

Proposed fortnightly rubbish collection trial

Consultation Document



**Tāmaki Turuki
Altogether Auckland**



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Section 1: Introduction

Auckland Council is seeking feedback on a proposed six-month trial to test moving from weekly to fortnightly kerbside rubbish collections in selected parts of three areas across Tāmaki Makaurau.

If approved, the trial will run from late February 2026 until late August 2026 and will apply to properties that currently receive Auckland Council’s weekly kerbside rubbish service in parts of Te Atatū Peninsula, Panmure / Tāmaki and Clendon Park / Weymouth. The trial is part of our wider work to reduce waste to landfill and support Auckland’s goal of Zero Waste by 2040.

The results of the trial, along with community feedback, will help Auckland Council determine whether fortnightly kerbside rubbish collections could work across Auckland, and whether they should be considered for wider rollout in the future.

We are now inviting ratepayers and residents of the proposed trial areas, and any other interested parties, to have their say on the proposal. We strongly encourage you to read the background information below before answering the consultation questions.

Find out how to have your say in **Section 4** below.

The closing date for submissions is 31 October 2025.

Why we are proposing this trial

Too much waste is going to landfill

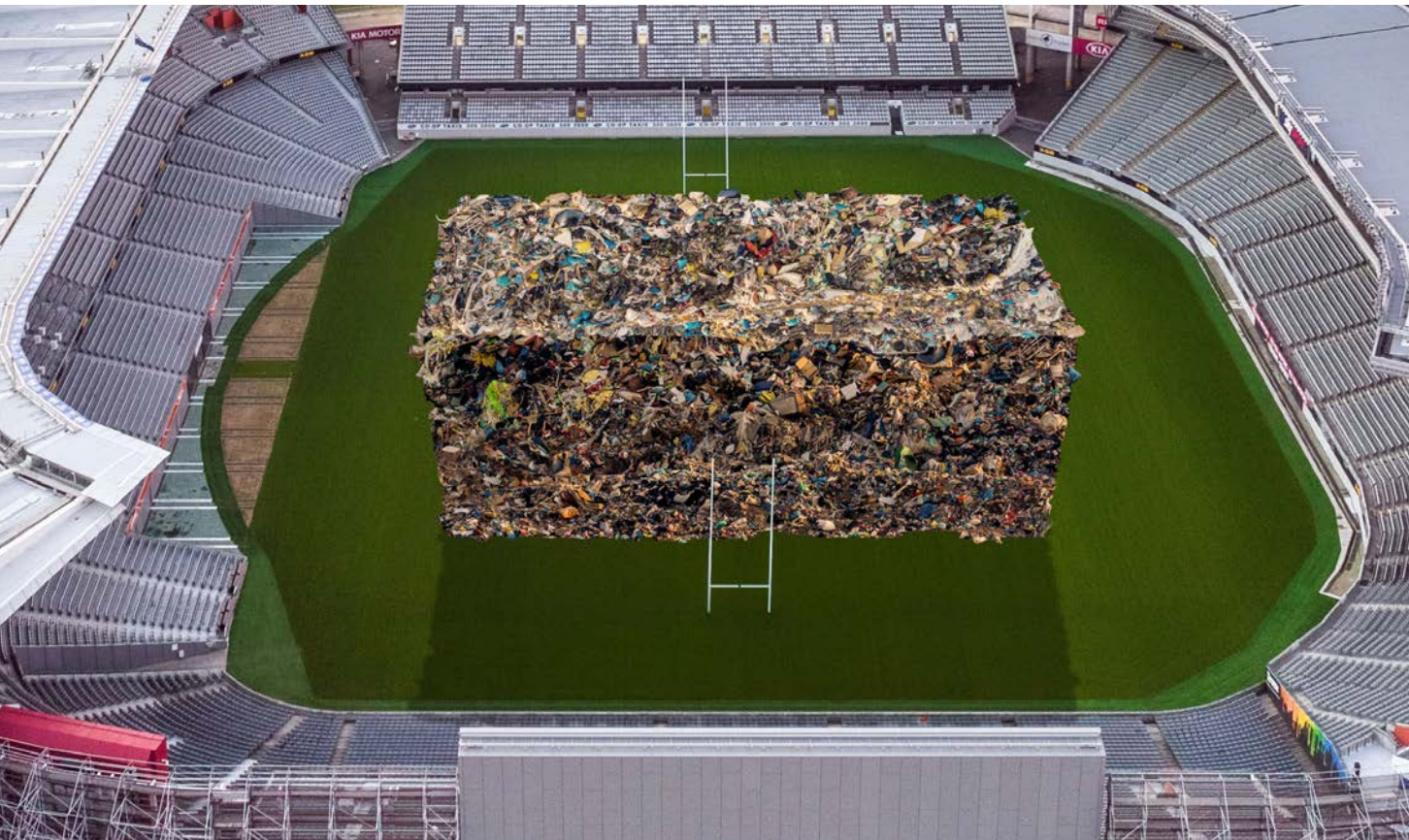
The primary reason we’re proposing this trial is to reduce waste to landfill in Auckland. Every year Auckland sends around 1.5 million tonnes of waste to landfill – enough to fill Eden Park every week. Landfill space is limited, expensive and has broader environmental costs. We have a responsibility to reduce waste to landfill as part of our long-term goal to move closer to Zero Waste by 2040.

Fortnightly collections can reduce waste

Experience from other councils shows that moving to fortnightly rubbish collections, alongside weekly food scraps and fortnightly recycling collections, encourages households to make better use of their bins. This leads to:

- Less rubbish going to landfill
- More valuable materials being recovered for recycling or reuse
- Fewer trucks on the road, which means lower emissions and less congestion

By running a trial, we can see whether these benefits could be achieved in Auckland and identify what support households might need to make the change successfully.



Section 2: Trial details

What the trial would involve

If the trial goes ahead, rubbish will be collected every second week instead of weekly in the trial areas. Recycling collections will continue on the existing fortnightly schedule, and weekly food scraps collection will remain unchanged. In most cases, rubbish and recycling will be collected on alternating weeks, on the same day of the week as the current collections.

Where it would take place

Parts of Te Atatū Peninsula, Panmure / Tāmaki and Clendon Park / Weymouth have been selected for the proposed trial. These areas have been chosen to represent a range of households, demographics and waste service needs, so that we can see how the change works in different situations.

When it would start

If the trial goes ahead, it will begin in late February 2026 and run for six months. After that period, the trial areas will move back to weekly kerbside rubbish collections.

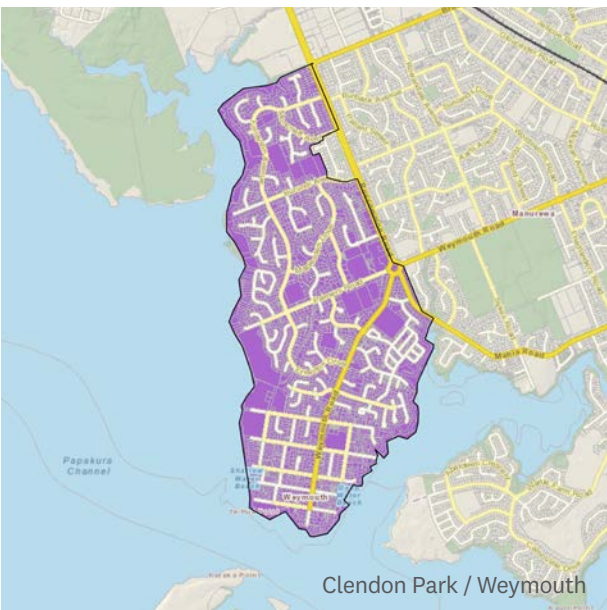
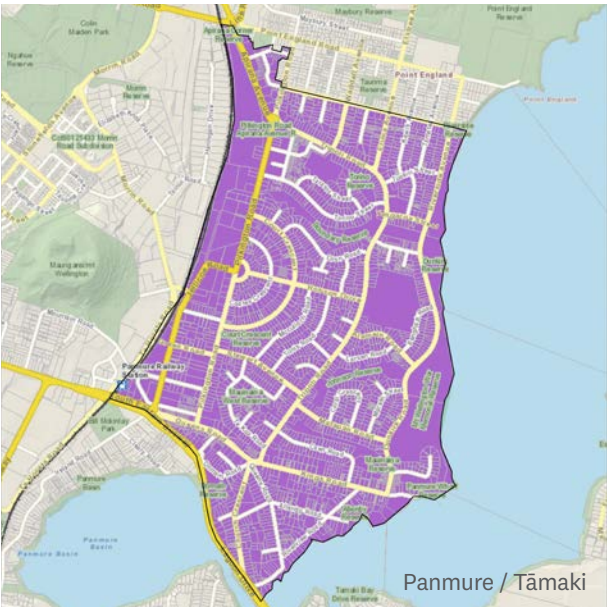
Who it would include

The trial will apply to properties that are:

- Located within the finalised trial area boundaries
- Residential and non-residential (such as businesses) on standard Auckland Council kerbside rubbish collections.

The trial will not apply to properties that are:

- Located outside the finalised trial area boundaries
- Multi-unit developments (such as apartment buildings) on non-standard (communal and/or on-site) rubbish collections
- Properties that only use private rubbish collection services



Support available during the proposed trial

If the trial goes ahead, households will be encouraged to review their rubbish and recycling habits and give it a go with their current bins. Most households are expected to manage with their current bins by separating food scraps and recycling properly, but larger or additional bins will be available at no cost if extra capacity is needed.

Options available throughout the trial:

- Requesting a second food scraps bin
- Swapping to a small, standard or large recycling bin
- Requesting a second recycling bin (up to 480L total capacity)
- Swapping to a small rubbish bin

If the trial goes ahead and more capacity is needed, after two fortnightly rubbish collections (around one month) participants can contact Auckland Council or visit the website to access additional rubbish bin options (at no cost).

Options available after two collections:

- Swapping to a large rubbish bin
- Requesting a second rubbish bin (up to 480L total capacity)

Properties in the proposed trial areas would have a one-off rates remission (reduction) applied to the final rates instalment for the 2026 financial year (due Friday 29 May 2026). The amount of the remission will be based on household rubbish bin size when the trial starts.

The proposed remission amounts are:

80L rubbish bin (small)	\$23.30
120L/140L rubbish bin (standard)	\$28.00
240L rubbish bin (large)	\$46.50

In addition, households in the proposed trial that generate very little waste – and therefore put their small (80L) rubbish bin out no more than monthly throughout the trial – will also be eligible for a financial incentive, recognising their efforts for reducing waste.



Gathering insights through the trial

Fortnightly kerbside rubbish collections work well in many other councils in New Zealand and internationally, but Auckland has its own unique challenges – from the scale of our city to the diversity of our housing, communities and climate.

The trial will allow us to:

- Test how the change works for different household types, sizes and demographics
- Understand the barriers Aucklanders may face in adapting to a potential change
- Trial support options for households that may find the change challenging
- Gather reliable, local insights and data before the public is consulted on a potential region-wide change.

If the trial proceeds, we’ll gather data by monitoring how full bins are on collection day, the use of the three bins (rubbish, recycling and food scraps), and any inappropriate rubbish disposal. We’ll also get feedback from the trial participants via surveys during the trial.

This approach ensures that any future decisions are informed by real-world experience and community feedback.



Section 3: Benefits and community considerations

Reducing waste, protecting our environment

When households use all three bins correctly we expect most households will be able to manage fortnightly rubbish collections. Separating rubbish, recycling and food scraps ensures that materials that can be recycled or reprocessed are kept out of landfill, reducing methane emissions and conserving resources.

Food scraps collected by Auckland Council are processed into clean energy and liquid fertiliser, which helps grow more food and reduces the need for synthetic fertilisers. Recycling keeps paper, plastic, glass, and metal in circulation, reducing the need for new raw materials and cutting emissions from manufacturing.

Cost and efficiency savings

Fewer rubbish collections mean fewer truck trips, which reduces fuel use, emissions, and road wear. Over time, a permanent change to fortnightly rubbish collections could lower service delivery costs.

Cleaner streets and neighbourhoods

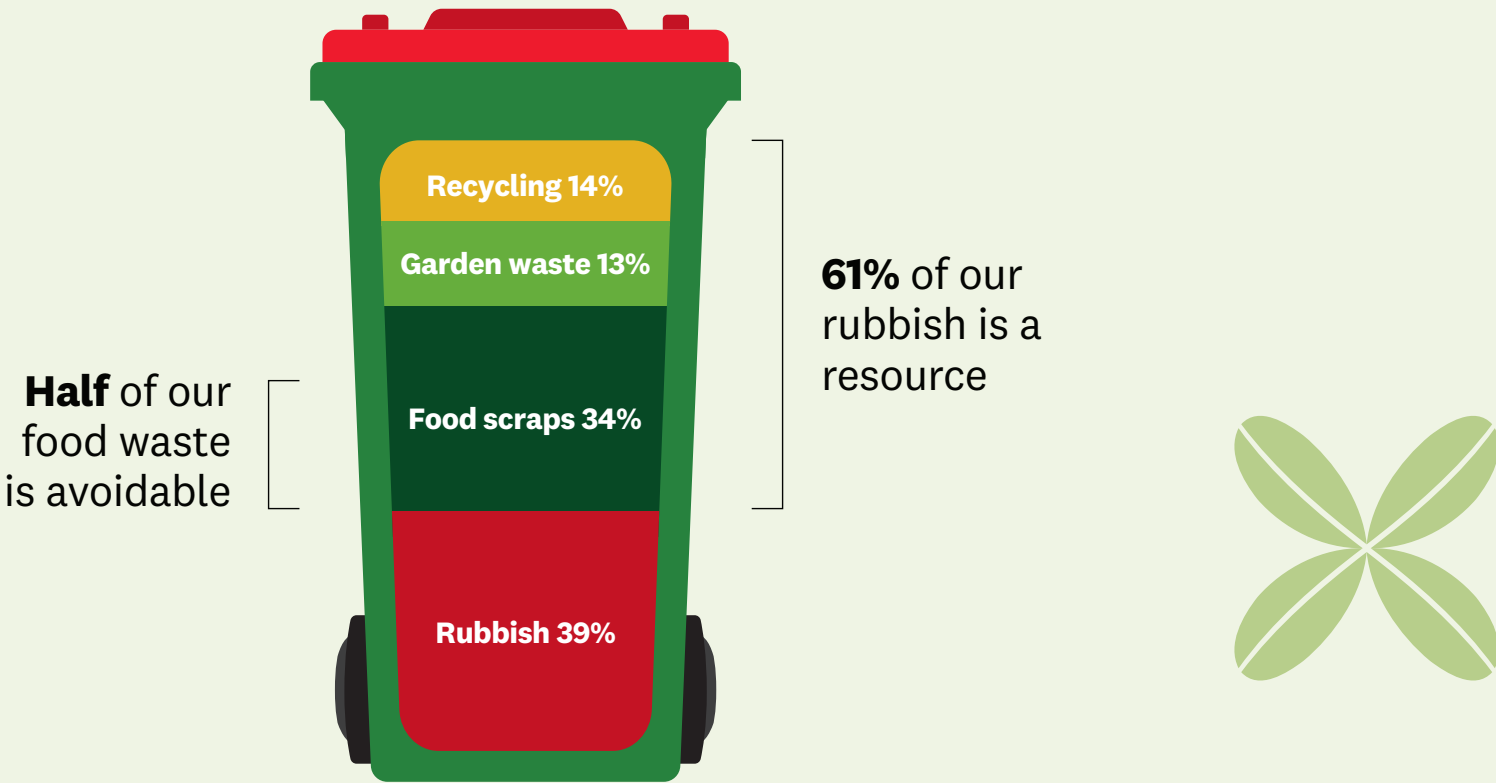
With rubbish and recycling collected on alternating weeks, there will be fewer bins on the kerb at any one time, helping improve the look and feel of neighbourhoods and reducing footpath clutter.

Addressing community concerns

Experiences from Aotearoa and overseas show no obvious link in illegal dumping or littering and moving to less frequent rubbish collections. Auckland Council will monitor the trial closely and respond to any illegal dumping under existing processes.

One common concern with less frequent rubbish collections is the potential for unpleasant odours. When food scraps are separated into the weekly collection, odours are significantly reduced because most of the material that causes smells is removed from the rubbish bin.

During the trial, we will provide households with practical tips to help manage any remaining smells – for example, wrapping nappies, sprinkling baking soda in the bin, and keeping bins in a shaded area – and share advice on regular cleaning and bin care, so households can keep rubbish odour to a minimum.



Section 4: How to have your say

Consultation on the proposed trial will run from 13 – 31 October 2025.

You can give feedback by:

- Completing the online feedback form at **akhaveyoursay.nz/collectiontrial**
- Attending an in-person drop-in session (details available online)
- Completing a feedback form at your local library, service centre or local board office
- Scanning and emailing your completed form to: **collectiontrial@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz**
- Posting your completed feedback form to:
Proposed Fortnightly Rubbish Collection Trial
Freepost Number 190198
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Consultation materials will be available in multiple languages, including English, te reo Māori, Samoan, Tongan, Korean, Hindi and Chinese, as well as in EasyRead format and a New Zealand Sign Language video.

What happens next?

Once consultation closes, all feedback will be analysed and presented to elected members in December 2025 to help them decide whether to proceed with the trial. If the trial goes ahead:

- It will run from late February to August 2026
- Findings will be used to determine whether fortnightly rubbish collections should be considered for a region-wide rollout.

Any decision to introduce fortnightly kerbside rubbish collections across Auckland would be consulted on as part of the 2027 Long-term Plan. No region-wide change would happen before 2028.

Section 5: Link to support and advice

You can find more information, including support and advice at **akhaveyoursay.nz/collectiontrial**

