

Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2023 Summary of Feedback





Summary of feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2023

Purpose

This report summarises feedback received during the public consultation in July/August to inform the development of the Waitākere Ranges 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 Waitākere Ranges 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.

Mana whenua were sent a copy of the draft local board plan in June 2023 and encouraged to provide written feedback. Verbal feedback was received from Te Kawerau a Maki.

The draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2023 included feedback received from mana whenua and mataawaka in Hikurangi/ West Auckland throughout the pre-engagement phase of local board plan development.



On 8 and 13 June 2023, two online information sessions were held to inform mana whenua across Tāmaki Makaurau about the purpose of local board plans, how their perspectives could be incorporated into the plans, as well as the feedback process, and timelines.

Mana whenua were invited to share their views on any of the 21 draft local board plans they wanted to review through tailored feedback forms.

In Hikurangi/ West Auckland, mana whenua and mataawaka expressed a preference to provide feedback through hui.

The three West Local Boards, Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges and Whau, together with ward councillors, met with mana whenua, Te Kawerau ā Maki, collectively and discussed local board plans during a Rangatira ki te Rangatira/ governance hui at Te Ipu Kura a Maki (Henderson Civic) on 18 August 2023.

Mataawaka engagement

The three West Local Boards, Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges and Whau, met with mataawaka collectively and discussed local board plans at Hoani Waititi Marae on 9 August 2023.

In terms of formal submissions, seven were received from those respondents who selected that they whakapapa Māori. This comprised 7 percent of written submissions for Waitākere Ranges. [Submission numbers 17, 25, 30, 31, 53, 67 and 76]

Stakeholder and community engagement

It should be noted that early engagement opportunities were limited in Waitakere Ranges due to the significant impact that Cyclone Gabrielle and the Auckland Anniversary storm in early 2023 had on people and communities in the area.

Table 1: Summary of early engagement activities

Activity	Who was involved
Joint west local boards, Te Kawerau ā Maki hui	Representatives of Te Kawerau ā Maki; Waitakere Ranges, Henderson Massey, and Whau local boards
Mataawaka hui	Hoani Waititi Marae
Engagement with community arts partners	Te Uru, Upstairs Gallery, Going West Trust, Glen Eden Playhouse
Waitangi @ Waititi – information stand with short questionnaire inviting comment	General public
Henderson Valley Community Day – information stand with short questionnaire inviting comment	General public

Table 2: Summary of consultation activities during the consultation period

Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Drop-in sessions at Glen Eden Library (three sessions)	Open to the public	159
Drop-in sessions at Titirangi Library (two sessions)	Open to the public	90



Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Drop-in sessions at Matariki event - Piha market	Open to the public	40
West Wide hui on draft local board plans with our mataawaka and whānau Māori communities for the for the Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges, & Whau Local Boards		30

Table 3: Waitakere Ranges Local Board Have Your Say Hearing

Name	Organisation	Notes
Mels Barton	The Tree Council	Verbal submission / written submission provided
Bronwen Turner and Gillman Rae	SCOW (Save Cornwallis Old Wharf)	Verbal submission / written submission provided
Sharon Davies	Community Activator	Verbal submission
Lorraine Still	Individual	Verbal submission
Mark Wagner	Waiatarua Ratepayers & residents association WRRRA	Verbal submission
Rashika Karunasinghe	West Auckland Community Toy Library	Verbal submission / written submission provided

Submissions from groups / organisations

Sixteen groups / organisations provided submissions.

Organisation	Submission No.
Glen Eden Residents Association	48
SCOW, Save Cornwallis Old Wharf, a registered nonprofit organization	49
Forest and Bird Waitakere	71
Waitakere Ranges Protection Society	72
Aktive – Auckland Sports and Recreation	76
Sport Waitakere/Healthy Families Waitakere	81
Big Street Bikers	82
Community Waitākere	83
The Tree Council	90
West Auckland Community Toy Library	91
Disabled Persons Assembly NZ	93
Kai West Collective	94
Civic Trust Auckland	96
Bike Auckland	97
Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.	98
Community Cat Coalition Inc.	99

Summary of feedback

Māori Outcomes

Delivering outcomes for Māori is an important feature of the Waitakere Ranges Local Board Plan.

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

The draft plan proposed the following initiatives to support Māori outcomes in our area:

- Progressing a Deed of Acknowledgement with Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua
- Funding or supporting events and activities that promote Māori culture and identity
- Investigating opportunities to promote and support kai sovereignty

A specific Maori outcomes focused question was not included in the online consultation. We engaged directly with local mana whenua, Te Kawerau a Maki; and with mataawaka, through a hui was hosted by Hoani Waititi Marae.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- investing in relationships and authentic engagement of high importance
- advocacy to support marae development, both at Te Henga and Te Atatu
- national significance of Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area needs to be lifted up to uphold its environmental and cultural and value.
- Interest in dark sky proposal
- local board plan focus areas generally align to Te Kawerau a Maki values
- support for continuing the Te Kete Rukuruku programme
- west Auckland local boards need to work collectively
- rangatahi should be a focus
- in the online consultation, negative sentiment about the focus on Maori outcomes was a theme; submissions from organisations that commented on Maori outcomes were generally supportive.

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 taking climate action in the following ways:

- Completing the Waitakere Ranges Climate Plan and progressing its recommended actions
- Community resilience plans to help our people prepare for future emergencies
- Engaging with our communities on Shoreline Adaptation Plans for council assets along the Manukau Harbour and West Coast, and wider concerns with adaptation

The question below was asked during the local board plan consultation:

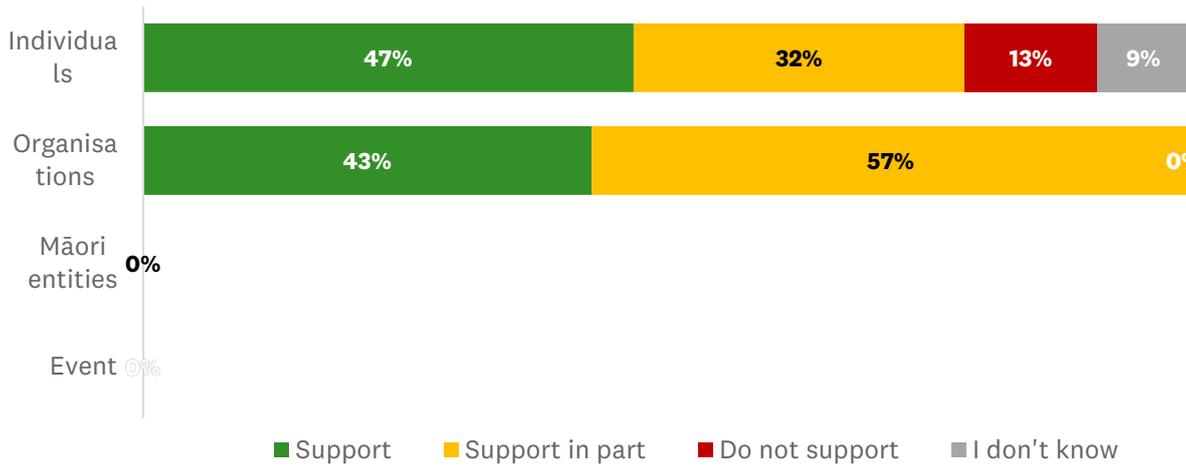




We aim to support community resilience, understand the issues and challenges, advocate for our roads and other infrastructure to be “built back better” for future severe weather events, and improve sustainable transport options.

Have we got it right, and what is your view on how these things are addressed in the plan?

Feedback response



Response count	Support	Support in part	Do not support	I don't know	Total stated
Individuals	37	25	10	7	79
Organisations	3	4	0	0	7
Māori entities	0	0	0	0	0
Event	0	0	0	0	0
Total					86

51 individual submitters provided further comment on this question. Key themes from the feedback included:

- support for climate action
- community resilience / community gardens
- repair and maintain roads and other infrastructure
- transport
- need to increase focus on outer areas
- shoreline adaptation



Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area

For the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) the draft plan included initiatives to:

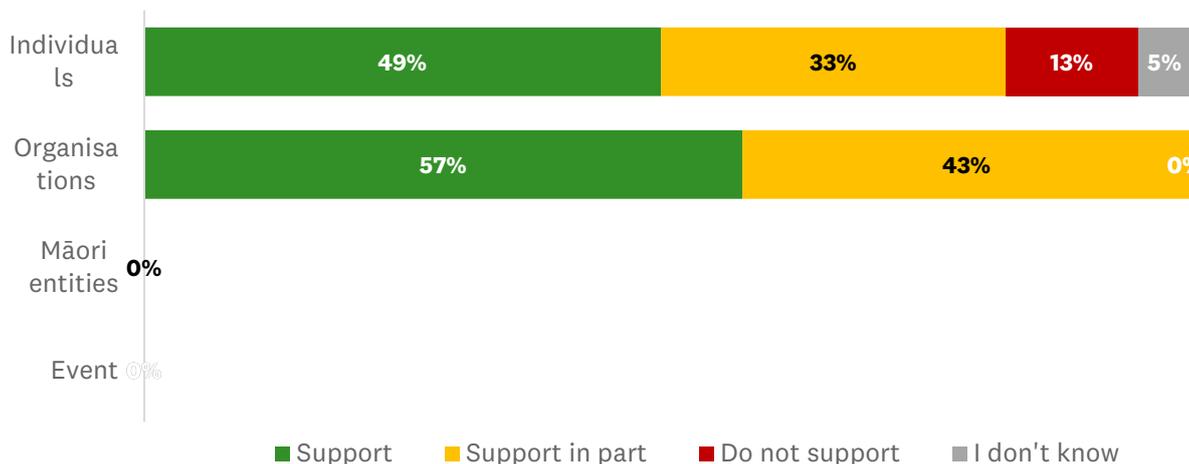
- Supporting landowners and environmental volunteer groups to restore ecological areas
- Pest plant and animal control on our ecological parks
- Increasing community knowledge and understanding of the WRHA
- Supporting community-led actions from Local Area Plans
- Exploring the option of becoming a dark sky location as a visitor attraction

The question below was asked in the local board plan consultation:

We aim to make sure the nationally significant area is looked after for current and future generations.

Have we got it right, and what is your view on how these things are addressed in the plan?

Feedback response



49 individual submitters provided further comment on this question. Key themes from the feedback included:

- supporting volunteer work
- weed and pest control
- protect and maintain ecological areas
- land slips
- repair and maintain roads and other infrastructure
- visitor management
- kauri dieback / track closures

Our People

In the Our People theme, the draft plan proposed the following aims:

- Strong and productive mana whenua and mataawaka relationships
- To enhance the health, wellbeing and resilience of local communities

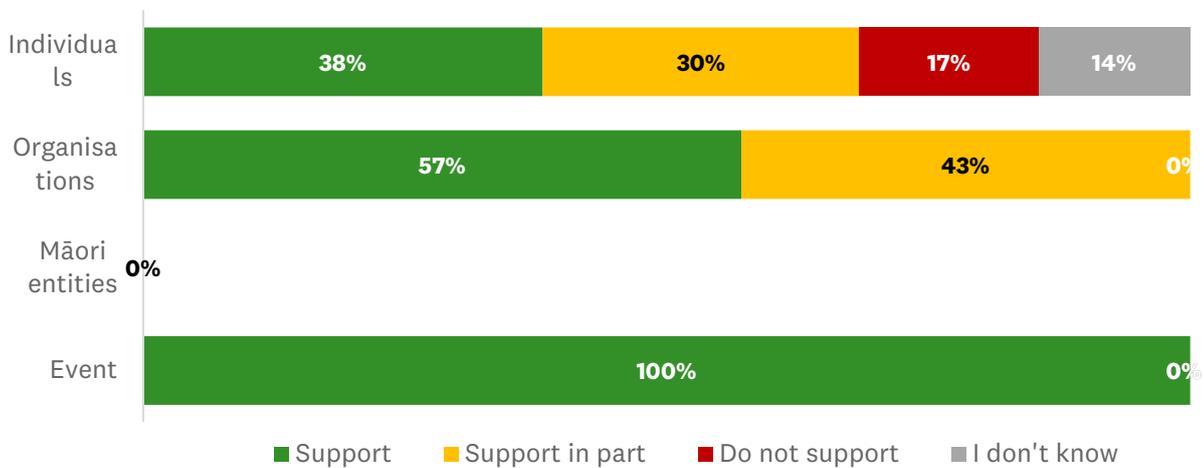


- People from our diverse communities are connected and feel as though they belong
- Key Initiatives such as:
 - Fund or support events and activities that promote Māori culture and identity
 - Community resilience plans to help our people prepare for future emergencies
 - Provide community space, services and events that meet the needs of our diverse communities, are accessible to everyone and bring people from all walks of life together

The question below was asked in the local board plan consultation:

*We will focus on supporting our distinctive and diverse communities to be thriving, resilient and adaptable so people feel connected and work together to support wellbeing.
Have we got it right, and what is your view on how these things are addressed in the plan?*

Feedback response



Response count	Support	Support in part	Do not support	I don't know	Total stated
Individuals	29	23	13	11	76
Organisations	4	3	0	0	7
Māori entities	0	0	0	0	0
Event	0	0	1	0	1
Total					84

40 individual submitters provided further comment. Themes included:

- engage with the community
- focus on Pasifika
- plan too vague / actions should be more specific
- community empowerment and wellbeing
- need to represent the whole community
- negative sentiment about focus on Māori outcomes



Our Environment

For Our Environment, the draft plan proposed the following vision, aims and initiatives:

Biodiversity is enhanced, significant ecological areas are protected and restored as a sanctuary for native plants and wildlife. Our people are connected to and care for the environment. The mauri of our freshwater streams, the Manukau Harbour, and West Coast lagoons and wetlands are restored.

- Ecosystems are restored and enhanced in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area
- Our Manukau Harbour beaches and west coast lagoons are clean and safe for swimming, with improved environmental outcomes for the harbour and its catchment
- We understand climate change risks, take action to reduce our climate impact, and are prepared to adapt and respond to future events
- Key initiatives *such as*:
 - Support landowners and environmental volunteer groups to restore ecological areas
 - Increase community knowledge and understanding of the WRHA and how to manage pest animals and weeds
 - Restoration and maintenance of stream banks to reduce erosion, support stream function, and promote community care of waterways.

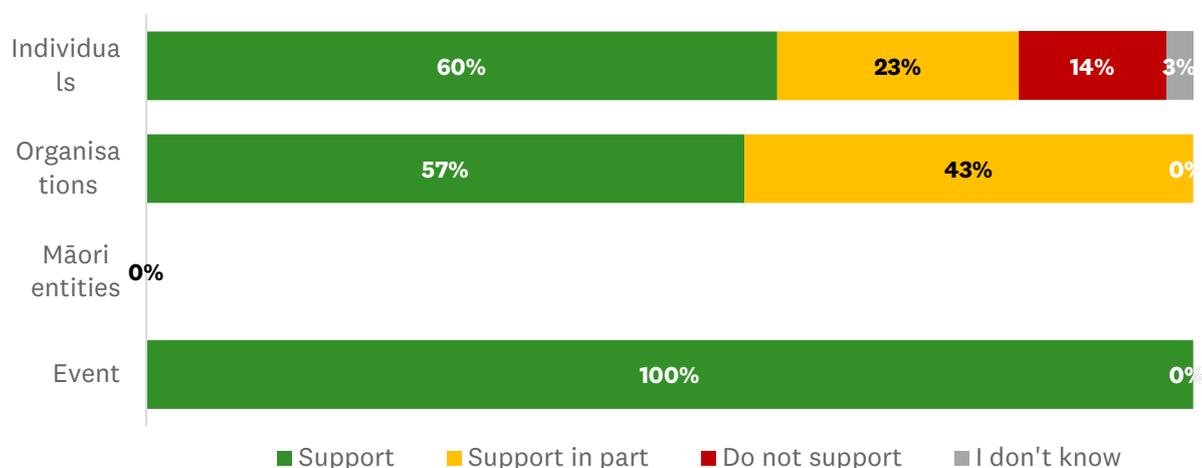
The draft plan proposed environmental advocacy aims to enhance the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area:

- continuing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate at, at least, the same level as 2022-2023 to enable delivery of environmental programmes in the WRHA and elsewhere
- establishing a service level for the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area in the Long-Term Plan and Annual Report so there is visibility of the level of funding.
- restoring Piha Wetland, 42 Seaview Road, to improve its natural function and hydrology

The question below was asked in the local board plan consultation:

*We will focus on protecting and enhancing our significant ecological areas, restoring our waterways, and supporting people to connect with and care for the environment.
Have we got it right, and what is your view on how these things are addressed in the plan?*

Feedback response





Response count	Support	Support in part	Do not support	I don't know	Total stated
Individuals	47	18	11	2	78
Organisations	4	3	0	0	7
Māori entities	0	0	0	0	0
Event	0	0	1	0	1
Total					86

49 individual submitters provided further feedback. Themes included:

- generally support direction
- tree protection
- increase weed and pest control
- volunteer co-ordination
- harbour, stream and lagoon water quality
- wetland restoration
- kauri dieback / track closures

Our Community

For Our Community, the draft plan proposed the following vision, aims and initiatives:

Parks, facilities and services are accessible and meet the needs of our diverse urban and rural communities. Arts, culture and creativity are a celebrated part of living in the west. Māori culture and identity is visible and valued.

In the Our Community section, the draft plan included the following aims:

- Our parks provide opportunities for recreation and enjoyment by the surrounding local communities
- A network of vibrant arts and culture organisations and facilities that enliven the west
- Key initiatives *such as*:
 - Investigate ways to improve the amenity of neighbourhood parks in Glen Eden
 - Fund and support Te Uru, Upstairs Gallery, and the West Coast Gallery to deliver quality arts and culture programmes

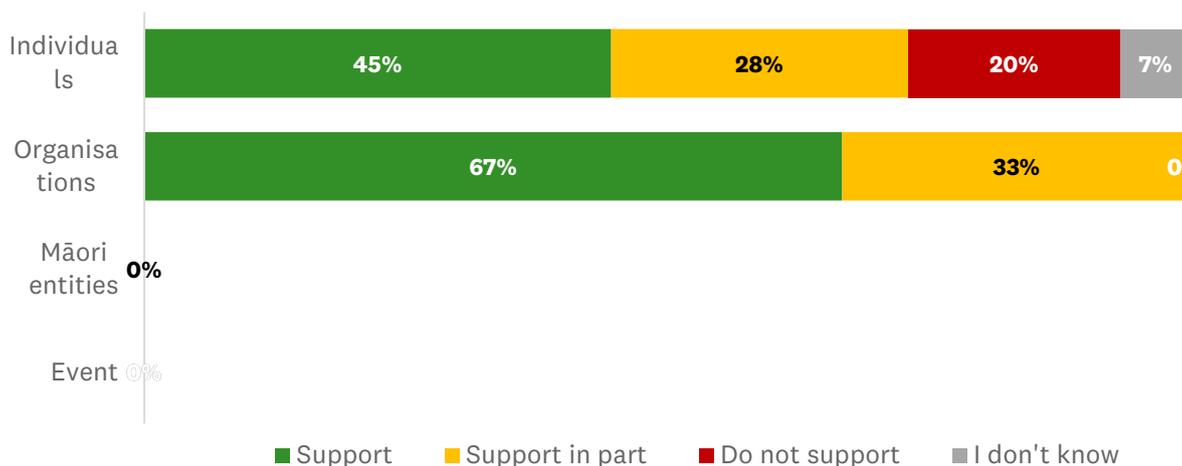
Advocacy

- Regional investment in Waitipu to rehabilitate the former Waitākere quarry as a park.

The question below was asked in the local board plan consultation:

*We will focus on providing parks, facilities and services that are accessible and meet the needs of our diverse urban and rural communities; making arts, culture and creativity a celebrated part of living in the west; promoting Māori culture and identity so it is visible and valued.
Have we got it right, and what is your view on how these things are addressed in the plan?*

Feedback response



Response count	Support	Support in part	Do not support	I don't know	Total stated
Individuals	33	21	15	5	74
Organisations	4	2	0	0	6
Māori entities	0	0	0	0	0
Event	0	0	0	0	0
Total					80

44 individual submitters provided further comment. Themes included:

- Increase focus on sport, recreation and play
- parks and facilities
- access to swimming pools
- community empowerment
- need to represent the whole community
- Māori outcomes

Our Places

We have thriving town and village centres, connected by a reliable, resilient and sustainable transport network. The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area is protected and restored for current and future generations. The relationship with Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua is acknowledged.

What we want to achieve

- Welcoming centres that people take pride in
- A reliable, resilient and sustainable transport network connects our neighbourhoods, centres and villages
- The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area is recognised for its character and cultural heritage
- Key initiatives *such as*:
 - Small, staged improvements to walking and cycling connections
 - Celebrate historic and cultural heritage through events, interpretation, and research
 - Support community-led action from Local Area Plans



Advocacy

In our advocacy for Our Places we are seeking funding and resources to:

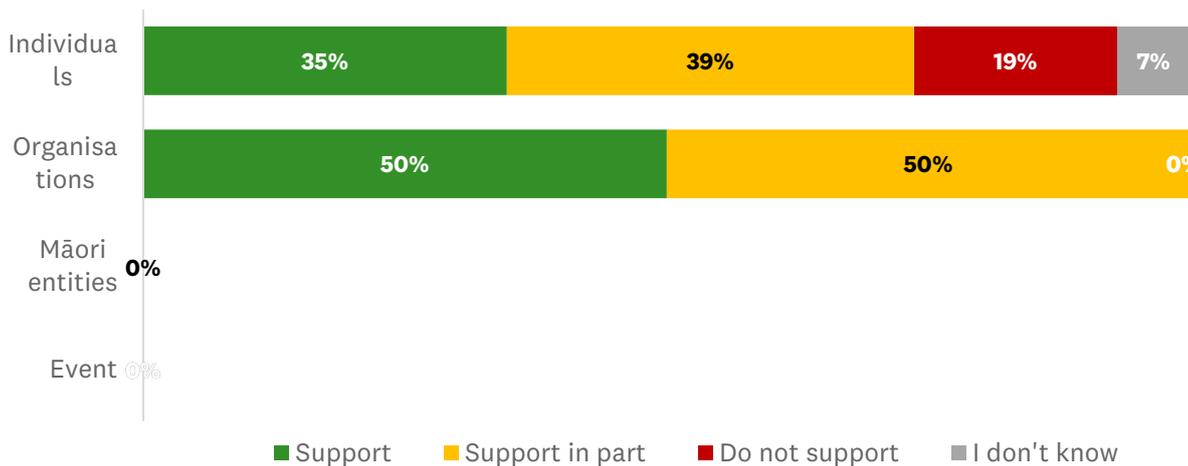
- Implement the Glen Eden Town Centre Plan, including streetscape and lighting upgrades, a civic space and a laneway.
- Develop a shared path to connect New Lynn to Sunnyvale.
- Progress a Deed of Acknowledgement with Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua

The below question was asked in the consultation on the draft local board plan:

We will focus on making our town and village centres thrive; advocating for a reliable resilient and sustainable transport network; protecting and restoring the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area for current and future generations; and acknowledging the relationship of Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua to the area.

Have we got it right, and what is your view on how these things are addressed in the plan?

Feedback response



Response count	Support	Support in part	Do not support	I don't know	Total stated
Individuals	25	28	14	5	72
Organisations	3	3	0	0	6
Māori entities	0	0	0	0	0
Event	0	0	0	0	0
Total					78

49 submitters provided further comment. Themes included:

- Glen Eden
- Sustainable transport, including cycleways and bike parking
- More focus on Swanson, Titirangi and Piha
- Track closures



Our Economy

In the Our Economy section, the draft plan proposed the following:

Sustainable local economic activity is supported. Our business centres are active and successful. Home- based businesses and working from home in the ranges is fostered. The historically rural nature of economic activities in the foothills continues.

What we want to achieve

- A successful Glen Eden Business Improvement District
- Low impact economic activity in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area
- Key initiatives *such as*:
 - Working with the Glen Eden business association on priorities for the town centre
 - Exploring the option of becoming a dark sky location as a visitor attraction
 - Continuing to support filming activity in the area in a way that is sustainable and brings more benefit to the area

Advocacy

In our advocacy for Our Economy we are seeking:

- Improved public transport to provide better access to employment and education
- The enabling of local procurement for locally delivered council services
- Fast broadband rollout to our outer areas to enable people in remote areas to work from home

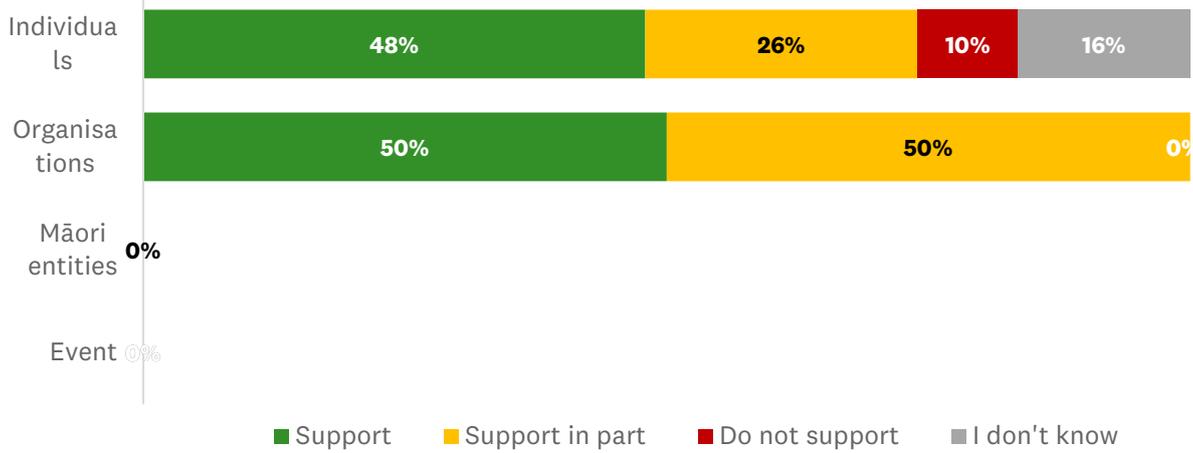
The below question was asked in the local board plan consultation:

We will focus on supporting: our main town centre and business area to be successful; sustainable local economic activity; fostering home-based businesses and working from home, as well as rural economic activities in the foothills.

Have we got it right, and what is your view on how these things are addressed in the plan?



Feedback response



Response count	Support	Support in part	Do not support	I don't know	Total stated
Individuals	35	19	7	12	73
Organisations	3	3	0	0	6
Māori entities	0	0	0	0	0
Event	0	0	0	0	0
Total					79

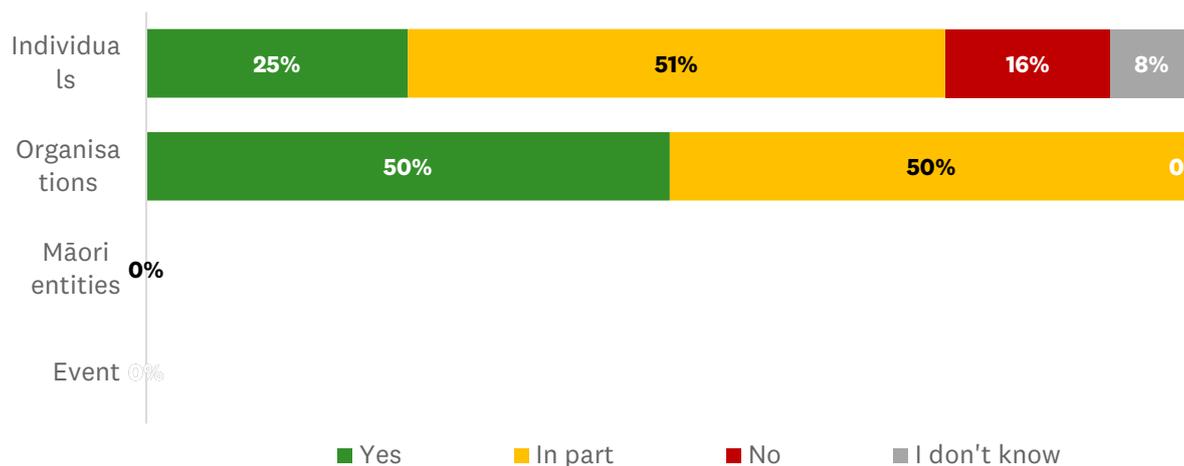
41 submitters provided further comment to this question. Themes included:

- Glen Eden town centre
- level rail crossings
- dark sky
- rural land use

Other questions asked

As part of the draft local board plan consultation, the following additional questions were asked.

Overall, do you think the draft Waitākere Range Local Board Plan 2023 reflects the needs and aspirations of you and your community over the next three years?



Q2 Overall view, do you think the plan reflects the needs and aspirations of you and your community					
Response count	Yes	In part	No	I don't know	Total stated
Individuals	19	39	12	6	76
Organisations	3	3	0	0	6
Māori entities	0	0	0	0	0
Event	0	0	0	0	0
Total					82

52 submitters provided further comment in response to this question. Themes included:

- generally support areas of focus
- sensitive to uniqueness of area
- increase focus on outer areas
- repair and maintain roads and other infrastructure
- transport
- cycling infrastructure
- plan too vague / actions should be more specific
- track closures
- negative sentiment about focus on Māori outcomes
- general scepticism / negativity

Keeping in mind council's financial challenges, what can we do differently in the local area to achieve better outcomes?

This was an open ended question, and was the first question in the online consultation. 72 Individual submitters provided further comment. Themes included:

- repair roads
- core services, efficiency and cost effectiveness
- storm recovery

- managing stormwater
- track closures

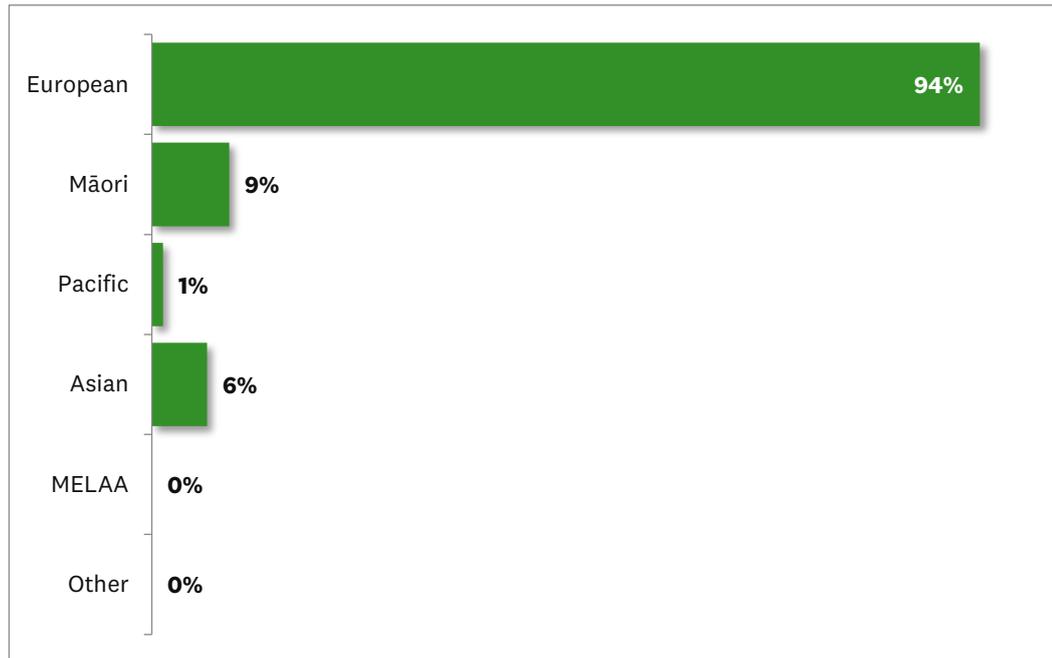


Who we heard from

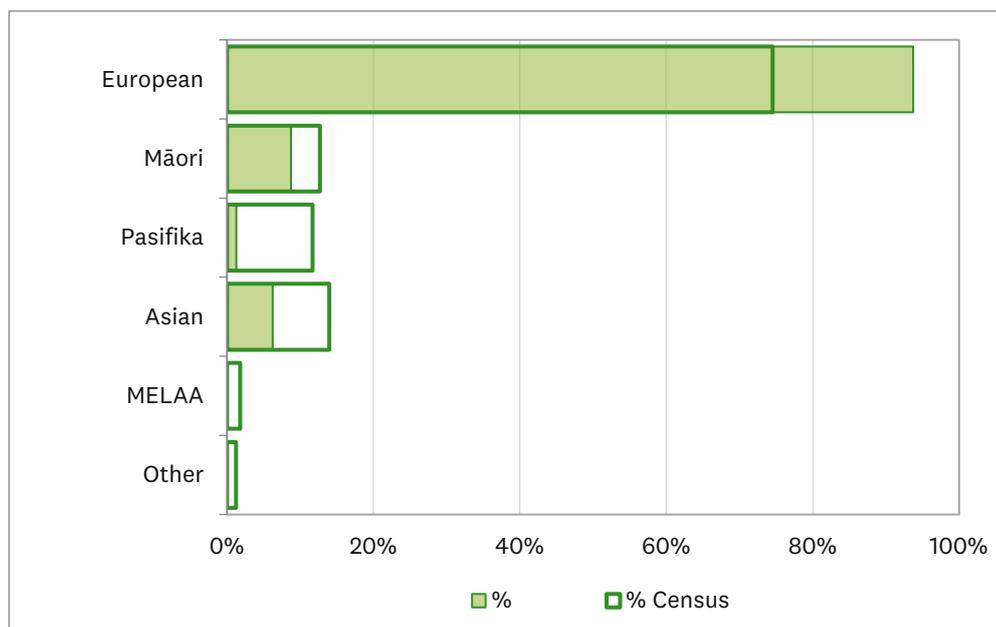
The tables and graphs below indicate the demographic profile of those that answered the demographic questions.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity of submitters as a percentage



Ethnicity of submitters compared to percentage of population in last census

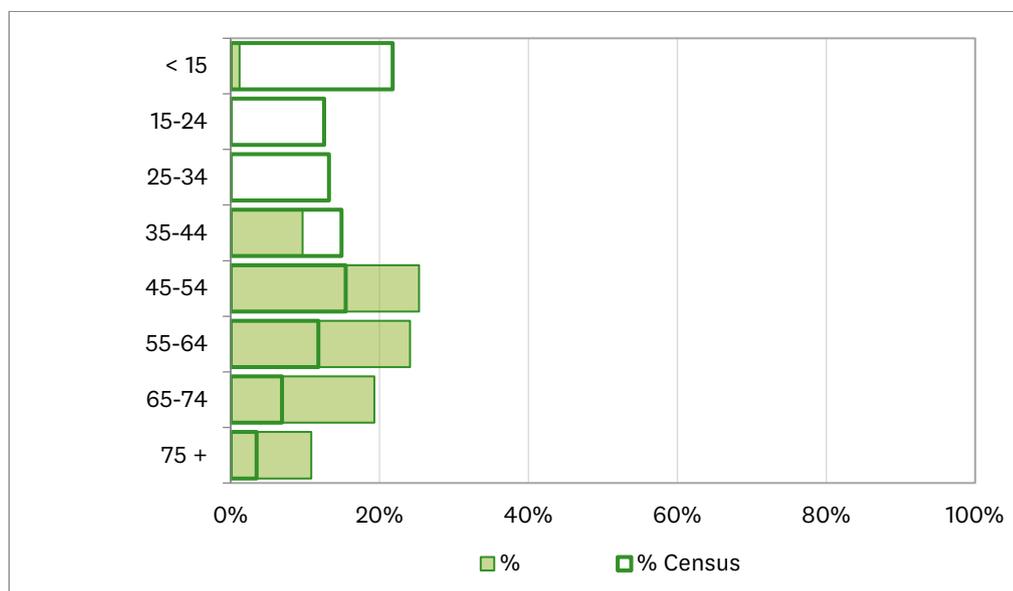




Age of submitters

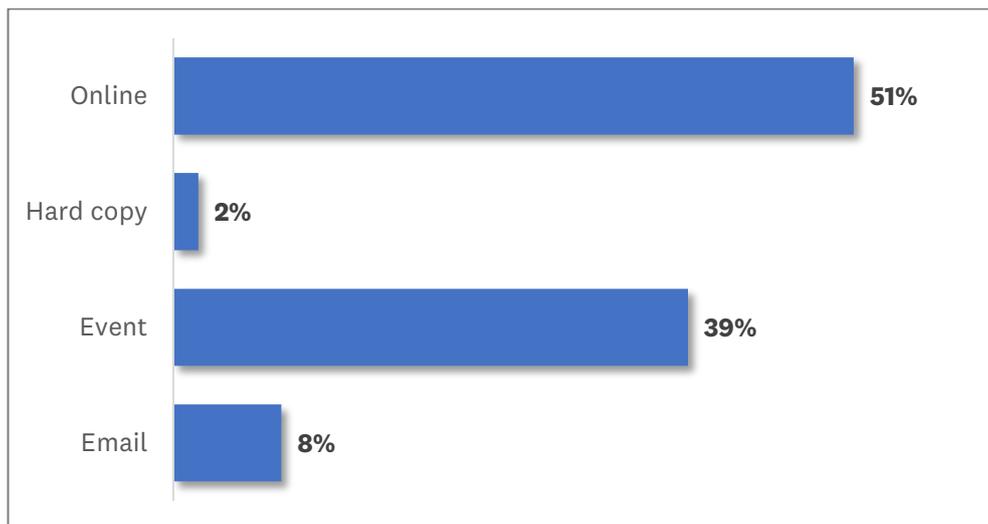
Age	Count	
Under 15	1	1%
15-17	0	0%
18-24	0	0%
25-34	8	10%
35-44	21	25%
45-54	20	24%
55-64	16	19%
65-74	9	11%
75+	8	10%
Total stated	83	

Age of submitters compared to census data





How feedback was provided



Submitters	No.	%
Individual	80	82%
Organisation	17	18%
Total	97	100%