome:

I am committed to Kiingitanga, fluent in te reo me oona tikanga, healthy, educated, financially secure, environmentally conscious and socially sound.

TE AHUNGA - MISSION

Kia tupu, kia hua, kia puaawai To grow, to proper, to sustain.

NGAA TIKANGA - VALUES

All that we do is underpinned by the unifying principles of Kiingitanga:

- Whakaiti *Humility*
- Whakapono *Trust and Faith*
- Aroha *Love and Respect*
- Rangimaarie *Peace and Calm*
- Manaakitanga *Caring*
- Kotahitanga *Unity*
- Mahitahi *Collaboration*

NGAA WHAAINGA MATUA - PRIMARY GOALS

There are four key goals in Whakatupuranga 2050 being:

- **Kia tiaki i te Kiingitanga** – to nurture the Kiingitanga movement
- **Kia mau ki ngaa taonga tuku iho** – to preserve tribal heritage
- **Kia eke ki ngaa taumata tiketike** – to achieve high levels of success
- **Kia whai too taatou mana motuhake** – to maintain our tribal independence

1.5 Strategic Direction

NGAA RAUTAKI POUPOU KI 2020 – STRATEGIC PRIORITIES TO 2020

There are three strategic priorities between now and 2020 which will enable Waikato-Tainui to help achieve the long-term vision under Whakatupuranga 2050, within Taamaki and Te Puaha:

- **Taamaki ki raro** - A place to stand

Pou Outcome

Our cultural identity, heritage and practices are upheld and protected

Pou Objectives

- Maintain our historical role and responsibilities for the Kiingitanga
- Collect, promote Waikato history as well as protect cultural identity, heritage and practices.
- Celebrate the histories and connections of our hapuu marae and whanau.

- **Taamaki Herenga Waka** – Success through relationships

Pou Outcome

- *Successful relationships through collaboration with marae/hapuu and key stakeholders*

Pou Objectives

- Support the development of marae/hapuu economies that connect and feed into a wider tribal economy
- Support strategic relations between marae/hapuu and external stakeholders
- Align external stakeholders to strategic tribal initiatives for long-term gains for all parties
- Meaningful relationships with Asia-Pacific countries and economies
- **Taamaki Ora** – Supporting social transformations

Pou Outcome

- *Tribal members are connected and have the support to determine their own pathway*

Pou Objectives

- Intergenerational access to social, economic and cultural equity
- Increase collective resilience and sense of pride and responsibility amongst all generations of Waikato
- Understand and support whaanau needs

1.6 Working with Auckland Council

Waikato Tainui 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 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	\$27.5 million

development and tourism promotion) 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, 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 Waikato Tainui

Proposal	Saving	Proceed	Key Considerations
Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024	\$21 million		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> effect of 138 fewer bus trips per week 2023/2024] effect of up to 450 more bus trips following Northwest busway Improvement service changes] ferry services staying the same] effect of Kiwi rail stages track closures]
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		<p>Waikato Tainui ask that the council consider the following regarding the impacts on Haapori Maaori within the Taamaki region;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> impacts of service implications for delivery and pricing at the Zoo; Art Gallery; stadiums and venues and a material reduction in spend related to economic development] ensuring the procurement of Maori businesses remain across all Auckland Council services Retain Tamaki Herenga Waka and the Indigenous Cultural Festival Apply and increase user pays levies Review the new business and economic support criterion Historically we know where savings are to be made. Maori are often disproportionately affected whether it be as employees, contractors or artists
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	\$20 million		<p>Waikato Tainui ask that the council consider the following regarding the impacts on Haapori Maaori within the Taamaki region;</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

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • We support a mix of levers to help with the \$295 million budget challenge • Important that core business of council is maintained, and some service provision will need to be reduced significantly • Review services via a panel selection – stop/pause or proceed with regional services as appropriate • Lack of support • Increased homelessness • Increased anti-social activity • Increased crime • 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	Yes	<p>Waikato Tainui ask that the council take a measured approach to this reduction and consider all the impacts to the Haapori Maaori within Taamaki.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain Local Board services our community depends on Local boards for: • Local events • Community grants • Community and environmental programmes

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening hours and levels of service at council facilities • Disproportionate effects on Maori such as: Te Kete Rukuruku; Matariki; Tuia; rangatahi mentorship; Hoani Waititi funding
Reducing regional contestable grants	\$3 million	?	<p>Waikato Tainui ask that the council take a measured approach to this reduction and consider all the impacts to the Haapori Maaori within Taamaki</p> <p>The following will have an impact on Maori organisations and grassroots roopu who rely on this putea</p> <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 • 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		Waikato Tainui do not hold any firm position on this funding of early childhood centres within Taamaki. Again we would ask that the council take a measured response to this reduction particularly in areas of highest needs which would support early child centres for these communities
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3.3 Specific Feedback

Question: What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?	
Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
Proceed with proposed reductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility for Māori • Communications via regional services initiatives and the Local Boards helps Māori build relationships with Auckland Council, that (in turn) results in greater trust and understanding – making cuts potentially jeopardizes relationships • Loss of staff with specific skills and capability
Do not proceed with some reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt	

3.4 Recommendations

1. Consider opportunities for Maori to deliver current Auckland Council services
2. Take time to consider building on models successfully employed during COVID-19 and use funding to help Māori help themselves
3. 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 • Short-term fix – doesn't negate the possibility of potential rates increases • Need confidence that Auckland Council would utilise the proceeds of the sale well • Debt minimalization quicker? • Opportunity exists for iwi to invest • Be clear about implications for employment including implications for the local, regional, and national economy/identity • Identify the merits of retaining shares Quantify short term and long-term implications of each option

4.3 Recommendations

1. Measure success using a far wider lens than economics i.e., consider people and their needs
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"> • Minimise use of debt • Application of a rates increase over a period of 5 years with a cap on the increase • Allow ratepayers time to plan • Provision for low-income people? • Once debt is minimised, rates must be assessed again to look at reduction • Inclusion of Treaty principles • Inclusion of a holistic approach • Prices rising across New Zealand, finances are tight for a lot of households across the Auckland Region

5.3 Recommendations

1. Undertake an external review of effectiveness and efficiencies
2. Acknowledge that more work needs to be undertaken to understand the impacts on people
3. Accommodate the needs of people who are unable to afford a rates increase
4. 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 Takes time to plan and evaluate the benefits that can be derived

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
We support all priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient time given our coverage across all local boards as mana Whenua to collate and assess all the documentation and/or consult with our Local Boards. This is crucial in terms of our feedback

7.2 Recommendations

1. Waikato Tainui request that the council carefully consider the approach to the reduction across Local Boards and ensure the prioritisation of the most vulnerable communities of which local boards represent to ensure support is continued.

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,	Y			
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	Y			
c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	Y			
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	Y			
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	Y			
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.	Y			
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.	Y			

9 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)?

9.1 Māori Land Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protected from being sold out of Māori ownership for the sole use of hapū/iwi. 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?	
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 *[Examples only below. Update as applicable]*

- 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.

9.2 Tupuna 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

9.3 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 • Without full consultation or consideration to each of the individual Mana Whenua entities through their Chairs any change or action contemplated by Auckland Council is unprecedented in an adverse way
Panuku Mana Whenua Forum (Governance and Operational)	Yes	
I & ES (Operational Forum)	Yes	
Auckland Transport (Operational Forum)	Yes	

Recommendations

- Retain engagement forums
- A word of caution to the Governing Body as to any proposed action it contemplates in the guise of a budget reduction for 2023/2024 thereafter.
- Any attempt by Auckland Council to usurp the partner status of Mana Whenua by way of managing or dis-establishing funding would be seen as a direct breach of Auckland Councils commitment to the Treaty

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

10 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

TE WHAKAKITENGA O WAIKATO INCORPORATED

Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive Officer

Address for Service:

Manager, Strategy and Relationships
PO Box 648
Hamilton
Telephone: 07-858 0400



36529



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): Te Ākitai Waiohū 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?

Other

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Please see attachment (pg 7 onwards)

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: Don't change the policy, keep all our shares [for a set period], and further increase rates and/or debt

☐ Be clear about implications for employment including

implications for the local, regional, and national

economy/identity

☐ Identify the merits of ret

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: Keep all rates the same for a set period and increase debt

☐ The current proposal excludes the needs of people

☐ Insufficient time expended to date to adequately understand

the impacts on people. Hence, option indicates a set period for

consultation

☐ Lac

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 (pg 11)

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.	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) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase - DO NOT SUPPORT

(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) - SUPPORT

(C) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.1

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 (pg 13)

Important privacy information

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Te Ākitai Waiohū Settlement Trust



Auckland
Mobile:
Email:
Email:

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 – Te Ākitai Waiohū 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 Te Ākitai Waiohū Settlement Trust (Te Ākitai). We can confirm that we have authority to submit on our organisation's behalf.

1 About Us

1.1 Whakapapa

Te Ākitai Waiohū are descended from Kiwi Tāmaki, the grandson of Huakaiwaka, himself the ancestor of the Waiohū iwi, who lived in Tāmaki (the Auckland isthmus). The name Te Ākitai commemorates Kiwi Tāmaki's uncle Huatau, who, in the early 18th century, died at sea in the Manukau Harbour and whose body was washed up (āki) by the sea (tai) on Puketutu Island.

Kiwi Tāmaki was killed in battle with Te Taoū hapū (sub-tribe) of Ngāti Whātua in the mid-18th century. Ngāti Whātua settled in Tāmaki and the Waiohū retreated to Drury, Pōkeno, Kirikiri/Papakura, Ramarama and other parts of South Auckland. In the 1780s Te Ākitai

Waiohūa re-established settlements at Wiri, Pūkaki and Otahuhu. Kiwi Tāmaki had a surviving son named Rangimatoru, who lived in South Auckland with Ngā Oho, a hapū of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei formed by intermarriages between Ngāti Whātua and Waiohūa people. He died circa 1793, fighting alongside Ngāti Whātua in a war with Hauraki Gulf-based iwi Ngāti Pāoa, and was succeeded by his son Pepene te Tihi.

In the 1820s Ngāpuhi of Northland acquired muskets and attacked Tāmaki, leading the local tribes to retreat to the Waikato. In 1835 the tribes returned and Te Ākitai Waiohūa resettled at Pūkaki, Papakura, Red Hill (near Papakura) and Pōkeno.

Te Ākitai Waiohūa became supporters of the Māori King Movement when it arose in the 1850s. By 1861 the chiefs of Te Ākitai Waiohūa were Pepene Te Tihi, grandson of Kiwi Tāmaki, and his son Ihaka Wirihana Takaanini. They lived at Pūkaki, Mangere and Ramarama. Before the invasion of the Waikato by the colonial government, Ihaka Takaanini was accused of being a rebel. Tribal land at Mangere was confiscated and Pepene Te Tihi, Ihaka, his wife and three children were arrested. Pepene, Ihaka and two of the children died in custody in 1863–1864. The surviving child, Te Wirihana Takaanini, became the chief of Te Ākitai Waiohūa.

1.2 Rohe

The traditional Te Ākitai Waiohūa rohe (refer to **Appendix 1**) extends west from Otakanini Pa, South Kaipara which is situated on a navigable creek that joins the Kaipara Harbour south of Aotea Bluff, thence east across to Puhoi and then in a straight line to the coast to the north of Wenderholm Regional Park, thence south down the Eastern Coast, excluding the Hauraki islands, to Tapapakanga Regional Park on the western shores of the Firth of Thames, thence across the Hunua Ranges including the Clevedon/Wairoa district, Papakura, Drury, Ararimu to Mangatawhiri and Pokeno, thence to Tuakau and Onewhero on the left bank of the Waikato River, thence along the left bank of the Waikato River including Tuhimata and Pukekohe to Port Waikato, thence northward, excluding Awhitu, Maoro and Waiuku, but including Patumahoe, Tuhimata and Pukekohe, Karaka, Manurewa, Clendon, Mangere, Onehunga and Hillsborough and the islands of the Manukau Harbour such as Puketutu Island; thence to Auckland Central including the eastern suburbs and Meadowbank, thence westward to the Waitakere Ranges and up the west coast to Otakanini Pa at South Kaipara.

Historically, land in the traditional rohe of Te Ākitai Waiohūa has been used for fishing, travel, occupation, and cultivation. Settlement was seasonal as the people stayed at main sites during winter, moved to smaller camps to plant gardens during spring, fished and collected kaimoana from fishing camps during summer and then returned to the main settlements again during autumn to harvest and store crops in preparation for winter. Te Ākitai Waiohūa were accomplished fishermen and farmers growing fruit, vegetables and raising livestock through to the 1860's. However, the Land Wars changed everything.

The Te Ākitai Waiohūa principal area of interest (refer to **Appendix 2**) is land within and surrounding Pūkaki Marae, which is in a rural area just south of the suburb of Mangere on the Waokauri Creek, an inlet of the Manukau Harbour. Te Ākitai are also associated with Makaurau marae at Ihumatao, just south-west of Mangere.

The Te Ākitai Waiohūa rohe spans areas managed by Auckland Council and extends across the Albert-Eden; Devonport-Takapuna; Henderson-Massey; Howick; Manurewa; Māngere-Ōtāhuhu; Puketāpapa; Upper Harbour; Waitemātā; Whau; Ōtara-Papatoetoe; Aotea/Great

Barrier; Franklin; Hibiscus and Bays; Kaipātiki; Maungakiekie-Tāmaki; Papakura; Rodney; Waiheke; Waitākere Ranges; and Ōrākei Local Boards.

1.3 Current Context

Since European colonisation, Te Ākitai Waiohū have struggled. Challenges confronting our people include:

- Lack of resources (people and budget) to fully achieve our strategic vision and related objectives; measure success or otherwise undertake substantive activities
- Lack of home ownership
- Poor resilience – ability to withstand external pressures (eg COVID-19, and recent flooding) is low
- Many are socio-economically behind
- A disproportionate number of our people are being injured or killed on the roads
- Students are struggling to transition from school to school and other educational institutions
- Climate change
- Significant number of our people are homeless
- Growth and development that causes environmental degradation and loss
- Lack of awareness

1.4 The Te Ākitai Waiohū Settlement Trust

On 5 March 2011, the Crown recognised the mandate of Te Ākitai Waiohū and the mandated negotiators to negotiate a comprehensive settlement of the historical Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi claims of Te Ākitai Waiohū with the Crown. The Crown agreed the Terms of Negotiation with the Authority in December 2012, setting the broad rules of engagement between the parties. In December 2016, an Agreement in Principle (AIP) was signed to outline the settlement claim and redress to be included. The AIP was developed into a Deed of Settlement describing the final settlement package and then signed off by the Authority in December 2021. There are currently 400 registered members on the Te Ākitai Waiohū register.

1.5 Strategic Direction

Te Ākitai Waiohū over-arching vision is ‘*Te Ākitai Oho Moata*,’ (translated as Te Ākitai awake at early dawn), meaning that it exists to prepare Te Ākitai Waiohū for the future. The overall strategic vision of the Te Ākitai Waiohū Settlement Trust is to successfully achieve the strategic objectives set in accordance with the four pou as areas of priority and core values and principles of Te Ākitai Waiohū so that our people are ready for the future. The four pou include:

1. **Cultural Identity** – developing a strong understanding of Te Akitai and Te Waiohū so we can be proud of who we are and prevent this knowledge from being lost
2. **Environment kaitiakitanga** – enabling Te Akitai Waiohū to exercise its traditional role as kaitiaki over the environment and resources of Tamaki Makaurau
3. **Economic Development** – identifying valuable opportunities for Te Akitai Waiohū to successfully build an economic base and achieve long term sustainable wealth
4. **Social Wellbeing** – assisting future generations of Te Akitai Waiohū by improving access to education, health and wellbeing, employment, training, and housing while encouraging involvement in tribal affairs

Strategic priorities relate to education; health and wellbeing; employment; training; housing and accommodation; and iwi and community involvement.

1.6 Guiding Principles

Te Ākitai Waiohū have three Guiding Principles that are particularly pertinent to the proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024. These relate to: Te Tiriti o Waitangi; Equity; and Holistic Management. We cite their importance in relation to their use by Auckland Council.

1.6.1 Guiding Principle – Te Tiriti o Waitangi

The Auckland Plan (2050) articulates Auckland Councils commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as (amongst others), “*The Treaty is an exchange of promises. Rangatira (chiefs) and the Governor (on behalf of the British Crown) agreed to a relationship where they would share power and authority. The Crown promised that Māori would enjoy equal citizenship and retain rangatiratanga over their iwi and hapū, territories, resources and taonga.*” It also states: “*Giving life to Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the Auckland Plan contributes to a more equitable future for Aucklanders and generations to come.*”

1.6.2 Guiding Principle – Equity

Two quotes encapsulate Te Ākitai Waiohū’s perspective regarding equity. Both make a clear distinction between equity and equality.

Merriam-Webster (2017) states: “*While apparently similar, the application of equity and equality can lead to significantly different outcomes for marginalized people. Equality means each individual or group of people is given the same resources and opportunities. Equity recognises that each person has different circumstances and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome.*”

The World Health Organisation (WHO) (2017) mirrors this explanation:

“*The absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically. As such, equity is the process and equality are the outcome of that process.*”

In alignment with this thinking, Te Ākitai Waiohū consider that it is not enough to provide people with the same resources (i.e., equality). To reduce the disparity gap, the underlying issues, and individual needs of at risk and vulnerable populations must be effectively addressed (i.e., via equity).

The proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024 higher rates cuts to Auckland Council services are a major concern for us. We are concerned that proposed changes will increase hardship for those who are *already* struggling. This means that Auckland Council need to recognise that we are not all starting on a level playing fact. In fact, some people aren’t even on the field. Hence, we need to work closely together to find enduring solutions, while accommodating the needs of people who need it most.

1.6.3 Guiding Principle – Holistic Management

Karl-Henrik Robert (1989) stated: “*A robust framework for success is only possible when we manage the whole. Managing pieces in isolation will only create fragmented success. By managing the whole, success is possible for everything and everyone.*” For Te Ākitai, the whole refers to enhancing cultural identity; environmental kaitiakitanga; economic

development, and social wellbeing. This is the lens through which we view the world. This is a wider lens than the decision-making criteria employed by Auckland Council for the Annual Budget 2023/2024. That is, the wellbeing of people and the environment and economic wellbeing are more accurate barometers of success than money alone.

1.7 Working with Auckland Council

Te Ākitai Waiohūa 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 Te Akitai Waiohū

Proposal	Saving	Proceed	Implications
Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024	\$21 million		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why have the infrastructure available so we need to use it Let AT come up with savings within a set period
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAU have already spent a lot of time to determine potential impacts. Hence, we should provide them with sufficient time to determine the specific impacts on the identity; economic development; arts for Tamaki Makaurau
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		<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	 [Consider equity]	<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
Reducing regional contestable grants	\$3 million		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little understanding or knowledge of these plans, programmes and/or policies As long as those that relate to the environment and natural heritage are accommodated in our funding for climate change and associated activities Mana Whenua would consider the impacts they

			can make on a local basis would enhance the role of kaitiakitanga
No longer directly providing early childhood education services	\$1 million		

3.3 Specific Feedback

Question: What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?	
Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
 Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility for Māori • Communications via regional services initiatives and the Local Boards helps Māori build relationships with Auckland Council, that (in turn) results in greater trust and understanding – making cuts potentially jeopardizes relationships • Loss of staff with specific skills and capability

3.4 Recommendations

1. Take time to consider building on models successfully employed during COVID-19 and use funding to help Māori help themselves
2. 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
 <p>Other - Don't change the policy, keep all our shares [<i>for a set period</i>], and further increase rates and/or debt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be clear about implications for employment including implications for the local, regional, and national economy/identity • Identify the merits of retaining shares • Quantify short term and long-term implications of each option

4.3 Recommendations

1. Measure success using a far wider lens than economics i.e., consider people and their needs
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
 Other – Keep all rates the same for a set period and increase debt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current proposal excludes the needs of people • Insufficient time expended to date to adequately understand the impacts on people. Hence, option indicates a set period for consultation • Lacks inclusion of Treaty principles • Lacks a holistic approach

5.3 Recommendations

1. Acknowledge that more work needs to be undertaken to understand the impacts on people
2. Ensure rates reflect the needs of all people, especially those that are already struggling i.e., ensure changes are equitable
3. Incorporate Treaty principles
4. 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
 Other – Proceed with the proposal to increase the Auckland Council operating budget to \$20 million.  However, do not proceed with an additional 1% of rates over and above the current rate proposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Takes time to plan and evaluate the benefits that can be derived


6.3 Recommendations

1. Acknowledge that more work needs to be undertaken to understand the impact on people
2. 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"> • Insufficient time given our coverage across all local boards as mana Whenua to collate and assess all the documentation and/or consult with our Local Boards. This is crucial in terms of our feedback

7.2 Recommendations

1. Please contact us directly to discuss potential options and opportunities.

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,		No		
b) an <u>option</u> 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 [Equity]			
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	Yes [Equity]			
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.				? [Equity]
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.				?

8.2 Implications for Te Akitai Waiohau

Do you have any feedback on the proposed changes in the table above, or the other proposed changes to rates, fees, and charges in the consultation document (pages 55,58)

(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)

9 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?

9.1 Māori Land Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

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:

- protected from being sold out of Māori ownership
- for the sole use of hapū/iwi.

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?

Options	Feedback – Key Considerations
 Support	<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 (currently 13 Mana Whenua, refer to Ngā Mana Whenua Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act).

Recommendation

- The model should reflect the Treaty of Waitangi principles

9.2 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

9.3 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 Without full consultation or consideration to each of the individual Mana Whenua entities through their Chairs any change or action contemplated by Auckland Council is unprecedented in an adverse way
Panuku Mana Whenua Forum (Governance and Operational)	Yes	
I & ES (Operational Forum)	Yes	
Auckland Transport (Operational Forum)	Yes	

Recommendations

- A word of caution to the Governing Body as to any proposed action it contemplates in the guise of a budget reduction for 2023/2024 thereafter.
- Any attempt by Auckland Council to usurp the partner status of Mana Whenua by way of managing or dis-establishing funding would be seen as a direct breach of Auckland Councils commitment to the Treaty.

10 Summary Conclusions

In its current form, the proposed Annual budget 2023/2024 will exacerbate challenges described in **Section 1.3** (above). Also see **Appendix 3** for the associated graphic.

To develop enduring, viable, long-term solutions, the Auckland Council will need to adopt Guiding Principles including committing to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Equity, and Holism.

We suggest that Auckland Council takes note to our recommendations above; that include:

1. Recognise that the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi; equity; and holism are fundamental to all decision making
2. Consider alternatives that incorporate the needs of people and the environment
3. Invest time now to yield long term rewards
4. Equity is key to success

He aha te mea nui o te ao

What is the most important thing in the world?

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

It is people, it is people, it is people.

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

Chairperson

Te Ākitai Waiohū Settlement Trust

Auckland

Mobile:

Email

Email

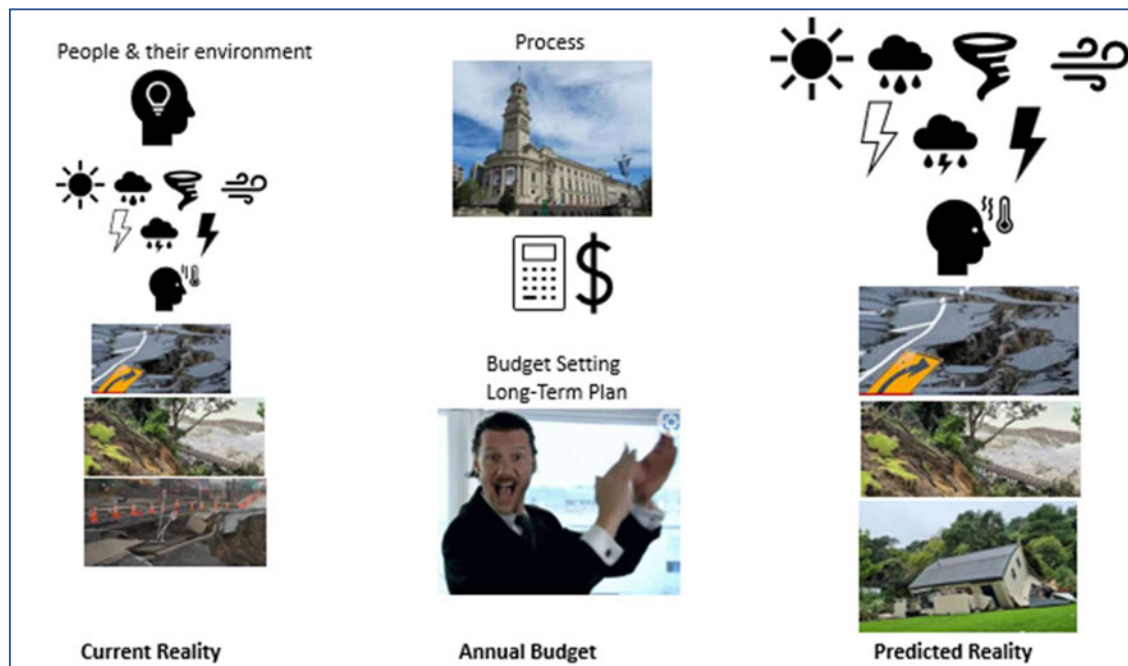
Appendix 1 Traditional Rohe – Te Ākitai Waiohū



Appendix 2 Localised rohe – Te Ākitai Waiohū



Appendix 3 – Predicted Trajectory of the Auckland Council proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024 in the absence of Te Ākitai Waiohū Settlement Trust Recommendations





36530



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 Tamaterā Treaty 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?

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: Support proposed reductions however maintain the Māori Outcomes forecasted budgets and those of local boards. We also insist on ALL directorates maintaining and or creating in some instances their own Māori Outcomes budget so as to not just rely on the \$150m set aside.

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: • The proposed sale of Auckland Council's 18 per cent shareholding in Auckland International Airport Ltd (NZX: AIA) could raise around \$2 billion, thereby reducing the debt servicing cost to ratepayers by at least \$88 million a year and cutting next year'

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: • Design this with Mana Whenua to ensure equity.

- Ensure there is provision for people on low incomes

Recommendations

1. Acknowledge that more work needs to be undertaken to understand the impacts on people
2. Accommodate the needs of people who are unab

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:• Funding recovery works such as clean up and repair costs, waste removal, building inspections, processing relief claims is crucial

- Increasing the frequency of our stormwater network programme is paramount to ensure risk mitigation
- Increased budget p

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

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

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

Please see attachment (pg 14)

Support proposed reductions however maintain the Māori Outcomes forecasted budgets and those of local boards. We also insist on ALL directorates maintaining and or creating in some instances their own Māori Outcomes budget s

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 Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust
PO Box 28, Thames 3540
Mobile:
Email:
Website: <https://www.tamatera.co.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 Tamaterā Treaty 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 Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust (**Ngāti Tamaterā**). We can confirm that we have authority to submit on our organisation’s behalf.

1 About Us

1.1 Whakapapa

Tamatera was the second son of the eponymous ancestor Marutūāhu, and his descendants formed the tribe known as Ngāti Tamaterā.

The Iwi of Ngāti Tamaterā is composed of approximately 3189 members (2018 census). Ngāti Tamaterā is one of the Iwi of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau the “Tāmaki Collective” and is also a member of the Pare Hauraki and Marutūahu collectives. Ngāti Tamaterā belong to three marae; Taharua, Te Paea o Hauraki and Te Pai o Hauraki. Ngāti Tamaterā is the mandated authority “Post Settlement Governance Entity” for its Iwi – Settlement eminent.

1.2 Rohe

The area of interest of Ngāti Tamaterā extends from Mahurangi in the north to Ngā Kurī a Whārei in the south: encompassing the islands and shores of Tīkapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf

from Auckland to the Coromandel Peninsula, to the islands and shores of Tīkapa Moana including Hauraki's eastern seaboard, reaching southwards to Katikati and Te Puna (the region between southern Hauraki and the western Bay of Plenty). This is expressed by Ngāti Tamaterā as “mai Matakana ki Matakana.”

The Ngāti Tamaterā rohe spans the following Local Boards: Albert-Eden; Aotea/Great Barrier; Devonport-Takapuna; Franklin; Henderson-Massey; Hibiscus and Bays; Howick; Kaipātiki; Manurewa; Maungakiekie-Tāmaki; Ōrākei; Ōtara-Papatoetoe; Papakura; Puketāpapa; Rodney; Upper Harbour; Waiheke; and Waitemātā; Local Board(s).

Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust

On June 2011, the Crown recognised the mandate of the Ngāti Tamaterā negotiators to negotiate a comprehensive settlement of the historical Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Tamaterā with the Crown. The mandated negotiators and the Crown entered into an agreement in principle equivalent on 22 July 2011. Ngāti Tamaterā's Post Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE), the Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust, was ratified between June and August of 2012. On September 2017, Ngāti Tamaterā and the Crown initialled a Deed of Settlement (the Deed). The Deed is subject to ratification by the members of Ngāti Tamaterā and conditional on the enactment of the settlement legislation. The Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS), with the support of the Department of Conservation (DOC), Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), and other government agencies, represented the Crown in day-to-day negotiations. The Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, the Hon. Christopher Finlayson, represented the Crown in high-level negotiations with Ngāti Tamaterā.

1.3 Strategic Direction

Ngāti Tamaterā aspires to be a vibrant, empowered, and prosperous tangata whenua community of mana in the Hauraki region – and particularly in those locations and places of historic concern to Ngāti Tamaterā. The refreshed Ngāti Tamaterā Iwi Strategy (April 2022) set the vision for where Ngāti Tamaterā want to be in 50 years, namely, to create a thriving Hauraki Nation and “To enhance the mana and wellbeing of Ngāti Tamaterā”. Ngāti Tamaterā will continue to grow the unique tangible and intangible culture of Ngāti Tamaterā. This is framed in the strategy by key values that define who Ngāti Tamaterā are and what comprises their Tamaterātanga:

1. Wairuatanga – holistic wellbeing including tapu and noa.
2. Whanaungatanga – our connection and whakapapa.
3. Whakakitenga – for our unique Tamaterātanga to be embraced.
4. Auahatanga – seen for our creativity and innovation. For Ngāti Tamaterā to be known as for its digital expertise and innovation across all sectors.
5. Hūmārie – moving with humility.
6. Tika & Pono – what is right and true. Being what is right and true in our actions.

This Tamaterātanga includes, among other things, language and cultural revitalisation leading to a new cultural creativity and the ability to interact with places of significance to Ngāti Tamaterā history and identity.

The Strategic Objectives to help achieve Ngāti Tamaterā's vision are:

1. Whanaungatanga – Building strategic and critical partnerships and to ensure a collective approach to Tamaterātanga

2. Tikanga – Standing proud in our Tamaterātanga and ensuring our actions are right and true (tika and pono)
3. Mātauranga – Setting the foundation for Tamaterātanga achieving excellence in education and knowledge
4. Developing initiatives designed to foster the identity, unity, and cohesion of Ngāti Tamaterā and its various sections enables the ‘reweaving’ of Ngāti Tamaterā back together again after generations of disconnection and alienation.

1.4 Working with Auckland Council

Ngāti Tamaterā 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: Thriving Communities; Review of Council-Controlled Organisations (CCOs); Freshwater Management Policy; Tupuna Maunga Operational Plan; Climate Change; Auckland Council’s Water Strategy, and Three Waters kaupapa.

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 Ngāti Tamatera

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"> Tautoko this proposal
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support user pays in areas not previously charged for some events and international visitors
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	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support the mix of levers to help with the \$295m budget challenge. It is important to us that the core business of council is maintained and that some service provision will need to be reduced significantly and left for external service providers to achieve, especially SOCIAL and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES. Working together from design stage is paramount for us. We support a mix of levers to help with the \$295 million budget challenge
Reducing local board funded activities across all boards	\$16 million	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Across all 21 local boards makes absolute sense averaging at \$762,000.00 each, however we are adamant that existing and future Māori Outcomes targets and budget allocation should remain the same.
Reducing regional contestable grants	\$3 million	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tautoko

No longer directly providing early childhood education services	\$1 million		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focusing on core council business is paramount and leaving the ECE services to the external service providers is preferred
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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support proposed reductions however maintain the Māori Outcomes forecasted budgets and those of local boards. We also insist on ALL directorates maintaining and or creating in some instances their own Māori Outcomes budget so as to not just rely on the \$150m set aside.

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"> The proposed sale of Auckland Council's 18 per cent shareholding in Auckland International Airport Ltd (NZX: AIA) could raise around \$2 billion, thereby reducing the debt servicing cost to ratepayers by at least \$88 million a year and cutting next year's rates rise by almost a third, Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown said today. Holding the shares retains an income earning asset and maintains future income streams. Selling the shares and reducing debt doesn't necessarily mean that a new Council/Mayor wouldn't then increase debt for another project in the future. We need to have confidence that AC would utilise all of the sale proceeds effectively for ratepayers, and not use them to plug holes in other budget areas?

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](https://www.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"> • Design this with Mana Whenua to ensure equity. • Ensure there is provision for people on low incomes

5.3 Recommendations

1. Acknowledge that more work needs to be undertaken to understand the impacts on people
2. Accommodate the needs of people who are unable to afford a rates increase
3. **Undertake an external review of effectiveness and efficiencies**
4. Incorporate Treaty principles

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 Increasing the frequency of our stormwater network programme is paramount to ensure risk mitigation Increased budget provision for Emergency Management activities is required as these are ongoing extreme weather events Supporting Aucklanders to respond to setting up evacuation centres to affected communities especially marae Intentional Urban development measures in place such as permeable surfaces etc global best practice examples We agree to proceed with the proposal and highlight again the absolute service provision our marae across Tāmaki Makaurau play in the health and wellbeing of our communities. The storm response fund should support nga marae and iwi who are tirelessly working 24/7 to support their communities. A targeted rate should also be provided for marae response to whanau and community need.

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">• Please contact us directly to discuss potential options and opportunities.

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,				
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.				

9 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?

9.1 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 Māori 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.

Tupuna 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

9.2 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 These forums allow for better outcomes in alignment with Te Kia Ora Tamaki Makaurau. They are mutually beneficial forums creating a platform for innovation, growth and development. Having a strategic and holistic lens across all fora is ideal and something we wish to scope moving forward (How can we best align to ensure better outcomes).
Panuku Mana Whenua Forum (Governance and Operational)	Yes	
I & ES (Operational Forum)	Yes	
Auckland Transport (Operational Forum)	Yes	

Recommendations

- Retain engagement forums (potential revision to ensure fit for purpose and more effective) eg quarterly collective hui as opposed to monthly, however single entities to meet on a more regular monthly basis to scope potential collaborative kaupapa.

Other Matters:

- Really meaningful Treaty partnership – critical partnerships and relationships
- Equitable opportunities and iwi resilience for Māori
- Trust and confidence and reciprocity
- Te Mana o te Wai and Te Oranga o Te Taiao – Three Waters; housing; education; employment skills and enterprise, innovation and digital technology.

10 Summary Conclusions

We have provided Auckland Council with feedback on the specific proposal and identified additional matters that are important to 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

Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust
PO Box 28, Thames 3540

Appendix 1 Rohe – Ngāti Tamaterā





36541



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): Te Ahiwaru

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: Traffic congestion has increased, Civil Construction quality has decreased and transport priority projects do not directly address the issue. The Regional Transport Plan requires reprioritisation not the budgets.

Regarding Tātaki Auckland Unlimited - Apply and Increase user pays levies, removing the culture of Auckland Region will reverse the legacy work of many Aucklanders. Review the new business and economic support criterion.

Regarding regional services - Review individual commodities by diverse panel representation including Mana Whenua, potential to pause certain services altogether pending demand.

Regarding local board funding - NO!! Local board supports the voice and needs by local designation. Te Ahiwaru believe our South Auckland areas of Interest will further degrade and deplete our local board budgets are already abysmal. Do not sacrifice the respect of communities.

Regarding regional contestable grants - Review, Reprioritise and Pause.

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: Te Ahiwaru believe this proposal is drawn based on panic, historical financial depressions have always impacted on international economic downturns. Covid recovery is one such period to pass. Selling all shares is foolish.

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: Te Ahiwaru recommend a hefty review process by diverse panel representatives including mana whenua o Taamaki

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: Te Ahiwaru believe this to be targeted toward the I&ES and Compliance departments of Auckland council. Change and Enforcement is required.

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?** Other

Tell us why: TE AHIWARU DO NOT AND WILL NOT SUPPORT REDUCTIONS TO OUR LOCAL BOARDS BUDGETS. REQUIRE ADDITIONAL BUDGETS TO SUPPORT THE DIVERSE AND HIGH POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTH.

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?)

Tell us why these are most important to you:

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: TE AHIWARU DO NOT AND WILL NOT SUPPORT REDUCTIONS TO OUR LOCAL BOARDS BUDGETS. REQUIRE ADDITIONAL BUDGETS TO SUPPORT THE DIVERSE AND HIGH POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTH.

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

Tell us why these are most important to you:

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board

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

Tell us why: TE AHIWARU DO NOT AND WILL NOT SUPPORT REDUCTIONS TO OUR LOCAL BOARDS BUDGETS. REQUIRE ADDITIONAL BUDGETS TO SUPPORT THE DIVERSE AND HIGH POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTH.

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

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

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

Tell us why these are most important to you:

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

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

What do you think of these proposals?

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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37354



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): Alcohol Healthwatch

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

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- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
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Debt

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

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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

Waste management rates changes	
Cost changes in waste management, including: a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).	
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	
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Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	

What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- Local board decision-making over local community services (page 53 in the consultation document).
- 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 advocate for Auckland Council continue to fund and support its community safety mahi, including its alcohol harm prevention programmes and initiatives.

We recognise a number of risks associated with reduced funding or support to these program

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Kia ora.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei whos land we gather on today, it was, is and always will be indigenous land.

My Name's Catherine, I'm a Health Promotion Advisor at Alcohol Healthwatch. We're a national charity funded by Te Whatu Ora/Health New Zealand and are based here in Tamaki Makaurau. We take a public health evidence-based approach to reducing alcohol-related harm. This means raising awareness, building knowledge and skills, engaging and mobilising communities, and promoting evidence-based policy and practice.

We have had a long-standing relationship with Auckland Council and its predecessors – working collaboratively on injury prevention, road and community safety and alcohol harm prevention initiatives and programmes. For example, we lead the development and implementation of Auckland's Action on Alcohol Plan with the Auckland Council and other key agencies. We supported Auckland Council in the development of its Local Alcohol Policy, including helping the Council defend the policy during its appeal. The appeal of Auckland's Local Alcohol Policy has cost ratepayers over one million dollars,

After watching what has happened with local alcohol policies around the motu, we alongside our alcohol harm reduction and public health colleagues advocated for better protections for councils to implement strong alcohol policies without the concern of being appealed. As a result, the government introduced a bill that has just been through a select committee, which will see the end of the special appeals process of local alcohol policies, empowering councils to have stronger protections against alcohol harm. – saving Auckland council money in the long run

We are currently an active member of the Safety Collective alongside 25 other agencies – and lead the alcohol harm reduction component. The safety collective, funded by ACC and hosted by you at Auckland Council. is an important harm reduction tool, and we advocate for it to continue to be supported by Auckland Council. Aucklanders experience alcohol-related harm in unique ways. We know that 75% of alcohol bought in Tamaki Makarau is purchased from off-licenses, which includes bottle stores and supermarkets. 63% of Aucklanders strongly agree that it's too easy to buy Alcohol in Tamaki. Aucklanders care about alcohol-related harm.

We strongly advocate for Auckland Council continue to fund and support its community safety mahi, including its alcohol harm prevention programmes and initiatives.

We also work alongside and support Auckland's CAYAD team on numerous initiatives.

CAYAD is funded by Te Whatu Ora/Health New Zealand and works to reduce the harm young people experience from alcohol and other drugs.

We work alongside the Auckland CAYAD team constantly. we have similar goals and visions.

CAYAD is funded by the ministry as I stated, however again, they're supported by Auckland Council. The mahi we do is enhanced and made better by working alongside CAYAD. We need them, they need the council to continue to support them in all ways possible to ensure they're given space to thrive.

We acknowledge the immense pressure on Local Government and the numerous challenges faced by all in New Zealand at present. We understand the need for ensuring there is an efficient use of ratepayers' dollars.

Auckland Council's community safety programmes ensure that there is a local response to community safety concerns and that there is a co-ordinated approach to current and emerging safety issues. The benefits of such programmes are significant for Auckland and its local and international reputation.

We note that the core funding for many of these programmes comes from external agencies such as Te Whatu Ora and ACC.

We recognise a number of risks associated with reduced funding or support to these programmes by Auckland Council including;

- Reduced community safety - Increased injuries, deaths, crime, violence
- Reduced community perceptions of safety – loss of visitors, tourism, reduced use of public transport
- Loss of external funding – loss of confidence in Auckland Council by funders
- Less effectiveness of remaining programmes, or loss of programmes altogether

We will only be effective in our endeavours if we work collectively and collaboratively, and by pulling our already limited resources together. We are more effective together, we're more likely to see success.

Auckland Council continued support of the safety collective is vital for alcohol harm reduction across Auckland.

We also acknowledge the numerous staff, local board members and Councillors who work passionately on these issues. Without them and the important work that they do, Auckland and all of the agencies working with it will be worse off.

The introduction of the 2022 sings bylaw was implemented to party support alcohol harm reduction through restrictions on how and where alcohol can be advertised, especially around advertising on off-license can advertise their products, however, we know this by-law hasn't been implemented as well as it could be, and we urge the council to better support the implementation and enforcement of this bylaw.

It may sound like I'm advocating for the council to spend more money, however, alcohol-related harm costs Aotearoa more than 7 billion dollars a year, and for kiwis aged between 15-49 is the leading cause of preventable death. Almost 10% of all deaths in women, and 20% of all deaths in men are attributed to alcohol in Aotearoa, this includes drownings, vehicles and other accidents as a result of alcohol-related violence. We believe a high percentage of the cost, both socially and financially of alcohol-related harm is felt by Aucklanders. This harm falls inequitably on Maori, Pasifika, young people, marginalised groups, and those living with higher deprivation.

Funding and supporting community safety and alcohol harm prevention programmes is an investment rather than a cost.

We recommend that Auckland Council ensures that these programmes are properly funded to achieve the best possible safety outcomes and that Auckland is a better, more liveable city.

We look forward to working with you on this issue that touches every Aucklanders.

I now welcome any questions.



37355



Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Organisation (if applicable): Toimata Foundation

Your local board: Regional organisation

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1. Operating spending reductions

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

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

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What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Tell us why:

4. Storm Response

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

Tell us why:

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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What do you think of these proposals?

7. What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including:

- 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 acknowledge that tough decisions are needed.
- We welcome that both Enviroschools and community-led conservation programmes are included in what Infrastructure & Environmental Services are planning to deliver in 2023/24.
- We urge Auckland Council to

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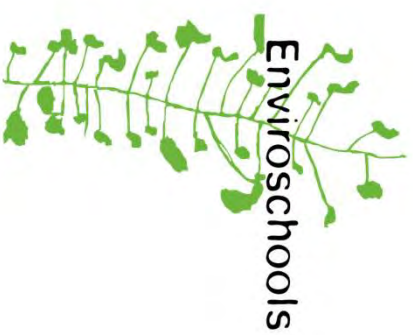
Presentation to Auckland Council 2023/24 Budget Consultation
17 March 2023



About Toimata

*creative sustainability
to bring about a healthier, peaceful, more equitable world through
learning, empowerment and action*

We have a longstanding partnership with Auckland Council and together we support



Enviroschools Tāmaki Makaurau

305
Enviroschools

85
ECE centres

220
Schools

134,500
Tamariki & students

7% of early childhood
43% of primary & intermediate

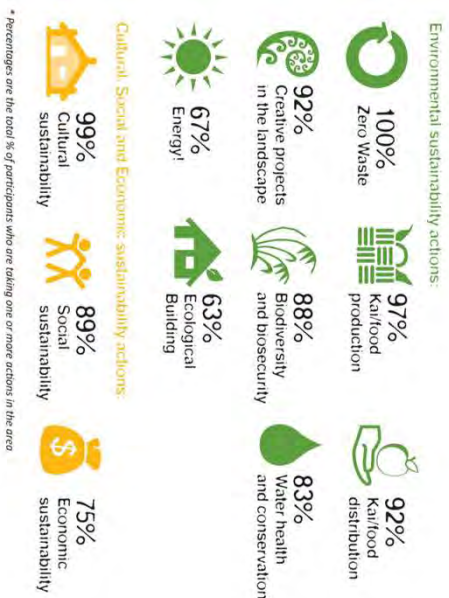
39% of secondary
19% of composite & other

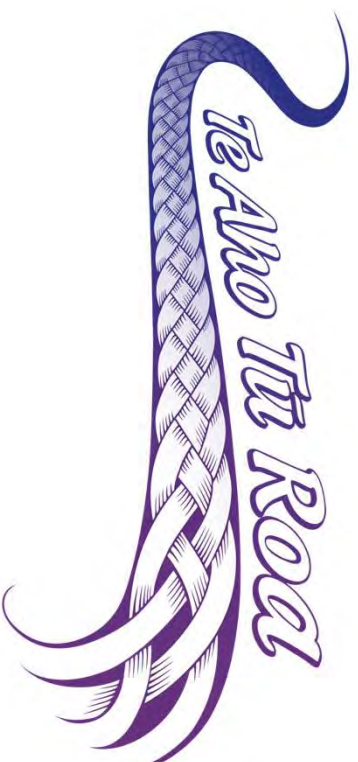
Coordinating Agency



Regional Partners







- Growing network, wide-range of positive outcomes and highly collaborative approach
- Endorsement from the Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Forum
- Auckland Council support through NETR



Te Maara o TKKM o Te Raki Poe Whenua



Kumara Wānanga ki Otaki



Whakarauroa Puna Project Ihumātiao



Ngā mokopuna o TKRK Puhinui, mahinga kai.

Co-investment model for maximum impact

In Tāmaki Auckland Council investment is 1/3 of total, 2/3 from other contributors

Local action-learning

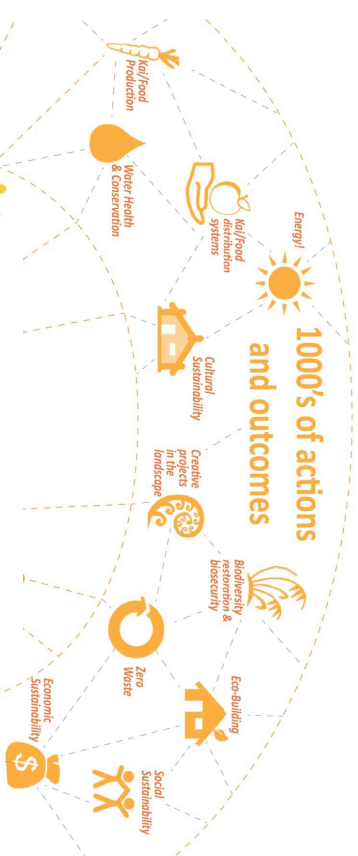
Resourced from participant organisations through their central government funding (MoE), community contributions, volunteers, donations and grants

Regional implementation

Resourced through councils, kindergarten associations (MoE) and iwi

National Hub

Funded principally by central government (MfE + MPI)



Contribution to The Auckland Plan 2050



'Era scale' change – huge challenges for local government ...

"We are facing a confluence of change drivers that is pushing us into 'era-scale' change – change of the same magnitude as that caused by the Industrial Revolution. To protect and enhance well-being under these new conditions, we will need to do almost everything differently." Taituarā – Local Government Professionals Aotearoa



With your support Toimata is contributing to 'root solutions' that include...

Aroha & manaakitanga	Regenerative, circular economy	Ecosystem restoration	Authentic Treaty Partnerships
Food security and kai sovereignty	Bold exploration of new ways of living	Māori wisdoms and knowledge valued	Empowered communities
Community resilience & inter-connectedness	Ecological-building		
Zero waste society	Diversity and creativity		
Te Mana o te Wai	Climate friendly living		
Nature-based livelihoods	Strategic collaboration & mahi ngatahi		

Key success factors

1. Proven kaupapa backed by research
2. Skilled and experienced team who have high-trust relationships with communities across Tāmaki
3. Long-term, holistic, collaborative and innovative ways of working = transformative approach

All underpinned by a collaborative model in which Auckland Council is an anchor institution





- We acknowledge that tough decisions are needed.
- We welcome that both Enviroschools and community-led conservation programmes are included in what Infrastructure & Environmental Services are planning to deliver in 2023/24.
- We urge Auckland Council to retain all staff positions in the Sustainable Schools team.
- We seek a continuation of NETR investment in Te Aho Tū Roa, while recognising that the pool of funds will be limited in 2023/24 by the proposal to temporarily reduce targeted rates.
- We are concerned that, in order to address current financial pressures, cuts will be made to a range of regional, community and social services that are essential to the community infrastructure needed to ensure Tāmaki Makaurau is able to navigate through the significant challenges of the coming decades. We urge that Auckland Council consider this vital intangible infrastructure when making its budget decisions



37355



Toimata Foundation

Kristen Price – Strategic Partnerships Manager

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37356



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): Coastguard 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
- 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?

Attached funding application

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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Annual Budget 2023/2024

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Organisation (if applicable): Enviro Hubs

Your local board: Regional organisation

Your feedback

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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?

Other

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with if any: Don't reduce local board funded activities, or reduce regional services as heavily as proposed

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

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

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

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

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

Tell us why:

3. Managing rates and debt

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

Rates

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

- An average increase in general rates of 7.0 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
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- 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: Go further to increase general rates to match current inflation. Increase borrowing.

Neither the NETR or the WQTR targeted rates should be stopped. Council's own internal study assed NETR return on investment validating significant added value created thr

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

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

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

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

Tell us why: Increase the storm response investment

5. Local Boards

6. Changes to other rates and fees and charges

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What do you think of these proposals?

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Auckland Council 2023/2024 budget consultation

Prioritising the community, environment and climate



We are here as a voice for our communities across Auckland with a focus on a healthy environment, climate action, and community wellbeing.



We represent the four Auckland Environment Hubs - Beautification Trust, EcoMatters, Kaipātiki Project and Waiheke Resources Trust. We are members of a collective of 22 members that make up Enviro Hubs Aotearoa. We are serious about climate change action. We are passionate about protecting and enhancing our environment. We include and care for our diverse communities. We recognise each community has its own distinct environmental and community needs so our solutions and programmes are tailored accordingly while still sharing the benefits of collaboration and our shared mission.



Our delivery is linked to the long-term commitments you have made to Aucklanders - through the 50-year Auckland Plan, the 10-year Long Term Plan, Auckland's Climate Action Plan, and others. Our submission is as stakeholders with a shared interest in the outcomes we have agreed to jointly as the whole of Auckland. When you voted for the NETR, there were 1700 community environment groups. This number has only increased since then.

These 1700 + groups- we are your partners in delivering those agreed commitments:

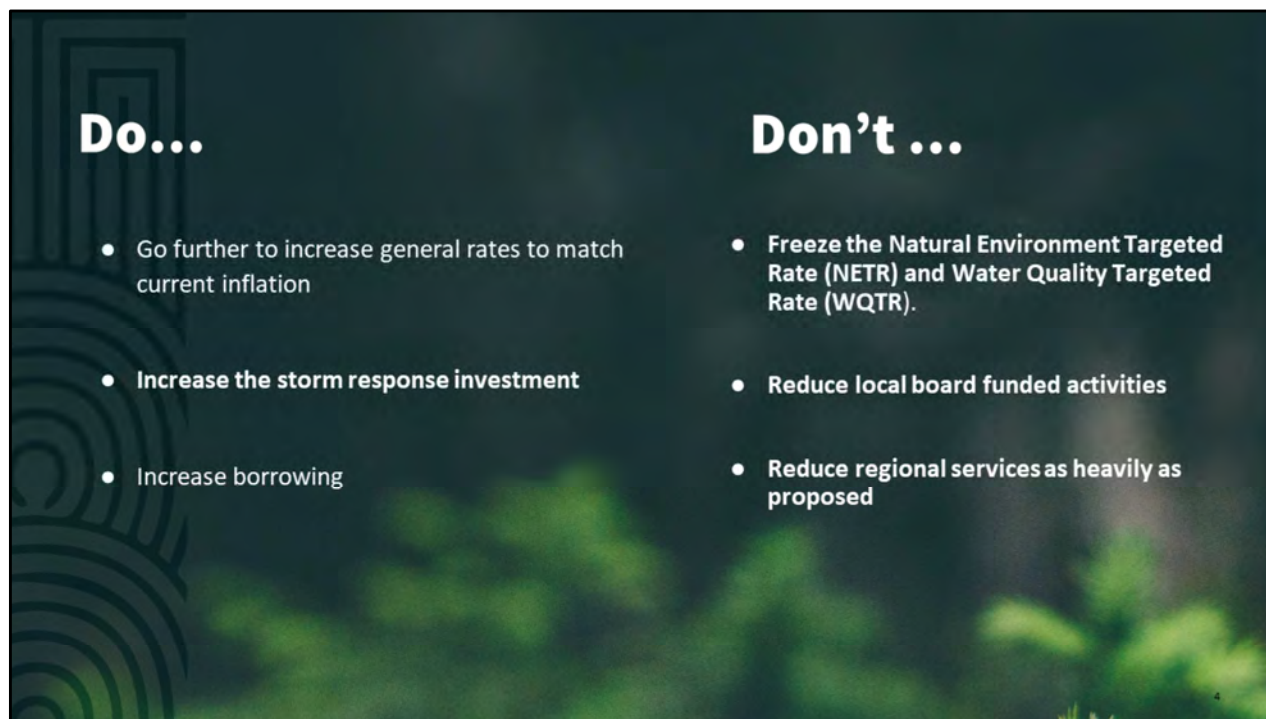
- Flood resilience using green infrastructure to deliver greater resilience and costs savings;
- Reducing transport emission by 64% by 2050;
- Halving overall emissions by 2030 and on track to be net zero by 2050;
- Developing local leadership and the resilience to thrive in a changing world.

We have worked with Councillors, Local Board members and your staff **in good faith** to design and deliver programmes and projects that will help Auckland realise these commitments.

The proposed budget, as it stands, makes it impossible to achieve them. On behalf of the communities of Auckland - what is your strategy to achieve these outcomes; to deliver

on these promises?

When the latest climate change report from the IPCC is concluding that immediate action needs to increase to have a chance of staying between the 1.5 and 5 degree limit and that we've already heated up to around 1.1%, then cutting back on areas relating to the climate and environment is **not the right approach. Don't be on the wrong side of history.**



The specific budget line cuts that will significantly impact current funding to protect and restore the natural environment are:

1. Pausing two-thirds of the collection of the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) which amounts to a \$22 million reduction in spend on currently planned expansion of existing projects and delay planned new projects.
2. Cutting \$20 million in operational funding including
 - Reducing environment/sustainability education programmes – support for school engagement on environmental issues – experience centres, such as Arataki and Ambury Farm, needing to increase fees or reduce offerings
 - Reducing Climate action related programmes including stopping or reducing the Climate Action Grant, the Live Lightly programme, and work on council land and marae.
 - Other reductions (not specified in the budget information) in regional services including in environmental services, waste, and regional planning.
3. Cutting \$16 million for local board funding activities that are currently focused on

community led projects to improve environmental and social outcomes across Tāmaki Makaurau.

4. Ceasing the longstanding Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grant (RENH) which provides \$3 million of funding to hundreds of community-led conservation and sustainable living projects.

Our position recognises the challenges within every budgeting cycle but we seek a less significant and immediate impact on the communities to whom we serve.

Neither the NETR or the WQTR targeted rates should be stopped. Council's own internal study assed NETR return on investment validating significant added value created through community actions. Citizens voted to have these targeted rates for their intended use, the budget should not cut this. Cuts to services **are FAR FROM inevitable**; they're irresponsible in the midst of a climate and inequality crisis. Reducing the Water Quality and Natural Environment Targeted Rates by two-thirds is especially alarming in the wake of substantial damage to our local environments and waterways caused by recent flooding.

Auckland Council can increase rates and/or take on more debt, allowing much needed investment while preventing cuts to social services. **Invest in `Aucklanders!**

No cuts to Local Boards. Most of Auckland's locally actioned contracts are locked in for multiple years. The areas where Local Boards can then make cuts is limited mostly to their Local Discretionary budget (LDI). This effectively guts the community sector acting as the operational arm of community priorities listed in Local Board plans as a means to satisfy Auckland's 2050 Plan.

Community impact losses

Recognise the return on investment from community organisation delivery.

What you are at risk of losing:

- Community value of approx 5-10 times for every \$1 invested from Auckland Council
- 25,488 volunteering hours of meaningful climate/environment/waste actions
- 300+ events that are part of our EcoFest sustainability month plus others throughout the year
- 3,999 tamariki and rangatahi engaged across 118 schools
- Reduced power of leverage:
 - Philanthropic funding
 - Corporate funding



We believe that when environments are healthy and communities are connected, people and wildlife can flourish, and within that community a strong economy can exist. Environmental hubs like ours are located all across Auckland and Aotearoa New Zealand representing the front lines of climate change action on the ground. Community brings in far more than \$10 of value for every dollar of Council investment, rescues and redistributes food, restores wetlands, teaches your kids about the marine environment and many more.

The information **that has not been** shown to Aucklanders is the value loss that would result from these proposed cuts. Not only in monetary value but also in amenity value. Without this evaluation Auckland and its people are making decisions without knowing that value loss and its impact. Our figures show exponential growth is achieved when funding community groups like ours. We find additional funding nationally, crowd-sourced, philanthropic and voluntary, adding to projects led by community, and seed funded by Council. This means that year on year the added value increases from the previous. When you cut funding or pause that funding, the workforce needs to be built again, the project awareness needs to be built again. This budget cuts not only this year but effectively cuts again and again for years to come.

Loss of community partnerships...

Collaboration creates stronger community centric solutions

What you are at risk of losing:

- Risk of 788 relationships being diluted or lost
- Umbrella for 94 grassroot organisations - diminished ability to support
- Reduced capacity across the whole sector to provide support to the public all leading to:
 - Reduced sense of pride in community
 - Loss of community connection
 - Belonging and wellbeing impacts



Community organisations are the anchor for many community initiatives and the bridge for agencies such as Council and all its departments to form the partnerships that underpin delivery and long-term transformation work. We provide continuity that is lost with high staff turnover in Council and govt.

We hosted, staffed, supported and resourced many of the places Aucklanders turned to in the crisis created by the cyclone and rain events. For example, Waiheke Resources Trust stood up as a Community Emergency Hub. In the North, Kaipātiki Project worked with Cr Hills and the Kaipātiki Local Board, and our network of Auckland's North community organisations to pull together zoom calls of nearly 100 people representing organisations seeking to coordinate support; making the connections and co-designing solutions across community, Council, and government.

This is part of the networks of resilience we have developed as community anchor organisations - through building on Council grants and funding- leveraging a wide range of other investment & contributions - to create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. Local community anchor organisations are more important than ever in helping people feel connected and resilient in the face of increasing challenges.

Loss of effective delivery

Doing the mahi that supports Aucklanders and the environment everyday.

What you are at risk of losing:

- Direct and flow on impacts - what's the future of 91 projects and programmes?
- **100+** Community jobs and 3,750+ volunteers
- Delivery of climate change programmes - e.g. 70,223 trees planted and 129,000 kgs of waste diverted
- Diluted ability to achieving Auckland's zero waste targets, carbon emissions and NZ's pest free commitments



We are a valued partner to the majority of the 21 local boards delivering meaningful outcomes every day. We are doing the mahi and are a strongly effectively operational arm for Auckland Council. We collectively run 91 programmes and projects to support our communities. What's left if we're gutting many of these programmes? These are the programmes delivering day in and day out whether it be trees being planted, waste be diverted from landfill or education to help Aucklanders take climate action.

The value of our dedicated and passionate workforce goes much deeper than the dollar amount of a grant or contract - over 100 staff give so much passion and dedication daily as they work alongside the considerable unpaid workforce of volunteers that need the support and structures of organisations like ours to be enabled to do what they love. We strongly believe in meaningful local jobs where Aucklanders can give back to their community. With a highly talented workforce that have gathered expertise from so many sectors we take great pride in working for not-for-profits, where our dollar spent gets reinvested time and time again into the local economy.

With the loss of effective delivery we question what action and capacity will there be to meet Auckland's 2040 zero waste targets, Auckland's climate targets and New Zealand's 2050 pest free targets.

What the public is saying...

EcoMatters Environment Trust
For our climate, our rivers, our beaches and our communities, make your submission on the Auckland Council 2023/2024 Budget Consultation by 11pm, Tuesday 28 March at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/budget

Like Comment Share Most relevant

Anna Park Avenue
Also done! Mentioned ecomatters by name! Save our community programmes and services!
Like Reply Retweet Send message 11 h

EcoMatters Environment Trust
Thank you Anna!
Like Reply

Danielle Kennedy
Thanks for this summary- such a depressing read & good motivation to submit!
Like Reply Retweet Send message 10 h

Shannon Faraband
Done!
Like Reply Retweet Send message 15 h

EcoMatters Environment Trust
Thank you Shannon!
Like Reply

Jon Long
Local Guide · 73 reviews

★★★★★ 2 months ago

My second time seeking advice here and I couldn't be more than happy to learn a thing or two (even though I didn't manage to contribute by effort). Koha is not a must, but please do support the cause if you have benefited from the good people here.

P.S thank you Benny once again!

吳杰
Local Guide · 22 reviews

★★★★★ 8 months ago

Friendly and helpful people, it's a good place to learn practical methods to protect our environment. Thanks guys, really appreciate it 🙏

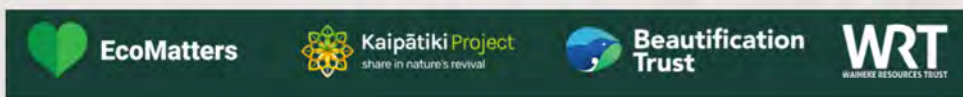
Melissa Ansin
Well done guys! My little one and I really enjoyed today. Alarming to see how much rubbish is in our reserves. Thank you for the very informative sessions on pest control and what plants shouldn't be in the bush. We will bait up the rat trap tonight. Also realised we have massive area of agapanthus growing, that I now know is bad.

Alma Nav
Thank you **Tyson Mobson** for your amazing assistance to us last Saturday! Sage is so happy with his new bike and won't stop using it since. You've been awesome as well as Pafati (sorry for the spelling). Would highly recommend this to anyone looking for a bike and for fantastic bike checks. Super friendly and helpful! 🙏



We are backed by our communities across Auckland and are the connectors and enablers. We are the meeting point for such diverse communities - different incomes, cultures, ethnicities, lifestyles - from those in the margins and the mainstream - we welcome anyone to join this work because we need everyone to ensure we will all have a sustainable future together.

Thank you...



Prioritising community, environment and climate



We acknowledge the constraints and difficult decisions ahead and respectfully ask that you consider how each contract or grant that forms your profit and loss sheet is make or break for our delivery. Please revisit the budget and look to the recommendations that we and many other groups are sharing for the benefit of our communities, our volunteers, our teams and our partners. Know that we provide exceptional value for money and significant impact. Our mahi sees us delivering exceptional services and creating local jobs. It supports and fosters community partnerships. Our communities trust and value us and need us to deliver long-term outcomes that benefit them, the environment and the climate.