

Draft Manaaki
Tāmaki Makaurau:
Auckland Open
Space, Sport and
Recreation
Strategy



Feedback analysis

April 2025



Executive Summary

1. Auckland Council sought public feedback on the draft Manaaki Tāmaki Makaurau: Auckland Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy. The consultation ran from 10 February to 10 March 2025.
2. The strategy constitutes a refreshed and consolidated approach to planning and investment for open spaces and sport and recreation opportunities. Its development was guided by the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Joint Political Working Group, advisory and Māori rūpū and key council kaimahi, as well as targeted engagement with partners and key stakeholders.
3. This report analyses the 149 pieces of feedback, as well as the 253 responses from the People's Panel survey carried out in December 2024.
4. It outlines the proposed changes to the draft strategy as a result of the consultation feedback.

Feedback on the draft strategy

5. There is strong overall support for the draft strategy.
6. There is strong support for the five draft strategic directions, with the highest support for strategic direction 5: support Aucklanders to live healthy, active lives.
7. There is strong support for the four draft investment principles, with the highest support for principle 1: take a benefits-led approach to improve the holistic wellbeing of people, places and the environment.
8. There is strong support for all three policies, with the highest support for Policy 1: making the most of our open spaces.
9. Submitters prefer a capacity-focused approach (option package 2) rather than a high-density-focused approach (option package 1) when considering open space provision standards.
10. Qualitative feedback mainly speaks to the importance of equitable and inclusive access to open spaces, health and wellbeing, addressing gaps in the network, maintaining and utilising existing resources, integrated urban development and environmental sustainability.

We propose changes to the draft strategy

11. Staff propose changes to the draft strategy, the most significant being:
 - more explicitly emphasising the importance of equity and accessibility in providing open spaces and play, sport and recreation opportunities (including in the strategic directions, investment principles and policies)
 - greater emphasis on the importance of environment and biodiversity outcomes (including in the investment principles and Policy one)
 - greater emphasis on the purpose and benefits of regional parks (in Policy two)
 - including the capacity-focused approach (Option package two) for open space provision standards (in Policy two)
 - refining the strategic directions based on a range of other consultation feedback
 - making the decision-making responsibilities of local boards clearer
 - clarifying the meaning of 'value for money'

- providing clearer direction to staff to ensure local boards receive the necessary advice for decision-making
- clarifying that Auckland Council attempts to acquire land early in the development process as budget is available.

12. Other proposed changes are primarily points of clarification.

Note: additional changes were made to the strategy following adoption. The final version of the strategy is available on the Auckland Council website.

How the draft strategy was developed

13. Development of the strategy was informed by a strong evidence base, including an assessment of the existing policy framework, relevant legislative, strategic and fiscal documents, horizon scanning of current and future trends relevant to open spaces and sport and recreation, usage and satisfaction data and contemporary best-practice literature. Staff also undertook targeted engagement with partners and key stakeholders on the background paper, which outlined key challenges and opportunities for the draft strategy to consider.
14. Development of the strategy involved input and direction from the following advisory groups.
15. The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Joint Political Working Group, made up of two councillors, two local board members and one Houkura member.
16. The advisory and Māori rūpū, with mana whenua, mataawaka and sector representatives. Membership was by invitation. All nineteen Auckland iwi were invited to join the Māori rūpū or engage in the manner that best suited them. Mataawaka organisations and key stakeholders were invited to join the advisory and Māori rūpū.
17. The advisory and Māori rūpū is made up by:
 - mana whenua: representatives from Ngātiwai, Te Ākitai Waiohū, Te Patukirikiri and Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua
 - mataawaka: representatives from Te Whānau o Waipareira
 - key stakeholders: representatives from Active, Department of Conservation, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc, Property Council, Recreation Aotearoa and Sport Zealand, as well as subject matter experts Dr Timothy Welch and Gael Surgenor.
18. Development of the strategy also involved input from council kaimahi in the following departments: Policy; Parks and Community Facilities; Community Wellbeing; Planning and Resource Consents; Group Strategy, Transformation and Partnerships; Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience; Engineering, Assets and Technical Advisory; Financial Advisory; Governance and Engagement; Chief Sustainability Office; Environmental Services; Māori Outcomes; Auckland Transport; Eke Panuku and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited.
19. Staff developing the strategy engaged with local boards as follows:
 - a presentation to chairs and members on the challenges and opportunities (November 2023)
 - a memo to members on the background paper (April 2024)
 - a memo to members on the draft directions (June 2024)
 - a joint workshop with the Planning, Environment and Parks Committee and local board chairs on the investment principles and open space provision policy options (July 2024)
 - briefings with local board members on the draft strategy (June, July and August 2024)
 - workshops with twenty local boards (August 2024)¹
 - business meetings with all twenty-one local boards prior to consultation (November 2024)

¹ Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board opted not to have a workshop.

- business meetings with all twenty-one local boards following consultation (April 2025).

20. Staff kept mana whenua up to date with progress through memos.

The consultation process

21. In December 2024, the Policy and Planning Committee approved public consultation on the draft of Manaaki Tāmaki Makaurau: Auckland Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy [[PEPCC/2024/131](#) and [PEPCC/2024/132](#)].
22. The purpose of the consultation was to:
- seek Aucklanders' views on the draft strategy
 - identify any relevant questions, concerns or additional information to strengthen or modify the draft strategy.

Overview of our engagement approach

23. We tested our engagement approach by running a People's Panel survey in December 2024.
24. Public consultation ran from 10 February to 10 March 2025, via the Have Your Say project page and submissions by email or postal mail.
25. Aucklanders were provided with:
- a three-page plain English summary document - translated into te reo Māori, Korean, simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, Samoan, Tongan and Hindi, and available in easy read versions.
 - an eight-page detailed summary of the draft strategy
 - a feedback form asking for feedback on the overall aim of the draft strategy, the five strategic directions, the four investment principles and the three policies, including two option packages for how we provide open spaces
 - the full draft strategy
 - examples of types of open spaces / parks in different local board areas.
26. The consultation was advertised via Our Auckland. Local board engagement advisors and stakeholders were also asked to circulate the link to the Have Your Say page to their networks.
27. The nineteen iwi in Tāmaki Makaurau were invited to provide feedback on the draft strategy.
28. Drop-in sessions were held at Auckland Central library (27 February), Botany library (3 March), Manukau library (5 March), Albany Village library (7 March) and Pasifika festival (8 March).
29. Staff were available to partners and key stakeholders to run questions and / or feedback sessions. Hui were held with:
- members of the Disability, Ethnic Communities, Pacific Peoples, Rainbow Communities, Seniors and Youth panels (25 February)
 - the Healthy Auckland Together coalition (13 March)
 - Te Whānau o Waipareira (mataawaka organisation) (20 March).

Who provided feedback

30. The consultation process generated a total of 149 pieces of feedback. The feedback received cover a wide range of views and perspectives.

Have Your Say respondents

31. We received 126 individual submissions via the Have Your Say page, mainly from central Auckland.

32. Respondents tended to be female (56%), Pakeha (52%), aged between 30 and 34 (13%).

Sub-region	North	Central	South	West	Rural	Not specified (I don't know/outside Auckland)	Total
Have Your Say	25 (20%)	52 (41%)	25 (20%)	13 (10%)	6 (5%)	5 (4%)	126

33. Detailed demographic analysis of the respondents is provided in Appendix A.

People's Panel respondents

34. A total of 253 respondents took part in the People's Panel survey, mainly from central Auckland.

35. Respondents tended to be male (50%), Pakeha (52%), aged between 55 and 59 (14%).

Sub-region	North	Central	South	West	Rural	Not specified (I don't know/outside Auckland)	Total
People's Panel	53 (21%)	87 (34%)	48 (19%)	39 (15%)	26 (10%)	0 (0%)	253

36. Detailed demographic analysis of the respondents is provided in Appendix A.

Partners and stakeholders' overview

37. Twenty-two partners and stakeholders submitted via Have Your Say, by email or during a hui.

Table 1: List of partners and stakeholders who provided feedback and organised by group

Group	Stakeholders and Partners
Land and property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barker and Associates on behalf of Fulton Hogan Land Development (FHLd) Property Council New Zealand
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends of Regional Parks Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc (Forest and Bird) Waitakere Ranges Protection Society
Health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Auckland Together Te Whānau o Waipareira
Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aktive Auckland Diving Community Trust Auckland Netball Centre Inc. Drowning Prevention Auckland East Skate Club Inc aka Young Guns Northern Region Football

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otahuhu United AFC • Sport Waitākere • SUB Football • United Cricket Club Counties Manukau Incorporated
Residents' societies and interest groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Friends Auckland • I Love Avondale Charitable Trust • Parnell Community Committee • Open Space for Future Aucklanders • Titirangi Residents and Ratepayers Association

Advisory panels

38. Members from the Youth Advisory Panel, the Seniors Advisory Panel, the Ethnic Community Advisory Panel, the Disabled People's Advisory Panel and Rainbow Community Advisory Panel jointly provided feedback during a cross-advisory panel hui.

What we heard

Support is strong for the draft strategy, its strategic directions, investment principles and policies

39. There is strong support for the draft strategy overall from Aucklanders and partners and stakeholders.
40. Aucklanders support the five draft strategic directions, with the strongest support for strategic direction 5: support Aucklanders to live healthy, active lives. Partners and stakeholders have mixed support for the draft strategic directions.
41. Aucklanders support the four draft investment principles, with the strongest support for investment principle 1: take a benefits-led approach. Partners and stakeholders generally support the draft investment principles but have mixed views.
42. Aucklanders support all three policies, with the highest support for Policy 1: making the most of our open spaces. Partners and stakeholders have mixed views on policies 1 and 2 but support Policy 3.
43. Submitters prefer a capacity-focused approach (Option package 2) rather than a high-density-focused approach (Option package 1) when considering open space provision standards.
44. Partners as well as health, wellbeing and sport stakeholders favour Option package 2, while property and environment stakeholders and partners have mixed views.

Key themes from the feedback

45. The analysis of the qualitative feedback outlined five key themes.
 - Open and green spaces are essential for mental and physical health.
 - All Aucklanders must have access to safe, well-maintained open spaces:
 - open spaces and sport and recreation facilities should be accessible and distributed equitably to meet community needs
 - addressing local and regional gaps in the network should be prioritised
 - developing the network will require sustained long-term investment
 - open spaces should be safe, inclusive and well-maintained.
 - Open space needs to be an integral part of urban planning:
 - open spaces should be integrated into urban development, especially in high-density areas
 - open spaces should be connected via active transport and public transport routes.
 - Open spaces must serve a wide range of functions:
 - green spaces should be protected to enhance natural ecosystems
 - Māori heritage, community culture and identity should be protected in open space planning
 - open spaces must be multi-use spaces that serve community and recreational needs and support flood and climate resilience.
 - Our resources should be used efficiently:
 - we should make better use of underutilised space

- Auckland Council should support community-led and charitable initiatives to create and maintain open spaces
- open space development should be cost-effective and use Auckland Council resources efficiently.

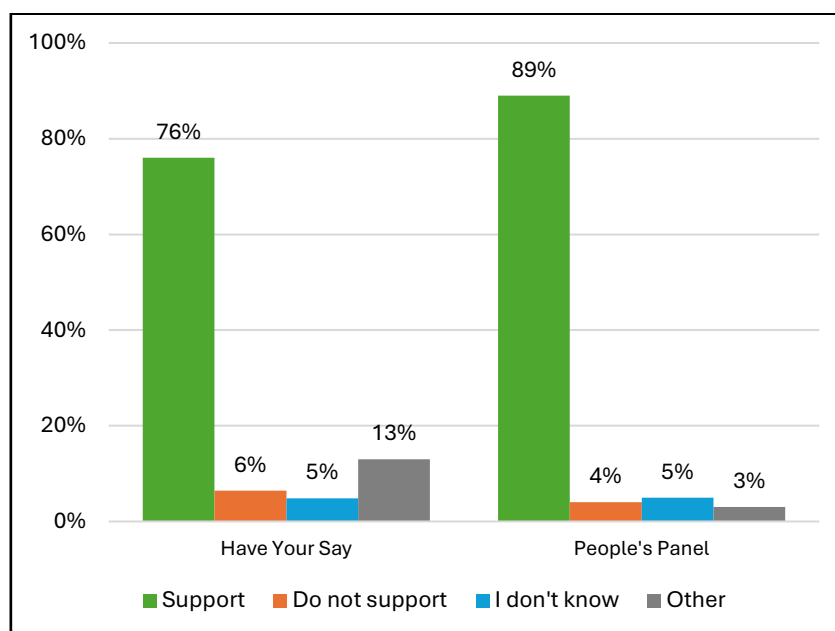
More detailed information is provided in the following sections

46. The following sections present an analysis of feedback for each question. They include a sub-regional breakdown of the Have Your Say responses (north, central, south, west, and rural), along with analysis of the quantitative data (refer to Appendix A for demographic profiles of respondents).
47. At the end of this section, we present other comments or concerns raised by respondents.

Question 1: Aucklanders support the overall aim of the draft strategy

Aucklanders strongly support the overall aim of the draft strategy

48. A total of 76 per cent of Have Your Say respondents and 89 per cent of People's Panel respondents support the overall aim of the strategy.



49. Qualitative feedback on the draft strategy supports equitable and inclusive access, integrated urban development, health and social wellbeing, environmental stability and addressing gaps in the network.

50. Amongst the 6 per cent of respondents who do not support the draft strategy, some have concerns about the inequitable provision of and access to open spaces and the provision of recreational facilities for specific uses (for example, off-leash dog areas) across the Auckland region.

“This strategy has the potential to significantly improve Aucklanders’ health and wellbeing, but it must explicitly address equity if it is to be truly effective. By embedding Māori at decision levels and implementation levels with a commitment to Mātauranga Māori, Whānau Ora, and social value principles, Auckland Council can ensure that Māori and Pasifika communities are not just included—but empowered.”
Te Whānau o Waipareira

“We believe this provides opportunity for the strategy to prioritise the life supporting capacity of natural features, processes, and ecosystems.”
Have Your Say

“New developments should be tied to the provision of community parks (with developers coughing up and new residents being levied for).” **Have Your Say**

51. Support levels amongst Have Your Say submissions are similar across Auckland with slightly lower support in the rural areas (based on six submitters).

Overall aim of the strategy (Have Your Say)	North	Central	South	West	Rural	Not specified (I don't know/outside Auckland)	Total by responses
Support	19 (76%)	39 (75%)	19 (79%)	11 (84%)	3 (50%)	4 (80%)	95 (76%)
Do not support	1 (4%)	6 (12%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	8 (6%)
I don't know	2 (8%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	1 (8%)	1 (17%)	1 (20%)	6 (5%)
Other	3 (12%)	6 (12%)	4 (17%)	1 (8%)	2 (33%)	0 (0%)	16 (13%)
Total	25 (20%)	52 (42%)	24 (19%)	13 (10%)	6 (5%)	5 (4%)	125

Partners and stakeholders support the overall aim of the draft strategy, and suggest improvements

The property sector asks for more details on implementation

52. The Property Council has concerns about the limited details in the draft strategy about implementation and funding and how this could lead to increased development contributions and affect future development feasibility. It recommends exploring alternative funding sources, including private partnerships.
53. Fulton Hogan Land Development broadly supports the draft strategy's vision, especially its focus on innovative open spaces in high-density areas and environmental protection but suggests refinements such as an 'Approval in Principle' planning process and clearer investment criteria for the development process to improve certainty, efficiency, and the delivery of sustainable open spaces.

Health and wellbeing stakeholders support the draft strategy but would like a stronger focus on equity

54. Healthy Auckland Together and Te Whānau o Waipareira both express strong support for the holistic, future-focused approach of the draft strategy and its potential to improve population health.
55. Both stakeholders called for the draft strategy to address equity, embed Māori leadership and mātauranga Māori, and reflect the needs of Auckland's diverse communities.
56. Both stakeholders also support community-led initiatives and addressing transport, safety and socioeconomic barriers for Māori and Pacific Peoples to create open spaces that are inclusive and promote population health.

Environment stakeholders support the draft strategy but would like stronger protection for regional parks

57. The Waitākere Ranges Protection Society and Forest and Bird support the draft strategy, particularly its focus on protecting ecosystems, advancing indigenous restoration, and safeguarding natural heritage. Both request that the draft strategy speaks to the need for balance between access to open spaces and environmental protection, noting that some recreational infrastructure can harm ecosystems. Forest and Bird also supports prioritising nature-based solutions and environmental resilience over recreation and calls for formal recognition of the role community groups and non-governmental organisations play in caring for open spaces.
58. The Waitākere Ranges Protection Society finds that the draft strategy is complex, making it difficult for non-experts to engage with the content. They expressed concern that the draft strategy takes a one-size-fits-all approach overlooking the unique needs of sensitive areas like the Waitākere Ranges.

59. Friends of Regional Parks supports the draft strategy but wants a clear vision for regional parks for the future of Auckland. This would include a clear direction on park acquisition in growth areas, a dedicated management entity for parks and open spaces, stronger ranger services to work with communities and volunteers, and better integration of public and private spaces to connect communities with nature.

The sports sector supports the draft strategy and its focus on equity and reducing participation barriers

60. Active supports the overall aim of the draft strategy, supports manaakitanga as the underpinning concept and supports the approach that aligns ora (wellbeing) with the principle of equity and equality.

61. Sport Waitākere strongly supports the draft strategy's focus on reducing participation barriers and improving access, especially for low-participation communities. They call for investment beyond infrastructure, emphasising the importance of affordability, cultural responsiveness, integration with broader social policies, and local partnerships to ensure open spaces are inclusive, welcoming and well-used.

62. Sports clubs support the draft strategy, particularly its focus on manaakitanga and access to sport and recreation. However, some have concerns about the need for better upkeep of existing facilities and proactive planning for active spaces in growing, denser communities.

Resident groups have a large variety of views

63. Generally resident groups reported that accessible green spaces are essential for community wellbeing, social connection and climate resilience. There is support for expanding open space in Auckland, especially in high-density and underserved areas, to meet current and future growth.

64. Two groups commented on the need to balance sport and recreation with other outcomes. Comments range from: environmental outcomes take precedence over sporting interests, stronger Māori and mataawaka partnerships, and the removal of unsubstantiated claims about Māori health benefits from sports. They find the strategy complex and urged measurable outcomes, protection of regional parks, and more flexibility in provision standards.

65. Dog Friends of Auckland advocates for equitable access to open and green spaces where owners can exercise their dogs, both on and off-leash. They also propose allowing shared use of sports fields as off-leash areas when not in use.

Members of the advisory panels generally support the overall aim of the draft strategy

66. Members of the advisory panels generally support the overall aim of the draft strategy.

67. During the cross-advisory panel hui, members expressed the following aspirations:

- Open spaces should be representative of Auckland's diverse communities (e.g. by creating identity-affirming spaces).
- The strategy's equity commitments should explicitly mention Takatāpui and Rainbow communities.
- Current safety proposals should consider the unique risks for LGBTQIA+ people in open spaces.
- Flora and fauna that are linked to the history of the community should be integrated into open spaces.

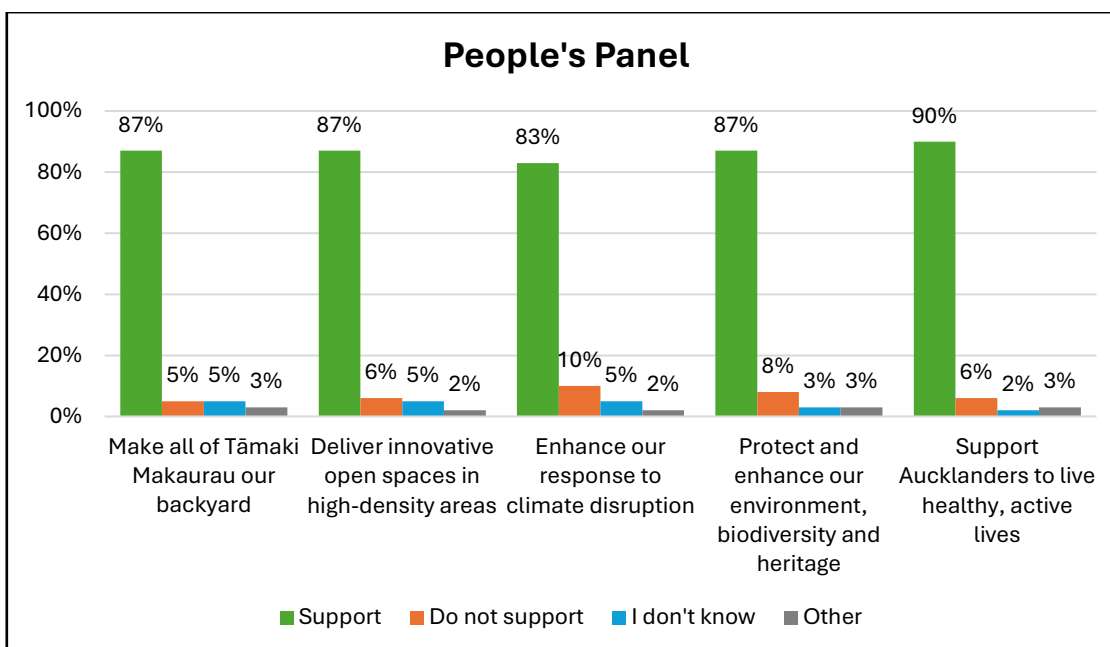
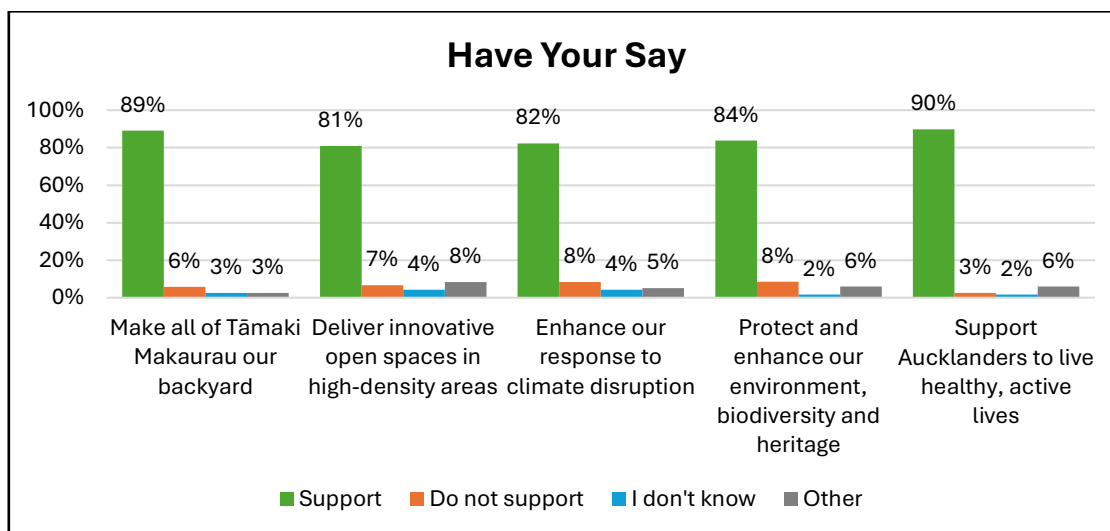
Question 2: Support for the draft strategic directions is high

Aucklanders strongly support the five strategic directions

68. There is strong support for all five strategic directions amongst both Have Your Say and People's Panel respondents, with support levels ranging from 81 to 90 per cent.

69. The strongest support is for strategic direction 5: support Aucklanders to live healthy, active lives.

70. A key theme across all submitters is the importance of equitable access to open spaces and places across the region.



Aucklanders aspire to equitable access to open spaces to deliver wellbeing as well as environmental and resilience benefits, including in high-density areas

71. The feedback received strongly supports equitable access to open space across the region. Increasing access to open space will support the health and wellbeing of Aucklanders while ensuring environmental sustainability and mitigation of the impacts from climate change.
72. Submitters mention the need for increased provision of open space, especially in high-density areas and for maintaining and utilising existing resources.
73. Some submitters are unclear as to what providing “innovative” open spaces could look like.

“It is important that people have access to nature. It is also important that nature-based solutions are protected and enhanced, to ensure ecosystem services continue to support our region, and the health of the nature is also maintained and enhanced.” **Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.**

“Strongly support equitable access to open spaces, particularly for low-participation communities.” **Titirangi Residents and Ratepayers Association**

“Open spaces in medium and high-density areas must include natural spaces and not just urban style parks. This is to promote eco corridors and mental health and wellbeing, as well as provide respite areas from elevated temperatures due to climate change.” **Have Your Say**

“We support the strategic direction outlined in Topic 1, specifically the proactive response to climate disruption and the recognition of open spaces as critical infrastructure for improving Auckland's climate resilience.” **Barker and Associates on behalf of Fulton Hogan Land Development (FHLD)**

There are some slight variations across Auckland

74. Overall, support levels amongst Have Your Say submissions are similar across Auckland, noting:
- slightly lower support in rural areas for strategic directions 1 and 3 (based on six submissions)
 - slightly lower support in north and rural areas for strategic direction 2
 - slightly lower support in the south area for strategic direction 4.

	North	Central	South	West	Rural	Not specified (I don't know/outside Auckland)	Total by responses
Strategic direction 1 - Make all of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland our backyard							
Support	20 (91%)	47 (92%)	22 (92%)	11 (92%)	3 (50%)	4 (80%)	107 (89%)
Do not support	2 (9%)	2 (4%)	1 (4%)	1 (8%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)	7 (6%)

I don't know	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)	1 (20%)	3 (3%)
Other	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)	3 (3%)
Total	22 (18%)	51 (43%)	24 (20%)	12 (10%)	6 (5%)	5(4%)	120
Strategic direction 2 - Deliver innovative open spaces in high-density areas							
Support	15 (68%)	42 (82%)	22 (92%)	11 (92%)	3 (50%)	4 (80%)	97 (81%)
Do not support	4 (18%)	3 (6%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	8 (7%)
I don't know	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (50%)	1 (20%)	5 (4%)
Other	2 (9%)	6 (12%)	1 (4%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (8%)
Total	22 (18%)	51 (43%)	24 (20%)	12 (10%)	6 (5%)	5(4%)	120
Strategic direction 3 - Enhance our response to climate disruption							
Support	20 (91%)	41 (80%)	18 (75%)	11 (92%)	4 (80%)	4 (80%)	98 (82%)
Do not support	2 (9%)	4 (8%)	3 (13%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (8%)
I don't know	0 (0%)	3 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	5 (4%)
Other	0 (0%)	3 (6%)	3 (13%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	6 (5%)
Total	22 (18%)	51 (43%)	24 (20%)	12 (10%)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	119
Strategic direction 4 - Protect and enhance our environment, biodiversity and heritage							
Support	20 (95%)	43 (84%)	17 (71%)	10 (83%)	5 (100%)	4 (80%)	99 (84%)
Do not support	1 (5%)	5 (10%)	3 (13%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (8%)
I don't know	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	2 (2%)
Other	0 (0%)	2 (4%)	4 (17%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (6%)
Total	21 (18%)	51 (43%)	24 (20%)	12 (10%)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	118
Strategic direction 5 - Support Aucklanders to live healthy, active lives							
Support	21 (91%)	47 (92%)	19 (83%)	11 (92%)	4 (100%)	4 (80%)	106 (90%)
Do not support	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (3%)
I don't know	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	2 (2%)
Other	0 (0%)	4 (8%)	3 (13%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (6%)
Total	23 (19%)	51 (43%)	23 (19%)	12 (10%)	4 (3%)	5 (4%)	118

Partners and stakeholders have mixed views on the draft strategic directions

The property sector generally supports the draft strategic directions but calls for pragmatism

75. Fulton Hogan Land Development supports the strategic directions, specifically the proactive response to climate disruption and the recognition of open spaces as critical infrastructure for improving Auckland's climate resilience.
76. Property Council New Zealand supports the intention to provide new, high-quality open spaces to keep pace with growth but expresses concern about strategic direction 1 due to the geographic nature of the Auckland region. They call for a more realistic and achievable goal focused on current park maintenance and future open space opportunities, particularly through private partnership arrangements.
77. Property Council New Zealand supports working with Auckland Transport to enable using civic squares, streets and carparks for people-centred activities and greening the city. However, they note that any

future development of civic squares needs to be done in close collaboration with local businesses to ensure unintended consequences and business disruptions are minimised.

78. Property Council New Zealand supports encouraging private developments to provide rooftop open spaces but highlights that planning rules, regulations, and development contributions may limit feasibility. They call for Auckland Council to engage with the private sector to better understand how planning rules may restrict innovation.
79. Property Council New Zealand supports prioritising investment into the development of Auckland's blue-green network to better manage stormwater and supports proactive measures to address climate disruption and acknowledge the importance of open spaces as essential infrastructure for enhancing Auckland's climate resilience.

Health and wellbeing stakeholders support the draft strategic directions, with some caveats

80. For strategic direction 1, Healthy Auckland Together called for equitable access to be defined in the strategy. Both submitters called for reducing participation barriers for Māori, Pacific People, disabled people and low-income communities. This would include culturally relevant and community-led approaches through co-design with Māori and Pacific communities. Both also highlighted enhancing safety through partnerships with community and social services to support vulnerable communities.
81. For strategic direction 2, both submitters highlighted the need for multi-use, adaptable spaces for informal recreation, nature-based activities, community gathering spaces, particularly in high-density areas. Both call for investment in Māori-led sport projects, partnerships with local marae, and flexible-use of space for culturally significant activities like kapa haka, mau rākau, and waka ama. They also called for incorporating kai-growing spaces, community gardens, and intergenerational designs to promote wellbeing, social cohesion and food security.
82. For strategic direction 3, both submitters call for stronger climate resilience planning that protects Māori and Pacific communities, who are often most affected by climate change. They also call for Māori and Pacific climate knowledge, protecting ancestral lands and waterways, and ensuring Māori and Pacific leadership in designing and implementing climate solutions. They also support regenerative gardens, wetlands, and permeable surfaces to manage stormwater and enhance biodiversity.
83. For strategic direction 4, both submitters support protecting Auckland's natural and cultural heritage by embedding te ao Māori perspectives and recognising pūrākau in open space planning. They call for stronger co-management models with iwi, increased recognition of Māori historical sites, and rangatahi-led environmental initiatives. They also support including using urban ngahere and native planting to improve air quality and mitigate heat.
84. For strategic direction 5, Healthy Auckland Together highlights the need for safe, inclusive, and culturally relevant open spaces to support physical and mental wellbeing. Te Whānau o Waipareira call for investing in Māori-led sport and recreation pathways, increasing support for low-participation communities, recognising sport's role in reducing social harm, and Healthy Auckland Together call for expanding bike hubs to improve access and health outcomes. Healthy Auckland Together also noted that equitable access to healthy food options should also be considered.

Environment stakeholders support the draft strategic directions, with some caveats

85. Forest and Bird support the draft strategic directions and emphasise the importance of nature-based solutions to ensure our ecosystems continue to support the region and that the health of nature is also maintained and enhanced.
86. The Waitākere Ranges Protection Society support the draft strategic directions but disagree with the fiscal constraint assumption in strategic direction 1. They expressed concern that this assumption would lead to partnerships with non-public entities, resulting in commercialisation of open space.
87. The Waitākere Ranges Protection Society calls for more emphasis on carbon emissions reduction and carbon sequestration through tree protection and tree planting in strategic direction 3, as part of Aotearoa's international obligations for emissions reductions.
88. The Waitākere Ranges Protection Society calls for a stronger emphasis on environmental protections and that these should not be undermined by the prioritisation of 'value for money' and accessibility for recreational use.
89. Friends of Regional Parks support the draft strategic directions. They note that with increasing intensification of Auckland's existing suburbs, a high priority must be placed on retaining public access to large parcels of existing private open spaces such as golf courses and racetracks when they become available for redevelopment. They also note that these open spaces provide habitat for birds and insects, urban cooling and rainwater absorption.
90. Friends of Regional Parks call for obtaining public access permission across private rural land, via financial incentives, which would increase open space access and be cheaper than land acquisition. They also note the same strategy could be applied to unused industrial or urban land where pop-up-parks could be developed for short-term use.

[Sports stakeholders and partners have mixed support for the draft strategic directions](#)

91. Active support, as part of strategic direction 1, partnering with other providers of open space, such as the Ministry of Education, to improve public access to ensure open space provision keeps pace with growth. They also support Auckland Council working closely with Auckland Transport to help people move about safely but call for greater focus on enabling streets to be used as open space for play and active recreation.
92. Active support, as part of strategic direction 2, private developments providing private open space such as rooftops for play, sport and recreation. They also call for council-owned facilities such as car park buildings to provide public open space for a similar purpose.
93. Active strongly supports strategic direction 5 and calls for partnering with the Ministry of Education to improve access to non-council facilities and transitioning to multi-use, adaptable spaces co-designed with communities and mana whenua to help them meet community needs and celebrate mana whenua heritage and identity.
94. Sport Waitākere calls for a clearer definition of equitable access that considers historical disparities, financial barriers, and evolving community needs. They also call for a needs-based approach to investment, partnerships with Māori, and embedding co-governance and te ao Māori perspectives to enhance cultural identity, sustainability, and knowledge sharing.
95. Sport Waitākere calls for multi-use, adaptable open spaces that support informal recreation, whānau-centred play, and community connection. They also emphasise the need to prioritise unstructured physical activity and integrate nature-based recreation, passive leisure, and mahinga kai to promote wellbeing and cohesion.

96. Sport Waitākere calls for open spaces that integrate active transport, placemaking, climate resilience, and community-led initiatives to enhance accessibility.
97. Sports clubs have mixed views on the strategic directions. One sports club does not support strategic direction 1 and two sports clubs do not support strategic directions 3 and 4.
98. One sports club calls for partnerships with schools and a network approach for facilities, including single-use facilities, as this could reduce costs and barriers to accessing facilities. Another sports club calls for provision of skate parks to be included in strategic direction 1.

One residents group commented on the strategic directions

99. The Open Space for Future Aucklanders Society expressed concerns that strategic directions 1 and 2 will not provide enough high-quality and accessible open space to replace the functions of private backyards. They are also concerned that the draft strategy's broad definition of open space, including green (parks), blue (streams), and grey (streets) spaces, may enable future developments which only provide access to blue and grey spaces. They noted that blue and grey spaces have different functions (stormwater), can be inaccessible, and that they do not have the same recreational and health benefits as green spaces. They call for specific provision of green spaces to be included in the draft strategy.
100. Open Space for Future Aucklanders supports making the most of open spaces but states that acquiring new parks and ensuring their size matches anticipated population growth should be the priority, particularly in high-density areas, to ensure equitable access to open space. They disagree that financial constraints and land availability will limit the delivery of open space as high-density developments create more open space and call for Auckland Council to make better use of financial tools to fund future land acquisition.
101. Open Space for Future Aucklanders expresses concern at relying on Auckland Transport to provide transport links between spaces and to provide open space as shifting transport policies could prioritise road use over open space, risking a shortfall in provision.
102. Open Space for Future Aucklanders supports strategic direction 4 for protection and care for ecological, natural, cultural and historic heritage in our open space and places, and efforts to increase tree canopy cover across the city. They also support strategic direction 5, but express concern that a network approach would require increased car travel which is at odds with Auckland's wider goals of a mode-shift to more sustainable forms of transport.

Members of the advisory panels strongly support the strategic directions for the draft strategy

103. Members of the advisory panel hui strongly support all the strategic directions.
104. Members of the advisory panel hui strongly support equitable, inclusive access to open spaces, including blue spaces, and call for improved public transport connections to improve access to open spaces and support community health and wellbeing.
105. Members also support protecting open spaces, ensuring they reflect the communities that use them, and designing them to be resilient to climate impacts.

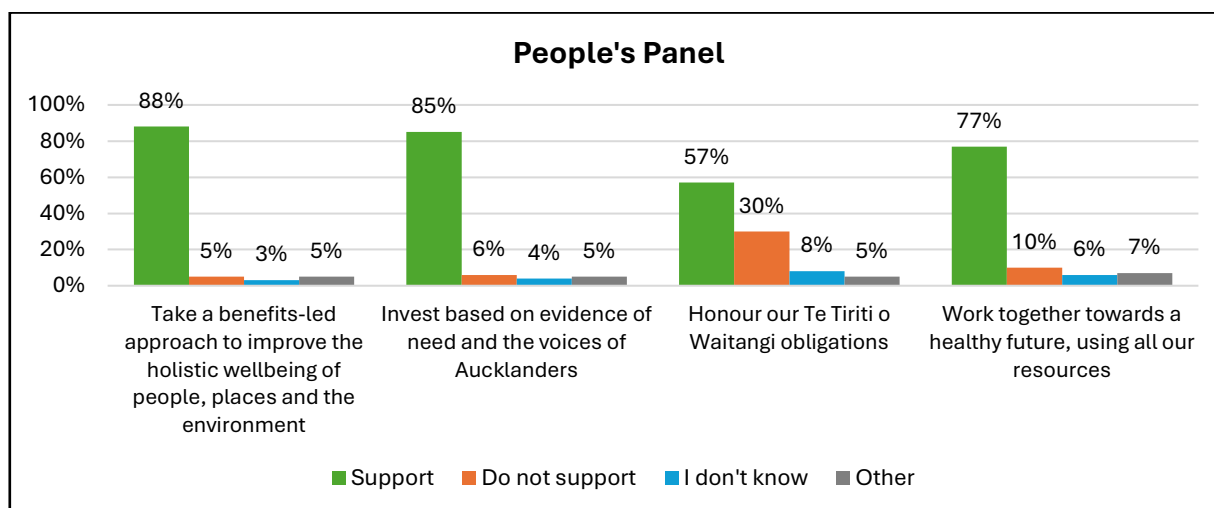
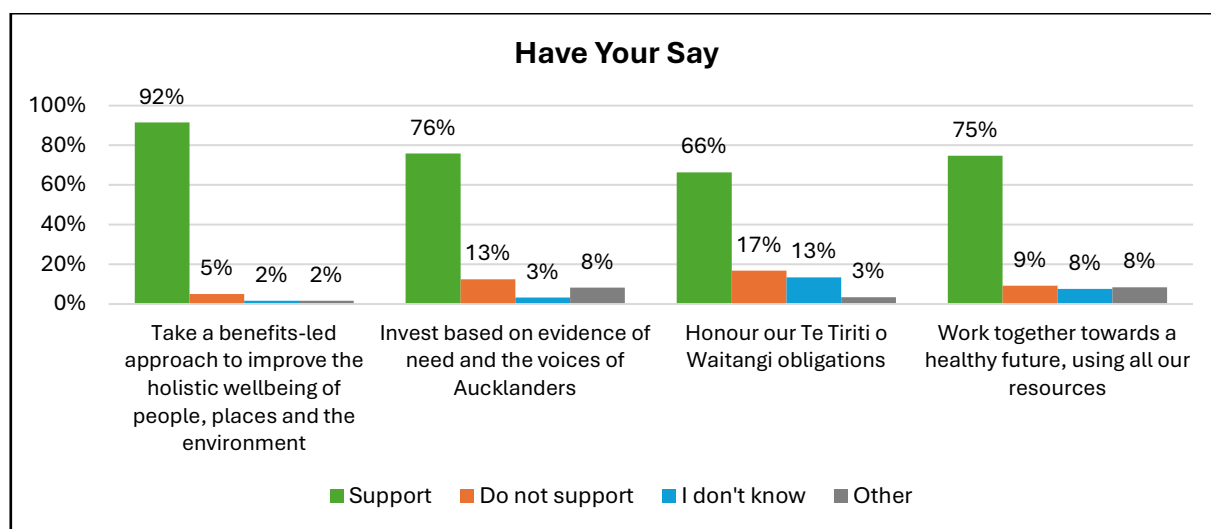
Question 3: There is support for the draft investment principles

Aucklanders support the draft investment principles

106. There is strong support for all four investment principles amongst Have Your Say and People's Panel respondents, with the strong support for principle 1: take a benefits-led approach.

107. Support levels ranged from 66 to 92 per cent amongst Have Your Say respondents.

108. Support levels ranged from 57 to 88 per cent amongst People's Panel respondents.



Feedback from Have Your Say respondents

109. Submitters support investment being strategic and evidence-based to meet the diverse needs of all Aucklanders. Some submitters feel that collaboration and community-based consultations should drive investment strategies.

110. Some submitters are concerned that communities facing systemic barriers, such as Māori, Pacific Peoples, disabled people and low-income groups, would continue to be underserved. They call for more targeted investment to address the barriers these groups face to participating in sport and recreation activities.

111. Some submissions call for a commitment to long-term, sustainable funding for open space provision.
112. Views on Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations are mixed. Some respondents are unsure about how supporting te reo Māori to be seen, heard, spoken and learned relates to open space. Others feel iwi land should be protected when providing open space.

“We should absolutely honour our treaty obligations. We should not rely on commercial entities to provide them.” **Have Your Say**

“Ensuring benefits goes beyond financial benefits is essential.” **Have Your Say**

“We support investment into communities of need and spaces that meet a diverse range of needs. Investment into existing facilities needs to continue at a higher level as facilities age, they need more maintenance funds to keep them looking tidy and pristine. Capital funding for new projects is very difficult at the moment so Council and the sector need to continue to work together to find solutions.” **Auckland Netball Centre Inc.**

There are slight variations in support across Auckland

113. Overall, the support levels amongst Have Your Say submissions are similar across the different parts of Auckland, noting:
- slightly lower support in the north and in rural areas (based on five submissions) for investment principle 3
 - slightly lower support in the north area for investment principle 4.

	North	Central	South	West	Rural	Not specified (I don't know/outside Auckland)	Total by responses
Investment principle 1 - Take a benefits-led approach							
Support	21 (91%)	47 (92%)	20 (91%)	12 (100%)	4 (80%)	4 (80%)	108 (92%)
Do not support	2 (9%)	2 (4%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	0 (0%)	6 (5%)
I don't know	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	2 (2%)
Other	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (2%)
Total	23 (19%)	51 (43%)	22 (19%)	12 (10%)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	118
Investment principle 2 - Invest based on evidence of need							
Support	16 (70%)	38 (75%)	19 (79%)	10 (83%)	4 (80%)	4 (80%)	91 (76%)
Do not support	4 (17%)	4 (8%)	4 (17%)	2 (17%)	1 (20%)	0 (0%)	15 (13%)
I don't know	1 (4%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	4 (3%)
Other	2 (9%)	7 (14%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (8%)
Total	23 (19%)	51 (43%)	24 (20%)	12 (10%)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	120

Investment principle 3 - Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) obligations							
Support	13 (57%)	39 (76%)	14 (61%)	7 (58%)	2 (40%)	4 (80%)	79 (66%)
Do not support	5 (22%)	5 (10%)	6 (26%)	2 (17%)	2 (40%)	0 (0%)	20 (17%)
I don't know	4 (17%)	5 (10%)	2 (9%)	3 (25%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	16 (13%)
Other	1 (4%)	2 (4%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (3%)
Total	23 (19%)	51 (43%)	23 (19%)	12 (10%)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	119
Investment principle 4 - Collaborate with community, iwi, private sector, government							
Support	13 (57%)	41 (80%)	17 (74%)	10 (83%)	4 (80%)	4 (80%)	89 (75%)
Do not support	5 (22%)	3 (6%)	2 (9%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (9%)
I don't know	2 (9%)	3 (6%)	1 (4%)	1 (8%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	9 (8%)
Other	3 (13%)	4 (8%)	3 (13%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (8%)
Total	23 (19%)	51 (43%)	23 (19%)	12 (10%)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	119

Partners and stakeholders generally support the draft investment principles but have mixed views

Property developer stakeholders have mixed views on the draft investment principles

114. Fulton Hogan Land Development calls for clear criteria for investment decisions regarding developer partnerships and developer contributions to open spaces.
115. Property Council New Zealand has raised concern that principle 1 could lead to increased development contributions for parks and open spaces, impacting housing affordability and limiting development. They call for a minimal approach founded on alternative funding streams and partnerships with mana whenua, communities, and developers to deliver local and regional outcomes.

Health and wellbeing stakeholders support the draft investment principles but want a stronger focus on equity

116. Healthy Auckland Together and Te Whānau o Waipareira both support principle 1 but call for investment decisions that reflect equity as well as value for money, particularly for Māori, Pacific, and disabled communities who are often excluded by current infrastructure and design.
117. Both health stakeholders support principle 2 but call for a stronger emphasis on equity and highlight that the current approach often overlooks systemic barriers faced by Māori and Pacific communities. Te Whānau o Waipareira call for use of Māori-designed data frameworks and ensuring communities' lived experiences inform investment decisions. Healthy Auckland Together calls for funding to include maintenance, activation, and community ownership.
118. Both health stakeholders support principle 3 and co-governance structures; increased funding for Māori-led initiatives, particularly in sport and recreation; and open spaces that support kaitiakitanga, traditional practices, and the visible expression of precolonial history.
119. Both health stakeholders support principle 4 and call for long-term funding and stronger partnerships, with community initiatives, especially with Māori health providers, to ensure sport and recreation are integrated into overall wellbeing.

Environment stakeholders call for taking a wide view of needs and benefits

- 120. Forest and Bird supports the four investment principles' focus on valuing and protecting nature alongside meeting social needs and advocates for applying a nature-based solutions approach to achieve sustainable, needs-based outcomes.
- 121. The Waitākere Ranges Protection Society supports principle 1 but opposes giving “value for money” priority in the draft strategy and calls for an approach that goes beyond current political and economic pressures. They support the benefits matrix but call for clearer definitions and guidance on prioritising benefits in different situations.
- 122. The Waitākere Ranges Protection Society have concerns about principle 2, noting that “need” should include environmental health factors such as biodiversity, habitat protection, and climate mitigation, not just social and recreational needs, especially in regional parks and areas with high conservation value. In contrast, Friends of Regional Parks supports principle 2 and calls for the inclusion of scientific evidence and research in investment decisions.
- 123. The Waitākere Ranges Protection Society supports principle 3 and stronger partnerships with mana whenua.
- 124. The Waitākere Ranges Protection Society supports principle 4 but has concerns regarding commercialising open spaces, outsourcing public assets and services to the private sector or requiring parks to generate revenue, except for sports fields and recreational facilities.

The sports sector supports the draft investment principles and its focus on equity and reducing participation barriers

- 125. Aktive calls for adding “sustaining and enhancing toanga takaro,” as another Māori wellbeing outcome, to the open space, sport and recreation benefits matrix.
- 126. Aktive also calls for greater collaboration between Auckland Council and the Ministry of Education and supports community-led and Māori-led delivery which can better respond to local needs.
- 127. Sport Waitākere supports the draft strategy's investment approach but calls for a stronger commitment to sustained, equity-led investment that embeds whānau-centred recreation, long-term funding, and cross-sector alignment (health, transport, and urban planning) to deliver lasting benefits for underserved communities.
- 128. Sport Waitākere also supports prioritising active transport to ensure safe, connected access to open spaces and recreation. They also call for investment in climate resilience to make open spaces adaptable and support urban sustainability.
- 129. Sports clubs support the draft investment principles, particularly principle 2, and call for prioritising safe participation, ongoing maintenance of aging facilities, and collaborative solutions for new projects given funding challenges.

One resident group supports the investment principles

- 130. Only one resident group stakeholder commented on the investment principles.
- 131. Open Space for Future Aucklanders Society supports principle 1 and references to prioritising investments with the highest value for money, when and where they are needed most. It supports investing in open space based on principle 2 and prioritising areas with low provision per capita, calling for prioritisation of land acquisition in underserved areas and the adoption of clear, internationally benchmarked per capita open space standards. The group suggested amending Auckland Council's

development contributions policy to better reflect the growth-related infrastructure that Auckland Council delivers to support a well-functioning urban environment.

Advisory panel members have mixed views on the draft investment principles

132. Some respondents are concerned about managing conflict between communities when working together.
133. There are concerns surrounding transparency about how investment funds will be distributed.
134. A member of the Rainbow community advisory panel supports a benefits-led approach. They believe future investment should be guided by research on LGBTQIA+ participation in sport and recreation and that there should be targeted funding for LGBTQIA+ recreational facilities (e.g. for gender-neutral changing rooms, inclusive signage and trans-safe recreation areas).

Question 4 There is a high level of support for the three draft policies

135. There is strong support across all three policies nested in the draft strategy:

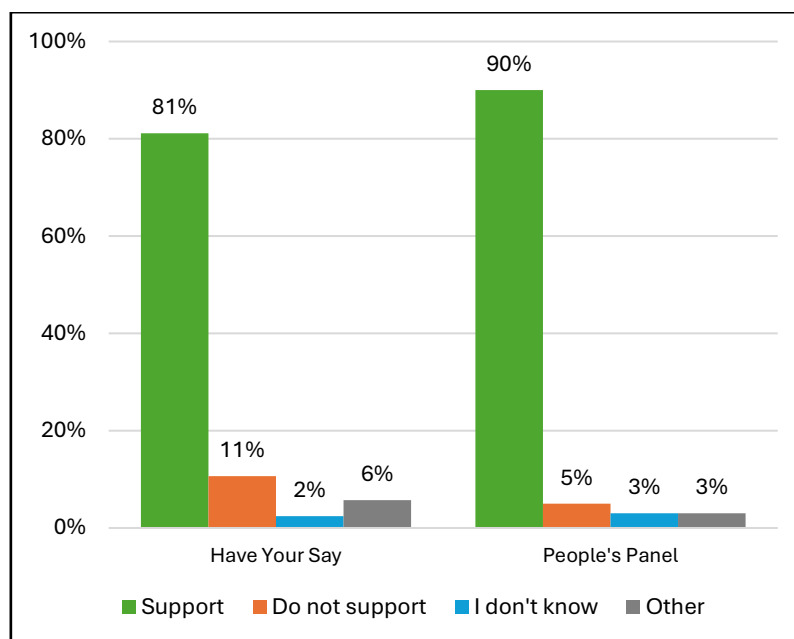
- Support levels ranged from 75 per cent to 89 per cent amongst Have Your Say respondents, with the highest support for Policy 1: making the most of our open spaces.
- There is mixed support amongst partners and stakeholders that submitted.
- There is strong support from the advisory panel members who attended the hui.
- Option package 2 is the preferred option package to up-date the open space provision standards.

136. Feedback on each policy is presented below.

Policy 1: Making the most of open spaces

Aucklanders strongly support Policy 1

137. A total of 90 per cent of People's Panel and 89 per cent of Have Your Say respondents support Policy 1 – making the most of our open spaces.



138. Have Your Say respondents who commented on the policy support equitable and inclusive access, maintaining and utilising existing resources, multi-use spaces and transport connectivity for open spaces.

139. Have Your Say respondents who do not support the policy expressed concerns about the efficient use of council resources.

“As a couple of the older generation just been out enjoying our wonderful walkways with many different nationalities, young parents, dog walkers, cyclists etc. This should be accessible for everyone in Auckland.” **Have Your Say**

“I especially support providing new pathways so people can walk, run or bike alongside waterways and the coast, in nature, and connect between different parks, or use them for daily commutes away from roads and dangerous traffic.” **Have Your Say**

“Sport Waitākere supports the strategy’s commitment to improving the quality, accessibility, and environmental resilience of Auckland’s open spaces. Open spaces play a crucial role in supporting physical activity, social connection, and mental well-being, particularly in urban environments where access to nature is limited. However, to truly maximise their impact, open spaces must be flexible, inclusive, and designed with community input to reflect local needs and aspirations.” **Sport Waitākere**

140. Support levels amongst Have Your Say submissions are similar across Auckland, noting lower levels of support in rural areas.

Policy 1 – making the most of our open spaces	North	Central	South	West	Rural	Not specified (I don't know/outside Auckland)	Total by responses
Support	19 (79%)	43 (83%)	18 (78%)	12 (92%)	3 (60%)	4 (80%)	99 (81%)
Do not support	3 (13%)	6 (12%)	3 (13%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	0 (0%)	13 (11%)
I don't know	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	3 (2%)
Other	2 (8%)	2 (4%)	1 (4%)	1 (8%)	1 (20%)	0 (0%)	7 (6%)
Total	24 (19%)	52 (42%)	23 (19%)	13 (11%)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	122

Partners and stakeholders have mixed support for Policy 1

The property sector calls for flexibility in open space policies

141. Property Council New Zealand notes that there are possible challenges surrounding the draft strategy’s objective to encourage private developments to better provide private open space (e.g. rooftop open space). In such instances, developer decisions will be impacted by things like district plan rules, feasibility restraints, development contribution fees and typology of the development.
142. Fulton Hogan Land Development calls for more concrete information on the acquisition of land subject to natural hazards, noting that, in some cases, land subject to natural hazards might be suitable options for open spaces.

Health and wellbeing stakeholders want accessible and inclusive open spaces

143. Healthy Auckland Together calls for investment in nature-based play for all ages, increased play outside of playgrounds, an emphasis on community-led open space design principles and practices, a shift to a Māori co-governance structure, flexible and adaptable open spaces, and better accessibility / transport connectivity.
144. Te Whānau o Waipareira supports the goal of Policy 1 but has expressed that cultural safety needs to be explicitly addressed. To be inclusive, parks and recreation spaces should be welcoming to Māori and Pacific communities. They support investment in culturally specific recreation areas (e.g. marae-based sports facilities).

Environment stakeholders advocate for environmentally friendly approaches

145. Waitākere Ranges Protection Society acknowledges the importance of equitable and inclusive access to open spaces and linkages between open spaces. They also acknowledge that the Waitākere Ranges may not be appropriate for the introduction of some accessibility infrastructure due to inherent risks

related to dense bush, steep and rugged terrain, dangerous beaches and waterways, isolation, lack of parking capacity, and susceptibility to slips and other weather-related natural hazards. The importance of protecting the unique biodiversity of the Waitākere Ranges should also be a consideration.

- 146. Forest and Bird support prioritising nature-based solutions to ensure natural features and biodiversity are protected.
- 147. Friends of Regional Parks thinks that new approaches and different types of regional parks would be required in the future and this needs to be planned for.

The sports sector recognises the importance of open space for Aucklanders to keep active

- 148. Aktive calls for equitable and inclusive access to open space that accounts for Auckland's diverse population and the provision of a variety of recreational opportunities to support many ways to be physically active.
- 149. Aktive strongly supports realising the full potential of the open space network, while also ensuring that this does not come at the expense of spaces' primary functions. It also supports improving the quality of open spaces, acquiring suitable land to keep up with Auckland's growth, and planning and developing open space in greenfield and brownfield development areas in a timely manner.
- 150. Sport Waitākere supports the draft strategy's "commitment to improving the quality, accessibility, and environmental resilience of Auckland's open spaces," emphasising the role open spaces play in supporting physical and mental wellbeing.
- 151. Sport Waitākere recommends genuine co-governance with mana whenua models that moves beyond tokenistic Māori design elements, the prioritisation of flexible and adaptable spaces that moves beyond the traditional single use sports fields to multi-use and multi-season spaces, investment in nature-based play, ensuring local access to quality open spaces by addressing transport barriers, designing safe, welcoming and inclusive open spaces, and emphasising community-led design principles and practices.
- 152. One sports stakeholder believes that open spaces should be a top priority to support Auckland's growth. They also point out the need for providing diverse ways for Aucklanders to keep active beyond organised sport.

Resident groups call for good provision as Auckland intensifies

- 153. Open Space for Future Aucklanders supports making the most of our open space but emphasises that this cannot be achieved without the acquisition of sufficient quality, accessible open space to serve a growing population. They call for this to be a priority in the draft strategy.
- 154. Another residents group stated that the rise in medium and high-density housing calls for a reassessment of public land use where there is exclusive access for sports clubs. They stated that to address climate change and accommodate rising populations within sustainable urban frameworks a move away from exclusive, minority-focused land use was required to allow for inclusive, accessible recreational infrastructure.

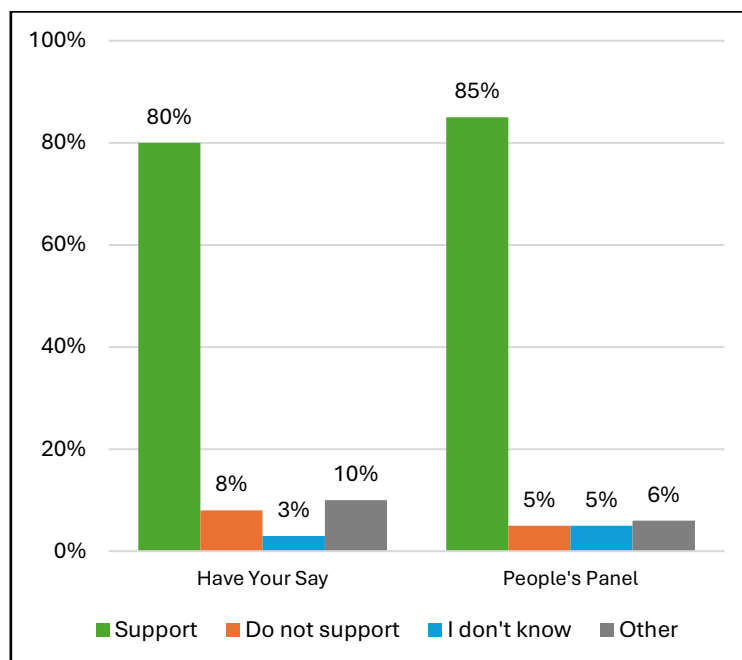
Members of the advisory panels are supportive of Policy 1

- 155. Panel members support parks that are accessible, community-led in design, safe, well-maintained and connected by public transport. They also support maintaining quiet spaces for relaxation and connection in addition to active spaces for sports and recreation.

Policy 2: Open space provision and acquisition

Aucklanders strongly support Policy 2

156. A total of 85 per cent of People's Panel and 79 per cent of Have Your Say respondents support Policy 2 – open space provision and acquisition.



157. Have Your Say respondents who commented on the policy support addressing gaps in the network, transport connectivity, protecting culturally important open spaces, and community partnerships to provide and maintain open spaces.

158. Have Your Say respondents who do not support the policy express concerns about equitable and inclusive access, particularly for dog owners, and the efficient use of council resources.

“Land put aside in new developments for pocket and neighbourhood parks needs to be developed with guidance from the local community. They must have time to organise themselves and provide direct input with guidance from council, to shape and create the needed recreation, environmental and sport facilities. Local residents and other user groups can provide valuable input into the development of the park spaces. This promotes the ethic of volunteerism and highlights the need to provide sufficient financial resources for the acquisition, development and maintenance of park land and recreation facilities.” **Friends of Regional Parks**

“There needs to be more consideration given to dogs and their owners in the provision of usable space.” **Have Your Say**

“Acquisition of land to improve green space must be more proactive and actively managed and prioritised in the suburbs where there are a smaller number of parks per resident.” **Have Your Say**

“Auckland Council should develop clearer criteria for developer partnerships. For example, clearer expectations for developer contributions toward open spaces will better enable certainty and appropriately placed locations.” **Property Council New Zealand**

159. Support levels amongst Have Your Say submissions are similar across Auckland.

Policy 2 – open space provision and acquisition	North	Central	South	West	Rural	Not specified (I don't know/outside Auckland)	Total by responses
Support	18 (78%)	39 (80%)	18 (78%)	11 (85%)	4 (80%)	4 (80%)	94 (80%)
Do not support	2 (9%)	4 (8%)	3 (13%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	9 (8%)
I don't know	1 (4%)	1 (2%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (3%)
Other	2 (9%)	5 (10%)	1 (4%)	2 (15%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	12 (10%)
Total	23 (19%)	49 (42%)	23 (19%)	13 (11%)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	118

Partners and stakeholders have mixed support for Policy 2

The property sector wants to see more delivery partnership arrangements

160. The property sector recommends establishing clearer criteria and processes for developer partnerships. There are calls for a more efficient process whereby developers can gain Auckland Council feedback on proposed open spaces within developments in the early development stages. This would help inform design decisions as well as establishing the appropriate funding mechanisms.

161. Fulton Hogan Land Development emphasises the need for specific expectations with regards to developer contributions toward open spaces to ensure appropriate open space provision.

Health and wellbeing stakeholders call for council to take an equity lens to open space provision

162. Healthy Auckland Together supports the provision of more equitable and inclusive open spaces, particularly in high-density areas, with a focus on green connectors and spaces for play and recreation rather than sports fields. They believe that open spaces should be protected for current and future Aucklanders and recommend that the soil type/health be examined for any open space acquisitions.

163. Healthy Auckland Together recognises the significance of co-governance with mana whenua for strengthening kaitiakitanga.

164. Te Whānau o Waipareira does not support a blanket approach to open space provision. It calls for community-led, place-based solutions with an equity lens, and suggests that Auckland Council prioritises investment in areas with low sport and recreation participation rates.

Environment stakeholders suggest changes to standards for regional parks provision

165. Forest and Bird suggests providing multi-use spaces that support climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, as well as meeting social needs.

166. Friends of Regional Parks proposes that new pocket and neighbourhood parks should be developed with guidance from the local community.

167. Waitākere Ranges Protection Society supports the objectives of Policy 2 but opposes the standard for regional parks being based on a 20 km distance from new housing areas. They recommend that the criteria for regional parks provision be aligned to the vision and purpose of regional parks described in the Regional Parks Management Plan 2022.

168. Waitākere Ranges Protection Society proposes that a different set of criteria be used for the acquisition and development of open space that have an explicitly environmental function (e.g. regional

parks), as opposed to sports parks, outdoor recreational facilities, etc., as they may have conflicting priorities and values. It also recommends including policies on gifting/bequeathing and the transfer of land into the open space network to expand on the means of acquisition.

[The sports sector supports Policy 2](#)

- 169. Aktive believes that the changes in Auckland's urban density need to be reflected in Auckland Council's provision standards to maintain liveability.
- 170. Sport Waitākere strongly supports an approach that involves community partnerships when designing open spaces to ensure these spaces are inclusive and reflect local needs and cultural values without being tokenistic. The spaces should be flexible and adaptable to accommodate multiple uses.
- 171. One sports stakeholder supports investment in the provision of high-quality open spaces that emphasises unique cultural and environmental landscapes (e.g. in Pukekawa / Auckland Domain).

[One residents' society called for diverse needs to be reflected](#)

- 172. Open Space for Future Aucklanders supports the reduction of disparities in open space provision and that the standards respond to how Auckland changes as the region grows (e.g. considering changing densities and land use).
- 173. They stated that the provisions were overly rigid and failed to reflect the diverse community needs or acquisition opportunities. They added that gifted land should not be dismissed for not fitting a formula or replaced without local consultation.

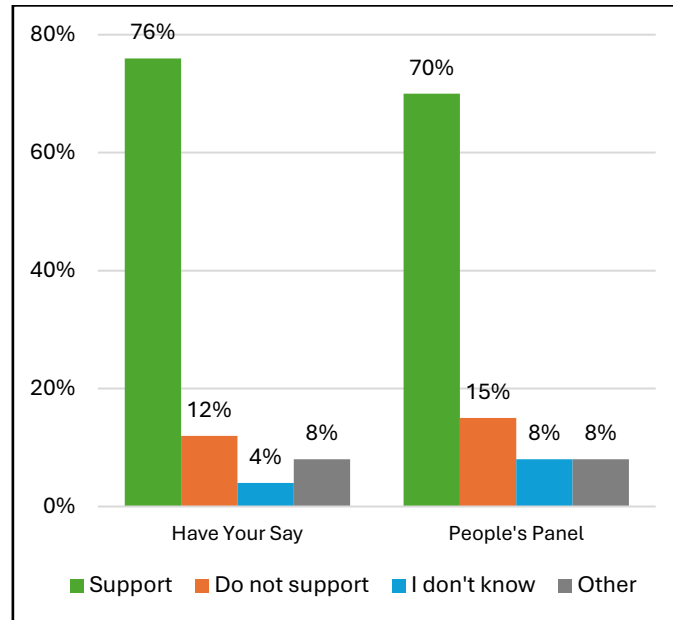
[Members of the advisory panels support Policy 2](#)

- 174. Panel members support a fair and equitable approach to open space investment in both high and medium-density areas, with an emphasis on ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all communities.

Policy 3: Auckland's Council's investment in play, sport and recreation

Aucklanders strongly support Policy 3

175. A total of 70 per cent of People's Panel and 75 per cent of Have Your Say respondents support Policy 3 – Auckland Council's investment in play, sport and recreation.



176. Have Your Say respondents who commented on the policy support equitable and inclusive access, health and social wellbeing, and community partnerships to provide and maintain open spaces.
177. Have Your Say respondents who do not support the policy have concerns about equitable and inclusive access, particularly for dog owners. Others do not believe it is the Auckland Council's responsibility to encourage people to be more active.

"Strengthen partnerships with mana whenua and mataawaka, local communities and other sport and recreation providers." The examples related to this action mention supporting the revitalisation of traditional Māori play, sport and recreation opportunities. I support this example, and in addition to this, would like to see mention of Pasifika communities and their traditional play, sport and recreation opportunities. Auckland is known as having the largest Pasifika population in the world, but this population group also has high rates of obesity and diabetes." **Have Your Say**

"The importance of Auckland Council's investment into sport and active recreation should not be underestimated. We strongly support Council balancing investment to enable the greatest number of Aucklanders to be physically active as well as supporting low participation groups and addressing disparities." **Aktive**

"We support this goal but emphasize that targeted approaches are essential. Recommendations for Inclusion: Māori-led sport pathways that encourage intergenerational participation, more support for Māori and Pasifika coaches, officials, and administrators." **Te Whānau o Waipareira**

178. Support levels amongst Have Your Say submissions are similar across Auckland.

Policy 3 – Auckland council’s investment in play, sport, and recreation	North	Central	South	West	Rural	Not specified (I don’t know/outside Auckland)	Total by responses
Support	18 (75%)	37 (74%)	19 (79%)	10 (77%)	4 (80%)	4 (80%)	92 (76%)
Do not support	4 (17%)	7 (14%)	1 (4%)	2 (15%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	14 (12%)
I don’t know	1 (4%)	1 (2%)	1 (4%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	5 (4%)
Other	1 (4%)	5 (10%)	3 (13%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	0 (0%)	10 (8%)
Total	24 (20%)	50 (41%)	24 (20%)	13 (11%)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	121

Partners and stakeholders support Policy 3

Health and wellbeing stakeholders support Policy 3

179. Healthy Auckland Together acknowledges the importance of safe, accessible active transport (green connectors) such as a network of bike paths and footpaths to ensure equitable access to open spaces for Auckland’s diverse population.

180. Te Whānau o Waipareira supports a targeted approach that ensures Aucklanders are more active more often, including support for Māori-led sport pathways, and Māori and Pacific coaches, officials and administrators.

Environment stakeholders support Policy 3

181. Friends of Regional Parks emphasises the need to focus on providing open spaces with multipurpose functions that cover both recreational and environmental aspects, e.g. bush walks along pipelines and utility ways.

Sports stakeholders acknowledge the importance of Auckland Council’s investment in sport and recreation

182. Aktive strongly supports Auckland Council’s investment in sport and recreation to increase physical activity, particularly for young people and underrepresented groups. They advocate for a targeted investment approach focused on low participation communities but question the need to identify four specific groups if the strategy aims to support all Aucklanders.

183. Aktive strongly supports the delivery of sport and recreation spaces through partnerships, including with the Ministry of Education. They also support Auckland Council working with mana whenua and local communities to better understand and address barriers to participation and support Māori-led initiatives.

184. Aktive supports Auckland Council’s use of grants and partnerships to deliver infrastructure and address provision gaps and encourages Auckland Council to take on a greater share of community-led project costs and make greater use of targeted funding to maximise impact.

185. Sport Waitākere strongly supports the draft strategy’s focus on increasing physical activity across Auckland, recognising its vital role in health, social connection and wellbeing. They emphasise the importance of addressing systemic barriers, such as cost, transport, cultural relevance, and access to suitable facilities, and advocate for long-term change through investment, not only in infrastructure but also in programming, affordability, and local partnerships to ensure recreation spaces are accessible, inclusive, and widely used.

186. One sports stakeholder acknowledges the critical investment Auckland Council makes in sport which allows sport clubs to serve more Aucklanders and would like clarity on the statement 'We will not prioritise investment in already funded community sport and recreation facilities.'

187. One other sports stakeholder supports investment into multi-use, accessible and inclusive facilities (e.g. gender-neutral facilities).

Residents' groups call for a broad definition of physical activity

188. There is general support for Aucklanders being more active, more often but a call for physical activity being defined in broad terms. Informal activities like walking (including dog walking) tend to receive less focus than sport despite being more popular.

189. There is support for providing equitable open spaces that serve a variety of uses to support more physical activity and for locating sports parks close to high-density areas to support Aucklanders being more active, more often.

The advisory panels want to see inclusive and accessible facilities and community-led initiatives

190. Panel members have a strong focus on accessibility and inclusivity:

- They support inclusive and accessible facilities, better public transport connections, and funding for free or low-cost activities to help reduce barriers to participation for all communities.
- They support local boards taking a more active role in supporting sport and recreation by working with community groups and supporting community initiatives.
- They support better field drainage and lighting and clearer, multilingual communication about activities.
- They support multi-use open spaces to support a range of everyday uses, events, and cultural activities.

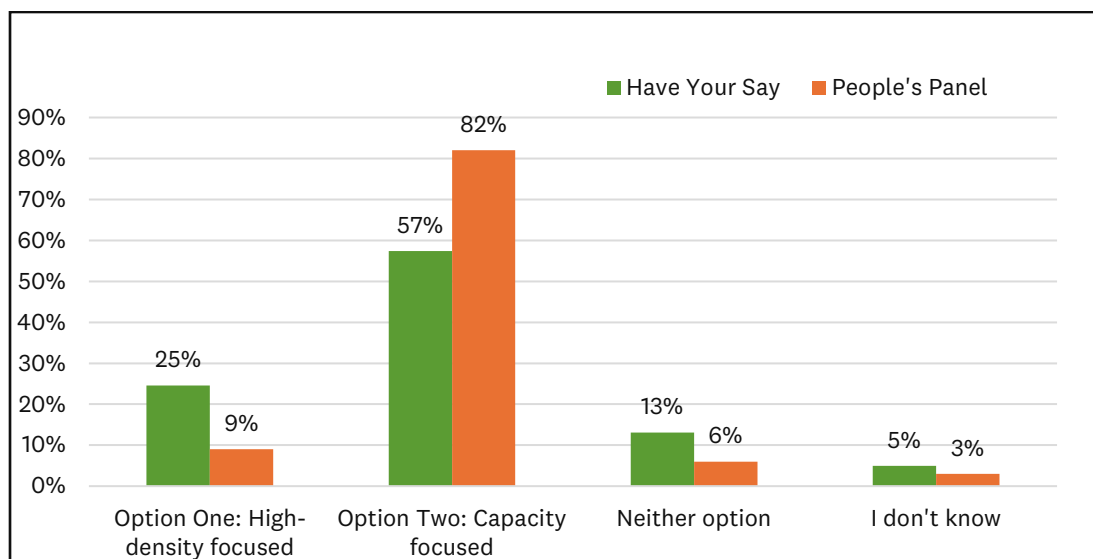
Question 5: Aucklanders prefer a capacity-focused approach (Option package 2) when considering open space provision standards

Aucklanders prefer a capacity-focused approach (Option package 2) over a high-density-focused approach (Option package 1) when considering how we provide open space

191. A total of 57 per cent of the Have Your Say respondents support a capacity-focused approach to open space provision, compared to 24 per cent who support a high-density focused option package.

192. A total of 82 per cent of the People's Panel respondents support a capacity-focused approach to open space provision, compared to 9 per cent who support a high-density focused option package.

193. Following feedback from the People's Panel respondents, the wording for question 5, options for how we provide open space in medium and high-density areas, was amended to provide clarity for the Have Your Say survey respondents.



194. The support for Option package 2 amongst Have Your Say submitters is similar across Auckland, but slightly higher in the north.

Option packages	North	Central	South	West	Rural	Not specified (I don't know/outside Auckland)	Total by responses
Option package 1	5 (21%)	14 (27%)	5 (21%)	4 (31%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	30 (25%)
Option package 2	17 (71%)	28 (55%)	12 (50%)	7 (54%)	3 (60%)	3 (60%)	70 (57%)
Neither Option package 1 nor Option package 2	1 (4%)	6 (12%)	6 (25%)	2 (15%)	1 (20%)	0 (0%)	16 (13%)
I don't know	1 (4%)	3 (6%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	6 (5%)
Total	24 (20%)	51 (42%)	24 (20%)	13 (11%)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	122 (100%)

Aucklanders who support a capacity-focused approach (Option package 2)

195. Aucklanders who support a capacity-focused approach share some key concerns.

- They express that an open space provision gap exists in some communities, and this should be addressed.
- They feel that a lack of open spaces in high-density areas is affecting the wellbeing of some communities.
- They believe that provision of open space should target areas with the greatest need.
- They suggest that Auckland Council should make providing open space in new developments a requirement on developers.
- They feel that there should be a focus on maintaining and making better use of existing open spaces.

“Because I live in a city high rise apartment, it would be great to have close access to a community garden. This could bring people together and reduce the quantity of green waste going into landfill.” **Have Your Say**

“As a region, we need to do high density living better. It makes sense for our climate resilience, but it isn't attractive today.” **Have Your Say**

“You should also aim to better connect open spaces with green corridors and active modes.” **Have Your Say**

Aucklanders want well-planned neighbourhoods as Auckland intensifies

196. Aucklanders have concerns about the accessibility and quality of open spaces as Auckland intensifies.

- Aucklanders suggest that long-term planning is needed to support higher density living in the future.
- They feel that the design of denser neighbourhoods should support climate resilience, sustainability and the overall wellbeing of Aucklanders.
- They call for green corridors to connect open spaces in high-density areas.
- They feel that there should be a focus on maintaining existing open spaces.

All Aucklanders need open space. The Council should not be allowing new developments without requiring the developer to provide communal open space. If developers are allowed to use the entire site for housing, then the result is larger profits for developers, less appealing housing for residents and greater demand on Auckland Council to provide open spaces. “A longer term plan will always be more beneficial, and as many needs will exist in medium density housing as in high.” **Have Your Say**

“Making open spaces available to areas of greatest need looks better to me.” **Have Your Say**

“A longer-term plan will always be more beneficial, and as many needs will exist in medium density housing as in high.” **Have Your Say**

Health and wellbeing and sport stakeholders and partners favour Option package 2 but property and environment stakeholders and partners have mixed views

The property sector wants more flexible rules

197. Property Council New Zealand does not support either of the two option packages, stating they were too rigid, and recommends deleting Option package 2 while building flexibility into Option package 1 with reference to walkable catchments.

198. Fulton Hogan Land Development seeks clearer information on the spatial implications of each option package. They request a worked-through example of how each option package would impact on open space provision for representative greenfield and brownfield areas to enable an accurate understanding of the differences in provision between each approach.

One health and wellbeing stakeholder supports Option package 2 for a capacity-focused approach

199. Healthy Auckland Together supports Option package 2 for its focus on need and potential for greater impact but notes the importance of connectivity between spaces.

200. Healthy Auckland Together calls for development of a third, equity-focused option package, to prioritise underserved high-density communities. They also call for designing streets as open spaces rather than prioritising car flows.

One environment stakeholder does not support a region-wide approach

201. Forest and Bird noted a region-wide approach may not be appropriate as there is a mix of land availability, socioeconomic conditions and climate risk and natural hazard exposure.

The sports sector supports taking an equity approach to provision

202. Aktive has concerns that Auckland’s increasing housing density is not being matched with adequate areas of open space, putting pressure on the existing network. Aktive supports Option package 2 as they believe it will deliver better and more equitable outcomes. They also recommend considering streets as open space assets in high-density areas.

203. Sport Waitākere does not support a specific option package but wants a balanced, equity-driven approach to open space provision that considers accessibility, cultural stewardship, and the changing needs of Auckland’s communities. They call for the draft strategy to go beyond traditional parkland development and ensure a network of diverse, well-connected spaces that support recreation, health, and wellbeing for all Aucklanders.

204. One sports club supports Option package 2 as they feel it offers more flexibility to support Auckland’s growth. Other sports clubs support improving existing open spaces and preventing them from being sold for housing.

One residents’ society supported Option package 2

205. Open Space for Future Aucklanders Society supports Option package 1 as it they suggest it is the only option package that will achieve of the draft strategy to *plan for the provision of a high-quality open space network that meets the needs of Aucklanders and ensure the acquisition of fit for purpose open*

space land that provides value for money and is sustainable in the long-term but note that amendments are needed for effective implementation.

206. They stated that sports clubs in higher-deprivation areas, with greater need, would get more targeted support.

Members of the advisory panel support Option package 2, a capacity-focused approach, when compared to a high-density-focused approach

207. Panel members strongly support Option package 2 as they believe it is a more equitable approach that includes both medium- and high-density areas. However, one panel member suggests opting for a combined approach.

Other comments

208. Below are comments or concerns raised by respondents that do not directly fit under the questions discussed above.

- One stakeholder calls for drowning prevention strategies to be included into the strategy, especially for spaces with access to water. Another stakeholder highlighted the need to address the shortage of swimming pools across the region.
- Several submitters have concerns about reduced access to off-leash dog areas and open space despite significant financial contributions through registrations and fines. Many of these submissions respond to Auckland Council's recent review and consultation on its Dog Management Bylaw and related regional and local dog access rules.
- Forest and Bird proposes that the strategy include a direction to restore indigenous ecosystems and prioritise indigenous planting.

How we have responded to the consultation feedback

Note: additional changes were made to the strategy following adoption. The final version of the strategy is available on the Auckland Council website.

209. The purpose of consultation was to seek the community's views on the draft strategy and identify any relevant questions, concerns or additional information to strengthen or modify it.
210. This section outlines our responses to the feedback we received, including proposed changes to the draft strategy.
211. Feedback relating to specific local projects will be passed on to relevant operational teams in Auckland Council.
212. Staff also propose to make additional minor changes to the draft strategy to address specific feedback or clarify intent and meaning.

Table 2: Responses to feedback on the draft strategy

OVERARCHING FEEDBACK		
1	Feedback: More open space should be provided and planned for, especially in dense, urban areas	
	<p>Comment: The provision of new parks to keep pace with growth is a critical part of the draft strategy, particularly in high-density areas. This includes better delivering in high-density areas, using a capacity measure to target investment to areas identified as having low or moderate levels of open space.</p> <p>The draft strategy also proposes to make greater use of all our existing open spaces by opening up access to grey spaces (e.g. streets) and blue spaces (e.g. streams) where possible to provide opportunities for Aucklanders.</p> <p>Minor changes to the draft strategy are proposed to add clarity about the relationship between provision of new open spaces and making greater use of what we have.</p> <p>There were also calls to strengthen Policy two to recognise that high-density areas are likely to have less private open space and thus likely need increased amounts of open space. The strategy does this, focusing on provision and accessibility in high-density areas, including the acquisition of pocket parks which current policy only accepts at no capital cost.</p>	<p>Proposed changes to the draft strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> amend wording on page 11 to clarify that “<u>In addition to continuing to provide high-quality green spaces for Aucklanders</u>, we have an opportunity to take a wide view of open space” amend wording on page 12 to clarify that “<u>To help take the pressure off our public green spaces</u>, we need to make the most of all our opportunities to provide space for Aucklanders”
2	Feedback: More resources need to be allocated to maintaining open spaces and recreation facilities	
	<p>Comment: The draft strategy highlights the role of the council in maintaining open spaces and facilities (page 22) and the importance of well-maintained open spaces (see pages 35 and 85).</p>	<p>Proposed changes to the draft strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> include a new bullet in the list on page 17 “<u>choose the most appropriate focus of investment, including in infrastructure</u>,”

	<p>Setting budgets for maintenance is outside the scope of the strategy.</p> <p>A change is proposed to make the role of maintenance more explicit in our investment approach.</p>	<p><u>programmes, services, development, maintenance or capability building</u>"</p>
3	Feedback: Concerns about the efficient use of council resources, given changing political priorities and funding constraints	
	<p>Comment: The draft strategy reflects the financial constraints faced by Auckland Council and others and the need to work together to make the most of all our resources. It emphasises the importance of making the most of what we have and targeting our investment where it is needed most. It also considers a broad range of funding and delivery tools to support implementation.</p> <p>Setting budgets is outside the scope of the draft strategy.</p>	<p>No proposed change.</p>
4	Feedback: The strategy should more explicitly emphasise the importance of equity and accessibility	
	<p>Comment: The strategy already takes an equity lens, including in strategic direction one, investment principle two and in how we will target our investment to deliver on the three policies. It also seeks to improve access to the open space network and play, sport and recreation opportunities for all Aucklanders, focusing investment on areas and communities that need it most to reduce disparities. This includes working with community and mana whenua to design spaces and places that are welcoming, safe, inclusive and meet their needs.</p> <p>Changes are proposed to make this focus more explicit throughout the document.</p>	<p>Proposed changes to the draft strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amend strategy on a page on page 7 to "Our open spaces and sport and recreation opportunities benefit all Aucklanders <u>equitably</u>, now and for future generations" • amend title on page 8 to "This strategy outlines how we will provide open spaces and sport and recreation opportunities to benefit all Aucklanders <u>equitably</u>" • amend text on page 11 to "Enable <u>safe</u>, equitable access to all our open spaces, whether they be green, blue or grey, to better meet the needs of Aucklanders." • amend bullet three on page 11 to "Continue to provide new high-quality open spaces to keep pace with growth, <u>prioritising areas that need it most</u>, and reflect and celebrate our cultural landscapes" • add an additional line after the first sentence on page 34 "<u>We will take a holistic approach to improving the quality of our open spaces to ensure they are accessible for all Aucklanders.</u>" • add an additional heading under 'sport' heading on page 84 "<u>A wide range of options will be used to increase participation in play, sport and recreation.</u>" • clarify target groups for investment on page 85 "We will balance our investment to increase physical activity levels for <u>all Aucklanders, with a priority focus on</u> Māori, young people (5-17 years) and low-participation groups"

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amend eight bullet point on page 88 "Ensure facilities are <u>safe</u>, welcoming and acknowledge mana whenua of the area." • add an additional bullet point on page 88 "<u>ensure facilities are located near public transport and connected to active transport routes.</u>" • add a definition of accessibility to page 11 and the glossary, reflecting a holistic approach "<u>Being able to access all spaces, places, services and information with ease and dignity. This means considering geographic, physical, social, cultural and economic barriers to ensure our open spaces and play, sport and recreation opportunities are well-distributed, connected, affordable, safe, culturally relevant, welcoming and meet the needs of Aucklanders from all backgrounds, ages and abilities so they feel that they belong</u>" (source: partly based on Outcome 5, Accessibility of the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026). <p>See also the proposed change under response 21.</p>
5	<p>Feedback: There should be better recognition of the importance of environment and biodiversity outcomes / concern about prioritising recreation and accessibility over the environment and biodiversity</p> <p>Comment: Strategic direction four focuses on the importance of protecting and enhancing our environment, biodiversity and heritage, including through preserving significant natural areas and connecting open spaces and habitats to support indigenous biodiversity. The criteria used to prioritise the acquisition of open spaces to protect and enhance our environment, biodiversity and heritage are outlined in Policy two. The acquisition of conservation open space is funded by rates rather than development contributions and is assessed on a case-by-case basis. As outlined in Policy one, the emphasis on identifying opportunities to deliver multiple benefits from our space spaces recognises the need to protect the primary purpose of an open space. For example, the primary purpose of conservation open space is conservation. Providing an informal recreation or stormwater management function in those spaces should not be done at the expense of its conservation functions and values. This seeks to ensure environmental outcomes are not compromised by any other type of use including recreational activities. An additional objective is proposed to be added to Policy one to reflect this and the basis of the primary and secondary purposes has been clarified.</p> <p>There were also calls for environmental outcomes to be prioritised over sport and recreation. The blanket</p>	<p>Proposed changes to the draft strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amend bullet one on page 14 to "continue planting, applying mātauranga Māori <u>and prioritising indigenous species</u>, to accelerate the restoration of indigenous ecosystems in parks and other open spaces" • amend bullet two on page 20 to "We consider the costs and benefits of our investments across multiple generations and <u>how they will impact Aucklanders, the environment and indigenous biodiversity</u>, reflecting on what legacy we want to leave for future generations" • clarify on page 31 regarding the primary and secondary purposes of open spaces: "<u>This approach is borrowed from the Reserves Act 1977 which mandates that land subject to the act is managed in accordance with its primary purpose, signified by its classification. Any other features or values shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve.</u>" • add a fifth policy objective to Policy one on pages 25, 29 and 44 to "<u>protect and enhance the natural environment</u>"

	<p>elevation of environmental outcomes over sport and recreation is not appropriate as a high-level objective given the need for recreational open space, the comparative area of conservation open space versus recreational open space and all the other statutory and regulatory protections afforded to the natural environment. The strategy also addresses this matter in its primary versus secondary purpose concept which is consistent with the statutorily mandated approach of the Reserves Act 1977.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> amend policy objective six on pages 25, 45 and 46 to “Plan for the provision of a high-quality open space network that meets the needs of Aucklanders and celebrates our <u>natural and cultural landscapes</u>”
6	Feedback: Mana whenua and mataawaka should have decision-making roles in the design, governance, and activation of open spaces / Indigenous knowledge should be better integrated / There should be increased protection and recognition of Māori cultural heritage	
	<p>Comment: Investment principle three outlines our approach to honouring our Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations, including continuing our commitment to co-governance and co-management and partnering with mana whenua to co-design our spaces and places. Strategic direction five also highlights how we can work with communities and mana whenua to design spaces and facilities that are welcoming, safe and inclusive and meet their needs. Mana whenua and Māori will be active partners and participants in decision-making to provide open spaces and sport and recreation opportunities across Tāmaki Makaurau. Strategic direction three highlights how we will increase the application of mātauranga Māori to respond to climate disruption. Policy one provides further guidance on how indigenous knowledge can be integrated to improve the quality of our open spaces. The draft strategy already calls for protecting and caring for cultural (including Māori) and historic heritage in our open spaces and places. A change is proposed to align the language with the Auckland Plan and more explicitly highlight Māori heritage.</p>	<p>Proposed change to the draft strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> amend bullet five on page 14 to "Continue to protect and care for significant <u>natural environment areas and cultural heritage (Māori and non-Māori)</u> in our open spaces and places."
7	Feedback: The strategy should place greater emphasis on supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation	
	<p>Comment: Using open space to mitigate the impacts of climate change is a key theme of the strategy. The detail of how is beyond the scope of the strategy and is a specialist topic covered in the council's various climate response plans.</p>	<p>No proposed change.</p>
ACQUISITION AND PROVISION FEEDBACK		
8	Feedback: Concerns about unclear standards and processes for open space provision and acquisition / Overly prescriptive settings risk overriding community aspirations and resulting in missed opportunities	
	<p>Comment: There were calls to provide greater clarity on a range of issues relating to open space provision and acquisition, including on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> opportunities to collaborate with the private sector and criteria for developer partnerships 	<p>Proposed changes to the draft strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> include wording on page 72 to provide more clarity on exploring collaboration, including partnerships. “Increasing the level or type of quality open space network detailed in this

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the application of density-based provision standards or walking distance proxies to neighbourhood and suburb parks the difference between walking distance and radial proxy the key determinant of the density-based provision standards reflect other statutory processes where future open space has been identified in the capacity calculations <p>Changes are proposed to provide greater clarity. In terms of the prescriptiveness of the standards, experience has shown that a relatively high level of specificity is required to frame the conversation and provide a feasible starting point for discussion. Policy can be departed from where a compelling case can be made for doing so. No changes are proposed in this regard.</p>	<p>policy means we will need alternative funding <u>and/or delivery</u> methods to <u>help</u> meet any additional costs incurred. These methods include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an area-specific targeted rate an infrastructure funding agreement <u>land exchanges between the council and private landowners where there is a net gain to the open space network</u> gifting or vesting of land at no capital cost for open space purposes developers voluntarily make capital or operational funding allocations for open space development or maintenance <u>collaboration between developers/private landowners, including partnerships</u> <u>service property optimisation.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> amend column 4 of the 'Density-based provision standards' row of Table 8 on page 47 for clarity: "These standards for park and open space size, walking distance catchment and number vary according to population density based on the location's Auckland Unitary Plan zoning and use zones tool." amend column 4 of the 'Walking distance proxies' row of Table 8 on page 47 for clarity: "When assessing walking distance catchments for creating neighbourhood and suburb parks provision." amend the introduction on page 46 to clarify the difference between walking distance and radial proxy: "<u>When assessing walking or vehicle travel distance catchments we will use paths and roads where these exist. In greenfield developments or other areas with no existing paths or roads we will use radial proxies to estimate travel distance catchments. Research has shown that a radial proxy 75 per cent of the size of the target catchment is accurate in most situations and this is what we used to calculate our radial proxies.</u>" amend table 10 on page 52 to clarify that capacity calculations are based on future population projections at anticipated full build out by adding a clarifying footnote: "<u>Density is determined by the Auckland Unitary Plan zoning as per Table 10 and capacity is determined by square metres of qualifying open space per person at full build-</u>
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		<p><u>out population or the Auckland Growth Strategy's 30-year population projections if full build-out population not known."</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clarify the open space types included in the capacity calculations by adding the following wording to row one, column two of Table 13 on page 54: "<u>Includes relevant open spaces identified or anticipated through statutory planning processes and/or through the application of the open space provision standards.</u>"
9	Feedback: Provide greater clarity and concrete information on the acquisition of land subject to natural hazards	
	Comment: Tables 14 (pages 60-63), 15 (page 63-64) and 16 (pages 65-71) provide information on natural hazards and open space but due to the complexity and site-specific nature of the impacts/potential impacts of natural hazards they must be assessed on a case-by-case basis.	No proposed change.
10	Feedback: Investment should prioritise well-connected, smaller green spaces that are linked by active transport routes rather than large parks	
	Comment: The draft strategy promotes a landscape scale, network-based approach to open space provision.	No proposed change.
11	Feedback: Open space should be considered critical green infrastructure and planned/funded for accordingly	
	Comment: This approach is not supported by central government policy (the National Policy Statement on Urban Development) or legislation and gives the council limited ability to fund (Local Government Act 2002) and/or acquire (Public Works Act 1981) open space. Open space is predominantly acquired on a willing seller-willing buyer basis as there is rarely any legal means to compel a sale of land to the council for open space purposes.	No proposed change.
12	Feedback: The strategy should set clear standards about the amount of open space the council is aiming to provide per capita based on international best practice	
	Comment: The draft strategy does not specify a per capita target for open space provision but focuses on equity and any area with open space of less than 10m ² per capita is considered a priority for open space acquisition.	No proposed change.
13	Feedback: Opposition to including open spaces with primary purpose of stormwater management, linkage areas and private open space in capacity considerations	
	Comment: Open spaces with primary purpose of stormwater management, linkage areas and private open space are not considered in capacity considerations unless they have an existing or potential recreation function and are freely accessible by the public.	No proposed change.

14	Feedback: Concern that one 30m x 30m informal recreation area is not sufficient for a neighbourhood park	
	Comment: 900m ² is considered sufficient when balanced against all the other functions required of an open space – including paths, trees, playgrounds - and the availability of suitably configured and contoured land given Auckland's topography (not to mention cost).	No proposed change.
15	Feedback: Concern that a network approach may mean sports parks are located far away from where most people live or put unsustainable pressure on existing sports parks	
	Comment: The council models current and future sports field demand and liaises with all major sporting codes on an ongoing basis. An 18-minute travel time is considered the optimal maximum distance people will travel based on user feedback and this is the measure used by the council.	No proposed change.
16	Feedback: The council should consider alternatives to using distance and time to plan for and provide open space, such as the 3 - 30 - 300 - 3000 concept	
	Comment: The draft strategy takes a distance and time approach to open space provision based on local and international good practice principals.	No proposed change.
17	Feedback: There should be an "approval in principle" process for developers to obtain early council feedback on proposed open spaces within developments prior to a resource consent	
	Comment: This has already been identified as an action for inclusion in the implementation plan for the strategy if adopted.	No proposed change.
18	Feedback: The consultation document provided no practical information on the spatial implications of the two option packages for open space provision	
	Comment: Indicative modelling has been done but as there are so many unknowns and variables, and the task is prohibitively resource intensive, it is not feasible to quantify and cost every possible iteration. Once a political direction has been obtained, open space modelling work will have to be redone for the region to quantify land requirements and budgets needed. Any information not subject to confidentiality can be shared at that point.	No proposed change.
19	Feedback: Concern that the lack of a clear, up to date audit of Auckland's open spaces and amenities makes it hard to plan for equitable access and future needs	
	Comment: The council is aware of this and is working though all open space in the region and updating the data as local parks management plans are produced.	No proposed change.
20	Feedback: The strategy should place a greater emphasis on the purpose and benefits of regional parks / Calls for clarity on the 20km drive time catchment for regional parks	
	Comment: Regional parks constitute a significant part of Auckland's wider open space network, providing access to natural and rural landscapes, conserving cultural heritage and biodiversity, and offering a diversity of recreation opportunities. Changes to the	Proposed changes to the draft strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> replace the introductory paragraph on page 80 with "<u>Auckland has a network of 30 regional parks that help protect and enhance</u>

	<p>draft strategy are proposed to place greater emphasis on this.</p> <p>20km is the measure used in the open space recreation opportunities tool which sets out a hierarchy of distance/travel time catchments for open space access. The regional catchment is the highest-level catchment and is 20km/40min drive. The catchments were based on a mix of international best practice and analysis of existing open space provision across Auckland, including regional parks and aim to provide equitability of access for all urban Aucklanders. An overarching objective of the draft strategy is equitability of open space and recreational provision, access and opportunity. When assessing potential regional park acquisitions gaps in the existing network and projected population growth must be a considered as well as the inherent or potential attributes and values of the land.</p>	<p><u>Auckland's indigenous ecosystems, cultural heritage and landscapes, and include more than 225km of coastline. They provide free access to natural and rural landscapes, conserve cultural heritage and biodiversity, and offer diverse recreation opportunities for the enjoyment and benefit of all Aucklanders. Many of these parks provide the opportunity for people to experience rural and coastal locations without having to travel far from urban areas. To accommodate a growing population over the next 30 years and beyond, and continue meeting Aucklanders' recreational needs, we will identify opportunities to enhance and expand the existing network and provide equitable access to regional parkland for all urban Aucklanders."</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: further amended following direction from the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Joint Political Working Group (see Attachment D)
21	Feedback: Most respondents support the capacity-focused approach (Option package two) to open space provision / calls for open space provision to focus on equity	
	<p>Comment: Most Have Your Say and People's Panel respondents support the capacity-focused approach (Option package two) to open space provision. This option is also recommended by staff based on previous analysis. Option package two aims to deliver equitable open space provision outcomes across Auckland.</p>	<p>Proposed changes to the draft strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> replace the blue text on page 46 with "<u>We will take a capacity-focused approach to open space provision to deliver equitable outcomes, acquiring pocket parks in high-density areas with moderate or low capacity and acquiring neighbourhood parks of between 0.2ha and 0.5ha in high and medium-density areas depending on the capacity of the area.</u>" delete Option package one from Table 9 on pages 48 and Table 10 on page 53.
22	Feedback: Opposition to Option package two, with calls to build more flexibility into Option package one with reference to walkable catchments	
	<p>Comment: Option package two has been proposed to help ensure open space provision across Auckland is as equitable as practicable. It was developed in recognition of the difficulty of acquiring large pieces of open space in brownfield redevelopment. The proposed walkable catchments are based on national and international good practice and Option package two provides a good balance between size, accessibility, cost and implementability with the view to equitability of provision, accessibility and recreational opportunities.</p>	<p>No proposed change.</p>
23	Feedback: More off leash space should be provided for dogs	

	Comment: The council's website identifies 1851 off-leash dog areas on open spaces across Auckland and 22 with designated dog exercise areas.	No proposed change.
24	Feedback: There were calls to make Policy one (making the most of our open spaces) subordinate to Policy two (open space provision and acquisition) to prioritise the acquisition of more open space	
	Comment: This is not consistent with the council's statutory financial management obligations (Local Government Act 2002; Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014) or its own publicly stated objectives, to be as cost-effective as possible with public money.	No proposed change.
USE AND DEVELOPMENT FEEDBACK		
25	Feedback: The allocation of public land should shift from away from single use to multi-use, inclusive and accessible spaces for everyone	
	Comment: This is a key premise of the draft strategy, which calls for making the most of what we have and achieving multiple benefits from our places and spaces.	No proposed change.
26	Feedback: Open spaces should be developed in collaboration with community and Māori	
	Comment: The investment approach in the draft strategy enables partnering with mana whenua to co-design spaces and places and enabling community-led design. It also includes high-level guidance on co-design.	No proposed change.
27	Feedback: The strategy should acknowledge the role of community gardens/growing spaces	
	Comment: The draft strategy highlights a range of uses and functions of open spaces. It is not meant to be exhaustive. Changes are proposed in response to feedback to explicitly acknowledge the role open spaces can play in food growing.	Proposed changes to the draft strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> amend 'why this matters' text on page 11 to "...finding respite in nature, physical activity, work, <u>growing food</u> and much more" amend table on page 30 under 'social benefits' to include "<u>Provide space for local communities to grow and access food.</u>"
28	Feedback: There should be a greater focus on enabling streets to be used for play and active recreation	
	Comment: The draft strategy already highlights this under Strategic direction two which focuses on high-density areas. A change is proposed to make it clearer that this focus does not only apply to high-density areas.	Proposed change to the draft strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> move bullet one on page 12 "Work with Auckland Transport..." to bullet list on page 11.
29	Feedback: Consider how council facilities such as park buildings can also provide space for play, sport and recreation in high-density areas	
	Comment: The draft strategy already includes a focus on encouraging private developments in high-density areas to better provide private open space for play, sport and recreation. This change highlights the role that the council can play to make the most of all our opportunities to provide space for Aucklanders.	Proposed change to the draft strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> add a new bullet on page 12 "<u>Adapt our council-owned facilities, such as carparking buildings, to provide space for play, sport and recreation.</u>"

FUNDING AND INVESTMENT FEEDBACK		
30	Feedback: Funding should be ring-fenced for by-Māori, for-Māori and by-Pacific, for-Pacific initiatives Comment: The draft strategy already calls for investing in by-Māori for-Māori solutions (Investment principle 3). Budget and funding allocations are out of scope and will be considered through implementation.	No proposed change.
31	Feedback: Opposition to Auckland Council's 30-year funding and financing model / Concerns about potential increases in development contributions mean the council should partner with others to delivery Comment: Changing the council's 30-year funding and financing model is outside the scope of the draft strategy. The strategy does propose alternative funding and delivery mechanisms. Changing the current council approach to development contributions is outside the scope of the draft strategy.	No proposed change.
32	Feedback: The council should carry a larger share of community-led project costs / Funding should be multi-year rather than short term Comment: Investment principle four and Policy three recognise the need to work together and take a collaborative approach to provision. Implementation includes development of a regional sports facility network plan, working with key partners to achieve a coordinated and collaborative approach. Also increased funding and a targeted approach to the Sport and Recreation Facility Investment Fund will most likely target large-scale projects that will have a significant impact (as identified in the fund framework) and consider multi-year funding programmes.	No proposed change.
33	Feedback: Support for focus on multi-use facilities but desire for different levels (from co-location to integration) and for recognition of importance of investing in single-code facilities Comment: Policy three identifies a preference towards multi-use facilities. It recognises that single code use may still occur where facility utilisation is maximised (i.e. making the most of what we have and increasing participation), there is an evident community need and operations are demonstrated to be sustainable. Further guidance on multi-use facilities (including co-location and the different scale of facilities) will be provided to support implementation of the strategy.	Proposed change to the draft strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> add to first set of bullet points on page 88 <u>"use relevant resources such as the New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework for Play, Active Recreation and Sport (2024)."</u>
34	Feedback: Work with partners to align investment decisions other priorities (e.g. health and urban planning) and with community needs / Ensure spaces reflect cultural identity and priorities Comment: Investment principles two, three and four and Policy three recognise the need to work together and take a collaborative approach to provision. Objective ten is about supporting delivery of play, sport and recreation opportunities by-Māori for-Māori. The planning and investment approach includes building capacity and capability of mana whenua and	Proposed change to the draft strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> add new bullet to list after bullet three on page 22 <u>"We work to align investment with other providers and priorities to maximise impact."</u>

	<p>mataawaka, supporting the revitalisation of traditional Māori activity opportunities and ensuring that spaces and places reflect cultural identity and the use of te reo Māori.</p> <p>A change is proposed to include explicit recognition of the benefits of aligning investment with other providers/priorities.</p>	
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How we have responded to local board feedback

Note: additional changes were made to the strategy following adoption. The final version of the strategy is available on the Auckland Council website.

213. Local boards provided resolutions on the draft strategy in November and December 2024 prior to it going for public consultation.

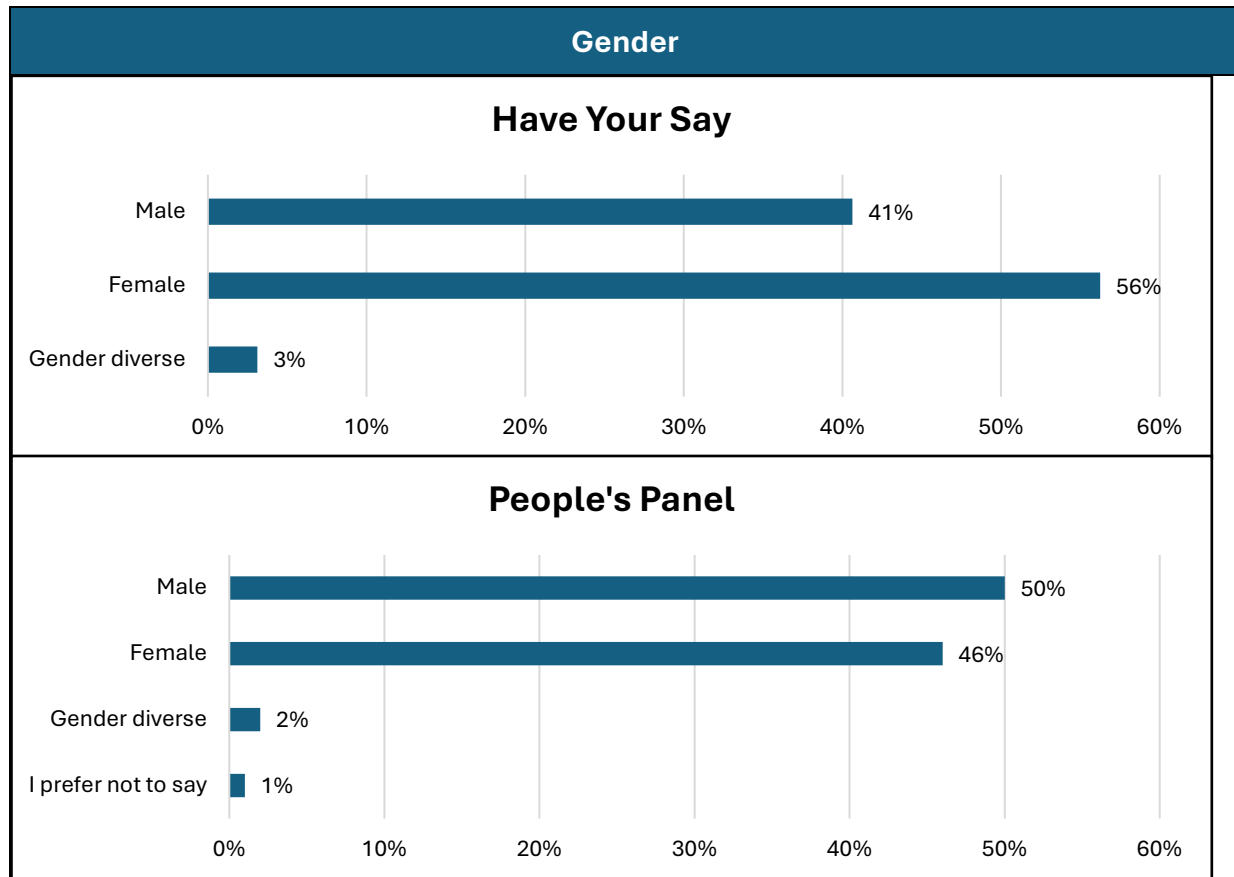
214. This section outlines our responses to the feedback we received, including proposed changes to the draft strategy.

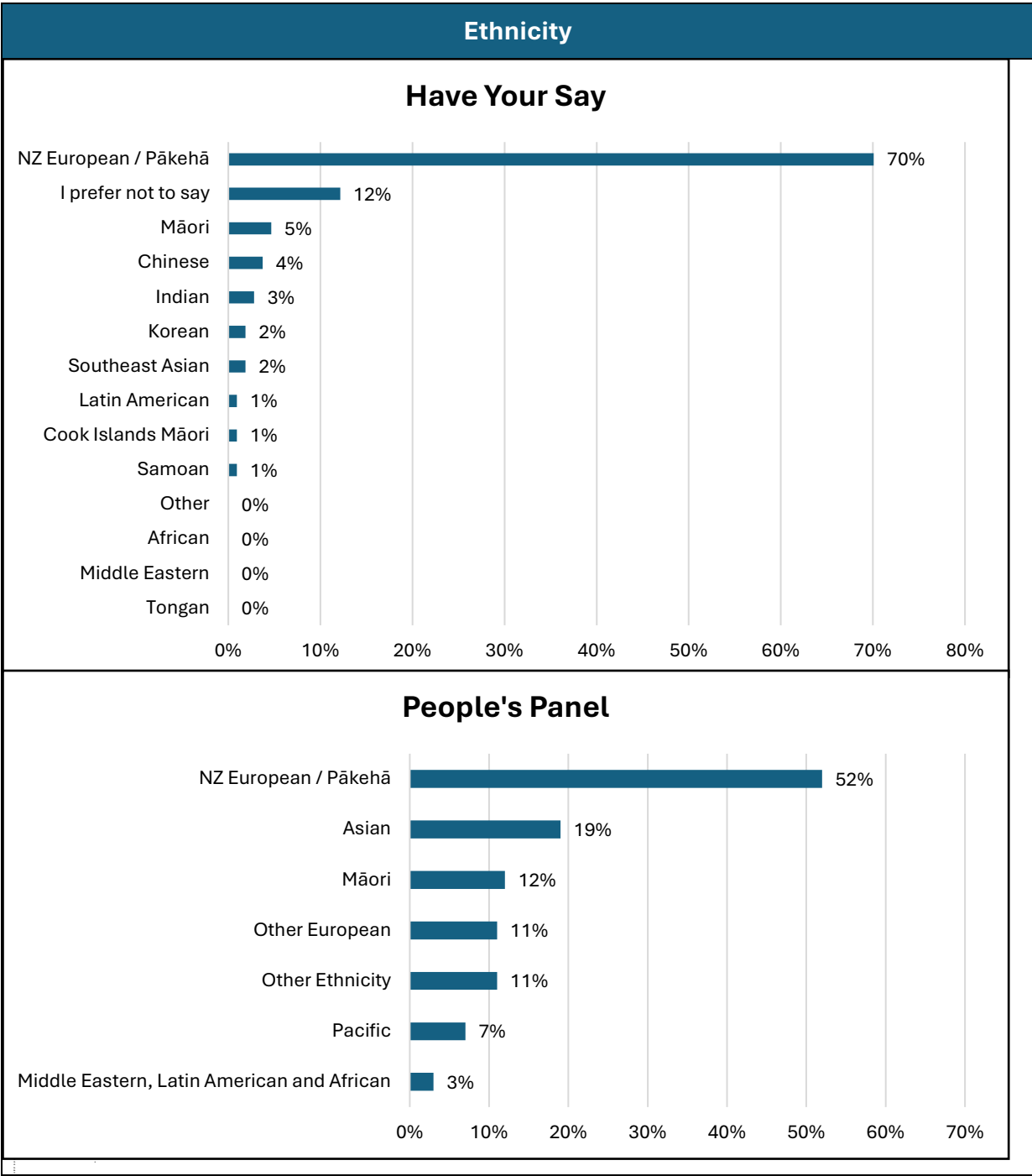
Table 3: Responses to feedback on the draft strategy

1	Feedback: The strategy should more clearly reflect local board decision-making responsibility	
	<p>Comment: The draft strategy does not impact on local board decision-making over their local assets, services or budgets. The draft strategy is designed to support both the Governing Body and local boards in accordance with their allocated decision-making responsibilities to make investment and prioritisation decisions.</p> <p>A change is proposed to ensure the decision-making responsibilities are more upfront in the strategy (before the strategic directions and investment principles are outlined).</p>	<p>Proposed change to the draft strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move the decision-making table previously on page 23 to page 9
2	Feedback: Concern about focus on 'value for money' / saving money in the draft strategy	
	<p>Comment: As a long-term strategy, implementation will occur over time as budgets allow. Saving money is not one of the draft strategy's four investment principles.</p> <p>When we talk about value for money in our investment approach, we are really talking about a focus on maximise the benefits we deliver to our communities. This reflects political direction to deliver value for money for Aucklanders and make the most of what we have, as well as our legislative requirement in S17A of the Local Government Act 2002.</p>	<p>Proposed changes to the draft strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> update the first paragraph on page 17 to include <u>"...the council's commitment to deliver value for money by maximising the benefits we deliver to our communities"</u> add a definition of value for money to the glossary <u>"Value for money considers both the cost and the effectiveness of services provided. It is about using resources effectively, economically and without waste, with due regard for the total costs and benefits and its contributions to the outcomes we are wanting to achieve"</u> (source: Auckland Council section 17A review).
3	Feedback: Clearer direction is needed to staff to ensure local boards receive the necessary advice for decision-making	

	<p>Comment: Staff have been working with local board advisors and operational staff to identify how best to support local boards to better deliver open spaces and sport and recreation opportunities to their communities in line with the strategy, once adopted, as part of their local board plans and work programmes.</p> <p>Staff have developed recommendations for improvements (attached to the local board agenda report) that will inform the development of an implementation and monitoring plan for the draft strategy if adopted.</p> <p>The local board portfolio reviews will also support local boards in making the most of their network and better delivering for their communities.</p> <p>Any additional organisational resource to support local boards' decision making will be considered as part of future budget allocations.</p>	<p>Proposed changes to the draft strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> add an overview of engagement with decision-makers on page 28
4	<p>Feedback: The strategy should reflect the benefits of acquiring open space early</p>	
	<p>Comment: The council attempts to acquire land early. Once a potential acquisition is identified through assessment against policy and a decision to acquire has been secured, staff endeavour to acquire open space as early as practicable in the development cycle to minimise the purchase cost. Our ability to do so depends on the budget available, the level of committed spend against the available budget, and the level of provision sought and the price of the land.</p>	<p>Proposed changes to the draft strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> add an additional sentence on page 59 "<u>We attempt to acquire open space early in the development process to minimise purchase cost and ensure the land is secured for Aucklanders. Acquisition is undertaken in response to available budgets and budget constraints can limit our ability to acquire as early as we would like.</u>"
5	<p>Feedback: Opposition to retaining the open space standard that pocket parks cannot be within 100m of other publicly accessible open space</p>	
	<p>Comment: The draft strategy already amends to existing standard of 100m to 200m.</p> <p>The recreational functionality of other open space would be considered when assessing pocket park provision in an area.</p> <p>Pocket parks are not intended to replace or substitute for larger open spaces. They are intended to complement larger open spaces and help mitigate the loss of private backyards by providing space for outdoor family gatherings, barbecues and basic play equipment.</p>	<p>No proposed change.</p>
6	<p>Feedback: The draft strategy is overly complicated</p>	
	<p>Comment: Going from five documents to one necessarily involves some complexity and the three proposed policies are detailed and technical in nature. They are intended for use by individuals as well as local and regional organisations that will deliver the draft strategy.</p>	<p>No proposed change.</p>

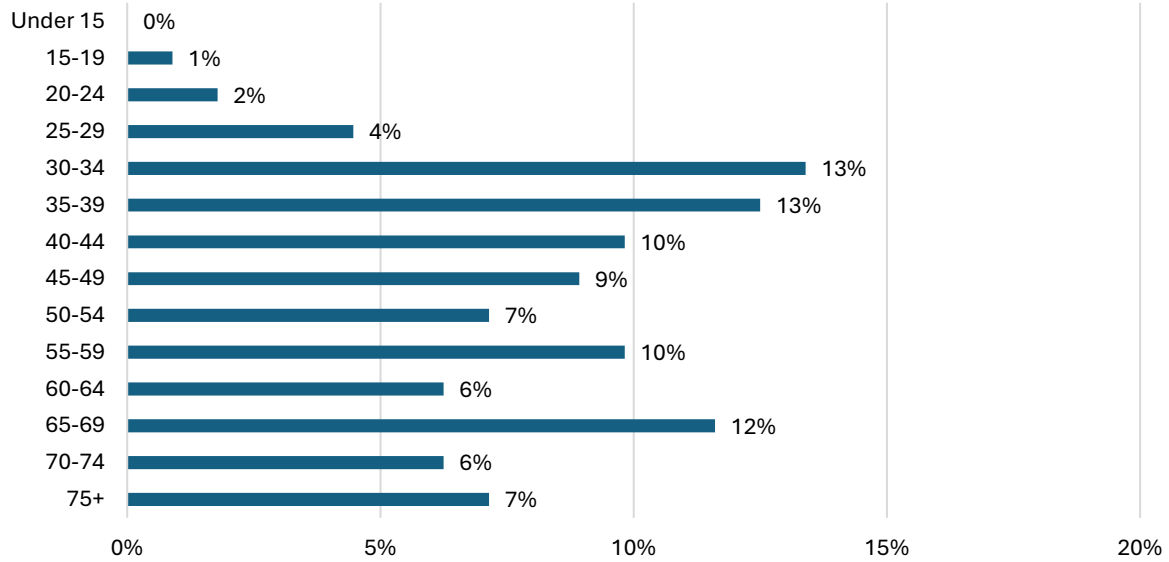
Appendix A: Demographic profiles of respondents



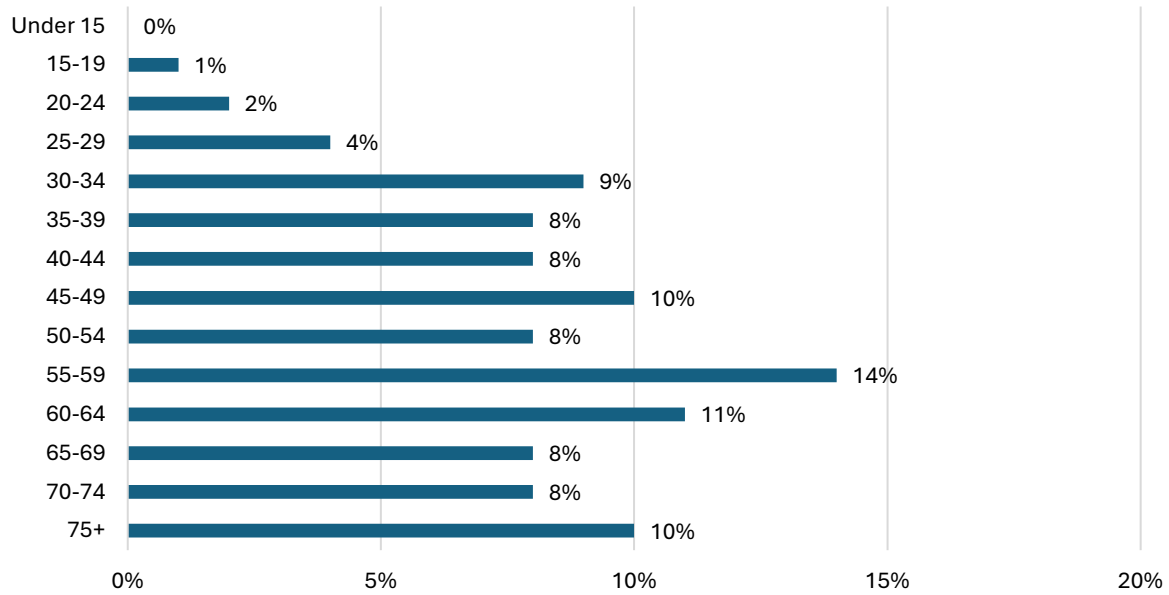


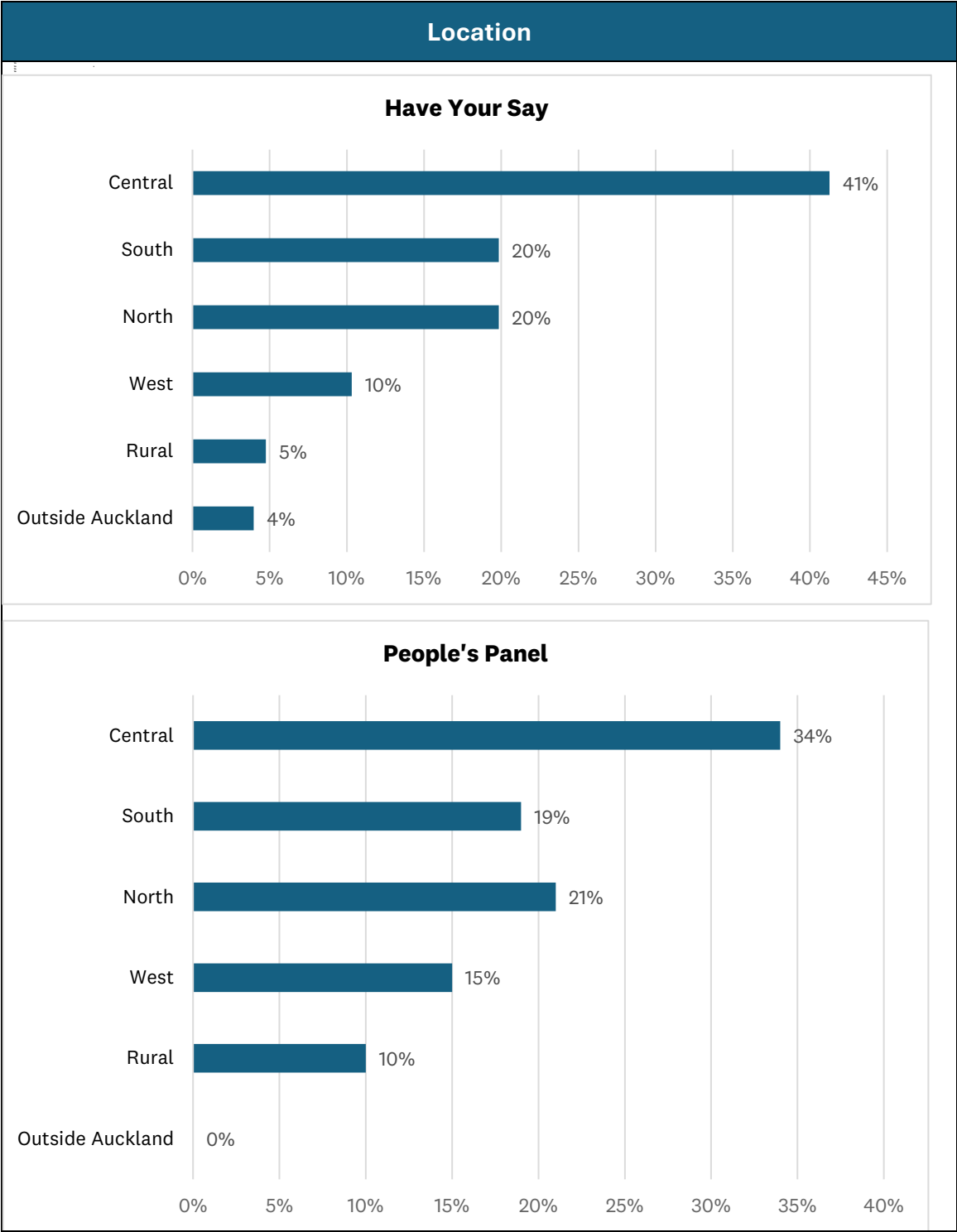
Age

Have Your Say



People's Panel





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Feedback analysis

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