

Waitematā Local Board Plan 2023 Summary of Feedback





Summary of feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2023

Purpose

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

Two online information sessions for mana whenua were held on 8th and 13th June 2023. These sessions provided an opportunity for mana whenua to hear about Local Board Plans, how the perspective of Māori could be reflected through their input, the feedback process, and timelines.

Mana whenua organisations were asked which (of the 21) draft local board plans they wanted to review, and those requested were shared, along with tailored feedback forms.

The Waitematā draft Local Board Plan was shared with Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, Te Kawerau ā Maki, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and Ngāti Te Ata Waiohū.



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

Mataawaka engagement

There was no formal feedback received from mataawaka entities.

Stakeholder and community engagement

The Waitematā local board consulted with both organisations and individuals as part of the draft Local Board Plan 2023 process.

An in-person Have Your Say event was facilitated and hosted by the local board at the Ellen Melville Centre on 1 August 2023.

Generic submissions to all boards

Several organisations provided submissions to all local boards. Relevant content is included in the sections below. This includes the following groups:

- Bike Auckland
- Civic Trust Auckland
- Community Groups Feeding the Homeless
- Community Cat Coalition
- Disabled Persons Assembly New Zealand

Other questions asked

As part of the draft local board plan 2023 consultation, the following additional questions were asked.

- *How well do you think our plan reflects your needs and aspirations for our community over the next three years?*
- *What local facilities and services do you think we could deliver differently?*
- *Local government is responsible for promoting your social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being. What objectives/key initiatives within each theme of our draft Local Board Plan is important to you?*
- *Do you have any feedback on how our proposed Local Board Plan could better meet our climate change goals?*

Although many submitter responses were incorporated as part of the feedback on draft Local Board Plan 2023 outcomes, detailed below, additional key themes identified from the supplementary questions included:

- Support for positive climate action and environmental restoration and programming.
- Recognition that the plan had accurately captured the appropriate needs and concerns of the community.



- Support for the recognition of the importance of heritage, character, and unique features of the local board area.
- Support for the increased focus on people, community connection, and opportunities to engage, attend events, and participate in well-maintained parks and open spaces.
- Concerns expressed on the cost to deliver across such a wide range of focus areas, from economy, to environment, to the cost of upkeeping existing Council facilities.
- Support in-principle for assets becoming multi-board, or regional, and to explore partnership opportunities to upgrade or maintain them such as by partnering with the commercial sector.
- For parks and open spaces, submitters supported the focus on biodiversity, protection of mature trees, and building natural hazard resilience to climate change events.
- Greater support for arts and creative sector programming to improve community outcomes.
- Retention and protection of existing assets such as Freeman’s Bay Community Hall, Grey Lynn Library, and Leys Institute.
- Support for the delivery of the Ponsonby Park project at 254 Ponsonby Road.
- Encourage kaitiaki and volunteers to be more active and involved in the community and deliver for themselves.

Summary of feedback

Māori Outcomes

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

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

The draft plan proposes initiatives across the wellbeing areas of Our People, Our Environment, Our Community, Our Places, and Our Economy to support Māori outcomes in our local board area. A complete list of initiatives is included within the draft Local Board Plan 2023, which can be [found here](#). Key proposals include initiatives such as, but are not limited to:

- Partner with mana whenua and iwi, and mataawaka to celebrate Māori culture and identity, such as through events, placemaking, or narrative wayfinding.
- Pilot a deliberative democracy model focusing on rangatahi to improve education and awareness of the governance process and to facilitate youth-voice in programming and delivery for youth.
- Advocate for daylighting projects and appropriate streams and waterways in our parks and reserves to improve overland flow and stormwater management outcomes.
- Celebrate Māori identity and taonga including Reo at our libraries and arts spaces.
- Investigate opportunities to partner with Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei as it develops new public spaces on Māori owned land at Te Tōangaroa / Quay Park.
- Encourage programmes that accelerate the growth and development of Māori and Pacific entrepreneurship such as at GridAKL – the innovation campus based in Wynyard Quarter run by Tātaki Auckland Unlimited.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Increased support for cross-cultural and culturally inclusive activities, events, and programmes.
- Stronger emphasis on community-led programmes and services
- Seek out opportunities to improve wayfinding, storytelling, and interpretative signage and placemaking

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 proposes initiatives across the wellbeing areas of Our People, Our Environment, Our Community, Our Places, and Our Economy to support Climate Action outcomes in our local board area. A complete list of initiatives is included within the draft Local Board Plan 2023, which can be [found here](#). Key proposals include initiatives such as, but are not limited to:

- Develop local emergency response plans to improve community resilience to extreme weather events, ongoing climate change hazards, and other emergencies
- Continue to deliver the Urban Ngahere Strategy and increase Waitematā's canopy cover





- Prioritise our renewals programme to ensure our most used assets are sustainable and resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Support a network of community gardens and food resilience activities
- Work with Resilient Land and Coast department to develop the Waitemata Harbour Shoreline Adaptation Plan to consider the impacts of sea level rise
- Support sectors to transition to a resilient, low carbon, sustainable and regenerative economy through innovation

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Prioritise protection and enhancement of existing green spaces
- Plant more trees, and take opportunities to build green infrastructure into development works
- Prioritise projects that improve water quality
- Waste minimisation and waste management should be incorporated where possible
- Advocate more strongly for active mode shift, pedestrian friendly streets, and efficient public transport networks
- Address stormwater and wastewater overflows, or accelerate existing projects that respond to this

Our People

People are the heart of Waitematā and thrive in an environment where there are opportunities to enjoy activities that improve their skills, quality of life and enables people to connect to others. The draft Local Board Plan 2023 proposes objectives focused on community-led programming, inclusion, and accessibility, and relying on the expertise of our communities to shape the way services are delivered.

The draft plan proposes initiatives for Our People to support needs and aspirations within our local board area. A complete list of initiatives is included within the draft Local Board Plan 2023, which can be [found here](#). Key proposals include initiatives such as, but are not limited to:

- Support community organisations and groups to lead and deliver events, activations, and programmes in their local areas, such as with seed funding, or support from our Community Broker and access to resources and expertise, to build community-capability
- Partner with Mana Whenua and iwi, and mataawaka to celebrate Māori culture and identity, such as through events, placemaking, or narrative wayfinding
- Advocate for community involvement and engagement on activation and infrastructure planning to ensure a robust consultation and feedback process, particularly for CCOs work programmes
- Pilot a deliberative democracy model focusing on rangatahi (youth) to improve education and awareness of the governance process and to facilitate youth-voice in programming and delivery for youth

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Create and foster a sense of community, more opportunities to connect with others in well-maintained public and open spaces.
- Maintain investment and upkeep of local facilities such as libraries and community halls
- Support for creative industries.
- Support for partnerships and recognising expertise within local communities and facilitating them to achieve.
- Accessibility and inclusion are important.
- Create community hubs that improve opportunities for young people and build safety in the city centre.



Our Environment

Our natural environment is essential to the people of Waitematā. We want to preserve and enhance these precious resources for future generations by building resiliency, cleaning and protecting our water, and providing healthy and diverse environments for our people, and our wildlife. The draft Local Board Plan 2023 proposes objectives focused on clean water, clean air, and healthy streams, along with natural and built resilience, and improved biodiversity and tree-canopy cover.

The draft plan proposes initiatives for Our Environment to support needs and aspirations within our local board area. A complete list of initiatives is included within the draft Local Board Plan 2023, which can be [found here](#). Key proposals include initiatives such as, but are not limited to:

- Continue to support local communities to implement local composting and grow a local low-carbon, resilient food production system, such as through community gardens.
- Continue to reduce the use of agrichemicals in our parks and open spaces and advocate for agrichemical spraying to be phased out regionally.
- Continue to deliver on the Waitematā Urban Ngahere Action Plan by planting in areas of low-canopy cover, maintaining existing urban forest environments, and advocating for plantings as a principle in projects where we are not the landowner.
- Support local stream restoration such as in the Waititiko Meola Creek, Waipapa, Waipāruru and Newmarket streams.
- Promote Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre, local waste minimisation and resource recovery initiatives.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Important to prioritise the environment, healthy environment, healthy people.
- Clean up waterways, improve drainage and overflow infrastructure, prioritise separation projects, keep rubbish out of waterways.
- Improve blue-green network resilience, plant more trees.
- Support for food security and resilience, community gardens, improved biodiversity.
- Support for protection of Dove-Myer Robinson Park and Te Ha to maintain biodiversity outcomes and retention of mature trees.

Our Community

Community participation is critical for Waitematā which experiences a range of socio-economic challenges. Community infrastructure supports community participation through the provision of services and spaces for people to interact. The draft Local Board Plan 2023 proposes objectives focused on delivering for communities now and into the future, highlighting our parks and open spaces, and building community connection.

The draft plan proposes initiatives for Our Community to support needs and aspirations within our local board area. A complete list of initiatives is included within the draft Local Board Plan 2023, which can be [found here](#). Key proposals include initiatives such as, but are not limited to:

- Review our network of services and facilities, including the regional review of Auckland's aquatic network, to consider a new approach to how services are delivered more efficiently and effectively for our community.



- Investigate options for funding and developing a new multipurpose facility in Grey Lynn incorporating community centre and library services.
- Develop a Local Parks Management Plan that will set high-level management intentions across the parks and reserves network in the Waitematā Local Board area.
- Develop a local play programme and investigate potential opportunities for youth provision such as a youth facility in Newmarket.
- Acknowledge the importance of Te Hā (pōhutukawa) and the whenua that sustains it and investigate opportunities to increase the status and protection of Dove Myer Robinson Park including the possible inclusion in the heritage schedules of the Auckland Unitary Plan.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Important to maintain our community facilities such as libraries and community halls, such as Grey Lynn Community Centre, and restore and repair Leys Institute.
- Connectivity and opportunities to connect with others in well-maintained spaces that foster relationships and positive interactions.
- Support for heritage, narrative, and wayfinding storytelling.
- Support well-maintained open spaces such as parks and reserves, and ensure regular maintenance is carried.
- Hold more community events, activities, arts, and culture programmes to connect others and better use existing open spaces.
- Support for initiatives that provide solutions to homelessness and improve safety in the city centre.

Our Places

Waitematā offers a unique landscape, and beautiful surroundings. We have a wonderful waterfront that is well connected to the city centre, an active harbour, unique historic and natural heritage, built environment and open spaces. The draft Local Board Plan 2023 proposes objectives focused on supporting growth and development, maximising the benefit of parks and open spaces, advocating for transport and accessibility improvements, supporting town centres and neighbourhoods, and supporting the development of the city centre.

The draft plan proposes initiatives for Our Places to support needs and aspirations within our local board area. A complete list of initiatives is included within the draft Local Board Plan 2023, which can be [found here](#). Key proposals include initiatives such as, but are not limited to:

- Endorse an integrated cross-agency approach in the delivery of the City Centre Master Plan including key development projects in midtown.
- Work with Eke Panuku, City Rail Link Limited and Auckland Transport to lead quality urban regeneration for the areas around the Karanga-a-Hape and Maungawhau stations, and with Kāinga Ora to agree strategic outcomes including diverse affordable housing.
- Provide feedback on resource consents and planning processes to ensure heritage sites and Special Character Areas are protected.
- Support the Water Edge Response Works to ensure water edge design across the waterfront precinct is accessible and safe for public.
- Work with Auckland Transport and utilise the Local Board Transport Capital Fund to improve road safety and wayfinding around schools in our town centres.



- Review the 2016 Waitematā Greenways Plan and work with Parks and Community Facilities and Auckland Transport to deliver key connections.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Support for protection of Te Hā (pōhutukawa) within Dove Myer Robinson Park to maintain biodiversity outcomes and retention of mature trees.
- Maintain special character and heritage for future generations.
- Well-connected neighbourhoods, easy to get around, more active mode transport choices, pedestrian friendly.
- Support seismic remediation of existing facilities such as Leys Institute, and Studio One.
- Improved and quality infrastructure and connections in the city centre with more green spaces, less cars, and more pedestrian-focused.

Our Economy

Waitematā is a prosperous local board area and home to a high concentration of professional jobs within the city centre. One in four jobs in the region are in the Waitematā Local Board area. The area also hosts a great many of Auckland's major events. The draft Local Board Plan 2023 proposes objectives focused on supporting Business Improvement Districts and Business Associations, supporting the city fringe and our town centres, building a diverse and resilient economy, and championing the creative sector.

The draft plan proposes initiatives for Our Economy to support needs and aspirations within our local board area. A complete list of initiatives is included within the draft Local Board Plan 2023, which can be [found here](#). Key proposals include initiatives such as, but are not limited to:

- Encourage our Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to deliver their strategic outcomes and priorities, and the actions from the City Fringe Economic Development Plan.
- Continue to work with CCO's and City Rail Link Limited and other agencies to mitigate construction disruption from major infrastructure projects.
- Support arts and events that bring more people to our town centres through working with mana whenua and BIDs to leverage Tātaki Auckland Unlimited major events delivered in our area.
- Foster education, collaboration and professional development for the creative sector including the Urban Regeneration plans for Uptown.
- Work with CCO's and City Rail Link Limited to transform the connectedness of our City Centre and City Fringe business districts.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Managing and advocating for the impact of crime on the economy
- Support regenerative measures for local town centres such as Parnell, Ponsonby, Newmarket, Uptown, and Grey Lynn.
- Transport shifts to active modes, pedestrian friendly spaces, and efficient public-transport networks will encourage spending and economic activity for town centres, including the city centre.
- Walkable catchments with mixture of business and residential offerings are important to promote growth and engagement with local economies and town centres.
- Support for a circular business economy that promotes sustainability, re-use, and upcycling of products, services, and programmes.



Other feedback received

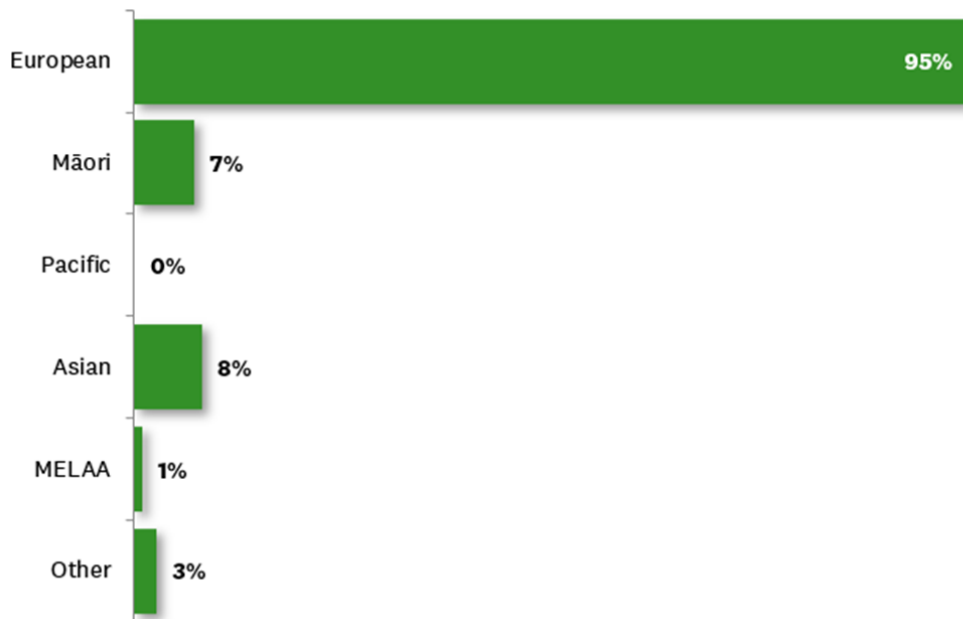
Feedback on topics outside of those directly consulted on included concerns on the negative impacts of helicopter activity in the Herne Bay / St Mary's Bay area, concern at the cancellation or postponement of Auckland Transport projects and programmes, and the ongoing cost of programming, services, and projects to Auckland Council.

Who we heard from

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

Demographics		STANDARD	EVENT
Gender		126	0
	Male	52	0
	Female	74	0
	Another gender	0	0
Age		121	0
	Under 15	0	0
	15-17	0	0
	18-24	0	0
	25-34	7	0
	35-44	14	0
	45-54	20	0
	55-64	29	0
	65-74	31	0
	75+	20	0

Ethnicity	#	%
European	112	95%
	Pākehā/NZ European	93 79%
	Other European	19 16%
Māori	8	7%
Pasifika	0	0%
	Samoan	0 0%
	Cook Islands Māori	0 0%
	Tongan	0 0%
	Other Pasifika	0 0%
Asian	9	8%
	Chinese	3 3%
	Southeast Asian	1 1%
	Korean	0 0%
	Indian	4 3%
	Other Asian	1 1%
African/Middle Eastern/Latin	1	1%
Other	3	3%
Total	118	113%



Demographics		Count	%
Gender			126
	Male	52	41%
	Female	74	59%
	Another gender	0	0%

Gender	Percentage
Female	59%
Male	41%