



# Annual Plan 2025/2026

Written Feedback  
Outside Auckland

April 2025



Sub #	Organisation Name	Page Number
5116	Waikato Regional Council	30

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#1128



# Annual Plan 2025-2026

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## Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: "Outside Auckland"

## Your feedback

### Question 1: Our overall plan

Our proposed Annual Plan 2025/2026 builds on our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP).

The annual plan focuses on getting on with strengthening the financial and physical resilience of Auckland, while investing where it is needed most to manage growth. In 2025/2026, that includes prioritising investment in:

- transport
- water
- and fairer funding for local communities

It sets out the proposed way to pay for services and investments, including the 5.8 per cent rates increase for the average value residential property which is in line with the LTP, and additional debt to fund \$4 billion of capital expenditure.

### What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

"I don't know"

### Tell us why

### Question 2: Destination management and major events

Attracting visitors and securing, promoting and delivering major events are vital to Auckland being a dynamic and exciting city. In our Long-term Plan 2024-2034, we said we would continue to fund cultural festivals and other significant community events. However, without a bed night visitor levy, there will be a \$7 million budget shortfall for funding of major events that are expected to attract visitor expenditure, such as the ASB Classic, Auckland Marathon and Auckland Writers Festival, from the 2025/2026 financial year. We continue to advocate to central government to introduce this levy. A bed night visitor levy of 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent paid by those in short-stay accommodation, would raise around \$27 million each year to fund even more destination management, marketing and major events activities in Auckland.

A bed night visitor levy requires central government legislative change and they have yet to agree to introduce this legislation. We continue to work with central government on this and your views will help inform this work.

**Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events activities?**

"Support"

**Tell us why**

## **Question 3: Changes to other rates, fees and charges**

### **3A. What do you think of the waste management proposal?**

*Apply the Refuse Targeted Rate to residential and lifestyle properties in Franklin and Rodney to pay for council's rubbish collection service, replacing the current system of purchasing rubbish bags.*

"Do not support"

### **3B. Would you like to comment on this or the other rates, fees and charges proposals?**

*(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)*

"Waste management should definitely be funded as a 'user-pays' system, not by a uniform rate. This is the only way to encourage reduction of non-recyclable waste."

## **Question 4:**

### **Local board priorities**

#### **4A. Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?**

## **Question 5: Other feedback**

**Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2025/2026?**

Do you have any other feedback, including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2025/2026 (page 33 of the Consultation document)?

**Tell us here**



#1161

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### What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

"Support all"

### Tell us why

"I support your plans completely. Because good experts get together to improve Auckland. You have good plans. You have a good motivation so that people in Auckland have good life."

## Question 2: Destination management and major events

Attracting visitors and securing, promoting and delivering major events are vital to Auckland being a dynamic and exciting city. In our Long-term Plan 2024-2034, we said we would continue to fund cultural festivals and other significant community events. However, without a bed night visitor levy, there will be a \$7 million budget shortfall for funding of major events that are expected to attract visitor expenditure, such as the ASB Classic, Auckland Marathon and Auckland Writers Festival, from the 2025/2026 financial year. We continue to advocate to central government to introduce this levy. A bed night visitor levy of 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent paid by those in short-stay accommodation, would raise around \$27 million each year to fund even more destination management, marketing and major events activities in Auckland.

A bed night visitor levy requires central government legislative change and they have yet to agree to introduce this legislation. We continue to work with central government on this and your views will help inform this work.

**Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events activities?**

"Support"

**Tell us why**

"Visitors who want to participate in the events must be not required to spend much money not only from overseas but also domestic. So, People in Auckland need to help them enjoying events or staying Auckland without any worry of accommodation."

## Question 3: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

**3A. What do you think of the waste management proposal?**

*Apply the Refuse Targeted Rate to residential and lifestyle properties in Franklin and Rodney to pay for council's rubbish collection service, replacing the current system of purchasing rubbish bags.*

"Support"

**3B. Would you like to comment on this or the other rates, fees and charges proposals?**

*(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)*

"I assume that most Aucklanders are still in hard time by weather disaster and Covid-19. I do not believe Aucklanders can afford any levy or increased rates. But Aucklanders need to help visitors or council to improve Auckland better."

## **Question 4:**

### **Local board priorities**

**4A. Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?**

## **Question 5: Other feedback**

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**Tell us here**

"I am an artist. I will be able to help Auckland better."

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### What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

"Support all"

Tell us why

### Question 2: Destination management and major events

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**Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events activities?**

"I don't know"

**Tell us why**

## **Question 3: Changes to other rates, fees and charges**

**3A. What do you think of the waste management proposal?**

*Apply the Refuse Targeted Rate to residential and lifestyle properties in Franklin and Rodney to pay for council's rubbish collection service, replacing the current system of purchasing rubbish bags.*

"Support"

**3B. Would you like to comment on this or the other rates, fees and charges proposals?**

*(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)*

## **Question 4:**

### **Local board priorities**

**4A. Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?**

## **Question 5: Other feedback**

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### What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

"Support most"

### Tell us why

### Question 2: Destination management and major events

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**Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events activities?**

"Support"

**Tell us why**

## **Question 3: Changes to other rates, fees and charges**

**3A. What do you think of the waste management proposal?**

*Apply the Refuse Targeted Rate to residential and lifestyle properties in Franklin and Rodney to pay for council's rubbish collection service, replacing the current system of purchasing rubbish bags.*

"Support"

**3B. Would you like to comment on this or the other rates, fees and charges proposals?**

*(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)*

## **Question 4:**

### **Local board priorities**

**4A. Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?**

"Upper Harbour"

""

**Upper Harbour Local Board Priorities""**

The following are the key projects and activities we plan to deliver next year, and any key changes to services. """"

**4B. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2025/2026?**

""""

**Tell us why**

""""

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below. """"

**How important are these priorities to you? """"**

**Appropriate planning and investment for infrastructure and quality open space in areas impacted by growth and intensification e.g. Whenuapai**

""""Very important""""

**Continue to prioritise support to our local community organisations and volunteers to deliver outcomes that provide a sense of belonging, wellbeing and resilience for residents**

""""Very important""""

**Continue to prioritise investment in outcomes that ensure our communities have access to high-quality amenities that provide for a range of opportunities including play, pathways and connections, active sports and recreation and connecting with nature**

""""Fairly important""""

**Funding to assist in the development, improvement, and renovation of non-council owned community facilities that serve the Upper Harbour area through a facilities grants process**

""""Fairly important""""

**Improve wayfinding in the Upper Harbour area to help our communities to easily discover and enjoy the assets we have**

""""Less important""""

**Contribute funding for the development of a vision and plan for the future North Harbour Stadium and Domain Precinct.**

""""Fairly important""""

**Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)**

""""

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we want feedback on areas that are the most important to you so we can prioritise investment in higher priority areas or address rising costs by potentially decreasing investment in lower priority areas. """"

**Which three of our services are most important to you? (select up to three)**

""""Community programmes and services, Grants, Local parks strategy and planning""""

**North Harbour Stadium and Domain Precinct """"**

Our community gave clear feedback in the long-term plan consultation that they would like to see the North Harbour Stadium and Domain Precinct used more effectively for the local community. The Upper Harbour and Hibiscus and Bays Local Boards are jointly leading a working group of local representatives to develop a vision and plan for the future. The work will need both regional and local funding and our local board will need to contribute."""

**Do you think we should contribute funding to the development of a vision and plan for the future of North Harbour Stadium and the Domain Precinct?**

""Yes""

**Tell us why**

""

## **Question 5: Other feedback**

**Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2025/2026?**

Do you have any other feedback, including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2025/2026 (page 33 of the Consultation document)?

**Tell us here**

# Annual Plan 2025-2026

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## Your feedback

### Question 1: Our overall plan

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### What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

"Support all"

### Tell us why

"Invest so much in transport please! It is embarrassing that our biggest city is not up to standard with the rest of the world."

## Question 2: Destination management and major events

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A bed night visitor levy requires central government legislative change and they have yet to agree to introduce this legislation. We continue to work with central government on this and your views will help inform this work.

**Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events activities?**

"Support"

**Tell us why**

"This is a typical tax many cities around the world pay and it helps our city be more visitable, helps our communities, and invests in importance."

## Question 3: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

**3A. What do you think of the waste management proposal?**

*Apply the Refuse Targeted Rate to residential and lifestyle properties in Franklin and Rodney to pay for council's rubbish collection service, replacing the current system of purchasing rubbish bags.*

"Support"

**3B. Would you like to comment on this or the other rates, fees and charges proposals?**

*(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)*

## Question 4:

### Local board priorities

**4A. Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?**

## **Question 5: Other feedback**

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### What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

"Support all"

### Tell us why

"Agree to the proposed way to pay for services and investments, including the 5.8 per cent rates increase for the average value residential property which is in line with the LTP, and additional debt to fund \$4 billion of capital expenditure"

## Question 2: Destination management and major events

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**Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events activities?**

"Support"

**Tell us why**

"Agree bed night visitor levy of 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent paid by those in short-stay accommodation, would raise around \$27 million each year to fund even more destination management, marketing and major events activities in Auckland"

## Question 3: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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"Support"

**3B. Would you like to comment on this or the other rates, fees and charges proposals?**

*(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)*

"Nil "

## Question 4:

### Local board priorities

**4A. Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?**

"Henderson-Massey"

""

**Henderson-Massey Local Board Priorities""**

The following are the key projects and activities we plan to deliver next year, and any key changes to services."""

**4B. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2025/2026?**

""Support all""

**Tell us why**

""Support the proposal""

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below."""

**How important are these priorities to you?""**

**Working with the community on signature events with the intent for the community to take the lead**

""Very important""

**Engaging mana whenua, Māori and in collaboration with Te Kete Rukuruku, creating Te Ao Māori activations for whanau that incorporate te reo, tikanga and supporting the area's Pūrakau (Māori history)**

""Very important""

**Expanding youth voice initiatives to academic students in the local board area**

""Very important""

**Work on plans to upgrade Catherine Plaza**

""Less important""

**Continue to support water quality initiatives including the Rivercare group's work in Te Atatū Peninsula, Love Your Streams (EcoMatters) and Ngā Puna Manaaki Īnanga, a project to identify, protect and enhance Īnanga spawning habitats across the Henderson-Massey local board area**

""Fairly important""

**Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)**

""Invest on the youth voice initiatives and invest for future "

**Question 5: Other feedback**

**Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2025/2026?**

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**Tell us here**

"No"

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### What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

"Support all"

### Tell us why

"Auckland needs to upgrade its transport"

### Question 2: Destination management and major events

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**Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events activities?**

"I don't know"

**Tell us why**

"Don't know"

## **Question 3: Changes to other rates, fees and charges**

**3A. What do you think of the waste management proposal?**

*Apply the Refuse Targeted Rate to residential and lifestyle properties in Franklin and Rodney to pay for council's rubbish collection service, replacing the current system of purchasing rubbish bags.*

"Do not support"

**3B. Would you like to comment on this or the other rates, fees and charges proposals?**

*(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)*

"Rubbish bags are better"

## **Question 4:**

### **Local board priorities**

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## **Question 5: Other feedback**

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### What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

"Do not support any"

### Tell us why

"Excess rate increases affects ordinary people's livelihood. Restructure the high number of managerial and governance roles to help fund some of the items on the annual proposed plan. "

## Question 2: Destination management and major events

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**Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events activities?**

"Do not support"

**Tell us why**

"Cut the minister's travel budgets rather than targeting small income earners in short-term accommodation who are just trying to have some enjoyment with their families during the festive seasons."

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**3A. What do you think of the waste management proposal?**

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"I don't know"

**3B. Would you like to comment on this or the other rates, fees and charges proposals?**

*(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)*

"No comments"

## Question 4:

### Local board priorities

**4A. Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?**

**Question 5: Other feedback**

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"No"

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### What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

"Do not support most"

Tell us why

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"Do not support"

**Tell us why**

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"Support"

**3B. Would you like to comment on this or the other rates, fees and charges proposals?**

*(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)*

## **Question 4:**

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## **Question 5: Other feedback**

**Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2025/2026?**

Do you have any other feedback, including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2025/2026 (page 33 of the Consultation document)?

**Tell us here**

"I'm 100% against closing Springs Speedway "



# Annual Plan 2025-2026

Note: this simplified 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): "Waikato Regional Council "

Local Board: "Outside Auckland"

## Your feedback

### Question 1: Our overall plan

Our proposed Annual Plan 2025/2026 builds on our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP).

The annual plan focuses on getting on with strengthening the financial and physical resilience of Auckland, while investing where it is needed most to manage growth. In 2025/2026, that includes prioritising investment in:

- transport
- water
- and fairer funding for local communities

It sets out the proposed way to pay for services and investments, including the 5.8 per cent rates increase for the average value residential property which is in line with the LTP, and additional debt to fund \$4 billion of capital expenditure.

### What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

### Tell us why

### Question 2: Destination management and major events

Attracting visitors and securing, promoting and delivering major events are vital to Auckland being a dynamic and exciting city. In our Long-term Plan 2024-2034, we said we would continue to fund

cultural festivals and other significant community events. However, without a bed night visitor levy, there will be a \$7 million budget shortfall for funding of major events that are expected to attract visitor expenditure, such as the ASB Classic, Auckland Marathon and Auckland Writers Festival, from the 2025/2026 financial year. We continue to advocate to central government to introduce this levy. A bed night visitor levy of 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent paid by those in short-stay accommodation, would raise around \$27 million each year to fund even more destination management, marketing and major events activities in Auckland.

A bed night visitor levy requires central government legislative change and they have yet to agree to introduce this legislation. We continue to work with central government on this and your views will help inform this work.

**Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events activities?**

**Tell us why**

### **Question 3: Changes to other rates, fees and charges**

**3A. What do you think of the waste management proposal?**

*Apply the Refuse Targeted Rate to residential and lifestyle properties in Franklin and Rodney to pay for council's rubbish collection service, replacing the current system of purchasing rubbish bags.*

**3B. Would you like to comment on this or the other rates, fees and charges proposals?**

*(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)*

### **Question 4:**

#### **Local board priorities**

**4A. Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?**

### **Question 5: Other feedback**

**Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2025/2026?**

Do you have any other feedback, including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2025/2026 (page 33 of the Consultation document)?

**Tell us here**

"Please find attached a letter from Waikato Regional Council to Auckland Council's 2025/26 Annual Plan "

File No: [REDACTED]  
Document No: [REDACTED]  
Enquiries to: [REDACTED]n



25 March 2025

Private Bag 3038  
Waikato Mail Centre  
Hamilton 3240  
New Zealand

waikatoregion.govt.nz  
0800 800 401

Phil Wilson  
Chief executive  
Auckland Council  
Private Bag 92300  
Auckland 1142

Dear Phil

**Submission from Waikato Regional Council to Auckland Council's 2025/2026 Annual Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2025/2026. Please find attached the Waikato Regional Council's submission regarding the proposed plan. The submission has been signed under delegation by the Chair and Chief Executive of Waikato Regional Council.

Should you have any queries regarding the content of the submission, please contact Annika Hamilton, Senior Corporate Planner, Corporate Planning directly on [REDACTED] or by email

[A \[REDACTED\]](#)

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Chair

[REDACTED]

Chief Executive

He taiao mauriora  Healthy environment

He hapori hihiri  Vibrant communities

He ōhanga pakari  Strong economy

**Submission from Waikato Regional Council to Auckland Council's 2025/2026 Annual Plan****Introduction**

1. We appreciate the opportunity to make a submission to Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2025/2026 (AAP).
2. Waikato Regional Council (WRC) values the collegial working relationship it shares with Auckland Council. Significant growth pressures and a changing climate are necessitating greater inter-regional collaboration in how we allocate our land, water, and other resources to enhance the wellbeing of our regions. The flow of people and goods between our regions and beyond the 'golden triangle' means our close cooperation to provide for travel is important.
3. We also value the collaboration between our councils through membership of the Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA). This alliance reflects our shared commitment to understanding and tackling inter-regional challenges, as well as exploring opportunities to work together towards a more sustainable future for our communities.
4. We would like to signal our interest in attending a hearing, if there is an opportunity to speak to our feedback.

**Transport**

5. WRC **supports** transport activities in the AAP that promote safe, frequent and efficient public transport in Auckland. WRC sees opportunities to increase benefits to both regions through improved inter-regional public transport services – specifically the introduction of an initial one-year trial Sunday return service on Te Huia and seeks financial support through the AAP to achieve this.

Te Huia

6. Te Huia is the inter-regional passenger rail service connecting Waikato and Auckland. Since launching in April 2021, Te Huia has established itself as an integral part of the Waikato and Auckland public transport systems, providing improved transport connections for the communities within the Auckland to Hamilton corridor, including Pukekohe, Puhinui and The Strand.
7. Despite the impacts of multiple projects and maintenance works impacting the Auckland rail network, passenger numbers on this trial have continued to increase and have exceeded initial targets.
8. Central government funding has been confirmed until the end of the 5-year trial (June 2026), and beyond this, embedding Te Huia as a permanent part of the public transport network is a key priority for WRC.

Te Huia Sunday service proposal

9. For the last year of the trial – 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 – WRC wishes to introduce a 12-month trial Te Huia Sunday service. This has been a frequent feedback request from passengers. A Sunday service would depart Frankton early afternoon and return in the opposite direction early evening. This service would call at stations served on the other days of the week.
10. Introducing a Sunday service will enable people from both Waikato and Auckland to spend a weekend (staying Friday and/or Saturday night) in the other location. This could benefit tourism and leisure – including sporting events – as well as students who are known to travel in numbers to/from Auckland and Waikato universities. Therefore, a Sunday service is likely to encourage more travel on the Friday and Saturday services as part of a weekend trip. In addition, business people who wish to be in either Auckland or Hamilton for first thing on Monday morning would have the option of travelling the night before and staying in a hotel.

11. The cost of a 12-month trial Sunday service is approximately \$456,000, which will be partly offset by additional fare revenue.

Decision sought

12. WRC notes the benefits to Auckland and Aucklanders of having a well-functioning inter-regional passenger rail service, and repeats its previous requests that Auckland Council approve funding for an appropriate portion of the local share funding as a priority.
13. Therefore, WRC **requests**:
  - a. A funding contribution of \$223,000 which would be a 50% of the total operational cost of the one-year Sunday service trial.
  - b. Support for the Sunday service from Auckland Transport within the Timetable Committee (who need to approve the proposal).

**Marine Biosecurity**

14. WRC has a strong history of working with Auckland Council on Marine Biosecurity through the Top of the North Marine Biosecurity Partnership. We support the proposal to deliver an advocacy and engagement programme to help prevent the spread of marine pests.

# Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Local Board: "Outside Auckland"

## Your feedback

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- and fairer funding for local communities

It sets out the proposed way to pay for services and investments, including the 5.8 per cent rates increase for the average value residential property which is in line with the LTP, and additional debt to fund \$4 billion of capital expenditure.

### What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

"Support all"

### Tell us why

### Question 2: Destination management and major events

Attracting visitors and securing, promoting and delivering major events are vital to Auckland being a dynamic and exciting city. In our Long-term Plan 2024-2034, we said we would continue to fund cultural festivals and other significant community events. However, without a bed night visitor levy, there will be a \$7 million budget shortfall for funding of major events that are expected to attract visitor expenditure, such as the ASB Classic, Auckland Marathon and Auckland Writers Festival, from the 2025/2026 financial year. We continue to advocate to central government to introduce this levy. A bed night visitor levy of 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent paid by those in short-stay accommodation, would raise around \$27 million each year to fund even more destination management, marketing and major events activities in Auckland.

A bed night visitor levy requires central government legislative change and they have yet to agree to introduce this legislation. We continue to work with central government on this and your views will help inform this work.

**Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events activities?**

"Support"

**Tell us why**

"Yes but this should be targeted at overseas visitors (rather than people who live in other parts of NZ) coming up to Auckland for a short stay. "

## **Question 3: Changes to other rates, fees and charges**

**3A. What do you think of the waste management proposal?**

*Apply the Refuse Targeted Rate to residential and lifestyle properties in Franklin and Rodney to pay for council's rubbish collection service, replacing the current system of purchasing rubbish bags.*

"Support"

**3B. Would you like to comment on this or the other rates, fees and charges proposals?**

*(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)*

## **Question 4:**

### **Local board priorities**

**4A. Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?**

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