

Whau Local Board Plan 2023 Summary of Feedback





Summary of feedback on the draft Whau Local Board Plan

2023

Purpose

This report summarises feedback received during the public consultation in July/August to inform the development of the Whau 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 Whau 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. 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 sent a copy of the draft local board plan in June 2023 and encouraged to provide written feedback. In Hikurangi/ west Auckland, mana whenua were invited to engage with the three west local boards in one hui rather than receiving separate invitations from each local board.



Mataawaka engagement

Hui with local board plan discussions took place to engage with mataawaka during both the early engagement and consultation periods. Verbal feedback was received from mataawaka groups / individuals at Hoani Waititi marae.

Stakeholder and community engagement

Table 1: Summary of early engagement activities

Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Mataawaka hui	Hoani Waititi Marae, Māori Thought Leadership rōpū	Not recorded
Joint west local boards Te Kawerau ā Maki hui	Te Kawerau ā Maki Trust, Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges and Whau local boards	20
Stakeholder meetings	Whau Youth Board, I Love Avondale	Not recorded
Various events (e.g. Waitangi Day)	Open to the public	Unknown

Table 2: Summary of consultation activities during the consultation period*

Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Mataawaka hui	Hoani Waititi Marae	40
Joint west local boards Te Kawerau ā Maki hui *(took place after the official consultation period)	Te Kawerau ā Maki Trust, Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges and Whau local boards	18
Have Your Say community hui	Open to the public	7
Drop-in Sessions	Open to the public	473
Great North Road Exhibition	Open to the public	Unknown

Generic submissions to all boards

Six organisations provided submissions to all local boards. These included: Auckland Grey Power, Bike Auckland, Civic Trust Auckland, Community Cat Coalition, Community Groups Feeding the Homeless, and Disabled Persons Assembly NZ. Relevant content is included in the sections below. By comparison, thirteen organisations made direct submissions to the Whau Local Board.



Summary of feedback

Māori Outcomes

Delivering outcomes for Māori is an important feature of the Whau 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:

- Kia ora te hononga – Effective Māori participation: Progress the Waitākere ki tua action plan, strengthening partnerships and relationships with mana whenua and mataawaka and engaging with and involving Māori in local board initiatives.
- Kia ora te taiao – Kaitiakitanga: Continue work focused on protecting and enhancing the environment in partnership with mana whenua and supporting communities to exercise the principle of kaitiakitanga.
- Kia ora te ahurea – Māori identity and culture: Support Māori-focused projects, programmes, and events, and celebrate and recognise Māori history and mātauranga Māori in Whau.
- Kia ora te whanau – Whānau and tamariki wellbeing: Grow capacity and support community groups to deliver programmes and projects that enhance whānau and tamariki wellbeing.

Feedback on the above was sought throughout the consultation and not via a Māori outcomes focused consultation question. Key themes from the feedback included:

- importance of genuine engagement, working together with other west local boards in a collective approach, and advocacy/support for marae development from both mana whenua (Te Kawerau ā Maki) and mataawaka groups.
- providing rangatahi (and tamariki) positive opportunities noted by stakeholder groups and mataawaka.
- dissatisfaction with the focus on Māori outcomes from certain members of the community.

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:

- Improve adaptive capacity: Support people and community partners to improve local resilience through projects focused on lessening the impacts of climate change and environmental education.
- Increase community support for climate action amongst diverse populations: Empower communities to understand climate solutions and help reduce barriers to taking climate action.
- Reduce carbon emissions, waste, etc.: Support programs that deliver on low carbon and waste reduction goals and advocate for sustainable development/building practices and reduced transport related carbon emissions through improved active and public transport options.
- Improve environmental quality and lessen climate-related issues: Fund environmental and ecological improvement programmes and projects and advocate for infrastructure, projects, and plans that achieve related climate action goals.



Feedback on the above was sought throughout the consultation and not via a climate action focused consultation question. Key themes from the feedback included:

- importance of protecting trees, greenspace and improving the local environment and habitats to support biodiversity and other positive environmental outcomes
- improving community resilience to climate change
- working across local board boundaries (including on the above points)
- dissatisfaction with the focus on climate action.

Our people

Within the Our people section of their draft plan, the Whau Local Board identified the following priorities:

- Our diverse communities are supported, represented, respected, empowered, and able to thrive. Everyone can engage with local democracy to influence what happens in their neighbourhood and contribute to a collective west Auckland identity and voice.

The question below was asked during the draft local board plan consultation.

Question 1: We will focus on promoting belonging and wellbeing, strengthening partnerships, engaging with Māori, and ensuring our diverse communities are heard and contribute to a collective west Auckland voice. Will this help you and your community to thrive?

Graph 1: Response to question 1 by submission type and percentage

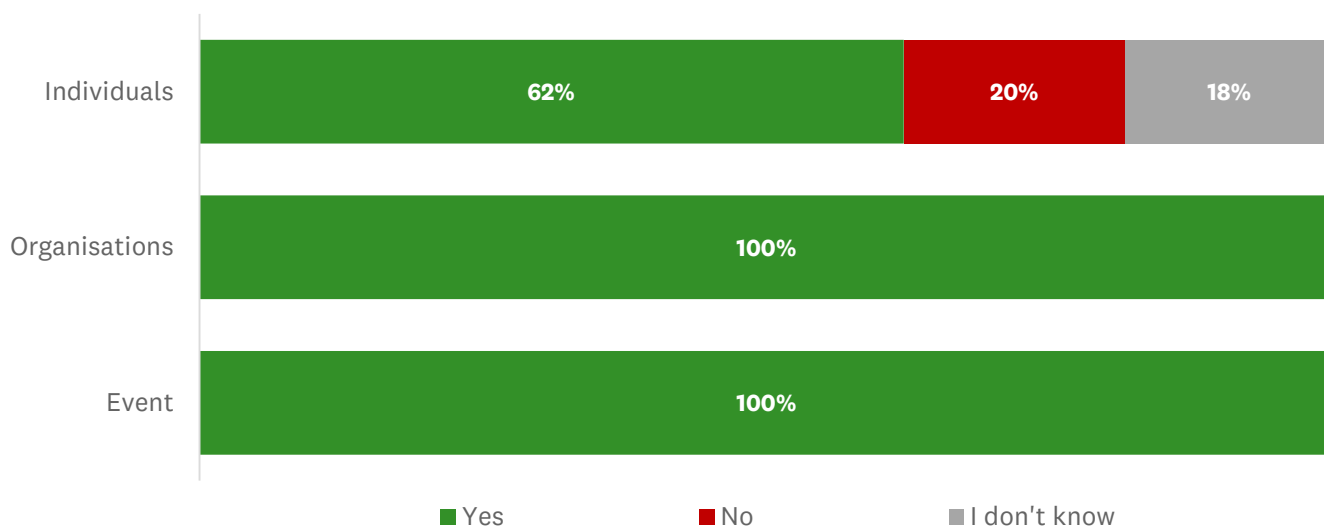


Table 1: Response to question 1 by submission type totals

	Yes	No	I don't know
Individuals	54	17	16
Organisations	11	0	0
Event	2	0	0



52 submitters provided further comments to this question. Key themes from the feedback included:

Individual Submitters:

- support for initiatives focused on cultural diversity, a collective voice, and creating a sense of belonging in the Whau
- dissatisfaction with the focus on Māori outcomes/culture
- other comments around adding specifics in the plan (e.g. project/action details).

Organisations:

- improved engagement with diverse and/or specific communities and building or strengthening relationships
- further advocacy around housing and consideration of further initiatives to create greater community resilience (e.g. kai-based) and wellbeing.

Our environment

Within the Our environment section of their draft plan, the Whau Local Board identified the following priorities:

- Our natural environment is protected by proactively working with our communities to achieve sustainability goals and build resilience. Individuals understand the need to adapt to a changing climate and take action to include sustainable practices in their daily lives.

The question below was asked during the draft local board plan consultation.

Question 2: We will focus on protecting trees and greenspace, enhancing our waterways, and working with partners and communities to exercise the principle of kaitiakitanga and build community resilience to climate change. Does this reflect your community's environmental priorities?

Graph 2: Response to question 2 by submitter type and percentage

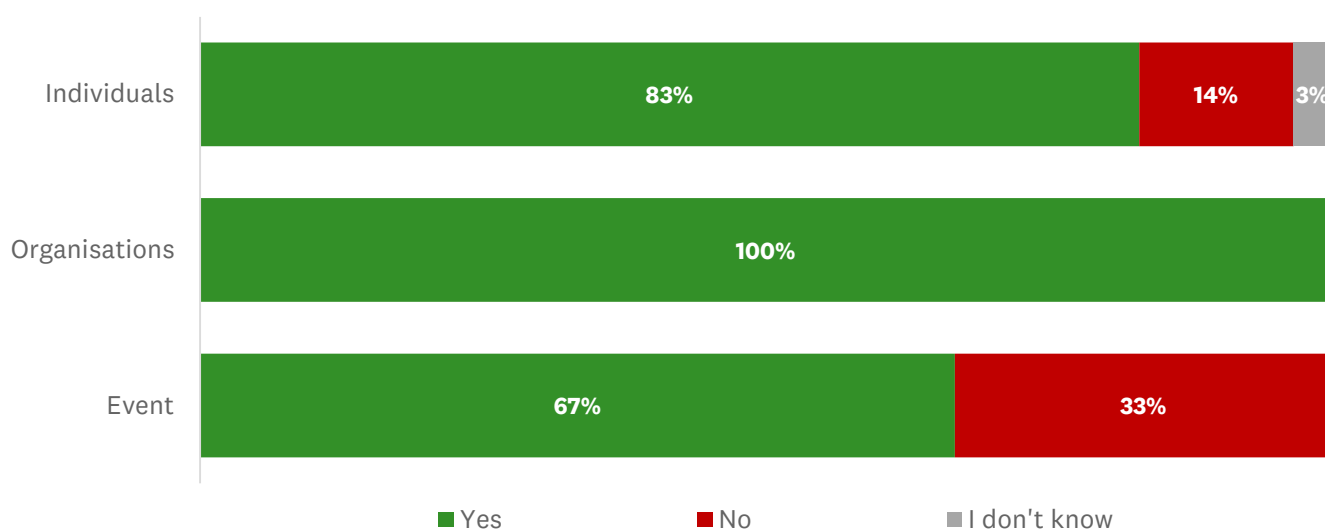




Table 2: Response to question 2 by submitter type totals

	Yes	No	I don't know
Individuals	73	12	3
Organisations	10	0	0
Event	2	1	0

63 submitters provided further comments to this question. Key themes from the feedback included:

Individual Submitters:

- support for initiatives focused on protecting trees and greenspace, ensuring healthy waterways and connections, creating community resilience, and reducing carbon emissions
- dissatisfaction with focus on climate change and climate action.

Organisations:

- similar areas of support as individual submitters, with a highlight on the importance of community involvement
- consideration for biodiversity and other specific environmental initiatives to be included in the plan.

Events:

- sustainable community approach (long-term).

Our community

Within the Our community section of their draft plan, the Whau Local Board identified the following priorities:

- Accessible, inclusive facilities and services are provided in collaboration with our communities to enrich people's lives at all stages and foster a sense of belonging. Individuals are aware of what is available to them, face fewer barriers to participation, and feel connected and supported.

The question below was asked during the draft local board plan consultation.

Question 3. We will focus on providing inclusive, accessible, and sustainable facilities and services. We will ensure plans consider future community needs, climate change, and growth. We will partner with community groups to deliver quality services. Will this support increased participation from your community and improved connection to the community as a whole?



Graph 3. Responses to question 3 by submitter type and percentage

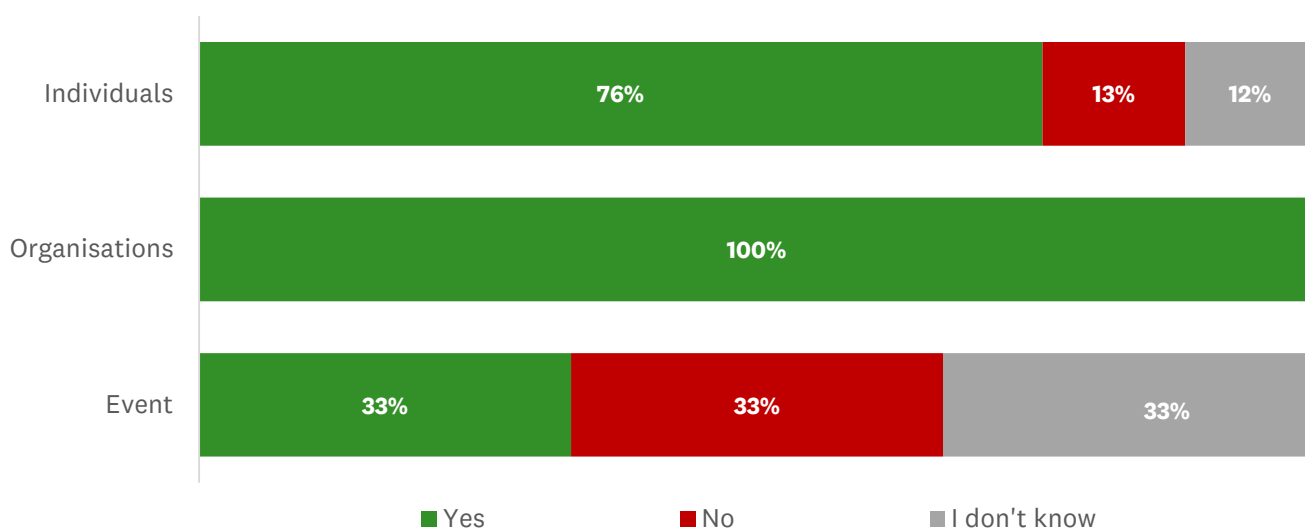


Table 3. Responses to question 3 by submitter type totals

	Yes	No	I don't know
Individuals	65	11	10
Organisations	10	0	0
Event	1	1	1

56 submitters provided further comments to this question. Key themes from the feedback included:

Individual submitters:

- support for initiatives focused on investment into new community facilities, accessibility, and planning to meet future needs
- importance of existing services
- dissatisfaction with level of detail and/or Māori and climate action focuses.

Organisations:

- need for infrastructure and quality facilities, including universal design
- importance of play and further advocacy to Governing Body for regional funds/grants.

Our places

Within the Our places section of their draft plan, the Whau Local Board identified the following priorities:

- Our communities are physically and socially connected. People feel safe, have a sense of ownership and pride, and enjoy spending time in our town centres, neighbourhood centres, parks, and open spaces.

The question below was asked during the draft local board plan consultation.



Question 4. We will focus on having safe, welcoming spaces that reflect our Māori history, industrial heritage (e.g. clay and ceramics), and cultural diversity. We will advocate for improved transport options and connections that help to reduce carbon emissions. Will this make Whau a great place to live and work in?

Graph 4. Response from question 4 by submitter type and percentage

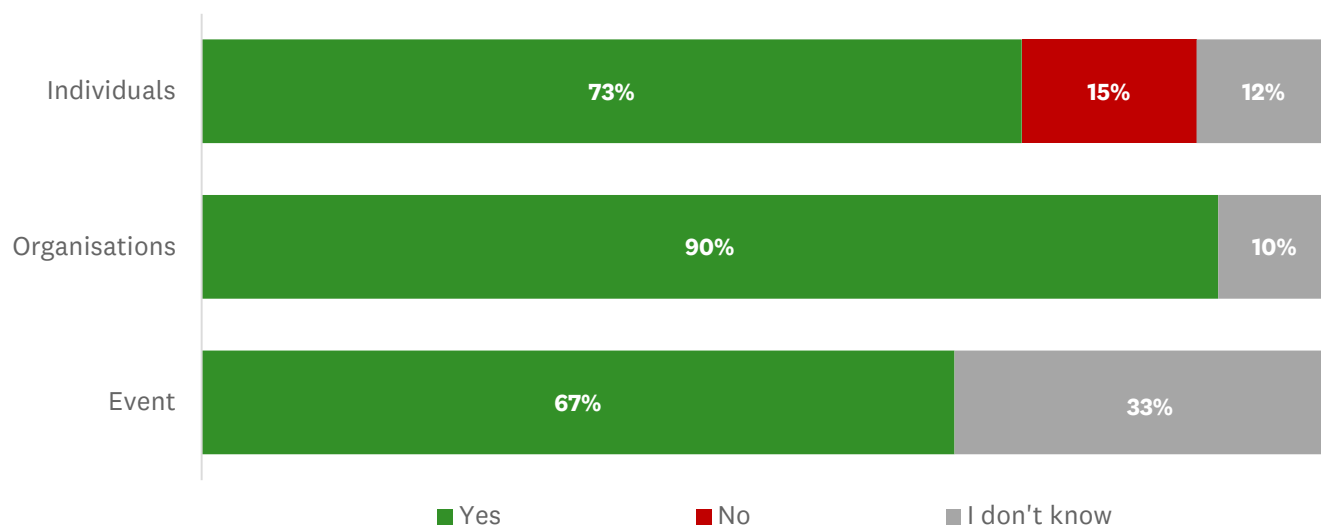


Table 4. Response from question 4 by submitter type totals

	Yes	No	I don't know
Individuals	61	13	10
Organisations	9	0	1
Event	2	0	1

59 submitters provided further comments to this question. Key themes from the feedback included:

Individual submitters:

- strong support for initiatives around improved transport and walking/cycleways
- support for safety and emission reduction initiatives
- some dissatisfaction around Māori placemaking initiatives.

Organisations:

- advocacy roles to Auckland Transport and Governing Body, including specifics around safe speeds and improved roading, active transport and related initiatives, Te Whau Pathway, greenspace, etc.



Our economy

Within the Our economy section of their draft plan, the Whau Local Board identified the following priorities:

- Our local economy is strengthened through partnership and by collaborating on initiatives that encourage our communities to shop and work locally. We bolster economic prosperity through connecting with key local industry sectors.

The question below was asked during the draft local board plan consultation.

Question 5. We will focus on fostering effective partnerships with our Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and local businesses. We will advocate for increased opportunities for employment/skill development and high-quality urban development. Will this support and bolster our local economy?

76 responses to this question were received. Key themes from the feedback included:

Individual submitters:

- support for initiatives focused on job opportunities/skill development and advocacy for quality urban development.

Organisations:

- importance of partnership
- specific employment/training needs (e.g. all marginalised populations, alignment between workplace and educators)
- issues around transport and local crime.

Other questions asked

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

Whau has a diverse population. We need to ensure our facilities, spaces, and programmes are accessible, inclusive, and reflect the communities they serve. However, we also have funding challenges.

Question 6a. Can you tell us what services are essential to you and why?

86 responses to this question were received. The following services were highlighted:

- Libraries, parks/greenspaces, and community facilities were most frequently noted as essential.
- Sport facilities and cultural events/programmes also appeared to be of great importance to the community.
- While not managed through local boards, transport-related items were frequently commented on.

Question 6b. How might we offer services differently and still meet community need?

58 comments to this question were received, but only 30 focused on the question asked. Responses included:

- support of community partnerships to offer service delivery
- openness to move to new models for funding and delivering services, including online service provision, leveraging commercial opportunities, and asset co-location.



Question 7. Do you agree that our plan reflects your needs and aspirations for our community over the next three years?

Graph 5. Response from question 7 by submitter type and percentage

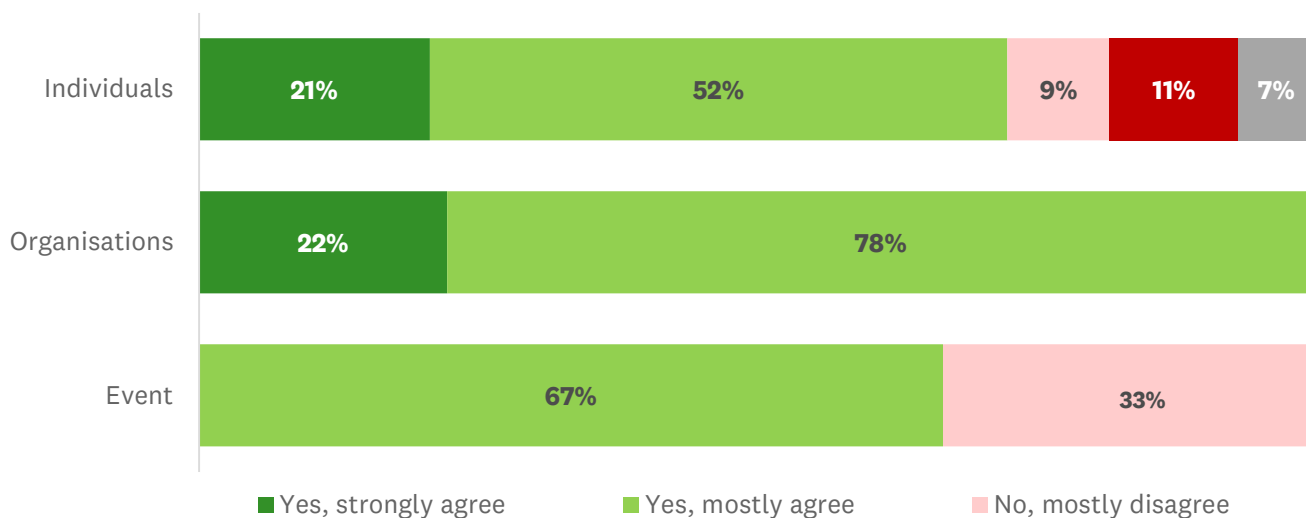


Table 5. Response from question 7 by submitter type totals

	Yes, strongly agree	Yes, mostly agree	No, mostly disagree	No, strongly disagree	I don't know
Individuals	18	45	8	10	6
Organisations	2	7	0	0	0
Event	0	2	1	0	0

39 submitters provided further comments to this question. Responses ranged and were generally related to comments in prior areas of each submission.

Question 8. Do you have any other feedback on our proposed Local Board Plan, including how we could better meet Auckland Council's climate change goals or Māori outcome aspirations?

59 responses were received. Key themes from the feedback included:

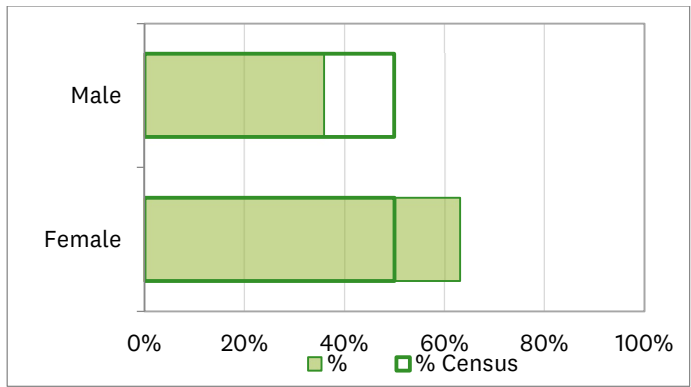
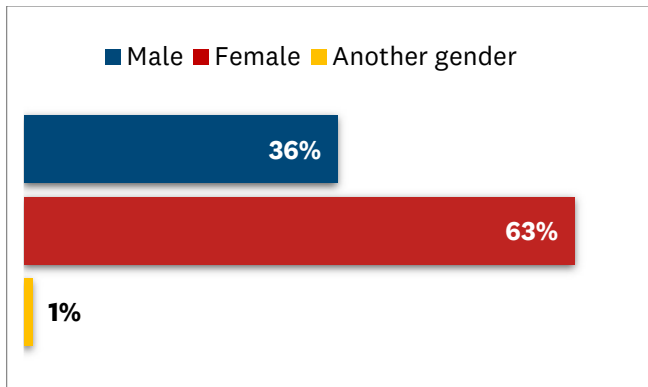
- support for environmental goals
- focus on transport-related advocacy
- organisation-specific focus and advocacy.

Who we heard from

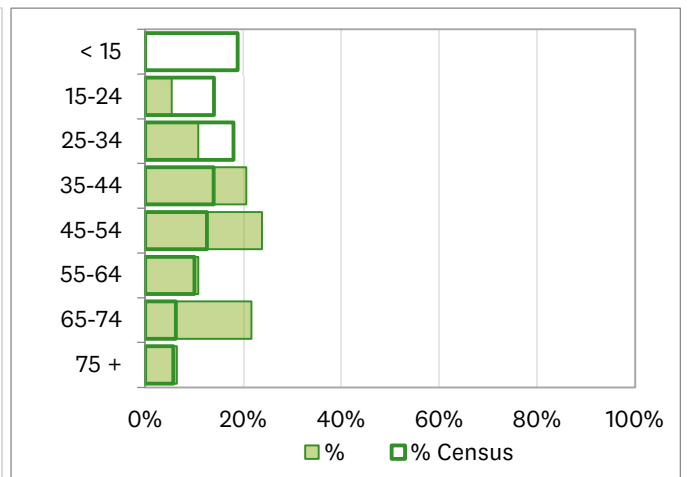
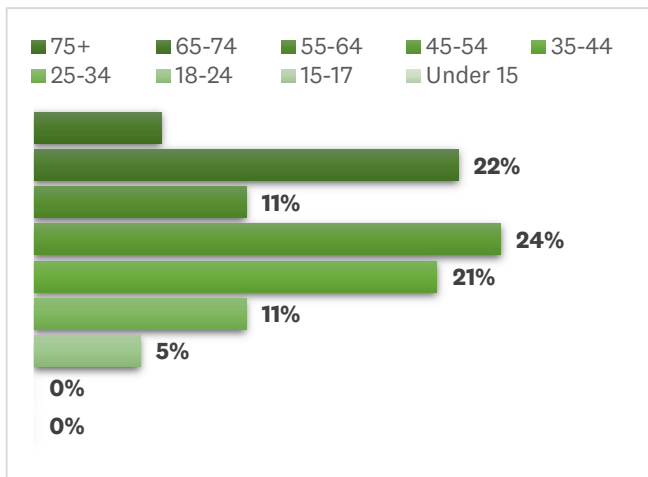
The tables and graphs below indicate the demographic profile of those that answered the demographic questions.



Gender Demographics – percentages and comparison to census data for Whau



Age Demographics – percentages and comparison to census data for Whau



Ethnicity Demographics - percentages and comparison to census data for Whau

