

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2023 Summary of Feedback





Summary of feedback on the draft Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2023

Purpose

This report summarises feedback received during the public consultation in July/August to inform the development of the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan. This summary aims to capture themes rather than detail every point of feedback received.

Executive Summary

Local board plans are strategic three-year plans developed in consultation with the community. They set out the direction for the local area reflecting community aspirations and priorities, and guide:

- decisions on local activities, projects, and facilities
- local board input into the council's regional strategies and plans, including the Auckland Plan
- how local boards will work with other agencies, including community groups, central government agencies and council-controlled organisations that play key roles in the area
- funding and investment decisions.

Local board plans focus on the key areas local boards are responsible for and include objectives and some of the key initiatives that will be carried out to achieve them.

Engagement Approach

The draft Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2023 was developed using feedback received from public engagement carried out between November 2022 and April 2023. Feedback previously heard from the community on a wide range of topics, particularly during the 2023 Annual Budget consultation period, was also considered.

Between 13 July and 14 August 2023, the local board consulted on the draft plan to hear the community's thoughts. Feedback was received through Have Your Say events, written submissions including online and hard copy forms, emails and letters.

This report summarises the key activities that took place and the feedback that was heard during both the early engagement and the consultation period.

Mana whenua engagement

A co-ordinated approach was taken by local boards so that mana whenua were invited to engage with relevant local boards in one hui rather than receiving separate invitations from each local board. For the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board, local engagement took place with mana whenua through a hui at Kawa marae in April 2023.

Mana whenua were sent a copy of the draft local board plan in June 2023 and encouraged to provide written feedback. No formal feedback was received.

Stakeholder and community engagement

Table 1: Summary of early engagement activities

Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Community hui - 3 March	Representatives from community groups, local environmental groups, businesses, and Department of Conservation	23
Learning hub hui - 8 March	Correspondence students	10
Local Board Workshop - 20 March	Travel operators Barrier Air and Sealink	2
Mana whenua hui - 15 April	Mana whenua from local marae and Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust representatives	8
Medlands BBQ event - 4 March	Community members	21
Okiwi BBQ event - 11 March	Community members	7
Okupu BBQ event - 18 March	Community members	20
Gooseberry Flat BBQ event - 25 March	Community members	27

Table 2: Summary of consultation activities during the consultation period

Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Claris hui - 26 July	Community members	10
Okiwi hui - 5 August	Community members	2

Generic submissions to all boards

Seven organisations provided submissions to all local boards. Relevant content is included in the sections below.

- Disabled Persons Assembly NZ
- Civic Trust Auckland
- Bike Auckland
- Community Groups Feeding the Homeless
- Community Cat Coalition Inc.
- Royal Forest and Bird protection Society of New Zealand Inc. (Forest & Bird) Hauraki Islands Branch
- The Tree Council



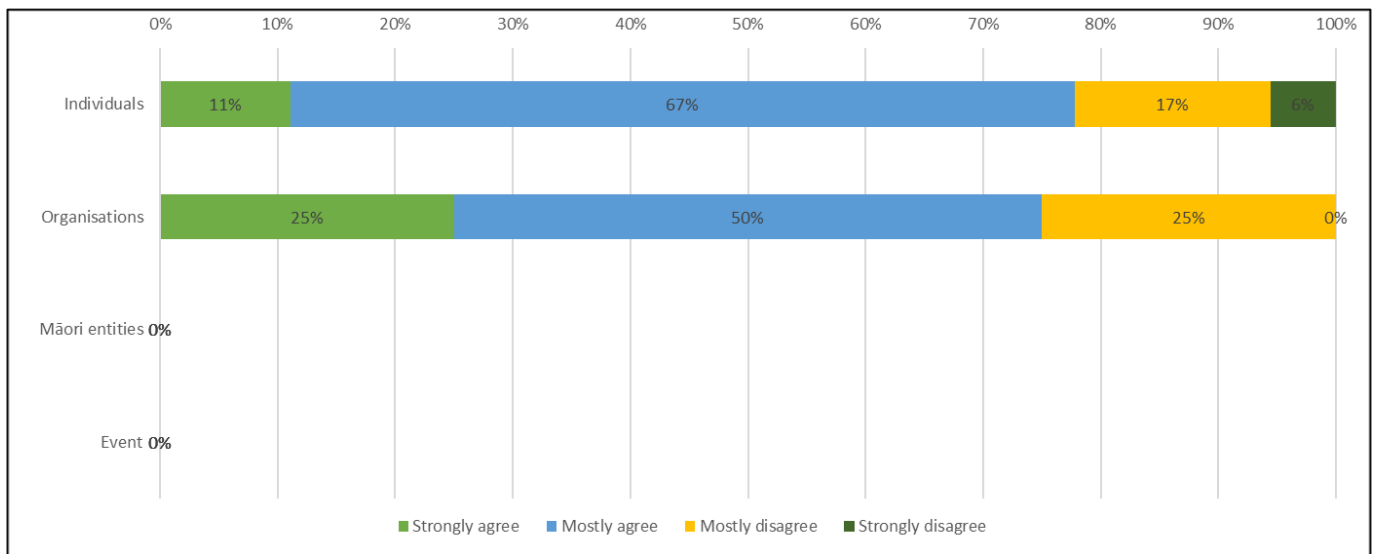
Summary of feedback

Overall

As part of the draft local board plan consultation, the first question asked was whether the proposed plan reflected the needs and aspirations of the community over the next three years.

The plan consists of three outcome areas for *Our People*, *Our Environment* and *Our Plans*. The plan also has weaved throughout the outcome areas initiatives to deliver on *Māori outcomes* and *Climate action*.

Q1. Do you think our proposed plan reflects the needs and aspirations for our community over the next three years?						
Category	Count					
	Yes, strongly agree	Yes, mostly agree	No, mostly disagree	No, strongly disagree	I don't know	
Individuals	2	12	3	1	0	
Organisations	1	2	1	0	0	
Māori entities	0	0	0	0	0	
Event	0	0	0	0	0	



Most people were in support of the plan and wanted the board to be more ambitious with goals especially around roads and walkways. Key themes from the feedback included:

- General support
- Too vague
- Priority for environment
- Priority for infrastructure



Māori Outcomes

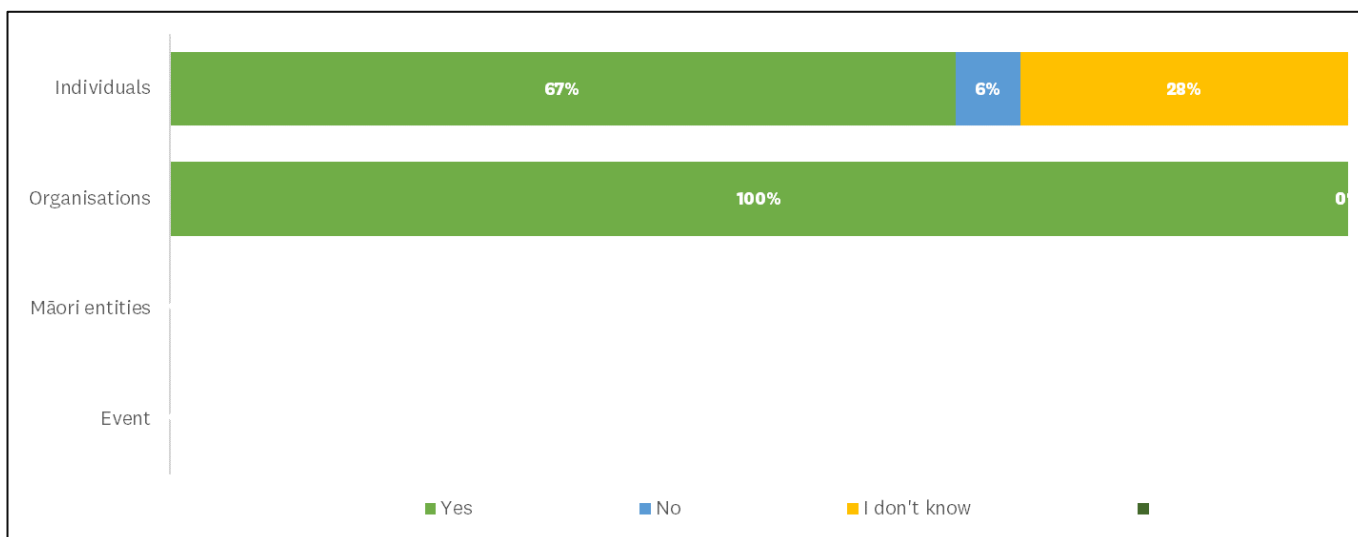
Delivering outcomes for Māori is an important feature of the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan.

Māori outcomes respond to Council’s legislative obligations and to extensive engagement with Auckland’s Māori communities.

The draft plan proposed initiatives to support Māori outcomes in our area, including:

- Strengthen council and mana whenua relationship networks across local governance, organisation and community through regular hui and iwi representation on groups.
- Support mana whenua aspirations with collaborative projects such as pou whenua, Tū Mai Taonga and Ahu Moana.
- Support mana whenua to develop a rangatahi leadership programme and educational initiatives such as te reo courses.
- Support mana whenua and community-led marine protection projects such as Ahu Moana with grants funding.
- Support mana whenua to deliver the Visitor Information Centre.

Q3. Are we on the right track with our Māori outcome aspirations?			
Category	Count		
	Yes	No	I don't know
Individuals	12	1	5
Organisations	3	0	0
Māori entities	0	0	0
Event	0	0	0



Most people were in support of this question and positive regarding the amount of collaboration mentioned within the plan. Key themes from the feedback included:

- General support for working together
- Too vague



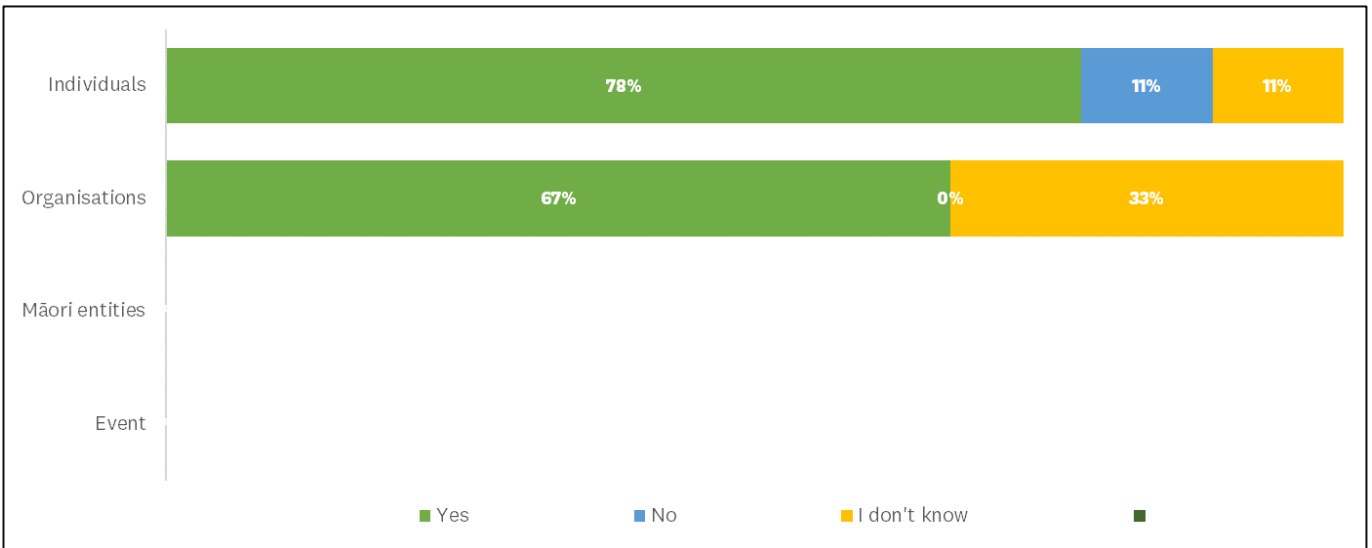
Climate action

Local Boards also have an important role to play in leading and supporting Auckland’s response to the climate emergency, including supporting regional climate plan initiatives, integrating climate awareness into all decisions, including community investment.

The draft plan proposed to meet the challenge of tackling climate action in some of the following ways:

- Support mana whenua and community with projects to strengthen food security, such as funding food and garden coordinators.
- Support the island to transition to low carbon, resilient and sustainable practices through grants for community facility upgrades and off-the-grid events.
- Strengthen water resilience by installing an emergency water system and supporting community water security projects.
- Restore freshwater ecosystems to mitigate climate change, protect aquatic biodiversity, prevent pests and pollution through funding projects such as riparian planting.
- Support the local Emergency Response Team in delivery of island emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

Q2. Are we on the right track with our climate change goals?			
Category	Count		
	Yes	No	I don't know
Individuals	14	2	2
Organisations	2	0	1
Māori entities	0	0	0
Event	0	0	0



Most people were in support of this question. Comments were strongly in favour of planting, protecting wetlands, electric transport and systems options, and emergency/resilience. Key themes from the feedback included:

- Priority for emergency/resilience
- Priority for alternate energy
- Priority for wetlands/planting



- Too vague

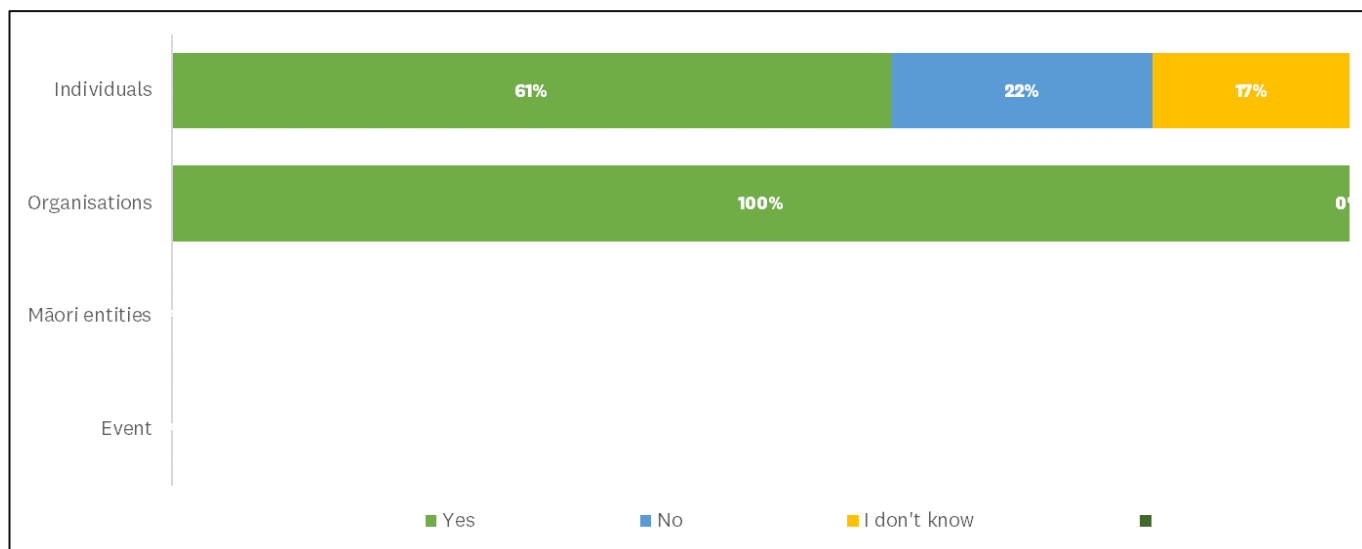
Our People

The island is home to about 1000 permanent residents plus part time residents. Island people are self-sufficient and innovative. Sustainable living and a strong community spirit are important features of life on the island.

The draft plan proposed three objectives for an *engaged and thriving mana whenua, self-sufficient and prosperous community*, and a *strong and adaptable economy*. The key initiatives are as follows:

- Strengthen council and mana whenua relationship networks across local governance, organisation and community through regular hui and iwi representation on groups.
- Support mana whenua aspirations with collaborative projects such as pou whenua, Tū Mai Taonga and Ahu Moana.
- Support mana whenua to develop a rangatahi leadership programme and educational initiatives such as te reo courses.
- Support mana whenua to deliver the Visitor Information Centre.
- Provide annual grant funding for our local marae, arts, environment, education, and sustainability organisations to deliver our core community services.
- Provide annual funding to our community-led health and welfare groups to ensure local access for services.
- Strengthen capacity-building within our community trusts by organising courses and collaborative community forums.
- Support the local Emergency Response Team in delivery of island emergency preparedness, response and recovery.
- Support the upskilling of business and social enterprises by running management, resilience and governance courses.
- Support community-led sustainable tourism projects with grants funding.

Q4 Are we on the right track with the 'Our People' priorities?			
Category	Count		
	Yes	No	I don't know
Individuals	11	4	3
Organisations	2	0	0
Māori entities	0	0	0
Event	0	0	0



Most people were in support of this question. Comments were strongly in favour for more focus on elderly support and increased oversight over community groups. Key themes from the feedback included:

- Priority for community group support
- Priority for Manaakitanga/looking after our people
- Priority for business support

Our Environment

Aotea is a significant ecological area. It has a high diversity of native fauna and flora and retains extensive freshwater wetlands, salt marshes and dune fields, all of which are nationally unique. Mana whenua and the community are proactive in their role as kaitiaki in ensuring taonga are protected and mauri is sustained.

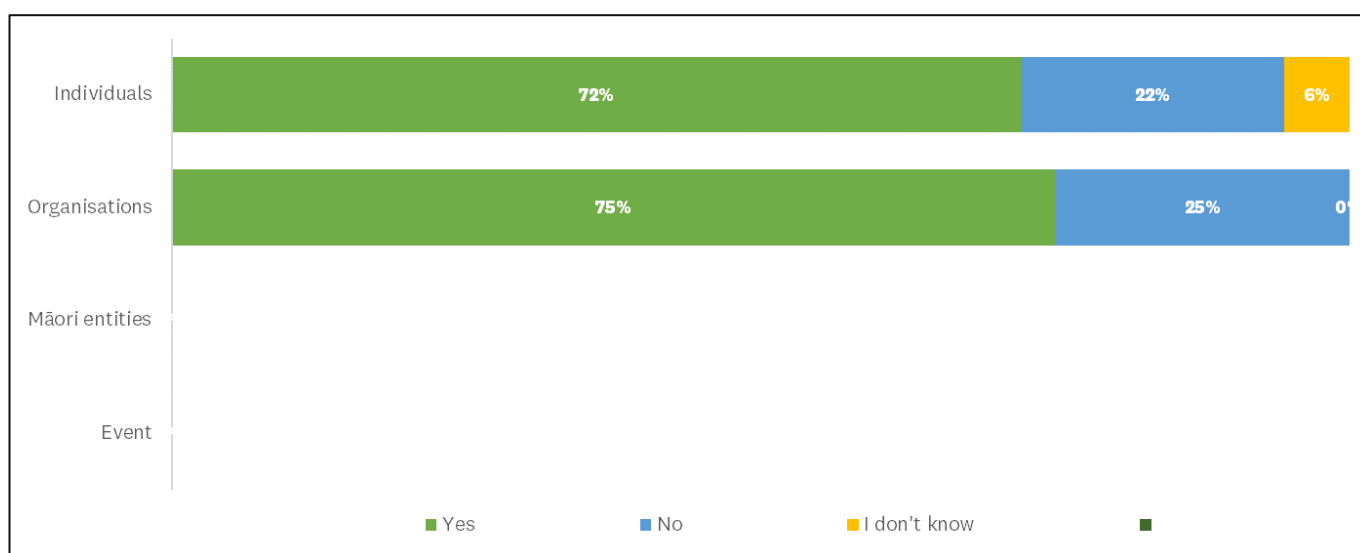
The draft plan proposed four objectives for a *treasured and enriched whenua*, *clean and secure wai*, *abundant and protected moana*, and a *celebrated and preserved rangi-nui*. The key initiatives are as follows:

- Support mana whenua and community with projects to strengthen food security, such as funding food and garden coordinators.
- Support the island to transition to low carbon, resilient and sustainable practices through grants for community facility upgrades and off-the-grid events.
- Support mana whenua and community delivered restoration projects with funding and advice such as Ecology Vision groups in Oruawharo, Okiwi, Okupu and Tū Mai Taonga.
- Support the island nurseries for eco-sourced plants.
- Support community projects for reducing, reusing, composting and recycling waste with grant funding.
- Strengthen water resilience by installing an emergency water system and supporting community water security projects.
- Restore freshwater ecosystems to mitigate climate change, protect aquatic biodiversity, prevent pests and pollution through funding projects such as riparian planting.
- Increase frequency of septic tank testing and education regarding wastewater risks.



- Support mana whenua and community-led marine protection projects such as Ahu Moana with grants funding.
- Support local marine biodiversity and biosecurity education and enforcement with grant funding.
- Uphold our International Dark Sky Sanctuary through governance, planning and lighting management.

Q5 Are we on the right track with the 'Our Environment' priorities?			
Category	Count		
	Yes	No	I don't know
Individuals	13	4	1
Organisations	3	1	0
Māori entities	0	0	0
Event	0	0	0



Most people were in support of this question. Comments were strongly in favour for more focus/actions on dog rules, pig control, planting of trees and protection of wetlands. Key themes from the feedback included:

- Priority for freshwater
- Priority for marine
- Priority for wetlands/planting
- Priority for biosecurity
- Priority for pigs control/dogs rules
- Priority for climate change/resilience
- Priority for stakeholder collaboration
- Priority for zero waste
- Too vague



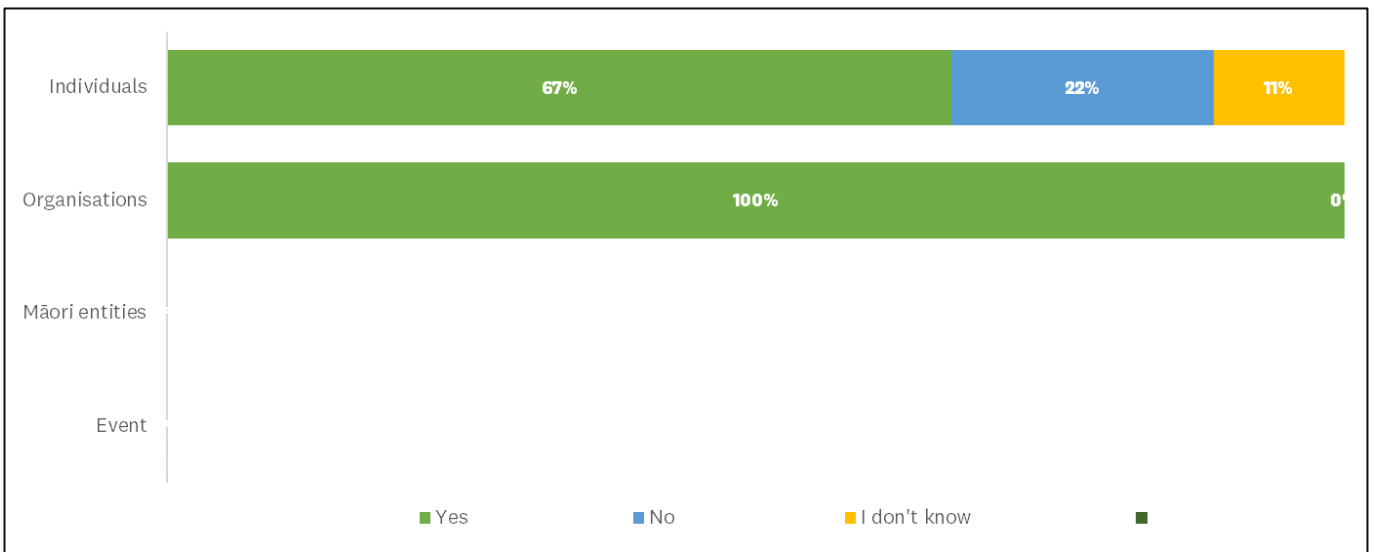
Our Places

Aotea Great Barrier Island is 285 square kilometres in size and has several small village communities. It is located approximately 100 kms northeast of Auckland’s Central Business District. The island has no public transport and shared windy roads. Coastal erosion and sea-level rise are major concerns for the island, affecting our roading network and low-lying assets.

The draft plan proposed three objectives for a *safe transport network, fit for purpose island infrastructure, and sustainable community facilities*. The key initiatives are as follows:

- Ensure our shared roads are regularly maintained, safe and healthy for all users.
- Ensure our tracks and walkways are clear and safe.
- Work with mana whenua to identify new accessways and linkages across the island.
- Investigate a community-led public transport system.
- Support mana whenua and community to investigate housing solutions with grant funding.
- Identify adaptation options for key coastal infrastructure, such as all tide boat ramps from sea-level rise through the Shoreline Adaptation Plan.
- Maintain Gooseberry Flat cemetery and investigate cemetery options for the centre of the island.
- Support the maintenance of the island's community-owned facilities with a capital grants fund.
- Ensure our council facilities such as library and service centre have up-to-date alternative systems and are fit for purpose.
- Ensure our village spaces reflect our natural way of life and have maintained playground equipment and toilets.

Q6 Are we on the right track with the 'Our Places' priorities?			
Category	Count		
	Yes	No	I don't know
Individuals	12	4	2
Organisations	3	0	0
Māori entities	0	0	0
Event	0	0	0





Most people were in support of this question. Comments were strongly in favour for more focus on affordable housing, affordable transport options and parking. Key themes from the feedback included:

- Priority for roads
- Priority for housing
- priority for transport (public/private)
- Priority for ports and parking
- Priority for walkways
- Priority for connectivity

Other feedback received

As part of the draft local board plan consultation, the questionnaire asked for any other feedback. Most of the individual comments were repetitions of things already mentioned and therefore considered through the other questions.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Good mahi/engagement
- Priority for environment
- Priority for manaakitanga/looking after our people
- Priority for climate/resilience
- Priority for transport (roads/walkways)
- Request for plan template changes
- Priority for infrastructure/housing
- Priority for freshwater/wetlands/planting



Who we heard from

The tables and graphs below indicate the demographic profile of those that answered the demographic questions.

