

Te mahere ā rohe o Hibiscus and Bays 2023

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Plan 2023



Draft Summary - June 2023





From the chairperson

I would like to thank all those that have contributed so far to this draft Local Board Plan 2023. Now, it's time to tell us what you think about our approach, which balances a strong vision with cost effective achievability.



Top of mind for everyone is the environment. We've all experienced heart-breaking flooding and storm damage, and a few years ago we had a drought; climate extremes that affect us all. This means that we have some tough calls to make in the future about investment, especially around our coastlines and areas prone to flooding. We also have some big aspirations around the environment and transport, which we'd like your thoughts on.

Given budget constraints, we are doing more with less. We take care to spend your money on things that cannot be provided by other agencies or groups, and seek to make money go further, by working in partnership with our community. Take the example of support for our young people. I constantly receive messages concerned about the wellbeing of our young people. Now we don't fund youth workers to deal with this directly – other groups in our community already do an amazing job. Instead, we assist those who work with youth. We help these groups gather and co-ordinate their response, resulting in less duplication, more referrals to each other, and sharing of professional knowledge. This leadership costs little but achieves a lot. It also helps the youth workers realise that they are part of what our staff call a “youth ecosystem”, that is, they are not alone! Another efficiency we are seeking is more local control over the contracts that are let for local projects, something that we believe will contribute to greater savings.

We have heard many of you say that you don't feel listened too. So, you'll find that the descriptions of many of our proposed projects start with the word “engage”, and we mean it. We want to talk to those affected most, before finalising a decision.

Commuting is tough, and congestion is inefficient. It's hard to fit more new roads in our area, so we are constantly advocating on your behalf to make it easier to get around if you're not using a car. If our children can safely scooter to the school bus stop, there's more space on the roads for those that have no choice but to drive, not to mention it's better for planet. Therefore, we are advocating to have the walking/cycling/scooter routes made as connected as our roads currently are, and to ensure seamless transitions to public transport. In the last few years, we've successfully advocated for a frequent bus service in Ōrewa, and a doubling of the budget for footpaths in Auckland, but much more can be done. The local board isn't a decision maker in this, but we actively represent you where we can.

Not many know this, but our “core services” are not just water and waste. Legally councils are tasked with promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities. Therefore, we have structured our draft local board plan to reflect our obligations. We think we have something here for everyone, but we need your thoughts, is there something for you?

Gary Brown, Chairperson.

This summary is an overview of the statement of proposal for our draft Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Plan 2023. We encourage you to read the full draft plan, available online at akhaveyoursay.co.nz/localboardplans, at public libraries and council service centres and tell us what you think by **4pm on Monday 14 August 2023**. Or tell us what you think in person at one of our local events.



Māori Outcomes & Climate Action

Delivering outcomes for Māori and taking action on climate change are important and legally required features of our plan.

This plan proposes to support Māori outcomes in our area by seeking formal relationship agreements with our two closest mana whenua: Ngāti Manuhiri and Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara as well as funding projects to increase the presence of te reo and the knowledge te ao Maori in our area.

We are continuing to invest in restoring our environment; and advocating for more bulk recycling centres for our residents. We have multiple projects to support a move to embrace living and working locally, from supporting town centre vibrancy, encouraging local transport links, to economic development.

Lastly, we are supporting our communities by planning and engagement on how to mitigate and manage risks from climate change upon council owned land and assets.

Our People

The local board seeks to harness the energy of our community, to provide input into its decisions through holding workshops that are open to the public, and monthly engagement sessions with invites to various sectors of our community.

We fund and support events, placemaking activities and programming in our council-run or council-supported facilities. This becomes an important tool as our communities grow, as we need to ensure our facilities are welcoming spaces for all.

We have a limited budget, so to ensure we are investing in our community's future, we are supporting organisations build to good governance, collaboration and how to seek diverse sources of funding to ensure they are strong and resilient and able to adapt to change. This will also help us to support new groups, collectives and community organising.

For the duration of this local board plan, we will prioritise supporting groups in two areas: working with youth, and emergency response / community resilience. While we are continuing to fund and support others, your feedback to us has said that these two areas are deserving of special attention, young people in our area have high needs for wellbeing support, and we want to build local on the ground resilience networks to be able to provide response, care, and communication in times of need.

To see our more detail about our key initiatives please refer to the full plan.

Advocacy

Advocate for better connections between the local board, our communities and central government agencies working with our communities in key areas of concern such as homelessness, housing, transport and marine fisheries.



Our Environment

Our aspirations are high for pest plant and animal elimination, erosion and sediment control, water quality, regeneration of native species, and in supporting all moves to a circular economy – where we instead of consuming and throwing out, waste is minimised and where possible, becomes another resource.

We support restorative projects to ensure our green spaces will be full of indigenous birdsong and life, and our unique native plants would be flourishing. Our blue spaces (waterways and coastal areas) will be teeming with aquatic life, and we could fish from a growing and safe coastal areas. Our beaches will be clean and safe, and the coastlines and waterways resilient and adaptable to the storms and tides of climate change by continuing to develop plans that adapt and mitigate the risks from climate change upon council owned land and assets.

Lastly, we are also advocating strongly for a number of projects move us to a circular economy – where we instead of consuming and throwing out, waste is minimised and where possible, becomes another resource.

To see our more detail about our key initiatives please refer to the full plan.

Advocacy

Advocate for improving compliance and monitoring of sedimentation, for continued use of the Natural Environment Targeted Rate to assist in stronger pest control and ecological restoration, to name a few. See our full plan for the complete list.

Our Community

As residents and visitors alike, we have the privilege of walking in the footsteps of those who have come before us. Exploring our streets, parks and reserves one can find names that pay homage to our ancestors (Māori and Pākehā), local figures, or historical events. As a local board, we would like our community, many of whom are recent arrivals, to access these stories and images easier.

We are fortunate to have libraries and leisure facilities that are, deservedly, popular with our community, catering for a range of needs. The local board wants to ensure that our services continue to innovate and deliver services in new flexible ways.

It is not only the way we deliver services that we will start to examine, but due to the age of many of our council-owned buildings, the increasing cost of maintaining and delivering services from all these buildings will become unaffordable in the immediate future. To meet the needs of a growing population we need to start a conversation about how our services are delivered, this may not be from standalone library, leisure or venue for hire buildings in the future. It may, for example, include future consolidation of facilities into more adaptable multi-use hubs.

We have many open green spaces, and beaches. You have told us that being in nature is by far your preferred way to exercise, and so we are committed to ensuring that parks and reserves are available for all. Following the adoption of our Local Parks Management Plan in 2022, we wish to engage with you on how you wish to improve the recreational access, use and enhance the ecological quality of some of our newer spaces, such as Orewa Beach reserves and 36 Hibiscus Coast Highway in Silverdale.



We know there is increasing pressure on publicly owned or managed recreation facilities, and we want to discuss with the schools' clubs and private organisations whether we can negotiate agreements to increase the ability for the community to utilise these facilities.

To see our more detail about our key initiatives please refer to the full plan.

Advocacy

Advocate for better future planning to accommodate growth, and to work with Waka Kotahi on the future of the reserve land in Stanmore Bay at the start of O Mahurangi Penlink. See our full plan for the complete list

Our Places and Our Economy

Our roading network is connected, but being built on ridgelines and peninsulas has vulnerabilities. We will continue to advocate for safe, efficient, and multi-mode alternative access routes for our communities, especially in Whangaparāoa and Long Bay / Torbay.

One of our key advocacy points has been to support a connected, frequent, and reliable public transport network. Given the longer than normal commutes that our residents have, this is essential. However, such a network also benefits us all and the local board supports the provision of a network that is integrated, with provision for walking, cycling and micro-mobility (including e-scooters). A key part of our advocacy is that enables safer journeys for those not in cars.

We will continue to support greater safety and lower speeds around those areas where those travelling are more likely to be distracted – alongside beaches, schools, and town centres. Also, an added advantage of making non-car use more attractive is that it makes our area safer, as the more people out and about on foot, the less crime happens in that area.

We are also joining with the Rodney Local Board to advocate for a Rural Roads Design Guide, as our rural areas have different needs in relation to footpaths and lighting for example than urban areas. And currently, there are no guidelines for Auckland Transport to use when delivering improvements in areas such as Waiwera, Okura or Stillwater.

Lastly, our ability to fund dramatic improvements to town centres is very limited, due to budget constraints. However, we will continue to deliver on the intentions in our existing town centre plans to create vibrancy by involving communities in placemaking activities.

To see our more detail about our key initiatives please refer to the full plan.

Advocacy

Advocate for the funding of Glenvar Road improvements, a new Bus interchange in Whangaparaoa, and more reliable public transport that is better integrated with journeys that end or begin with cycling or micro mobility. See our full plan for the complete list.

