Howick Local Board Plan 2026 Summary of Feedback

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Summary of feedback on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

Purpose

This report summarises feedback received during the public consultation in June/July to inform the development of the Howick Local Board Plan. This summary aims to capture themes rather than detail every point of feedback received.

Executive Summary

Local board plans are strategic three-year plans developed in consultation with the community. They set out the direction for the local area reflecting community aspirations and priorities, and guide:

- decisions on local activities, projects, and facilities
- local board input into the council's regional strategies and plans, including the Auckland Plan
- how local boards will work with other agencies, including community groups, central government agencies and council-controlled organisations that play key roles in the area
- funding and investment decisions.

Local board plans focus on the key areas local boards are responsible for and include objectives and some of the key initiatives that will be carried out to achieve them.

673 pieces of feedback were received on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026, with 644 from individuals and 29 from organisations including iwi and marae groups.

Table 1. Number of submissions received from each of the submission channels.

Channel	Total submissions	Percentage of submissions
Online	281	42%
Hard copy	45	7%
Email	12	2%
Event and Buzzly feedback	335	50%
Total	**673**	**100%**

Engagement Approach

The draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 was shaped by early engagement carried out from November 2025 to April 2026, including conversations held during the Annual Plan 2026/2027 consultation. This helped identify local priorities before the formal draft was prepared.

Between 23 June and 23 July 2026, the local board consulted on the draft plan to hear the community's thoughts. Feedback was received through:

- Have Your Say events
- community and partnership events
- written submissions including online and hard copy forms

- emails
- digital tools, including the Your Stories contribution tool
- a Buzzly campaign for rangatahi (youth).

Support was provided to submitters including:

- Translated draft-plan summaries and feedback forms in Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Korean and Hindi
- Information, feedback forms and supported participation through local libraries and community locations
- Online information and feedback options on the AK Have Your Say project page.

This report summarises the key activities that took place and the feedback that was heard during both the early engagement and the consultation period.

Māori engagement

Mana whenua

A coordinated regional approach enabled mana whenua to engage across the local boards within their rohe rather than receiving separate invitations from every board. Mana whenua was invited to regional online hui and offered a tailored iwi feedback form.

Mana whenua received the draft plan in June 2026 and were invited to provide written feedback across multiple local board areas. One response relevant to Howick was received:

- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki — tailored mana whenua feedback form.

Marae and mātāwaka

A regional partnership was formed with Te Kotahi-ā-Tāmaki (marae collective) for the purposes of engaging with marae across Tāmaki Makaurau, supported by online hui to engage with mātāwaka and marae during the early engagement and consultation periods.

Stakeholder and community engagement

Table 1: Summary of early engagement activities

Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Early engagement, November 2025 to March 2026	Funfest VIP Day, Funfest Summer event, Residents, community networks, libraries, schools, youth, sport, arts, heritage, disability, business, environment and wellbeing sectors	Participation recorded across several activities; no single reconciled total
Annual Plan consultation, 27 February to 27 March 2026	Auckland British and European Classic Car show, Community Safety Day in Ormiston, and supported library drop-ins	Reported separately from draft-plan consultation
Highland Park Library Have Your Say	Library-based feedback forms and priority boards	79 contributions

Botany Library Have Your Say	Library-based feedback forms and priority boards	88 contributions
Flat Bush Library Have Your Say	Place-based engagement focused on the fast-growing Flat Bush community	44 contributions
Pakuranga Library Have Your Say	Library-based feedback forms and priority boards	36 contributions
Pakuranga College Youth Voice	Supported youth session	13 contributions
Buzzly youth challenge	Young people were asked about the biggest priority for the next three years	73 responses
Mana whenua feedback	Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki tailored submission	1 response

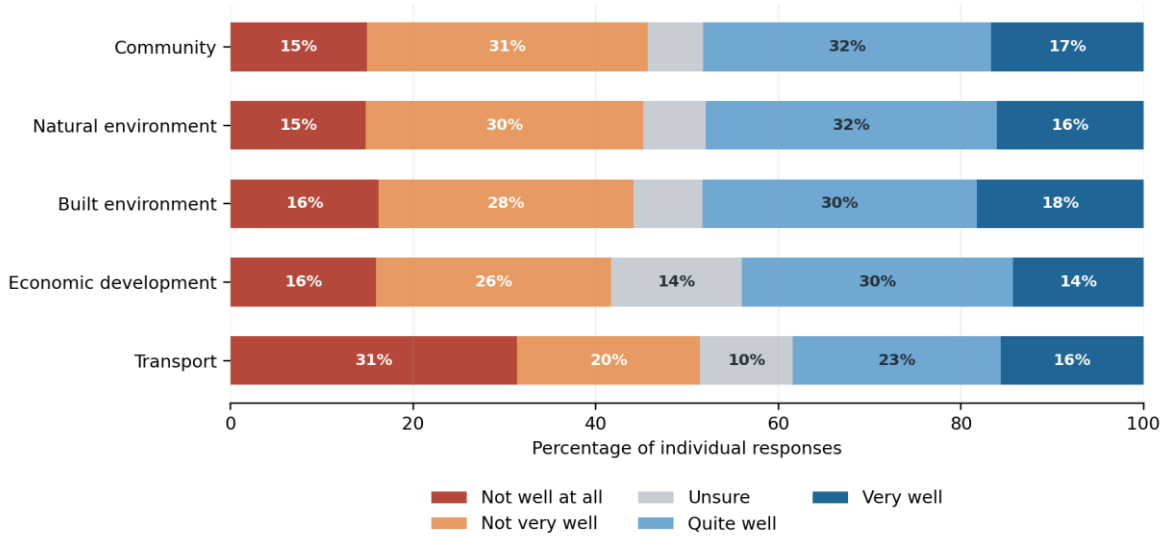
Table 2: Summary of consultation activities during the consultation period

Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Highland Park Library Have Your Say	Place-based library engagement using feedback forms and sticky-dot boards.	79 contributions
Botany Library Have Your Say	Place-based library engagement using feedback forms and sticky-dot boards.	88 contributions
Flat Bush Library Have Your Say	Place-based engagement focused on the fast-growing Flat Bush community.	44 contributions
Pakuranga Library Have Your Say	Place-based library engagement using feedback forms and sticky-dot boards.	36 contributions
Pakuranga College Youth Voice	Supported youth session with demographic information and sticky-dot feedback.	13 participants / contributions
Howick Youth Council		
Marae and mātāwaka regional hui on Friday 03 July 2026	Local Board project team, Local Board engagement advisors and members of Te Kotahi-ā-Tāmaki (marae collective)	Marae and mātāwaka representatives including: • Te Mahurehure marae (Albert-Eden) • Whaataapaka marae (Franklin) • Mataatua marae (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu) • Te Awamaarahi marae (Port Waikato, closest to Franklin) • And individuals.
Mana whenua engagement	Regional invitation and tailored iwi feedback form for mana whenua with rohe interests across multiple local boards.	1 response: Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki
Buzzly youth challenge	Online youth challenge asking what the biggest local priority should be for young people over the next three years.	73 responses
Diverse Communities advisory-panel conversation	Discussion with Ethnic, Pacific and Rainbow Advisory Panel members on belonging, safety, representation, youth, accessibility and participation.	Regional discussion; no separate Howick submission count

Generic submissions to all boards

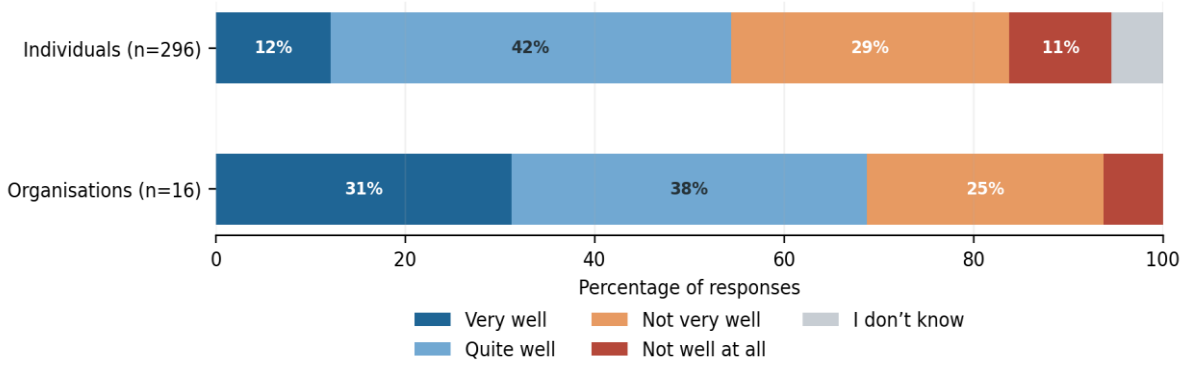
The consultation asked seven questions. The graphs below show the result for each question. Percentages are rounded, so totals may differ slightly from 100 per cent. Questions 3 to 5 allowed more than one selection, so the percentages for those graphs do not total 100 per cent.

Question 1: How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?



Transport received the most negative ratings: 51 per cent rated it not very well or not well at all, compared with 38 per cent positive. Positive ratings were highest for built environment at 48 per cent, followed by community and natural environment at 48 per cent each after rounding.

Question 2: Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?

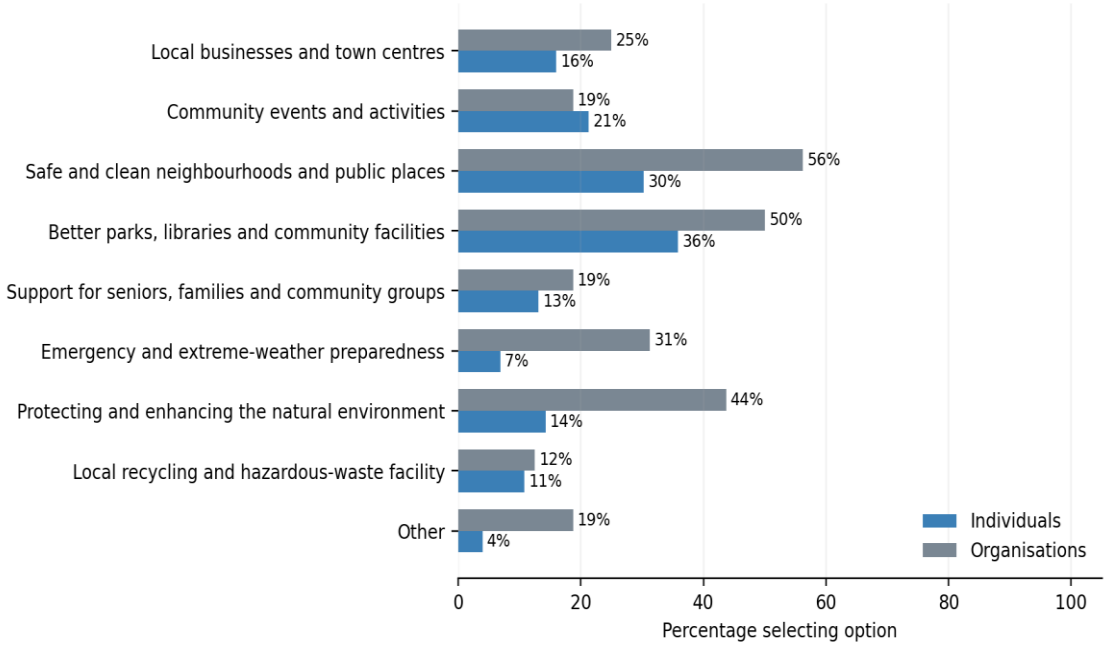


Among individuals, 54 per cent rated the plan very well or quite well, 40 per cent rated it not very well or not well at all, and 5 per cent did not know. Eleven of 16 organisations, or 69 per cent, rated it positively.

Question 3: Community Priorities

We want to help local communities stay connected, supported and resilient. While some issues are led by central government or other agencies, the local board can make a difference through local services, facilities, advocacy and community partnerships.

What should we focus on most over the next three years?

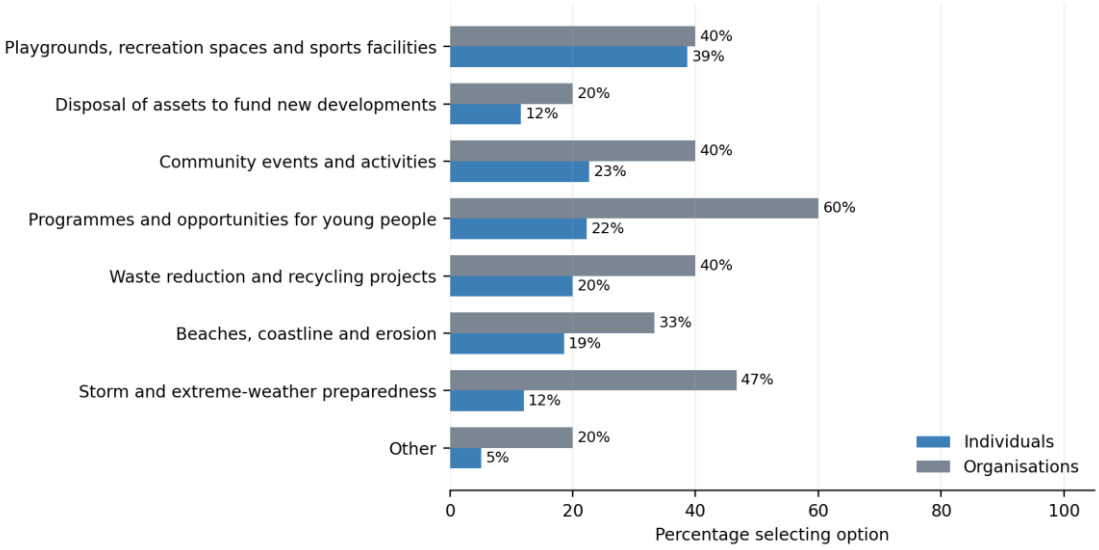


Individuals most often selected better parks, libraries and community facilities (36 per cent), safe and clean neighbourhoods and public places (30 per cent), and community events and activities (21 per cent). Organisations most often selected safe and clean places (56 per cent) and better facilities (50 per cent).

Question 4: Funding priorities

Funding may be limited in the future, which means we may need to focus on fewer projects and activities. We want to understand what matters most to our community.

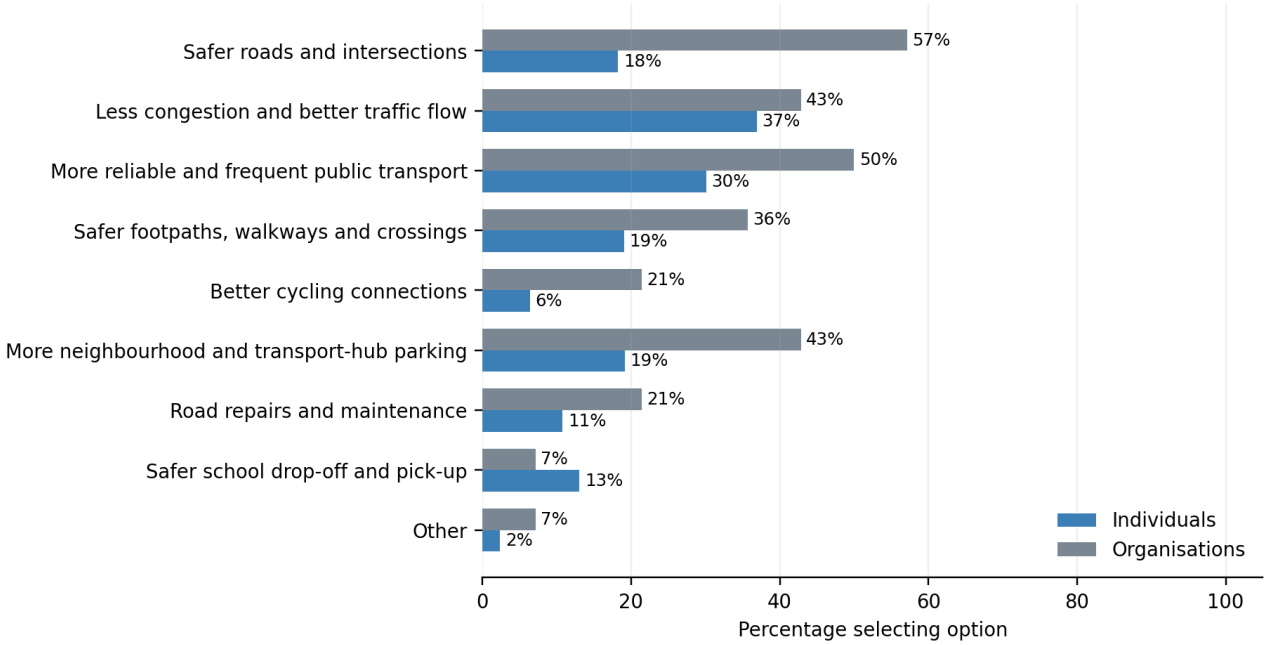
Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment?



Question 5: Transport priorities

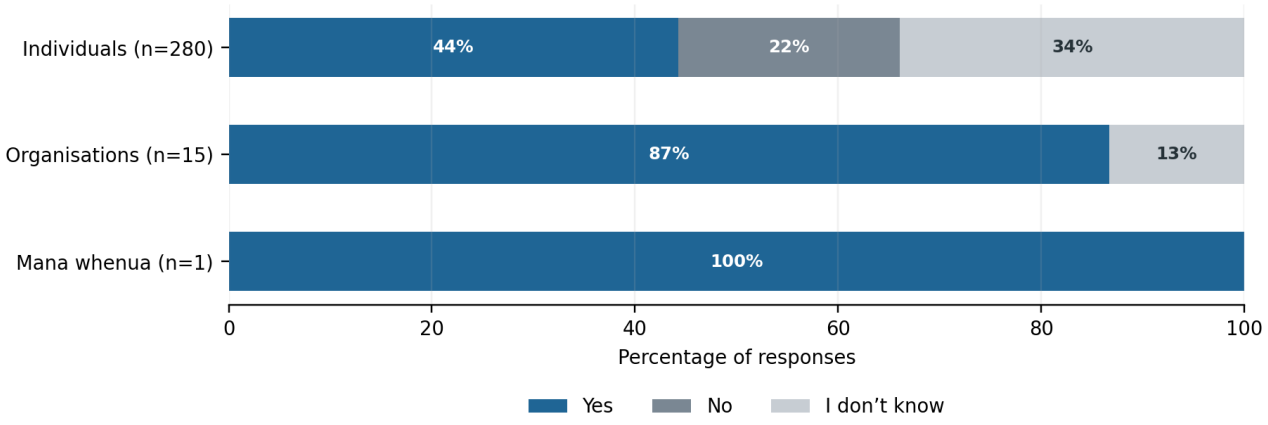
Earlier community engagement and recent Annual Plan feedback showed us transport remains a key issue for many people across Howick Local Board. Feedback highlighted the community wants safer roads, less congestion, better public transport, and easier ways to walk and cycle.

Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for?



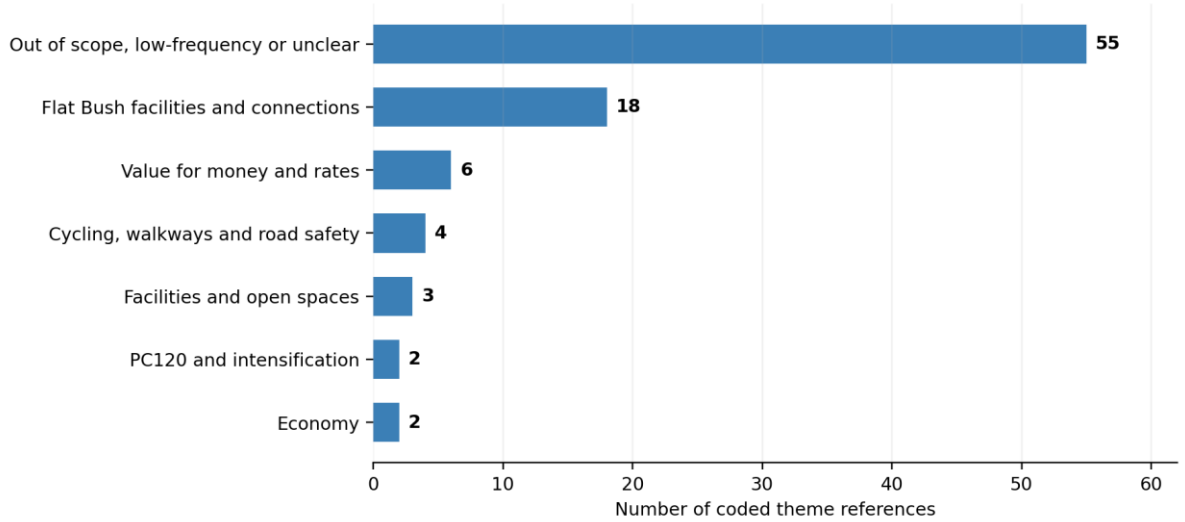
Individuals most often selected less congestion and better traffic flow (37 per cent) and more reliable and frequent public transport (30 per cent). Organisations placed the greatest emphasis on safer roads and intersections (57 per cent) and public transport (50 per cent).

Question 6: Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?



Other matters raised	Q6 responses	% of	What respondents were telling us

Question 7: Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?



The final question was open text. Among the coded themes, 18 comments referred to Flat Bush facilities and connections. Other recurring topics included value for money and rates, cycling and walkways, road safety, facilities and open spaces, intensification and the economy. Many comments were coded as out of scope, low-frequency or unclear.

Summary of feedback

General feedback on the draft Howick Local Board Plan

Community

Our community is strong, resilient and connected. Our neighbourhoods are places where people can live, work, play, explore and feel proud.

Objectives

- Strong, resilient and connected neighbourhoods where people can live, work, play and feel they belong.
- Safe, accessible and inclusive facilities, parks, activities and services for people of all ages and abilities.

Advocacy priorities

- Implementation of strategies in the Highbrook-to-Whitford Shoreline Adaptation Plan to ensure council assets are resilient, fit-for-purpose and can be adapted for future coastal hazard risk.
- Continued advocacy for funding to support the Shore Adaptation plans for our area which could include replacing sand that has been taken away in trucks or shifting sand back to where it is needed to reduce erosion of soil and protect council assets.

- Building a recycling/recovery centre and hazardous waste disposal facility in the local board area is essential to meeting community needs and protecting the environment. These facilities will make it easier for residents to dispose of waste responsibly, reduce illegal dumping, and ensure hazardous materials are managed safely. Investing in local infrastructure strengthens sustainability, improves public health outcomes, and supports a cleaner, more resilient community.
- Re-introduction of the Tidy Kiwi Campaign or Keep Auckland Beautiful Campaign as a high-impact, low-cost way to improve local environmental outcomes, community pride, and public space quality.
- Early local board involvement in the planning and design of Auckland-wide blue-green flood resilience projects, including sharing local knowledge of flood-prone areas, identifying community needs, and working collaboratively with council and mana whenua to help shape project options before decisions are finalised.
- Advocate for an effective and responsive water pollution reporting system, including a dedicated hotline, to ensure pollution events are reported easily and investigated in a timely manner.
- Advocate for better protection of urban trees by improving how they are assessed in planning and development decisions.

Qualitative feedback

367 individual selections for better parks, libraries and community facilities; 310 for safe and clean places; 218 for community events and activities; and 134 for support for seniors, families and community groups.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Community feedback focused on better parks, libraries and community facilities; safe and clean public places; events and activities; youth opportunities; and support for seniors, families and community groups.
- Submitters asked for permanent facilities in Flat Bush and Ormiston, inclusive and affordable spaces, stronger community safety, support for sport and the arts, and sustained support for organisations that connect diverse communities.
- Te Tuhi and Howick Historical Village highlight the role of cultural and heritage organisations in community connection

Natural Environment

The draft plan aims to protect and restore native flora, fauna, waterways and coastal environments, strengthen climate resilience and support mana whenua and communities as kaitiaki.

Objectives

- Improve waterway and coastal health, including the Tāmaki Estuary, and restore local ecosystems.
- Build climate resilience through more trees, pest control, waste reduction, sustainable choices and making space for water.

Advocacy priorities

- Seek coordinated action on stormwater, flooding, erosion and environmental pressures associated with growth and intensification.
- Strengthen enforcement and services addressing illegal dumping and rubbish entering waterways.

Qualitative feedback

Relevant selections included 146 for protecting and enhancing the natural environment, 111 for a local recycling and hazardous-waste facility, 183 for waste-reduction and recycling projects, and 110 for emergency and extreme-weather preparedness in the funding question.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Feedback highlighted illegal dumping, rubbish and stormwater entering waterways, protection of the Tāmaki Estuary and local coastal areas, more trees, pest control, flooding and the need to retain green space as housing intensifies.
- Respondents also supported practical waste-reduction and recycling initiatives and asked for stronger monitoring, enforcement and reporting.

Built Environment

The draft plan seeks active town centres and community spaces that are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable, with public places that build belonging and pride.

Objectives

- Maintain and improve parks, playgrounds, libraries, community facilities, paths, public spaces and town centres.
- Plan facilities and infrastructure for population growth, with accessibility for disabled people, children and older residents.

Advocacy priorities

- Advocate for stronger alignment between land-use intensification, infrastructure upgrade, and transport investment timing.
- Stormwater and wastewater upgrades to improve infrastructure that is able to cope with growth.
- Schools and relevant infrastructure that meets the growing needs of our community.
- Sufficient funding for local boards to maintain and build the assets and services our community needs.

Qualitative feedback

Question 3 recorded 367 selections for better parks, libraries and community facilities. Question 4 recorded 354 selections for maintaining playgrounds, recreation spaces and sports facilities.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- The strongest community-priority result was better parks, libraries and community facilities. Feedback repeatedly asked for permanent library, aquatic, leisure and indoor recreation facilities in Flat Bush and Ormiston;
- more neighbourhood parks and playgrounds; accessible and fenced play spaces; toilets and shade; better maintenance; and infrastructure that keeps pace with intensification.

Economic Development

The draft plan seeks a strong local economy supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts, local employment opportunities and visitor activity.

Objectives

- Support thriving town centres, local businesses, employment pathways and a resilient local economy.
- Strengthen links between young people, training, volunteering, employers, tourism, arts, heritage and local enterprise.

Advocacy priorities

- Advocate to strengthen partnerships and enable clearer pathways from education to employment through work experience, volunteering, vocational training, and exposure to local career opportunities.
- Additional resourcing to support more effective delivery of local economic development outcomes in the Howick Local Board area.

Qualitative feedback

Question 3 recorded 164 selections for supporting local businesses and town centres. Youth and organisational feedback also identified work experience, training and career pathways as priorities.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Feedback called for youth employment,
- training and career pathways,
- support for local businesses,
- revitalisation of Pakuranga Plaza,
- continued development of Ormiston Town Centre and visitor opportunities linked to heritage and culture.
- Submitters also emphasised resilience and value for money, with support designed to help organisations and businesses become sustainable.

Transport

The draft plan seeks a safe, reliable and accessible transport network that supports walking, cycling, public transport and driving and connects people with schools, facilities, hubs and services.

Priorities

- Our neighbourhoods are safe and people feel confident travelling around and through the local board area.
- Active transport networks are safe, connected and support everyday travel.
- Road safety and transport infrastructure support the safe movement of people and goods.

- Support a climate-ready, low-emission transport system that reduces congestion and provides real travel choices.
- Safe, reliable and timely public transport supports access to services, facilities and community life.
- Active transport infrastructure connects schools, key community facilities and transport hubs.
- Support clear communication and coordination of major infrastructure projects that benefit the community.
- Improve transport connectivity by making public transport more reliable, convenient and accessible, and providing more travel choices.
- Support transport projects that improve connectivity and enable the safe, efficient movement of people and goods, including parking solutions.

Qualitative feedback

Question 5 recorded 356 selections for congestion and traffic flow, 290 for public transport, 185 for parking, 184 for footpaths and crossings, and 176 for safer roads and intersections.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- The main priorities were less congestion, more reliable public transport, parking, safer footpaths and crossings, and safer roads and intersections.
- Comments identified missing footpaths and unsafe school routes in Flat Bush, congestion and parking pressure, the Murphy's Road and Redoubt Road intersection, connections to the Eastern Busway and transport hubs, lighting and shelters, and incomplete walking and cycling links including around Cascades Road and Golflands.

Other questions asked

The consultation also asked whether anything important was missing from the draft plan.

Qualitative feedback

Of 280 individuals who answered, 44% said something important was missing, 22% said no and 34% were unsure. Thirteen of 15 organisations said something was missing.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Mana whenua: stronger partnership wording, consistent kupu Māori and naming, clarification for Te Naupata/Musick Point, and regular opportunities for kōrero.
- Stakeholders and community: clearer commitments for Flat Bush facilities; youth development and employment; community safety; accessibility; transport and cycling; green space; climate resilience; and the effects of intensification on infrastructure and neighbourhood character.

Feedback on considerations within the draft Howick Local Board Plan

Māori Outcomes

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

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

The draft plan proposed the following objectives and priorities that specifically support Māori outcomes in our area:

- **Community**
  - Support Māori identity, belonging, participation, wellbeing and opportunities for whānau and rangatahi.
  - Strengthen enduring relationships and meaningful opportunities for mana whenua input.
- **Natural environment**
  - Recognise mana whenua as kaitiaki and work together to restore waterways, biodiversity and significant places.
  - Use appropriate Māori naming and mātauranga Māori in place-based environmental work.
- **Built environment**
  - Reflect Māori identity, history and narratives in local places and facilities.
  - Engage mana whenua early where projects affect places or interests of significance.
- **Economic development**
  - Support Māori-led opportunities, rangatahi pathways and local enterprise where these align with board roles.
  - Maintain relationships that help identify shared economic, cultural and visitor opportunities.
- **Transport**
  - Seek safe and equitable access to schools, facilities, town centres and transport hubs.
  - Engage mana whenua on relevant transport projects and place-based impacts.

Qualitative feedback

One tailored mana whenua response was received from Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki. Twenty individual ethnicity selections identified as Māori across written, Buzzly and event demographic responses.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki considered that earlier engagement was visible in the draft. Requested improvements included stronger partnership wording, consistent use of kupu Māori and place names, clarification of wording relating to Te Naupata / Musick Point, and regular relationship-based kōrero.
- Across the plan, Māori outcomes are reflected through enduring relationships, mana whenua participation, Māori identity and storytelling in places, kaitiakitanga, rangatahi pathways and Māori economic opportunities.

Climate outcomes

Local Boards also have an important role to play in leading and supporting Auckland's response to the climate emergency, including supporting regional climate plan initiatives, integrating climate awareness into all decisions, including community investment.

The draft plan proposed the following specific objectives and priorities that specifically support climate outcomes in our area:

- **Community**
  - Support community preparedness for emergencies and extreme weather.
  - Enable local action that reduces waste and supports low-emission, resilient communities.
- **Natural environment**
  - Restore waterways, coastal areas, habitats and tree cover, and make space for water.
  - Respond to flooding, erosion, changing rainfall, heat and biodiversity loss.
- **Built environment**
  - Plan parks, facilities and public spaces to remain resilient, shaded, accessible and fit for growth.
  - Integrate stormwater, green space and climate resilience with intensification and renewal.
- **Economic development**
  - Support resilient town centres and businesses as climate risks and costs change.
  - Encourage local activity and sustainable choices that benefit communities and the economy.
- **Transport**
  - Advocate for reliable public transport and safe walking and cycling connections.
  - Reduce dependence on private vehicles by improving practical and safe travel choices.

Qualitative feedback

Relevant selections included environmental protection (146), emergency and extreme-weather preparedness (71), local recycling and hazardous-waste advocacy (111), and waste and recycling investment (183).

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Mana whenua: recognise kaitiakitanga and partnership in environmental and place-based decisions.
- Climate-related feedback centred on flooding, erosion, waterway pollution, tree cover, pest control, green space, waste reduction and safer low-emission travel choices.
- illegal dumping
- The draft plan responds through emergency preparedness, restoration of waterways and coastlines, nature-based flood management, resilient facilities and public spaces, and better walking, cycling and public transport connections.

Equitable outcomes

Local Boards also have an important role to play in supporting and ensuring that Auckland's diverse communities and ensuring that local communities have what they need to thrive, where whānau have a good life, and where all Aucklanders can participate and belong.

The draft plan proposed the following objectives and priorities that specifically support equitable outcomes in our area:

- **Community**
  - Provide safe, welcoming, affordable and accessible spaces, services and activities for all ages, cultures and abilities.

    - Build belonging through community events, representation, participation and support for groups serving diverse communities.
- **Natural environment**
    - Ensure all neighbourhoods can enjoy healthy parks, waterways, shade, trees and resilient public spaces.
    - Support community-led environmental action and accessible opportunities to participate.
- **Built environment**
    - Prioritise accessible facilities and public spaces, including fenced playgrounds and amenities for disabled and neurodivergent children.
    - Address gaps in fast-growing Flat Bush and Ormiston so infrastructure and facilities keep pace with population needs.

- **Economic development**
    - Improve access to employment, training, volunteering and career pathways, especially for young people.
    - Support local businesses and community organisations to become resilient and sustainable.
- **Transport**
    - Improve safe and reliable access for people who rely on public transport, walking, cycling or mobility aids.
    - Address missing footpaths, unsafe crossings, parking pressure and poor connections in growth areas.

Qualitative feedback

High-priority selections included facilities (367), safe and clean places (310), youth programmes (204), public transport (290), footpaths and crossings (184), and roads and intersections (176).

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Mana whenua: sustained relationship-based engagement and stronger recognition of Māori identity, language and partnership.
- Equity feedback emphasised accessible and affordable facilities, safe public places, disability and neurodiversity inclusion, youth voice and opportunity,
- support for older people and families,
- cultural belonging, and fairer investment in high-growth communities.
- Flat Bush and Ormiston were repeatedly identified as areas where facilities and infrastructure need to catch up with population growth.

Other feedback received

Other feedback included concern about rates and affordability, the timing and feasibility of delivery, council maintenance and enforcement, paid parking in Howick Village, housing intensification, local gym fees and facilities, ferry frequency, and requests for specific sports and recreation facilities. Some matters fall outside local board decision-making and may inform advocacy or referral to the relevant agency.

Who we heard from

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

A total of 669 contributions were recorded: 644 from individuals, 24 from organisations and one from a mana whenua entity. Channel totals were 281 online submissions, 45 hard-copy forms, eight emails, 260 event contributions, 73 Buzzly responses, one Your Stories contribution and one mana whenua response. Twenty-five submissions supported by two community partners are included in the written-submission total and are not counted again.

Of those providing demographic information, 379 provided gender information: 212 female (56%), 163 male (43%) and four another gender (1%). Age information was available for 377 people: 5% were under 15, 24% were 15–24, 11% were 25–34, 20% were 35–44, 13% were 45–54, 10% were 55–64 and 18% were 65 or older.

Ethnicity information was provided by 315 people and multiple selections were possible. Asian ethnicities were selected by 154 people (49%), European by 136 (43%), Pasifika by 39 (12%), Māori by 20 (6%), Middle

Eastern/Latin American/African by nine (3%), and another ethnicity by three (1%). Chinese represented 23% and Indian 16% of ethnicity responses.

Demographic measure	Number	Share / note
Total feedback	669	644 individuals; 24 organisations/entities
Mana whenua entity	1	
Age provided	377	Largest group 15–24: (24%)
Gender provided	379	Female 212 (56%); Male 163 (43%); Another gender 4 (1%)
Asian ethnicity	154	49% of 315 ethnicity respondents (Chinese 23% and Indian 16%)
European ethnicity	136	43%
Pasifika ethnicity	39	12%
Māori ethnicity	20	6%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	9	3%