Annual Plan 2026/2027

Written Feedback

Regional Organisations

Volume 1

April 2026

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Annual Plan 2026-2027

#189

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: The Better SMB Limited

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Support most

Tell us why

The Annual Plan identifies economic and cultural development as one of seven key investment categories, with ongoing work to support major events, visitor attraction and destination marketing . While tourism and events are important contributors to Auckland's economy, we respectfully submit that business performance uplift across the SMB sector must be a orded equal strategic priority. We recommend that Auckland Council and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited: 1. Formally investigate The Better SMB and PerformIQ as a region-wide business performance improvement platform capable of delivering measurable economic gains. 2. Pilot PerformIQ assessments with

selected local boards, business associations or BID areas to establish baseline data and identify priority interventions. We currently have a founding collaboration with North West Country who are launching PerformIQ for their members on 24th March 2026. 3. Explore a partnership or co-investment model to support Auckland businesses at scale, leveraging The Better SMB's infrastructure, insights, and national movement (35 by 35). 4. Integrate business performance uplift into economic development planning for the LTP 2027– 2037.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

The fee changes are understandable.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Rodney

Rodney Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

We support continued investment in economic development improvements for Rodney as supported through their two BID areas. We particularly support the development of a Destination Management Plan for North West Country that links the Waitakere Ranges to the Kaipara Harbour and back to the Mahurangi.

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

We have a range of ideas and recommendations for investment to support economic development in Auckland in our attached document.

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
1	**Economic development and events –** growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
5	**Local parks, community and recreation services –** local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
3	**Planning and infrastructure to manage growth –** planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
6	**Regional parks and environment –** looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
2	**Transport –** roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
4	**Flood resilience –** reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

Enabling business performance improvements through collaborations that are driven by the community for the community.

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Supporting businesses – help businesses succeed by making them easier to access by attracting more visitors to the city with well-designed streets and public spaces.

Submission to Auckland Council – Annual Plan 2026/2027

From: The Better SMB Limited

1. Introduction

The Better SMB welcomes the opportunity to comment on Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2026/2027 consultation document. We recognise the Council's intent to build a *"thriving economy that supports growth and opportunities for all"* and we acknowledge the emphasis on infrastructure, transport reform, and economic and cultural development as key investment areas for 2026/2027.

As an organisation committed to lifting the performance of small and medium businesses (SMBs) across Aotearoa New Zealand, The Better SMB strongly supports Auckland Council's efforts to strengthen economic resilience, productivity, and long-term regional prosperity.

2. Economic Development Priorities – The Missing Piece: Business Performance

The Annual Plan identifies economic and cultural development as one of seven key investment categories, with ongoing work to support major events, visitor attraction and destination marketing . While tourism and events are important contributors to Auckland's economy, we respectfully submit that business performance uplift across the SMB sector must be afforded equal strategic priority.

Why?

- Auckland's city centre alone generates 21% of the region's GDP .
- SMBs make up the overwhelming majority of Auckland firms and are central to local employment, community wellbeing, and tax revenue.
- The Mayor's message emphasises the need to *"lift performance across the council"* — the same imperative applies to the wider business ecosystem.

However, as outlined in The Better SMB's Strategic Intent & True North (2025), New Zealand's productivity challenge will not be solved by macro-level policy settings alone. The *missing link* is practical, business-level performance improvement, because:

- most SMBs lack a simple way to understand their performance, identify the few gaps that matter, and act with confidence.

- support exists but is fragmented and not orchestrated around shared measurement and outcomes.

Auckland Council and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited are uniquely positioned to influence this.

3. How The Better SMB and PerformIQ Can Help Auckland Achieve Its Economic Outcomes

The Better SMB has developed national-scale operating infrastructure for the SMB sector built on four connected components

3.1. A standardised performance baseline (PerformIQ)

A simple, easy-to-use diagnostic that enables businesses to assess their performance consistently and compare it across industries. This aligns strongly with the Council's desire to *"address productivity and growth challenges"*.

3.2. A repeatable improvement system (PerformOS)

A practical, staged pathway to help businesses establish strategy, systemise execution, and innovate. This supports council objectives around:

- strengthening economic resilience,
- improving operational discipline, and
- creating thriving, high-performing local economies.

3.3. Distribution at scale through trusted intermediaries

The Better SMB model is built to integrate with chambers, business associations and ecosystem partners — aligning well with Auckland Council's local board priorities and community-led delivery structures.

3.4. A national business performance dataset

This provides evidence of improvement and supports policymaking, economic development strategies, and investment decisions—helping Council address long-term planning priorities including:

- productivity uplift,
- infrastructure demand linked to growth, and

- resilient and competitive local economies.

3.5 Alignment with Council's Long-Term Vision

Auckland Council seeks *"a thriving economy that supports growth and opportunities for all"* and emphasises the need for economic development tools that deliver value for money, reinforce resilience, and reduce pressure on rates.

PerformIQ and PerformOS align directly with economic development outcomes and local board aspirations to support local business communities. These tools also link to the Council's focus on efficient, evidence-based investment and the need for cost-effective, scalable support for thousands of SMBs.

4. A Ten-Year Partnership Opportunity

The Better SMB's national ambition—engaging 100,000+ SMBs by 2035 — is an opportunity for Auckland to lead.

Over the next decade, PerformIQ and PerformOS can:

- build measurable performance uplift across Auckland's 100,000+ businesses,
- create a shared dataset that informs Auckland's economic strategies,
- strengthen resilience to shocks such as flooding, supply chain disruptions and economic downturns,
- complement existing council programmes and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited's destination and economic development work, and
- support local boards and Business Improvement Districts in delivering business capability, resilience and local prosperity outcomes.

This approach offers a high-impact, low-cost way for the Council to help unlock Auckland's economic potential from the ground up.

5. Recommendation

We recommend that Auckland Council and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited:

1. Formally investigate The Better SMB and PerformIQ as a region-wide business performance improvement platform capable of delivering measurable economic gains.

2. Pilot PerformIQ assessments with selected local boards, business associations or BID areas to establish baseline data and identify priority interventions. We currently have a founding collaboration with North West Country who are launching PerformIQ for their members on 24th March 2026.

3. Explore a partnership or co-investment model to support Auckland businesses at scale, leveraging The Better SMB's infrastructure, insights, and national movement (35 by 35).

4. Integrate business performance uplift into economic development planning for the LTP 2027– 2037.

6. Conclusion

Auckland's future economic success depends not only on attracting visitors, but on enabling the businesses that power our communities every day to perform better, grow, and compete.

The Better SMB is ready to partner with Auckland Council, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited and Business Improvement Districts to deliver an evidence-based, practical, scalable and nationally aligned solution that benefits businesses in every local board area.

We thank Auckland Council for the opportunity to submit and welcome further discussion.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#1835

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Silverfin Capital

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Support most

Tell us why

In the Annual Plan 2026/27, it is proposed that there will be an increase in business rates to 9.84%, compared with 7.9% for residential properties. The document states that this higher increase is required to maintain the business sector's 31% share of total rates, because business property values have grown more slowly than residential values. Firstly, there is also no explanation in the document as to why 31% remains the appropriate share, or whether this proportion has been reviewed in light of changes in Auckland's economy and property market. Please explain: • The historical basis for the 31% allocation? • Why that proportion remains appropriate today? • Whether

the ratio has been independently reviewed to changes in Auckland's economy and property market. If business property values have grown less than residential values, this likely reflects broader economic pressures on businesses. Increasing business rates by a greater percentage than residential rates in this environment risks placing additional financial strain on the commercial sector. Businesses already contribute significantly to Auckland's economy through employment and investment. Increasing their rates faster than residential ratepayers, risks placing a disproportionate burden on the business sector. The proposed 7.9% residential increase is largely driven by region-wide infrastructure costs, such as the City Rail Link. These investments benefit the whole region, so there is limited justification for businesses to bear a larger percentage increase than residential ratepayers. It risks creating the perception that businesses are being used to subsidise residential rates because they are a smaller and a less politically sensitive group of ratepayers. A fair rating system should be based on the value of property and benefits received from council services, not a fixed historical percentage of rates revenue.I request that the Auckland Council ensure that the business rates increase should be aligned with the residential increase of 7.9% unless a clear and robust justification can be provided.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

In the Annual Plan 2026/27, it is proposed that there will be an increase in business rates to 9.84%, compared with 7.9% for residential properties. The document states that this higher increase is required to maintain the business sector's 31% share of total rates, because business property values have grown more slowly than residential values. Firstly, there is also no explanation in the document as to why 31% remains the appropriate share, or whether this proportion has been reviewed in light of changes in Auckland's economy and property market. Please explain: • The historical basis for the 31% allocation? • Why that proportion remains appropriate today? • Whether the ratio has been independently reviewed to changes in Auckland's economy and property market. If business property values have grown less than residential values, this likely reflects broader economic pressures on businesses. Increasing business rates by a greater percentage than residential rates in this environment risks placing additional financial strain on the commercial sector. Businesses already contribute significantly to Auckland's economy through employment and investment. Increasing their rates faster than residential ratepayers, risks placing a disproportionate burden on the business sector. The proposed 7.9% residential increase is largely driven by region-wide infrastructure costs, such as the City Rail Link. These investments benefit the whole region, so there is limited justification for businesses to bear a larger percentage increase than residential ratepayers. It risks creating the perception that businesses are being used to

subsidise residential rates because they are a smaller and a less politically sensitive group of ratepayers. A fair rating system should be based on the value of property and benefits received from council services, not a fixed historical percentage of rates revenue.I request that the Auckland Council ensure that the business rates increase should be aligned with the residential increase of 7.9% unless a clear and robust justification can be provided.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

I will upload my letter regarding the rates increase.

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.

	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

16 March 2026

AK Have Your say
Auckland Council
Freepost Authority 182382
Private Bag 92300
Auckland 1142

To whom it may concern

RE: Business Rates Increase Objection

In the Annual Plan 2026/27, it is proposed that there will be an increase in business rates to 9.84%, compared with 7.9% for residential properties. The document states that this higher increase is required to maintain the business sector's 31% share of total rates, because business property values have grown more slowly than residential values.

Firstly, there is also no explanation in the document as to why 31% remains the appropriate share, or whether this proportion has been reviewed in light of changes in Auckland's economy and property market.

Please explain:

- The historical basis for the 31% allocation?
- Why that proportion remains appropriate today?
- Whether the ratio has been independently reviewed to changes in Auckland's economy and property market.

If business property values have grown less than residential values, this likely reflects broader economic pressures on businesses. Increasing business rates by a greater percentage than residential rates in this environment risks placing additional financial strain on the commercial sector.

Businesses already contribute significantly to Auckland's economy through employment and investment. Increasing their rates faster than residential ratepayers, risks placing a disproportionate burden on the business sector.

The proposed 7.9% residential increase is largely driven by region-wide infrastructure costs, such as the City Rail Link. These investments benefit the whole region, so there is limited justification for businesses to bear a larger percentage increase than residential ratepayers. It risks creating the perception that businesses are being used to subsidise residential rates because they are a smaller and a less politically sensitive group of ratepayers. A fair rating system should be based on the value of property and benefits received from council services, not a fixed historical percentage of rates revenue.

I request that the Auckland Council ensure that the business rates increase should be aligned with the residential increase of 7.9% unless a clear and robust justification can be provided.

Yours sincerely



Annual Plan 2026-2027

#2169

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: The Auckland Table Tennis Association (Inc)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Support most

Tell us why

N/A

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**

- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Howick

Howick Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

I don't know

Tell us why

Howick Local Board Options

Re: Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub (LECH)

We strongly support the continued inclusion of the Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub (LECH) as a priority project in the forthcoming Howick Local Board Plan.

The Howick Local Board Plan 2023 identified LECH as a priority project and directly advanced a key objective:

“Sports and recreational opportunities respond to the needs of our communities.”

We request that LECH remains a priority in the next iteration of the Plan.

Addressing Critical Network Gaps

LECH is a strategic response to well-established gaps in East Auckland’s sport and recreation network:

- Gymnastics: The Howick Gymnastics Club is operating at capacity within a constrained facility.

- Table Tennis: There is no permanent East Auckland base for the Auckland Table Tennis Association.

- Bowls: Year-round provision is limited, with the proposed covered green addressing this gap.

- Tennis: Pakuranga Tennis Club requires relocation, with its current site at Pigeon Mountain (Ōhuiarangi / Tūpuna Maunga) to be returned to Mana whenua when the lease expires on 30 June 2028.

LECH provides a coordinated, efficient solution to these multiple needs within a single integrated facility.

Strong Strategic Alignment

LECH is ranked Category A in the Tāmaki Makaurau Sport and Recreation Facility Priority Plan (Edition 2, April 2025), confirming its high regional priority.

Retaining LECH ensures alignment between local planning and Auckland-wide investment priorities, and reflects an evidence-based approach to facility provision.

Responding to Growth and Community Need

The Howick Local Board area experienced 21% population growth between 2013 and 2023, increasing pressure on existing facilities.

The area is also highly diverse, with 52.5% of residents identifying as Asian, aligning strongly with participation in sports such as table tennis, tennis, and gymnastics.

LECH is well positioned to respond to both increased demand and evolving participation trends.

Proven Demand and Community Impact

The founding organisations demonstrate strong and growing participation:

- Auckland Table Tennis Association: 346 keyholders, over 1,100 user-pays participants, and more than 12,500 annual participants across programmes.

- Pakuranga Tennis Club: Over 400 members, with approximately 600 interclub and 600 school participants, alongside disability programmes and tournaments.

- Howick Gymnastics Club: Approximately 1,500 annual participants and among the top eight clubs nationally by participation, despite operating without a purpose-built facility.

- Pakuranga Bowling Club: Stable and growing membership, providing important opportunities for older adults to remain active and socially connected.

These organisations are already operating at or near capacity, highlighting the need for expanded, fit-for-purpose facilities.

Conclusion

LECH is a well-supported, evidence-based project that addresses multiple network gaps, aligns with regional priorities, and responds to significant population growth in East Auckland.

We strongly urge the Howick Local Board to:

Retain the Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub (LECH) as a priority project in the upcoming Local Board Plan.

This will ensure that sport and recreation provision in East Auckland remains accessible, inclusive, and responsive to community needs.

2. What do you think about the proposed local board specific key areas of spend?

A. Explore ways to get the best value from our play spaces so they continue to meet the needs of children and families.

I don’t know

B. Run regular seminars for community groups/organisations on the local grant's application process.

I don’t know

C. Identify what type of indoor/sheltered courts are necessary to support sports play in Flat Bush.

I don’t know

D. Continue advocacy of the Tāmaki estuary on water quality and coastal erosion.

I don’t know

E. Continue to advocate to crime prevention organisations on behalf of the community for ongoing safety initiatives.

I don’t know

F. Continue to support our volunteer groups with resources needed for ecological volunteering, such as stream clean-ups and pest plant weeding.

I don’t know

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub (LECH) is a well-supported, evidence-based project that addresses multiple network gaps, aligns with regional priorities, and responds to significant population growth in East Auckland.

We strongly urge the Howick Local Board to:

Retain the Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub (LECH) as a priority project in the upcoming Local Board Plan.

This will ensure that sport and recreation provision in East Auckland remains accessible, inclusive, and responsive to community needs.

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

The data confirms what we already know — Aucklanders value physical activity highly, and it plays an important role in the lives of our whānau, friends, and communities. There is clear and compelling evidence of the wide-ranging benefits of sport and recreation, including improved physical and mental health and wellbeing, stronger social connectedness, and positive economic, productivity, and educational outcomes.We support increased funding for the Sports and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund, particularly to address the significant shortfall in indoor courts across Auckland. As a key funding mechanism for regional and sub-regional facility development, the Fund plays a critical role in supporting the sector. Of particular relevance to table

tennis is the identified shortfall of at least 30 indoor courts.However, while the Fund contributes towards addressing these gaps, it does not reflect the scale of capital investment required both now and into the future. We recommend that the Fund be reviewed and increased to more meaningfully address the identified shortfalls.We are also concerned that the Fund is limited to regional and sub-regional projects, leaving responsibility for local facility investment to Local Boards, many of which are operating under reduced capital budgets. This creates a structural gap in the funding system. We recommend either expanding the scope and funding level of the Fund or increasing Local Board capital budgets to better enable delivery of local facilities. We further recommend that Auckland Council seek advice from relevant staff to support this approach.We acknowledge that Auckland Council is the primary capital investor in the sport and recreation sector; however, it cannot and should not be the sole investor.

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

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4	**Economic development and events –** growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
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3	**Transport –** roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
6	**Flood resilience –** reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

We support increased funding for the Sports and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund, particularly to address the significant shortfall in indoor courts across Auckland. As a key funding mechanism for regional and sub-regional facility development, the Fund plays a critical role in supporting the sector. Of particular relevance to table tennis is the identified shortfall of at least 30 indoor courts.

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#2209

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Submitter details:

Organisation: Tuia Waitākere (formerly Sport Waitākere)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

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Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Support most

Tell us why

Tuia Waitākere supports the intent of the Annual Plan 2026/2027 to continue year three of the Long term Plan 2024–2034, with a focus on resilience, essential infrastructure and enabling local boards to meet community needs. We acknowledge the scale of planned investment across Auckland and the need to maintain services people rely on daily. However, we are concerned about the equity impacts of the proposed 7.9% average residential rates increase, particularly in West Auckland where many communities are already under pressure from cost-of-living and deprivation. Council states the increase is largely driven by the $235m annual cost of owning and operating the City Rail

Link, with the cost breakdown including operating, interest and depreciation. We accept that CRL is a major, long-term investment and acknowledge Council's stated regional benefits, including improved rail frequencies and travel time savings, with the consultation document noting an example of Henderson peak travel to midtown saving 24 minutes post CRL. Our key submission point is this: if West Auckland households are being asked to help fund CRL's operating and ownership costs through higher rates, then Council must clearly demonstrate how West Aucklanders benefit in practice, and ensure that investment trade offs do not systematically disadvantage the west. We request Council publish (or reference) evidence on:•likely CRL use and benefit distribution by local board area, including West Auckland, and•how CRL-related investment compares to the infrastructure gaps in areas of high deprivation.If the evidence shows a weaker benefit-to-cost experience for West Auckland communities (relative to other parts of the city), then Council should rebalance by accelerating investment into the west's most urgent community infrastructure and resilience needs. This isn't opposition to CRL. It is a call for fairness in who pays and who benefits.We also support the direction of value for money and efficiency focus signaled in the consultation document, but the test must be whether those savings protect access to essential community services in areas of higher need.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

We support the principle of targeted rates and fees where they are transparent, ring fenced where appropriate, and clearly linked to local benefit. The annual plan recognises local boards may need to make service-level changes or consider targeted rates due to rising operating costs, and this should be applied with a clear equity lens so that the burden does not fall disproportionately on communities with fewer choices and lower incomes.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Henderson-Massey,Waitākere Ranges,Whau

Henderson-Massey Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

Firstly, we believe that the Fairer Funding model has negatively impacted HMLB the most. As a Local board who so deeply understand their community, they are also one who's population density is amplifying by the day and the model is not reflecting this. As such they, like much of the West, as somewhat hamstrung by a legacy of older infrastructure meaning maintenance and upkeep costs are significantly more than others. Considering this HMLBs approach should be commended.

Specifically however, we are strongly concerned about the proposal to reduce library hours, specifically closing Te Manawa on Thursdays at 7pm instead of 9pm (moving from 67 to 65 hours per week).

In West Auckland, libraries are critical access points for:

- internet and digital access,
- families and students needing warm, safe spaces to learn,
- community supports that connect people to essential services (i.e Community Advice Bureau)

Reducing hours may look small on paper, but it has real impacts for people who rely on those spaces outside standard work hours. We ask Council and the Local Board to treat library opening hours as an equity service, not a discretionary line item, and to prioritise alternatives before reducing access.

Waitākere Ranges Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

We support the focus on community wellbeing, youth engagement, and the continued investment in environmental restoration and climate resilience across the heritage area and waterways. We also note the progress made regionally on resilience initiatives including blue green networks, with work underway including Rānui.

We commend the WRLB further for their focus on community wellbeing investment through projects/priorities that centre physical activity (and/or the need to be physically active) at their core, and would love to see how we, as Tuia Waitākere, can support that in a more formalised way, as an agency who's core purpose is to champion and deliver upon these priorities for wider West Auckland

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment?

A. Community wellbeing - continue to grow and evolve our programmes to support community wellbeing with a focus on tamariki and rangatahi, as well as older people

Support

B. Review level of community grants, including investigating a Facility Partnership Fund to support community organisations to plan, develop or upgrade community facilities

Support

C. Improve engagement with communities of need, schools and youth

Support

D. Progress an omnibus Waitākere Ranges Local Parks Management Plan

Support

E. Walking and cycling connections, particularly through parks

Support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Whau Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support all

Tell us why

We strongly support the Whau Local Board's stated intention to secure land and progress the investigation and design of a new aquatic and recreation facility. This aligns directly with wellbeing outcomes and addresses a long-standing infrastructure deficit for the west.

WLB should be commended also for 'putting their money where their mouth is' around community facilities, and brining in key community partners (such as Tuia Waitākere) to deliver upon these significant priorities. It is refreshing to see how they deeply understand the needs of their communities from a community wellbeing infrastructure lens, and we look forward to continuing to see this local board thrive.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment?

A. Design and build a new destination playground at Avondale Central Reserve.

B. Promote community identity and diversity by funding a coordinator for Welcoming Communities, supporting the PAN African Hub, and refreshing the Whau Ethnic Peoples Plan.

Support

C. Engage and respond to youth needs, and co-design initiatives to address opportunities and gaps.

Support

D. Improve water quality and flood resilience of Whau streams and rivers through collaboration with volunteers, local schools, community hubs, organisations, and neighbouring local boards.

Support

E. Prioritise projects identified through the Whau Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan and leverage partnerships to provide a local facility network for the community.

Support

F. Develop a Local Parks Management Plan to guide decisions on managing use, development, and protection of all 146 parks, reserves and open space within the Whau.

Support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Although we support all, we deeply support the Whau Sport and Rec Facilities plan. Whau is growing exponentially and rapidly with regards to population and the demand on ageing facilities is only growing. Focusing on where existing facilities can be supported and new facilities can be prioritised will make huge impacts on the community wellbeing on the communities that call the Whau home.

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

We note the Annual Plan lists West Wave Aquatic Centre phase two renewals (roofing, cladding, boiler, dive pool lining and filtration). We support keeping existing assets safe and functional. However, West Auckland's long-term need is not only renewals. It is also capacity, access and equity. A continued pattern of maintain what exists without addressing the west's population growth and deprivation risks locking West Auckland into chronic under provision of aquatic and recreation space.We therefore ask Council to:•accelerate the pathway for a new aquatic and recreation facility in West Auckland, aligned with the Whau Local Board direction, and•ensure regional investment decisions do not inadvertently funnel funding away from west projects that deliver significant community benefit.Feedback on the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027Tuia Waitākere acknowledges the importance of the Tūpuna Maunga Authority

Operational Plan and the statutory role of the Authority in the routine management of Auckland's ancestral maunga, as established under the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014. We support the intent of the plan to provide a clear framework for management that respects mana whenua authority, protects the maunga, and ensures appropriate public access.
1. Support for kaupapa Māori leadership and kaitiakitangaWe strongly support the continued leadership role of mana whenua through the Tūpuna Maunga Authority and the explicit recognition of Māori values, identity and guardianship in the management of these taonga. The maunga are not simply parks or open spaces; they are living cultural landscapes with deep whakapapa and meaning. Retaining this distinction in planning, investment and day to day management is essential.From a West Auckland perspective, this approach aligns with how communities understand place — not just as infrastructure, but as identity, connection and responsibility. The Authority's role helps ensure decisions are grounded in tikanga Māori rather than solely operational or financial considerations.2. Equity of access and community wellbeingWhile protection of the maunga is paramount, we encourage Council and the Authority to continue balancing protection with equitable, culturally appropriate access. For many West Auckland whānau, particularly those experiencing deprivation, the maunga represent free, accessible spaces for reflection, recreation and connection to whakapapa and whenua.We encourage the Operational Plan to continue:•enabling safe, respectful access where appropriate, and•recognising the maunga as contributors to mental, physical and cultural wellbeing, not just heritage assets.This aligns with the Annual Plan's broader commitment to wellbeing, resilience and community services that people rely on every day.3. Clarity on funding impacts and trade offsThe Operational Plan is included in summary form alongside the Annual Plan, but from a community perspective it is not always clear how funding for maunga management interacts with other pressures on parks, libraries, pools and community facilities — particularly in areas like West Auckland where service levels are under strain.We are not suggesting reduced investment in the maunga, in fact quite the opposite. Rather, we ask for:•clearer visibility of how maunga-related expenditure sits alongside wider community infrastructure investment, and•reassurance that protecting taonga Māori does not inadvertently come at the cost of essential local services that also support wellbeing, learning and connection, or if it does as it is required, what are these impactsThe reason we say this is that greater transparency here would strengthen public understanding and trust, and with this comes a deeper understanding community wide of why these maunga (and other sites of cultural significance to Māori) are so important to us all, and protection and preservation are of paramount importance.In a nutshell - We encourage the Authority and Council to continue investing in education and interpretation that helps communities understand the significance of the maunga, their histories and tikanga. For many residents — including newer communities in West Auckland — this knowledge builds respect, connection and shared guardianship.Where possible, we see value in:•accessible storytelling, interpretation and signage,•partnerships with community organisations, schools and local groups, and•approaches that build understanding rather than relying solely on regulation.This supports long term protection through shared responsibility rather than enforcement alone.

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
6	**Economic development and events –** growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
1	**Local parks, community and recreation services –** local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
4	**Planning and infrastructure to manage growth –** planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
2	**Regional parks and environment –** looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
5	**Transport –** roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
3	**Flood resilience –** reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

If required to rank priorities, Tuia Waitākere places high priority on:•Local parks, community and recreation services (libraries, community centres, sports fields, pools),•Transport (especially outcomes that improve access for outer suburbs, not only the city centre),•Flood resilience (given the lived experience of severe weather events and the focus on blue green solutions). We also support Council's fairer funding approach for local boards based on the fact that the formula explicitly includes population, deprivation and land area. This is a positive shift, but the outcome must be visible in service levels and infrastructure delivered in the west. We are unfortunately disadvantaged by legacy infrastructure investment meaning our local boards are staring well behind

others when investment in this space is considered, so if the measures of population, deprivation and land area are genuine decision making tools, we would expect to see investment levels change significantly in West Auckland in coming annual and long term planning cycles

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Other (please specify):We acknowledge the city centre's role in Auckland's economy and support efforts to ensure major investments like CRL unlock broader value. Our key point is that value from big investments must include how outer communities connect into that value, and how benefits translate into daily life for families in the west.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#2375

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: The Whau River Catchment Trust

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Support most

Tell us why

The Whau River Catchment Trust 1. Introduction-The Whau River Catchment Trust welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2026/2027, currently open for public consultation. The Annual Plan sets out Auckland's priorities for the financial year beginning 1 July 2026. The Whau River is one of the region's most urbanised catchments, flowing through Avondale, New Lynn, Kelston, Green Bay, Blockhouse Bay, and Glen Eden before entering the Waitematā Harbour. Environmental pressures on the Whau continue to increase due to urban intensification, stormwater flows, sedimentation, and habitat degradation. It is vital that the Annual

Plan supports resilience and ecological restoration at a catchment scale.2. Areas of Support in the Annual Plan Commitment to Stormwater and Climate Response-We support the plan's continued investment in stormwater management and response to severe weather events. These measures are essential for the Whau Catchment, which experiences frequent flooding, overflows, and sediment spikes during heavy rain. Focus on Natural Environment ProtectionWe also support the plan's stated intent to manage, protect and improve our natural environment, which aligns closely with our long-term goals for ecological restoration, riparian planting, biodiversity protection, and community stewardship across the Whau. 3. Key Environmental Concerns for the Whau-Local Board Budget PressuresThe Whau and Henderson Massey Local Board funding is under pressure due to citywide budget constraints, including potential service level reductions and funding adjustments. Local Board grants play a central role in community-led environmental work, including:Catchment Ecological Restoration - Pest plant and animal control, Environmental education, Water quality monitoring, Riparian and habitat restoration projectsReductions in these areas would have immediate negative impacts on the Whau River's ecological health.Impact of Proposed 7.9% Rates IncreaseThe Annual Plan proposes a 7.9% average residential rates increase, primarily to fund the operational costs of the City Rail Link. If ratepayers face increased financial pressure, funding for local environmental initiatives must be protected so that ecological projects are not deprioritised. Risk from Proposed Asset SalesThe plan includes $34 million in asset sales. It is critical that no parcels of land, riparian corridors, or ecologically important sites within the Whau Catchment are included in these disposals. Need for Catchment-Scale ManagementWhile the plan invests in stormwater infrastructure, it does not explicitly prioritise catchment-level environmental management approaches. The Whau River requires integrated planning across freshwater, stormwater, biodiversity, and climate resilience systems—not isolated solutions.4. Recommendations for Strengthening Environmental Outcomes in the Whau1. Protect and Enhance Whau/Henderson Massey Local Board Environmental Funding-We request that the Council maintain or increase Local Board budgets for environmental projects, ensuring continuity of:Riparian and estuarine restoration,Community-based ecological programmes, Monitoring and scientific data collection, Pest control and invasive species management, Urban Ngahere expansion and canopy cover improvements2. Direct Stormwater Investment to High-Risk Areas of the Whau-Stormwater infrastructure funding should prioritise sub-catchments facing acute issues, including:Sedimentation hotspots, Flood-prone tributaries, Areas affected by combined system overflowsThese improvements will significantly improve water quality and reduce ecological stress.3. Ensure Environmental Gains from CRL-Linked Rate Increases-Since the CRL-related rates increase is substantial, Council should clearly communicate and deliver environmental co-benefits, such as reduced transport emissions and improved air quality.4. Exclude Ecologically Valuable Land in the Whau from Asset Sales-Before any disposal is approved, sites within the Whau Catchment must undergo ecological assessment, particularly riparian margins, bush remnants, and community planting locations.5. Strengthen Integrated Catchment Planning-The Trust encourages Council to formalise integrated catchment management principles in the Annual Plan. This includes improved coordination between stormwater teams, biodiversity teams, Local Boards, mana whenua, and community organisations.5. ConclusionThe Whau River Catchment Trust strongly supports the environmental aspirations within the Annual Plan 2026/2027. However, to protect and improve the ecological health of the Whau River, Council must prioritise:Local Board environmental funding, Catchment-based planning, Stormwater resilience, Protection of ecologically significant land, Clear environmental outcomes tied to citywide investmentsOur community is deeply committed to

restoring the Whau, and we look forward to continuing to work alongside Auckland Council to build a resilient, healthy catchment for present and future generations.Thank you for considering this submission.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

Given the financial pressures outlined in the Annual Plan 2026/2027 and its focus on strengthening transport and water infrastructure and supporting Local Board responsiveness, it is essential that fees and charges remain fair, accessible, and environmentally aligned.In the Whau area, proposed changes must be evaluated through an equity lens and in coordination with catchment health goals, community wellbeing, sustainable transport access, and ongoing local regeneration efforts.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Henderson-Massey,Whau

Henderson-Massey Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

The Whau River Catchment Trust

Submission on the Auckland Council Annual Plan 2026/2027

Focus: Environmental Impacts on the Whau River Catchment

Date: 23/3/26

Submitted to: Auckland Council – AK Have Your Say

Plan: Auckland Council Annual Plan 2026/2027

Consultation Closing: 29 March 2026

1. Introduction

The Whau River Catchment Trust welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2026/2027, currently open for public consultation. The Annual Plan sets out Auckland's priorities for the financial year beginning 1 July 2026.

The Whau River is one of the region's most urbanised catchments, flowing through Avondale, New Lynn, Kelston, Green Bay, Blockhouse Bay, and Glen Eden before entering the Waitematā Harbour. Environmental pressures on the Whau continue to increase due to urban intensification, stormwater flows, sedimentation, and habitat degradation. It is vital that the Annual Plan supports resilience and ecological restoration at a catchment scale.

2. Areas of Support in the Annual Plan

Commitment to Stormwater and Climate Response

We support the plan's continued investment in stormwater management and response to severe weather events. These measures are essential for the Whau Catchment, which experiences frequent flooding, overflows, and sediment spikes during heavy rain.

Focus on Natural Environment Protection

We also support the plan's stated intent to manage, protect and improve our natural environment, which aligns closely with our long-term goals for ecological restoration, riparian planting, biodiversity protection, and community stewardship across the Whau.

3. Key Environmental Concerns for the Whau

Local Board Budget Pressures

The Whau and Henderson Massey Local Board funding is under pressure due to citywide budget constraints, including potential service level reductions and funding adjustments.

Local Board grants play a central role in community-led environmental work, including:

Catchment Ecological Restoration

- Pest plant and animal control
- Environmental education
- Water quality monitoring
- Riparian and habitat restoration projects

Reductions in these areas would have immediate negative impacts on the Whau River's ecological health.

Impact of Proposed 7.9% Rates Increase

The Annual Plan proposes a 7.9% average residential rates increase, primarily to fund the operational costs of the City Rail Link.

If ratepayers face increased financial pressure, funding for local environmental initiatives must be protected so that ecological projects are not deprioritised.

Risk from Proposed Asset Sales

The plan includes $34 million in asset sales. It is critical that no parcels of land, riparian corridors, or ecologically important sites within the Whau Catchment are included in these disposals.

Need for Catchment-Scale Management

While the plan invests in stormwater infrastructure, it does not explicitly prioritise catchment-level environmental management approaches. The Whau River requires integrated planning across freshwater, stormwater, biodiversity, and climate resilience systems—not isolated solutions.

4. Recommendations for Strengthening Environmental Outcomes in the Whau

1. Protect and Enhance Whau/Henderson Massey Local Board Environmental Funding

We request that the Council maintain or increase Local Board budgets for environmental projects, ensuring continuity of:

- Riparian and estuarine restoration
- Community-based ecological programmes
- Monitoring and scientific data collection
- Pest control and invasive species management
- Urban Ngahere expansion and canopy cover improvements

2. Direct Stormwater Investment to High-Risk Areas of the Whau

Stormwater infrastructure funding should prioritise sub-catchments facing acute issues, including:

- Sedimentation hotspots
- Flood-prone tributaries

- Areas affected by combined system overflows

These improvements will significantly improve water quality and reduce ecological stress.

3. Ensure Environmental Gains from CRL-Linked Rate Increases

Since the CRL-related rates increase is substantial, Council should clearly communicate and deliver environmental co-benefits, such as reduced transport emissions and improved air quality.

4. Exclude Ecologically Valuable Land in the Whau from Asset Sales

Before any disposal is approved, sites within the Whau Catchment must undergo ecological assessment, particularly riparian margins, bush remnants, and community planting locations.

5. Strengthen Integrated Catchment Planning

The Trust encourages Council to formalise integrated catchment management principles in the Annual Plan. This includes improved coordination between stormwater teams, biodiversity teams, Local Boards, mana whenua, and community organisations.

5. Conclusion

The Whau River Catchment Trust strongly supports the environmental aspirations within the Annual Plan 2026/2027. However, to protect and improve the ecological health of the Whau River, Council must prioritise:

- Local Board environmental funding
- Catchment-based planning
- Stormwater resilience
- Protection of ecologically significant land
- Clear environmental outcomes tied to citywide investments

Our community is deeply committed to restoring the Whau, and we look forward to continuing to work alongside Auckland Council to build a resilient, healthy catchment for present and future generations.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Whau Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

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- Clear environmental outcomes tied to citywide investments

Our community is deeply committed to restoring the Whau, and we look forward to continuing to work alongside Auckland Council to build a resilient, healthy catchment for present and future generations.

Thank you for considering this submission.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment?

A. Design and build a new destination playground at Avondale Central Reserve.

B. Promote community identity and diversity by funding a coordinator for Welcoming Communities, supporting the PAN African Hub, and refreshing the Whau Ethnic Peoples Plan.

I don't know

C. Engage and respond to youth needs, and co-design initiatives to address opportunities and gaps.

Support

D. Improve water quality and flood resilience of Whau streams and rivers through collaboration with volunteers, local schools, community hubs, organisations, and neighbouring local boards.

Support

E. Prioritise projects identified through the Whau Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan and leverage partnerships to provide a local facility network for the community.

I don't know

F. Develop a Local Parks Management Plan to guide decisions on managing use, development, and protection of all 146 parks, reserves and open space within the Whau.

Support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

We generally support the proposed key areas of additional investment—transport, water, and support for Local Boards—because these are critical for fast-growing communities like the Whau. The plan prioritises transport, water resilience, and enabling Local Boards to respond to local needs, which are all highlighted as core focus areas for 2026/2027. The plan also includes major region-wide investment of $3.9b in capital projects and $5.3b in essential services, strengthening transport, water infrastructure, and community facilities.

For the Whau area specifically:

Transport investment is essential for New Lynn, Avondale, and Kelston, where growth and intensification require improved local connections and safer walking/cycling options.

Water and stormwater investment is strongly supported, as the Whau River Catchment continues to experience flooding, sedimentation, and stormwater impacts.

Investment in Local Boards is important, but this must translate into real, protected funding, particularly for environmental work, community facilities, and local programmes.

Overall, I support these investment priorities but emphasise the need for equitable funding for Whau's high-growth, high-need neighbourhoods.

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

Completion of the Te Whau Pathway ProjectI strongly support continued investment to complete the Te Whau Pathway. This project delivers major benefits for the Whau River, local communities, and the wider region:It connects our two harbours, creating a continuous pathway from the Waitematā to the Manukau, strengthening community connection and regional identity.Much of the pathway is already completed — now is the time to build on this progress and finish the route.It is a pathway that truly connects: neighbourhoods, parks, reserves, schools, transport hubs, and heritage sites.The natural environment along the Whau offers powerful mental and physical wellbeing benefits for residents.Completion of the pathway contributes to restoring the mana of the Whau River and supports long-term catchment restoration.It celebrates the historic portage route used by Māori for generations, reinforcing cultural heritage and storytelling.It improves access to green spaces, creating safer, easier ways to walk and cycle.The design supports wheelchair accessibility, ensuring equitable access for all.Once completed, it will become a valued tourist attraction and recreational asset for Auckland.It will expand safe access to water activities such as swimming, kayaking, and canoeing.Overall: Completing the Te Whau Pathway is a transformative investment that strengthens active transport, enhances environmental and cultural outcomes, and improves community wellbeing. I strongly encourage Auckland Council to prioritise its completion in the Annual Plan 2026/2027.

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
6	**Economic development and events –** growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
1	**Local parks, community and recreation services –** local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
4	**Planning and infrastructure to manage growth –** planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
2	**Regional parks and environment –** looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
5	**Transport –** roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
3	**Flood resilience –** reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

For the Whau /Henderson Massey Local Board area in particular, I encourage the Council to prioritise:Integrated catchment management for the Whau River and its tributaries, supporting long-term stormwater, water quality, and biodiversity outcomes.Completion of Te Whau Pathway as a core piece of blue-green infrastructure linking the Waitematā and Manukau harbours, and supporting future active-transport and climate-friendly travel options.Continued investment in natural environment restoration, consistent with regional goals to manage, protect and improve the natural environment. Ensuring long-term transport planning supports safe, accessible, low-carbon travel options for growing areas like New Lynn and Avondale.Strengthening Local Board roles so that local communities can meaningfully influence long-term decisions affecting their neighbourhoods.Auckland's long-term future must build environmental resilience, restore

ecological wellbeing, and ensure communities—especially in urban catchments like the Whau—have access to clean waterways, green spaces, safe travel choices, and climate-ready infrastructure.

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Better connections – improve links between the city centre, the waterfront and nearby neighbourhoods.,Getting around – make it easier to walk, drive, cycle and use public transport in the city centre and from east to west, including better traffic flow.,Safety – a safer and more welcoming city centre, both day and night, for residents, workers and visitors.,Streets and public spaces – improve streets, parks and public spaces so the city centre is a great place to live and spend time in.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#3651

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: The Outdoor Access Commission Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

I don't know

Tell us why

N/A

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**

- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Aotea/Great Barrier,Rodney,Waiheke,Waitākere Ranges,Whau

Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

I don't know

Tell us why

We encourage the Local Board and Auckland Council to actively facilitate public use and access along the unformed legal road network on the island. This public land is currently under-utilised for walking connectivity between settlements. There is community interest and funding for exploring key routes – we invite advocacy from the Local Board.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment and changes to services?

A. Improvements to the library service including additional programmes.

B. Partnering with mana whenua and community on the coordination and engagement of island fisheries management and local Ahu Moana marine projects.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Rodney Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

I don't know

Tell us why

We support the plans to maintain and renew key community assets such as tracks, while improving accessibility. We are keen to see progress in enhancing Rodney's greenways.

Waiheke Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

I don't know

Tell us why

We support the local board's initiative to improve walking/cycling network connections as outlined within the Waiheke Pathways Plan.

Waitākere Ranges Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

I don't know

Tell us why

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment?

A. Community wellbeing - continue to grow and evolve our programmes to support community wellbeing with a focus on tamariki and rangatahi, as well as older people

B. Review level of community grants, including investigating a Facility Partnership Fund to support community organisations to plan, develop or upgrade community facilities

C. Improve engagement with communities of need, schools and youth

D. Progress an omnibus Waitākere Ranges Local Parks Management Plan

Support

E. Walking and cycling connections, particularly through parks

Support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

We support the board's focus on delivering mobility scooter, walking and cycling connections, particularly through parks.

Whau Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

I don't know

Tell us why

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment?

A. Design and build a new destination playground at Avondale Central Reserve.

B. Promote community identity and diversity by funding a coordinator for Welcoming Communities, supporting the PAN African Hub, and refreshing the Whau Ethnic Peoples Plan.

C. Engage and respond to youth needs, and co-design initiatives to address opportunities and gaps.

D. Improve water quality and flood resilience of Whau streams and rivers through collaboration with volunteers, local schools, community hubs, organisations, and neighbouring local boards.

E. Prioritise projects identified through the Whau Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan and leverage partnerships to provide a local facility network for the community.

F. Develop a Local Parks Management Plan to guide decisions on managing use, development, and protection of all 146 parks, reserves and open space within the Whau.

Support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

We encourage the local board to invest in Te Whau Pathway as a key outdoor access linkage for a catchment of 34 schools and an estimated 18,000 students; as a connector between the Manukau

and Waitematā harbours that celebrates the ancestral waka portage; to connect to public transport and the wider path network; and to enable greater use and enjoyment of exisiting parks and reserves along the Whau river estuary.

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

This submission supports completion of Te Whau Pathway• The project clearly enhances the provision of free, practical and enduring public access in the Whau and wider West Auckland suburban area. This area is undergoing rapid housing intensification. It also improves access to existing reserves and open spaces. • It connects communities, and will be the one safe off-road route to connect the Waitematā and Manukau harbours – and celebrates the ancestral waka portage route• It connects to a major transport hub at New Lynn (trains & bus routes), and to the SH16 Northwestern walk & cycleway• It provides key walking & cycling access for 34 local schools with a combined population of more than 18,000 students living near the pathway• It will be a local and regional tourist attraction in itself: when completed Te Whau Pathway will enable people to walk or ride from central Auckland out along the Northwestern Cycleway and loop back along the Avondale-New Lynn path, or connect to Green Bay and the Manukau Harbour.

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?
(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.

	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#3785

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Auckland Yacht and Boating Association Inc

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

N/A

Tell us why

N/A

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**

- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

The Auckland Yacht and Boating Association (AYBA) has reviewed and considered the Auckland Annual Plan.Our organisation supports the plan in the areas that are relevant to our role in supporting the yacht and boating community in Auckland.Specifically, the areas we support are:Biosecurity and the continued monitoring of the Caulerpa weedThe AYBA and its member clubs strongly support the biosecurity by-laws and the work being undertaken to monitor, control, and eradicate the Caulerpa weed. Protecting Auckland's marine environment is essential for the sustainability of boating and sailing activities.Sufficient haul-out facilities throughout the region, including within the Waitemata Harbour, are crucial for keeping boat hulls clean and minimising the risk of spreading invasive species. AYBA is concerned that this essential service isn't receiving enough attention and would welcome council initiatives to boost supply. Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund:This fund provides important opportunities for our member clubs to access funding that supports:•Introducing youth sailors to our sport•Training and education programmes•Providing sailing experiences for the wider community through adult Learn to Sail programmes and school outdoor education initiatives•Enabling clubs to share their facilities with other community groupsAYBA and Yachting New Zealand work closely together to ensure the interests of the sailing community are considered and incorporated into Auckland's strategies and plans.ConclusionSailing clubs play an important role in Auckland's sporting and recreational landscape. They provide opportunities for youth development, community participation, and lifelong recreation while also fostering stewardship of Auckland's marine environment. Continued support through initiatives such as biosecurity programmes and the Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund will help ensure that sailing and boating remain accessible and sustainable for future generations.

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#3789

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: North West Country Business Association

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Other

Tell us why

North West Country Incorporated (NWCBA) represents businesses across the seven townships of the North West. Our purpose is to support local businesses so they can succeed, create jobs, and help our communities thrive. Our strategic plan places strong focus on business support, partnerships, economic development, and town centre improvements.Our 3-Year Strategic Plan 2026–2028 identifies several priority areas that align directly with Auckland Council's responsibilities: Growing business capability and performance. Partnering with agencies including Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited. Supporting local

events and visitor attraction. Advocating for infrastructure upgrades across the district.The Annual Plan's focus on transport, water infrastructure, economic development and local board funding provides natural alignment for our goals. However, more investment and coordinated delivery is required to ensure our area is not left behind.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

Economic growth is limited without strong infrastructure. We ask Council to prioritise the following needs.- Watercare Reticulation Gaps- Roading upgrades and coordinated infrastructure DeliveryNWCBA continues to meet BID Policy requirements, including transparent governance, reporting, and engagement. We maintain strong financial oversight, committee governance, and community representation, as also reflected in our Executive Committee Charter. We will continue to collaborate with Auckland Council and the Rodney Local Board on local needs.We believe the Annual Plan could better support our strategic direction by including:1. A clear capital works timeline for North West water and wastewater,2. Funding or partnership pathways for destination management that will benefit the whole region,3. Support for business performance initiatives (such as PerformIQ)4. Recognition of the North West as a fast-growing economic area requiring targeted investmentWe ask Auckland Council to:1. Support our Destination Management Plan and partner with Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to implement it.2. Increase economic development investment that goes beyond tourism to support business performance and resilience.3. Direct Watercare to prioritise North West commercial reticulation, including addressing the Waimauku water supply situation.4. Coordinate Watercare and Auckland Transport projects (in collaboration with NZTA),

ensuring water upgrades are completed during roading/rail works.5. Continue and expand town centre and place-making projects in partnership with NWCBA and the Rodney Local Board.6. Recognise the North West as a key future growth area requiring fair and timely infrastructure investment.See attachment for full submission.

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
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	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan Submission 2026/2027

From: North West Country Incorporated (North West Country Business Association)
To: Auckland Council

1. Introduction

North West Country Incorporated (NWCBA) represents businesses across the seven townships of the North West. Our purpose is to support local businesses so they can succeed, create jobs, and help our communities thrive. Our strategic plan places strong focus on business support, partnerships, economic development, and town centre improvements.

We welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's Annual Plan for 2026/2027.

2. Strategic Direction and Alignment With Council Priorities

Our 3-Year Strategic Plan 2026–2028 identifies several priority areas that align directly with Auckland Council's responsibilities:

- Growing business capability and performance.
- Partnering with agencies including Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited.
- Supporting local events and visitor attraction.
- Advocating for infrastructure upgrades across the district.

The Annual Plan's focus on transport, water infrastructure, economic development and local board funding provides natural alignment for our goals.

However, more investment and coordinated delivery is required to ensure our area is not left behind.

3. Economic Development in the North West

3.1 Expanding the Focus Beyond Tourism

While tourism is important to our region, business success must go wider than visitor numbers. Many local enterprises are non-tourism businesses who need stronger economic development support—especially in capability building, access to tools, and growth planning.

We are working with The Better SMB through the PerformIQ business performance tool, which helps businesses:

- Measure key metrics,
- Identify strengths and weaknesses, and
- Build a roadmap for higher performance.

This partnership directly supports our Strategic Plan's goal of providing business excellence programmes and training.

We encourage Auckland Council and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to recognise and support this work as part of regional economic development. We are currently sharing our collaboration with The Better SMB to the wider Business Improvement District network and delivering access to PerformIQ to our members from 24th March 2026.

We seek that Auckland Council and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited also consider investigating and promoting this tool for all businesses in the region to support their expanded business knowledge and performance.

4. Destination Management Plan (Self-Funded)

NWCBA is currently developing a Destination Management Plan (DMP) for the wider region. We are fully funding this ourselves.

Our Strategic Plan sets a clear direction to formalise a Destination Tourism Organisation (DTO) and strengthen our partnership with Tātaki Auckland Unlimited. We will pursue this through the development of the DMP and creation of a tourism brand for the area. We are doing this collaboratively with One Mahurangi in the north west and Waitakere Ranges Local Board.

Our larger aim is to create a national riding/ walking asset that links the Waitakere Ranges with the Kaipara Harbour and the Mahurangi Coast. While this will unlock the north west for tourists and thereby support our operators, this ultimately increases Auckland bed nights and encourages more people to stay locally. Our DMP work will directly implement the Mayor's vision of Auckland being one of the world's most livable city and having a thriving economy that supports growth and opportunities for all.

To implement our DMP, we need:

- Support from Auckland Council through your planning and investment,
- Alignment from Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to provide ongoing support,

- Access to regional marketing platforms, and
- Coordination with transport and infrastructure planning.

We will continue to be a paid DPP partner with Tataki Auckland Unlimited however without partnership support, the DMP cannot reach its full potential.

5. Infrastructure Requirements

Economic growth is limited without strong infrastructure. We ask Council to prioritise the following needs.

5.1 Watercare Reticulation Gaps

Some commercial areas in our district still lack reticulated water and wastewater services, the hardest hit being Waimauku. This is a barrier to business growth, new commercial development, health and safety, and emergency readiness.

A clear example of the Waimauku Shopping Village, where they have been required to provide a 150,000L emergency water tank for community supply at their own cost. This is not sustainable for local business owners and indicates significant under-investment at a regional level when planning the development of the area.

We request Watercare:

- Create a clear plan and timeline for reticulation in all North West commercial zones,
- Prioritise our town centres in the next capital programme, and
- Engage directly with NWCBA in planning and sequencing.

5.2 Roading Upgrades & Coordinated Infrastructure Delivery

Recent roading upgrades across the North West have created opportunities to bring critical services (especially water) at the same time. Too often these opportunities have been missed.

We ask that Auckland Transport and Watercare jointly (in collaboration with New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA)):

- Use future roading and rail upgrades as triggers for water and wastewater upgrades,
- Budget for North West works in alignment, and
- Coordinate early with our business association and the Rodney Local Board.

This approach reduces disruption, saves money, and delivers long-term benefits. This also allows the funds to be allocated through long term plans with plenty of space for collaborative planning. State Highway 16 and the rail network are due to upgrades in the next twenty years and these are reasonable timeframes for our community to know when infrastructure will be made available to them.

6. Alignment With the BID Policy and Annual Accountability

NWCBA continues to meet BID Policy requirements, including transparent governance, reporting, and engagement. We maintain strong financial oversight, committee governance, and community representation, as also reflected in our Executive Committee Charter. We will continue to collaborate with Auckland Council and the Rodney Local Board on local needs.

7. Gaps and Missed Opportunities in the Annual Plan

We believe the Annual Plan could better support our strategic direction by including:

1. A clear capital works timeline for North West water and wastewater,
2. Funding or partnership pathways for destination management that will benefit the whole region,
3. Support for business performance initiatives (such as PerformIQ)
4. Recognition of the North West as a fast-growing economic area requiring targeted investment

8. Summary of Requests

We ask Auckland Council to:

1. Support our Destination Management Plan and partner with Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to implement it.
2. Increase economic development investment that goes beyond tourism to support business performance and resilience.
3. Direct Watercare to prioritise North West commercial reticulation, including addressing the Waimauku water supply situation.
4. Coordinate Watercare and Auckland Transport projects (in collaboration with NZTA), ensuring water upgrades are completed during roading/rail works.

5. Continue and expand town centre and place-making projects in partnership with NWCBA and the Rodney Local Board.
6. Recognise the North West as a key future growth area requiring fair and timely infrastructure investment.

9. Closing Statement

North West Country Incorporated is committed to supporting local businesses, building strong communities, and working closely with Auckland Council. Our region is growing, energetic, and full of potential—but we need Council and Council-Controlled Organisations to partner with us so we can deliver the outcomes our businesses and residents deserve.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#3808

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: The Tree Council

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Other

Tell us why

Support and oppose positions with caveats, see attachment for full details and submission. We SUPPORT the proposals in this section - specifically:- Meet the council's obligations in the Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-2030 and increased funding and extension of the pest plan, animal and pathogen control and restoration activities- Coordinate and implement the kauri dieback management programme to protect our kauri forests- Focus on education for responsible dog ownership, improving compliance, expanding animal shelter capacity, and controlling the dog population through increased desexing.- Improve community safety and reduce public nuisance

through the use of safety and compliance wardens and community partners- Invest $16 million into Māori outcomes including the ongoing Marae Infrastructure Programme, and grants to improve the capacity of mana whenua and mataawaka to engage in Auckland Council decision-making processesParks and Community Asset portfolio delivery: It sounds like the potential for asset stripping, asset sales, privatisation by stealth and a lack of necessary investment in parks and community assets required to maintain them appropriately. We DO NOT SUPPORT any of these realities. Parks and community assets are some of the most important and accessible services that Council provides to ratepayers. They must not be degraded by a lack of investment in them as assets.The TTC does not agree with asset recycling which actually means asset sales. We think this practice should be stopped.We strongly SUPPORT the fairer funding model for Local Boards and the additional funding to be provided. ● We OPPOSE the proposal to reduce funding for local parks volunteers. ● We OPPOSE the proposed reduction in operational funding grants for environmental programmes: reduced funding support for restoration, planting, pest management and waste minimisation. ● We OPPOSE the proposed reduced library opening hours. ● We OPPOSE the proposed reduced funding to local organisations that deliver local events. ● We OPPOSE the reductions to the contestable grants budget. ● We OPPOSE the proposed reduced operational funding grants: reduced funding support for local community, recreation, ethnic, seniors and youth groups. ● We OPPOSE the proposed reduced arts facilities and programmes: reduced operational grants to arts partners ● We OPPOSE reduced maintenance - Stop scheduled bollard & post-and-rail maintenance, stop scheduled maintenance for bush areas (except high-value/ecological), change garden edging to chemical application, cease infill planting and mulching in amenity gardens and reclassify re-vegetation areas to bush areas. ● We OPPOSE reduced discretionary funding for Grants, Community Wellbeing and Environment Management programmes and services. ● We OPPOSE reduced or discontinued grant funding (both youth and community grants programmes). ● We OPPOSE reducing the number of public rubbish bins in public spaces such as town centres, parks and reserves. ● We OPPOSE delaying non-essential tree work. ● We OPPOSE reduced community grant funding. ● We OPPOSE reduced accommodation grant funding to community groups, to help meet the costs associated with their premises ● These reductions really impact wellbeing, quality of life and investment in the future, at ground level, including among those who need it most, and could have long term detrimental impacts, de-funding of community groups, arts and environmental work is really undesirable and is a horrific trend: we need to invest in all of these to create a city that has quality of life and cares for natural resources. These are not optional and will result in deterioration of natural and physical assets that will cost more to bring back to an acceptable level in the future.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?
(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.

	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

The Tree Council
Tiakina Rākau • est 1986

Submission by The Tree Council on Annual Plan 2026-27

25 March 2026

From: The Tree Council

[redacted]

info@thetreecouncil.org.nz

1. Introduction

1.1. Thank you for the opportunity to present **The Tree Council (TTC**)'s submissions on the **Annual Plan 2026-27**.

1.2. These submissions are made by The Tree Council, an independent, voluntary organisation, a non-profit incorporated charitable society which has been serving the Auckland community since 1986 in the protection of trees and as advocates for the significant benefits and services that our trees and green spaces provide.

1.3. We wish to speak to our submission if that opportunity is provided.

2. Key Points

2.1. Vision:

We agree with and support the vision.

2.2. Natural Environment:

- We SUPPORT the proposals in this section - specifically:

Meet the council's obligations in the Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-2030 and increased funding and extension of the pest plan, animal and pathogen control and restoration activities - SUPPORT.

- However, this must include an increased budget for weed and pest control in Regional Parks, especially the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.
- The needs to be an urgent review of roadside weeds management practices by contractors in WRHA (spraying all the natives is not acceptable).
- We also consider that Council should be socialising the need for using 1080 to control pests effectively in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.
- Fund the development of Regional Heritage Fruit Tree Collection(s) in Regional Park(s).

Coordinate and implement the kauri dieback management programme to protect our kauri forests - SUPPORT.

- However there is an urgent need to include an annual budget for ongoing phosphite treatment on parks (Regional & Local) otherwise all currently infected trees will die - and this will mean the upgraded track infrastructure will go through dead and dying forest with huge H&S implications. A rolling annual programme of 5 yearly repeats of phosphite treatment around all infected areas on a prioritised basis is required.
- Plus increased financial support is needed for the Kauri Rescue Trust's services for private landowners with kauri dieback. This is the only service in the region that helps landowners to keep their infected trees alive by treatment (rather than letting them die) and provides outreach and education about the disease and preventing its spread. There is a huge demand but services are severely limited by budget which has been cut by over 50% since 2022-23.
- Fund iwi groups &/or local community groups to work with Kauri Rescue to support landowners with infected kauri to treat their trees in outer areas of the region (eg Awhitu, Kaipara).
- Keeping kauri alive benefits us all - Kauri are huge carbon sinks and live for more than 1000s of years, with kauri forests being among the most carbon dense forests in the world. So a large kauri will have absorbed and fixed over 1000 tonnes of CO_2 in its lifetime, and will fix a further 1-2 tonnes annually. Even a young ricker (pole size) kauri has fixed 1-4 tonnes of CO_2, fixing a further 40-80 kg annually.
- Kauri are a keystone species, supporting an entire ecosystem. They are more important in this role than as a single species.

- Additional funding must be provided to Regional Parks, specifically to fund repairs to the damaged tracks as a result of the cyclone. There is up to $10M of unfunded work that needs to be done to enable tracks to reopen to the public. This cannot be funded from savings within Regional Parks or it will take decades to complete. The public funded these track upgrades via the NETR targeted rate; they deserve to have them repaired and not remain shut indefinitely.

Not mentioned but needs to include:

- More budget for Compliance to investigate tree issues (and other things) especially re damage to scheduled Notable Trees, trees in Significant Ecological Areas, Coastal Zone, Riparian Margins & in parks. There is a disturbing prevalence for illegal damage and removal of protected vegetation followed by retrospective consent applications (which get approved). This is a dangerous precedent to be setting when enforcement action is actually what is required to deter this kind of behaviour. Compliance is woefully under-resourced and can only be reactive, not proactive, in responding to complaints. There is almost no monitoring of consent conditions to ensure they are being complied with. More budget needs to be provided so this can be done.
- Budget for effective management of the Schedule of Notable Trees, including proactive adding of trees to the schedule and review of scheduling criteria to make it easier to protect more of Auckland's mature trees.
- Budget for labelling of scheduled Notable Trees. This is a cheap and effective way to provide passive protection for these special trees as well as educate the public about their importance. Many cities in the world label their most important trees and Auckland is long overdue to do this.
- Budget for the Urban Ngahere Strategy to include monitoring and analysis of tree canopy cover plus planting more trees and maintaining the ones we already have.

2.3. Community:

We SUPPORT the proposals in this section - specifically:

Focus on education for responsible dog ownership, improving compliance, expanding animal shelter capacity, and controlling the dog population through increased desexing. - SUPPORT

- This also needs to include a budget for dog control on beaches and in parks to protect wildlife, including signage.

Improve community safety and reduce public nuisance through the use of safety and compliance wardens and community partners. - SUPPORT

Deliver differently by transitioning of the Parks and Community Asset portfolio to a lesser dependence on assets and more innovative ways of delivering council services

- What does this mean??? It sounds like the potential for asset stripping, asset sales, privatisation by stealth and a lack of necessary investment in parks and community assets required to maintain them appropriately. We DO NOT SUPPORT any of these realities. Parks and community assets are some of the most important and accessible services that Council provides to ratepayers. They must not be degraded by a lack of investment in them as assets.

2.4. Well managed local government:

Progressing savings and efficiency actions, targeting an additional $106 million in savings by 2026/2027 across the council, along with the continued consolidation of the council group's service functions and achieving asset recycling targets, which involves selling or leasing some of our lesser-used assets like land and buildings to help pay for new ones.

- The TTC does not agree with "asset recycling" which actually means asset sales. We think this practice should be stopped.

Invest $16 million into Māori outcomes including the ongoing Marae Infrastructure Programme, and grants to improve the capacity of mana whenua and mataawaka to engage in Auckland Council decision-making processes - SUPPORT

2.5. Local Boards:

- We strongly SUPPORT the fairer funding model for Local Boards and the additional funding to be provided.
- We OPPOSE the proposal to reduce funding for local parks volunteers.
- We OPPOSE the proposed reduction in operational funding grants for environmental programmes: reduced funding support for restoration, planting, pest management and waste minimisation.
- We OPPOSE the proposed reduced library opening hours.
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ecological), change garden edging to chemical application, cease infill planting and mulching in amenity gardens and reclassify re-vegetation areas to bush areas.

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Annual Plan 2026-2027

#3824

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

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Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Other

Tell us why

The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance acknowledges that rates may need to go up to cover the costs of the City Rail Link. But after 15 years of rate increases well above inflation, it is time for ratepayers to stand up and say enough is enough. Auckland Council must live within its means. Under the Super City structure, rates for the typical Auckland household have increased by 85 percent, while the Council's direct operating expenditure has grown much faster than both inflation and population.Wayne Brown's proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase is not simply about maintaining infrastructure. It reflects a cost structure that has expanded well beyond what

ratepayers are willing to pay for.The Ratepayers' Alliance has set out a credible pathway to reducing the average residential rates increase to 3 percent in the 2027 financial year. Our plan does not cut infrastructure, does not close facilities, does not reduce frontline services, and does not rely on asset sales.We are simply asking Auckland Council to do what their ratepayers are already doing and live within its means. The proposed $150 million reduction in spending represents just 2 percent of the Council Group's total operating expenditure. The savings can be delivered by reducing payroll growth, streamlining management structures, holding external contractors to account, and finally calling time on the revolving door of consultants.Alternative budget proposed. See attachment for details and full submission.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

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Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

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Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

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Question 6: City centre

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Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?



Briefing **Paper**

Briefing Paper : An Alternative Budget for Auckland Council

March 2026

Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance



Foreword

Mayor Wayne Brown is proposing the Super City's largest rates increase of 7.9 percent, equating to $237 million dollars or $388 per household. This will bring the rates burden imposed on Aucklanders this year to over $3.2 billion dollars, an average of $5,423 per household, not counting Watercare household charges.

Aucklanders who are already being squeezed by the cost-of-living challenge over the next few weeks will be bombarded by Council PR material calling on them to 'Have Your Say'. As happens every year, thousands of responsible-minded Aucklanders will take the time to fill out the online forms or even write their own submissions. It will make no meaningful difference. The outcome is pre-determined. As usual Aucklanders will have their say, but the Council will have its way.

Auckland Council has been setting rates well above the rate of inflation (currently 3.1 percent) for years now. There is always a headlined reason – an excuse, a pretext. Back in 2019/20 it was the drought, then Covid 19, then the floods, followed by 'the recovery'. This year, according to the Mayor, it's all due to the City Rail Link (CRL). Years behind deadline and with costs blown-out by at least $2 billion - even now it still doesn't have an opening date. But by continually hyping excuses for well-above-inflation rates increases, the council is not being straight with the public – nor, for that matter, straight with itself.

In other words, the Council is in denial about its systemic cost management problem. This is essentially twofold. Despite most of Council's traditional core functions e.g. roads, rubbish, even park maintenance, being outsourced to private corporates, Council is demonstrably unable or unwilling to extract value for money from its contractors.

Compounding this is that despite just about everything you can think of being outsourced, council generates its own and considerably expensive overheads, as detailed out in this report. At the same time, while being unable or unwilling to control these costs, led by Mayor Wayne Brown, the Council is stubbornly opposing government legislation to cap rates.

In essence the problem Aucklanders are facing is simply this: Auckland Council does not have a revenue problem; it has an expenditure problem.

Mike Lee
Auckland councillor for the Waitematā and Gulf Islands ward

Introduction

In 2010, when local councils in Auckland were forced to amalgamate by the Government, the new 'Super City' promised to cut costs and deliver better services.

But the rates bill for an average value residential property has soared by 85 percent since then - more than double inflation (34 percent) and nearly four times the rate of population growth (22 percent).[1] Fifteen years on, polling shows 53 percent of Aucklanders believe the Super City has failed, and only 18 percent feel they have any influence over Council decisions.[2]

In 2025, the typical Auckland household paid around $4,000 in rates. With Mayor Wayne Brown's proposed 7.9 percent increase, the average Auckland residential ratepayer must find another $320 at a time when many are struggling to afford the basics.

The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance acknowledges that rates may need to go up to cover the costs of the City Rail Link. But after 15 years of rate increases well above inflation, it is time for ratepayers to stand up and say enough is enough. Auckland Council must live within its means.

A breakdown of the 7.9 percent

According to council officers, a 1 percent rates increase is equivalent to approximately $30 million. Therefore, the proposed 7.9 percent increase represents around $237 million of additional funds taken from ratepayers.

As a result of public pressure from the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance, the Chair of Auckland Council's Budget and Performance Committee, Councillor Greg Sayers, has published the following breakdown of the 7.9 percent increase:[3]

- 2 percent or ($60 million) to pay for maintaining existing assets and services.
- 1.5 percent or ($45 million) is to pay for maintaining new assets as Auckland grows.
- 4.4 percent or ($132 million) is to pay for CRL operating costs, including interest and depreciation.

These numbers clearly disprove Mayor Wayne Brown's claim that the 7.9 percent is "entirely to run the CRL".[4]

1 See 'Typical Auckland household rates up 85% since Super City merger, investigation finds' in NZ Herald, 25 October 2025. https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/auckland/typical-auckland-household-rates-up-85-since-super-city-merger-investigation-finds/5TCBB-7Z53JEMHK5HME3DPOCO64/ Retrieved 16 February 2026

2 See 'Survey shows half of Aucklanders think supercity has failed' in *The Post*, 7 May 2025, https://www.thepost.co.nz/nz-news/360679460/survey-shows-half-aucklanders-think-supercity-has-failed Retrieved 16 February 2026.

3 See 'Viewpoint - Restraint needed – Local Matters' in Mahurangi Matters, 20 December 2025. https://www.localmatters.co.nz/opinion/viewpoint-restraint-needed/. Retrieved 4 March 2026.

4 See 'Wayne Brown vows stronger council voice, pushes bed levy after election victory' in NZ Herald,14 October 2025. https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/auckland/wayne-brown-vows-stronger-council-voice-pushes-bed-levy-after-election-victory/ZYRQPBT5F5G-GZB43CPWYTKCJDY/. Retrieved 4 March 2026.

Council spending is out of control

Auckland Council claims that year-on-year rates rises above inflation are necessary to pay for core services and infrastructure. However, analysis of council group expenditure over the decade from 2013 to 2023 shows that two-thirds of the growth in operating costs came instead from direct operating expenditure.

Direct operating expenditure excludes depreciation and financing costs associated with infrastructure. Instead, it largely reflects growth in administrative overheads, including salaries and wages. These costs grew by 78 percentetween 2013 and 2023 compared to a cumulative Consumer Price Index. inflation rate of 29 percent.

Auckland Council's 2026 payroll of $1.3 billion, plus the $590 million spent on consultants and contractors, accounts for nearly half of the approximately $4 billion direct operating expenditure. A further $510 million in costs is reported as 'other expenses', which includes items such as catering, entertainment, office supplies, car parking, and management fees.

Where the money is going

The Council's own service and activity profiles show just how large the administrative overheads have become.

Auckland Transport's backroom office functions cost $218.7 million annually, including $88.8 million in employee benefits (including salaries) and nearly $22 million in consultancy and professional services.

Planning and Resource Consents cost $118.6 million, including $78.3 million in employee benefits and $10.9 million in consultancy.

Group Strategy, Transformation and Partnerships costs $110.6 million per year. Technology Services costs $83.7 million. The Council's Property function – which manages internal property strategy, administration and portfolio oversight – costs $70.9 million per year. Governance and Engagement costs another $46.3 million.

These are not roads, water pipes, or public transport services. They are internal administrative and support costs.

Across just eighteen corporate and business support functions, direct expenditure for the current financial year is $868.4 million, an average of $1,423 per household. Even a modest reset of this cost base would comfortably deliver the savings required to reduce the proposed rates increase.
A breakdown of direct expenditure is in Appendix I.

The pathway to 3 percent

Auckland Council must reduce its cost base and bring rates down to the level of inflation. This year Wayne Brown is proposing to increase Council operating expenditure by $319 million on top of the nearly $7 billion the Council spent last year.

That is simply unacceptable when households and businesses are struggling with the rates burden from last year. The solution is simple: reduce Council spending by a modest $150 million (or just 2 percent) and cap the average residential rates increase at 3 percent.

While Auckland Council recently proclaimed $415 million savings during Wayne Brown's first term, there has been no overall reduction in total Council Group expenditure. These savings have just been offset by other spending.

The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance is proposing a net reduction of direct operating expenditure across corporate and business support functions.

These savings were identified by reviewing the operating budgets of each department and see Appendix targeting: [5]

- Consultancy and professional services
- Outsourced works
- Other expenditure on activities
- Non-statutory grants.

The proposals are weighted according to the scale of each portfolio and the degree of discretion within its spending. Care was taken to avoid reductions that could affect infrastructure delivery or frontline services.

While there are many ways the savings could be distributed, this demonstrates that a $150 million reduction is possible without cutting core services.

5 The methodology and calculations behind our savings plan are set out in a model prepared by the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance.

This model compiles departmental expenditure data from Auckland Council's Service and Activity Profiles, before applying risk-weighted assumptions across spending categories such as consultancy and professional services, outsources works, and non-statutory grants.

The model details the risk-scoring, efficiency assumptions, and allocation of savings across departments. A copy is available upon request.

Ratepayers' Alternative Budget

Department / Function	2026 Budget (direct opex)	Proposed Saving	How the Saving Could Be Delivered
AT Business Support	$218.8 million	$30m	Reduce consultancy and professional services; reduce externally supplied goods and services; streamline support functions and management structures; implement process automation to reduce manual administrative activity.
Technology Services	$83.7 million	$15m	Reduce outsourced ICT services; optimise software and service contracts; defer non-essential programme activity; accelerate automation of internal processes.
Property	$70.9 million	$12m	Reduce externally supplied professional services; reduce other expenditure on activities; streamline portfolio management processes; implement digital systems to reduce administrative overhead.
Governance and Engagement	$46.3 million	$6m	Reduce outsourced works and externally supplied services; streamline governance support processes; digitise engagement and reporting workflows.
Group Treasury	$34.5 million	$5m	Reduce reliance on external advisory services; renegotiate outsourced services; streamline financial reporting and compliance processes through automation.
Financial Advisory	$11 million	$2m	Consolidate advisory functions; reduce external professional services; implement digital tools to streamline financial modelling and reporting tasks.
Financial Strategy	$5.7 million	$1m	Reduce externally commissioned advisory services; streamline planning and forecasting processes using digital reporting tools.
Group Strategy, Transformation & Partnerships	$110.6 million	$12m	Reduce discretionary (non-statutory) grants; reduce consultancy; defer non-essential programme activity; streamline programme reporting and coordination.
Policy	$24.5 million	$4m	Reduce externally commissioned research and consultancy; streamline policy programme activity; use digital analytical tools.
Chief Sustainability Office	$6.4 million	$2m	Reduce consultancy and professional services; defer non-statutory initiatives; streamline reporting processes.

Communications & Marketing	$13.4 million	$3m	Reduce agency and consultancy contracts; consolidate campaign activity; utilise digital content tools.
Economic Development Office	$28.8 million	$6m	Reduce consultancy and outsourced works; defer non-essential programme activity; streamline programme management processes.
Legal Services	$20.1 million	$5m	Reduce external legal consultancy; renegotiate panel arrangements; streamline case management processes using digital systems.
Auckland Urban Development Office	$54.2 million	$10m	Reduce consultancy and professional services; defer non-essential programme activity; streamline project and programme support functions.
Planning and Resource Consents	$118.6 million	$8m	Reduce reliance on external consultants; improve digital processing systems; streamline administrative support while maintaining statutory performance standards.
Ngā Mātāre (Māori Outcomes)	$10.6 million	$2m	Reduce discretionary grants and sponsorship; reduce consultancy; streamline programme support and reporting processes.
Data Services	$7.2 million	$1m	Consolidate data platforms; reduce external analytics consultancy; streamline support activity through automation.
TAU Business Support	$4.5 million	$1m	Reduce discretionary operating expenditure; streamline support functions; adopt digital workflows.
Cross-portfolio efficiency target	$228 million	$15m	Apply a 5 percent efficiency requirement across all externally supplied goods and services and other discretionary operating expenditure.
Total Proposed Savings		**$150m**	

For the 2026/27 annual budget, councillors should adopt the following immediate measures to reduce operating expenditure by $150 million and reduce the average residential rates rise to 3 percent

- Direct the Chief Executive to implement organisational changes to reduce personnel costs for all corporate and business support services, in compliance with employment obligations.
- A hiring freeze on vacant non-essential roles and a policy of no workforce growth in the 2027 financial year.
- A significant reduction in consultancy and professional services spending, including a value for money assessment of all contract renewals and new contracts.
- Clear efficiency targets across all corporate and business support services, delivered by contract renegotiation, vendor consolidation, and overhead reduction.

These measures would not involve any cuts to infrastructure or frontline services. Rather, they would be focused on reducing administrative overheads.

Conclusion

Under the Super City structure, rates for the typical Auckland household have increased by 85 percent, while the Council's direct operating expenditure has grown much faster than both inflation and population.

Wayne Brown's proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase is not simply about maintaining infrastructure. It reflects a cost structure that has expanded well beyond what ratepayers are willing to pay for.

The Ratepayers' Alliance has set out a credible pathway to reducing the average residential rates increase to 3 percentin the 2027 financial year. Our plan does not cut infrastructure, does not close facilities, does not reduce frontline services, and does not rely on asset sales.

We are simply asking Auckland Council to do what their ratepayers are already doing and live within its means. The proposed $150 million reduction in spending represents just 2 percent of the Council Group's total operating expenditure.

The savings can be delivered by reducing payroll growth, streamlining management structures, holding external contractors to account, and finally calling time on the revolving door of consultants.

Appendix I: Service & Activity Profiles – How much Auckland Council is wasting

The following information comes from Auckland Council's Service and Activity Profiles (now available online). The document was provided to councillors as part of the annual budget process and was obtained by the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

The profiles contain a high-level breakdown of operating expenditure for individual Council departments and Council-Controlled Organisations. We have selected 18 profiles that reveal how much Auckland Council is spending on activities outside of core services and infrastructure.

The total spend across these functions for the 2025/26 financial year is $868.4 million. We have excluded depreciation and financing costs.

Ngā Mātāre $000
Direct expenditure: 10,643,000
Employee benefits: 3,210,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship: 5,581,000
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 1,529,000
Consultancy and professional services: 422,000

Group Strategy, Transformation & Partnerships
Direct expenditure: 110,644,000
Employee benefits: 8,852,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship: 97,636,000. Note: 72,019,000 of this is non-discretionary
Outsourced works: 382,000
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 10,000
Consultancy and professional services: 4,322,000

Chief Sustainability Office
Direct expenditure: 6,441,000
Employee benefits: 3,989,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship: 62,000
Outsourced works: 17,000
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 79,000
Consultancy and professional services: 2,291,000

Economic Development Office
Direct expenditure: 28,797,000
Employee benefits: 11,838,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship: 1,001,000
Outsourced works: 1,336,000
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 9,954,000
Consultancy and professional services: 4,493,000

Legal services
Direct expenditure: 20,153,000
Employee benefits: 10,257,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship:
Outsourced works:
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 364,000

Consultancy and professional services: 9,655,000

Communications & Marketing
Direct expenditure: 13,607,000
Employee benefits: 10,189,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship:
Outsourced works:
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target):
Consultancy and professional services: 3,419,000

Financial Strategy
Direct expenditure: 5,734,000
Employee benefits: 5,303,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship:
Outsourced works:
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 273,000
Consultancy and professional services: 53,000

Financial Advisory
Direct expenditure: 11,002,000
Employee benefits: 11,050,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship:
Outsourced works:
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 51,000
Consultancy and professional services:

Group Treasury
Direct expenditure: 34,456,000
Employee benefits: 17,934,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship:
Outsourced works: 8,812,000
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 3,999,000
Consultancy and professional services: 3,573,000

Policy
Direct expenditure: 24,491,000
Employee benefits: 18,312,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship: 2,089,000
Outsourced works: 719,000
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 281,000
Consultancy and professional services: 3,075,000

Auckland Urban Development Office
Direct expenditure: 52,442,000
Employee benefits: 11,728,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship: 111,000
Outsourced works: 223,000
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 34,031,000
Consultancy and professional services: 6,234,000

Property
Direct expenditure: 70,890,000
Employee benefits: 14,097,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship:
Outsourced works: 306,000
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 42,575,000
Consultancy and professional services: 3,667,000

Technology Services

Direct expenditure: 83,724,000
Employee benefits: 21,452,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship:
Outsourced works: 5,151,000
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 55,920,000
Consultancy and professional services: 470,000

Data Services
Direct expenditure: 7,173,000
Employee benefits: 6,293,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship:
Outsourced works:
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 878,000
Consultancy and professional services:

AT Business Support
Direct expenditure: 218,746,000
Employee benefits: 88,840,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship:
Outsourced works: 575,000
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 60,443,000
Consultancy and professional services: 21,978,000

TAU Business Support
Direct expenditure: 4,506,000
Employee benefits: 3,123,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship:
Outsourced works:
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 1,383,000
Consultancy and professional services:

Planning and resource consents
Direct expenditure: 118,583,000
Employee benefits: 78,339,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship: 6,551,000
Outsourced works: 23,591,000
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 362,000
Consultancy and professional services: 10,916,000

Governance and Engagement
Direct expenditure: 46,328,000
Employee benefits: 21,737,000
Grants, contributions and sponsorship: 19,000
Outsourced works: 7,209,000
Other expenditure on activities (excl. Savings target): 16,321,000
Consultancy and professional services: 1,342,000

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#3859

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Shared Living Limited

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Support most

Tell us why

Boarding Houses need to be included in the definition of urban residential for rating purposes and treated as a single rating unit for residential rates purposes, unless they contain self-contained units. The current definition of urban residential land includes tenanted residential land, rest homes and geriatric hospitals but excludes hotels, motels, serviced apartments, boarding houses and hostels. This exclusion is not appropriate for boarding houses. Boarding houses house some of the city's most vulnerable tenants, on a long-term permanent basis. They are not analogous to hotels, motels, serviced appointments or short-stay accommodation. Boarding house tenants typically

share facilities such as kitchens, bathrooms and living spaces. As such, a boarding house is functionally a single dwelling and not equivalent to multiple independent flats or commercial accommodation. The current rating approach creates inequitable outcomes. For example, a family home with eight occupants pays a single set of rates, whereas a boarding house with eight tenants sharing the house may be charged multiple times under separately used or inhabited parts (SUIP) rules. This results in a significantly higher rates burden, which is ultimately passed through in higher rent to those least able to afford it. This outcome is inconsistent with the principles of fairness and efficiency underpinning rating policy and results in inequitable treatment of an important form of affordable housing supply. It is requested that Auckland Council clarify that boarding houses, where tenancies are for a minimum of 28 days (or 90 days, consistent with previous policy settings), are to be treated as urban residential for rating purposes and assessed as a single rating unit. For the avoidance of doubt, SUIPs should only be recognised where there are genuinely independent, self-contained units capable of separate occupation. The occupation of individual rooms within a boarding house, where facilities are shared, should not constitute separate SUIPs for rating purposes.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#3913

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Kaipātiki Project

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Support most

Tell us why

We support most of the Annual Plan but ask for a strong emphasis on holistic investment in community-led environmental action as essential infrastructure for Auckland's future. A community-centered approach protects and enhances all the outcomes across interconnected challenges (climate change, biodiversity loss, water quality issues, economic resilience and community wellbeing) that cannot be addressed in isolation. This approach delivers better value for money than short-term siloed investment. Sustainable ecosystems and strong communities underpin healthy economic growth, job creation and climate resilience. We support the overall

direction of investing in resilience, transport, water and local services but want to emphasise the importance of community-led transformation and behaviour change that is required to return the true value of the Council's investment.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

We recongise the need for prudent financial management and the need to fund major infrastructure such as the City Rail Link. We see the efforts made to manage the rate increases inline with planned % increases but recongise that this also puts pressure on financial management and the need for efficiencies and savings.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Kaipātiki

Kaipātiki Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

We appreciate the long term and ongoing support we have received from our local board and the value they see in community organisations, environmental work and the community. We support the intent of fairer funding, but see that cost pressues force trade-offs and risk cuts to programmes that deliver high value and strengthen communities. There is effectively a reduction in local operational funding as the same time as demand is increasing and environmental and community challenges are growing. The risk is not what is in the plan but what might be unintentionally reduced. When budgets tighten, there is risk that community and environmental programmes are seen as flexible. They are not discretionary - they are the core foundation for resilience. Our community take pride in being part of a well-supported, diverse community that values their place and connection. We are a long-standing for purpose community-driven organisation, having operated in Kaipātiki for 28 years - we don't just deliver one-off activities but we enable ongoing restoration and protection, we connect people, inspire and encourage intergenerational learning,

promote and increase native biodiversity, protect streams and waterways, contribute to improved flood resilience. The key risk is around loss of continuity - nature recovery depends on consistent, long-term effort not stop start funding. Our people need this too - our staff, providing local employment for 16 staff and thousands of community who engage and connect with us through volunteering and local action - all grounded in learning, sharing of community skills/knowlege and of course, wellbeing. We do not want to lose our agency - people no longer feel empowered to care for their place. Also, a lot of our work is preventative, which if reduced, could ultimately result in higher costs in the future for flood damage and storm recovery, water treatment, biosecurity and pest control escalation, loss of volunteer labour and reduced local resilience. It could mean a shift from low-cost prevention to high-cost repair.

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

We need to fund the infrastructure of the community sector - support and enable collaboration rather than driving competition. We support the Council's vision and innovation in looking at how to do things differently and supporting community-led transformation. However, that means we need to invest in the capability and stability of the organisations delivering it. A lot of energy goes into chasing short term funding, navigating fragmented contracts and managing uncertainty. This is not efficient and limits impact. We need: longer-term partnerships, investment in community sector infrastructure and support, funding models that enable collaboration.We understand the intention behind moving to single-provider procurement models for efficiency but not at the cost of local connection. We see massive opportunity to work together to understand how best the Council can support large suppliers to partner meaningfully with community organisations - rather than the goal being a single supplier; having a single system that works well for everyone involved.Overall we support the plan and see many real opportunities for balancing efficiencies with value e.g. quality citizen science and community-based monitoring can:- deliver cost effective monitoring and data collection of natural resources, environmental impact, biodiversity etc- utilise local knowledge-build local capability, ownership and resilience- inform where to prioritise investment and resources- Strengthen trust and impact of decision-making and policyWe are a connector between council, ,community, schools iwi and partners - across environmental, social and behavioural outcomes. We strongly support connecting localised efforts to deliver impact at scale - for example, we prioritise collaboration with other community organisations and networks such as Environment Hubs across Auckland and Aotearoa. Local delivery, shared outcomes, collective impact.In summary, we urge the Council to:- Invest in long-term, predictable funding models that support community organisations as partners in delivering outcomes, not just short-term outputs.- Enable collaborative procurement where large suppliers partner with local community organisations to preserve local connection and knowledge, not replace it.- Integrate environmental, social, and economic outcomes in performance measures and reporting so community resilience and ecosystem health are valued alongside infrastructure delivery.Community organisations are not costs — they are multipliers of impact and essential infrastructure for a resilient Auckland.Thank you for the opportunity for our Kaihautū Chief

Executive to speak at the Budget and Performance Committee.Kaipātiki Project is a trusted local and regional community partner, and we welcome any further opportunities to contribute to future planning or respond to queries.We are committed to connecting communities and partnering to deliver resilient environments, thriving communities, and long-term value for Tāmaki Makaurau. Our work is grounded in the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi - supporting meaningful partnership with tangata whenua, protecting te taiao as taonga, and enabling communities to actively participate in solutions.

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

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- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

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	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

It is difficult to rate the areas into order of importance as we see it as all connected and there needed to be a holistic systems approach. We support long-term planning that integrates environmental health, community resilience, and economic prosperity.

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?