



Annual Plan 2025/2026

Written Feedback

Regional Organisations Volume #1

April 2025



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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): Amma New Zealand inc

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

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?

Albert-Eden

Albert-Eden Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026 however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increasing our community programmes that are delivered from our libraries and community centres in Pt Chevalier Mt Albert Sandringham and Epsom.

Very important

Supporting our community leasing groups to be able to share their space and be sustainable over time so they can continue to provide their great range of community services and activities.

Very important

Supporting our business associations and vibrant town centres so people can live work shop and play in our local villages.

Very important

Talking with young people and children to better understand what is important to them in their area.

Very important

Increasing neighbourhood safety and resilience community wellbeing and emergency preparedness.

Very important

Reducing waste and increasing the profile and impact of Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre.

Very important

Delivering on concept and restoration plans we have made for local parks and trialling a portable pump track to move around parks in our area.

Very important

Increasing the number of local events arts and activations especially in local parks and town centres.

Very important

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

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

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): Show Me Shorts Film Festival

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

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

Major events are valuable to our city, but tourism businesses disproportionately benefit from this activity, so they should be the ones levied rather than rate payers.

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?

Albert-Eden, Waitematā

Albert-Eden Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026 however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Increasing the number of arts and cultural events in the area is especially important to promote connectivity and wellbeing in the local community.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increasing our community programmes that are delivered from our libraries and community centres in Pt Chevalier Mt Albert Sandringham and Epsom.

Fairly important

Supporting our community leasing groups to be able to share their space and be sustainable over time so they can continue to provide their great range of community services and activities.

Fairly important

Supporting our business associations and vibrant town centres so people can live work shop and play in our local villages.

Fairly important

Talking with young people and children to better understand what is important to them in their area.

Fairly important

Increasing neighbourhood safety and resilience community wellbeing and emergency preparedness.

Fairly important

Reducing waste and increasing the profile and impact of Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre.

Fairly important

Delivering on concept and restoration plans we have made for local parks and trialling a portable pump track to move around parks in our area.

Fairly important

Increasing the number of local events arts and activations especially in local parks and town centres.

Very important

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

Priority 8 is vital to the wellbeing of our local community. We need local events to connect with our neighbours and peers, and share our stories.

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

Waitematā Local Board Priorities

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

Tell us why

Support all

Tell us why

It is also vital to offer support for arts and cultural events in the local area. These provide opportunities for connection and promote wellbeing through the exchange of stories, ideas and inspiration.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Prioritising and investigating flood resilience actions for our parks such as Western Park and Grey Lynn Park

Fairly important

Delivering footpath improvements for Auckland Domain

Fairly important

Starting construction for Leys Institute

Fairly important

Delivery of Heard Park Civic Space

Fairly important

Prioritising sport and recreation opportunities for groups that have less

Fairly important

Investigating transition of Grey Lynn Paddling Pool into a seasonal splashpad

Fairly important

Community services programming to enhance perceptions of safety

Fairly important

Support for ending homelessness in Auckland.

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 are seeking feedback on areas that are 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)

Local arts and culture activities, Local events, Grants

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

Prioritising local cultural events is part of prioritising the health and wellbeing of our people. We need stories and we need opportunities to come together. Inspiring our young people to be creative, innovative and understand their identity. Cultural events inject vitality into our city.

Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Bowls Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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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 most

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?

Other

Tell us why

I support the bed tax but but for it to stay at 2.5% not increased to 3%.

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?

Albert-Eden, Devonport-Takapuna

Albert-Eden Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026 however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increasing our community programmes that are delivered from our libraries and community centres in Pt Chevalier Mt Albert Sandringham and Epsom.

Very important

Supporting our community leasing groups to be able to share their space and be sustainable over time so they can continue to provide their great range of community services and activities.

Very important

Supporting our business associations and vibrant town centres so people can live work shop and play in our local villages.

Very important

Talking with young people and children to better understand what is important to them in their area.

Very important

Increasing neighbourhood safety and resilience community wellbeing and emergency preparedness.

Very important

Reducing waste and increasing the profile and impact of Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre.

Fairly important

Delivering on concept and restoration plans we have made for local parks and trialling a portable pump track to move around parks in our area.

Very important

Increasing the number of local events arts and activations especially in local parks and town centres.

Fairly important

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

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most **Tell us why** Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below. **How important are these priorities to you?** **Progress the planning and development of the Takapuna Community Hub**
Fairly important

Support local environmental groups to work with volunteers to clean up, manage and plant our local reserves and open spaces contributing to better outcomes and more weather resilient spaces

Very important

Continue to maintain and enhance community facilities, including parks and sports fields, libraries and community venues to meet community needs

Very important

Progress the Devonport-Takapuna Local Parks Management Plan and refresh of the local boards Greenways Plan

Very important

Support our flood impacted communities as their neighbourhoods change by offering ways and places to connect and share experiences and information

Very important

Develop a Wairau Catchment Water Quality Action Plan that will ensure future decisions take advantage of existing reports and advice

Very important

Support initiatives identified in the Devonport-Takapuna Ethnic Communities Plan in collaboration with the relative representatives of our ethnic communities.

Less 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 are seeking 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)

Grants, Local parks strategy and planning, Sports and park activation activities

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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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Crowne Plaza Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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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?

Do not support

Tell us why

I believe we should continue to work for a national solution for tourism and event funding. Taking a piecemeal approach to this with each Local Govt trying to implement something is not the right way to go about this. Continue to lobby central govt to agree to put on a national bed tax.

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

Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): NZ Marine Industry Assoc

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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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?

Support

Tell us why

Events provide Auckland with business opportunities from the actual expenditure of the event organizer to the local economy to international visitation and profiling of Auckland and NZ internationally as a nice place to visit and to do business in/with.

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

We wish to see increased car parking access for organizer's and patrons of events in Auckland =particularly on Auckland's water front- ie where will visitors from Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty park their cars when the Down Town car park is demolished ?



Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Ngā Tamariki Puāwai o Tāmaki Auckland Kindergarten Association

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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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 most

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?

Albert-Eden, Devonport-Takapuna, Henderson-Massey, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Howick, Waitemata, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Waitākere Ranges

Albert-Eden Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026 however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increasing our community programmes that are delivered from our libraries and community centres in Pt Chevalier Mt Albert Sandringham and Epsom.

Very important

Supporting our community leasing groups to be able to share their space and be sustainable over time so they can continue to provide their great range of community services and activities.

Less important

Supporting our business associations and vibrant town centres so people can live work shop and play in our local villages.

Less important

Talking with young people and children to better understand what is important to them in their area.

Very important

Increasing neighbourhood safety and resilience community wellbeing and emergency preparedness.

Very important

Reducing waste and increasing the profile and impact of Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre.

Very important

Delivering on concept and restoration plans we have made for local parks and trialling a portable pump track to move around parks in our area.

Very important

Increasing the number of local events arts and activations especially in local parks and town centres.

Very important

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

See attached submission.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most **Tell us why** Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below. **How important are these priorities to you?** **Progress the planning and development of the Takapuna Community Hub**
Fairly important

Support local environmental groups to work with volunteers to clean up, manage and plant our local reserves and open spaces contributing to better outcomes and more weather resilient spaces

Very important

Continue to maintain and enhance community facilities, including parks and sports fields, libraries and community venues to meet community needs

Very important

Progress the Devonport-Takapuna Local Parks Management Plan and refresh of the local boards Greenways Plan

Support our flood impacted communities as their neighbourhoods change by offering ways and places to connect and share experiences and information

Very important

Develop a Wairau Catchment Water Quality Action Plan that will ensure future decisions take advantage of existing reports and advice

Support initiatives identified in the Devonport-Takapuna Ethnic Communities Plan in collaboration with the relative representatives of our ethnic communities.

Very important

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

Early childhood education communities at Belmont Bayswater, Devonport, Milford, Sunnynook, Takapuna and Westlake Forrest Hill Kindergartens benefit from community and environmental initiatives.

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we are seeking 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 climate action and sustainability activities, Community development and support activities, Community programmes and services

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?

Tell us why

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

Work on plans to upgrade Catherine Plaza

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

Very important

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

We support initiatives that benefit the whānau and children of Birdwood, Don Buck, Glen Eden, Glen Eden West, Henderson, Lincoln North, Rānui, Sturges Rd, Summerland, Sunnyvale, Te Atatū Peninsula, Te Atatū South, Te Atatū Village Kindergartens. See attached submission.

Howick 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?

Support local businesses and Business Improvement Districts on crime prevention and safety

Work with the Youth Council, Business East Tāmaki, business and tourism sector, and others, on youth upskilling, including increasing funding for the Young Enterprise Scheme

Review and refresh the Howick Local Board Heritage Plan and Tourism Plan

Investigate options to provide a dump station at Half Moon Bay

Trial a surveillance programme to help curb illegal dumping in Flat Bush

Develop initiatives for live monitoring, capturing and documenting the levels of poison/toxicity in our local waterways to increase awareness and enable enforcement

Investigate options on introducing a targeted rate to help fund the delivery of the Flat Bush Library, Community Centre, and Pool and Leisure Centre.

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

We support initiatives that benefit the communities of Anchorage Park, Botany Downs, Bucklands Beach, Cascades, Dannemora, Farm Cove, Highland Park, Howick, Pakuranga, Pigeon Mountain, and Somerville Kindergartens.

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we are seeking 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 climate action and sustainability activities, Community programmes and services, Grants

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu 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?

Explore a site for a recycling centre

Local playground improvements in areas like Mangere Bridge

Maintain local road safety with limited budgets

More support to volunteer networks

Push to deliver local business initiatives.

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

We support initiatives that benefit early childhood education and the children and families of Favona, Flat Bush, Kingsdene, Māngere West, McNaughton, Fonua Alaha Manongi, and Ōtāhuhu Kindergartens.

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we are seeking 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 climate action and sustainability activities,Community programmes and services,Grants

Māngere East Village Business Improvement District (BID) programme

A BID is a local economic development initiative run by a business association under the Auckland Council BID Policy (2022). It involves businesses in a defined area paying a targeted rate to fund specific services or projects in their BID boundary. The Māngere East Village Business Association Society Inc. (MEVBA) has failed to meet key BID Policy requirements, including accountability reporting, AGM minutes, strategic plan, and appointing a BID Manager. MEVBA also breached its constitution and did not notify the council of non-compliance. The Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board is now considering terminating the BID programme and targeted rate, with the possibility of re-establishing a compliant BID programme in the future if conditions are met.

Do you think we should end the Māngere East Village Business Improvement District (BID) programme and associated BID targeted rate?

Tell us why

Ōtara-Papatoetoe 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?

Ensuring Māori culture and the values of mātauranga Māori are visible in public spaces

Very important

Addressing safety concerns in neighbourhoods, common areas and town centres

Very important

Delivering on increased local economic outcomes

Supporting small businesses to act on environmental sustainability**Progressing the planning for options to address community service needs in Old Papatoetoe**

Very important

Supporting local environment groups to work collaboratively with community volunteers in efforts to clean, manage and plant our local reserves and open spaces

Very important

Planning for the delivery of facilities at Manukau Sports Bowl**Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)**

We support initiatives that support early childhood education and the tamariki and whānau of Aorere, Bairds, Flat Bush, Mayfield, Murdoch Park, Ōmana, Papatoetoe, Papatoetoe North, and Yendarra Kindergartens.

Manukau Sports Bowl**Do you support prioritising the planning for delivery of facilities at Manukau Sports Bowl?**

(This may include exploring alternate sources of revenue, such as a targeted rate in future years)

Tell us why**Hunters Corner Business Improvement District**

For the 2024/2025 financial year, the Governing Body did not set a targeted rate for the Hunters Corner Business Improvement District. This was due to the Hunters Corner Town Centre Society Inc (HTCTS) not complying with the BID Policy. If the HTCTS remains non-compliant with the BID Policy by April 2025, council will not set the rate for 2025/2026.

Do you have any comments on the Hunters Corner Business Improvement District?

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we are seeking 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 climate action and sustainability activities,Community programmes and services,Grants

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

Waitākere Ranges Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding. The proposed increase in funding ('fairer funding' for local boards) may be taken up by budget pressures outside of the local board's control.

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?

The Event Partnership Fund to support more community-led events

Arts and culture programmes delivered through our community arts partners

Tailoring programmes to serve diverse communities (youth, older adults, Pacific and ethnic communities)

Very important

Community development, placemaking and activation in our growing neighbourhoods and centres such as Glen Eden, Sunnyvale and Swanson

Supporting business associations to continue supporting local businesses and ongoing growth, develop and liven-up our town centres, including assisting Glen Eden Business Association and establishing of Titirangi Business Association

Environmental programmes to help protect and restore the Waitākere Ranges

Trialling phosphite treatment of kauri infected with kauri dieback on selected local parks

Improving neighbourhood parks: George Herring Common, Koroī/ Clayburn Reserve, Tautoru/Maywood Park, and Sandys Parade.

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

We support all initiatives that benefit children and families in the kindergarten communities of Glen Eden, Glen Eden West, Oratia, Laingholm, Titirangi and Waitākere Ranges Kindergartens

Waitematā Local Board Priorities

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

Tell us why

Tell us why

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Prioritising and investigating flood resilience actions for our parks such as Western Park and Grey Lynn Park

Very important

Delivering footpath improvements for Auckland Domain

Starting construction for Leys Institute

Delivery of Heard Park Civic Space

Prioritising sport and recreation opportunities for groups that have less

Very important

Investigating transition of Grey Lynn Paddling Pool into a seasonal splashpad

Community services programming to enhance perceptions of safety

Very important

Support for ending homelessness in Auckland.

Very important

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

These are initiatives that benefit whānau and tamariki of Freemans Bay, Grey Lynn, Parnell, Ponsonby and Westmere Kindergartens.

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we are seeking feedback on areas that are 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)

Arts and community centres – programme and activation, Community climate action and sustainability activities, Community programmes and services

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

See attached:

Ngā Tamariki Puāwai o Tāmaki | Auckland Kindergarten Association (AKA) is a not-for-profit charitable trust providing quality, accessible early education to up to 10,000 two to five-year-old tamariki in neighbourhoods across the city. We have a Ngāti Whātua appointed Board Director, and serve many Māori whānau, as well as those of Pasifika, NZ-European, Chinese, Indian, and other heritages.

Our 112 kindergartens and centres are found in most Local Board areas: Albert-Eden, Devonport-Takapuna, Franklin, Henderson-Massey, Howick, Kaipātiki, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Ōrākei, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Puketāpapa, Rodney, Upper Harbour, Waiheke, Waitākere Ranges, Waitematā, and Whau. We serve many families who are ratepayers and voters in these areas.

With a revenue of \$68m, a staff of 1000, and property contractors looking after our 112 sites, we contribute substantially to the economic strength of Tāmaki Makaurau. However, we have faced unprecedented cost pressures in the past few years including Covid-19, floods and inflation. We have operated with a deficit recently and have needed to cut costs.

We have relied on the support of Auckland Council since our beginnings in 1908, in particular the generosity of mayors such as Sir John Logan Campbell and Sir Arthur Myers. Community leases have enabled us to provide affordable early childhood education to tamariki from a range of social, economic and ethnic backgrounds, contributing to their lifelong learning and the prosperity of Tāmaki Makaurau.

We ask that Auckland Council and Local Boards:

- Continue to support our community leases. With more families under financial constraints, our low fees are needed, and are made possible with support through a mix of Auckland Council and Government leases;
- Consider the needs of young children and whānau in planning decisions around transport, and safe parking. Parents and whānau need to be able to park nearby in order to drop off and pick up children, but available parking is disappearing. We are not the same as schools – two-year-olds cannot walk long distances and need full supervision. They must be checked in and out of kindergarten by a parent or whānau;
- Consider the needs of young children and whānau in development. Additional traffic, inability to park, additional construction vehicles have an outsize impact on whether whānau are able to

physically access early childhood education facilities. Noise and pollution adversely impact young children and ECE staff; and construction vehicles block footpaths and can impede visibility and safety;

- Consider the needs of young children in emergency situations e.g, evacuating tamariki from floods takes longer than evacuating older children or adults. ECE settings need timely notifications and updates, but we are often overlooked in emergency communications;
- Continue to support Enviroschools. We have 45 Enviroschools teaching tamariki, kaiako and whānau about sustainability of people, place and things. It is a highly valued programme that aligns well with the national curriculum Te Whāriki;
- Protect the safety of Auckland's youngest residents e.g safe traffic speeds, safe scooter use, fewer environmental hazards eg industrial fires nearby ECEs impact children with toxic particles;
- Continue to support cultural events and play experiences equitably for children across the city. Multi-age experiences foster well-being and belonging, along with wider educational benefits;
- Improve lighting in areas where there are kindergartens and ECE centres. Make our dark streets safer for our mostly female workforce;
- Communicate in a timely way any measures that may impact AKA's ongoing financial viability e.g we had no prior information about backflow prevention valves and charges. We are unable to pass those costs on to whānau;
- Waste disposal: we value Council's support in disposing of kindergarten waste in a timely way. Uncollected nappies pose a health hazard in the residential areas where we operate;
- Local Board members and Ward Councillors: we appreciate your support, whether it is helping with a problem, sharing information about development; celebrating our kindergarten milestones, and encouraging participation in early childhood education.



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Ngā Tamariki
Puāwai o Tāmaki
AUCKLAND
KINDERGARTEN
ASSOCIATION



#2667

20 March 2025

Ngā Tamariki Puāwai o Tāmaki | Auckland Kindergarten Association (AKA) is a not-for-profit charitable trust providing quality, accessible early education to up to 10,000 two to five-year-old tamariki in neighbourhoods across the city. We have a Ngāti Whātua appointed Board Director, and serve many Māori whānau, as well as those of Pasifika, NZ-European, Chinese, Indian, and other heritages.

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With a revenue of \$68m, a staff of 1000, and property contractors looking after our 112 sites, we contribute substantially to the economic strength of Tāmaki Makaurau. However, we have faced unprecedented cost pressures in the past few years including Covid-19, floods and inflation. We have operated with a deficit recently and have needed to cut costs.

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We ask that Auckland Council and Local Boards:

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- Consider the needs of young children and whānau in planning decisions around transport, and safe parking. Parents and whānau need to be able to park nearby in order to drop off and pick up children, but available parking is disappearing. We are not the same as schools – two-year-olds cannot walk long distances and need full supervision. They must be checked in and out of kindergarten by a parent or whānau;
- Consider the needs of young children and whānau in development. Additional traffic, inability to park, additional construction vehicles have an outsize impact on whether whānau are able to physically access early childhood education facilities. Noise and pollution adversely impact young children and ECE staff; and construction vehicles block footpaths and can impede visibility and safety;
- Consider the needs of young children in emergency situations e.g. evacuating tamariki from floods takes longer than evacuating older children or adults. ECE settings need timely notifications and updates, but we are often overlooked in emergency communications;
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- Continue to support cultural events and play experiences equitably for children across the city. Multi-age experiences foster well-being and belonging, along with wider educational benefits;



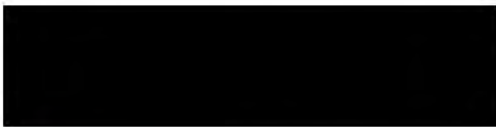
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#2667

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- Local Board members and Ward Councillors: we appreciate your support, whether it is helping with a problem, sharing information about development; celebrating our kindergarten milestones, and encouraging participation in early childhood education.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.



[REDACTED]
CEO

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): AVANI Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

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?

Do not support

Tell us why

Visitors do not just visit Auckland so collecting the levy just in Auckland is unfair. If done nationally, it will deliver ongoing tourism dividend to every destination that welcomes visitors anywhere in the country, not just in Auckland.

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

Home / New Zealand

PREMIUM

Why Auckland Council leaders' calls for a hotel bed tax won't help attract world-class events - Opinion

By James Doolan

Other - 10 Mar 2025 02:00 PM - 5 mins to read

James Doolan

James Doolan is the strategic director of Hotel Council Aotearoa, which represents the hotel sector.

THREE KEY FACTS

- Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown has proposed a bed tax of 2.5% to 3% to fund a \$7m shortfall for major events.
- Implementing any bed tax or levy would require central government legislation.
- Public consultation on Auckland Council's 2025/2026 Annual Plan opens at midday today and closes on March 28.

Don't fall for Auckland Council's consultation hocus-pocus on tourism funding and bed taxes.

It started with Mayor Wayne Brown regularly appearing on radio in full "get things done" re-election mode. Councillor Desley Simpson wrote an opinion piece in this newspaper (Feb 28). What's going on?

Each year regional authorities consult with ratepayers about their annual budgets. Auckland Council is this year asking ratepayers about hotel bed taxes – something it has no power to implement.

The arguments put forward are flimsy, but sound plausible in parts.

First, it says events are vital for Auckland's economy. True.

Second, the council tells you that events might not come to Auckland in future without funding. This is also true. Since events drive verifiable economic benefits for host cities, making a contribution towards running costs – called "subvention funding" – is a legitimate use of ratepayer funds.

After a solid start, here's where the reasoning falls apart.

"Auckland has no source of funding for events," it claims. Therefore [so the argument goes], central government must empower Auckland Council to impose bed taxes and spend the money on event attraction and destination marketing.

This weak claim is propped up with pure populism. Apparently the only way New Zealand can host the America's Cup again is if

J

Development), Ateed used to put around \$15m annually into event attraction. That amount is chump change out of total 2017 council revenues of \$4.12 billion – less than four-tenths of 1% and by no means excessive.

Nowadays, Auckland Council has slashed annual spending on events to around \$7m. Meanwhile, total council revenues ballooned by 62% across the same period, reaching \$6.67b in 2023.

When it comes to tourism, Auckland Council really is "doing less with more" – it takes way more from you in rates and spends way less on attracting world-class events.

Auckland is miles behind even the mid-size Australian states, and yet the Aussies have just 10% GST and no bed taxes.

The civic de-funding of tourism and events is a political choice that Auckland Council has made for reasons I don't fully understand. If it cannot find half of 1% of total revenues to activate the city properly, then perhaps we need new councillors?

The sources of possible funding are many – not just rates. For example, Auckland Council received a combined \$2.14b in 2023 and 2024 for selling Auckland Airport shares. This very recent tourism-related asset sale windfall could have been the catalyst to unblock event attraction funding, but councillors decided to go in a different direction.

There's money at central government level too, with \$4.1b in tourism GST collected last year, some of which could support events of national significance in Auckland.

It's not for me to list out all the wasteful Auckland Council spending over the past decade. Brown himself has done a great job of starting to get that under control.

Smart event attraction funding is never wasteful and delivers a positive return. It should be a much higher priority for Brown to dial up event attraction and give hospitality businesses some support.

The hotel sector is not against the idea of a new accommodation levy, provided it is done once and done right for all New Zealand. Accommodation providers are trying to end a three-way tourism funding deadlock between industry, central government and local government.

Hotel Council Aotearoa has repeatedly proposed collaboration with Auckland Council on this issue of critical importance to all New Zealand. Our industry-backed national scheme delivers an ongoing tourism dividend to every destination that welcomes visitors anywhere in the country, not just in Auckland.

As landing spot for 70% of international travellers, Auckland has a privileged position, but there's no good reason for an "Auckland first" approach to new tourism taxes. Many international tourists don't exactly choose New Zealand because of Auckland.

Auckland Council knows that an Auckland-only bed tax is simply not supported by anyone who matters in the accommodation sector. The consultation materials skim over what industry wants.

Brown sometimes declares he's "not a tourism guy", but credit is due for his great work raising the profile of Auckland and looking to attract more airlines. As someone who admits to being a passionate tourism guy, I believe Auckland is on the wrong path when it comes to attracting events. Brown has a chance to fix Phil Goff's mistakes and restore funding quickly.

Here's what I'll be saying to the Auckland Council consultation on event funding: "If event attraction and destination marketing is as important as you say it is, please stop wasting money elsewhere. Take a tiny part of your annual budget and return tourism funding to where it was a decade ago. This stuff is important to all Aucklanders and it drives future economic growth. Work as partners with industry on a sustainable national plan."

If he quickly restored Auckland's event attraction funding to what it was 10 years ago, then no-nonsense Brown would immediately become a tourism and hospitality industry hero.







Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Taamaki and Taamaki Ki Te Tonga Maaori Wardens

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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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?

Support most

Tell us why

Need to start somewhere oppose to reinventing the wheel, do better with what works!

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

There should be a toll from Mercer, Tuakau and Mangatangi Pokeno! To help pay these costs.

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)

Need to look into alternative ways of discarding rubbish! Look at Singapore more cost effective if we start now!

Question 4:

Local board priorities

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

Franklin, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Papakura



Franklin Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Delivery of Auckland Council Community Hub Services (library, arts, and customer services) in Beachlands and Clevedon

Very important

Extending and improving service outreach to isolated communities like Āwhitu, Ōrere, Glenbrook Beach, Paparimu and Kawakawa Bay

Very important

Accelerated delivery on the Sports and Recreational Plan, and additional grant funding for Karaka Sports Park and the Te Puru Sports Centre

Very important

Initiatives that improve the quality of the water in our streams and rivers and our environment through pest eradication programmes

Very important

Accelerated planting of trees in public places i.e. delivery of the Franklin Ngahere Plan

Very important

Continued delivery of the targeted rate funded Franklin Paths Programme.

Very important

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

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?

Tell us why

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

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)

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

Work on plans to upgrade Catherine Plaza

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

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

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu 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 most

Tell us why

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Explore a site for a recycling centre

Very important

Local playground improvements in areas like Mangere Bridge

Very important

Maintain local road safety with limited budgets

Fairly important

More support to volunteer networks

Very important

Push to deliver local business initiatives.

Very 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 are seeking 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)

Local arts and culture activities, Environmental restoration, volunteers, and pest control activities, Grants

Māngere East Village Business Improvement District (BID) programme

A BID is a local economic development initiative run by a business association under the Auckland Council BID Policy (2022). It involves businesses in a defined area paying a targeted rate to fund specific services or projects in their BID boundary. The Māngere East Village Business Association Society Inc. (MEVBA) has failed to meet key BID Policy requirements, including accountability reporting, AGM minutes, strategic plan, and appointing a BID Manager. MEVBA also breached its constitution and did not notify the council of non-compliance. The Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board is now considering terminating the BID programme and targeted rate, with the possibility of re-establishing a compliant BID programme in the future if conditions are met.

Do you think we should end the Māngere East Village Business Improvement District (BID) programme and associated BID targeted rate?

Yes

Tell us why

Manurewa Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increasing the levels of service for maintenance and repair of all assets across buildings, parks, open spaces and sports fields, town centre cleaning, street litter bin emptying, vegetation clearance, and berm mowing works

Very important

Improving sports fields including maintenance, sand-carpeting and lighting

Fairly important

Identifying ways to support the council's response to roaming dogs

Very important

Boosting the amount of funding available for community grants so more projects and initiatives can be delivered by community, arts and sports groups

Very important

Expanding the number of funded initiatives that respond to the needs and aspirations of children and young people

Very important

Developing tailored community partnerships with key groups, organisations and networks where their interests and priorities are aligned to outcomes in the Manurewa Local Board Plan 2027

Very important

Providing the Pacific community with capacity support, and a grant to undertake feasibility and concept plans to deliver the Pacific hub on Clendon Reserve

Fairly important

Scaling up the work being delivered to achieve environmental outcomes

Very important

Investigating the need to extend the opening hours in our community facilities such as the two libraries, the pool and leisure centre and Nathan Homestead

Fairly important

Funding initiatives that stimulate economic growth and generate prosperity in Manurewa.

Very important

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

Fenced Dog Exercise Areas

Do you think we should investigate providing fenced dog exercise areas?

No

Tell us why

Dogs should be trained and on leads.

Ōtara-Papatoetoe 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 most

Tell us why

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Ensuring Māori culture and the values of mātauranga Māori are visible in public spaces

Very important

Addressing safety concerns in neighbourhoods, common areas and town centres

Very important

Delivering on increased local economic outcomes

Very important

Supporting small businesses to act on environmental sustainability

Very important

Progressing the planning for options to address community service needs in Old Papatoetoe

Very important

Supporting local environment groups to work collaboratively with community volunteers in efforts to clean, manage and plant our local reserves and open spaces

Very important

Planning for the delivery of facilities at Manukau Sports Bowl

Very important

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

Manukau Sports Bowl

Do you support prioritising the planning for delivery of facilities at Manukau Sports Bowl?

(This may include exploring alternate sources of revenue, such as a targeted rate in future years)

Yes

Tell us why**Hunters Corner Business Improvement District**

For the 2024/2025 financial year, the Governing Body did not set a targeted rate for the Hunters Corner Business Improvement District. This was due to the Hunters Corner Town Centre Society Inc (HTCTS) not complying with the BID Policy. If the HTCTS remains non-compliant with the BID Policy by April 2025, council will not set the rate for 2025/2026.

Do you have any comments on the Hunters Corner Business Improvement District?

Traffic is always congested!

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we are seeking 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 development and support activities, Environmental restoration, volunteers, and pest control activities, Grants

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

Arts and community centres – programme and activation, Community climate action and sustainability activities, Libraries and Pools and Leisure facilities – opening hours and services

Papakura Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Progressing some of the new Sports and Recreation Plan, economic development, and youth projects identified from the work being completed in 2024/2029

Less important

Requesting strategic assessments to understand needs relating to: Opaheke sports and passive parks; Awakeri Wetlands; Kuhanui Reserve, Karaka; Park Estate Reserve, Park Green; new play facilities at Pulman Park, and the Greenways/Local Paths Plan

Very important

Advocating for access to the legacy parking fund for carparking projects

Fairly important

Assisting the Takanini Business Association's proposed establishment of a Business Improvement District (BID) programme and BID targeted rate for Takanini

Very 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 development and support activities,Environmental restoration, volunteers and pest control activities,Grants

Takanini Business Improvement District (BID)

We continue to support the Papakura and Takanini Business Associations to grow and develop businesses, and to make the town centres more lively. Takanini Business Association is seeking to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) programme. If it is successful, business ratepayers and owners located within the BID establishment area will become members of the Takanini BID programme and pay the associated BID target rate.

Do you think we should establish a Takanini Business Improvement District (BID) programme and associated BID targeted rate?

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

Increase maintenance of grasses and pathways!



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): Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

Tell us why

Outcomes for Māori engagement from the Rodney Local Board with mana whenua is clear in the LTP 2024-2034 i.e. Kia ora Tāmaki Makaurau framework along with some examples of what this may look like (pg 164). However meaningful engagement with Rodney Local Board (RLB) with Te

Uri o Hau is still unresolved after the loss of whenua in Te Arai. Overall, we support the proposed annual plan and seeking a better connection with RLB on aligned aspirations.

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?

Other

Tell us why

We recognise the impact of tourism. We support the funding of maintenance of public spaces, reducing litter, and improving amenities with this levy. We have concerns around the financial burden to whānau who live outside of the Tāmaki boundaries that need to come into Tāmaki for one night only.

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?**

Rodney

Rodney Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

We are supportive on the environmental outcomes. We would like to understand the Rodney Greenways Plans as it only relates to the West Coast. We would like to understand more about the reserves plans. Lastly we support promoting waste reduction and seek investment in a Recycling Centre in the Rodney district.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?**Improving services for all communities by enhancing libraries art and youth programmes**

Fairly important

Promote physical activity and recreation by increasing play opportunities in more locations

Less important

Support community groups, volunteers, and mana whenua to enhance environmental protection and restoration efforts, particularly for waterways and wetlands, while promoting waste reduction

Very important

Increase maintenance service levels, such as more frequent mowing of high-profile reserves, pest control, and repair of tracks and car parks.

Very important

Support Rodney Greenways Plans to facilitate walking, cycling and horse riding

I don't know

Prepare and review plans for reserves to identify gaps to meet community needs

Very important

Improve the safety of our community and environment through increased education, monitoring and compliance.

Very important

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

Pest and Predator control is a key outcome to save our biodiversity. Water Resilience and Climate change responses is a priority to our people

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

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): Rainbow Community Advisory Committee

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

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

We need major events to increase social outcomes and enhance our cultural identity. In order to have major events, we need to support events leading up to major and mega events in the city. If the council has to cut budgets, then a bed levy is an appropriate budgetary lever to meet funding requirements. Many other countries charge bed/tourism levys and tourists pay them without a murmur.

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

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 urge central government to implement a bed levy now, so that major events can be funded in Auckland. Its very important to our city both financially and socially.

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): Auckland Tokelau Society inc

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

Tell us why

We support the plan overall.

There was room for improvement however in the overall communication process.

We didn't fully understand how this plan worked exactly for our community.

We felt that we needed better timeframes between presentation to our people and the submission process.

Take our case for example, the presentation for our community was all in palagi and really only the young ones in our community had the capacity to understand and ask questions or give feedback.

How exactly had council identified what the needs of the Tokelau community prior to the formation of the plan / budget? This would have been good to see when council presented to us as it would have demonstrated that we had been given prior consideration.

If we can propose that all of our documentation is in the Tokelau language so that it is able to be understood by everyone reading it.

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

We fully support this initiative as we see it as a way to develop our city from a tourism economics perspective and eases the strain on ratepayers particularly within the lower socio economic demographic.

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)

No

Question 4:

Local board priorities

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

Albert-Eden, Henderson-Massey, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Papakura, Whau

Albert-Eden Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026 however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

We believe these areas will improve opportunities for our Tokelau community to gather and facilitate events for us and also to interact with other communities within our area. We also want to engage and partnership with our local board so that we can identify further opportunities to improve and strengthen the cultural ties of our Tokelau community. Our community have specific interest in opportunities to utilize spaces and or facilities that we can use on a mid to long term basis as we are sourcing funding to locate /build our own facilities here in Tamaki Makaurau.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increasing our community programmes that are delivered from our libraries and community centres in Pt Chevalier Mt Albert Sandringham and Epsom.

Fairly important

Supporting our community leasing groups to be able to share their space and be sustainable over time so they can continue to provide their great range of community services and activities.

Very important

Supporting our business associations and vibrant town centres so people can live work shop and play in our local villages.

Fairly important

Talking with young people and children to better understand what is important to them in their area.

Fairly important

Increasing neighbourhood safety and resilience community wellbeing and emergency preparedness.

Fairly important

Reducing waste and increasing the profile and impact of Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre.

Fairly important

Delivering on concept and restoration plans we have made for local parks and trialling a portable pump track to move around parks in our area.

Fairly important

Increasing the number of local events arts and activations especially in local parks and town centres.

Fairly important

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

Our community have specific interest in opportunities to utilize spaces and or facilities that we can use on a mid to long term basis as we are sourcing funding to locate /build our own facilities here in Tamaki Makaurau.

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 most

Tell us why

We fully support the initiatives that are being proposed particularly for Mana whenua. We also see an opportunity to partner with the Henderson - Massey local board to consider similar initiatives and activations to help our local Tokelau community to achieve the same as we don't directly see anything that would be of immediate benefit to the needs of our people residing in this board region.

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

Very 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

Very important

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

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu 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 most

Tell us why

We believe these areas will improve opportunities for our Tokelau community to gather and facilitate events for us and also to interact with other communities within our area. We also want to engage further with our local board so that we can identify further opportunities to progress the aspirations of our community.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Explore a site for a recycling centre

Very important

Local playground improvements in areas like Mangere Bridge

Very important

Maintain local road safety with limited budgets

Very important

More support to volunteer networks

Very important

Push to deliver local business initiatives.

Very important

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

We support road but question the limiting of budgets here as we dont want to compromise safety. Volunteers networks what does this mean? We see ourselves as a volunteer community would be be considered under this and if so what does this support look like?

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we are seeking 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 development and support activities,Community programmes and services,Grants

Māngere East Village Business Improvement District (BID) programme

A BID is a local economic development initiative run by a business association under the Auckland Council BID Policy (2022). It involves businesses in a defined area paying a targeted rate to fund specific services or projects in their BID boundary. The Māngere East Village Business Association Society Inc. (MEVBA) has failed to meet key BID Policy requirements, including accountability reporting, AGM minutes, strategic plan, and appointing a BID Manager. MEVBA also breached its

constitution and did not notify the council of non-compliance. The Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board is now considering terminating the BID programme and targeted rate, with the possibility of re-establishing a compliant BID programme in the future if conditions are met.

Do you think we should end the Māngere East Village Business Improvement District (BID) programme and associated BID targeted rate?

Yes

Tell us why

basic governance failure

Manurewa Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

We believe these areas will improve opportunities for our Tokelau community to gather and facilitate events for us and also to interact with other communities within our area. We also want to engage further with our local board so that we can identify further opportunities to development. We are excited about what the Manurewa local board is proposing for our Pacific community as we are a minority group within this population and most of our community reside within this board area.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increasing the levels of service for maintenance and repair of all assets across buildings, parks, open spaces and sports fields, town centre cleaning, street litter bin emptying, vegetation clearance, and berm mowing works

Fairly important

Improving sports fields including maintenance, sand-carpeting and lighting

Fairly important

Identifying ways to support the council's response to roaming dogs

Very important

Boosting the amount of funding available for community grants so more projects and initiatives can be delivered by community, arts and sports groups

Very important

Expanding the number of funded initiatives that respond to the needs and aspirations of children and young people

Very important

Developing tailored community partnerships with key groups, organisations and networks where their interests and priorities are aligned to outcomes in the Manurewa Local Board Plan 2027

Very important

Providing the Pacific community with capacity support, and a grant to undertake feasibility and concept plans to deliver the Pacific hub on Clendon Reserve

Very important

Scaling up the work being delivered to achieve environmental outcomes

Fairly important

Investigating the need to extend the opening hours in our community facilities such as the two libraries, the pool and leisure centre and Nathan Homestead

Fairly important

Funding initiatives that stimulate economic growth and generate prosperity in Manurewa.

Fairly important

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

Being a small ethnic group within Pasefika we are supporting of anything that we know supports our people to thrive. We also have a high number of Tokelau community possibly this is where most of our community reside. We have aspirations to lease any available facilities that are available within our council that we use on a mid to long term basis whilst we source funds and support for our own land / facilities

Fenced Dog Exercise Areas

Do you think we should investigate providing fenced dog exercise areas?

Yes

Tell us why

There are not really any spaces like this in our area so yes this would be a good idea

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

We believe these areas will improve opportunities for our Tokelau community to gather and facilitate events for us and also to interact with other communities within our area. We also want to engage further with our local board so that we can identify further opportunities there are that can support Tokelau community in this region.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Continuing to support community groups and community-led activities through our local community grants

Very important

Continuing to build the capacity and capability of local community and sporting groups through our strategic partnerships programme

Very important

Activate our local open spaces and facilities, through council-led activities and assessing what amenities our spaces need, such as toilets and power outlets

Fairly important

Empowering community groups and organisations to deliver community events through sustainable funding models

Very important

Consider funding activities that increase our community's sense of safety, working with community groups and business associations already delivering safety initiatives

Very important

Continuing to support initiatives that deliver outcomes with and for youth, such as our Youth Empowerment programme, and Tiakina te taiao and Ope programmes (biodiversity and climate action education programme in schools)

Very important

Collaborate with mana whenua and neighbouring local boards to protect and restore our waterways, particularly the Tāmaki Estuary and Manukau Harbour

Very important

Consider a review of Te Oro Music and Arts Centre, to ensure it remains welcoming and responsive to the community's changing needs.

Very important

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

We believe these areas will improve opportunities for our Tokelau community to gather and facilitate events for us and also to interact with other communities within our area. We also want to engage further with our local board so that we can identify further opportunities to improve outcomes for our people.

Ōtara-Papatoetoe 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 most

Tell us why

We believe these areas will improve opportunities for our Tokelau community to gather and facilitate events for us and also to interact with other communities within our area. We also want to engage further with our local board so that we can identify further opportunities to partner with council that enables us to achieve the aspirations of our community. Our key goals centre around cultural preservation. A key deliverable we have is to purchase or acquire our own space / facility here in our local area that we can call our own.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Ensuring Māori culture and the values of mātauranga Māori are visible in public spaces

Very important

Addressing safety concerns in neighbourhoods, common areas and town centres

Very important

Delivering on increased local economic outcomes

Very important

Supporting small businesses to act on environmental sustainability

Very important

Progressing the planning for options to address community service needs in Old Papatoetoe

Very important

Supporting local environment groups to work collaboratively with community volunteers in efforts to clean, manage and plant our local reserves and open spaces

Very important

Planning for the delivery of facilities at Manukau Sports Bowl

Very important

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)**Manukau Sports Bowl****Do you support prioritising the planning for delivery of facilities at Manukau Sports Bowl?**

(This may include exploring alternate sources of revenue, such as a targeted rate in future years)

Yes

Tell us why

Any development opportunities for this facility are a good idea to boost further economic growth

Hunters Corner Business Improvement District

For the 2024/2025 financial year, the Governing Body did not set a targeted rate for the Hunters Corner Business Improvement District. This was due to the Hunters Corner Town Centre Society Inc (HTCTS) not complying with the BID Policy. If the HTCTS remains non-compliant with the BID Policy by April 2025, council will not set the rate for 2025/2026.

Do you have any comments on the Hunters Corner Business Improvement District?

no comment as dont really understand this

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we are seeking 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 development and support activities,Community programmes and services,Grants

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

Libraries and Pools and Leisure facilities – opening hours and services

Papakura Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

We believe these areas will improve opportunities for our Tokelau community to gather and facilitate events for us and also to interact with other communities within our area. We also want to engage further with our local board so that we can identify further opportunities to partner and achieve our desired goals.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Progressing some of the new Sports and Recreation Plan, economic development, and youth projects identified from the work being completed in 2024/2029

Fairly important

Requesting strategic assessments to understand needs relating to: Opaheke sports and passive parks; Awakeri Wetlands; Kuhanui Reserve, Karaka; Park Estate Reserve, Park Green; new play facilities at Pulman Park, and the Greenways/Local Paths Plan

Fairly important

Advocating for access to the legacy parking fund for carparking projects

Less important

Assisting the Takanini Business Association's proposed establishment of a Business Improvement District (BID) programme and BID targeted rate for Takanini

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 development and support activities,Community programmes and services,Grants

Takanini Business Improvement District (BID)

We continue to support the Papakura and Takanini Business Associations to grow and develop businesses, and to make the town centres more lively. Takanini Business Association is seeking to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) programme. If it is successful, business ratepayers and owners located within the BID establishment area will become members of the Takanini BID programme and pay the associated BID target rate.

Do you think we should establish a Takanini Business Improvement District (BID) programme and associated BID targeted rate?

Yes

Tell us why

Whau Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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?

Restore funding to service levels in some areas that were cut in recent years, e.g additional library hours, programmes and community grants

Very important

Increased service levels in our parks and town centres including progression of Te Hono project

Very important

Plan for the future Whau aquatic and recreation facility and facilitate public access to school pools in the interim

Very important

Work with local Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to find new ways of delivering vibrant and welcoming town centres through art activation and beautification projects.

Very important

Continue to support volunteering, community and business participation, through environmental and ecological initiatives around the Manukau Harbour foreshore, the Whau River and its tributaries, and our urban ngahere

Very important

Increase community participation and capability in community hubs, houses and with established community partners, and progress the development of a new community hub in Fruitvale

Very important

Foster climate/emergency preparedness and resilience in our community

Very important

Investigate a future space for youth and engage a youth coordinator to support and promote for youth by youth activations

Very important

Provide appropriate options for healthy, active lifestyles through recreation in parks and open spaces with particular focus on our ethnically diverse communities, women, and girls.

Very important

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

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

Yes please note that these comments are from a collective group of our Auckland Tokelau society community. We represent the voices of all of our communities across each of the regions that we have submitted for. This is made up each of our Nuku groups being Atafu Mulihele trust, Fakafo community group and the Talikilagi Nukunonu inc society our church groups such as Grey Lynn PIPC, EFTK Ekalehia Fakalapotoga Kelihiano Tokelau - Otara, Tokelau Tuvalu - Ekalehia Lapale Tokelau Tuvalu, Auckland Katoliko, Ikahopo Auckland Elders association, MTTA Mafutaga

Tupulaga Tokelau Auckland and our early childhood centres Mataliki Tokelau Akoga Kamata in Mangere and Fetu Fa in Te Atatu Peninsula.

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): Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

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.

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

Auckland Council Annual Plan Submission

Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi - introduction

Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi is the arts regional trust for Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland. The Trust was created by city councils of Auckland and Manukau in 2000 to manage and grow a fund provided through the disestablishment of Auckland Regional Services Trust. The Trust was gifted the name Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi by Sir Hugh Kawharu, and this is the name under which the Trust operates today.

Question 2 - bed night visitor levy

This submission will only focus on answering Question 2 of the Annual Plan consultation: *Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management and major events activities?*

Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi supports a bed night visitor levy, on the provision that all revenue is used for:

- Major events funding across Tāmaki Makaurau, with at least 25% of funding allocated to fund specifically creative events, with at least 10% of that amount being for local events.
- That funding agreement conditions for all funded major events should include a condition for local procurement of creative talent for creative and cultural components of other major events. e.g. musical performances, other performances, use of music and marketing components.
- Destination marketing for Tāmaki Makaurau events.

While it does not appear that a cost-benefit analysis has been undertaken, a bed night visitor levy would plug the \$7m shortfall and support the events and initiatives that shape Auckland's cultural identity, liveability and economy. The alternative, which is that no funding is available for any creative or major events, would see Auckland's appeal decline for domestic and international tourists. If central government does not create a bill to support the levy, a plan B must be identified. This needs to happen before the budget process is finalised, whether it is rates increases or budget reallocation.

However, there are risks, such as an increase in costs deterring visitors from choosing to travel to Auckland to attend major creative events, such as the Writer's Festival, although it appears that [elsewhere](#) such taxes have not had a deterrent effect. Or that smaller, non-funded or partially-funded events, which are sometimes programmed at the same time as creative or major events, become collateral damage. These events are usually community-

backed and have less support for marketing and communications, sometimes having to compete with the publicity and “noise” surrounding major events. Getting audiences to attend these events can be a challenge, it will be important to introduce mechanisms so that smaller events can still thrive.

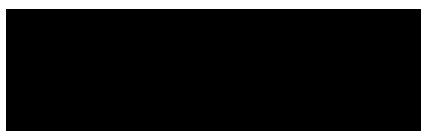
The event eco-system relies upon a variety of offerings, serving Auckland’s diverse and intergenerational communities, and diverse audiences from domestic and international tourism. The levy programme would need to have a rigorous evaluation process, and with potential back-up options available if proven to be detrimental to other sectors. For example, if a smaller event and a major event were running concurrently, this might deter tourists from attending the smaller event if they had to pay a levy to stay in the city.

We agree with Rebecca Ingram of Tourism Industry Aotearoa: *“Any mechanism under consideration should be nationally applied, distributed fairly and designed in a tripartite way with industry, central government and local government and have clear objectives and accountability.”* [Auckland bets on a new national bed tax for hotels and B&Bs - Newsroom](#)

A bed night visitor levy would follow international trends: in Scotland, [The Visitor Levy](#) (Scotland) Bill became an act on 5 July 2024 to *“invest in local facilities and services, helping to attract more visitors.”* In Alberta, Canada, the [legislation](#) recently changed to include “residential unit accommodation hosts” to keep up with changing modes of accommodation.

In conclusion, while we are concerned about how a bed night visitor levy might negatively impact our grassroots arts, culture and creative culture sector, we support the continuation of funding of major and creative events.

Ngā mihi nui,



Te Kaihiringa | CE
Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi



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): New Zealand Events Association

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

Tell us why

While New Zealand Events Association (NZEa) supports Auckland Council's commitment to events, we stress the urgent need for sustainable funding solutions, particularly through the proposed bed night visitor levy.

The plan highlights a \$7 million funding shortfall for major events from 2025/2026, putting flagship events such as the ASB Classic, Auckland Marathon, and Auckland Writers Festival at risk. NZEA urges immediate action to secure sustainable funding to avoid event cancellations or reductions in scale, which would negatively impact Auckland's economy and visitor appeal.

NZEA strongly supports Auckland Council's advocacy for a bed night visitor levy (2.5%–3%) on short-stay accommodation, which would generate \$27 million annually for destination management, marketing, and event funding. This is a fair and internationally proven approach that ensures visitors contribute to the events that enhance their Auckland experience. If the levy is delayed, alternative short-term funding solutions must be considered to bridge the gap and prevent event losses.

NZEA welcomes the Council's commitment to funding major cultural festivals (Pasifika, Diwali, Lantern Festival) and securing international events that enhance Auckland's global reputation. These events play a crucial role in driving tourism, economic activity, and cultural vibrancy, and NZEA strongly supports continued investment in them.

The proposal to consolidate event delivery under Tātaki Auckland Unlimited must be carefully managed to ensure efficiency without compromising the quality and diversity of Auckland's event landscape.

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

NZEA fully supports the introduction of a bed night visitor levy and urges central government to act swiftly to enable Auckland to maintain and grow its world-class event offerings. Events are a critical

part of Auckland's identity, economy, and visitor appeal, and sustainable funding mechanisms like this are essential for their future success.

Events like the ASB Classic, Auckland Marathon, and Auckland Writers Festival contribute significantly to Auckland's economy by attracting domestic and international visitors, driving hotel stays, hospitality spending, and wider economic activity.

These events also enhance Auckland's global reputation, making it a more attractive destination for both tourism and business investment. Without new funding, there is a real risk that major events will lose financial support or be forced to scale back, reducing Auckland's competitiveness as an events destination. A 2.5% to 3% levy on short-stay accommodation is a reasonable and widely used approach internationally to fund tourism and events. At an estimated \$27 million per year, the levy would more than offset the current funding gap, allowing for increased investment in events and destination promotion.

NZEA supports Auckland Council's advocacy efforts and urges the Government to expedite the introduction of a visitor levy to provide certainty for event organisers and ensure long-term funding stability. Events are key drivers of domestic and international tourism, and central government should recognise their role in economic recovery, cultural engagement, and global positioning.

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.

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)

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

NZEA supports the inclusion of Māori cultural heritage in the operational plans for Tūpuna Maunga, recognising the importance of cultural narratives and traditions in events that are integral to Auckland's identity.

We believe that Māori culture should continue to be celebrated and incorporated into major events and festivals. This can be achieved through collaborations with Māori communities and cultural custodians to ensure events are aligned with local iwi, hapū, and Tūpuna Maunga sites.

Council investment in event infrastructure should also prioritise venues and spaces that are aligned with Auckland's cultural heritage, including Tūpuna Maunga, to promote a deeper sense of place for both locals and visitors.

Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): TAPAC (The Auckland Performing Arts Centre)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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:

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- 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?

Support most

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.

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)

Question 4:

Local board priorities

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

Waitematā

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

Waitematā Local Board Priorities

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

Tell us why

Support most

Tell us why

Concerned about the proposed removal of arts and culture, and community, community centre support

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Prioritising and investigating flood resilience actions for our parks such as Western Park and Grey Lynn Park

Less important

Delivering footpath improvements for Auckland Domain

Less important

Starting construction for Leys Institute

Fairly important

Delivery of Heard Park Civic Space

Less important

Prioritising sport and recreation opportunities for groups that have less

Very important

Investigating transition of Grey Lynn Paddling Pool into a seasonal splashpad

Less important

Community services programming to enhance perceptions of safety

Fairly important

Support for ending homelessness in Auckland.

Very 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 are seeking feedback on areas that are 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)

Local arts and culture activities, Arts and community centres – programme and activation, Community programmes and services

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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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): New Zealand African Community Health Services

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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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?

Support most

Tell us why

Most of our members do not support rate increase for residential property

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.

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?

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 most

Tell us why

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

Fairly important

Work on plans to upgrade Catherine Plaza

Fairly 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)

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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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Sport Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

Tell us why

Sport Auckland supports the majority of the proposed annual plan specifically for us around the Fairer funding for local boards; the proposal to investigate a bed night visitor levy to assist with funding, in part, major sporting events; the make way for water initiatives which may of course impact sports club and fields; the progression of a local board led plan for the North Harbour

Stadium; increasing the Sports and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund to address the sports facilities deficit in Auckland; and investment in the sports field capacity development programme. Where we do have some reservations is around the financial flex of the plan (page 12). It is not usually our place to comment on the % of rates households pay but at a time when the cost of living continues to rise and the cost of participation in many sport and recreational activities is beyond many in our communities we urge caution around a further rate rise in the worst case scenario. The unintended consequences will result in an increase in inequities and a rise in those missing out on opportunities to participate in play, active recreation and sport (organised or social) within our communities.

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

Sport Auckland supports a bed night visitor levy that aims to address funding shortfalls of major events. It is important for Auckland to be able to host the likes ongoing national sport content and major one-off international events through such a levy. This takes the pressure of ratepayers and household budgets which are already overwhelmed with the cost of living rises. We need these major events if we wish to be a world class city that attracts tourists, promoters, event participants, global coverage, recognition and investment so that the city remains financially resilient.

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.

Other

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)

This section is not really for Sport Auckland to comment on.

Question 4:

Local board priorities

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

Albert-Eden, Aotea/Great Barrier, Howick, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Ōrākei, Puketāpapa, Waiheke, Waitematā

Albert-Eden Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026 however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Sport Auckland has a strong working relationship with the Albert-Eden Local Board and we continue to support their priorities in the Annual Plan. We strongly advocate for as many play, active recreation and sporting opportunities (PARS) and events for the community as possible. The value of physical activity can never be underestimated particularly the social impact that PARS has on our communities. WE support the opportunity to promote play and active recreation at places beyond sports fields such as in local libraries and community centres. We definitely align with talking to young people and children to better understand their needs. And we encourage the local board to remain inclusive when having these talks to ensure that those missing out are also catered for, specifically from our migrant, disability and rainbow communities.

The trialing of a portable pump track to move around the parks is a great initiative.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increasing our community programmes that are delivered from our libraries and community centres in Pt Chevalier Mt Albert Sandringham and Epsom.

Very important

Supporting our community leasing groups to be able to share their space and be sustainable over time so they can continue to provide their great range of community services and activities.

Very important

Supporting our business associations and vibrant town centres so people can live work shop and play in our local villages.

Very important

Talking with young people and children to better understand what is important to them in their area.

Very important

Increasing neighbourhood safety and resilience community wellbeing and emergency preparedness.

Very important

Reducing waste and increasing the profile and impact of Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre.

I don't know

Delivering on concept and restoration plans we have made for local parks and trialling a portable pump track to move around parks in our area.

Very important

Increasing the number of local events arts and activations especially in local parks and town centres.

Very important

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

Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Sport Auckland supports the Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board priorities specifically the environmental works and park upgrades. We strongly advocate for increased opportunities for the community to be able to participate in play, active recreation and sporting (PARS) opportunities. We advocate for the removal of barriers to any PARS opportunities and would encourage the Local Board to continue to listen to the voice of our tamariki and rangatahi when deciding on what upgrades and opportunities to focus for the community. We cannot emphasise enough the value of physical activity that enables active, healthy lifestyles to be led including the positive social impact that physical activity plays in everyday life.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

All current projects and programmes including community grants, environmental work, and parks upgrades

Very important

Set up of a new community-run local fish-supply

I don't know

Community marine education and marine biosecurity work

Very important

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

Howick 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

Sport Auckland has a very strong and healthy working relationship with the Howick Local Board. We strongly support the Local Board's priorities but specifically wish to comment on the play, active

recreation and sporting opportunities (PARS) in the community. We cannot emphasise enough the importance and value of physical activity that enable our communities to live healthy, active lifestyles. We value and advocate for the priorities around Local Park Planning, Sports and Park activations and youth activities. We promote listening to the voice of our tamariki and rangatahi to find out what their needs are when they wish to undertake any form of physical activity (PARS). We will continue to work alongside the Local Board and the community as work continues on proposed on the Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub (LECH), the proposed multi-sport hub based at Pakuranga United Rugby Football Club and developments around the potential Sir Barry Curtis Park Multi-Sport Hub. Sport Auckland will continue to assist the Local Board with activation activities within the local community that addresses any inequities and barriers for those who may be missing out in participating in PARS opportunities within the community.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Support local businesses and Business Improvement Districts on crime prevention and safety

Fairly important

Work with the Youth Council, Business East Tāmaki, business and tourism sector, and others, on youth upskilling, including increasing funding for the Young Enterprise Scheme

Very important

Review and refresh the Howick Local Board Heritage Plan and Tourism Plan

Fairly important

Investigate options to provide a dump station at Half Moon Bay

I don't know

Trial a surveillance programme to help curb illegal dumping in Flat Bush

I don't know

Develop initiatives for live monitoring, capturing and documenting the levels of poison/toxicity in our local waterways to increase awareness and enable enforcement

Very important

Investigate options on introducing a targeted rate to help fund the delivery of the Flat Bush Library, Community Centre, and Pool and Leisure Centre.

Very 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 are seeking 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)

Local parks strategy and planning, Sports and park activation activities, Youth activities

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Sport Auckland has a very good strong working relationship with the Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board and we strongly support and align with their proposals for 2025/26. We specifically support the proposals around community engagement, community led activities, empowerment of the community and the activation of local open spaces and facilities. Sport Auckland advocates for, values and supports physical activity through play, active recreation and sporting opportunities (PARS) that enable the community to live healthy active lifestyles. We have always worked closely with the Local Board around these PARS activations and helping with the capability build of community organisations to deliver on these PARS opportunities. We will continue to work alongside the Local Board and community to help address barriers and inequities to participation. And we will continue to support and work alongside the Board and local organisations through the Local Board's Partnership programme.

Sport Auckland will continue to work alongside Key Partner Organisations within the area as several explore opportunities around activating open spaces and facilities for the community.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Continuing to support community groups and community-led activities through our local community grants

Very important

Continuing to build the capacity and capability of local community and sporting groups through our strategic partnerships programme

Very important

Activate our local open spaces and facilities, through council-led activities and assessing what amenities our spaces need, such as toilets and power outlets

Very important

Empowering community groups and organisations to deliver community events through sustainable funding models

Very important

Consider funding activities that increase our community's sense of safety, working with community groups and business associations already delivering safety initiatives

Very important

Continuing to support initiatives that deliver outcomes with and for youth, such as our Youth Empowerment programme, and Tiakina te taiao and Ope programmes (biodiversity and climate action education programme in schools)

Very important

Collaborate with mana whenua and neighbouring local boards to protect and restore our waterways, particularly the Tāmaki Estuary and Manukau Harbour

Very important

Consider a review of Te Oro Music and Arts Centre, to ensure it remains welcoming and responsive to the community's changing needs.

Fairly important

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

Ōrākei Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Sport Auckland has always had a strong connection and good working relationship with the Orakei Local Board. We support their 2025/26 proposals specifically activating open spaces and improvements and plans for the spaces at Tagalad Reserve, The Landing, Bloodworth Park, Shore Road East sports fields, Colin Maiden Park and Michaels Ave Reserve. Sport Auckland cannot emphasise enough the value of physical activity that enable our communities to live healthy active lifestyles. We promote and advocate for play, active recreation and sporting (PARS) opportunities to take place within our communities and the Orakei Local Board have been very supportive and proactive with regard to providing PAR opportunities. We will continue to work with Key Partner Organisations within the Local Board area that are looking to activate open spaces and facilities for more efficient community use and inform / update the Local Board on these opportunities.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increase our funding for local ecological restoration, and animal and plant pest control, and continue to work with our many community volunteers to enhance our natural environment

Very important

Continue local initiatives to enhance neighbourhood connections and increase safety and emergency preparedness, such as through funding for Neighbourhood Support

Very important

Fund and support local events, such as Splash Landing, Anzac services, and an event to celebrate the re-opening of Remuera Library to showcase our spaces and benefit local residents and businesses

Very important

Maintain efforts to monitor and improve water quality in our local waterways

Fairly important

Continue activating facilities at Tagalad Reserve and The Landing

Very important

Progress detailed design and consent work for Thomas Bloodworth Park and Shore Road East sports fields, and for field and sports infrastructure at Colin Maiden Park, and renew artificial playing surfaces at Michaels Avenue Reserve

Very important

Find a new partner to develop the Meadowbank Community Centre

Very important

Develop an action plan to improve access and the environment at Dingle Dell

Very important

Work to enhance the Ellerslie Town Square by improving access, activation ability, safety and public amenity through improved tree management, landscaping and seating.

Fairly important

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

Seawall Repair from Tāmaki Yacht Club to Archilles Point, St Heliers

We would like to maintain and repair seawalls, replenish sand, and extend stormwater outflows further offshore on our beaches from Tāmaki Yacht Club to Archilles Point, St Heliers, as well as re-sand Tāmaki Beach and construct groynes to help keep the sand in place. To fund this, we would need to investigate a targeted rate of around \$10 per year, for each household in the Orakei local board area, for 10 years. If progressed, the Governing Body would need to make a decision on whether to introduce this rate as part of the annual budget 2026/2027, after consultation on a more detailed proposal. The rate could then apply from 2026/2027.

Do you think we should investigate this proposal?

Yes

Tell us why

Sport Auckland supports investigating this proposal as our waterfront is an integral part of the community - a jewel in the crown. The waterfront has always played a significant role in our community being able to live a healthy active lifestyle. So any proposal, including a targeted rate, that addresses maintaining and repairing seawalls, replenishing sand, and mitigating the issues/repercussions of stormwater outflows certainly in our opinion warrants further investigations/exploration.

Puketāpapa Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Sport Auckland has a very strong connection and working relationship with the Puketapapa Local Board. We support their 2025/26 proposals specifically implementing recommendations from the Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan, developing Monte Cecilia Park and activating local parks. We cannot emphasise enough the value of physical activity that enables healthy active lifestyles to be led. We support all activation initiatives that increase play, active recreation and sport opportunities (PARS) for the community, particularly for those who are missing out. We will continue to support the Local Board's proposals particularly those around increasing community safety, connectivity and participation.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Considering the community programmes that are delivered from Wesley Community Centre and Roskill Youth Zone to get better utilisation of the facility

Very important

Investigating the use of the Fickling Centre and Library, to ensure that it is able to respond to the needs of the growing Three Kings community

Very important

Supporting community groups that lease council space, so they can find ways to share their spaces and continue to provide great community activities

Very important

Implementing recommendations from the Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan so that the recreational needs of our growing communities are met

Very important

Planning for the development of Monte Cecilia Park so that this becomes a destination park and an icon for Puketāpapa

Very important

Investigating projects from the Wairaki Awa Catchment Plan that can be implemented, such as naturalising the awa at Lynfield Cove

Fairly important

Investing in more climate action and environmental projects

Fairly important

Increasing the number of local events, arts and activations, especially in local parks

Very important

Supporting arts and events by working with existing community groups to help coordinate their work and make the most of opportunities

Fairly important

Supporting community-led placemaking initiatives that engage diverse groups, promote safety and community identity, and increase greater connectivity and participation among businesses and community members.

Very important

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

Waiheke Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Sport Auckland supports the Waiheke Local Board's 2025/26 proposals specifically around the Rangihoua Reserve Onetangi Sports Park Reserve Management Plan recommendations and the development of a community swimming pool. We advocate for our communities to be able to live healthy active lifestyles through participating in play, active recreation and sporting opportunities (PARS). We cannot emphasise enough the value of physical activity and the positive social impact on lives that physical activity brings. We are working alongside the schools on Waiheke delivering Healthy Active Learning Initiatives and have supported the schools and community groups to activate PARS opportunities on the Island via our Tu Manawa Active Aotearoa Fund. We look forward to having a closer working relationship with the Waiheke Local Board to support them where we can with their 2025/26 proposals.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Delivering core council operational services, such as mowing, track and facility maintenance, and the library

Fairly important

Programmes which protect, restore, and enhance the island's natural environment, and initiatives that provide opportunities for community connectedness, capability and resilience

Very important

Progressing recommended actions within the Rangihoua Reserve Onetangi Sports Park Reserve Management Plan

Very important

Capital projects including the Tawaipareira Reserve playground and loop track, and replacement of the Rakino Hall

Very important

Continuing to support local organisations with the development of a community swimming pool and investigate consulting on a local targeted rate

Very important

Revitalising Ostend and Oneroa village centres

I don't know

Commissioning the research of data and surveying residents to understand the state of the motu.

Fairly important

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

Community Pool Development

You have told us a community pool is a priority however building and running a community pool will involve significant funding. A targeted rate for Waiheke residents is one way to fund this development. The board will also explore partnerships and sponsorship opportunities.

Do you think we should investigate a targeted rate to progress development of a community pool?

Yes

Tell us why

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

Waitematā Local Board Priorities

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

Tell us why

Support all

Tell us why

Sport Auckland has a good working relationship with the Waitemata Local Board and we support their 2025/26 proposals. As we advocate for our communities to live healthy active lifestyles through the delivery of play, active recreation and sporting (PARS) opportunities we particularly support the proposals of developing flood resilience on sports parks; prioritising PARS opportunities for groups missing out; local parks strategy and planning; sport and park activation

activities; and improving footpaths in Auckland Domain. We cannot emphasise enough the value of physical activity for the community including the positive social impact that physical activity brings to the community. We believe the Local Board's proposals are good and will enable their community to live healthy active lifestyles.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Prioritising and investigating flood resilience actions for our parks such as Western Park and Grey Lynn Park

Very important

Delivering footpath improvements for Auckland Domain

Very important

Starting construction for Leys Institute

Fairly important

Delivery of Heard Park Civic Space

Fairly important

Prioritising sport and recreation opportunities for groups that have less

Very important

Investigating transition of Grey Lynn Paddling Pool into a seasonal splashpad

Less important

Community services programming to enhance perceptions of safety

Fairly important

Support for ending homelessness in Auckland.

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 are seeking feedback on areas that are 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)

Local parks strategy and planning, Sports and park activation activities, Youth activities

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

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): University of Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Do not support any

Tell us why

Too much increase, unnecessary spending, even more bureaucracy that is difficult to be enforced (even bed night visitor levy??)

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?

Do not support

Tell us why

Morally this is robbery.

Practically as I said before it is a bureaucracy that is difficult to be enforced

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)

There is already too much rubbish so there should be incentive to produce less rubbish not more.

Question 4:

Local board priorities

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

Whau

Whau Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I rather have lower spending on community services to lower the rate.

The swimming pool makes water shortage and the drought related issues worse, it is a waste of fresh usable water.

Most of such projects should be only done by private sectors who are interested in them, not forcing others who are not interested to waste.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Restore funding to service levels in some areas that were cut in recent years, e.g additional library hours, programmes and community grants

Less important

Increased service levels in our parks and town centres including progression of Te Hono project

Less important

Plan for the future Whau aquatic and recreation facility and facilitate public access to school pools in the interim

Less important

Work with local Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to find new ways of delivering vibrant and welcoming town centres through art activation and beautification projects.

Less important

Continue to support volunteering, community and business participation, through environmental and ecological initiatives around the Manukau Harbour foreshore, the Whau River and its tributaries, and our urban ngahere

Less important

Increase community participation and capability in community hubs, houses and with established community partners, and progress the development of a new community hub in Fruitvale

Less important

Foster climate/emergency preparedness and resilience in our community

Fairly important

Investigate a future space for youth and engage a youth coordinator to support and promote for youth by youth activations

Less important

Provide appropriate options for healthy, active lifestyles through recreation in parks and open spaces with particular focus on our ethnically diverse communities, women, and girls.

Less important

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

10th commandment of the Bible.

I believe in free market instead of interventionism

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

On p33, then get the Maori trust which has already received Treaty tribunal reparation to pay for such costs, not from the general rate payers.

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): Federated Farmers of New Zealand

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

Tell us why

Please see attached submission.

FFNZ is generally supportive of the proposed AP and the key activities proposed. Particular support is given to:

- a. The average rates increase of 5.8%, as proposed in the 2024-2034 LTP.
- b. Key capital works related to roading.
- c. Meeting obligations in the Regional Pest Management plan, and extension of the Environment Targeted Rate in delivering pest plan, animal and pathogen control and restoration activities.

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

FFNZ would support a bed visitor night levy as it will take the pressure off general rates for funding these sorts of activities, of which farmers contribute significantly to.

Please see attached submission.

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.

Other

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)

It difficult for rural rate payers to fully participate in the AP consultation as there is a lack of information about the impacts on rural rates. For example, Page 31 of the consultation document provides total rates changes for 2025/2026 for residential and business property but is silent on rural properties. Further, it appears that the word 'rural' does not appear once in the consultation document. Please see attached submission.

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

FFNZ has specific questions about the Water Quality Targeted Rate, and Natural Environment Targeted Rate and requests further information and clarification of work programmes related to rural areas. Please see attached submission.

SUBMISSION

TELEPHONE [REDACTED] | WEBSITE WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ



To: Auckland Council
Via email: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Address for service: [REDACTED]
SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR (REGIONAL)
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
M [REDACTED]
E [REDACTED]

SUMMARY OF RELIEF SOUGHT

- AC should consider including rural property total rates changes in its consultation documents moving forward, so rural rate payers can understand proposed changes and costs.
- AC in future consultations should show indicative rates increases for Farm and Lifestyle property capital values above \$10 million.
- FFNZ supports a bed night visitor levy being investigated to reduce the need for general rates to fund major events and destination marketing.
- Details on rural work programmes that the WQTR currently funds, and what it will fund for the upcoming financial year to be provided to FFNZ.
- AC to consider and report back to FFNZ about whether the current targeted rate differential for Farm and Lifestyle is truly reflective of the work programme to be implemented in rural areas.
- AC to continue to deliver (and where possible, increase) pest management programmes through funding from the NETR in rural areas including road corridors, and in working with rural landowners.
- AC to provide further information about how the NETR is spent in rural areas.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Auckland Federated Farmers (Federated Farmers, or **FFNZ**) appreciates this opportunity to submit on Auckland Council's (**AC** or **Council**) 2025-2026 Annual Plan (**AP**). Federated Farmers has over 300 active members located in the AC area, who are also your rural ratepayers.

- 1.2 Federated Farmers acknowledge any submissions from individual members of our organisation.
- 1.3 Federated Farmers would like the opportunity to speak to Council about this submission.
- 1.4 Federated Farmers is focused on the transparency of rate setting, rates equity and both the overall and relative cost of local government on rural ratepayers.
- 1.5 Federated Farmers submits on APs and Long Term Plans throughout New Zealand and make constructive proposals whenever the opportunity is provided.
- 1.6 FFNZ also submit on central government policies that affect local government revenue and spending, with the aim of ensuring that local government have the appropriate tools to carry out their functions.
- 1.7 FFNZ base arguments on the considerable cost of rates to farm businesses, in terms of the value and relative accessibility of farmers to ratepayer funded services, and the rates levels on farms compared to other rate payers.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS

- 2.1 FFNZ is generally supportive of the proposed AP and the key activities proposed. Particular support is given to:
 - a. The average rates increase of 5.8%, as proposed in the 2024-2034 LTP.
 - b. Key capital works related to roading.
 - c. Meeting obligations in the Regional Pest Management plan, and extension of the Environment Targeted Rate in delivering pest plan, animal and pathogen control and restoration activities.
- 2.2 FFNZ has some concerns that the consultation material is relatively silent on rates impacts for rural properties. Section 95A(1) of the Local Government Act (2002) (**LGA**)¹ states (with underline added for emphasis) that:

"The purpose of the consultation document under [section 82A\(3\)](#) is to provide a basis for effective public participation in decision-making processes relating to the activities to be undertaken by the local authority in the coming year, and the effects of those activities on costs and funding...."

¹ [Local Government Act 2002 No 84 \(as at 01 October 2024\), Public Act 95A Purpose and content of consultation document for annual plan – New Zealand Legislation](#)

- 2.3 It difficult for rural rate payers to fully participate in the AP consultation as there is a lack of information about the impacts on rural rates. For example, Page 31 of the consultation document provides total rates changes for 2025/2026 for residential and business property but is silent on rural properties. Further, it appears that the word 'rural' does not appear once in the consultation document.
- 2.4 FFNZ note that the supporting information document shows indicative rates (rounded to the nearest dollar) (general rate, Water Quality Targeted Rate (**WQTR**), Natural Environment Targeted Rate (**NETR**) and the Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate (**CATTR**)) for fully rateable rating units with one SUIP at different values for each of the main differential categories. However, for the Farm and Lifestyle property category, the capital value only goes up to \$10 million. FFNZ would appreciate for future consultations if this was extended to enable rural rate payers of all varying capital values to gain an understanding of their potential rates bills. This point was also raised in FFNZ's submission to the 2024-2034 LTP with no action to date from Council.

Action requested:

- AC should consider including rural property total rates changes in its consultation documents moving forward, so rural rate payers can understand proposed changes and costs.
- AC in future consultations should show indicative rates increases for Farm and Lifestyle property capital values above \$10 million.

3. BED NIGHT VISITOR LEVY

- 3.1 FFNZ understands that Council is looking to work with government on new funding tools for visitor attraction and economic development, including exploring a bed night visitor levy for major events and destination marketing.
- 3.2 Our members experience the benefits and costs of tourism in a very direct way. As well as concerns about the impacts of tourism (especially freedom camping) on their properties, they have a strong interest in the impacts on local infrastructure (especially roads, water, wastewater, and solid waste) shared with visitors, and the funding of that infrastructure, which is largely through property-value rates.
- 3.3 In addition to the broader impacts on infrastructure and on council rates farmers also face direct, farm-level impacts from tourism. Some of these are positive, including the ability for farmers to develop accommodation and food provision services aimed specifically at the tourist market, as ancillary or complementary businesses in support of farming all of which help revitalise rural and remote communities.

- 3.4 One of the major impacts of tourism on rural communities are increased traffic flows on the secondary road network, increasing local body maintenance costs and adding to the rural landowner's rates burden.
- 3.5 FFNZ would support a bed visitor night levy as it will take the pressure off general rates for funding these sorts of activities, of which farmers contribute significantly to.

Action requested:

- FFNZ supports a bed night visitor levy being investigated to reduce the need for general rates to fund major events and destination marketing.

4. WATER QUALITY TARGETED RATE

- 4.1 FFNZ at a high level supports the proposed annual plan as it relates to water. However as previously acknowledged in our LTP 2024-2034 submission, Federated Farmers still has some concern around the WQTR and its benefit for rural rate payers.
- 4.2 FFNZ understand that the programme delivers improved water quality in harbours and streams across the region, and the funded services include for example stormwater upgrades, a proactive septic tank monitoring programme, and rehabilitation of urban and rural streams.
- 4.3 The work programme appears heavily weighted towards urban areas. Further, without evident action on the ground or knowledge of what the programme actually delivers, rural rate payers are struggling to see their 'bang for buck' in paying this targeted rate.
- 4.4 FFNZ understands that the WQTR is proposed to increase to a targeted rate differential of \$0.00000837 (including GST) per dollar of capital value to all rateable land not categorised as business, which includes the Farm and Lifestyle rating value. FFNZ urges AC to consider whether this is truly representative of the work programme currently undertaken in rural areas.

Action requested:

- Details on rural work programmes that the WQTR currently funds, and what it will fund for the upcoming financial year to be provided to FFNZ.
- AC to consider and report back to FFNZ as to whether the current targeted rate differential for Farm and Lifestyle is truly reflective of the work programme to be implemented in rural areas.

5. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TARGETED RATE

- 5.1 As previously highlighted in our submission on the 2024-2034 LTP, FFNZ has well known concerns about roadside drain maintenance. It is important to note that drains need to function appropriately for stormwater management, but also for pest plant management purposes. Farmers maintain weeds on their properties, but these efforts are often hindered when land beyond the farm gate is not being maintained to the same level. Council needs to take some ownership and responsibility in this respect.
- 5.2 FFNZ would like to see pest plant management as a key priority to protect biodiversity and farmland for the Aotea/Great Barrier, Franklin, Rodney, Waitākere and Waiheke local boards. Given the money for these programmes comes from the NETR, FFNZ would like to see the continuance (and if possible, increase) of pest plant management programmes in rural areas including road corridors, working alongside rural landowners for better outcomes.
- 5.3 FFNZ would like further information about how the NETR is spend particularly in rural areas.

Action required:

- AC to continue to deliver (and where possible, increase) pest management programmes through funding from the NETR in rural areas including road corridors, and in working with rural landowners.
- AC to provide further information about how the NETR is spent in rural areas.

6. LOCAL BOARD PRIORITIES

- 6.1 FFNZ supports the AP beginning to address funding imbalances between the 21 local boards and supports the 'fairer funding' approach that takes into account population, deprivation level, and land area. FFNZs support is on the basis that local boards are no worse off than they currently are, in terms of current funding for operational spends and delivering local activities.
- 6.2 FFNZ believes that communities, and local board members as representatives of those communities, are best placed to understand priorities and where money should be spent. FFNZ emphasise that Local Boards should be engaging and reflecting their communities needs and wants through the decision-making processes.

Federated Farmers thanks Auckland Council for considering this submission.

About Federated Farmers

Federated Farmers is a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents the majority of farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers.

The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities.



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): Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support all

Tell us why

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei supports the general direction of the annual plan. We broadly support increased funding of destination management, marketing and major events activities in Auckland, and as tangata whenua of central Auckland we would look for further opportunities to partner with Council and others on these activities. Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei broadly supports increased funding

and decision-making for local boards. Decisions made by local boards should be with engagement and consultation with the appropriate mana whenua for their area, iwi or hapū who can prove long-standing and irrevocable ties to a rohe - and not with all who claim 'mana whenua' status.

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.

Other

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?

Ōrākei

Ōrākei Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei supports the Ōrākei Local Board's plan, particularly the increase in funding for local ecological restoration, and animal and plant pest control, including on our whenua. As tangata whenua of the Ōrākei area and its surrounds, we look forward to a continued close working relationship with the Board.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increase our funding for local ecological restoration, and animal and plant pest control, and continue to work with our many community volunteers to enhance our natural environment

Very important

Continue local initiatives to enhance neighbourhood connections and increase safety and emergency preparedness, such as through funding for Neighbourhood Support

Very important

Fund and support local events, such as Splash Landing, Anzac services, and an event to celebrate the re-opening of Remuera Library to showcase our spaces and benefit local residents and businesses

Fairly important

Maintain efforts to monitor and improve water quality in our local waterways

Very important

Continue activating facilities at Tagalad Reserve and The Landing

Very important

Progress detailed design and consent work for Thomas Bloodworth Park and Shore Road East sports fields, and for field and sports infrastructure at Colin Maiden Park, and renew artificial playing surfaces at Michaels Avenue Reserve

Fairly important

Find a new partner to develop the Meadowbank Community Centre

Fairly important

Develop an action plan to improve access and the environment at Dingle Dell

Fairly important

Work to enhance the Ellerslie Town Square by improving access, activation ability, safety and public amenity through improved tree management, landscaping and seating.

Fairly important

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

Seawall Repair from Tāmaki Yacht Club to Archilles Point, St Heliers

We would like to maintain and repair seawalls, replenish sand, and extend stormwater outflows further offshore on our beaches from Tāmaki Yacht Club to Archilles Point, St Heliers, as well as re-sand Tāmaki Beach and construct groynes to help keep the sand in place. To fund this, we would need to investigate a targeted rate of around \$10 per year, for each household in the Orakei local board area, for 10 years. If progressed, the Governing Body would need to make a decision on whether to introduce this rate as part of the annual budget 2026/2027, after consultation on a more detailed proposal. The rate could then apply from 2026/2027.

Do you think we should investigate this proposal?

Yes

Tell us why

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei supports measures that will improve water quality in Te Waitematā and particularly Ōkahu Bay. Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei notes that any removal and relocation of sand should be with the explicit engagement and approval of affected and relevant iwi.

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

Regarding the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan: We are concerned with the present and growing fire risk on our maunga and volcanic cones managed by the TMA. We believe the risk to human life and property is now too great with the uncontrolled exotic grasses becoming a major fuel source. We have raised these issues directly with the TMA to no avail. We believe a targeted grazing program with the correct number of animals of the right size, at the right times of the year, to reduce the fuel load whilst minimising archaeological damage, is achievable.

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): Hospitality New Zealand

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Do not 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.

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



#6803



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): hapua thrive

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

Tell us why

We support the priorities of investing in water infrastructure, public transport, walkways and cycleways and increased funding to local boards.

We are particularly concerned about untreated waste water entering Hobson Bay

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?

Other

Tell us why

We can't speak for our members on this

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.

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)

We support the increase in the water quality targeted rate and the Natural environment targeted rate. We would like to ensure there is clear communication of the benefit of funds invested.

It is also useful having groups funded like Eastern Songbird and Urban Ark to distribute resources and monitor pest plant and animal control.

Question 4:

Local board priorities

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

Ōrākei, Waitematā

Ōrākei Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

More emphasis please on improving water quality

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increase our funding for local ecological restoration, and animal and plant pest control, and continue to work with our many community volunteers to enhance our natural environment

Very important

Continue local initiatives to enhance neighbourhood connections and increase safety and emergency preparedness, such as through funding for Neighbourhood Support

Very important

Fund and support local events, such as Splash Landing, Anzac services, and an event to celebrate the re-opening of Remuera Library to showcase our spaces and benefit local residents and businesses

I don't know

Maintain efforts to monitor and improve water quality in our local waterways

Very important

Continue activating facilities at Tagalad Reserve and The Landing

I don't know

Progress detailed design and consent work for Thomas Bloodworth Park and Shore Road East sports fields, and for field and sports infrastructure at Colin Maiden Park, and renew artificial playing surfaces at Michaels Avenue Reserve

I don't know

Find a new partner to develop the Meadowbank Community Centre

Develop an action plan to improve access and the environment at Dingle Dell

Work to enhance the Ellerslie Town Square by improving access, activation ability, safety and public amenity through improved tree management, landscaping and seating.

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

We have significant concern about further sports development on Thomal Bloodworth park unless careful work is done to enhance the natural environment. This is a significant ecological area and also is surrounded by waterways with wastewater overflows in them most of the time which needs to be addressed.

It would be better to invest in widening the buffers around these areas to support the natural environment and to benefit those walking around the area

Seawall Repair from Tāmaki Yacht Club to Archilles Point, St Heliers

We would like to maintain and repair seawalls, replenish sand, and extend stormwater outflows further offshore on our beaches from Tāmaki Yacht Club to Archilles Point, St Heliers, as well as re-sand Tāmaki Beach and construct groynes to help keep the sand in place. To fund this, we would need to investigate a targeted rate of around \$10 per year, for each household in the Orakei local board area, for 10 years. If progressed, the Governing Body would need to make a decision on whether to introduce this rate as part of the annual budget 2026/2027, after consultation on a more detailed proposal. The rate could then apply from 2026/2027.

Do you think we should investigate this proposal?

I don't know

Tell us why

Please look through this in a way that enhances the environment versus pushes stormwater further out to sea and reduces the inter tidal habitat

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

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

Tell us why

Support most

Tell us why

We are most concerned that improving water quality is not clearly listed here including the prioritization of the Newmarket Gully Tunnel project. this would have a significant impact on improving the water quality in the local area

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Prioritising and investigating flood resilience actions for our parks such as Western Park and Grey Lynn Park

Very important

Delivering footpath improvements for Auckland Domain

Very important

Starting construction for Leys Institute

Delivery of Heard Park Civic Space

Prioritising sport and recreation opportunities for groups that have less

Investigating transition of Grey Lynn Paddling Pool into a seasonal splashpad

Community services programming to enhance perceptions of safety

Support for ending homelessness in Auckland.

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

Important to focus on managing storm water and encouraging footpaths. However again would want to see more focus on reducing waste water overflows especially into Hobson Bay

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we are seeking feedback on areas that are 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 development and support activities,Environmental restoration, volunteers and pest control activities,Local water quality activities

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

We appreciate Orakei and Waitemata Local Board working together in improving water quality and keeping Watercare accountable and implementing projects. We also would like Auckland Council to ensure resource consents and their own rules are complied with.



#6827



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): CLM Community Sport

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

Tell us why

We support Auckland Council's commitment to investing in community facilities and highlight the need to address the shortage of indoor courts and aquatic centres across the region, especially in Counties Manukau. Expanding access to these spaces is essential for fostering active and connected communities who are struggling to find fit for purpose buildings to facilitate activities in.

We acknowledge the shift in approach to managing the Parks and Community Asset portfolio but emphasize the importance of maintaining a well-functioning network of facilities. Clear communication on the effects of reducing reliance on physical assets is essential to ensure communities understand how services will be delivered.

Urgent renewal of community assets should remain a priority to prevent facility closures and to support high-growth areas. Investing in the upkeep of existing facilities is critical to ensuring they continue to serve their purpose. As Auckland expands, accessible, high-quality sport and recreation spaces must be part of the growth strategy.

We also seek greater clarity on the asset recycling process, particularly regarding which facilities are being considered for sale and how this will impact the wider network, particularly those within the Sport and Recreation sector.

Council's continued support for key projects is crucial, and we encourage sustained investment in:

Sports field capacity expansion

Get Auckland Moving public transport and travel improvements

Land acquisition and improved use of parks and open spaces

Ōpaheke Sports Park, Papakura (freshwater and wastewater system upgrade)

New neighbourhood parks in Franklin (Bremner Road Drury, Glenbrook, Patumahoe, Clarks Beach, Ngakaroa Reserve, Ray Fausett Reserve)

We value the Council's investment in these initiatives and recognize their role in strengthening Auckland's communities.

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

We support a small visitor levy on short-stay accommodation to help fund major events and keep Auckland a lively and exciting place to visit. Events like the ASB Classic, Auckland Marathon, and Auckland Writers Festival bring in visitors, boost local businesses, and add to the city's vibrant culture.

Right now, there's a \$7 million gap in the budget for these events, which could mean fewer events or reduced support for them. A small charge of 2.5 to 3 per cent on hotel and short-stay bookings would raise about \$27 million each year—more than enough to cover this gap and invest even more in promoting Auckland as a top destination.

Many major cities around the world use a similar approach to support tourism, and it's a fair way to fund events without putting extra pressure on local ratepayers. We encourage the government to introduce this levy so Auckland can continue attracting great events and visitors who help drive our economy.

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.

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)

Question 4:

Local board priorities

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

Franklin, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Papakura

Franklin Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

We fully support the Local Board's focus on enhancing sport and recreation facilities and encourage faster progress on delivering the Sport and Active Recreation Facilities Plan. Investing in key projects like Karaka Sports Park and Te Puru Sports Centre is essential for creating more opportunities for tamariki and rangatahi to be active and for fostering greater whānau involvement in play, active recreation, and sport.

We appreciate the Local Board's efforts to update this Plan and believe it is important that priority projects are included in the work programme to ensure communities have well-equipped spaces that encourage participation at all levels.

We also back the continued rollout of the Franklin Paths Programme, which provides safer and more accessible ways for people to get active. The Local Board's approach to funding this initiative is commendable, and we encourage sustained investment to support thriving, active communities.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Delivery of Auckland Council Community Hub Services (library, arts, and customer services) in Beachlands and Clevedon

Fairly important

Extending and improving service outreach to isolated communities like Āwhitu, Ōrere, Glenbrook Beach, Paparimu and Kawakawa Bay

Fairly important

Accelerated delivery on the Sports and Recreational Plan, and additional grant funding for Karaka Sports Park and the Te Puru Sports Centre

Very important

Initiatives that improve the quality of the water in our streams and rivers and our environment through pest eradication programmes

Fairly important

Accelerated planting of trees in public places i.e. delivery of the Franklin Ngahere Plan

Fairly important

Continued delivery of the targeted rate funded Franklin Paths Programme.

Very important

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

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?

Tell us why

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

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)

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

Work on plans to upgrade Catherine Plaza

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

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

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu 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

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?**Explore a site for a recycling centre**

Fairly important

Local playground improvements in areas like Mangere Bridge

Very important

Maintain local road safety with limited budgets

Very important

More support to volunteer networks

Very important

Push to deliver local business initiatives.

Fairly important

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

As the Regional Sports Trust for Counties Manukau, we strongly support the Local Board's commitment to improving play spaces, including upgrades in Māngere Bridge and the David Lange Park playground. High-quality play areas provide tamariki with vital opportunities to be active in ways that are fun and meaningful to them, helping to develop fundamental movement skills, creativity, and confidence in decision-making. Investing in play is essential for fostering lifelong participation in active recreation and sport.

We also support the Local Board's efforts to maintain road safety initiatives, ensuring that walking and cycling remain safe and accessible options for whānau. Creating active-friendly environments is key to increasing participation and encouraging more people to move as part of their daily lives.

Additionally, we back the ongoing development of local parks, such as Cyclamen Park, as these spaces play an important role in supporting active communities. Continued investment in parks and public spaces helps to remove barriers to participation, providing more opportunities for tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau to engage in active recreation and sport.

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we are seeking 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 development and support activities, Sports and park activation activities, Youth activities

Māngere East Village Business Improvement District (BID) programme

A BID is a local economic development initiative run by a business association under the Auckland Council BID Policy (2022). It involves businesses in a defined area paying a targeted rate to fund specific services or projects in their BID boundary. The Māngere East Village Business Association Society Inc. (MEVBA) has failed to meet key BID Policy requirements, including accountability reporting, AGM minutes, strategic plan, and appointing a BID Manager. MEVBA also breached its constitution and did not notify the council of non-compliance. The Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board is now considering terminating the BID programme and targeted rate, with the possibility of re-establishing a compliant BID programme in the future if conditions are met.

Do you think we should end the Māngere East Village Business Improvement District (BID) programme and associated BID targeted rate?

Yes

Tell us why

There has been a failure to meet specific compliance requirements and therefore cancelling the programme will allow the Local Board to reset and reassess the situation before making any decisions moving forward.

Manurewa Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increasing the levels of service for maintenance and repair of all assets across buildings, parks, open spaces and sports fields, town centre cleaning, street litter bin emptying, vegetation clearance, and berm mowing works

Very important

Improving sports fields including maintenance, sand-carpeting and lighting

Very important

Identifying ways to support the council's response to roaming dogs

Fairly important

Boosting the amount of funding available for community grants so more projects and initiatives can be delivered by community, arts and sports groups

Very important

Expanding the number of funded initiatives that respond to the needs and aspirations of children and young people

Very important

Developing tailored community partnerships with key groups, organisations and networks where their interests and priorities are aligned to outcomes in the Manurewa Local Board Plan 2027

Very important

Providing the Pacific community with capacity support, and a grant to undertake feasibility and concept plans to deliver the Pacific hub on Clendon Reserve

Very important

Scaling up the work being delivered to achieve environmental outcomes

Fairly important

Investigating the need to extend the opening hours in our community facilities such as the two libraries, the pool and leisure centre and Nathan Homestead

Very important

Funding initiatives that stimulate economic growth and generate prosperity in Manurewa.

Fairly important

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

As the Regional Sports Trust for Counties Manukau, we support the Local Board's plan to improve the upkeep of parks, sports fields, and community spaces. Better maintenance, including repairs, sand carpeting, and lighting upgrades, will make these spaces safer and more enjoyable for tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau. Well-maintained facilities also help local sports clubs stay strong by ensuring their fields and spaces are in good condition for training and games.

We fully support increasing funding for community grants to enable more projects and initiatives to be delivered by community, arts, and sports groups. Expanding the number of funded initiatives that align with the needs and aspirations of children and young people will ensure more opportunities for them to engage in play, active recreation, and sport. By developing strong community partnerships with key groups, organisations, and networks that share similar goals, we can create long-lasting, meaningful change that benefits the wider community.

We also support providing capacity-building assistance to the Pacific community and funding a grant for feasibility and concept planning for the Pacific hub on Clendon Reserve. Investing in culturally responsive spaces and programmes strengthens community connections and ensures that more people have access to activities that support their wellbeing.

In addition, we agree with looking into longer opening hours for community facilities like libraries and the pool and leisure centre. Extending access to these spaces would give more people the opportunity to be active and engaged, supporting healthier, more connected communities.

Fenced Dog Exercise Areas

Do you think we should investigate providing fenced dog exercise areas?

No

Tell us why

There are sufficient spaces and areas already available for dog owners to take their dogs out to.

Ōtara-Papatoetoe 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

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Ensuring Māori culture and the values of mātauranga Māori are visible in public spaces

Very important

Addressing safety concerns in neighbourhoods, common areas and town centres

Very important

Delivering on increased local economic outcomes

Fairly important

Supporting small businesses to act on environmental sustainability

Fairly important

Progressing the planning for options to address community service needs in Old Papatoetoe

Fairly important

Supporting local environment groups to work collaboratively with community volunteers in efforts to clean, manage and plant our local reserves and open spaces

Fairly important

Planning for the delivery of facilities at Manukau Sports Bowl

Very important

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

As the Regional Sports Trust for Counties Manukau, we strongly support the Local Board's plans to upgrade facilities at Manukau Sports Bowl. This park has huge potential but is currently underused and does not meet the needs of many in the local community. We back the Chair's call to move forward with the Manukau Sports Bowl masterplan, with a focus on prioritising the athletics track—an achievable, lower-cost project that would provide more opportunities for tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau to be active. We also support exploring new funding options, such as a targeted rate, to help make this vision a reality.

Encouraging walking, cycling, and public transport is another important step in building a healthier, more active community. Making it easier and safer for people to move around in their neighbourhoods will help increase physical activity and create more connected communities.

We also believe it is vital that Māori culture and mātauranga Māori are reflected in our public spaces. Ensuring te ao Māori is visible in parks, playgrounds, and community facilities strengthens cultural identity and helps tamariki and rangatahi see themselves and their heritage represented in their environment.

Last but not least, addressing safety concerns in neighbourhoods, public spaces, and town centres is key to creating welcoming environments where people feel comfortable being active. Everyone should feel safe when walking, playing, and taking part in sport and recreation, and we support efforts to make our communities safer and more inclusive.

Manukau Sports Bowl

Do you support prioritising the planning for delivery of facilities at Manukau Sports Bowl?

(This may include exploring alternate sources of revenue, such as a targeted rate in future years)

Yes

Tell us why

We strongly support prioritising the planning and delivery of new facilities at Manukau Sports Bowl. This park is a significant asset for South Auckland but is currently underutilised and does not fully meet the needs of the diverse local community. With the right investment, right intentions, it has the potential to become a thriving hub for play, active recreation, and sport, creating more opportunities for tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau to be active. As tenants at the Manukau Tennis Centre, we have been able to connect a multitude of sports, schools, community groups and private users to the Tennis Centre making this a multi use facility for all types of events. Prior to our presence, this centre was the best kept secret in Manukau.

We back the Chair's call to implement the Manukau Sports Bowl masterplan, with a particular focus on fast-tracking the athletics track. This is a practical and relatively low-cost project that can be delivered in the short term, unlocking immediate benefits for local schools, clubs, and community groups. A quality athletics track would encourage greater participation in running, walking, and structured sports, while also providing a safe and inclusive space for casual recreation and fitness.

Beyond the athletics track, it is essential that planning considers a range of facilities that reflect the needs and aspirations of the local community, ensuring that Manukau Sports Bowl becomes a destination that supports both structured sport and informal recreation. This includes accessible play spaces, multi-use courts, and gathering areas that encourage whānau engagement and cultural connection.

We also support exploring alternative funding options, such as a targeted rate, to help bring the masterplan to life. A dedicated funding approach would ensure the long-term sustainability of the project while reducing reliance on existing budgets. Investing in Manukau Sports Bowl now will have lasting benefits, helping to create a vibrant, active, and connected community for generations to come.

Hunters Corner Business Improvement District

For the 2024/2025 financial year, the Governing Body did not set a targeted rate for the Hunters Corner Business Improvement District. This was due to the Hunters Corner Town Centre Society Inc (HTCTS) not complying with the BID Policy. If the HTCTS remains non-compliant with the BID Policy by April 2025, council will not set the rate for 2025/2026.

Do you have any comments on the Hunters Corner Business Improvement District?

No

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we are seeking 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)

Libraries and Pools and Leisure facilities – opening hours and services, Sports and park activation activities , Youth activities

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

Papakura Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Progressing some of the new Sports and Recreation Plan, economic development, and youth projects identified from the work being completed in 2024/2029

Very important

Requesting strategic assessments to understand needs relating to: Opaheke sports and passive parks; Awakeri Wetlands; Kuhanui Reserve, Karaka; Park Estate Reserve, Park Green; new play facilities at Pulman Park, and the Greenways/Local Paths Plan

Very important

Advocating for access to the legacy parking fund for carparking projects

Less important

Assisting the Takanini Business Association's proposed establishment of a Business Improvement District (BID) programme and BID targeted rate for Takanini

Fairly important

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

We commend the Local Board for creating the Papakura Sport and Active Recreation Plan. This plan is a key step in ensuring that local sports, play, and recreation facilities meet the needs of the growing community. We strongly support the Local Board in moving forward with the priority projects identified in the plan, as these will provide more opportunities for tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau to stay active.

We also back the Local Board's request for strategic assessments to better understand the needs and funding opportunities for key parks and play spaces, including Ōpaheke Sports Park, Kuhanui Reserve, Karaka Park Estate Reserve, and Park Green, as well as new play facilities at Bruce Pulman Park and the Greenways/Local Paths Plan. With Papakura's population expanding, it's important to invest in spaces that allow communities to be active, social, and connected.

Ōpaheke Sports Park, in particular, is becoming a vital asset as more housing developments emerge in the area. Ensuring this park is well-equipped and maintained should be a priority to meet the growing demand for quality sports and recreation facilities. Investing in these spaces now will help create a healthier and more active community for years to come.

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)

Libraries and Pools and Leisure facilities - opening hours and services ,Sports and park activation activities,Youth activities

Takanini Business Improvement District (BID)

We continue to support the Papakura and Takanini Business Associations to grow and develop businesses, and to make the town centres more lively. Takanini Business Association is seeking to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) programme. If it is successful, business ratepayers and owners located within the BID establishment area will become members of the Takanini BID programme and pay the associated BID target rate.

Do you think we should establish a Takanini Business Improvement District (BID) programme and associated BID targeted rate?

I don't know

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some feedback on the 2025/26 Annual Plan.

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): Sport Waitākere

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

Tell us why

The emphasis on strengthening Auckland's infrastructure and community investment is a positive step. We would also recommend prioritising sport, movement and play investment, acknowledging the diverse ways that Aucklanders choose to be active. These are widely evidenced to play a critical role in improving physical and mental well-being, fostering social connections, and

enhancing community resilience. Increased investment in sport and recreation ensures Aucklanders of all ages and abilities have equitable access to opportunities that support active, healthy lifestyles – leading to longer, healthier and happier lives.

Additionally, we encourage Auckland Council to consider the future use of land repurposed through the flood recovery buy-back scheme. There is an opportunity to integrate movement, play, and active recreation spaces into these areas, ensuring they continue to serve community needs while contributing to climate resilience and ecological restoration. Thoughtful planning could see these spaces become valuable community assets that support well-being and connectivity.

Additionally, we urge Auckland Council to embed genuine partnership with Māori at all levels of decision-making. Māori, including mana whenua and urban Māori communities, should have an active role in shaping investment priorities, particularly in transport, water, and community services. A commitment to co-designing solutions with Māori will lead to more equitable outcomes and uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.

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

A bed night visitor levy is a fair and effective mechanism to fund major events that boost Auckland's profile and economy. These events often include sports competitions that inspire community participation and promote active lifestyles. The levy ensures that visitors contribute to the amenities they enjoy, supporting the sustainability of such events without overburdening local resources.

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.

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)

Question 4:

Local board priorities

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

Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges, Whau

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

The Board's commitment to high-profile community events and increasing youth voice is commendable, as these contribute to active and engaged communities. Sport, movement, play and recreation should be an integral part of these initiatives, ensuring that events and public spaces promote accessible physical activity for all with space for both structured and unstructured activity. The upgrade of Catherine Plaza presents an opportunity to enhance public spaces with active recreation elements that encourage movement. We also support environmental restoration efforts, as clean waterways and green spaces are crucial for outdoor recreation. Māori leadership should be central in shaping these projects, ensuring alignment with kaupapa Māori approaches to community well-being.

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

Very 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

Very important

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

Waitākere Ranges Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding. The proposed increase in funding ('fairer funding' for local boards) may be taken up by budget pressures outside of the local board's control. Support all

Tell us why

We welcome the Board's focus on public space development, economic growth, and neighbourhood revitalisation. These initiatives must integrate sport and recreation opportunities, ensuring that newly developed areas in Glen Eden, Sunnyvale, and Swanson include spaces for active movement. Investment in neighbourhood parks should prioritise designs that encourage all age groups to participate in physical activity, from play areas for tamariki to fitness spaces for older adults. In addition, Māori must be involved in shaping youth and community programmes to ensure they reflect te ao Māori perspectives on well-being.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

The Event Partnership Fund to support more community-led events

Very important

Arts and culture programmes delivered through our community arts partners

Very important

Tailoring programmes to serve diverse communities (youth, older adults, Pacific and ethnic communities)

Very important

Community development, placemaking and activation in our growing neighbourhoods and centres such as Glen Eden, Sunnyvale and Swanson

Very important

Supporting business associations to continue supporting local businesses and ongoing growth, develop and liven-up our town centres, including assisting Glen Eden Business Association and establishing of Titirangi Business Association

Very important

Environmental programmes to help protect and restore the Waitākere Ranges

Very important

Trialling phosphite treatment of kauri infected with kauri dieback on selected local parks

Very important

Improving neighbourhood parks: George Herring Common, Koroī/ Clayburn Reserve, Tautoru/Maywood Park, and Sandys Parade.

Very important

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

Whau Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

The planned recreation and aquatic centre is a major opportunity to improve community well-being through sport and physical activity. Until it is completed, continued public access to school pools is essential in ensuring equitable access to swimming facilities. We also support enhanced park services and open space recreation, particularly for ethnically diverse communities, women, and girls. These efforts should be shaped in partnership with Māori to ensure they reflect cultural perspectives on movement and well-being. Additionally, youth-focused initiatives, including a dedicated youth coordinator, should integrate sport and recreation to provide safe, inclusive, and engaging activities for rangatahi.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Restore funding to service levels in some areas that were cut in recent years, e.g additional library hours, programmes and community grants

Very important

Increased service levels in our parks and town centres including progression of Te Hono project

Very important

Plan for the future Whau aquatic and recreation facility and facilitate public access to school pools in the interim

Very important

Work with local Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to find new ways of delivering vibrant and welcoming town centres through art activation and beautification projects.

Very important

Continue to support volunteering, community and business participation, through environmental and ecological initiatives around the Manukau Harbour foreshore, the Whau River and its tributaries, and our urban ngahere

Very important

Increase community participation and capability in community hubs, houses and with established community partners, and progress the development of a new community hub in Fruitvale

Very important

Foster climate/emergency preparedness and resilience in our community

Very important

Investigate a future space for youth and engage a youth coordinator to support and promote for youth by youth activations

Very important

Provide appropriate options for healthy, active lifestyles through recreation in parks and open spaces with particular focus on our ethnically diverse communities, women, and girls.

Very important

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

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

We suggest that the Annual Plan 2025/2026 include dedicated funding for active movement programs that consider the different ways that Aucklanders choose to be active. Youth and

underserved communities should be a priority. Investing in coaching, facilities that allow for both structured and unstructured physical activity, and equipment will lower barriers to participation and promote equitable access to sports. Collaborating with local sports organisations can enhance program delivery and community reach.

To ensure the success of the Annual Plan, it is critical that Māori are engaged as genuine partners from the outset, rather than consulted as an afterthought. True partnership means enabling Māori-led solutions, resourcing kaupapa Māori initiatives, and embedding Te Tiriti commitments across all areas of governance. A stronger commitment to Māori leadership in decision-making will result in more equitable and effective outcomes for all communities.

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): Healthy Families Waitākere

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

Tell us why

We commend the Annual Plan 2025/2026's emphasis on enhancing Auckland's resilience and targeted investments in transport, water, and community funding. We would also encourage a clearer focus on health and well-being initiatives, especially ones that tackle ongoing health

challenges within communities. Embedding initiatives that promote long-term benefits and early support into the plan would help to help to build stronger, more resilient communities.

However, we advocate for a more explicit focus on health and well-being initiatives, particularly in addressing systemic health challenges within communities. Integrating health promotion and preventive strategies into the plan would ensure a more holistic approach to community resilience.

Additionally, we believe there is a need to address flood recovery efforts more explicitly, particularly regarding how land acquired through the buy-back scheme will be repurposed. Ensuring these spaces contribute to community well-being, environmental restoration, and climate resilience should be a key priority. Opportunities to integrate green spaces, food-growing initiatives, and recreation areas could help restore affected communities and enhance overall resilience.

While we support most of the plan's priorities, we believe that genuine consultation with Māori—especially mana whenua and urban Māori communities—must be embedded in decision-making. Ensuring Māori leadership in shaping transport, water, and community investment decisions will lead to more equitable outcomes and honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

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

Implementing a bed night visitor levy is a sustainable method to fund major events and promote Auckland as a vibrant destination. This approach ensures that the financial responsibility is shared

by visitors benefiting from these events, reducing the burden on local residents. Such funding can enhance community well-being by supporting cultural and recreational activities that foster social cohesion.

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.

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)

Question 4:

Local board priorities

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

Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges, Whau

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

We support the Board's focus on community-led events, youth participation, and environmental restoration. Community-driven initiatives play a crucial role in fostering social connection and well-being. However, it is vital that Māori-led solutions are embedded in decision-making. The collaboration with Te Kete Rukuruku is a positive step in restoring Māori place names and histories, and we encourage continued strengthening of partnerships with mana whenua to ensure initiatives reflect Māori aspirations. Additionally, environmental projects like water quality improvements must prioritise mātauranga Māori approaches, recognising the kaitiakitanga role of mana whenua in protecting waterways. We know that guidelines and examples around this have been developed through the Auckland Water Strategy and showcased in Te Pūrongo o Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau Ngā Huanga Māori 2022/2023.

We also encourage the Board to strengthen its commitment to kai sovereignty by encouraging the embedding of the Mana Motuhake o te Kai into local kai initiatives. As a well-developed framework that aligns with Māori aspirations for food sovereignty and community well-being, it provides a clear pathway for ensuring equitable access to food and resilient local food systems. Supporting kaupapa Māori-led approaches to food security would reinforce the Board's commitment to both environmental sustainability and social equity.

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

Very 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

Very important

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)**Waitākere Ranges Local Board Priorities**

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding. The proposed increase in funding ('fairer funding' for local boards) may be taken up by budget pressures outside of the local board's control. Support all

Tell us why

The Board's commitment to community-led events, arts, and cultural programmes is critical for fostering local identity and social cohesion. However, genuine Māori leadership must be embedded in shaping these programmes.

We support efforts to enhance environmental initiatives in the Waitākere Ranges, guided by mātauranga Māori and kaitiakitanga. We also encourage Auckland Council to align these initiatives with the Deed of Acknowledgement, ensuring a collaborative and enduring approach to protecting this heritage area.

Additionally, as the Board works to support youth, older adults, and diverse communities, it is essential that Māori-led organisations embedded in community are appropriately resourced to deliver culturally grounded initiatives that address the unique needs of whānau Māori.

We also encourage the Board to strengthen its commitment to Mana Motuhake o te Kai and food sovereignty by encouraging the embedding of the framework into local food initiatives. Supporting community-led, Māori-driven approaches to kai sovereignty will ensure that whānau have access to affordable kai while reinforcing the resilience of local food systems.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

The Event Partnership Fund to support more community-led events

Very important

Arts and culture programmes delivered through our community arts partners

Very important

Tailoring programmes to serve diverse communities (youth, older adults, Pacific and ethnic communities)

Very important

Community development, placemaking and activation in our growing neighbourhoods and centres such as Glen Eden, Sunnyvale and Swanson

Very important

Supporting business associations to continue supporting local businesses and ongoing growth, develop and liven-up our town centres, including assisting Glen Eden Business Association and establishing of Titirangi Business Association

Very important

Environmental programmes to help protect and restore the Waitākere Ranges

Very important

Trialling phosphite treatment of kauri infected with kauri dieback on selected local parks

Very important

Improving neighbourhood parks: George Herring Common, Koroī/ Clayburn Reserve, Tautoru/Maywood Park, and Sandys Parade.

Very important

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

Whau Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Restoring service levels in libraries, community hubs, and parks is an important step toward strengthening social well-being. These initiatives must be guided by meaningful partnership and collaboration with Māori to ensure they serve the needs of whānau Māori. The Board's focus on climate resilience and environmental restoration aligns with Māori principles of kaitiakitanga, and we encourage continued strengthening of partnerships with mana whenua in shaping projects.

With the plan for a future aquatic and recreation centre, we encourage meaningful and reciprocal collaboration and partnership with Māori, ensuring it reflects te ao Māori perspectives on holistic well-being.

We were also heartened to see Mana Motuhake o te Kai referenced in last year's Local Board Plan. We encourage the Board to take further steps in this space by actively utilising the framework to guide investment and initiatives that strengthen local food systems. Embedding this approach will support equitable access to kai, enhance community well-being, and reinforce Māori-led solutions to food sovereignty

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Restore funding to service levels in some areas that were cut in recent years, e.g additional library hours, programmes and community grants

Very important

Increased service levels in our parks and town centres including progression of Te Hono project

Very important

Plan for the future Whau aquatic and recreation facility and facilitate public access to school pools in the interim

Very important

Work with local Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to find new ways of delivering vibrant and welcoming town centres through art activation and beautification projects.

Very important

Continue to support volunteering, community and business participation, through environmental and ecological initiatives around the Manukau Harbour foreshore, the Whau River and its tributaries, and our urban ngahere

Very important

Increase community participation and capability in community hubs, houses and with established community partners, and progress the development of a new community hub in Fruitvale

Very important

Foster climate/emergency preparedness and resilience in our community

Very important

Investigate a future space for youth and engage a youth coordinator to support and promote for youth by youth activations

Very important

Provide appropriate options for healthy, active lifestyles through recreation in parks and open spaces with particular focus on our ethnically diverse communities, women, and girls.

Very important

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

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

We recommend that the Annual Plan 2025/2026 incorporate specific strategies to address health to best meet underserved communities. Collaborating with organisations focused on health promotion and community development leads to more effective and targeted impact.

Additionally, ensuring that infrastructure projects consider health and wellbeing contributes to creating environments and neighbourhoods that support healthy lifestyles.

We also urge Auckland Council to strengthen its commitment to Māori partnership across all aspects of the Annual Plan. This includes early meaningful consultation—not just feedback at the end of the process—and resourcing Māori-led initiatives from both mana whenua and urban Māori communities in community well-being, environmental restoration, and economic development.

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): Restaurant Association of New Zealand

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

Tell us why

Since 1972, the Restaurant Association has worked to offer advice, help and assistance in every facet of the vibrant and diverse hospitality industry, covering the length and breadth of the country. We're passionate about our vibrant industry, which is full of interesting, talented and entrepreneurial people. We are supportive of the overall vision for Auckland to create a stunning

natural environment, an efficient transport system and development pattern, decent and affordable public services, amenities, and infrastructure, a diverse and dynamic city, and a thriving economy that supports growth and opportunities for all.

For the seven areas of council activities, or investment, that contribute to the vision for Auckland, we mostly support the following actions:

- Facilitate international and domestic events, including musicals, concerts and exhibitions.
- Work with central government on new funding tools for visitor attraction and economic development, including exploring a bed night visitor levy for major events and destination marketing.
- Continue to deliver iconic cultural events such as Pasifika, Diwali and the Lantern Festival.
- Progress a local board led plan for the North Harbour Stadium.
- Boost community safety with initiatives such as safety hubs in the city centre and compliance wardens to fill the gaps in safety across the city.
- Progress city centre works including Te Hā Noa – Victoria Street to maximise the benefits of City Rail Link opening.
- Progress a masterplan to develop the central wharves into a public space, and aligning cruise facilities and ferry services with Port of Auckland Limited operations.
- Continue to regenerate our neighbourhoods in key areas such as Wynyard Quarter, City Centre, Takapuna, Northcote, Henderson, Avondale, Manukau.

Events are a prime opportunity to stimulate our industry, hospitality. With the success of events like the ASB Classic, we want to see more large scale events in Auckland to help strengthen our regional and national tourism and hospitality brand. Events not only bring tourists to the country, but they also importantly bring out locals - something we want to encourage; dependence on tourism can only get us so far, but for many of our businesses locals are their bread and butter.

There is a clear need for infrastructure improvements in Auckland, and infrastructure disruptions across our city impact vital commercial activities. As cities embark on infrastructure projects aimed at long-term improvements, the immediate and severe effects on local businesses, particularly in hospitality, call for a more supportive approach from councils.

There is a critical need for councils to work more collaboratively with businesses impacted by infrastructure developments. Proactive measures from city councils could significantly alleviate the impact of infrastructure changes on local businesses. One effective strategy would involve councils engaging with businesses right from the early planning stages of infrastructure projects and maintaining open lines of communication throughout the construction phase. Knowing the timeline and scope of potential disruptions enables businesses to plan and adjust their strategies effectively.

Additionally, councils could provide financial relief through temporary tax breaks, grants, or subsidies. This financial support would offer businesses struggling with cash flow disruptions a much-needed buffer. Offering incentives to encourage patronage in affected areas could also help sustain business operations during challenging periods.

Marketing and promotional initiatives play a crucial role as well. By partnering with local business associations, councils can help launch campaigns that highlight that businesses remain operational despite nearby construction. Hosting events, providing promotions, and enhancing signage could dispel the notion that construction areas are inaccessible, thereby attracting customers who might otherwise avoid the area.

Improving access and signage around construction sites is another critical measure. Clear, well-placed signage directing customers to alternative routes and entrances can significantly ease the access challenges posed by construction, helping to maintain or even increase foot traffic. Temporary parking solutions or shuttle services could also be offered to mitigate the inconvenience caused by ongoing construction works.

Finally, establishing a robust feedback loop where businesses can promptly report issues and receive quick responses can dramatically improve the situation. This mechanism allows councils to address problems as they arise, preventing them from escalating and further affecting the businesses.

We have long advocated for the implementation of comprehensive safety measures to protect our member's establishments, staff and customers so we are pleased to hear that Council will be boosting community safety with initiatives such as safety hubs in the city centre and...

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?

Other

Tell us why

As mentioned in our answer to the previous question, the Restaurant Association has long advocated the importance of attracting visitors and securing, promoting, and delivering major events, as well as the need for adequate funding to deliver these events. While we agree that event attraction and destination marketing need more funding, we do not think a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation is the best way to fund this investment.

The Restaurant Association is not against the idea of a bed night visitor levy, however, if it was to be implemented, it should be applied to all of New Zealand. There needs to be an end to the three-way tourism funding deadlock between industry, central government and local government.

The \$7 million budget shortfall that is said to occur if a bed night visitor levy is not put in place can simply be funded through re-prioritising Council spending and investment. The amount of funding that Auckland Council currently provides for event attraction is a very small amount of their total revenue. The Restaurant Association believes that the economic benefits of investing in major events attraction should be enough of an incentive to reprioritise spending and investment.

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.

Other

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)

The Restaurant Association would like to provide feedback on the proposed overall rates increase of 6.8% for business properties. We do not believe that lower growth in the value of business properties compared to non-business properties is an adequate reason to increase business rates by a higher percentage than residential rates.

Further, we believe that as the number of non-business properties grows (and we believe this is happening at a faster rate than the growth in number of business properties), it will not be feasible

to retain the 31 percent share of rates paid by business properties. The Council should review this share of rates, and create a formula that enables a fair calculation of rate share and setting of rates, based on the proportion of business to non-business properties across the city.

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

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): Business Events Industry Aotearoa

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why

Please refer to written submission

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



Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2025/26

Response to Question Two

Funding Destination Management and Major
Events

28 March 2025

Submitted via email.

Tēnā koe,

At a time when local authorities are carefully reviewing their priorities, investment strategies, and fiscal responsibilities, Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA)—the peak body representing New Zealand’s business events sector—is pleased to submit this response to Auckland Council’s Annual Plan 2025/26.

This submission specifically addresses *Question Two: Destination Management and Major Events – Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation to fund destination management and major events activities?*

Representing the interests of the business events sector, BEIA strongly supports ongoing, strategic investment in destination management, business events through the activities of the Auckland Convention Bureau and major events.

We emphasise the critical and unique role the Business Events sector plays in contributing to Auckland’s—and the wider national—economic and social prosperity. Business events form part of the global USD \$2.7 trillion business events industry and are included in the most recent New Zealand tourism expenditure figures, which total \$44.4 billion. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the development of New Zealand’s new world-class infrastructure, the domestic sector alone was valued at \$1.45 billion.

New Zealand is one of the most recent countries to invest in a network of purpose-built, environmentally sustainable convention centres. This places Aotearoa at the forefront of global standards in sustainable business events infrastructure and significantly elevates our international profile. For Auckland, these developments present a critical opportunity to attract high-value event attendees and further position the city as a premium destination.

It is therefore essential that the Auckland Council continues to support and invest in the destination management, business events and major events sector to sustain the momentum achieved in establishing the city as a premier destination—not only for international delegates but also for domestic travellers and local residents.

The economic and social returns of events are far-reaching. Recent examples, such as the successful staging of multiple events at Eden Park over a single weekend, illustrate the capacity of events to stimulate the local economy and reinforce Auckland’s aspiration to be a globally recognised, highly liveable city.

Moreover, the recent hosting of an international investment summit, which brought together some of the world’s largest private investors in Auckland under the facilitation of the Prime Minister, demonstrates the power of face-to-face engagement. This kind of event introduces key influencers to the city and reinforces Auckland’s standing as New Zealand’s commercial and innovation capital.

With the upcoming opening of the New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC), Auckland is poised for a new phase of business event activity. Targeted investment now will ensure that the city is well-positioned to fully leverage the opportunities this world-class facility will provide from 2026.

BEIA's Position

BEIA has publicly affirmed its commitment to a sustainable, nationally consistent funding mechanism and continues to work alongside other industry associations in advocating for a national accommodation levy. Such a framework would provide consistency and equity for all visitors—both domestic and international—while enabling long-term strategic investment in the visitor economy.

We believe this approach would deliver considerable advantages for Auckland Council. We would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively to explore how such a model could be applied and implemented effectively. BEIA is a strong supporter of the NZICC and the wider business events ecosystem in New Zealand, and we are confident in the extraordinary benefits this facility will bring to the city.

BEIA also strongly supports the continuation of Auckland Council's investment in destination marketing, major events, and the Auckland Convention Bureau during this transitional period. Continuity of these core functions is essential until a nationally legislated solution is defined, developed, and implemented.

Without a sustainable long-term strategy and pipeline for business and major events, Auckland risks missing out on significant economic, social, and reputational benefits, as well as the indirect benefits these bring to ratepayers and the wider community.

Given the complexity involved in establishing a national levy or funding model, it is essential to adopt realistic timeframes. We therefore believe a collaborative approach between Auckland Council and the tourism, hospitality, and events sectors would best serve Aucklanders, industry stakeholders, and the thousands of visitors to Tāmaki Makaurau each year.

Together, we have a unique opportunity to co-design a fair and enduring national funding solution, one that supports destination management nationwide while providing financial stability and long-term certainty for Auckland's continued growth and success as both a commercial hub and one of New Zealand's most liveable regions.

The Case for Continued Council Support

The case for sustained investment in events, particularly via the Auckland Convention Bureau and Major Events teams, is compelling. While Auckland Council is well aware of the value delivered by these teams, it is important to reinforce the rationale behind this investment.

Business events deliver a substantial direct economic impact. According to the Auckland Convention Bureau, every \$1 of Council investment generates \$36 in return to the local economy. Delegates spend across accommodation, dining, transport, retail, and entertainment, and multi-day conferences encourage longer stays, significantly increasing total visitor spend.

This economic activity has a positive ripple effect across the business ecosystem. Hotels, restaurants, cafes, bars, and transport providers experience strong mid-week demand during traditionally off-peak periods. Meanwhile, the event services sector, including audio-visual suppliers, caterers, logistics providers, and venues, benefits from reliable, high-value work. Delegates also engage with the city beyond the event, supporting local tourism operators and retail outlets.

Apart from economic returns, business events foster knowledge exchange, innovation, and industry development. They connect global thought leaders and experts, driving growth in key sectors such as health, technology, and agriculture. Auckland's universities and research institutions benefit from

exposure to new partnerships and collaborative opportunities, further enhancing the city's standing as a centre of academic and professional excellence.

Events also contribute to destination profiling and trade development. Hosting international conferences elevates Auckland's visibility on the world stage, attracting investors and global businesses that may not have otherwise considered the city. Events such as the recent Investment Summit are evidence of Auckland's capacity to host strategically significant, outcomes-focused gatherings.

Crucially, business events contribute to seasonal smoothing. While leisure tourism peaks during weekends, summers and holidays, business events are typically held mid-week and during off-peak periods. This helps balance demand throughout the year, sustain jobs in the hospitality and tourism sectors, and ensure consistent economic activity across the region.

The legacy impact of events should also not be underestimated. Events support community engagement, education, and volunteering. They ensure pride and connection, often leaving behind skills, infrastructure, and relationships that benefit the city long after the event concludes. The legacy of the FIFA Women's World Cup is a recent example of how events can uplift and inspire communities while leaving behind infrastructure which now supports the future Football Ferns and All Whites.

Funding the events ecosystem must not be considered a dispensable priority or a discretionary spend. It is a strategic investment. Events are integral to Auckland's economic resilience, global reputation, and civic vibrancy. Supporting this sector is essential to Auckland's future.

Recommendation

BEIA supports Auckland Council's exploration of alternative funding mechanisms for destination management and events.

In the short term, we believe Auckland Council must maintain investment levels to at least meet the current \$7 million requirement. While we acknowledge this may be challenging, we believe it is essential for sustaining the core capabilities that underpin Auckland's destination and events success.

In parallel, BEIA encourages Auckland Council to work alongside industry bodies in collaborating on a sustainable, nationally focused funding mechanism to present to central government. This should be designed to ensure long-term durability through legislative backing.

We welcome the opportunity for further dialogue. Please contact me directly for any further information or engagement.

Ngā Mihi Nui



Chief Executive
 Business Events Industry Aotearoa

E: [Redacted]

M: [Redacted]

W: www.beia.co.nz

About Business Events Industry Aotearoa

Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA) is the official membership-based association for New Zealand's business events sector, encompassing meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and exhibitions. With membership spanning tourism, hospitality, convention centres, and conference and event organisers, BEIA supports the growth of New Zealand's business events sector both internationally and domestically, aiming to benefit its members, key stakeholders, and the national economy.

BEIA owns and operates MEETINGS, Aotearoa New Zealand's largest and most significant national tradeshow for the business events industry. MEETINGS is the premier platform for connecting influential domestic, Australian, and international buyers with key regions, meeting venues, accommodation, off-site locations, and tourism-related activities.

Additionally, BEIA is the custodian of the sector's national strategic direction, Piata Mai, which was launched in 2024. This 10-year plan addresses the industry's key challenges and positions it for sustainable growth in the years to come. (<https://www.beia.co.nz/about/be-national-strategy>)

Operating as an advocate for the industry, BEIA provides avenues for professional development, accreditation and education for the individuals involved in the sector. It comprises over 460 organisations from across a broad range of industries, with a membership that includes a database of connections in New Zealand and Australia (approximately 3,000 connections per database) that either host or organise these events.

BEIA supports the industry in delivering unique experiences and services for meetings, conferences, incentives, and exhibitions. We do this via three key pillars that form the foundations of BEIA's strategy: -

VOICE:	Advocating for the industry with central and local government on issues that are important to the sector
KNOWLEDGE:	Delivering professional development and information through Data and Annual Conference. This enhances the sector's skills, boosts retention, and supports individual growth. It also provides insights into the industry's strengths, encouraging future investment and informed decision-making.
CONNECTION:	Supporting business growth by connecting the industry with its customers. This includes MEETINGS, New Zealand's premier business events trade show. Over 480 buyers from New Zealand, Australia, Asia, and North America attended the event in 2024. They met with 240 exhibitors from 20 regions across the country, resulting in over 6,000 appointments and \$110M provisionally secured in future business events. In 2025 and 2026, this event will be held in Tamaki Makaurau Auckland.

Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Public Service Association Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi (PSA)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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- 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?

Support most

Tell us why

See attached submission

CCO Reform: To date, PSA has been working collaboratively with the organisations, and we expect this

early, active and meaningful engagement at all stages to continue. We will continue to strongly oppose

any loss of employment for our members, let alone the impacts to service delivery this would cause.

Fair Funding model: state our concern about potentially adverse pressure that this funding model may

place on our members especially Locally Driven-Initiative (LDI) funded staff. It is also our view that no

local board should be worse off under this or alternative funding arrangements.

Rates: We support raising rates to fully fund Auckland Council's public and community services, pay its

staff fairly and resource them adequately, do its fair share to mitigate climate change, and maintain essential infrastructure.

Council's savings and efficiency targets: PSA believes we are reaching some hard limits of what the

organisation can reasonably achieve in internal savings targets without then significantly eroding service

delivery and causing major workload issues. We will always oppose further cuts as they impact staff.

Water reform: Auckland Council to support our call to provide certainty and capacity by protecting jobs

and working conditions for water workers such as guarantees of offers of employment; and to make a

commitment to oppose any future contracting or outsourcing our core provision of our water services or

ownership of water assets.

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

See attached submission

agree that it is fairer way of funding

this activity, and we support it at 3% or higher.

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)

See attached submission

extending the Refuse Targeted Rate to

Rodney and Franklin areas has been long time coming, and we support all efforts to achieve Zero Waste

Target by 2040 including ensuring people are doing the right thing with food scraps and recycling.

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

See attached submission

PSA advisory panel: We advocate for regular union engagement with the Governing Body – via regular

fora such as a regional tripartite forum or advisory panel.

Equal Pay: We call on the Governing Body to ensure that the Annual Plan factors in the need to fund

increased pay rates to library workers in the near future. As of 1 March 2024, the gender ethnic pay gaps

for our organisation stands at 22% for female, 16% for Maori staff and 27.2% for Pacific peoples - we

strongly advocate placing a priority in the Plan on working with the PSA to close these pay gaps.

Living Wage: We want to thank Auckland Council including its officers involved in making the organisation

an accredited Living Wage employer. We look forward to working with the rest of the Group in also becoming accredited.

- Responsible procurement
- Just transition to a low emissions future
- Oppose any central government moves to remove the 4 wellbeing's
- Resourcing fair pay for staff
- Exemplar employee relations
- Keeping public services in-house



**PSA submission on the
proposed Auckland Council
Annual Plan 2025/26**

March 2025



PSA submission on Auckland Council Annual Plan 2025/26

About the PSA

The New Zealand Public Service Association Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi (the PSA) is the largest trade union in New Zealand with over 96,000 members, including over 12,000 working in local government.

For 110 years people have joined the PSA to negotiate their terms of employment collectively, to have a voice within their workplace, and to have an independent public voice on the quality of public and community services and how they're delivered.

Local democracy is a cornerstone for the PSA: vibrant communities are underpinned by strong democratic institutions that support and maximise citizen participation in local decisions. As the union for public and community services, we are strongly interested in ensuring that local government has strong public and community services that are resourced and supported to deliver for communities.

The PSA in Auckland

The PSA represents approximately 25,000 members who live and work in the Auckland region 4000 of whom work for Auckland Council and its agencies.

All these members have a strong interest, as residents of Auckland, in the Plan and how it implements the aspirations and intentions. Members employed by Auckland Council and its agencies have an additional interest in how the Plan will affect their jobs, working conditions, and the important work they do for the benefit of their community.

About this submission

This submission has been prepared by PSA delegates and members who work in Auckland Council and its CCOs.

Overall comments on the draft plan

The PSA welcomes the opportunity to contribute to Auckland Council's proposed Annual Plan 2025/26 in line with our partnership agreement between the Council and the PSA.¹

Given the spread and nature of PSA's membership described above, we are in a unique position from which to comment and contribute as we seek to maintain, strengthen, and develop our constructive relationship with Auckland Council. In addition to being employees, our members and their whanau are also: residents, ratepayers, politically active citizens, and service users within Tāmaki Makaurau. Hence this submission is developed using these perspectives.

Our submission is guided by the following premises:

- The significant cost of living increases now and into the foreseeable future are causing our members and employees of the council significant financial strain which is having adverse impacts on their quality of life and well-being.
- The Local Government Act 2002 makes it clear that local authorities have wide-ranging responsibilities to pursue the four well-beings – social, economic, cultural, and environmental - for the benefit of their communities. We believe that a proactive pursuit of these needs to be maintained in the widest context.
- Retaining employees, their institutional knowledge and organisational loyalty is vital to ensure that local government organisations can meet their responsibilities and continue to provide high levels of service to our communities.
- Local government provides essential services to diverse groups throughout our communities. Within New Zealand, no local authority can match the scope, scale or importance of the services provided by Auckland Council and its entities.
- The reality of climate change is no longer deniable – it is already here! The PSA is committed to a just transition that requires climate mitigation and climate adaptation measures to be fair and equitable to affected employees and their communities.
- Strong vibrant local government is essential to a healthy and well-functioning civil society.

Our overall priority in the proposed Annual Plan is for Auckland Council to guarantee job security, ensure fair pay and strengthening, not weakening, of local government services. Ensuring the Plan sufficiently budgets for wages that keep pace with living costs, closing pay gaps and maintaining fair working conditions of all staff including indirect contractors should be a key takeaway of this submission.

We will always champion for greater transparency, greater worker participation in decision-making and more inclusive and thoughtful local government that works toward a better working life for all kaimahi in Auckland.

¹ The Auckland Council Public Service Association Pledge (March 2018)

Summary of responses

Question 1	<p>Other - the PSA provides feedback on the following specific topics of the plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCO Reform • Fairer Funding Model • Rates • Council's savings and efficiency targets • Water reform • Public Transport
Question 2	Support
Question 3	Support
Question 5	<p>The PSA provides feedback on other matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New sector advisory panel proposal • Equal Pay • Living Wage accreditation • Annual Plan process • Responsible procurement • Just transition to a low-emissions future • Oppose removal of four wellbeing's • Resourcing fair pay for staff • Exemplar employee relations • Keeping public services in-house

Feedback on specific issues

Q1 Overall plan

The PSA submits **Other** with our feedback on this topic set out below:

CCO Reform

PSA acknowledges and thanks the CCO Reform Programme for their engagement and collaboration with us over the past few months, and we look forward to this early, active and meaningful engagement continuing throughout all the next stages.

We nevertheless call on the Governing Body to support the PSA in ensuring that this reform does not result in any loss of employment for existing staff as this is contrary to the stated objectives of this reform as well as the messaging by the Auckland Council's Chief Executive that

“A key principle [of CCO Reform] is to retain talent...”². While we anticipate some minor restructuring would likely need to occur in consolidation, we expect that affected CCO staff will only be ‘lifted and shifted’ or employment secured at Council to retain this talent. Additionally, we need to reiterate our message made in our submission made in November 2024,³ that this process should not and must degrade existing terms and conditions of any of our members at Council and the CCOs.

Fairer Funding Model

The PSA acknowledges the recent decision by the Council to delay implementation of the Fairer Funding Model until the next financial year however we wish feedback on a specific area around staff salaries that fall under locally driven initiative (‘LDI’) budgets.

We call on the Governing Body to shift staff funded by the LDI budget into the general council staffing budget or work with the PSA to explore alternative mechanisms to the current process. At present, there are several of our members whose salaries fall under the LDI budget lines which are potentially made public and open to debate at the local board level - which is wholly inappropriate. Staff salaries are operational matters, yet we have several staff who have previously alerted us to humiliating and distressing conversations about their salaries in politically charged public fora. This needs to be urgently rectified before the Fairer Funding Model is implemented, otherwise we risk governance decisions crossing inappropriately into operational matters.

On the broader question on the Fairer Funding Model – it is our view that no local board should be worse off under this or alternative funding mechanisms.

Rates

The positions we advocate for in this submission – around fair pay, adequate resourcing, and ambitious climate action – cost money. We believe these costs are justified, and investing now is likely to be more affordable in the long run.

We support raising rates to let Auckland Council fully fund its public and community services, pay its staff fairly and resource them adequately, do its fair share to mitigate climate change, and maintain essential infrastructure rather than making future generations pick up the bill.

No one likes paying more in rates, but it’s important we invest in the things we need and the things that make Auckland a well-functioning, resilient city where people want to live.

Council's savings and efficiency targets

PSA believes we are reaching some hard limits of what the organisation can reasonably achieve in internal savings targets without then significantly eroding service delivery and causing major workload issues.

We will always oppose further cuts as they impact staff as they are part of the community too, and the wages we pay them go back into our community. PSA members are willing to work with the council on initiatives to improve productivity, but this will only be possible if their jobs are secure.

² Phil Wilson “CCO Reform reaches first major milestone” (20 March 2025) OurAuckland <[www.https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)>

³ PSA submission on CCO Service Delivery Reform (November 2024)

Water reform

PSA urges Auckland Council to support our call on the Water Services Bill to protect jobs and working conditions for water workers such as guarantees of offers of employment; and to make a commitment to oppose any future contracting or outsourcing our core provision of our water services or ownership of water assets.⁴

Public transport

As part of an equitable approach to reducing emissions, PSA supports the Free Fares campaign call for free public transport for Community Service Card holders, tertiary students and under-25s, and Total Mobility Card holders and their support people.

Central government's recent move to temporarily reduce public transport pricing shows that reducing fares can be affordable if we choose to prioritise it. We encourage Auckland Council to provide subsidies beyond those currently provided by central government to make free or lower-cost fares available to a wider range of people. Free fares would boost ridership and contribute to the shift that's essential to meeting Aotearoa's carbon zero 2050 goal and address structural disadvantages in the transport system.⁵

Q2 Destination management and major events

The PSA **supports** a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events activities.

We support the levy at 3% or higher as this will provide a fairer and sustainable way to fund destination management, market and major events in Auckland. This approach ensures that businesses benefiting from tourism contribute fairly, reducing reliance on general rates.

A stable funding source strengthens the tourism and hospitality industries, driving job creation and improving wages for kaimahi in hotels, restaurants, transport and supporting public services. Additionally, we would like to the funds from levy to also be used to fund infrastructure and further support working conditions for applicable kaimahi, ensuring an equitable and sustainable industry growth.

Q3 Changes to other rates, fees and charges

We **support** Auckland Council applying the Refuse Targeted Rate to Franklin and Rodney areas, as this had been a long time coming and ensures a fair, consistent approach to waste management in Auckland.

This change provides stable funding for rubbish collection, eliminating the issues and inequities around the current bag purchasing system.

⁴ Water Workers Collective "Submission on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill" (3 March 2025) PSA <www.psa.org.nz>

⁵ <https://freefaresnz.files.wordpress.com/2022/01/free-fares-submission-on-the-emissions-reduction-plan.pdf>

The PSA backs all efforts to achieve the zero-waste target by 2040 and we like to see more investment in ensuring proper food scrap and recycling disposal to ensure a well-funded system supports all levels of waste and recycling collection from improving public health, environmental sustainability and better working condition for our waste workers.

Q5 Other feedback

New sector advisory panel proposal

The PSA advocates for a new advisory panel comprising the PSA, possibly other unions, representatives from the Auckland business community and Auckland Council to fill a missing gap in the public advisory space for the organisation.

This panel would address the future of work, climate change and AI-related challenges by offering informed recommendations to ensure Auckland remains adaptable, inclusive and resilient such as advising on policies to support job transitions, green infrastructure and responsible AI use at the regional level. This would ensure that decisions by Auckland Council reflect the needs of workers, businesses and the wider community as well as ensure Auckland's strategies support sustainable economic growth, worker wellbeing and environmental responsibility.

Equal Pay

We call on the Governing Body to ensure that the Annual Plan factors in the need to fund increased pay rates for library workers in the near future.

Equal pay is a human right and legal obligation and has been a longstanding concern of the PSA. Gender and ethnic pay gaps are strong indications that pay is discriminatory. All workers should be paid a fair and decent wage.

Auckland Council is one of six councils with which the PSA has an active pay equity claim to address the gender-based pay undervaluation of library assistants. However, despite over six years of hard work and PSA providing extensive evidence to the councils that library workers are significantly underpaid because of gender-based discrimination, we have now had to escalate to the Employment Relations Authority to decide rates of remuneration that are free from gender-based discrimination.

Although the full cost to councils will not be known until a settlement is reached, we strongly recommend that the Annual Plan consider the likely need to fund increased pay rates for library workers in the near future.

We also recommend placing a priority in the Plan on working with the PSA to identify and close the gender-ethnic pay gap within the Council. As of 1 March 2024, the gender-ethnic pay gaps for our organisation stands at 22% based on gender, 16.7% for Maori staff and 27.2% for Pacific peoples⁶ - we strongly advocate placing a priority in the Plan on this and for the Council to work with the PSA to close these pay gaps.

We also advocate for greater pay transparency within the organisation and ask for the Governing Body to endorse the Public Service Commission's 'Kia Toipoto — Public Service Pay Gaps Action Plan 2021–24' specifically the 'Guidance on removing bias from remuneration and human resources policies and practices' and 'Guidance on flexible work and representation'.

⁶ 'Information about our staff' Auckland Council <www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>

Living Wage accreditation

We want to thank Auckland Council including its officers involved in making the organisation an accredited Living Wage employer.

We now look forward to working with the rest of the Group in also becoming accredited including ensuring all indirectly paid workers employed as or by contractors, delivering a service to the organisation on a regular and ongoing basis are either on the current Living Wage or on milestones agreed as part of the License with the Living Wage Aotearoa New Zealand.

Paying a living wage can reduce absenteeism and sick leave, increase staff retention, increase productivity and improve the quality of worker output.⁷ MBIE's impact analysis on public service living wage increases noted, "there are also likely to be benefits to the local economy, as low-wage workers and households tend to spend a higher proportion of wage gains on immediate needs and tend to spend a higher proportion within their local region."⁸

Just transition to a low-emissions future

An intact, functioning environment is in the public interest and a public good of irreplaceable value. Climate change is a critical threat to the health of our environment, and therefore our communities. At a local, national and global level we have done too little for too long, and now we urgently need ambitious action to address the causes of climate change.

Auckland Council needs to take much more ambitious action to reduce Auckland's climate impact. This should include initiatives to improve public and active transport; increase tree planting; and provide compact, affordable and energy-efficient housing that is close to essential facilities and amenities. Such initiatives should be designed with careful consideration of distributional impacts, so reducing emissions can also contribute to reducing rather than exacerbating inequality.

We also support actions taken by Auckland Council to respond to other environmental issues such as water quality degradation and loss of biodiversity.

Oppose the removal of four wellbeing's

The PSA opposes the government's planned removal of the four well-being provisions from the Local Government Act and advocates for the Governing Body to commit to preserving the four well-being provisions as core to the purpose of local government should they be legislatively removed.

The well-being provisions are instrumental in ensuring Auckland Council does not lose sight of its broad purpose and are necessarily required for local government to effectively respond to the changing and diverse needs of Auckland's communities. Additionally, there is no clear evidence that the existence of the well-being provisions directly contributes to above-average rates increases especially considering that rate increases are always subject to consultation and feedback during the Annual Plan process.

⁷ [Why you should pay a living wage | Sustainable Business Network](#)

⁸ Reynolds, D., Pearson, R., and Voortkamp, J., (1999), The impact of the Detroit living wage ordinance. Centre for Urban Studies and Labour Studies Centre, College of Urban, Labour and Metropolitan Affairs, Wayne State University. Cited in Cabinet paper ['Implementing a minimum living wage rate for cleaners, caterers and security guards working under Public Service contracts'](#)

Resourcing fair pay for staff

Keeping employees, their institutional knowledge and their organisational loyalty is vital to ensure that local government organisations can meet their responsibilities and keep providing high levels of service to our communities.

The Plan must accommodate fair pay and good working conditions for staff over time. That means allocating enough resources in budgets to increase staff pay to keep up with the cost of living.

Exemplar employee relations

The PSA seeks exemplary employment relations. This includes the people doing the work participating in shaping services both directly and through their union. Workers will provide a unique perspective and have valuable knowledge about where council systems, processes and practices can be improved. We encourage Auckland Council and the CCOs to engage constructively with us and involve staff in operational decision-making, both generally and in particular when it comes to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of local government services.

Keeping public services in-house

We believe in public services for the public good, not private profit. While councils have a role in setting conditions that support local private businesses to thrive, this is not the same as passing on ratepayers' money to fund private profit through contracting out. Local public and community services should be delivered publicly, by organisations that are accountable to their community and not to shareholders. These services should be kept in-house rather than be outsourced or removed to Council-Controlled Organisations. In our view:

- Core public and community service work should be done in-house.
- Work that increases capability and learning should be done in-house.
- The knowledge that is organisationally relevant should be conducted in-house.
- People with new knowledge and skills currently not integral to the organisation but relevant on an ongoing basis should not be contracted in but should be employed.
- If working conditions are undermined using contractors and labour hire, they should not be used.
- The focus should be on high-quality services and equitable outcomes.
- Councils should regularly scan the horizon and consider the skills mix they may need for new projects or government priorities to ensure they upskill people rather than contract out.
- Where the intention is to devolve services to genuine not-for-profit community/iwi provision this requires a just transition for workers that builds capability and delivers jobs with decent and equitable pay rates and good conditions.

The Australian Productivity Commission has found that outsourcing “can set in train powerful negative multiplier effects which induce displaced council workers to leave the area, thereby lowering population, reducing economic activity, and threatening the viability of other public and private services, like local public schools and banking facilities. In other words, the social

costs attached to outsourcing can readily exceed any short-run cost savings to council service provision.”⁹

At the same time, outsourcing public services often results in worse outcomes for workers and communities, inadequate investment, and substandard outcomes for communities. A 2022 paper from the University of Glasgow and the European Research Council indicated that from around 700 identified cases of re-municipalisation since 2000, “overwhelmingly, in those cases where we have been able to identify motivations, the failings of privatisation are to the fore. A decrease or absence of improvements in the quality-of-service provision is the leading motivation for de-privatisation (45 per cent), followed by the desire for greater cost reductions (36 per cent).”¹⁰

Responsible procurement

When council takes a decision to outsource services, it needs to look beyond the price of the service and take a holistic view of what it offers to the community.

The council should incentivise contracts that:

- provide good wages and conditions for local workers
- provide training and career pathways
- ensure worker participation
- provide decent and secure work
- reduce unemployment
- provides “good work”, as described by the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions and the Future of Work Forum¹¹
- uses tools such as the Gender Pay Principles to improve equity in the workplace¹²
- keep profits circulating within the local community
- ensure adequate re-investment in infrastructure over the long term
- support local iwi and improve relationships between mana whenua and local councils.

We want assurance that the council will require contractors to follow 'responsible contractor' policies, including best practice employment requirements, health and safety best practices, and a commitment to workforce and career development and job security.

Annual Plan process

The PSA recommends extending the period of time and sequencing of engagement for the public consultation stage of the Annual Plan processes.

Currently, the submission period is only one month long which in our view is highly insufficient and should be extended to allow enough time for consultees to properly review the often-complex topics and detailed supporting documents; and then be able to prepare a correspondingly detailed submission. Additionally, it is unusual and challenging to the public for a consultation process to hold oral submissions before the closing of written submissions. This is

⁹ [Outsourcing and Insourcing in Australian Local Government: Productivity Commission's \(2014\) Public Infrastructure Report and Municipal Road Maintenance and Renewal](#), Australian Services Union

¹⁰ [MAPPING REMUNICIPALISATION: EMERGENT TRENDS IN THE GLOBAL DE-PRIVATISATION PROCESS](#), University of Glasgow and the European Research Council

¹¹ Future of Work Forum, 2022. [CTU's definition of good work](#)

¹² Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission. [Kia Toipoto — Public Service Pay Gaps Action Plan 2021–24](#)

likely to cause submitters to make arguments or present feedback without sufficient time to fully form their feedback nor be able to socialise it with their stakeholders.

To this, we suggest Council adopt the consultation timelines and processes used by the New Zealand Parliament Select Committees whereby:

- The period for written submission is usually around 40-42 days.
- The oral submission process occurs after this deadline for written submissions.

Further, the Auckland Council Public Service Association Pledge¹³ sets out the council's commitment to work in an active and high-engagement partnership model with the PSA. We believe this model is wider than just the operational side of the organisation and incorporates the elected officials of the council and key areas of the Governing Body work such as the Mayoral Proposal and Annual Plan process. Going forward, we consider it paramount in line with the Pledge that the PSA is engaged with a lot earlier, separately, and meaningfully in the Plan or Annual Budget development process.

Thank you for considering our submission

We wish to acknowledge the hard work and excellent contributions of our PSA delegates and members across the Council Group in helping prepare this submission.

For further information about this submission, please contact:

██████████
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Level 11, 135 Albert Street
Auckland Central
Auckland 1010

██████████
██████████
155 New North Road,
Eden Terrace
Auckland 1021

██

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¹³ The Auckland Council Public Service Association Pledge (March 2018)

One pager - PSA submission on Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2025/26

This is a short-form one pager of the PSA's feedback to the Annual Plan – our substantive written submission will be submitted later.

Question 1 – Overall plan

CCO Reform: To date, PSA has been working collaboratively with the organisations, and we expect this early, active and meaningful engagement at all stages to continue. We will continue to strongly oppose any loss of employment for our members, let alone the impacts to service delivery this would cause.

Fair Funding model: state our concern about potentially adverse pressure that this funding model may place on our members especially Locally Driven-Initiative (LDI) funded staff. It is also our view that no local board should be worse off under this or alternative funding arrangements.

Rates: We support raising rates to fully fund Auckland Council's public and community services, pay its staff fairly and resource them adequately, do its fair share to mitigate climate change, and maintain essential infrastructure.

Council's savings and efficiency targets: PSA believes we are reaching some hard limits of what the organisation can reasonably achieve in internal savings targets without then significantly eroding service delivery and causing major workload issues. We will always oppose further cuts as they impact staff.

Water reform: Auckland Council to support our call to provide certainty and capacity by protecting jobs and working conditions for water workers such as guarantees of offers of employment; and to make a commitment to oppose any future contracting or outsourcing our core provision of our water services or ownership of water assets.

Question 2 – Destination management and major events: Support – agree that it is fairer way of funding this activity, and we support it at 3% or higher.

Question 3 – changes to other rates, fees and charges: Support – extending the Refuse Targeted Rate to Rodney and Franklin areas has been long time coming, and we support all efforts to achieve Zero Waste Target by 2040 including ensuring people are doing the right thing with food scraps and recycling.

Question 5 – Other feedback

PSA advisory panel: We advocate for regular union engagement with the Governing Body – via regular fora such as a regional tripartite forum or advisory panel.

Equal Pay: We call on the Governing Body to ensure that the Annual Plan factors in the need to fund increased pay rates to library workers in the near future. As of 1 March 2024, the gender ethnic pay gaps for our organisation stands at 22% for female, 16% for Maori staff and 27.2% for Pacific peoples - we strongly advocate placing a priority in the Plan on working with the PSA to close these pay gaps.

Living Wage: We want to thank Auckland Council including its officers involved in making the organisation an accredited Living Wage employer. We look forward to working with the rest of the Group in also becoming accredited.

- **Responsible procurement**
- **Just transition to a low emissions future**
- **Oppose any central government moves to remove the 4 wellbeing's**
- **Resourcing fair pay for staff**
- **Exemplar employee relations**
- **Keeping public services in-house**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters. Yes, and comrades and friends, it's a pleasure once again to join you this morning. My name is Martin. I am a PSA fulltime here at Auckland Council. On my left is Sarah Stone, our lead organiser for the Council group.

We have a short window here with you this morning, so we're going to quickly run through our summary pretty quickly and we do want to leave enough time for questions, comments or complaint.

So moving right along, we want to start with question one overall plan and just a few comments we wanna make. So first one is the CCO reform. So firstly just to acknowledge and thank the Council group officers who worked with the PSA to ensure that the currencies are reformed as early and actively engaging of affected staff as much as possible. I'd be remiss to say if I didn't say that, it is a big worry for some of us at the Union that there are gonna be some disestablishment and I want to just make the comment that those members who are affected and they have the full support of the Union, an injury to one is an injury to all. And we wanna make sure that the commitment that the organisation made around the CCO reform that no service reduction would occur and we want to keep highlighting that because any job losses does risk our service being undermined.

The fairer funding model so just to make a specific point around this so some of you might be aware that we, there are a number of staff who are directly funded or who sale come out of the locally driven initiative budget and our concern as a Union here is if there's any pressure put on that which may come out of the their funding model, it would force a rather awkward conversation between the local boards and the operations. It's not the place where the electing members to make operational decisions, you know this. However, if Local Boards are forced to make savings, you're going to look at the discretionary fund. That means that will impact our members and a long standing call of our Unionists to bring those staff out of there right into the general pool and until that happens, we want to make sure that those staff are well protected. On the kind of the general point on the fair funding model, we do acknowledge some decisions to be made around this, but there's our view that no local board should be worse off under any alternative funding model.

On rates, it is a necessary evil, but we do support raising rates to fully fund the public and community services, pay staff fairly, contribute to climate change mitigation and maintain essential infrastructure rather than leaving future generations to have to pick up. No one likes paying rates, we acknowledge that, but we need to invest in these things as an organisation to ensure that Auckland is well-functioning resilience city.

Council Savings and efficiency targets, so PSA believes that we're reaching some hard limits as a Council group on what we can easily achieve through efficiency and savings metrics. We believe any further internal savings will arose to this delivery and then we'll start cutting into jobs in terms of conditions and increase workload issues for our staff. Historic austerity is a flawed approach and significantly undermines the Council group's ability to deliver.

The cliché blood out of a stone is quite apt and we do take the view that employees are not the drivers of debt or increase costs although they will make a small cost of the LG expenditure. But the broader point is that we are concerned that is we're reaching some hard limits on what we can really achieve in terms of savings and efficiencies.

So, water reform, we would call on Auckland Council to join our call to call on the government to protect jobs and ensure working conditions for our water workers including guarantees of employment and training are maintained, the current local water reform has probably a number of gaps in terms of in this space so Auckland Council could really help us in joining our core to ensure those workers are protected.

That, and probably no surprise to anyone around the table or online that we would oppose any sort of outsourcing or prioritisation of our services, water services or assets and we like Council to support that commitment going forward.

So that's question 1, question 2 around destination management and events. We support the proposal. The point that I want to make here is a 3% would probably be preferred approach. If we do want to see an expansion of major events, as a Warriors fan myself, I'd like to see a lot more engagement and activity in that space, but we recognise the importance of those major events. I also just wanna make a mention to the Council officer or officers who did the swap options analysis. It was an excellent analysis and the Council resources and would like to see that carried into other areas of any sort of options or functions that the Council Group would look at.

Question 3, on refuse targeted rate, we spoke to our waste members and others and they have said it's a long time coming. So we're supporting the extension of the service to Rodney and Franklin areas. And we'd also like Council to support ratepayers in the community to ensure we're doing the right thing in regards to food scraps and recycling, to ensure we split those their own target waste of by 2040.



On other feedback, we advocate for regular union engagement with the governing body and through forums such as the regional tripartite forum and other advisory panels and they want to see that continue. In terms of the living wage, we thank Auckland Council for becoming an accredited living wage employer, value of the PSA is responsible for procurement, and we look forward to the rest of the Council group also becoming accredited. In terms of equal pay, we want the PSA resourcing fair pay for staff and we are calling for an increase to pay rates for library workers and prioritising the closing of the gender and their ethnic pay gaps, and I just wanted to say a little bit more about this. So we've got a current claim for library assistance, which was lodged in 2019. We've been very, very active working in partnership and was just supporting councillors and other councils across there. We have been working, probably meeting monthly every couple of weeks for three years, actually when it's come to the bargaining, we have now had to ask the Employment Authority to set the pay rates for those workers because we can't seem to reach an agreement in bargaining. And one of the problems for us is that that bargaining is that the pay rate that was offered didn't meet the legislative requirements.

Just to bring an awareness into this group, the average pay equity uplift is normally between 25% and 30% when the claim is successful and we have established with the Council that then we have established that there is discrimination for these workers on the basis of gender. And so yeah, it's unfortunate that we've had to go to the authority to ask for those rates to be set in terms of the budgetary awareness I just wanted to bring it to this group.

In general, councillors not doing very well whether it catch up for gap for gaps or gender and ethnicity. And at the current rate it will take us 14 years to close the gap.

We've got figures and we can include those bullet figures in our report. But we're not doing very well. We have in some areas had a slight improvement. I think we had 0.6 improvement for Pacific workers, 0.4 for women, but for Maori workers at council we had 6% increase in the gap. So we as PSA need to be at the table and we want to be at the table addressing these gaps because they're a bit concerned for us.

Question from [REDACTED]?: Interested in the issue that Maori pay that is increasing, how that is happening – to take away offline.

[REDACTED] h: One of the things that we've been advocating for a couple of years that hasn't seemed to be able to be taken off at Council was that we want to have a review of the pay systems. Evidence (national and international) that Pay system at council is creating these gaps and contributing to the issues.

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): Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makaurau

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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

Tēnā koe,

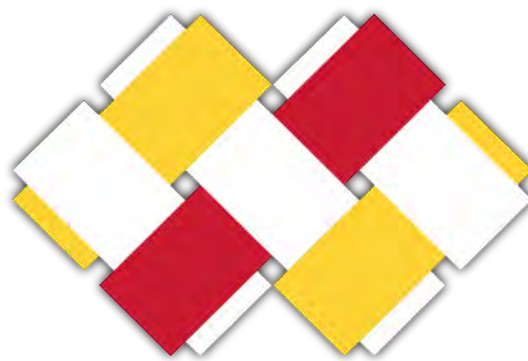
We have uploaded our submission as a separate document. Please see attached.

Nā,

Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makaurau

Submission to Auckland Council on the:

Annual Plan 2025/2026



**Te Ohu
Whakawhanaunga
Tāmaki Makaurau**

Submitted by Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga
Tāmaki Makaurau

28 March 2025

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1. Who we are

- 1.1. Te Ohu Tāmaki is a collection of over 40 community, faith, and union civil society organisations who have formed a Community Alliance in Auckland. Our alliance is committed to the issues of poverty, inequality, and other challenges to wellbeing in Tāmaki Makaurau. We are organising our communities to make Auckland a place where families and children flourish. We are committed to whakamana te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- 1.2. The housing catastrophe in Auckland is one of our first issues of focus. Our member organisations are united in their support for the initiatives listed below.
- 1.3. We stand in solidarity with all those who are suffering through the housing crisis in Tāmaki Makaurau and we are committed to working for positive, lasting change.
- 1.4. When it comes to fixing our housing catastrophe, we support paying more, getting more. As we have outlined in our previous submission on the Long Term Plan, our submission supports what Auckland Council is already proposing but we are calling for the council to build on that work immediately and we offer up the following solutions.



2. Our Asks for the Annual Plan 2025/2026

2.1. For a detailed explanation of our asks, see page 4.

2.1.1. Through our continued community organising efforts, we have engaged continuously with various levels of Auckland Council leadership and staff to get implementation on housing policies. We ask that Council does the following:

- a. Auckland Council's Community Committee commits to taking action to ensure the progressive realisation of the Right to a Decent Home.
- b. Auckland Council resource a Right to a Decent Home officer that sits within the Policy Team to monitor all homelessness and housing activity, with the aim of acting as a reporting mechanism and accountability measure.
- c. Continue to encourage the use of Auckland Council resources for public advocacy in Central Government issues.¹

2.1.2. We ask for the opportunity to make an oral submission for the Auckland Council Annual Plan 2025/2026.



¹ See, for e.g., the recent letter from the Auckland Council Community Committee to the Minister of Social Development and Minister of Housing, <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/544267/auckland-homelessness-spike-prompts-please-help-letter>

3. Detailed explanation of our Asks

3.1. Below is a detailed explanation of each of our asks, including some examples of how different asks could be implemented.

3.2. a. What is the Right to a Decent Home?

3.2.1. Everybody in Aotearoa New Zealand has the Right to a Decent Home. A “Decent Home” is defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Human Rights Commission through seven decency principles. A decent home is:

- **Affordable.**
 - Our homes should cost no more than 30% of a household's income.²
- **Habitable.**
 - Meaning it is healthy and doesn't make you sick!
- **Accessible** for everyone.
 - This includes, but is not limited to, people with mobility issues have access to a home.
- **Secure** in tenure.
 - If you can be kicked out of your rental at any time, or interest rates changes can easily tip you over the edge, you are not in a secure home.
- In an appropriate **Location**.
 - Our homes should have access to social facilities such as supermarkets, transport routes, schools, employment, healthcare, and marae.
- Having access to **Core Services**.
 - Power, water, other vital infrastructure.
- **Culturally Adequate.**
 - Cultures and communities of multi-generational families deserve a home too.

The Right also includes:

- **Active Participation**
 - “Our coordination group” gives life to this.
- Informed Policymaking

In Aotearoa New Zealand, the Right to a Decent Home must also be grounded in te Tiriti o Waitangi.

3.3. b. What is a Right to a Decent Home Officer?

3.3.1. A Right to a Decent Home Officer would sit within the Policy Team at Auckland Council. The purpose of their role is to act as a reporting mechanism on issues of

² <https://tikatangata.org.nz/cms/assets/Uploads/Measuring-Progress-Indicators-Decent-Home/Affordability-full-commentary-right-to-a-decent-home.pdf>

housing and homelessness within the city, as well as an accountability measure internally within Council as well as engagement with various stakeholders around the city.

- 3.3.2. In the spirit of **active participation**, it is vital that this officer engage with communities and civil society when it comes to housing. As an alliance representing over 40 community and civil society organisations comprising countless Aucklanders, we are well placed to engage with the officer.

3.4. c. What is public advocacy?

- 3.4.1. We at Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makaurau applaud the recent open letter by the Community Committee (chaired by Cr Angela Dalton) to the Minister for Social Development Louise Upston and Minister of Housing Chris Bishop, regarding the issue of homelessness in our city.
- 3.4.2. It is our ask that the Community Committee, Councillors, and Council as a whole continue to advocate with our communities by putting pressure on Central Government to act. Housing is one of the greatest challenges facing our city at this time and we must continue to advocate for our communities on this issue.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makaurau calls on Auckland Council, as our elected representatives, to demonstrate vision and leadership, and work to do the following:
- a) Community Committee commits to taking action to progressively realising the Right to a Decent Home.
 - b) Council to resource a Right to a Decent Home Officer.
 - c) Council to continue utilising resources to advocate for Central Government reform.

We ask to make an oral submission on Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2025/2026.

Contact Information:

Name: [REDACTED] Lead Organiser, Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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): Fulton Hogan

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I am particularly concerned about lack of wastewater capacity at Army Bay and the effect this will have on development in the Hibiscus coast area. Please see letter attached for full details.

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?

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.

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)

Question 4:

Local board priorities

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

Hibiscus and Bays, Rodney

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Do not support any

Tell us why

The pending lack of wastewater capacity is likely to have significant detrimental effect on the economy of the local board area. I would think resolving this would be it's top priority? I am also surprised to see a \$1.1million budget for planning services. What exactly does this entail?

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Support the youth networks in our area to help our young people thrive, and to have a voice in local board decision-making

I don't know

Support and advocate for further protection of our sea, soil and fresh water from contamination and sedimentation through methods such as re-naturalisation, or daylighting

Fairly important

Support the development and increased use of our local parks, reserves, and sports fields by being available for people of all abilities, ages, and socio-economic backgrounds to enjoy in a range of leisure and recreation activities

Fairly important

Encourage local business associations to continue to support business development, to contribute to safer, more vibrant, and attractive town centres, that continue to meet the changing needs of our residents

Very important

Support and fund efforts to mitigate and adapt reserves, parks and public assets from the effects of climate change through initiatives such as the Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy

I don't know

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

I don't know

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

As I outlined above I would think the pending wastewater capacity issue would be the crisis that gets the most attention?

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?

No

Tell us why

I am not sure if this is a issue that should be funded by local boards (although I encourage their input)

Rodney Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

I have particular concern regarding the lack of wastewater capacity at Army Bay and the roll on effect of stalled development in Milldale and beyond.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Improving services for all communities by enhancing libraries art and youth programmes

I don't know

Promote physical activity and recreation by increasing play opportunities in more locations

I don't know

Support community groups, volunteers, and mana whenua to enhance environmental protection and restoration efforts, particularly for waterways and wetlands, while promoting waste reduction

Less important

Increase maintenance service levels, such as more frequent mowing of high-profile reserves, pest control, and repair of tracks and car parks.

Fairly important

Support Rodney Greenways Plans to facilitate walking, cycling and horse riding

Fairly important

Prepare and review plans for reserves to identify gaps to meet community needs

Fairly important

Improve the safety of our community and environment through increased education, monitoring and compliance.

I don't know

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

Further to my earlier response, critical infrastructure to enable development such as wastewater capacity warrants a focussed effort by the local board.

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

We are concerned that the Army Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade is not being prioritised and that the potential wider impacts are not being properly considered. As part of the council's updates for the annual plan 2025-2026, the long-term plan 2024-2034, and Watercare's business plan 2025-2034, we request that this project is identified as critical, and that funding is separately allocated

28 March 2025

Auckland Council
Attn: Annual Plan team

Feedback on the Auckland Council Annual Plan 2025/2026 Consultation Document

On behalf of our client, Fulton Hogan Land Development (FHL), we submit the following feedback on Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2025/2026 Consultation Document. FHL is one of New Zealand's largest residential land development companies and has made a significant contribution to housing supply in the Auckland region over the past 20 years through developments such as Dannemora, Millwater, Milldale, and more recently Drury East.

A key concern for FHL within the annual plan consultation documents is the lack of prioritisation for the Army Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade. It is considered that the wider impacts on development potential and Infrastructure Growth Charges have not been appropriately considered. As part of Council's updates to the Annual Plan 2025/2026, the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 and Watercare's business plan 2025-2034, we request that the upgrade of the Army Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant project is identified as critical and that funding is allocated accordingly.

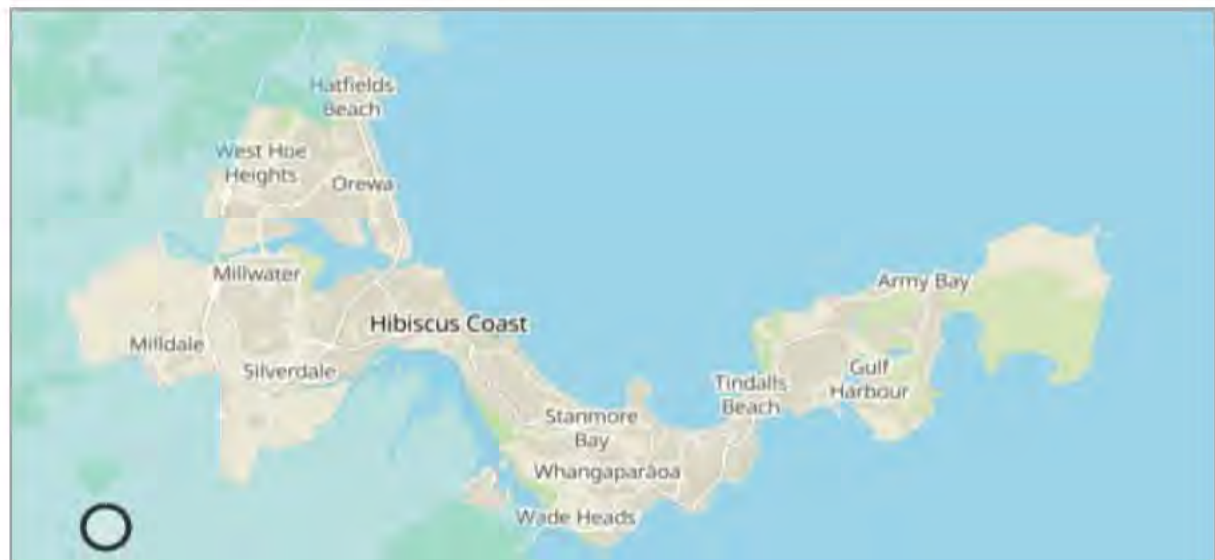


Figure 1 Army Bay Treatment Plant Catchment

Background

Situated just west of the Northern Motorway (SH1), near Silverdale, Milldale has been strategically developed to cater to Auckland's increasing demand for housing and infrastructure. Milldale is designed to

provide approximately 4,000 dwellings, commercial land for a local town centre, public parks, riparian reserves, cycleways and walkways, and education facilities.

The development of Milldale Stages 1 to 5 is now complete, with civil works on Stage 6 well underway. Stages 7 and 9 are currently under construction, as is the Town Centre. As at late 2024, more than 1,220 homes had been constructed in Milldale, with a further 960 or so enabled by subdivision. In addition, the Ahutoetoe primary school is now open (as are two pre-schools), and a Summerset retirement village is operating on site. FHLD has recently lodged a resource consent under the Fast Track Approvals Act for the last remaining stages of the Milldale development that will provide collectively provide capacity for 1,155 detached and terraced dwellings and supporting commercial services in the form of a compact Neighbourhood Centre.

Simultaneously, FHLD lodged the Milldale North and Wainui West Plan Changes conjointly in 2024. The Milldale North Plan Change seeks to rezone approximately 145ha of land in Wainui from Future Urban and Special Purpose Education to a mix of residential zones with a small Neighbourhood Centre, consistent with the Wainui Future Urban Zone Structure Plan. The rezoning proposal provides capacity for approximately 2,080 dwellings.

The Army Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant (**Army Bay WWTP**) is a critical piece of infrastructure needed to support the remaining stages of the Milldale development and the future Milldale North and Milldale West development. It also accommodates wastewater from the Milldale and Silverdale catchments, including Orewa, Silverdale, Wainui, and Whangaparāoa. It is recognised by Council and Watercare that the Army Bay WWTP requires an upgrade based on the high levels of growth anticipated in these catchments by existing and proposed developments. The WWTP is understood to have an existing discharge consent limiting the dry-weather flow to approximately 75,000 people, with an existing catchment of 63,000 people.

The upgrade to the Army Bay WWTP was initially planned for completion in 2024, however the upgrade has been deferred by Watercare to 2031 at earliest, leading to concerns that the facility's capacity could be reached as early as 2027¹, creating significant knock-on effects for planned housing growth in the area.

Statutory Framework

While it is acknowledged that the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) (Watercare Charter) Order 2025 ("Watercare Charter") comes into effect on 1 April 2025, however Watercare will remain a Council-Controlled Organisation ("CCO"). Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 2002 applies to all CCOs and Watercare will still be required to issue Statements of Intent. It is noted that Auckland Council will continue to set expectations of Watercare.

For the reasons outlined below, it is considered that upgrades to the Army Bay WWTP should be included as a priority project for North Auckland to signify the importance of this upgrade given its strategic importance for housing growth in North Auckland.

The Watercare Charter required under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 must set out the minimum quality standards in terms of services provided, the performance of the network and the delivery of capital investment. This also includes a customer compensation scheme. This

¹ <https://www.watercare.co.nz/builders-and-developers/consultation/growth-constraints-in-hibiscus-coast>

requires consultation with Auckland Council and the strategic intent set out in the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan would form a key part of that.

Milldale has been live zoned since 2016 and the development is currently underway, providing much needed housing and economic growth opportunities for North Auckland. We urge the Council to ensure that land use decisions are highly integrated with infrastructure investment. In this case, clearly stating the need to bring forward the upgrade of the Army Bay WWTP in the Annual Plan will assist to inform Watercare's planning and will ensure that the land use and infrastructure planning and funding decisions are integrated as required by the National Policy Statement for Urban Development (Objective 6). Without this, it does bring into question the Council's ability to charge rates on land that cannot be developed for the land use that the underlying valuation is based on.

Impact on Housing Growth

Based on building consent data and as set out in the attached economic impact assessment, the Army Bay catchment area averages 837 new dwellings per annum. This growth is likely to halt around 2027 when the WWTP reaches capacity, with developers unable to proceed with consents without adequate wastewater servicing in place. The only alternative option available relies on private developers consenting and constructing temporary wastewater treatment plans, which comes at considerable cost and risk and is an inefficient use of resources. Associated costs will be passed on to eventual purchasers, in contradiction of the 'Going for Housing Growth' agenda being pursued by the Government. The Army Bay catchment has significant land freed up for development, with several large parcels of land consented or in the process of consenting for significant housing growth in the area.

The loss of planned housing growth in the catchment is considered to contradict Government direction for urban development and undermines the zoning of land that has been approved by Auckland Council via Plan Changes, and is in the process of being consented through the Fast Track Approvals Act.

In addition, it is estimated that the Infrastructure Growth Charges that Watercare has received from the Milldale and Millwater development alone is approximately \$60-65 million to date, and approximately \$125 million across the wider Hibiscus Bay catchment based residential consent numbers. These charges were paid in order to fund the water supply and wastewater infrastructure upgrades needed to support development in this area, which includes the Army Bay WWTP. These funds should be clearly allocated to serve development in the Hibiscus Bay area.

Economic Impact

An Economic Impact Assessment was prepared in 2024 by Insight Economics in relation to the Army Bay WWTP, and is included as **Attachment 1**. In summary, the economic impact of the delayed upgrade of the WWTP and the knock-on effects on construction activity include:

- A reduction in GDP by \$670 million annually;
- Loss of approximately 5,000 full-time equivalent jobs; and
- Reduction in household salaries by \$330 million annually.

There are also likely to be additional fiscal impacts on the Crown, including reduced tax revenues from PAYE and GST. The loss of developable land in the catchment will also undercut the investment made in Penlink,

a \$800 million highway project due for completion in 2028, a key ambition of which was to enabling growth in the catchment. A loss of housing growth would also impact future local toll revenues from Penlink resulting from a potential reduction in users.

It is additionally noted that Watercare's revenue would be impacted as a byproduct of a pause on development, with Infrastructure Growth Charges being impacted. Based on consent data, this is estimated to be approximately \$7 million - \$8 million per annum for wastewater infrastructure alone.

The diagram below charts annual building consent data for the catchment (Statistics NZ), projected Watercare revenue from Infrastructure Growth Charges for the area and the economic impact of the residential housing sector in Army Bay. This shows stagnation of GDP growth and Council's ability to recover the costs to pay for infrastructure from 2027. This becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy, with lower income to Watercare meaning even lower or delayed investment in necessary infrastructure.

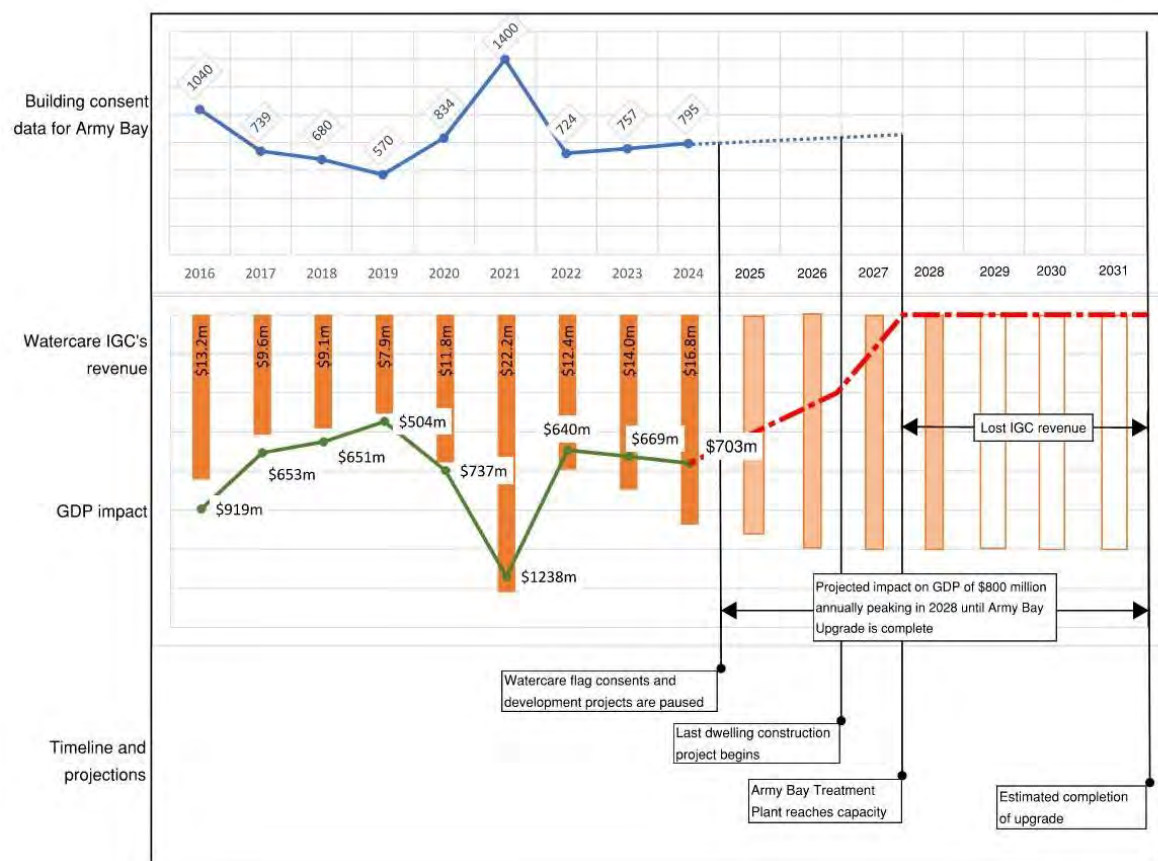


Figure 2 Building consent data correlated with Watercare's Infrastructure Growth Charges and projected GDP figures

Other Matters

FHLD request that clarity is provided on how funds for the catchment have been spent to date, and that further justification for delaying this critical infrastructure project is provided. Residential development is highly sensitive to delays and project risks such as this, impacting Watercare's reputation as an essential life service provider.

FHLD will continue to offer their support to Watercare and stress that there is serious urgency in implementing the upgrade to the Army Bay WWTP to enable the ongoing planned growth in the Army Bay catchment. Any pause in construction activities in the area will have long-term economic impacts and diminish the return on investment for other large-scale projects, including the Penlink motorway. FHLD would welcome further collaboration and discussion on potential solutions for the Army Bay WWTP upgrades.

Yours sincerely | Nāku noa, nā

Barker & Associates Limited



Director





#7610



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): Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

Tell us why

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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.

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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 see the attached document.

Summary of Attachment:

Urgent Environmental Issues

Biodiversity Crisis: 4,000 species threatened or at risk of extinction due to invasive pests, land use, and climate change.

Environmental Health: Significant efforts needed to improve Auckland's natural environment, requiring Council support and investment.

Recommendations for the Annual Plan

Increased Funding: Call for more resources for biodiversity, freshwater protection, and flood resilience.

Community Support: Emphasis on funding community-driven environmental work and climate action initiatives.

Nature-Based Solutions: Investment in ecosystem services like urban forests, green roofs, and wetland restoration to enhance climate resilience.

Local Board Priorities

Support for Local Initiatives: Funding for habitat restoration, pest control, and sustainable living programs.

North Shore Branch Feedback: Specific requests for ecological corridor restoration and support for community-led conservation networks.

Conclusion

Alignment with Climate Plan: Urges Auckland Council to align the Annual Plan with climate obligations and environmental protection goals



Feedback on the Auckland Council Annual Plan 2025/2026 by the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.

March 27, 2025

To: AK Have Your Say
Auckland Council

➤ Submitted online

Submitter details

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc. (Forest & Bird)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Email: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

This feedback is on behalf of the organisation (Forest & Bird), including its Central Auckland, Hibiscus Coast, South Auckland, North Shore, Hauraki Islands, Waitakere and Warkworth branches. The preferred method of contact is email, as provided above.

Introduction

Forest & Bird is New Zealand's largest and oldest conservation organisation

Forest & Bird is New Zealand's largest and longest-serving independent conservation organisation, with over 100,000 members and supporters. It is an incorporated society with the constitutional objective to

take all reasonable steps within the power of the Society for the preservation and protection of the indigenous flora and fauna and the natural features of New Zealand.

Forest & Bird's mission is to be a voice for nature on land, in fresh water, and at sea, by and on behalf of its members and supporters. Volunteers in 47 branches carry out community conservation projects and advocate for nature throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

This submission has been produced by Forest & Bird and is supported by the aforementioned branches and their members, as well as the volunteers and supporters of:

- Pest Free Hibiscus Coast
- Ark in the Park



Forest & Bird actively supports conservation across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Forest & Bird has nine branches and two major nationally coordinated projects in the Auckland region. These projects are delivering outcomes and improvements in the protection of nature and the management of natural resources, including the protection and restoration of native ecosystems on Auckland Council land across the region.

Forest & Bird has expressed and acted upon a strong interest in the Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland for many years, particularly regarding the protection and maintenance of indigenous biodiversity. This has included advocating for greater protection of indigenous species through sharing direction in planning, resource consents and policy.

Forest & Bird projects enhance Council investment in managing its resources

Forest & Bird leverages private funding and volunteer time to help deliver conservation outcomes on Council land and therefore boosts the effectiveness of Council spending on management of its own land, on behalf of the people of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

These partnerships have worked well and seen the reintroduction of toutouwai NI robin and kōkako into the Waitākere Ranges and increased protection for nationally critical pekapeka tou roa long-tailed bats, as well as experiencing significant decreases in pest populations on the Hibiscus Coast. Forest & Bird also undergo activities focused on upskilling our communities, which supports region-wide outcomes and ensures ongoing success of conservation initiatives.

Furthermore, the work of Forest & Bird and its branches increases the resilience of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland by helping to restore and protect forest cover (preventing erosion) and stream margins (mitigating flood severity).

The annual plan needs to address Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland's urgent environmental issues

Investment in conservation is needed to help keep Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland a great region

Aotearoa New Zealand is currently facing a biodiversity crisis. Four-thousand of our species are threatened or at risk of extinction. This is largely due to increasing pressures from invasive pests, land use, and climate change¹. Auckland is no exception to these crises.

The *health of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland's natural environment in 2020*² clearly outlines the areas where significant efforts from all of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland are required to improve our environment. This cannot be done without support and investment from the local authority, Auckland Council.

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland faces urgent environmental challenges in remaining a great city in which to live

In 2018, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland emitted 11,396 kilo-tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO₂ e) into our atmosphere, we have continued to rapidly change our land use, and pollute and destroy our waterbodies; all things which keep us on track to surpassing 1.5 degrees of warming and losing our precious indigenous wildlife and drastically altering the environment in which we exist.

Multiple reports over many years have highlighted the degraded state of Tikapa Moana/Hauraki Gulf³ and the role that managing sedimentation, sewage and storm water will play in its restoration.

Significant Council investment is needed to address these challenges to help maintain the quality of life that Aucklanders value.

Communities are doing the hard mahi

Our communities continue to put in the mahi to preserve what nature is left and create new spaces for nature to thrive. Across multiple organisations and thousands of hours of volunteer commitment we have seen pest populations managed (in some cases eradicated), wetlands replanted and urban ngahere (forest) established and maintained. A wide range of community organisations, including

¹ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/biodiversity/anzbs-2020.pdf>

² <https://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz/media/2009/the-health-of-t%C4%81maki-makaurau-auckland-s-natural-environment-in-2020.pdf>

³ <https://gulfbjournal.org.nz/state-of-the-gulf/>

Forest & Bird, are supported by Auckland Council and its local boards to protect and restore the natural environment of the region.

All these efforts contribute to the mitigation and adaption to climate change and the preservation and enhancement of the habitat our indigenous species depend on. With a healthy natural environment comes a healthy society⁴.

Auckland needs to invest in ecosystem services to strengthen climate change resilience

There are many benefits, known as ‘ecosystem services’ provided by a well-functioning natural environment and the indigenous biodiversity within⁵. Ecosystem services are a great way to relate the presence and health of biodiversity to our built environments and the people which inhabit them. Following the devastating events Auckland experienced in 2023, we need the budget to reflect the urgency needed work with, not against, nature. Aucklanders need a budget that looks after our natural world, so it can look after us.

Recognising that as well as being vitally important for its own sake, nature is an asset that provides Auckland Council with services that it cannot afford to lose.

Nature-based solutions are defined as “actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity”⁶.

In the context of infrastructure, nature-based solutions may include some of the following:

- Daylighting streams and making room for rivers⁷
- Permeable paths
- Urban forests⁸
- Green roofs
- Green corridors
- Rain gardens
- (indigenous) swales
- Floodable parks
- Wetland restoration⁹

While it is important to integrate more healthy green spaces/nature-based solutions in our urban environment, such as those listed above, it is also crucial that we protect and enhance those already present. It is estimated that nature-based solutions can provide 37% of the mitigation until 2030 to

⁴ <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2020/05/5-reasons-why-biodiversity-matters-human-health-economies-business-wellbeing-coronavirus-covid19-animals-nature-ecosystems/>

⁵ <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment/what-we-do-to-help-environment/Documents/indigenous-biodiversity-strategy.pdf%20>

⁶ https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?5226891/nature-based-solutions-UNEA

⁷ <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/tukua-nga-awa-kia-rere-making-room-rivers>

⁸ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/72d6e8ed-90ff-4f61-a54b-00e57e3c4ad3>

⁹ https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/sites/default/files/2022-02/Every%20Wetland%20Counts%20brochure_1.pdf

achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement¹⁰. The opportunity nature-based solutions provide the region must not be overlooked.

The continued investment from Council (such as local board funding and contestable grants) enables the community to create and maintain these natural assets and is crucial as the city addresses biodiversity loss, climate change mitigations and adaption and the challenge of maintaining vibrant liveable cities.

Recommended Budget Decisions

Biodiversity

While we appreciate current efforts by Auckland Council to protect the regions precious biodiversity, we believe the resourcing of these efforts could be significantly increased. A report released by the Environmental Defence Society last year highlighted the unfortunate fact that Auckland Council is allocating only 1.5% of rates revenue directly to biodiversity¹¹. This positions Auckland Council second to last of all regional and unitary councils, only behind Environment Southland, for relative biodiversity spending. Given the regions rapidly growing population and urban environment, coupled with the degraded environmental measures (as mentioned above), it's essential that the Council appropriately fund biodiversity. To meet the national biodiversity spending average of 5.3%, Auckland Council would need to make significant adjustments across the budget, prioritising rates income to ensure the life-supporting capacity provided by healthy biodiversity remains. We know that appropriately resourcing this spending now will save ratepayers in the future¹².

We call on Council to increase support for frontline, volunteer powered communities by ensuring local boards are adequately funded and grants are available. Grants and investment into community-led conservation initiatives provide great value to Aucklanders. For every dollar that Council invests we get back many more volunteer hours and additional funding (see Appendix 1).

Freshwater and flood resilience

We call on Council to prioritise:

- Protecting communities and enhancing environmental health by ensuring funding for Making Space for Water is complete and sustainable.
- Increasing resourcing, ideally through 'user pays', for compliance monitoring relevant to significant earthworks to decrease sedimentation in the regions fresh water and marine environment.
- Implement and fund a nature-based solutions strategy to ensure freshwater and the wider natural environment is protected as the regions urban area grows.

¹⁰ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/05/19/what-you-need-to-know-about-nature-based-solutions-to-climate-change#:~:text=Nature%2Dbased%20solutions%20are%20actions,well%2Dbeing%20and%20biodiversity%20benefits>

¹¹ <https://eds.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Restoring-Nature-Report-FINAL-web.pdf> Figure 11.4

¹² <https://wwwf.org.nz/sites/default/files/2024-11/A%20Nature%20Positive%20Aotearoa.pdf>

Local board priorities

Forest & Bird support the following local board priorities throughout the region:

- Funding and support for community driven environmental work (e.g., habitat restoration, plant and animal pest control).
- Funding and support for community groups that focus on climate action (e.g., waste, active transport, education, etc).
- Growth of active transport networks such as cycleways and walkways.
- Establishment and development of green corridors.
- Development and implementation of Climate Action Plans.
- Circular economy strategies and actions.

As previously stated, grants and investment into community services provide great value to Aucklanders. Many local boards invest a significant amount into support for local community conservation to protect taonga species or landscapes. Efforts like these are important for both nature and communities, enabling and empowering residents to take action for themselves, increasing ownership of our environmental challenges across the community, resulting in more long-term sustainability for conservation activity.

Branch Feedback

The below section of our submission provides localised feedback, specifically relevant to the North Shore branch area, covering the Eastern half of Upper Harbour Local Board, East Coast bays Subdivision of Hibiscus and Bays Local Board, Kaipātiki Local Board, and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board. The feedback has been collated by volunteer members of the branch, those that do the boots on the ground mahi.

Northshore Branch

Our submission points relate specifically to the activities of Auckland Council within this area whether delivered by the Governing Body, Local Boards, or CCOs. For regional matters the branch supports the above submission points.

The North Shore is a significant place for wildlife in Auckland. We are a key supporter of the North West Wildlink¹³ that should provide an ecological corridor that is safe, healthy, and connected, between the predator free islands of the Hauraki Gulf and the Waitākere Ranges. And with the Waitematā Harbour on our west coast and Hauraki Gulf on our east coast we have a range of habitats for marine life, sea and shore birds, and freshwater species. We are also in a part of Auckland that is growing with intensification. Our desire is that as we grow our neighbourhoods become places where both people and nature can thrive.

To do this we ask that all of Auckland Council invests in:

- Re-establishing the North West Wildlink as a goal in managing ecological outcomes within North Auckland.

¹³ <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/projects/north-west-wildlink>

- The acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of public space that provides sustainable recreation opportunities for communities while also creating habitats for wildlife that are safe, healthy, and connected.
- Support for the community lead restoration networks; Restoring Takarunga Hauraki, Pupuke Birdsong, Pest Free Kaipātiki, Upper Waitematā Ecology Network, and Restore Hibiscus & Bays; and the groups within these networks; that are coordinating landscape scale ecological volunteer work within local neighbourhoods.
- Council and NGO programs and services that support our communities to live sustainably alongside nature; such as community rangers and community recycling centres.

Conclusion

The current Annual Plan proposal is not consistent with Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri, Auckland's Climate Plan or Auckland Council's responsibility to address climate change and urgently reduce emissions. As Aotearoa New Zealand's largest Council, responsible for our biggest city, Auckland Council has a crucial role to play in helping the nation meet our climate obligations. We must also ensure action is taken to protect our amazing natural environment and the precious species which call it home, so, in turn, Papatūānuku can protect us.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit and look forward to seeing a shift in priorities.

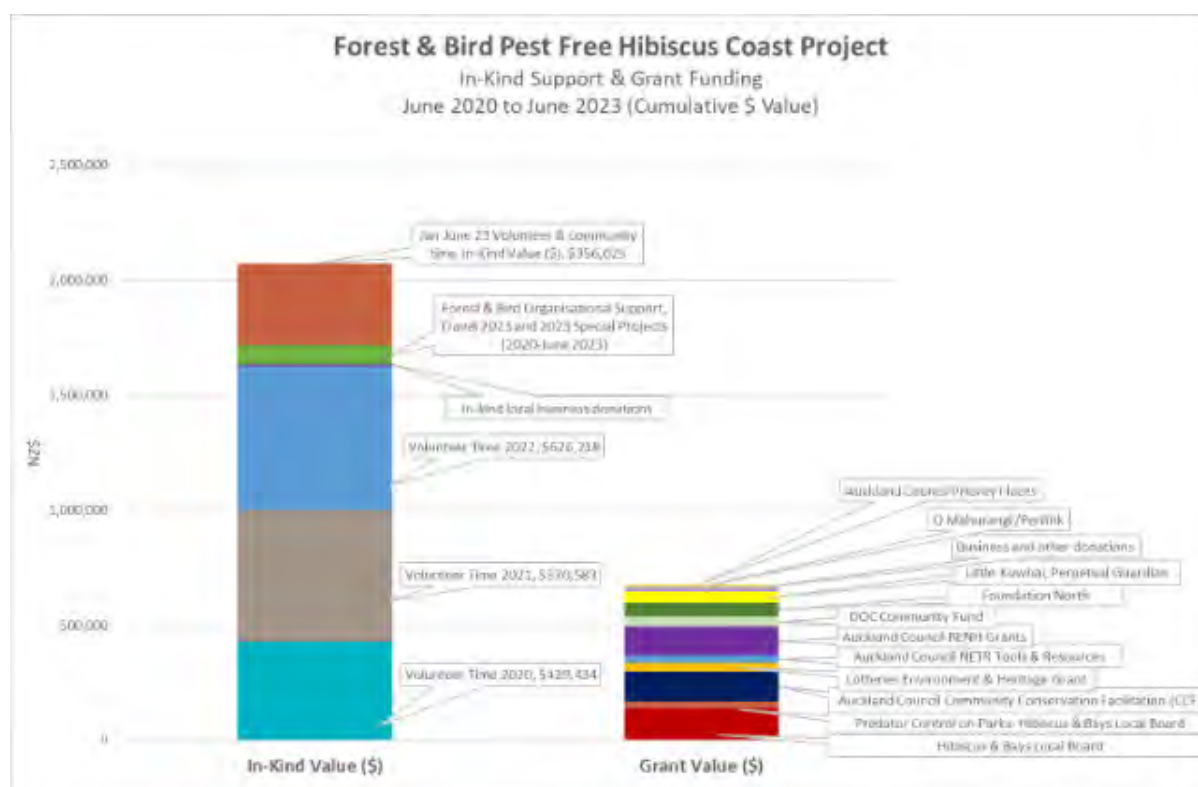
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regional Conservation Manager - Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.

Appendix 1. Cost Benefit



It's clear that Forest & Bird and the many other groups that leverage private funding and volunteer time to help deliver conservation outcomes on Council land boosts the effectiveness of Council spending. This mahi also increases the resilience of Auckland by helping to restore and protect forest cover, wetlands and stream margins – all valuable nature-based solutions.

To better understand the financial benefit of the thousands of hours that volunteers put into carrying out this essential work, we can use the example above (of Pest Free Hibiscus Coast) and the example of the Pest Free Waitakere Ranges Alliance, which carried out 57,510 hours in 2023 equating to almost 1.5 million dollars' worth of mahi.

As illustrated above, the Council is getting millions worth of output at very little cost. Without volunteers, the work would have to be done by Council staff and/or contractors, costing ratepayers millions a year. We think it's crucial that these numbers are understood and considered by those making such significant financial decisions.

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): Airbnb

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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



Submission to Auckland Annual Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Auckland's Annual Plan. Airbnb is committed to working with Auckland Council and the wider community to put in place policy settings and initiatives that deliver positive outcomes for local jobs, the recovery of the tourism economy, and the community. With the resumption of domestic and international travel in New Zealand, we are keen to support the efforts of local policy-makers to ensure that the visitor economy in communities across the district remains sustainable and competitive.

Airbnb's community of hosts and guests are vital contributors to the region's economy, supporting ancillary services and tourism operators throughout the area. Our community of Hosts in Auckland — everyday Kiwis who are passionate about showing off their communities — are eager to do their part to help grow jobs sustainably into the future through responsible hosting.

Executive Summary

- Airbnb's community has a strong track record of growing the visitor economy in Auckland, providing more choice of accommodation for consumers in more locations across a variety of price points. In the 12 months to 31 December 2024, our host community welcomed almost 505,000 guests throughout the city.¹
- Airbnb's community brings valuable tourism dollars to communities throughout the region. In 2022, Airbnb guests who stayed in Auckland spent an estimated \$656 million, which supported 4,700 jobs in brick-and-mortar businesses such as cafes, restaurants, and retailers, according to research by Oxford Economics.²
- Airbnb strongly supports the council's intention to work with central government to enable the introduction of a visitor levy alongside our proposed [National Framework](#)

About Airbnb

Airbnb was born in 2007 when two hosts welcomed three guests to their San Francisco home, and has since grown to over 5 million hosts who have welcomed more than 2 billion guest arrivals in almost every country across the globe. Every day, hosts offer unique stays and one-of-a-kind activities that make it possible for guests to experience the world in a more authentic, connected way.

The Airbnb community in Auckland

Airbnb's community has a strong track record of growing the visitor economy in Auckland, providing more choice of accommodation for consumers in more locations across a variety of

¹ Internal Airbnb data from the 12 months to 31 December 2024

² Oxford Economics Report "The Economic Impact of Airbnb in New Zealand", November 2023



price points. In the 12 months to 31 December 2024, our host community welcomed almost 505,000 guests throughout the city.³

Economic contribution of Airbnb to the local community

Airbnb has a large community of hosts throughout Auckland for whom sharing their home is now part of their lifestyle. The majority of our hosts are ‘mum and dad’ operators looking to supplement their income or subsidise their own travel, with many hit hard by the rising cost of living.⁴ As the Council would be well aware, tourism is playing a crucial role in driving the region’s economic activity, helping to empower local communities to share in the benefits and welcome new visitors to their neighbourhoods.

In 2022, Airbnb guests who stayed in Auckland spent an estimated \$656 million, which supported 4,700 jobs in brick-and-mortar businesses such as cafes, restaurants, and retailers, according to research by Oxford Economics.⁵

Increasing the benefits of events tourism — resilience and innovation

Throughout the region, the Airbnb community can help grow tourism through the creation of unique accommodation supply. The surge capacity which the Airbnb community can provide during major events — such as sporting events, agricultural exhibitions, music festivals or business conferences — presents opportunities for attracting and hosting major events in both cities and regional towns, and in turn supporting the recovery of tourism.

The benefit of having RVA in a local community ensures that visitor numbers can be maximised when traditional forms of accommodation are exhausted and have reached capacity. The elasticity in supply which RVA can provide for major events is something which can result in more guests and a higher visitor spend for the local community.

Collaboration and partnership to future proof tourism

Airbnb has been at the forefront of driving the recovery of tourism across New Zealand through partnerships to promote hosting on Airbnb and visitation to New Zealand’s most stunning destinations. We see increased collaboration and future partnership opportunities as the means to help maximise the success of hosts on Airbnb to offer local, authentic, people-powered travel and creating attractive, resilient, and sustainable destinations.

We welcome opportunities to continue partnering with destinations on ways to sustainably grow the visitor economy in the region. Whether that’s local councils, destination marketing organisations, or local event organisers, we are open to opportunities to collaborate so that the future of tourism is bright.

³ Internal Airbnb data from the 12 months to 31 December 2024

⁴ Internal Airbnb data as at 17 March 2025

⁵ Oxford Economics Report “The Economic Impact of Airbnb in New Zealand”

**Auckland Annual Plan**

Airbnb welcomes the opportunity to comment on Auckland's Annual Plan.

Overall we support the council's intention to work with central government to enable the introduction of a visitor levy as part of a broader suite of regulatory measures for RVA.

Visitor Levy

Our [National Framework](#) lays out a set of regulatory principles that seek to unlock the potential of RVA whilst balancing the needs of individual communities. As part of those measures, Airbnb proposes a visitor levy which would provide councils around Aotearoa with the funding necessary to invest in tourism infrastructure.

There is broad support across the wider accommodation sector via Tourism Industry Aotearoa's (TIA) Accommodation Forum to implement this type of funding arrangement and Airbnb supports the council's efforts to advocate to central government for the legislation necessary to enable the implementation of a visitor levy. Airbnb believes that central government support will be required to successfully implement the collection and remission of a levy. We welcome further discussions on how we can best implement this proposal as well as the necessary legislative tools required for successful implementation.

Conclusion

Tourism is a crucial and resilient part of the economy and the path ahead to create new and lasting jobs will require forward-looking regulatory reform and innovative thinking. For the reasons outlined, Airbnb supports discussions on how we can support the council's intention to advocate for a visitor levy as well as provide examples of best practice from other similar markets.

Airbnb is also committed to working with the council to help achieve the right national regulatory settings and compliance measures to enable the home sharing economy to grow sustainably with clear rules which are easy to understand and comply with. Auckland is a leader in this space and uniquely placed as the largest council by population to demonstrate its commitment to innovative, fit for purpose regulation. We believe working collaboratively with governments and communities is the best way to optimise the value proposition of home sharing as an economic solution that encompasses the following:

- empowers people to earn;
- expands and enriches travel for consumers; and
- strengthens communities through sustainable tourism that supports jobs, promotes neighbourhoods and generates new revenue.



Airbnb wants to ensure that as tourism continues to thrive in Auckland, local people and the communities they live in are the primary beneficiaries.

We would be pleased to engage in discussions on these issues and provide additional information which would be helpful to the council's deliberations.

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): Animal Justice Party Aotearoa New Zealand

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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- 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?

Support most

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.

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?

Albert-Eden Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026 however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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?

Increasing our community programmes that are delivered from our libraries and community centres in Pt Chevalier Mt Albert Sandringham and Epsom.

Very important

Supporting our community leasing groups to be able to share their space and be sustainable over time so they can continue to provide their great range of community services and activities.

Very important

Supporting our business associations and vibrant town centres so people can live work shop and play in our local villages.

Very important

Talking with young people and children to better understand what is important to them in their area.

Very important

Increasing neighbourhood safety and resilience community wellbeing and emergency preparedness.

Very important

Reducing waste and increasing the profile and impact of Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre.

Very important

Delivering on concept and restoration plans we have made for local parks and trialling a portable pump track to move around parks in our area.

Very important

Increasing the number of local events arts and activations especially in local parks and town centres.

Very important

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

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 see attached document

The Animal Justice Party appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's proposed Annual Plan for 2025/2026. While we acknowledge the plan's focus on transport, water, and fairer funding for local communities, we urge the Council to prioritise increased funding for animal wellbeing, particularly in the following areas:

1. Central Government Funding for 'Man's Best Friend'

- We call for the central government to provide dedicated funding to support dog wellbeing, including desexing initiatives, improved pound facilities, and responsible ownership education.
- Without urgent intervention, Auckland's dog population will continue to rise inexorably, worsening the current crisis caused by our ineffective 'bottom of the cliff' approach.

2. Cat and Dog Desexing Initiatives

- Allocating additional funding to subsidise the desexing of cats and dogs, particularly for low-income households, to reduce the number of stray and unwanted animals.
- Partnering with veterinary clinics and animal organisations to make desexing services more accessible and affordable.

3. Improved Dog Pound Facilities and Reduced Killing Rates

- Addressing the alarming killing rate of 48% in Auckland pounds compared to just 8% in New South Wales, Australia.
- Increasing funding to improve the capacity, conditions, and rehabilitation efforts in dog pounds to give impounded animals a better chance of adoption.
- Implementing evidence-based programs to reduce the need for killing, such as behavior training, rehoming initiatives, and fostering networks.

4. Education on Responsible Dog Ownership


- Investing in community outreach and education programs to promote responsible dog ownership, covering topics such as training, socialisation, containment, and legal obligations.
- Supporting schools and community groups in delivering educational workshops to foster responsible pet ownership from a young age.

5. Transparent Monthly Reporting on Dog Killings in Council Pounds

- Introducing mandatory monthly reporting on the number of dogs killed, rehomed, or returned to owners in Auckland Council's animal shelters.
- Requiring reporting on the reasons for each killing, ensuring greater transparency and accountability in decision-making.
- Redeveloping the 'behavioural test' used to determine a dog's fate to ensure it is fair, scientifically sound, and does not disproportionately lead to unnecessary killings.

Dogs are truly man's best friend, yet Auckland's current approach fails them. Without bold action and proper funding, we will continue down an unsustainable and inhumane path. Increased investment in these areas will not only improve the lives of countless animals but also benefit Aucklanders by reducing stray populations, preventing attacks, and fostering a culture of responsible pet ownership.

We urge Auckland Council to commit to these crucial measures and ensure that animal wellbeing is treated as a priority in the Annual Plan 2025/2026.


Executive President, Animal Justice Party

Auckland Council
Annual Plan 2025/2026 Consultation Team

Subject: Submission on the Auckland Council Annual Plan 2025/2026 – Increased Funding for Animal Wellbeing

Dear Auckland Council,

The Animal Justice Party appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's proposed Annual Plan for 2025/2026. While we acknowledge the plan's focus on transport, water, and fairer funding for local communities, we urge the Council to prioritise increased funding for animal wellbeing, particularly in the following areas:

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 - Allocating additional funding to subsidise the desexing of cats and dogs, particularly for low-income households, to reduce the number of stray and unwanted animals.
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4. **Education on Responsible Dog Ownership**
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 - Supporting schools and community groups in delivering educational workshops to

foster responsible pet ownership from a young age.

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We urge Auckland Council to commit to these crucial measures and ensure that animal wellbeing is treated as a priority in the Annual Plan 2025/2026.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Nga mihi,

[REDACTED]

Executive President, Animal Justice Party

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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): Tamaoho Settlement Trust

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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

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- 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?

Support most

Tell us why

The Ngāti Tamaoho Settlement Trust:

- Urges the Council to implement its strategic direction for the Manukau Harbour. The aim should be to catalyse the shifts advocated by the Manukau Harbour Forum and ensure that Auckland

Council's planning, environment and parks committee's intentions flow through to action. Now that the strategic direction has been agreed to, it's appropriate that funding be allocated to the joint work programme and to support partnering with Ngāti Tamaoho in the delivery of that joint work programme.

- Urge the Council to regenerate Manurewa and Ōtāhuhu. They are the hubs of the south, and well-connected with social and transport infrastructure, but have been left behind. Many of our whānau live in these areas and would likely be positively and disproportionately impacted by this. It would be appropriate to, at least, investigating the merits (through funding a business case) of this initiative, in 2025-26.

- Building on last year's success, seeks more funding to increase the number and visibility of Matariki events. It would be opportune to also enable community groups who provide environmental restoration and youth activities to leverage this funding, with a view to those initiatives promoting Matariki-related outcomes, given the anticipated defunding of these initiatives by local boards across South Auckland.

- Increased investment for Māori outcomes, particularly through the Marae Infrastructure Programme. The programme's priorities no longer reflect the risks that are most pressing for marae, including sea level rise, which is set to disproportionately impact our marae. Whātāpaka is currently the only Tamaoho marae eligible for funding and is likely to be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. More investment may support infrastructure necessary for marae-driven and led transition.

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.

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?

Franklin, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Papakura

Franklin Local Board Priorities

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, however there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which may need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

The Ngāti Tamaoho Settlement Trust:

- Acknowledges the board's success in securing fairer funding.
- Acknowledges the board's support of the regeneration of Pukekohe Town Centre.
- Urges the board to maintain the current momentum of the Franklin Ngahere Plan's implementation, and use the additional funding to partner with Ngāti Tamaoho to ensure Ngāti Tamaoho's identity and history are visible in those public spaces.
- Urges the board to partner with Ngāti Tamaoho in the design and development of the Franklin Paths Programme initiatives.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Delivery of Auckland Council Community Hub Services (library, arts, and customer services) in Beachlands and Clevedon

Less important

Extending and improving service outreach to isolated communities like Āwhitu, Ōrere, Glenbrook Beach, Paparimu and Kawakawa Bay

Less important

Accelerated delivery on the Sports and Recreational Plan, and additional grant funding for Karaka Sports Park and the Te Puru Sports Centre

Less important

Initiatives that improve the quality of the water in our streams and rivers and our environment through pest eradication programmes

Very important

Accelerated planting of trees in public places i.e. delivery of the Franklin Ngahere Plan

Very important

Continued delivery of the targeted rate funded Franklin Paths Programme.

Very important

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

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?

Tell us why

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

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)

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

Work on plans to upgrade Catherine Plaza

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

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

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu 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 most

Tell us why

The Ngāti Tamaoho Settlement Trust:

- Acknowledges the board's leadership with Sustainability in Schools.
- Acknowledges investment to engage local iwi and Māori groups to plan initiatives with a te ao Māori focus.
- Urges the board to partner with Ngāti Tamaoho to ensure Ngāti Tamaoho's identity and history are visible in public spaces, including in Massey Park and the Ōtāhuhu War Memorial.
- Urges the board to leave dog-roaming surveillance to the governing body.
- Urges the board to leave anti-social behaviour to Police and Kāinga Ora.
- Urges the board to prioritise funding for pools and leisure facilities, environmental restoration, and youth activities.
- Supports disestablishment of the Māngere East Village Business Improvement District programme and associated BID targeted rate, and urge the board include MEVBA engaging with Ngāti Tamaoho as a condition for re-establishment.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Explore a site for a recycling centre

Less important

Local playground improvements in areas like Mangere Bridge

Fairly important

Maintain local road safety with limited budgets

Fairly important

More support to volunteer networks

Fairly important

Push to deliver local business initiatives.

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 are seeking 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)

Libraries and Pools and Leisure facilities - opening hours and services, Local water quality activities

Māngere East Village Business Improvement District (BID) programme

A BID is a local economic development initiative run by a business association under the Auckland Council BID Policy (2022). It involves businesses in a defined area paying a targeted rate to fund specific services or projects in their BID boundary. The Māngere East Village Business Association Society Inc. (MEVBA) has failed to meet key BID Policy requirements, including accountability reporting, AGM minutes, strategic plan, and appointing a BID Manager. MEVBA also breached its constitution and did not notify the council of non-compliance. The Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board is now considering terminating the BID programme and targeted rate, with the possibility of re-establishing a compliant BID programme in the future if conditions are met.

Do you think we should end the Māngere East Village Business Improvement District (BID) programme and associated BID targeted rate?

Yes

Tell us why**Manurewa Local Board Priorities**

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

The Ngāti Tamaoho Settlement Trust:

- Supports boosting amount of funding available for community grants.
- Supports expanding the number of funded initiatives that respond to the needs and aspirations of children and young people.
- Supports the board in implementing fenced dog exercise areas, with priority given to areas anticipated for higher density housing and Kāinga Ora housing (i.e. where they are likely to have dogs and no private open space).
- Urges the board to leave anti-social behaviour to Police and Kāinga Ora.
- Urges the board to partner with Ngāti Tamaoho to ensure Ngāti Tamaoho's identity and history are visible in public spaces, including in Tōtara Park and the Auckland Botanic Gardens.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Increasing the levels of service for maintenance and repair of all assets across buildings, parks, open spaces and sports fields, town centre cleaning, street litter bin emptying, vegetation clearance, and berm mowing works

Less important

Improving sports fields including maintenance, sand-carpeting and lighting

Fairly important

Identifying ways to support the council's response to roaming dogs

Less important

Boosting the amount of funding available for community grants so more projects and initiatives can be delivered by community, arts and sports groups

Very important

Expanding the number of funded initiatives that respond to the needs and aspirations of children and young people

Very important

Developing tailored community partnerships with key groups, organisations and networks where their interests and priorities are aligned to outcomes in the Manurewa Local Board Plan 2027

Very important

Providing the Pacific community with capacity support, and a grant to undertake feasibility and concept plans to deliver the Pacific hub on Clendon Reserve

Very important

Scaling up the work being delivered to achieve environmental outcomes

Very important

Investigating the need to extend the opening hours in our community facilities such as the two libraries, the pool and leisure centre and Nathan Homestead

Very important

Funding initiatives that stimulate economic growth and generate prosperity in Manurewa.

Very important

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

Fenced Dog Exercise Areas

Do you think we should investigate providing fenced dog exercise areas?

Yes

Tell us why

Ōtara-Papatoetoe 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 most

Tell us why

The Tamaoho Settlement Trust:

- Acknowledges the board's focus on increasing the local ngahere.
- Supports ensuring Māori culture and the values of mātauranga Māori are visible in public spaces, including the Manukau Sports Bowl, through programmes such as Te Ketekete Rukuruku. Also support prioritising planning for delivery of facilities at the Manukau Sports Bowl.
- Supports supporting local environment groups to work collaboratively with community volunteers in efforts to clean, manage and plant local reserves and open spaces.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Ensuring Māori culture and the values of mātauranga Māori are visible in public spaces

Very important

Addressing safety concerns in neighbourhoods, common areas and town centres

Very important

Delivering on increased local economic outcomes

Very important

Supporting small businesses to act on environmental sustainability

Very important

Progressing the planning for options to address community service needs in Old Papatoetoe

Very important

Supporting local environment groups to work collaboratively with community volunteers in efforts to clean, manage and plant our local reserves and open spaces

Very important

Planning for the delivery of facilities at Manukau Sports Bowl

Very important

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

Manukau Sports Bowl**Do you support prioritising the planning for delivery of facilities at Manukau Sports Bowl?**

(This may include exploring alternate sources of revenue, such as a targeted rate in future years)

Yes

Tell us why

Hunters Corner Business Improvement District

For the 2024/2025 financial year, the Governing Body did not set a targeted rate for the Hunters Corner Business Improvement District. This was due to the Hunters Corner Town Centre Society Inc (HTCTS) not complying with the BID Policy. If the HTCTS remains non-compliant with the BID Policy by April 2025, council will not set the rate for 2025/2026.

Do you have any comments on the Hunters Corner Business Improvement District?

To help the local board understand priorities and areas of importance for the community, we are seeking 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)

Environmental restoration, volunteers, and pest control activities, Local water quality activities, Youth activities

Which three of our services are least important to you? (select up to three)**Papakura Local Board Priorities**

The local board has additional funding in 2025/2026, but there are unavoidable increases in the cost of existing services which will need to be considered alongside the additional funding.

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

Support most

Tell us why

The Tamaoho Settlement Trust:

- Acknowledges the board for its work with Papakura Marae in relation to Te Koiwi Reserve.
- Urges the board to advocate for access to legacy parking fund for public transport projects.
- Urges the board to prioritise funding for pools and leisure facilities, environmental restoration, and youth activities.

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Progressing some of the new Sports and Recreation Plan, economic development, and youth projects identified from the work being completed in 2024/2029

Fairly important

Requesting strategic assessments to understand needs relating to: Opaheke sports and passive parks; Awakeri Wetlands; Kuhanui Reserve, Karaka; Park Estate Reserve, Park Green; new play facilities at Pulman Park, and the Greenways/Local Paths Plan

Very important

Advocating for access to the legacy parking fund for carparking projects

Less important

Assisting the Takanini Business Association's proposed establishment of a Business Improvement District (BID) programme and BID targeted rate for Takanini

Less 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)

Libraries and Pools and Leisure facilities - opening hours and services ,Environmental restoration, volunteers and pest control activities,Local water quality activities

Takanini Business Improvement District (BID)

We continue to support the Papakura and Takanini Business Associations to grow and develop businesses, and to make the town centres more lively. Takanini Business Association is seeking to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) programme. If it is successful, business

ratepayers and owners located within the BID establishment area will become members of the Takanini BID programme and pay the associated BID target rate.

Do you think we should establish a Takanini Business Improvement District (BID) programme and associated BID targeted rate?

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



#7893



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): STEPS

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

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?

Other

Tell us why

N/A

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?

Albert-Eden, Waitematā

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

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

Tell us why

I don't know

Tell us why

STEPS

STEPS urges WLB to balance priorities for the natural world vs. built heritage. Please support volunteers working on your awa, and the fauna and flora who live there.

STEPS is disappointed to note that WLB plans to reduce spending on:

Community climate action and sustainability activities

• Environmental restoration, volunteers, and pest control

activities; • Local events; • Grants; • Local water quality improvement activities

Our priorities for 2025/2026 are listed below.

How important are these priorities to you?

Prioritising and investigating flood resilience actions for our parks such as Western Park and Grey Lynn Park

Fairly important

Delivering footpath improvements for Auckland Domain

Starting construction for Leys Institute

Delivery of Heard Park Civic Space

Prioritising sport and recreation opportunities for groups that have less

Investigating transition of Grey Lynn Paddling Pool into a seasonal splashpad

Community services programming to enhance perceptions of safety

Support for ending homelessness in Auckland.

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 are seeking feedback on areas that are 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)

Environmental restoration, volunteers and pest control activities, Grants, Local water quality activities

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

STEPS has outlined our support for catchment restoration, stormwater plans, WIQWIP, Natural Environment, volunteers, grants and Chamberlain Park ecological creek and rock forest restoration in the attached document.

Introduction:

We, St Lukes Environmental Protection Society Inc. (STEPS), wish to make a submission on the Auckland Council (AC) Annual Plan (AP).

- The focus of STEPS' work is the health of the community and the environment of Waititiko-Meola Creek in Auckland. We have established a spring-fed wetland, maintain several lava forest sites, and perform regular water quality monitoring with Wai Care.
- Spring-fed Meola Creek has become one of NZ's most polluted urban streams, transporting over 1 million cubic meters of stormwater-driven sewage overflows flowing into Waitemata Harbour each year.
- Ngā Ana Wai became known as the "Cabbage Tree Swamp" area of wetlands and lava forests, later reduced to Gribblehirst Park and Eden Park. Restoration of wetlands and retention of fresh water are much needed as groundwater depletes.
- STEPS advocates for fresh water policy and standards, and has submitted on fresh water several times over the past 20 years.
- We are vitally interested in the progress on the Western Isthmus Water Quality Project, and Water Quality across Auckland. We see "renewals" by both Watercare and Healthy Waters as having high priority from now on, a vital part of "business as usual." We are keen to see optimal investment in Water Quality.
- We also carry out and advocate for restoration of rare and high-value Auckland ecosystems such as lava rock forest and wetlands. We aim to work with Auckland Council to connect Meola Creek from "mountain to sea," for the benefit of birds, humans and the creek's ecosystems. The Auckland Unitary Plan recognises both Outstanding Natural Features, and Significant Ecological areas along this creek. Around 80% of Waititiko-Meola Creek lies within Albert Eden Local Board (LB), and 20% in Waitematā LB.

This submission has the following structure:

- Q1 Overall Plan
- Q4 Local boards - Albert Eden & Waitematā

We support the submissions of Friends of Oakley Creek and SASOC (Stop Auckland Sewage Overflows Coalition).

Co-Chair

St Lukes Environmental Protection Society Inc.

1. 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.*

STEPS Supports :

A. Local Boards

- Fairer funding for local communities. We understand this will give more funding to Albert Eden Local Board (AELB).
- Land Acquisitions (p14) in Albert Eden to redress the serious lack of park land. The area of parks per capita in AELB is far lower than both the NZ average and Auckland average amount of land. We want to see AC supporting groups like STEPS to restore many more Tamaki Makaurau wetlands as a means of accommodating climate change and enhancing our landscape.

B. Water: (p11)

1. Completion of Central Interceptor (CI) and Link sewers

The imminent separation of Watercare loans from those of the Council will provide greater flexibility for Council's borrowing program. Watercare will be able to borrow at cheaper rates than Auckland Council debt which is good for water and waste water investment.

Requests of Auckland Council

- Ensure all provisions and arrangements from the 2024 LTP are included in the proposed 2025/26 plan for Healthy Waters.
- Ensure the Healthy Waters 2025/26 finalised AP includes the \$52M expenditure for isthmus infrastructure upgrades as envisaged in the LTP via the WQTR (water quality targeted rate) process.
- Ensure the concept of funding future isthmus infrastructure via the targeted rate methodology, by borrowing for the infrastructure upgrades, and incorporating only the interest payable on those borrowings as the WQTR is applied.
- Ensure that any interest charged via the WQTR is from expenditure envisaged and incurred as per the 2024 LTP.

Lack of information

- The information available for the 2025/26 AP has no draft budgets attached. Enquiries with the AC Healthy Waters department confirmed that no draft budgets are available. It is difficult to comment on the AP without some idea of the budgeted items.

STEPS Recommendations:

Future APs do include draft budgets which would promote informed public commentary.

2. *Meola Creek Daylighting and awa restoration:*

www.meolacreek.org.nz
<https://facebook.com/STEPSNZ>

Please refer to Q4 below Albert Eden LB and STEPS recommendation for a “whole of catchment restoration plan.”

STEPS Supports :

C. Natural Environment (p11)

- Meet obligations in Regional Pest management plan, extend targeted rate
- Implement kauri dieback program
- Marine biosecurity, increased surveillance, and monitoring pests

Request of Auckland Council

Pest Plant Targets and Spending

Meola Creek has a serious problem with emergent aquatic weeds including alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), sometimes called “the world’s worst weed,” and water celery (*Helosciadium nodiflorum*). We have been advised that they will only be removed if they block the flow of the creek. We are told that Conservation Advisors do not focus on such weeds on the Auckland Isthmus.

STEPS believes that while they are newly emergent weeds, we have a chance to keep them out of this creek and prevent the spread to other creeks. Without control, we are condemning future generations to weed-infested creeks, and serious impacts on native habitat.

2025/26 STEPS Recommendations:

Include both emergent aquatic weeds (*Alternanthera* and *Helosciadium*) on the regional pest database.

Put in place a program to eradicate these weeds as they emerge.

Continue ecological contracts controlling terrestrial weeds along Waititiko-Meola Creek riparian areas, including the restored rock forest at Chamberlain Park. (See Appendix 1).

STEPS Supports :

D. Reducing Corporate Emissions (p7)

STEPS Request: There is a lack of detail on carbon emissions and climate change.

STEPS last year submitted in the Long-Term Plan:

The LTP is unclear how much money AC will spend on climate change mitigation vs climate change adaptation. We believe this is important for people to understand.

We also noted with dismay that the current Emission Reduction Plan would require a CAPEX investment (over 10 years) of around \$76m (of which around \$70m are currently unfunded).

2025/26 STEPS Recommendations:

AC Emission Reduction Plan be fully funded

AC climate change mitigation and adaptation plans should also be reflected in infrastructure and financial strategies.

Information be provided in the annual plan and Long-Term Plan documents.

www.meolacreek.org.nz
<https://facebook.com/STEPSNZ>

Question 4: Local board priorities

4A. Which local board does your feedback relate to?

- Albert Eden Local Board, and Waitematā Local Board. We appreciate the support given by both boards.

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

Albert Eden Local Board (AELB):

STEPS Supports:

Local Parks Strategy and Planning: and “supporting projects that promote environmental restoration.”

What you have been doing: “funding volunteer restoration in our awa (streams) and parks, pest management and improving water quality,” and we trust you will continue this activity.

2025/26 STEPS Recommendations to AELB and Healthy Waters:

1. Whole of catchment restoration plan for Waititiko-Meola Creek is needed.

With progress of the Central Interceptor, Meola Creek will soon be of greater value to the community, and a strong community and ecological vision needs documenting to restore it from mountain to sea. This would complement programs such as Community Flood Resilience and Making Space for Water, and will be invaluable in a more uncertain future.

Key features:

Connecting Meola Creek from Mountain to Sea.

Access paths for the public. Document the aims, work areas, and contributions of different projects. Enable communications, and clarify steps and approaches.

Tohu or sign should be incorporated at all Waititiko-Meola Creek sites.

Creek Daylighting, wetland, puna and awa restoration:

- Meola Creek in Chamberlain Park – naturalisation of the current bare creek underlain by hot concrete and barred from public. This action plus riparian planting will reduce the temperature for improved habitat. (See Appendix 1.)
- We see opportunities for restoring more wetlands on Ahurangi, Roy Clements Treeway, and Gribblehirst Park.

We request AC to daylight and provide public access at:

- Mt Albert War Memorial Reserve (MAWMR). This is the foremost opportunity for daylighting on Waititiko-Meola Creek. It would provide significant community and ecological value to the area beside Rocket Park.
- Haverstock Rd CI site, Ahurangi. (Source spring and Watercare pipe running from Plant and Food to Kerr-Taylor Park.) Daylighting of Headwaters / Puna and walkway from Camden to Haverstock Rd. Making the puna visible and accessible to people will not only enhance ecological habitat, but also provide a new walkway in AELB which has very low per capita green space. See Appendix 2.

The case for daylighting the awa is illustrated by increased usage of open space by the public, with positive human health outcomes, and improvements for creek biota – birds,

plants, freshwater life. Two fine local examples are Te Auaunga and Avondale Stream at La Rosa. Auckland Council can do this!

- <https://worldlandscapearchitect.com/te-auaunga-daylights-seven-piped-tributaries/?v=b870c45f9584>
- <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks-recreation/Pages/park-details.aspx?Location=645>

10-year ecological restoration plans are needed for our three existing large sites:

- **Roy Clements Treeway** - following five years of disruptions, additional ongoing edge effects from Watercare Central Interceptor.
- **Chamberlain Rock forest and Meola Creek** - STEPS is the primary planner and planter in restoring 1 Ha of remnant rock forest, working with Te Ngahere on weeds.
- **Kanuka/ MOTAT** - including the remnant rock forest area, and linking up the creek riparian area below Western Springs College.
- Provision for a walking path from mountain to sea, to reconnect the creek for fauna and flora to thrive, and the public to enjoy.
- Ongoing pest management funding.

2. Chamberlain Park:

STEPS in conjunction with Watercare began restoration of 1 Ha of rock forest beside Meola Creek in 2018. We had expected that AELB would proceed with naturalising the creek (removing concrete bottom) prior to STEPS riparian planting. See Appendix 1 for the areas that need restoration.

- Please complete and deliver to local people the park on the western bank of Waititiko-Meola Creek in Chamberlain Park. This has been agreed by AELB several times over the past 15 years, and STEPS and the community have been waiting all this time.
- Please take over maintenance, and continue the ecological work done in the remnant rock forest by Watercare for the past five years: drilling and filling privet, and suppressing asparagus weed and other pests.

3. Environmental restoration, volunteers, and pest control activities.

Strengthening local community environmental groups. Funding and supporting these groups via ecological contracts, catchment-wide restoration plans, and grants. Meola Creek needs more weeding volunteer groups to complement AC efforts. STEPS needs paid coordinators for supervision and recruitment. We have done this alone for 20 years, and now need some funding.

Waitematā Local Board (WLB)

STEPS is disappointed to note that WLB plans to reduce spending on:

Community climate action and sustainability activities

- Environmental restoration, volunteers, and pest control activities;
- Local events;
- Grants;
- Local water quality improvement activities

We urge WLB to balance priorities for the natural world vs. built heritage. Please support volunteers working on your awa, and the fauna and flora who live there.

www.meolacreek.org.nz
<https://facebook.com/STEPSNZ>

Appendix 1

Meola Ecological Areas – Chamberlain Park



Source Minutes AELB 2023
Dec 6

Key: Meola Riparian and Lava Forest areas drawn on AC Maps of Chamberlain Park

○ Lava forest – enhanced STEPS/ Watercare

○ Riparian Area – ecological planting

STEPS volunteers plan to weed and restore plants in both the lava forest and riparian areas above.

Support needed from AC & AELB:

1. Albert Eden Local Board to complete the removal of privet as per the resource consent granted in 2018 to Watercare. The continuation of “drill and fill” techniques can be completed in 7 years, by which time native mahoe and the titoki/puriri canopy will keep weeds suppressed. Also need ecological contract to manage asparagus weed and other pests.
2. Albert Eden Local Board to provide public access to Waititiko-Meola Creek on the western side, by making the west bank a public park as the Board agreed. (2010, updated around 2019. Actions unclear to the community.)
3. AC Healthy Waters to naturalise Meola Creek from the Norgrove tunnel through to the motorway. [Daylighting and naturalisation have been done at Underwood & Walmsley. On Oakley Creek to much applause – both local and national. Here is a video showing the ‘before and after’ - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PejQ9V3-QoHsOL8bgvEt8NCO9OlVHXFa/view>]. The people of Albert Eden also deserve this approach on their spring-fed creek.

Appendix 2

Ahurangi - Daylighting of Headwaters / Puna and Walkway from Camden to Haverstock Rd.



Blue line shows puna/springs source, and awa – Ahurangi Meola Creek.
Green shows open riparian area including public access.

Land Ownership – Camden to Haverstock Rd.



Teal coloured land is AC CCO, Watercare land.

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): Heritage Hotel Management

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Do not support

Tell us why

We strongly oppose the introduction of a visitor bed night levy (bed tax) that unfairly targets hotels, while other businesses benefiting from tourism contribute nothing. While we acknowledge the need for sustainable funding mechanisms for tourism infrastructure, a selective levy on hotels alone is inequitable, short-sighted, and risks damaging the very industry that underpins the city's visitor economy.

The tourism industry is a significant economic driver, supporting not just hotels but also restaurants, bars, transport providers, retail stores, cultural attractions, and event venues. Visitors contribute to the local economy across multiple sectors, yet this proposal singles out hotels to bear the financial burden. This unfairly distorts competition and fails to recognise the broader ecosystem that benefits from visitor spending.

If the Council genuinely seeks to fund tourism infrastructure, it must look at a fair, comprehensive solution where all tourism-related businesses contribute proportionally. A targeted bed night levy does not achieve this.

As a hotel group, we are not opposed to a well-structured, nationwide accommodation levy that is legislated by central government, rather than implemented in a piecemeal manner by individual councils. A fragmented, city-by-city approach creates inconsistencies, additional compliance costs, and makes New Zealand a less attractive destination compared to our international competitors.

A nationally implemented levy would:

- Ensure consistency across all regions
- Avoid competitive disadvantage between cities
- Be fairly structured to include a broader base of contributors, including short-term rental platforms such as Airbnb, which currently evade many regulatory and tax burdens placed on traditional accommodation providers

We urge the Council to work collaboratively with the hotel industry to develop a sustainable, long-term funding model. Hoteliers are committed to solutions that support tourism development and infrastructure, but rejects being unfairly targeted.

We would also caution against this proposal being used as a political football. Policy decisions should be based on sound economic principles, fairness, and long-term planning—not used as a short-term revenue grab or politically expedient measure.

We strongly urge Council to:

- Pause any local bed night levy proposal until a national solution is developed.
- Work in good faith with the hotel industry to explore fairer, broader funding mechanisms.
- Advocate, with Hoteliers, to central government for a nationwide, structured accommodation levy rather than adopting an inconsistent local approach.

We welcome further engagement and discussion on this issue and remain committed to working with Council on a fair, effective solution that ensures the ongoing success of our city's tourism sector.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/why-auckland-council-leaders-calls-for-a-hotel-bed-tax-wont-help-attract-world-class-event-opinion/72BQ7DWQTJAQPIK7V5DI3DDDJ4/>

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

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): Auckland Philharmonia

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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- transport
- water
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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

See attached:

We request that Council maintain integrity and stability of funding major arts and water safety organisations through the Regional Amenities Fund legislation.

We request council support the investment in infrastructure, amenities, and services that ensures Auckland's status as a UNESCO City of Music.

We support an increase to rates that ensures Auckland's maintenance and sustainability as New Zealand's global city and largest economic driver.

Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Greater Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

Other

Tell us why

See attached:

Greater Auckland supports the rate rise to ensure funding is available for improvements for public transport and active modes. These improvements should be aimed at completing, as soon as possible:

- a minimum viable network for cycling
- the frequent transit network
- and the rapid transit network.

Additionally, we support funding for:

- urban regeneration work across Auckland
- completion of ongoing city centre projects, such as Te Hā Noa
- And full implementation of the City Centre Masterplan.

We also support funding for the restoration, maintenance and enhancement of our natural environment.

Finally, we support funding for events, economic development, and enhancement of community facilities, to ensure Auckland continues to be and become a vibrant place for people to live, work and connect with each other

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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.

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Tell us why

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

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Tell us here



#8537

Greater Auckland Inc. was established in 2015 to provide evidence-based commentary and encourage informed debate on transport and urban form issues. The Greater Auckland website began in 2008 as the “Auckland Transport Blog”, later simply “TransportBlog”.

We provide commentary and encourage informed and intelligent debate about transport and urban form issues in order to create a Greater Auckland. One which is a better place to live in, to move around, and to connect with others.

Submission on the Auckland Annual Plan 2025/2026

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Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Organisation (if applicable): Te Patukirikiri

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

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Local board priorities

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Tell us here

See Attached

Summary of Attachment:

Strengthening Iwi-Council Partnerships

Genuine Partnership: Move beyond consultation to genuine partnership with enhanced iwi involvement in decision-making.

Ngā Mātārae: Expand its capacity to support mana whenua and Māori communities.

Environmental Stewardship and Restoration

Environmental Initiatives: Support pest control, water quality improvements, and iwi-led restoration initiatives.

Mātauranga Māori: Embed Māori principles in environmental strategies.

Honouring Cultural Heritage and Māori Identity

Te Kete Rukuruku: Accelerate the restoration of traditional place names.

Cultural Investment: Increase investment in indigenous arts, marae development, and cultural festivals.

Economic Empowerment for Māori

Procurement Policies: Prioritize Māori businesses in Council's economic strategy.

Cultural Tourism: Develop a strategy to promote Māori heritage sites and sustainable opportunities.

Housing and Urban Development for Whānau

Papakāinga Support: Continue and increase funding for Māori-led housing developments.

Māori Housing Strategy: Co-develop a dedicated strategy for meaningful outcomes.

Strengthening Partnership Proposals

Iwi Representation: Embed iwi voices within Council committees and planning groups.

Co-Governance: Extend models to include more whenua and water resources.

Cultural Competency Training: Mandatory training for Council staff and officials.

Conclusion

Collaborative Relationship: Commitment to a future-focused relationship recognizing historical connections and shared responsibilities.

Te Patukirikiri Submission on Auckland Council Annual Plan 2025/2026**Tēnā koutou e te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau,**

Te Patukirikiri acknowledges the opportunity to contribute to the Auckland Council Annual Plan 2025/2026. As tangata whenua with deep and ancient ancestral ties to Tāmaki Makaurau, we embrace our role as kaitiaki, ensuring that the whenua, moana, and communities we cherish are protected and nurtured for future generations.

Our submission reflects our aspirations, concerns, and recommendations, centred on ensuring a stronger partnership between Council and its successor/s and iwi that uphold the principles and the Iwi intentions of Te Tiriti o Waitangi 1840.

Our Priorities and Aspirations**Strengthening Iwi-Council Partnerships**

While we acknowledge the commitments made towards Māori outcomes, we urge the Council to move beyond consultation and towards genuine partnership. We seek enhanced iwi and mana whenua involvement at every level of decision-making, particularly within local boards and key infrastructure projects.

Ngā Mātārae plays a crucial role in supporting mana whenua and Māori communities, and we propose expanding its capacity to ensure greater responsiveness to iwi priorities. Effective and transparent collaboration must be a core foundation of Council's approach to decision-making.

Environmental Stewardship and Restoration

Our whakapapa is intrinsically linked to our natural environment, and we strongly support initiatives that prioritize environmental and cultural protection. We commend the focus on pest control and water quality improvements and advocate for increased investment in co-designed, iwi-led restoration initiatives.

We encourage the Council to embed mātauranga Māori principles more deeply within environmental strategies, recognizing the holistic approaches that iwi has upheld for centuries. Further resourcing should be dedicated to stream restoration, biodiversity conservation, and marine protection, with meaningful iwi participation at the forefront.

Honouring Cultural Heritage and Māori Identity

Te reo Māori, tikanga, and our stories are integral to the identity of Tāmaki Makaurau. We acknowledge the ongoing support for the Te Kete Rukuruku initiative and advocate for additional investment to accelerate the restoration of traditional place names across the region.

Beyond place names, we urge the Council to amplify investment in indigenous arts, marae development, and cultural festivals, ensuring that our rich heritage is celebrated and sustained for generations to come.

Economic Empowerment for Māori

The economic prosperity of Tāmaki Makaurau must be inclusive of Māori enterprises, social enterprises, and iwi-led tourism. We call for stronger procurement policies that actively prioritize Māori businesses, ensuring that the Council’s economic strategy reflects genuine supplier diversity.

Additionally, we support the development of a robust cultural tourism strategy that safeguards and promotes significant Māori heritage sites while fostering sustainable opportunities for whānau and hapori.

Housing and Urban Development for Whānau

Access to safe, warm, and culturally appropriate housing remains a pressing issue for many of our whānau. While we acknowledge existing support for papakāinga and Māori-led housing developments, we urge continued and increased funding to ensure these projects thrive. The co-development of a dedicated Māori housing strategy must remain a priority to guarantee meaningful outcomes for our people.

Strengthening the Partnership Between Te Patukirikiri and Auckland Council

To solidify a future of shared success, we propose the following:

- **Formalized Iwi Representation:** Embed iwi voices within Council committees, local boards, and key planning groups to ensure meaningful participation in decision-making.
- **Expanded Co-Governance Arrangements:** Extend co-governance models beyond maunga and harbours to include additional whenua and water resources.
- **Mandatory Cultural Competency Training:** Require all Council staff and elected officials to undertake Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Ao Māori training, fostering greater understanding and respect for our role as mana whenua.

Conclusion

Te Patukirikiri stands committed to a collaborative and future-focused relationship with Auckland Council—one that recognizes the depth of our historical connection to Tāmaki Makaurau and our shared responsibility to uphold its prosperity. We welcome ongoing discussions to refine and implement these proposals in a way that benefits all Aucklanders, now and in the years to come.

Nāku noa, nā

[Redacted Signature]

Chairman
Te Patukirikiri Iwi Trust

[Redacted Name]



Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Organisation (if applicable): Honour the Maunga

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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Tell us why

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Tell us why

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

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(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

See attached:

Summary of Attachment:

Opposition to Tree Felling: Honour the Maunga does not support the plan to remove non-native trees from Ōwairaka and other maunga.

Transparency Request: They request transparency in the budget regarding expenditure on tree felling and vegetation planting.

Public Consultation Integrity: They emphasize the need for integrity in public consultation processes, noting that a significant majority of submissions oppose the tree felling.

Judicial Reviews: The submission highlights that there have been two judicial reviews initiated by the public against the tree felling, indicating strong public opposition.

Call for Amendments: They call for the operational plan and budget to be amended to remove references to tree felling and instead focus on positive and constructive activities.



**Honour the Maunga's submission on Tūpuna Maunga Authority's
Operational Plan and Budget 2024-25
and ten-year budget**

Honour the Maunga does NOT support the 2024-25 Operational Plan and Budget's "vegetation restoration" programme's intention to rid Ōwairaka and other maunga of non-native trees.

We request the "vegetation restoration" programme's budget is transparent around expenditure on a) tree felling and; b) vegetation planting.

We request that Tūpuna Maunga Authority and Auckland Council show integrity in their public consultation processes given that consultations on the TMA's Integrated Management Plan amendments and the TMA's annual operational plan and budget routinely attract around 94% (plus or minus 2%) of submissions stating they do not support the non-native trees to being felled.

We also note the Authority and Council have been subject to two judicial reviews initiated by members of the public who are concerned about the tree felling. This indicates the depth of public feeling against the tree felling aspect of the vegetation restoration programme.

The TMA's plans to rid Auckland's maunga of non-native trees is a highly unpopular and divisive action as shown by public protests, two judicial reviews, around 2000 submissions over the past four years, and the high degree of public negativity towards the TMA. We call upon the 2024-25 annual operational plan and budget to be amended to delete references to, and budget for, felling healthy mature trees and to instead divert those funds into positive, unifying and constructive activities.

The comments we make in this submission also apply to the Authority's ten-year budget.

We would like to give an oral submission.

Submission made on behalf of Honour the Maunga by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

28 March 2025

TABLE 2 – FUNDING ENVELOPE FOR THE TŪPUNA MAUNGA AUTHORITY
ENDORSED IN THE COUNCIL'S 10 YEAR BUDGET (LONG TERM PLAN)
2024-34

DRAFT LTP 2024-2034

Funding Envelope (\$000's)	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	Total
Net operating expenditure											
Net operating expenditure*	3,897	3,917	3,917	3,917	4,358	4,460	4,557	4,558	4,558	4,558	42,700
Consequential OPEX	188	196	256	256	261	266	272	72	75	79	1,921
Net operating expenditure total	4,085	4,114	4,173	4,173	4,619	4,727	4,829	4,630	4,634	4,637	44,621
Capital expenditure	9,395	9,820	12,780	12,800	13,056	13,317	13,583	3,584	3,764	3,952	96,052
Total LTP Funding Requirement 2024-34**	13,480	13,934	16,953	16,953	17,675	18,044	18,413	8,215	8,397	8,589	140,673

Notes:

* Net operating expenditure excludes depreciation

** Excludes inflation.

The budget for 2024/25 fits within the Auckland Council's 10-year budget (2024-34) funding envelope.

VALUE	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
MANA AOTŪROA / CULTURAL & HERITAGE	Interpretation and Wayfinding signs	Network wide programme to develop comprehensive site-specific interpretation and wayfinding signage	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
	Storytelling and Cultural Infrastructure	Network-wide programme to develop unique infrastructure that bring Mana Whenua stories and values to life on the Maunga	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$800,000
TAKOTORANGA / LANDSCAPE	Protection and restoration of integrity of the Tūpuna Maunga	Network-wide Vegetation Restoration programme to remove vegetation and reinstate and/or revegetate in accordance with the IMP.	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000

Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Organisation (if applicable): Rainbow Youth

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

Support all

Tell us why

See attached:

- Noted: Concerns regards safety for LGBGT community in public transport and spaces

- Noted: Concerns for our youth and LGBT community – high statistics on lack of housing and unemployment – help needed
- Noted: Supports grants for civic engagement and education – to increase participation in elections and council engagement
- Noted: Events – more needed – inclusive events
- Noted: Community hubs and spaces (libraries) seen as safe spaces for our community
- Noted: Increase Māori Wardens in key transport areas to increase safety.

Grant funding

We need to expand on community outreach to support participation among our community.

Our youth are disproportionately impacted by rising costs of living and are likely to have housing and employment issues.

Fund targeted programmes for increasing civic engagement for LGBT communities.

Transport

Exclusionary policies – Resent survey 59% of our Māori trans/ Takatapui feel unsafe on public transport.

Advocate to waka Kotahi for well-funded transport initiatives.

Prioritize transport programmes.

Events

Prioritize year-round community events

Community Hubs and facilities

Staff our community hubs so our youth have safe places to be in

Question 2: Destination management and major events

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Support

Tell us why

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Question 4:

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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

LTP Feedback reporting

Group: #3 Rainbow Youth

Feedback from Māori entities

Representative: [REDACTED] / [REDACTED]

Identify: Mataawaka

Notes from verbal presentation to Annual Budget discussion.

[REDACTED] provided opening mihi.

[REDACTED] Chair of meeting AC

15 Minute time allocation

- **Noted:** Concerns regards safety for LGBT community in public transport and spaces
- **Noted:** Concerns for our youth and LGBT community – high statistics on lack of housing and unemployment – help needed
- **Noted:** Supports grants for civic engagement and education – to increase participation in elections and council engagement
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- **Noted:** Community hubs and spaces (libraries) seen as safe spaces for our community
- **Noted:** Increase Māori Wardens in key transport areas to increase safety.

Overall direction for Annual Budget

Rainbow Youth

What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?	Support all “Our recent grant shows council’s support and commitment to uplift our community”
Environment - Sustainability	No comment
Do you support Bed night visitor levy?	Support “Prioritize year-round community events”
Local Board priorities – Fairer Funding	No comment
Rates and Charges	No comment
Transport	Support “Advocate to waka Kotahi for well-funded transport initiatives.”.

What else is important to you?

Transcript – *Not a complete record of meeting.*

Representative - [REDACTED] – mihi

I am co-chair of rainbow youth – and only one voice in our community.

One voice not representative of our whole community – we will do better next year.

Our recent grant shows council's support and commitment to uplift our community .

There are real and harmful effects on our community such as the recent attack on our library event by Destiny Church.

Regarding civic engagement only 35.4% voted – before we move to including democratically elected CCOs we need a clear civic engagement plan ahead of elections.

Voters under 35 had the lowest turnout.

Future leaders (youth) miss out on decisions that affect their lives.

Disengagement is rooted in historic erasure and a lack of trust in government and local authorities

We need bold examples of local government that represent our voices.

Representation of voices – one organisation cannot represent the whole community

Grant funding

We need to expand on community outreach to support participation among our community.

Our youth are disproportionately impacted by rising costs of living and are likely to have housing and employment issues.

Fund targeted programmes for increasing civic engagement for LGBT communities.

Transport

Exclusionary policies – Resent survey 59% of our Māori trans/ Takatapui feel unsafe on public transport.

Advocate to waka Kotahi for well-funded transport initiatives.

Prioritize transport programmes.

Events

Prioritize year-round community events

Community Hubs and facilities

Staff our community hubs so our youth have safe places to be in.

Cr Richard Hills -Q: – appreciate the work you have done for Rainbow youth – Funding – we do support proud centres and events – Why is it so important to fund events for groups like yours?

Caitlin Prince – Described what we see is representation and experience of white and hetero normative relationships – less celebration of diverse identifies. We need safe spaces to increase our own engagement and stay safe and well – proud centres are amazing – need year-round support

and activate change even in our suburbs – need places like more K road – proud spaces everywhere.

Cr Richard Hills – Q – Te Atatu event (*Destiny Church interruption of library programme) – Mayor and other spoke out against it – what is importance of us speaking out?

Caitlin Prince – When we experience hate there is fear in the community. Some don't want to go to celebratory events – some need counselling support and are terrified to leave the house.

CR Angela Dalton Q: This governing body would look very different if we had under 35s at the table – how do we lift that? – Public Transport – do you know of international examples of how to increase safety? Do you have examples where it is done well?

Caitlin Prince – – Having Māori Wardens in key transport zones can really help to confirm sense of safety – Improve security of bus shelters and connected ness of public transport – would like to see what works here more.

Cr Julie Fairey - Homelessness – interested in link between exclusion/ /discrimination that leads to homelessness.

Caitlin Prince – We have a Homeless connector. Common issue of our community being kicked out of home. Notes increasing youth homelessness – there is increasing risk factors leading to insecure housing – initiatives that work well - the full impact not realised due to budget cuts – longer terms previously funded – people now asked to reply.

Cr Julie Fairey Statement: Programmes focussed on family harm victims – Are they covered? Govt (family harm) quite narrow in scope – people with disabilities also at risk – huge intersection those that are systemically oppressed – definition of family harm does it extend to those five years later. (Implied – Govt definition of circumstance of harm is longer term than the provide care).

Cr Greg Sayers– Rainbow youth under 14 - homeless situation what support exists for them – Govt services are mostly for the older individuals?

Caitlin Prince – A lot of our programmes for older people – growing population – we have one kaimahi managing housing – other services work collaboratively together.

Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): LiveNation

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support

Tell us why

See attached:

Live Nation New Zealand strongly supports a bed night visitor levy as proposed in the Auckland Annual Plan 2025/26. Live Nation is one of the most active

entertainment promoters in New Zealand and Australia, and the largest live entertainment company globally.

The economic and wellbeing benefits of investing in major events, destination marketing and visitor attraction are well documented.

From our position of delivering major international acts across stadiums, festivals and arenas, we add the following:

- Capability: The annual events Auckland Council supports and the acts organisations like Live Nation bring to New Zealand are linked in a network

of workforce capability, small business services, volunteerism, and community engagement.

Participatory events (e.g. Auckland Marathon), annual attendance events (e.g. ASB Classic) and Live Nation promoted events (e.g. Coldplay) are

delivered from a highly connected ecosystem. Putting some events at risk puts all events at risk of diminished delivery capability.

- Competition: New Zealand faces intense competition to attract international events, particularly from ambitious, big budget Australian cities.

Auckland and New Zealand's brand reputations, relationships and resolve in investing in events are critical to our combined ability to 'punch above

our weight'. Investing in annual event retention increases our prospects in international event attraction.

- Countrywide: Auckland's success is New Zealand's success. Many of the events Live Nation brings to New Zealand perform in other New Zealand

regions; they start or finish in Auckland. If we cannot get them to Auckland, the gateway city, we won't get them to New Zealand.

Weakening the Auckland events sector weakens the New Zealand event sector. Investing in Auckland events (via the levy) strengthens the New

Zealand event sector.

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

28 March, 2025

Re: Auckland Council Annual Plan 2025/2026

To Whom it May Concern,

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- **Competition:** New Zealand faces intense competition to attract international events, particularly from ambitious, big budget Australian cities.

Auckland and New Zealand's brand reputations, relationships and resolve in investing in events are critical to our combined ability to 'punch above our weight'. Investing in annual event retention increases our prospects in international event attraction.

- **Countrywide:** Auckland's success is New Zealand's success. Many of the events Live Nation brings to New Zealand perform in other New Zealand regions; they start or finish in Auckland. If we cannot get them to Auckland, the gateway city, we won't get them to New Zealand.

Weakening the Auckland events sector weakens the New Zealand event sector. Investing in Auckland events (via the levy) strengthens the New Zealand event sector.

We would be happy to discuss this submission further.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Signature]

Managing Director
Live Nation New Zealand

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): Arts Access Aotearoa

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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- water
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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.

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Tell us why

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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?

Tell us why

Question 3: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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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

See attached:

Summary of Attachment:

Executive Summary

Mission: Increase access to the arts.

Focus: Accessibility in the arts and community arts.

Concerns: Lack of clear investment in accessibility and community arts in the Plan.

Accessibility in the Arts

Issues: No mention of how accessibility will be provided or input from Deaf and disabled Aucklanders.

Recommendations:

Publish a dedicated accessibility budget.

Show evidence of disabled communities' input into the Plan.

Community Arts

Issues: No overview of funding for community arts; significant reduction in the Regional Arts and Culture Fund.

Recommendations:

Clear explanation of Auckland Council's investment in the arts.

More transparency on funding to reassure Aucklanders.



Submission from Arts Access Aotearoa to the 2025/26 Auckland Annual Plan consultation

Contents

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1. Arts Access Aotearoa: who we are and what we do	2
2. Accessibility in the arts	3
2. Community arts.....	4

Executive Summary

Arts Access Aotearoa welcomes this opportunity to respond to the Auckland Plan 2025/26 consultation. As a national organisation, we are making this submission because many of our organisational members are Auckland-based and we support significant arts networks across Tāmaki Makarau.

Our mission is to increase access to the arts. As such, we have focused on two key aspects in this submission: accessibility in the arts, and community arts. Both require clearer evidence of investment in the final version of the Plan.

Firstly, there appears to be no mention in the Auckland Plan consultation documents of how accessibility in the arts will be provided for or what input Deaf and disabled Aucklanders and artists have had into the plan. To align with our human rights obligations under the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Council needs to show how it is ensuring that all Aucklanders, regardless of ability, will be enabled to contribute to the rich cultural life of Auckland city.

Secondly, and while we appreciate that significant resourcing has been shifted to local boards this year, there is no overview of how access to community arts will be funded. The Regional Arts and Culture Fund also appears to have been significantly reduced from two years ago. While we appreciate that funding for community arts comes from a diversity of sources, including from beyond Council, the lack of an overview means that we are unsure of the total investment Council is making in community arts.

On both fronts, this makes it difficult to support our members to plan effectively.

While in general we support the idea of a bed night levy, the income generated through this levy is likely to fluctuate significantly from year to year, and in isolation should not be relied on to fund major community and cultural events.

In summary, while we recognise the significant cost pressures being faced by Council, we would like to see in the final version of the Plan a clear explanation of how much Auckland Council is investing in the arts, both in terms of its investment in accessibility and supporting community arts.

More transparency on both these fronts would help reassure Aucklanders how the Council intends to meet both its own excellent [Toi Whifiki](#) Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan as well as the Auckland Plan 2050, particularly its “Belonging and participation” outcome.

1. Arts Access Aotearoa: who we are and what we do

Arts Access Aotearoa Pūtanga Toi ki Aotearoa's purpose is to increase access to the arts for people who experience barriers to participation, whether as artists or as audience members and visitors. Our vision, supported by our enduring values of mōhiotanga, rangatiratanga, whanaungatanga, kotahitanga and kaitiakitanga, is that all people in Aotearoa can access and participate in the arts. In our key

strategic documents and our day-to-day work, we actively seek to honour and uphold the culture and rights of Tāngata Turi and Tāngata Whaikaha Māori as enshrined in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We believe that universal access to arts and culture is a human right. Accessibility is a key driver of social inclusion and innovation, and key to our purpose. We play a role in the wider sector in advocating for Deaf and disabled artists not just to participate but to play a leadership role in the arts sector.

Research shows that the more people engage in the arts in their everyday lives, the better their health outcomes (Davies et al, 2016). The arts also play a role in addressing complex social issues, such as social isolation and mental wellbeing, in strengthening community connection, and in opening up employment pathways.

We have four main programme areas:

- **Taha Hotu**, a Deaf and disabled artists' initiative supporting artists to create work, develop their creative practice and advocate for their right to access the arts.
- **Arts For All Network**, which provides support and advice to arts organisations working to improve their accessibility.
- **Arts in Corrections**, where we advise Te Ara Poutama Department of Corrections on its arts programmes and activities, and advocate for the arts as a tool to support the rehabilitative process of prisoners and their reintegration back into the community.
- **Creative Spaces Network**, where we support and connect a range of arts organisations working in local communities to provide access to creative opportunities for people who face barriers to inclusion.

We also provide a national advisory and advocacy service, providing information, resources, and research about accessibility to the arts.

2. Accessibility in the arts

2.1. Our Arts for All network in Tāmaki Makaurau

A significant number of arts organisations in Tāmaki Makaurau belong to and participate in our Arts for All Auckland network. You can [see them here](#).

2.2. Our response to the plan: accessibility

We have reviewed the Auckland Plan 2025/26 with regard to accessibility for Deaf and disabled artists, arts professionals and arts organisations, taking into consideration how the Plan addresses Auckland Council's obligations to uphold both the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which Aotearoa New Zealand is a signatory, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi – particularly around the principles of tino rangatiratanga, partnership, and equity.

Article 30 of the UNCRPD stipulates that signatories should take all appropriate measures to ensure:

- that disabled people enjoy access to cultural materials, performances and services and that they are available in accessible formats;
- that they "have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of society";
- and that they shall be entitled, "on an equal basis with others, to recognition and support of their specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture."

It is unclear from the Plan consultation documents whether there is any direct funding for disabled artists or disability-led arts initiatives, or any strategy to ensure Auckland's key cultural events and community spaces are fully accessible.

It is also unclear how the Council plans to actively involve Deaf and disabled people in decision-making processes affecting them. It is unclear whether the Council's Disability Advisory Panel has had input into the Plan – we have to conclude it has not, given the lack of any mention of investment in accessibility. This sits at odds with the Council's excellent Arts Strategy, Toi Whiti – [Goal One of the Action Plan](#) is "All Aucklanders can access and participate in arts and culture" and within that, Goal 1.3 is specifically to "remove barriers to access and participation."

Some immediate solutions could include:

Publish a dedicated accessibility budget as part of the Plan. Show how specific funding has been allocated to improve accessibility in public transport, community facilities, and cultural spaces, and to fund disabled artists and disability-led arts programmes.

Show evidence of disabled communities' input into the Plan. This should not just include consultations with disability advocacy groups on arts and culture, but also indicate how the Council supports disability leadership across its operations.

2. Community arts

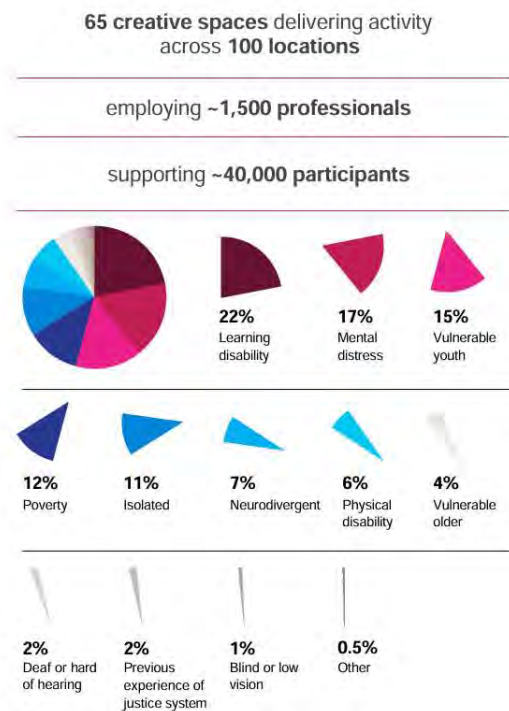
3.1. Our Creative Spaces network in Tāmaki Makaurau

In Tāmaki Makaurau, we also have a significant [Creative Spaces Auckland network](#).

You can view the recently published national impact report for the Creative Spaces network, and impact reports for each of these Auckland-based organisations [here](#). In addition, we hold strategic relationships with Foundation North and the Centre for Social Impact.

Our Auckland region members contribute significantly to the national impact that our network makes across communities in Aotearoa:

A snapshot of the Creative Spaces Network and its impacts/outreach



3.2. Our response to the plan: community arts

While we appreciate the Auckland Annual Plan 2025/2026 has shifted significant resourcing to local boards, there is no overview of how access to community arts will be funded.

The 2024/25 Regional Arts and Culture Fund appears to have been significantly reduced from two years ago (no data could be found for last year). A Council [press release](#) this week stated that its Community Committee approved a total \$320,429 in grants this round to a range of providers. However, in 2022/23, the amount granted was \$1,263,676.

There is no one place in the Plan consultation documents where the sum total invested in community arts is made clear. While we appreciate that funding for community arts comes from a diversity of sources, including from beyond Council, this lack of an overview means that we are unsure of the total investment that is being made. This makes it difficult to support our members to plan.

While in general we support the idea of a bed night levy, the income generated through this levy is likely to fluctuate significantly from year to year, and should therefore not be relied on in isolation to fund major community and cultural events, let alone community arts.

Again, with regard to community arts, the Plan does not indicate how Council is addressing its own Arts Strategy, or its 2050 Plan goal of Belonging and Participation.

In the final version of the Plan, we would thus like to see a **clear explanation of how much Auckland Council is investing in the arts, both in terms of its investment in accessibility and in supporting community arts.**

More transparency on both these fronts would help reassure Aucklanders how the Council intends to meet both its own excellent [Toi Whiti](#) Arts and Culture Strategic Action as well as the Auckland Plan 2050.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this consultation.



Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Campaign for Better Transport Incorporated

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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

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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 most

Tell us why

See attached

Summary of Attachment:

Support for the Plan:

The Campaign for Better Transport (CBT) supports the Annual Plan and recognizes the importance of continued investment in Auckland's transport infrastructure despite reduced government funding.

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

See attached

Summary of Attachment:

Public Transport for Events:

Emphasizes the need for reliable public transport during events to convert attendees into regular users and avoid negative media coverage.

Reduction of Rail Closures:

Urges Auckland Council to reduce the frequency of weekend and holiday rail closures to improve the experience for regular rail users.

Level Crossings:

Welcomes the budget for rail projects, including level crossing removals, but urges faster progress, especially on the Western Line.

Train Service to Huapai:

Disappointed by the lack of progress on a train service to Huapai and advocates for its implementation within a year or two.

Auckland Integrated Transport Plan:

Supports the development of the plan but stresses the need for action and inclusion of a heavy rail link to the North Shore and other sensible proposals like a heavy rail service to Auckland Airport.



28 March 2025

AK Have Your Say
Auckland Council
AUCKLAND

Sent via e-mail: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

AUCKLAND COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN 2025/26

The Campaign for Better Transport Incorporated (**CBT**) wish to put forward our comments in relation to the Auckland Council Annual Plan 2025/26. The CBT is in favour of the plan and recognises the importance of continued investment in Auckland's transport infrastructure. Despite the challenges posed by reduced government funding, we believe that the proposed initiatives will significantly enhance the efficiency and reliability of the city's transport network. Our comments will focus on key areas such as public transport for events, the reduction of rail closures, the removal of level crossings, the development of a train service to Huapai, and the Auckland Integrated Transport Plan. We look forward to collaborating with Auckland Council to achieve these goals and improve the transport infrastructure for all Aucklanders.

Background Comment

The CBT appreciates Auckland Council is in a tough position. Government funding for transport has been reduced, resulting in a decrease in Auckland Transport capital spending by \$578 million. While some projects can be rescheduled, the need for infrastructure improvements continues to be pressing, and even central government is publicly acknowledging the need for more infrastructure investment. The CBT does support Auckland Council in overtures to ensure sufficient central government funding for much needed transport infrastructure.

The CBT also notes the emphasis this plan has on events. One issue that Auckland faces is around the reliability of public transport and the notorious rail replacement buses which are a common feature of weekends and holidays in Auckland. Getting public transport right for events is critical for several reasons, including:

- Events are often the first exposure someone will have to public transport. An excellent public transport experience has a strong likelihood of converting someone into a public transport user. A poor public transport experience has a strong likelihood of seeing someone not only continue to use their car but become hostile toward public transport.
- Events attract tourists, both domestic and international. These tourists are typically reliant on public transport, and if they have a poor public transport experience, this may reflect badly on their entire trip to Auckland or New Zealand
- When public transport goes wrong in relation to events, it can breed negative media coverage. An historic example of this was the meltdown of the rail network on the opening night of the Rugby World Cup in 2011, but there have been other recent



negative headlines associated with public transport going wrong in association with events. The negative media coverage can amplify hostility toward public transport, especially if there are many people with a poor public transport experience.

Setting aside events, the average rail using Aucklanders is also getting tired of the frequency of rail closures, and we urge Auckland Council to do what they can to encourage a reduction in the level of weekend and holiday rail closures.

Level Crossings

The CBT welcomes the budgeted \$106 million for rail projects, which includes level crossing removals. While we are pleased to finally see some progress on the removal of level crossings, we are disappointed that it may take up to a decade to remove the four Takanini level crossings and that the commuters of Pukekohe, Papakura, Takanini and Manurewa will face continued disruption. We urge Auckland Council to do everything in its power to accelerate progress on this project.

We urge Auckland Council to commence developing a programme of level crossing removals so that all the necessary planning permissions are in place for the removal of all the level crossings on the Western Line. This would mean that when funding were available, a level crossing removal project could be commenced immediately instead of the situation we have been left with currently where the funding has been made available, but it will take at least a couple more years to have all the necessary planning permissions and designs in place before work is able to commence.

Given the emphasis of the annual plan on events, we consider that the Morningside Drive and George Street level crossings are the first ones on the Western Line that need addressing. This is because these level crossings can have an adverse impact on the operation of special event trains to Eden Park – which we expect will become more popular once the City Rail Link opens given it will simply be a ten-minute train ride from the Central Business District to Eden Park.

Trains to Huapai

The CBT is disappointed at the lack of progress on providing a train service to Huapai. Whilst we appreciate the presence of long term plans for a busway or light rail from Huapai through to the Central Business District via Westgate, a train service to Huapai could be implemented in a year or two and provide the residents of Huapai with more reliable access to the rest of Auckland sooner rather than needing to wait a decade or two for the long term plans to be implemented.

The CBT is aware of a study undertaken by the Public Transport Users Association which indicates a full-time train service to Huapai could be provided for \$9 million utilising some of the former SA/SD carriages. The CBT is also aware of interest from the private sector for funding the improvements and operation of the service. We would urge Auckland Council to advocate for a rail service to Huapai, noting that this proposal appears to have the broad support of Auckland Council, the broad support of the community and the broad support of the present government.



Development of Auckland Integrated Transport Plan

The CBT is supportive of the development of the Auckland Integrated Transport Plan, but notes that there have been a variety of plans proposed over the decades with little action progressing from these plans. Indeed, the rapid public transport network proposed in the latest iteration of the Auckland Transport Alignment Project bore a strong resemblance to rapid public transport network proposals of the late 1990s. The lack of progress has frustrated the CBT, we have not even seen the protection of corridors such that the costs of developing the rapid public transport network has exploded in cost due to the amount of land that would need to be purchased.

Given central government talk about an additional harbour crossing, the CBT strongly believes the Auckland Integrated Transport Plan must include provision for a heavy rail link to the North Shore, as only heavy rail provides an adequate level of future proofing (the Northern Busway is expected to hit capacity in the 2030s, while light rail is only suitable for shorter routes – a light rail corridor from the Auckland Central Business District to Silverdale would be the longest light rail route in Australasia, let alone any potential expansion to Warkworth or Wellsford). It goes without saying that any additional harbour crossing must also have adequate provision for walking and cycling.

We are also supportive of sensible proposals such as a heavy rail service to Auckland Airport, as well as light rail and busways where such modes are warranted.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the CBT strongly supports the Auckland Council Annual Plan 2025/26. Despite the challenges posed by reduced government funding, it is crucial to continue advocating for necessary infrastructure improvements. The emphasis on events makes getting public transport right particularly important, as it can significantly influence public perception and usage of public transport. We urge Auckland Council to prioritise the reduction of weekend and holiday rail closures and accelerate the removal of level crossings to enhance the overall efficiency and reliability of the transport network. Additionally, the development of a train service to Huapai and the Auckland Integrated Transport Plan are essential steps towards creating a more connected and sustainable city. We look forward to working with Auckland Council to achieve these goals and improve the transport infrastructure for all Aucklanders.

If the Council has any further queries, please contact us at committee@bettertransport.org.nz. We will be pleased to comment further if requested.

Yours faithfully

The Campaign for Better Transport Incorporated



Convenor

Auckland Council Annual Plan 2025-26



Campaign For Better Transport

Background

- CBT broadly supportive of Council's proposals outlined in the annual plan
- CBT disappointed the NLTP reduced funding for Auckland Transport
- CBT urges Council to push for public transport reliability improvements as well as reducing the level of weekend closures – this complements the push for more events

Level Crossing Removals

- We look forward to the removal of level crossings in Takanini
- CBT urges commencement on the first level crossing removal as soon as possible
- CBT urges Council to consider adopting a pipeline of proposals for the removal of level crossings along the Western Line
- Addressing Morningside Drive and George Street particularly urgent – this will help with major events at Eden Park

Trains to Huapai

- CBT disappointed at continued lack of progress for trains to Huapai
- Low cost item (millions of dollars), but provides congestion free alternative now rather than ten years from now
- Private sector interest in trains to Huapai, including funding

Development of Auckland Integrated Transport Plan

- CBT supportive, subject to what is in the plan
- CBT wants to see action as opposed to more planning – existing proposals have been around for many decades
- This plan must include heavy rail to the North Shore, with the next crossing including heavy rail, pedestrian and cycling facilities.
CBT considers heavy rail to the North Shore as the next big project

Thank You



Campaign For Better Transport

convenor@bettertransport.org.nz



#8547



Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Bike Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

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What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

Other

Tell us why

See attached:

Summary of Attachment:

Specific Requests for the 2025-2026 Budget:

More safe cycleways and public transport options.

Completion of key projects like Te Whau pathway, Hobsonville Cycleway, and others.

Reinvestment of savings from cycling projects into other cycling initiatives.

City Centre Master Plan improvements for walking, cycling, and accessibility.

Safe over-bridges or tunnels to replace level crossings.

Bike skills courses to encourage cycling.

Safe streets and Vision Zero initiatives.

Climate action programs to promote cycling, walking, and public transport.

Secure bike parking and access for bikes on buses.

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



Auckland Council Annual Plan 2025/2026

Submission from Bike Auckland Infrastructure Team

This submission collates feedback from Bike Auckland's volunteer infrastructure team, of which several are professional urban planners and engineers. Any members with Conflicts of Interest were noted and excluded from this submission.

We commend Council for what past budgets have delivered for people on bikes

- bike hubs have sprouted up across the region
- pop up protection has been making safer cycle routes around Manukau
- Point Chevalier to Westmere is pretty much complete and ready to ride,
- Great North Road and Māngere West are both underway
- we're getting closer to having a safe cycleway the length of Victoria street
- Stage 4 of Te Ara Ki Uta Ki Tai (Glen Innes to Tāmaki) should be starting any day now.
- Auckland Council pushed back at Central Government's mandatory speed raising and made the best of a bad funding situation to ensure we kept a pipeline of cycleway delivery.

This Budget needs investment in cycling to achieve its intended aims

- On 13 February 2025, Auckland Council's Transport, Resilience and Infrastructure Committee stated that 'implementing 'low-cost opportunities to complete the cycling network, and continue to focus on completing existing links with minimal disruption' was a priority.
- Transport is identified as a key focus for this annual budget yet there is no funding for cycling infrastructure mentioned, aside from Te Whau shared pathway and "Get Auckland moving" project.
- If one of the Council's goals for transport in Auckland is to get the most out of Auckland's existing transport network, then cycling is an obvious candidate for improving efficiency. Cycling has nil to low impact on the fabric of the road and a cyclist uses far less road space than a driver; therefore changing drivers into cyclists can improve traffic flow by reducing the number of cars on the road.
- The annual budget should commit substantial investment towards cycling infrastructure if it wants to achieve its stated aims.

Specifically, we want the 2025-2026 Annual Budget to:

- Invest in and deliver more fast and affordable safe cycleways (eg. pop up bike lanes) and convenient public transport (eg. bus priority lanes). This can be done fast by reallocating road space (parking or extra lanes) and "building back better" during road renewals; giving all people safe options for getting around by any transport mode.
- Invest in and deliver Te Whau pathway, Hobsonville Cycleway, Links to Glen Innes Cycleways, Māngere East and Manukau Preferred Cycling Networks, Albany Highway.

This submission collates feedback from Bike Auckland's volunteer infrastructure team, of which several are professional urban planners and engineers. Any members with Conflicts of Interest were noted and excluded from this submission.

- Ensure any money saved on cycling projects is reinvested into other cycling projects.
- Invest in and progress the City Centre Master Plan which includes improvements for walking, cycling, and accessibility in the city centre – including retaining the safe cycleway the length of Victoria street.
- Invest in walking and cycling over-bridges / safe tunnels to replace level crossings.
- Invest in more bike skills courses across the region, so that more people can experience the joy and freedom of riding a bike – and to support more people to ride from A to B for their transport, reducing our emissions.
- Invest more towards safe streets and delivering Vision Zero; including raised crossings, traffic calming, and retaining as many safe speeds as possible. Streets that are 30km/hr are safe for people to share, and become more pleasant for everyone.
- Invest more into climate action related programmes such as Live Lightly and the Climate Action Grant, both of which encourage more people to cycle, walk, and take public transport.
- Invest in convenient and regular public transport, including provision of secure bike parking (Perhaps Locky Docks?) and safe cycleway connections at public transport hubs. For some people using public transport and cycling together as a combo is crucial for their trips.
- Provide access for bikes on all buses (on board the buses or racks on the front or back of buses). For some people using public transport and cycling together as a combo is crucial for their trips.

A Vision for Auckland's Future

Karen Hormann, Chair – Bike Auckland



2025/2026 Goals

- strengthening the financial and physical resilience of Auckland
- investing to manage growth

Transport identified as a key focus

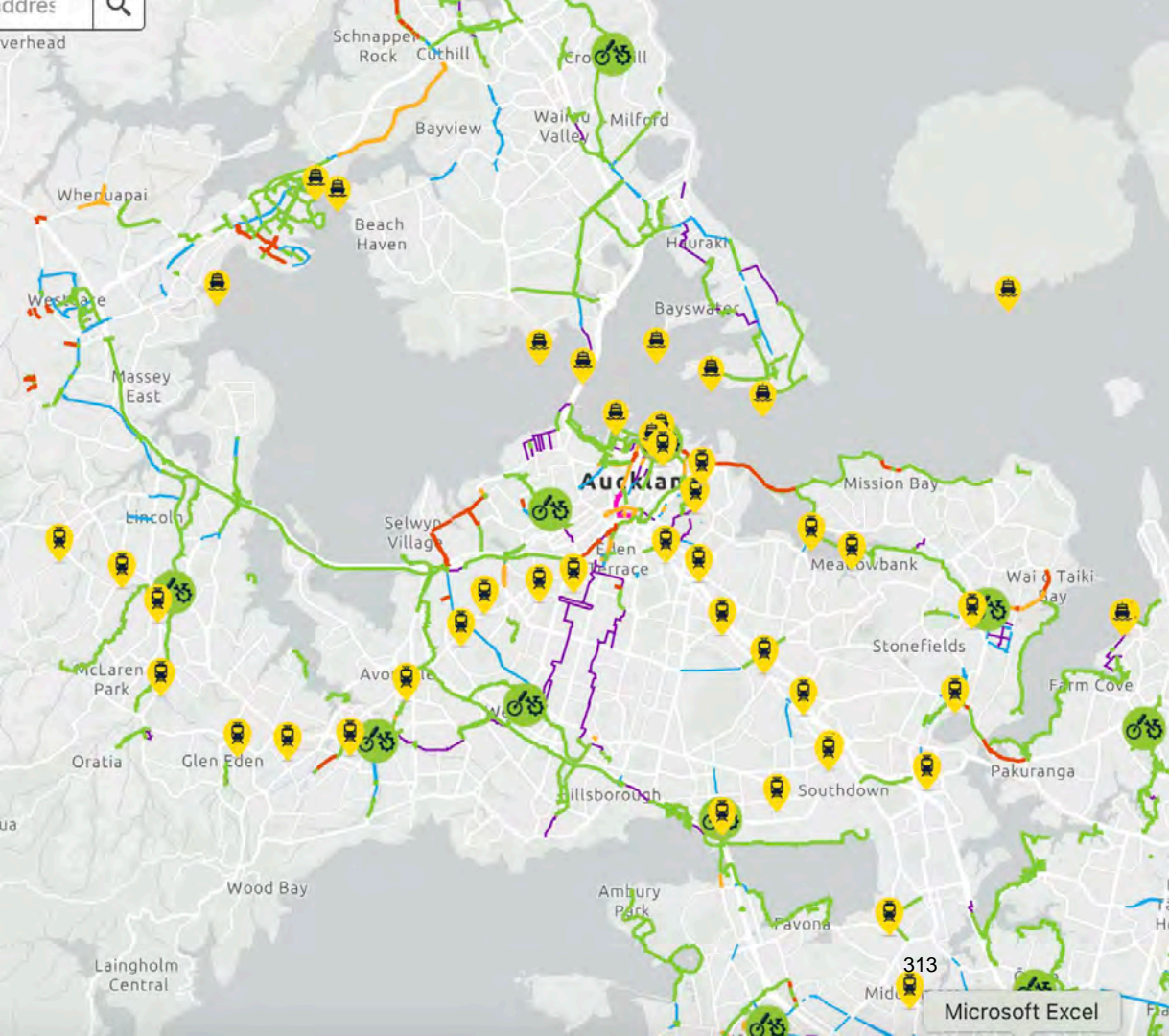
Challenges:

- Congestion, Congestion, Congestion
- Safety and Accessibility for All
- Cost

The Power of Connected Cycleways

Maximise our cycleway infrastructure investment:

- People must perceive they will be safe for their entire trip
- Fill the gaps in the network
e.g. Glen Innes, Ngapipi, the Strand



Auckland's #8547 Cycleway Map

Dedicated cycleways are separated from vehicle traffic and pedestrians. They should only be used by cyclists and e-scooters. Generally there is a dedicated footpath alongside.

Shared paths are separated from vehicle traffic and are used by cyclists, pedestrians, and people using scooters, wheelchairs, skates, prams. Slower traffic always has the right of way

Protected cycle lanes are physically separated from traffic, E.g. raised concrete barriers. They should be used by cyclists only.

On-road cycle lanes are a painted cycle lane and do not have any physical separation from vehicle traffic. They should only be used by cyclists.

Quiet routes include streets which have traffic calming such as speed bumps to slow down cars, and shared zones which are used by all types of traffic including pedestrians, cyclists, and cars.

Leverage e-bike popularity

Changing the game in Tāmaki Makaurau:

- People cycle more on e-bikes
- People cycle longer distances
- Hills are fine
- E-bikes are super fun!



Leverage public support

“56% of Aucklanders would ride more if it was safe to do so”

Per 2020 Auckland Transport commissioned survey conducted via the research company TRA

City Rail Link (CRL)

Let's be ready to optimise this incredible investment

- Cycleway access to train stations
- Safe and secure bike parking
- End of trip facilities

Outcome: More choice, less congestion, smarter movement

School Run Crisis

a.k.a. March Madness

- Bike skills courses for children maintained
- Traffic calming measures
- Safe speeds

Outcomes:

independent, healthy kids riding to school

and **less congestion**

Kids want to travel with family & friends (87%)

Kids want to be more active (80%)

Crank report "A Vision of Kids For Transport" to Auckland Council 2023



Approx

40%



of Tāmaki Makaurau's emissions are
from transport.

Up to

4 in 10



Aucklanders don't drive.

Future proofing

- 40% of Aucklanders don't drive
- Climate positive
- Cycleways are cost-effective
- Emergency transport option in a crisis
 - e.g. January 2023 floods
- Cheaper residential builds without carparking

#8547



1 in 20

trips into the city centre now by bike.

8%

increase in annual cycle counts.

Fair funding ... for biking

Inner-city suburbs cycling rates estimated at **5%**

⇒ **similar to the share of train transport**

If we had this level of funding allocated to bike initiatives

Imagine having this level of impact city wide!

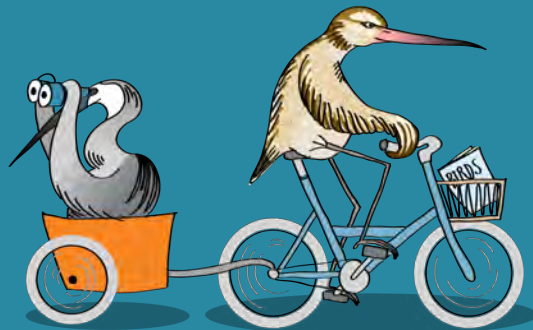
Auckland as a destination

- Attract talent
- Attract quality tourism
- Cleaner air
- Less traffic and noise
- Placemaking
- Fun and connection

Quay Street

#8547





Ngā mihi

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): Ngāti Tamatera

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

Tell us why

See attached:

CCO Reform (Council-Controlled Organisations):

- o Impact: Reforms to Auckland Transport, Eke Panuku, and other CCOs (excluding Watercare) can influence how infrastructure and development projects consider Māori outcomes. Iwi may have opportunities to ensure that Māori cultural values are integrated into major urban and infrastructure projects.
- o Mitigation: Iwi engagement in planning and co-governance of projects to ensure that Māori interests are prioritised in decision-making.

Water Reform:

- o The Government's water reform programme, Local Water Done Well, has enabled Watercare to operate with greater financial independence from Auckland Council, unlocking the ability to invest in vital infrastructure without being constrained by Council debt limits. For iwi, this presents a significant opportunity to ensure our aspirations for Te Mana o te Wai and Te Oranga o te Taiao are upheld in water planning and investment decisions. We encourage Auckland Council and Watercare to work in genuine partnership with iwi, embedding mātauranga Māori, environmental restoration, and equitable outcomes into the capital programme to protect and enhance the mauri of our wai for future generations. We also expect to be in real partnership around procurement opportunities for our iwi businesses.

4.

Planning and Paying for Growth:

o

Impact: Rapid urban growth in Auckland can place pressure on land and resources that are culturally significant to iwi. Growth plans must consider Māori land rights, environmental concerns, and cultural preservation.

o

Economic Development: ED impacts directly on our aspirations as we seek to whakamana our iwi businesses within the progressive and sustainable procurement opportunities. Auckland Council's 2025 Budget shapes the future of iwi economic development, directly influencing Māori enterprises, job creation, and sustainable growth within our rohe. Māori businesses contribute over \$1.4 billion annually to the economy, yet barriers remain in accessing procurement opportunities, infrastructure investment, and innovation funding. Rapid growth equates to rapid economic development and we as an iwi are adamant to be included within all infrastructure projects. Tāmaki Makaurau thrives when Māori thrive. Let's ensure the 2025 Budget prioritises iwi economic growth!

o

Mitigation: Advocating for iwi involvement in growth strategies to protect wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and ensure sustainable development aligned with Māori values. Iwi must be at the decision-making table to ensure that economic policies reflect our aspirations, uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and create a future where Māori-led solutions drive Auckland's economic success.

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

See attached:

Impact: The allocation of funds for events and visitor attractions can either benefit or overlook Māori businesses and cultural tourism opportunities.

Mitigation: Ensuring that Māori businesses and cultural initiatives are included in event planning and funding strategies, supporting iwi-driven cultural tourism ventures.

We do support the levy however understand the complexities around legislation and urge the council to work closely with iwi to implement shared event outcomes.

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)

See attached:

Advocating for iwi involvement in growth strategies to protect wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and ensure sustainable development aligned with Māori values. Iwi must be at the decision-making table to ensure that economic policies reflect our aspirations

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

Recommendations:

1. Enhanced Partnership: Establish formal mechanisms for Ngāti Tamaterā to engage in co-governance and co-management of projects within their rohe, ensuring that iwi have a direct role in decision-making processes affecting their communities.
2. Cultural Investment: Allocate dedicated funding to support Ngāti Tamaterā's cultural, educational, and community initiatives, recognizing the importance of preserving and promoting Māori heritage and well-being.
3. Environmental Collaboration: Partner with Ngāti Tamaterā on environmental sustainability projects, leveraging traditional knowledge and practices to achieve shared goals in environmental stewardship.
4. Inclusive Consultation: Ensure that public consultation processes are accessible and inclusive, providing Ngāti Tamaterā with meaningful opportunities to contribute to discussions on policies and projects that impact their iwi.

We are committed to ensuring equitable outcomes for Māori across the city. Iwi must be actively involved in the Auckland Council Māori Outcomes Fund Review from ideation through to delivery, ensuring Māori-led decision-making at every stage. This includes co-designing the review framework, determining funding priorities, and shaping the application and allocation processes. Too often, iwi is consulted late in the process, rather than being at the table where decisions are made. To uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and achieve meaningful Māori outcomes, iwi must have direct input into how funding supports kaupapa Māori, aligns with our priorities, and delivers lasting benefits for whānau, hapū, and marae. No decisions about us, without us.

LTP Feedback reporting

Group: #10 Ngati Tamatera

Feedback from Māori entities

Representative: [REDACTED]

Identify: Mana whenua

Notes from verbal presentation to Annual Budget discussion.

[REDACTED] provided opening mihi.

[REDACTED] Chair of meeting AC

15 Minute time allocation

- **Noted:**
- **Noted:**
- **Noted:**
- **Noted:**
- **Noted:**

Overall direction for Annual Budget

Ngati Tamatera

What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?	
Environment - Sustainability	<p>Generally, support with conditions</p> <p>Ensure that local boards collaborate with iwi on environmental projects, recognising kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of the land and waterways.</p>
Do you support Bed night visitor levy?	<p>Support</p> <p>We do support the levy however understand the complexities around legislation and urge the council to work closely with iwi to implement shared event outcomes.</p>
Local Board priorities – Fairer Funding	<p>Generally, support with conditions</p> <p>Collaboration with Local Boards is essential to ensure that iwi values are embedded in local projects and that funding is allocated to support Māori cultural and environmental aspirations.</p>

Māori Outcomes Fund Review	<p>Generally, support with conditions</p> <p>Iwi must be actively involved in the Auckland Council Māori Outcomes Fund Review from ideation through to delivery</p> <p>No decisions about us without us.</p>
Rates and Charges – paying for growth	<p>Generally, support with conditions</p> <p>Advocating for iwi involvement in growth strategies to protect wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and ensure sustainable development aligned with Māori values. Iwi must be at the decision-making table to ensure that economic policies reflect our aspirations</p>
Transport	<p>Support</p> <p>We encourage safety in transport – utilise Māori wardens</p> <p>Cheaper fares for frequent users</p>

What else is important to you?

Transcript – *Not a complete record of meeting.*

Rihari Nahi: mihi to Michelle.

Ngāti Tamaterā Tiriti Settlement Trust – context –our interest in Hauraki and Tamaki regions – we engage with six territorial authorities.

2023 census our Iwi grew to 4053 members – 55% under 30 – 66% living in Tamaki and Waikato regions.

Ngāti Tamaterā Priority areas

Co design with whanau what matters to them regarding their oranga priority areas.

Work with a partnership approach with council

- Oranga Ōhanga - Healthy and thriving economy
- Oranga Whare – Housing, home ownership and affordable papakāinga opportunities
- Oranga Taiao – Thriving environments in balance guided by mātauranga Māori
- Oranga Whānau - Healthy and thriving whānau - collective wellbeing
- Oranga Rangatahi – Supporting rangatahi potential
- Oranga Mātauranga - Educational wellbeing

Rangatahi investment

Oranga Rangatahi – succession planning important to our Iwi with 30% under 30 years of age – We will build our rangatahi capability using Māori knowledge and education.

Māori cultural values in major urban design Implications for manawhenua.

Transport

We encourage safety in transport – utilise Māori wardens

Cheaper fares for frequent users

Bed night levy

in support of 27\$ million events and cultural events.

Local Boards – receiving 84 M for projects and priorities – each LB will prioritise – Iwi can significantly influence local and regional projects – priorities advocating for priority projects in environmental protection

Collaboration essential and Iwi values are embedded.

Support fairer funding model – shared values and vision we want to work with them.

Welcome decision making closer to our communities.

Whanau must be more resilient – keen to partner within hazard zone areas – welcome real partnership in these areas.

Māori Outcome fund review – late consultation – we must have direct input into this funding support aligns with our priorities – no decisions about us without us.

Presentation content with detailed responses

CCO Reform

Impact: Reforms to Auckland Transport, Eke Panuku, and other CCOs (excluding Watercare) can influence how infrastructure and development projects consider Māori outcomes.

Mitigation: We advocate iwi engagement in planning and co-governance of projects to ensure that Māori interests are prioritized in decision-making. Safety Issues are mitigated.

Funding Major Events and Tourism:

Impact: The allocation of funds for events and visitor attractions can either benefit or overlook Māori businesses and cultural tourism opportunities.

Mitigation: Ensuring that mana whenua businesses and cultural initiatives are included in event planning and funding strategies, supporting iwi-driven cultural tourism ventures. We need to be at the table.

Planning and Paying for Growth:

Impact: Rapid urban growth in Auckland can place pressure on land and resources that are culturally significant to iwi. Growth plans must consider Māori land rights, environmental concerns, and cultural preservation.

Mitigation: We strongly advocate for iwi involvement in growth strategies to protect wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and ensure sustainable development aligned with iwi Māori values.

Local Environmental Projects:

Impact: Local projects related to environmental protection, such as waterway restoration and climate resilience initiatives, will directly affect iwi, particularly where natural resources and ecosystems are of cultural importance.

Mitigation: Ensure that local boards collaborate with iwi on environmental projects, recognising kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of the land and waterways.

Placemaking and Cultural Heritage:

Impact: Local initiatives focused on placemaking, cultural heritage, and community development offer opportunities for iwi to assert their mana whenua status and enhance cultural visibility.

Mitigation: Iwi participation in co-designing placemaking projects, including the use of Māori art, names, and narratives in public spaces.

Local Board Agreement and Priorities:

Impact: The Local Board Agreement sets the annual budget and work programme for local projects, which may include support for Māori cultural activities, grants for iwi projects, and partnerships.

- **Mitigation:** Work with Local Boards to align iwi priorities with local funding and ensure that iwi interests are included in the work programme for 2025/26.
- **Climate resilience**

- Auckland Council is continuing its *Making Space for Water* programme.
- **More investment in flood protection and climate adaption.**
- Funding constraints will impact how quickly these projects will roll out, and that is concerning, especially to our iwi and whānau most vulnerable.
- Climate change poses an immediate and long-term threat to our whenua, wai, and marae, disproportionately impacting Māori communities. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and ecosystem degradation threaten our way of life, cultural sites, and traditional food sources. **Iwi must be central in shaping adaptation strategies** that incorporate mātauranga Māori, strengthen climate resilience, and protect vulnerable whānau. Auckland Council's Annual Plan must prioritise **iwi-led climate solutions, nature-based infrastructure, and sustainable land management** to safeguard our hapori for future generations. Without urgent investment and partnership, the survival of our taonga and our people is at risk. **Adaptation is not a choice—it is a responsibility.**

Economic growth & Business support

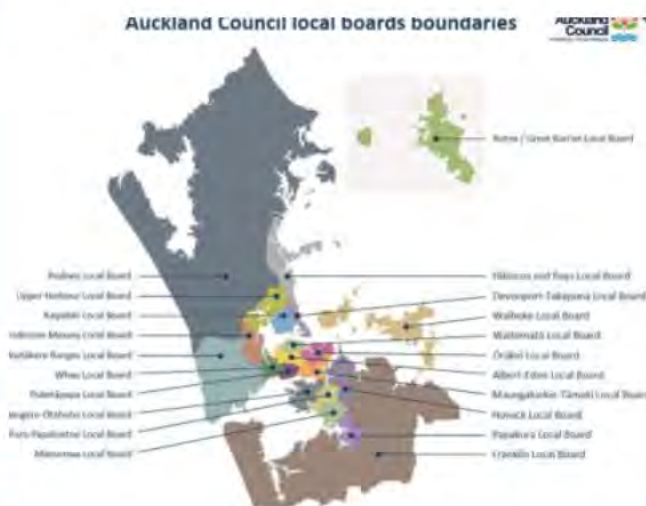
Advocating for iwi involvement in growth strategies to protect wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and ensure sustainable development aligned with Māori values.

Māori Outcome Fund Review

We are committed to ensuring equitable outcomes for Māori across the city. Iwi must be actively involved in the **Auckland Council Māori Outcomes Fund Review** from ideation through to delivery, ensuring Māori-led decision-making at every stage. This includes co-designing the review framework, determining funding priorities, and shaping the application and allocation processes.

25 February 2025

Submission to the Mayoral Proposal 2024 on the 2025 Annual Plan and Annual Budget of Auckland Council: Impacts on Ngāti Tamaterā Aspirations



What matters to us?

Our priority areas:

- Oranga Ōhanga - Healthy and thriving economy
- Oranga Whare – Housing, home ownership and papakāinga opportunities
- Oranga Taiao – Healthy and thriving environments
- Oranga Whānau - Healthy and thriving whānau
- Oranga Rangatahi – Supporting rangatahi potential
- Oranga Mātauranga - Educational wellbeing

Proposal Component	Description	Impact on Ngāti Tamaterā Aspirations	Alignment with Oranga Areas
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Governance Reforms	The proposal includes bringing urban regeneration and property management back under council control to enhance democratic accountability. auckland.scoop.co.nz	Centralising control may limit Ngāti Tamatera's direct influence over urban development projects within their rohe, potentially affecting their ability to exercise kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and participate in decision-making processes.	Oranga Ōhanga (Economic Well-being), Oranga Taiao (Environmental Well-being)
Budget Allocations	Adjustments in funding for community services, infrastructure, and cultural initiatives are proposed to address financial shortfalls. aucklandcouncil.govt.nz	Potential reductions in funding for cultural and community services could impact Ngāti Tamatera's efforts in cultural preservation, education, and community development. Conversely, opportunities may arise to advocate for equitable resource distribution that supports iwi initiatives.	Oranga Whānau (Family Well-being), Oranga Mātauranga (Educational Well-being)
Public Consultation Processes	The proposal outlines a structured process for public consultation on the annual plan, inviting feedback from all stakeholders. aucklandcouncil.govt.nz	This provides a platform for Ngāti Tamatera to voice our concerns and aspirations, ensuring that our perspectives are considered in council decisions. Active participation can lead to outcomes that reflect iwi values and needs.	Oranga Rangatahi (Youth Development), Oranga Whānau (Family Well-being)
Infrastructure Development	Plans for infrastructure projects, including transportation and housing, are highlighted to support urban growth. at.govt.nz	Infrastructure developments within Ngāti Tamatera's rohe must consider the protection of culturally significant sites and environmental sustainability. Collaboration can ensure that projects align with iwi aspirations and do not compromise cultural heritage.	Oranga Whare (Housing Well-being), Oranga Taiao (Environmental Well-being)
Environmental Sustainability Initiatives	Emphasis on projects aimed at enhancing environmental resilience and sustainability.	Aligns with Ngāti Tamatera's role as kaitiaki, offering opportunities to engage in environmental restoration and protection projects that uphold iwi values and contribute to	Oranga Taiao (Environmental Well-being), Oranga Whānau (Family Well-being)

		the well-being of our whenua and moana.	
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Recommendations:

1. **Enhanced Partnership:** Establish formal mechanisms for Ngāti Tamaterā to engage in co-governance and co-management of projects within their rohe, ensuring that iwi have a direct role in decision-making processes affecting their communities.
2. **Cultural Investment:** Allocate dedicated funding to support Ngāti Tamaterā's cultural, educational, and community initiatives, recognizing the importance of preserving and promoting Māori heritage and well-being.
3. **Environmental Collaboration:** Partner with Ngāti Tamaterā on environmental sustainability projects, leveraging traditional knowledge and practices to achieve shared goals in environmental stewardship.
4. **Inclusive Consultation:** Ensure that public consultation processes are accessible and inclusive, providing Ngāti Tamaterā with meaningful opportunities to contribute to discussions on policies and projects that impact their iwi.

By integrating these recommendations, the Auckland Council can foster a collaborative relationship with Ngāti Tamaterā, supporting the iwi's aspirations and promoting the well-being of all communities within the region.

Impacts of the Annual Budget on Iwi at Regional and Local Levels

Regional Impacts

At the regional level, the Annual Budget includes topics that affect Māori outcomes across Tāmaki Makaurau, with significant implications for mana whenua, including:

1. CCO Reform (Council-Controlled Organisations):

- **Impact:** Reforms to Auckland Transport, Eke Panuku, and other CCOs (excluding Watercare) can influence how infrastructure and development projects consider Māori outcomes. Iwi may have opportunities to ensure that Māori cultural values are integrated into major urban and infrastructure projects.
- **Mitigation:** Iwi engagement in planning and co-governance of projects to ensure that Māori interests are prioritised in decision-making.

2. Water Reform:

- The Government's water reform programme, *Local Water Done Well*, has enabled Watercare to operate with greater financial independence from Auckland Council, unlocking the ability to invest in vital infrastructure without being constrained by Council debt limits. For iwi, this

presents a significant opportunity to ensure our **aspirations for Te Mana o te Wai and Te Oranga o te Taiao** are upheld in water planning and investment decisions. We encourage Auckland Council and Watercare to work in genuine partnership with iwi, embedding mātauranga Māori, environmental restoration, and equitable outcomes into the capital programme to protect and enhance the mauri of our wai for future generations. We also expect to be in real partnership around procurement opportunities for our iwi businesses.

3. Funding Major Events and Tourism:

- **Impact:** The allocation of funds for events and visitor attractions can either benefit or overlook Māori businesses and cultural tourism opportunities.
- **Mitigation:** Ensuring that Māori businesses and cultural initiatives are included in event planning and funding strategies, supporting iwi-driven cultural tourism ventures.
- We do support the levy however understand the complexities around legislation and urge the council to work closely with iwi to implement shared event outcomes.

4. Planning and Paying for Growth:

- **Impact:** Rapid urban growth in Auckland can place pressure on land and resources that are culturally significant to iwi. Growth plans must consider Māori land rights, environmental concerns, and cultural preservation.
- **Economic Development:** ED impacts directly on our aspirations as we seek to whakamana our iwi businesses within the progressive and sustainable procurement opportunities. Auckland Council's 2025 Budget shapes the future of **iwi economic development**, directly influencing Māori enterprises, job creation, and sustainable growth within our rohe. **Māori businesses contribute over \$1.4 billion annually** to the economy, yet barriers remain in accessing procurement opportunities, infrastructure investment, and innovation funding. Rapid growth equates to rapid economic development and we as an iwi are adamant to be included within all infrastructure projects. Tāmaki Makaurau thrives when Māori thrive. Let's ensure the 2025 Budget prioritises iwi economic growth!
- **Mitigation:** Advocating for iwi involvement in growth strategies to protect wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and ensure sustainable development aligned with Māori values. **Iwi must be at the decision-making table** to ensure that economic policies reflect our aspirations, uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and create **a future where Māori-led solutions drive Auckland's economic success.**

5. Māori Outcomes Fund Review

- We are committed to ensuring equitable outcomes for Māori across the city. Iwi must be actively involved in the **Auckland Council Māori Outcomes Fund Review** from ideation through to delivery, ensuring Māori-led decision-making at every stage. This includes co-designing the review framework, determining funding priorities, and shaping the application and allocation processes. Too often, iwi is consulted late in the process, rather than being at the table where decisions are made. To uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and achieve meaningful Māori outcomes, iwi must have direct input into how funding supports kaupapa Māori, aligns with our priorities, and delivers lasting benefits for whānau, hapū, and marae. **No decisions about us, without us.**

Local Impacts

At the local level, each Local Board will prioritise projects that directly impact their communities, with several key considerations for iwi:

1. Local Environmental Projects:

- **Impact:** Local projects related to environmental protection, such as waterway restoration and climate resilience initiatives, will directly affect iwi, particularly where natural resources and ecosystems are of cultural importance.
- **Mitigation:** Ensure that local boards collaborate with iwi on environmental projects, recognising kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of the land and waterways.

2. Placemaking and Cultural Heritage:

- **Impact:** Local initiatives focused on placemaking, cultural heritage, and community development offer opportunities for iwi to assert their mana whenua status and enhance cultural visibility.
- **Mitigation:** Iwi participation in co-designing placemaking projects, including the use of Māori art, names, and narratives in public spaces.

3. Local Board Agreement and Priorities:

- **Impact:** The Local Board Agreement sets the annual budget and work programme for local projects, which may include support for Māori cultural activities, grants for iwi projects, and partnerships.
- **Mitigation:** Work with Local Boards to align iwi priorities with local funding and ensure that iwi interests are included in the work programme for 2025/26.

4. Community Facilities and Events:

- **Impact:** Libraries, community centres, and local events provide important platforms for Māori cultural programmes and engagement. The budget allocation for these facilities can influence access and resources for iwi cultural initiatives.
- **Mitigation:** Collaborate with Local Boards to secure funding for Te Reo Māori programmes, Matariki celebrations, and other Māori-focused events.

Summary of Key Impacts:

- Iwi can significantly influence both regional and local projects by engaging in the consultation process for the Annual Budget.
- Iwi should prioritise advocating for Māori-led initiatives in environmental protection, cultural heritage preservation, and growth planning.
- Collaboration with Local Boards is essential to ensure that iwi values are embedded in local projects and that funding is allocated to support Māori cultural and environmental aspirations.

By actively participating in the budget consultation and engagement processes, iwi can help shape outcomes that reflect our interests and priorities at both the regional and local levels.

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): Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why

See attached:

Local Board Priorities – Fairer Funding

Local Board increased decision-making power - TRNW supports this change – don't speak for LBs or manawhenua – support anything gives greater voice to manawhenua – partner with council to achieve their aspirations.

CCO Change

Council controlled organisational changes – neutral stance on that - a lot of information missing from the plan – to inform our thinking.

Eke Panuku operational plan 2025-26 progressed with no involvement from Ngati Whatua – two reps on that body that have not attended or are unwilling to attend – no involvement in that. Unsure how we progress that issue.

Water Reform

Local Waters done well – in Kaipara we now need ministerial intervention re the debt ratio - it is likely we will have to partner with another council. We don't have any willing to partner. Whangarei is already looking at major increases on their figures. Can't justify Kaipara as well – makes sense for Ngati Whatua to align with Auckland Council. Kaipara wants to partner with Auckland Council – operations say it is not viable but door is not closed – no decision from governing body – really impacts on our uri and ratepayers.

Māori Outcomes Capacity Funding

Thank you for ongoing support capacity and capability funding that allows us to give feedback.

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

See attached:

First proposal –Overnight levy – applied to major events – we are supportive of that – seek more on what those events are – mentioned events – what larger Māori events and pacific events – are they also included in the allocated budget for which this level will be funded from.

Strong need for that – notice that a lot of events e.g. NRL have large sponsors and receive salaries compared to indigenous cultural events. A lot of performances are made cultural responsibilities – we love to perform – however none of that is paid or remunerated – we even have to pay towards our whanau members to attend those events. Matatini is a good example where whanau raise funds to get accommodation transport etc – yet it is a major economic boost to the local economy.

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

See attached:

Te Reo te Marae – re urupa cemetery

We support Te Reo te Marae – re urupa cemetery that is proposed. Heed the past and lessons re lack of consultation with Ngati Whatua – hope council will seriously sit with those affected and compromise.

LTP Feedback reporting

Group: #12 Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua

Feedback from Māori entities

Representative: [REDACTED]

Identify: Mana whenua

Notes from verbal presentation to Annual Budget discussion.

[REDACTED] provided opening mihi.

[REDACTED] Chair of meeting AC

15 Minute time allocation

- **Noted:** We support Te Reo te Marae – re: urupa cemetery that is proposed in the Waimauku
- **Noted:** Concern over future water reforms and development - unaffordable.
- **Noted:** Request that Auckland Council speak to mana whenua of Ngāti Whātua when outside of the runanga's mandate (strategic planning etc).
- **Noted:** their withdrawal from the mana whenua forum.
-

Overall direction for Annual Budget

Runanga Ngati Whatua general

What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?	Not Stated
Environment - Sustainability	Not Stated
Do you support Bed night visitor levy?	Supported Requesting more information on what those events will be. Will Māori Pacific Events be included? Questioned large sponsored events receive salaries vs cultural events organised via cultural responsibility to pass on knowledge. Will salaries etc apply to cultural event organisers? Performers have to fundraise to get their members attending for accommodation, transport, etc.
Local Board priorities – Fairer Funding	Supported Support anything gives greater voice to mana whenua
CCO Reform	Neutral

	<p>Neutral stance on that - a lot of information missing from the plan - to inform our thinking.</p> <p>Noted no involvement from Te Runanga on the EP operational plan even through they had two representatives.</p>
Māori Outcomes Fund Review	<p>Supported</p> <p>Thank you for ongoing support capacity and capability funding that allows us to give feedback - it allows us to engage.</p>
Rates and Charges - paying for growth	<p>Not Stated</p> <p>Future water reform cost issues - problematic.</p>
Transport	<p>Not Stated</p>

What else is important to you?

██████████: – Resource manager Runanga Ngati Whatua & Māori Ward counsellor Kaipara
Kaipara won't have mandated representation for some time.

The Runanga keep our advocacy at the higher-level strategic planning levels.

██████████ has indicated our withdrawal from the collective Manawhenua forum to align with the board's strategic direction. We have set out our matters in that document.

Bed Levy:

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Te Reo te Marae – re urupa cemetery

We support Te Reo te Marae – re urupa cemetery that is proposed. Heed the past and lessons re lack of consultation with Ngati Whatua – hope council will seriously sit with those affected and compromise.

Māori Outcomes Capacity Funding

Thank you for ongoing support capacity and capability funding that allows us to give feedback.

██████████ noted: – More research required.

RE Kaipara Moana remediation do you have oversight?

██████████: Te Runanga is signatory to Māori remediation – Matua Te Rangi – Clear alignment with resources with Auckland Council – relationship agreement signed last year – strategic priorities – point 4 – we seek NW better access services and infrastructure to ensure we prosper as people

Regards water reforms – if Kaipara goes alone – \$8,000 per ratepayer – less for you (Auckland) \$600 m investment in Kaipara – to align \$111 million – not a viable solution we can't practically borrow that level of funding – future of LG report is to develop unitary authorities – in future that ends up with Auckland and a Tai Tokerau Authority.

Sustainability of model into future – ministerial intervention required – we want to go with Auckland. Also , with my Māori Councillor potai – we can't afford the figures modelled.



#8550



Annual Plan 2025-2026

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Organisation (if applicable): The Tree Council

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

Question 1: Our overall plan

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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?

Other

Tell us why

See attached

Summary of Attachment:

Natural Environment

Support for Pest Management: Emphasis on increased funding for weed and pest control, especially in Regional Parks like the Waitākere Ranges.

Kauri Dieback Management: Urgent need for ongoing phosphite treatment and increased support for the Kauri Rescue Trust.

Regulatory Compliance: More budget for investigating tree issues and proactive monitoring of consent conditions.

Urban Ngahere Strategy: Funding for monitoring tree canopy cover, planting, and maintaining trees.

Cyclone Damage Repairs: Additional funding required for repairing damaged tracks in Regional Parks.

2. Community

Fair Funding for Local Boards: Ensure no local board receives less funding; increase budgets without compromising others.

Parks and Community Assets: Opposition to asset stripping and privatization; call for necessary investment in parks and community assets.

Animal Control Services: Support for enhanced resourcing and capacity at animal shelters, including dog control on beaches and in parks.

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.

Other

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)

See attached:

Targeted Rates:

SUPPORT Water Quality Targeted Rate P143

SUPPORT proposed 3.5% increase to NETR but we consider that the NETR rate should be increased the same amount as the general rate (ie 5.8%) not less. P143

SUPPORT Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate (extending regional networks for Urban Ngahere) P144

SUPPORT Electricity Network Resilience Targeted Rate (tree management and planting for Urban Ngahere Strategy) P149

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



Submission by The Tree Council on Annual Plan 2025-26

26 March 2025

From: The Tree Council

Contact: [REDACTED], Chair
PO Box 60-203, Titirangi, Auckland 0642

[REDACTED]
info@thetreecouncil.org.nz

1. Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to present **The Tree Council** (TTC)'s submissions on the **Annual Plan 2025-26**.

These submissions are made by The Tree Council, an independent, voluntary organisation, a non-profit incorporated charitable society which has been serving the Auckland community since 1986 in the protection of trees and as advocates for the significant benefits and services that our trees and green spaces provide.

We wish to speak to our submission if that opportunity is provided.

2. Key Points

2.1 Natural Environment:

Meet council's obligations set out in the Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-2030 and increased funding and extension of the Environment Targeted Rate in delivering pest plan, animal and pathogen control and restoration activities. - SUPPORT.

- However, this must include a increased budget for weed and pest control in Regional Parks, especially the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.
- We also consider that Council should be socialising the need for using 1080 to control pests effectively in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.

Coordinate and implement the kauri dieback management programme to protect our kauri forests - SUPPORT.

- However there is an urgent need to include an annual budget for ongoing phosphite treatment on parks (Regional & Local) otherwise all currently infected trees will die - and this will mean the upgraded track infrastructure will go through dead and dying forest with huge H&S implications.
- Plus increased financial support is needed for Kauri Rescue Trust's services for private landowners with kauri dieback. This is the only service in the region that helps landowners to keep their infected trees alive (rather than letting them die) and provides outreach and education about the disease and preventing its spread. There is a huge demand but services are severely limited by budget which has been cut by over 50% since 2022-23. Ratepayers who have kauri on their property deserve Council's practical support via the Kauri Rescue Trust.
- Keeping kauri alive benefits us all - Kauri are huge carbon sinks and live for more than 1000s of years, with kauri forests being among the most carbon dense forests in the world. So a large kauri will have absorbed and fixed over 1000 tonnes of CO₂ in its lifetime, and will fix a further 1-2 tonnes annually. Even a young ricker (pole size) kauri has fixed 1-4 tonnes of CO₂, fixing a further 40-80 kg annually.
- Kauri are a keystone species, supporting an entire ecosystem. They are more important in this role than as a single species.

Not mentioned but needs to include:

- More budget for Regulatory Compliance & Enforcement to investigate tree issues (and other things) especially re damage to scheduled Notable Trees, trees in Significant Ecological Areas, Coastal Zone, Riparian Margins & in parks.
- Plus budget for proactive monitoring of consent conditions, not just responding to complaints.
- Plus annual budget for effective ongoing management of the Schedule of Notable Trees, including proactive adding of trees to the schedule and review of scheduling criteria to make it easier to protect more of Auckland's mature trees.
- Budget for the Urban Ngahere Strategy to include monitoring and analysis of tree canopy cover plus planting more trees and maintaining the ones we already have.
- Additional funding must be provided to Regional Parks, specifically to fund repairs to the damaged tracks as a result of the cyclone. There is up to \$10M of unfunded work that needs to be done to enable tracks to reopen to the public. This cannot be funded from savings within Regional Parks or it will take decades to complete. The public funded these track upgrades via the NETR targeted rate, they deserve to have them repaired not remain shut indefinitely.

2.2 Community:

Fairer funding for local boards - no Board should get less funding as a result of this policy. Those not getting enough should have their budget increased, but not at the expense of other boards & their communities. Local Board spending has a huge impact on the local environment and quality of life for ratepayers.

Deliver differently by transitioning of the Parks and Community Asset portfolio to a lesser dependence on assets and more innovative ways of delivering council services

- What does this mean??? It sounds like the potential for asset stripping, asset sales, privatisation by stealth and a lack of necessary investment in parks and community assets required to maintain them appropriately. We DO NOT SUPPORT any of these realities. Parks and community assets are some of the most important and accessible services that Council provides to ratepayers. They must not be degraded by a lack of investment in them as assets.

Enhance animal control services through increased resourcing, improvements and increasing capacity at our animal shelters - SUPPORT

- This also needs to include a budget for dog control on beaches and in parks to protect wildlife, including signage.

2.3 Targeted Rates:

SUPPORT Water Quality Targeted Rate P143

SUPPORT proposed 3.5% increase to NETR but we consider that the NETR rate should be increased the same amount as the general rate (ie 5.8%) not less. P143

SUPPORT Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate (extending regional networks for Urban Ngahere) P144

SUPPORT Electricity Network Resilience Targeted Rate (tree management and planting for Urban Ngahere Strategy) P149

#8550

The Tree Council
Tiakina Rākau • est 1986



Dr Mels Barton, Secretary

Resources for management of protected trees

- Statutory obligation to manage Notable Trees Schedule
 - Thanks for funding evaluation of nominations & preparation of plan change to add trees to schedule - this work needs to be ongoing
 - No resources for proactive work by Council to identify new trees for Schedule
- Resource review of UP criteria for Notable Trees
- Provide resources and funding for labeling and information on Scheduled Notable trees
- Resource review of Significant Ecological Areas & add new ones
- Resource review of other ways to protect urban trees - especially in light of the proposed RMA legislation review



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Resources for Regulatory & Enforcement

- Current funding inadequate to ensure consent conditions pro-actively monitored (not just responding to complaints)
- Resource enforcement action to ensure consent conditions implemented
- Illegal removals not pursued with enforcement action - resourcing inadequate

Resource Urban Ngahere Strategy

- Resources to plant more trees
- Resources to monitor urban tree coverage & its structure



Increase resourcing of Kauri Rescue Trust

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- Kauri Rescue Trust provides education & support for private landowners with kauri dieback infected trees across the entire region
- Includes DIY phosphite treatment and monitoring of results
- No other support for ratepayers with the disease by Council
- No other organisation does this work
- Current funding is inadequate & is making this work unsustainable in the long term
- Keeping kauri alive benefits us all
 - Huge carbon sink
 - Keystone species supports entire ecosystem
- Landowners dealing with dieback deserve Council's support



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Resource Treatment of Infected Kauri on Public Land

- Still no treatment of kauri dieback infected trees by Council to date (other than in Piha 5 years ago)
- All infected trees will die without treatment - there is no cure
- Efficacy of phosphite treatment is proven
 - Phosphite treatment is not a cure, requires ongoing monitoring & repeat treatments every 5 or so years
- Forest collapse at sites like the Cascades is imminent - need to act now or it will be too late
- Te Kawerau ā Maki supportive of treatment in Waitākere Ranges
- Investment in new tracks will be wasted if end up being through dead forests
 - Safety issues - track closures due to danger
 - Ongoing cost of removals as trees die around tracks
 - Both Regional & Local Parks need treatment now
- Fully funded NETR increasing annually is essential

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The Cascades, February 2024





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OK. Thanks very much. So I'm gonna start on the secretary, the Tree Council. I'm sure you all know me. And next slide, please. So, first of all, I'd like to thank the Council for putting in some extra resources to manage the local tree schedule over the last 12 months. I'm hoping that was as a response to our presentation but also pressure from staff. That has enabled evaluation of, I think 260 trees have been nominated for the Local Tree schedule and really what I'd like to say is that this work needs to be ongoing and it's not just as a one hit wonder, that there's gonna be trees nominated for notable tree schedulers. Certainly the tree council is continues to find trees around the region that are worthy of nomination. So along with the public don't let up on that, just keep your foot going. I would say that there's no work proactively going on by Council to look for trees to add to the schedule as far as we're aware and we wonder why that is. So maybe that's something that you can ask the staff but it certainly would be worthwhile given that you have officers are out and about all over the region that they should be looking for trees that would be schedulable, particularly on private land.

There are a few things that I'd like to highlight that we think need to be funded in the run up to you reviewing the unitary plan in 2029 and that is the criteria for the notable trees. Now obviously we are effectively testing the criteria in the unitary plan for the first time, really, because this is the first time that you're going to actually add significant number of trees to the unitary plan schedule, and you're gonna find, I suspect that the criteria that are in the plan are too strict and that the majority or maybe 50% or whatever of those trees that have been nominated which we have nominated which have already been through and arborist review process and it's not like they've just come from the public, we've already filtered out the ones that we didn't think we're going to qualify. A lot of those are still not going to qualify. So we think that you need to look at those criteria. They're too strict. Why would you not want to be putting good quality trees onto the schedule. Why would you have criteria so strict that that becomes almost impossible? That's just shooting yourself in the foot in terms of future generations and trees in Auckland.

Labelling of the scheduled trees that we do have 3000 items on the schedule roughly at the moment. It would be a massive massive educational opportunity for those trees to be labelled in some way. QR codes being the no brainer really and you already label nutrients that you put into road reserves and parks and we think that labelling notable trees so that people value them and understand that these are special trees, would add so much level of passive surveillance for a start, but also understanding of why these trees are important and the fact that they are actually legally protected. It's cheap, it's more than possible for you to do this, and you can include a huge amount of the amount of information on a QR code that you can update whenever you like. Yeah, it's a no brainer, really. Why aren't you doing it? It can't and it wouldn't be that expensive.

Resourcing reviews of significant ecological areas and adding new ones and other ways to protect urban trees, and we think should be on the radar and that you should be funding this. Next slide please.

And just a nice picture of some of the scheduled notable trees that we have in the region to show you exactly what it is that you're protecting here and the scale of these trees and why it is so important that we find more of them and schedule more of them because obvious they take up a lot of space and so with the redevelopment of the city, if they're on private land, they're hugely vulnerable to just being removed if they have no protection. Next slide please.

Regulatory and enforcement is chronically underfunded. What we've found is that consent conditions that sometimes you know, we've been all the way to the Environment Court to secure consent

conditions, they're not proactively monitored. So unless there's a complaint about something, then nobody goes to check that they're actually doing what they're supposed to be doing.

So we need enforcement to be ramped up in order to ensure consent conditions are implemented and we've had incidences of illegal removals not being pursued with enforcement action because resourcing is inadequate and people get pulled from one place to another and they haven't got time to respond in time, in order to be able to intervene in incidents that are occurring. It's just not good enough, you know, these are the as when we're talking about trees, which obviously I'm here to do and then these things can't replace them once they're gone, they're gone, so it's really important that interventions are timely and effective.

And the consent conditions are put in place and followed up, and because otherwise we just lose what it is that we've gone to a huge amount of trouble to protect. But it's not just for trees. Regulatory enforcement is chronically funded for everything, so, you know, they need to, they need to have more resources.

And the urban ngahiri strategy again, we know that you're doing, you are monitoring over tree coverage and you've put in some new technology this year, which is great and we just want to really emphasise how important that work is and to continue to plant more trees in the city. But we're losing far more trees every day than are being planted. So the more that work is supported and funded, the better. Next slide please.

Otherwise this is just some examples of what happens when you don't enforce consent conditions or you can't react to incidents that happen. The one on the left, the bright orange one are those were scheduled there was there was four, I think, or six of them, scheduled Totoru had stuff dumped in their root zone that wasn't attended to by council, despite it being notified. They subsequently died and now about a year later there's an enforcement notice or an abatement notice requiring them to replant trees. But you know how long is it gonna be before you get something of the scale of that back in place? If it ever survives? Next slide please.

I'll state now that I am a contractor to the Kauri Rescue Trust. But this is the Tree Council saying and telling you about the Kauri Rescue Trust because their funding is really threatened. This trust is a charitable trust. It provides education and support for private land owners who have infected kauri trees on their property. It is the only organisation that supports private land owners who have got infected trees. It provides equipment, education and support and training for people to offsite treat their infected trees to keep them alive and to monitor them over time to see how they respond to the treatment, which adds some science knowledge and also to enable them to know when it's time to retreat these trees. Because, as we know, phosphate is not a cure, it is a treatment.

There's no other support for ratepayers who have this disease, if they don't treat their trees, their trees die, all of them, they die. That's it's a huge financial burden to those ratepayers apart from anything else and places where you've got a lot of Kauri, those dead trees need to stay on the property, so you can imagine that they're just becomes a complete like pile of dead logs. The current funding has been cut for kauri rescue by 50% since 2022/23, and it's making this work a sustainable in the long term. Keeping Kauri alive benefits all of us. They are massive carbon sinks. They last, they live for thousands of years, and they support an entire ecosystem as a keystone species. The land owners who are paying your natural environment targeted rates deserve to have financial support in the in the form of

services like Kauri Rescue Trust, stop starving the Kauri Rescue Trust out of existence. Next slide please.

Some pictures of Kauri Rescue Trust working with private land owners just to show the bread, really, of support that we have in the community and the amount of work that is done and how practical it is for land owners to do this work themselves. Next slide please.

This is what happens if you don't treat the trees. They died.

Next slide please.

OK, this is gonna be deja vu for you because I've said all of this last year and nothing has happened. You need to start treating infected kauri on public land or they are all going to die. There's been no treatment of kauri dieback, infected treated by council on private land other than in PR five years ago. They'll all need retreating now.

You heard it all from me last year. Nothing has changed. You're collecting money in the NETR. You need to be spending some of this on a rolling programme on phosphite treatment around your regional parks. Otherwise all the investment that you have put into upgrading your track infrastructure is gonna go through dead forests. And then you're gonna have to shut them because you're gonna dead trees falling on the tracks.

So yeah, get with the programme, start a rolling programme, spend a portion of the NETR every year on phosphate treatment and work your way around the parks and start treating these trees before they die. And that's local parks as well as regional parks.

OK, next slide please.

Picture of the cascade with all those thin yellow carving on the ridge, they're not any better. I've been there in the last few weeks and they're looking even worse.

Next slide please.

Yeah, the ravages of kauri dieback in the Cascades on some of those massive trees right next to the tracks. Next slide please.

Yeah, there you go. Says it all really. OK, that's me.

Thanks very much.