

Te mahere ā rohe o Waitākere Ranges 2023

Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2023



Draft Summary - June 2023



From the chairperson



The purpose of the local board's three year plan is to describe the priorities and preferences of local communities in respect of the level and nature of local activities to be provided by the Auckland Council over the next three years.

It is also to identify and describe the interests and preferences of the people within our area when we communicate those interests and preferences to Council.

It is intended to provide a basis for accountability of this local board to our communities and to provide an opportunity for people to participate in decision-making processes on the nature and level of local activities to be provided by the Council within the local board area.

Judging from the last three years the next three years will be an interesting time.

In the past three years we have had a one-in-100-year global pandemic and two one-in-250-year storms, a week apart from each other. The consequences are still clear and for many still painful.

Peoples' sense of wellbeing have clearly been affected. And the scars caused by slips and flooding are still evident.

So the next three years have to be part of a major rebuild. And we have to prepare for the next major storm event as our environment clearly shows the effects of climate change.

Clearly the financial pressures that Council is under will have an effect. Already we have to do more with less.

But our role is to preserve and enhance that which is of importance to our local communities. **Already local preferences are clear.**

That is why we want to continue the work to protect the environment, support local businesses and support the arts and community as we have done in the past.

We will continue to build our relationship with Te Kawerau ā Maki as kaitiaki.

We hope to continue to achieve significant benefit for the future of the Waitākere Ranges.

But we need your help to let us know what is of particular importance to you and if this draft plan accurately reflects your wishes.

And how in these interesting times involving human, environmental and economic strain we can continue to maximise the local board's effectiveness.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Presland'.

Greg Presland
Chairperson, Waitākere Ranges Local Board



This summary is an overview of the statement of proposal for our draft Waitākere Ranges 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, and the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area



Delivering outcomes for Māori, taking action on climate change, and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area are important features of our plan.

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

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 Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area is a place of national significance that makes up a large part of the local board area’s geography.

This plan proposes 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

Our plan meets 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.

For the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) our plan includes:

- 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.



Our People

Our distinctive and diverse communities are thriving, resilient and adaptable. People are connected, feel a sense of belonging, and work together to support wellbeing.

Our Plan:

What we want to achieve

- 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.

Our Environment

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.

Our Plan:

What we want to achieve

- 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.

Advocacy:

The plan's 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.



Our Community

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.

Our Plan:

What we want to achieve

- 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.

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.

Our Plan:

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.





Our Economy

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.

Our Plan:

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
- enabling local procurement for locally delivered council services
- fast broadband rollout to our outer areas to enable people in remote areas to work from home.



