Annual Plan 2026/2027

Written Feedback

Upper Harbour Local Board

Volume 4

April 2026

Sub #	Organisation Name	Page Number
	No organisation feedback in this volume	

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#7864

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current rate burden on households has already risen substantially since 2022 with real increases far outpacing in{address redacted}ion.Key points:1) Oppose the 7.9% increase. The proposed rise translates to about $320 more for the average household on top of a current average bill of around $4069. This is inconsistent with a Council that should prioritise essential services and affordability for residents.2) Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs. The current spend on consultants and related backroom costs is excessive with $126 million per year across the Council group and high average consultant fees. A substantial

reduction of these costs must occur.3) Curb consultancy and professional services. Freeze or cap external professional services to ensure dollars are directed to core services and statutory obligations rather than discretionary consultancy.4) Freeze staffing and cut payroll costs where possible. Not hiring for vacant non-essential roles and a broader payroll restraint would yield meaningful savings; the Alliance indicates this could save at least $17 million immediately.5) Cut Māori-specific spending. The proposal includes about $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) programme. As this is not a direct responsibility of local government I urge reallocation away from such programmes toward essential services.Alternative Budget approach:- Implement a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (2%) targeting personnel costs consultants contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.In summary I urge Auckland Council to align the rate path with in{address redacted}ion and household affordability by controlling wasteful spending and rebalancing resources toward core statutory services. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.
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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?

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

#7898

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key positions:- Oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% (approximately $320 for the average household) and urge alignment with inflation and prudent value-for-money governance.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these items.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential rolesthis could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-

specific spending including the approximately $10 million per year spent on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not an essential local government function.Rationale:Since 2010 rates have risen 85% far exceeding inflation and population growth. The current plan allocates 4.4% of the increase to CRL operating costs with 2% for asset maintenance and 1.5% for new assets. Yet the scale of inefficiency is evident in staff and consultant expenditure. Council and CCO employees on six-figure salaries total 6123 with 464 paid more than $200000; payroll costs alongside consultants and contractors total about $1.9 billion while direct operating expenditure rose well ahead of inflation in recent years. A targeted reduction in personnel costs consulting and non-essential programmes will deliver real relief to ratepayers.Alternative Budget:Support the Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping average rates increases at about 3%. This would be achieved via: (a) a $50 million reduction in personnel costs through organisational changes and hiring freezes; (b) a $50 million cap on consultants; (c) contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation worth $30 million; (d) prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants $20 million.Closing:I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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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- **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

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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.**

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	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

#7913

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

At approximately $320 more per average household this jump vastly exceeds acceptable inflationary growth and does not reflect prudent stewardship of Council finances. Since 2012 rates have risen sharply with a 30 percent real increase since 2022 and an overall 85 percent since the Super City reformfar outpacing both inflation and population growth. The Council must tighten expenditure first before asking ratepayers to shoulder higher bills.I urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget which caps the average residential rates increase at about 3 percent by reducing new spending by $150 million (2 percent). Key concrete steps include:-

Reduce personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze for non-essential roles saving about $50 million.- Cap spending on consultants and professional services at $50 million.- Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to save a further $30 million.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million.Specific spending reductions I support:- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could deliver at least $17 million in immediate savings.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local government function.Additional context: the Council already spends heavily on backroom functions with $126 million per year on consultants across the Council group and substantial six- and high-six-figure salaries. Direct operating expenditure has risen well beyond inflation while payroll and consultancy costs have grown disproportionately. It is essential that the Council pause and re-prioritise to protect essential services and align with ratepayer expectations.I request the opportunity to speak at hearings to elaborating on these points. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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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?

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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.

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

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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?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#7918

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Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback:

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit my views on the proposed 2026/27 Annual Plan and the intended average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent.I oppose the proposed rate rise of 7.9 percent and I urge the Council to consider that households are already facing high living costs. The rate increase would add about $320 for the average household in the context of a real increase in rates since 2022 of 30 percent (in 2022 dollars) against 12 percent cumulative inflation. I believe the Council should be prepared to deliver a much smaller rise aligning with a more prudent budget.I support a clear reduction in wasteful expenditure across the Council and CCOs. In particular I call for: freezing staffing and/or

reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles; saving at least $17 million immediately. I also urge reductions in the spend on consultants and professional services which remains high and is a recurring driver of cost growth. The Council should renegotiate contracts and pursue vendor consolidation to achieve meaningful savings reducing reliance on external advisers.I oppose continuing the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves. Funds should be redirected to essential services that directly support ratepayers.I oppose continued or expanded spending on Māori-focused programmes such as the Maori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) which accounts for about $10 million per year. Local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary programmes.The Council's proposed allocations include 2 percent for maintaining existing assets 1.5 percent for growth-related assets and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs. The overall cost impact on ratepayers must be balanced against the necessity to fund core services efficiently rather than perpetuating high operating costs and backroom functions. The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget demonstrates that reducing new spending by $150 million (2%) could cap the rate rise at about 3 percent.I request acknowledgement of these views and a thoughtful consideration of a more conservative budget that delivers essential services without imposing an excessive burden on Auckland households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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- **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?

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#7921

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Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback:

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit my formal opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and urge a program of cost restraint to protect households.The proposed 7.9% average rise imposes an approximately $320 increase for the average household on top of a real rates increase since 2022 of 30% (versus 12% inflation). This level of increase is not affordable for many ratepayers and is inconsistent with keeping rates increases aligned to inflation and to essential service delivery.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance position that the Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and markedly

reduce spending on consultancy and professional services. Assets and services can be maintained more efficiently and external advice should be targeted and cost-effective not expanding year after year. I note the following concrete relief measures aligned with prudent budgeting:- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Curb consultant and contractor spend; the Alliance proposes capping consultancy spending by $50 million as part of an overall $150 million reduction in new Council spending.- Pursue contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation to unlock further savings ($30 million).- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants ($20 million).Additional spending items I contest include the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and based on available data emits more carbon than it saves. I urge its cancellation to free up resources for core local government functions.I also oppose ongoing targeted Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). Local government should focus on universal services and statutory duties with careful consideration of value for money.In sum I request a revised plan that reduces operating costs caps external advisory spend and prioritises essential services to achieve a rates outcome closer to 3% rather than 7.9%.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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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?

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

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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?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#7953

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Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a personal and sincere tone to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to urge a rigorous review of wasteful Council spending.I strongly oppose the 7.9% average rate rise. The current average residential bill is about $4069 and since 2012 rates have risen by 85% in real terms far outpacing inflation and population growth. A 7.9% increase including 2% to maintain existing assets 1.5% for growth and 4.4% for CRL operating costs adds to existing financial pressure on households particularly when many consider the cost of living to be high enough.I urge the Council to substantially curb wasteful and non-essential spending. In particular:-

Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Limit spend on consultancy and professional services; pause non-critical engagements and renegotiate contracts where possible.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and appears to emit more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million promptly.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million per year spent on the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) which I believe is not a core local-government function.I also note the broader context: significant increases since 2010 and substantial spending on consultants ($126 million annually across the Council group) and six-figure salaries. A tighter approach to personnel contracting and vendor management is necessary to keep rates affordable for households.As part of a fiscally prudent approach I support prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and pursuing value-for-money improvements across all operations.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#8027

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

1. Opposition to rates increase and justification- The proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (versus 12% overall inflation). This is outside acceptable bounds for ratepayers given ongoing cost-of-living pressures.- The breakdown shows 4.4% of the rise funds CRL operating costs while only 2% covers existing asset maintenance and 1.5% funds new assets from growth. A substantial portion is therefore driven by project costs that should be re-prioritised or delayed where possible.2. Expenditure controls and efficiency- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and

backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. The scale of executive and corporate spend is not justified by service delivery outcomes.- Reduce the spend on consultancy and professional services; freezing or reducing external advisers will deliver meaningful ratepayer savings.- The Council should freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.3. Specific programme and Māori outcomes considerations- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and based on available data emits more carbon than it saves.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the ~NZ$10 million per year on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local government function and should be redirected to statutory and essential services.4. Alternative budgeting principle- The Ratepayers' Alliance proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap average rate increases at about 3%: - $50 million through personnel cost reductions and hiring freezes - $50 million by capping consultants - $30 million via contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation - $20 million prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grantsClosingI request that the Council adopt a tightened budget framework that aligns with these rational measures and reconsiders the proposed 7.9% rise.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#8067

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the 7.9% rise given the current average residential rates bill of $4069 and a real increase since 2022 of 30% (compared with 12% overall inflation). The proposed breakdown2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costsdemonstrates that spending on corporate and backroom functions consultants and personnel has grown well beyond inflation and population growth. A more prudent approach is required.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance plan to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) which could cap the average rates increase at about 3%. Specifically I propose:- Reducing personnel costs via

organisational change and a hiring freeze for non-essential roles (saved amount: $50 million).- Capping spending on consultants and professional services (saved: $50 million).- Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation (saved: $30 million).- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants (saved: $20 million).I also request the Council to:- Suspend the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million/year yet appears to emit more carbon than saved and review to achieve the original goals.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending where it is clearly not a responsibility of local government. including for example the $10 million/year on the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). Additionally I am concerned that past rate changes have functioned as social engineering exercise in moving the burden of rates more and more onto higher valued properties while reducing relatively increases on lower valued properties. This proposed increase has all the hallmarks of the Amalgamation increase. A fairer approach would reflect actual service needs and keep rates within reasonable bounds for all ratepayers while safeguarding essential services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.
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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 2026-2027

#8081

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key concerns and positions- The proposed 7.9% increase translates to roughly $320 more per average household on top of a cumulative 30% real increase since 2022. This is unsustainable while inflation remains elevated.- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb spending on consultancy and professional services rather than allowing continual growth in these areas.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and is argued to emit more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles a measure that could

save at least $17 million immediately.- Curb Māori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). I do not accept this as a core local government responsibility.- The Council should implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new spending by $150 million (2%) capping average residential rates at about 3% by: limiting personnel costs capping consultant spend renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.Additional pointsWe are ratepayers who are already stretched by high rates. The current trajectory would require more than proportional cuts to keep bills manageable. Wayne Brown must pursue serious targeted cutbacks aligned with the figures above.Requests and outcome- I ask Council to adopt a2026/27 budget path that reduces growth in operating and personnel costs caps consultant spending and prioritises essential services over discretionary projects.- I request the opportunity to present at hearings to explain these points further.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.
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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 2026-2027

#8104

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a formal and respectful manner to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and to urge tighter control of Council expenditure in line with ratepayer interests.I urge the Council to recognise that the proposed 7.9% increase equates to approximately $320 more per average household on top of substantial long-term growth in rates since the 2010 amalgamation. The current reality is a 30% real increase since 2022 well above general inflation. We should not finance higher operating costs including CRL-related expenses on the backs of ratepayers.In line with ratepayer positions I Agrees with: - Opposing the 7.9% average increase and

seeking lower growth. - Reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. - Reducing spending on consultancy and professional services rather than allowing these costs to rise. - Cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and in the Alliance's view emits more carbon than it saves. - Freezing staffing or reducing payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. - Cutting Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a core local-government function.The Alliance's alternative budget framework shows a path to cap rate increases at around 3% by reducing new Council spending by about $150 million (2%). This includes personnel cost reductions through organisational changes and a hiring freeze caps on consultancy contract renegotiations and prioritisation of statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Additional points for consideration:- Prioritise transparent reporting on cost drivers and measurable outcomes for all significant programmes.- Seek value-for-money in procurement with vendor consolidation and renegotiated terms to lower running costs.In closing I request that the Council reflect these concerns in the consultation response and seek to keep rates as low as practicable while preserving essential services. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% which translates to about $320 for the average household. Since 2022 rates have risen 30% in real terms well above cumulative inflation and I believe the council must hold a tighter line against further increases while maintaining essential services.I support changes to reduce wasteful or excessive expenditure and to prioritise core services. Specifically:- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- The Council should reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these items.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.- The Council should cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year spent on the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a role of local government.The proposed split of the rate rise2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costsadds to the concern that current spending priorities do not align with ratepayer affordability. Since amalgamation rates have increased by 85% far outpacing both inflation and population growth; this trend must be reversed.I understand the need for statutory and essential services but I urge the council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget approach: reduce new spending by $150 million (2%) capping the rate increase at around 3% through targeted reductions in personnel costs consultants procurement and a focus on essential services.I appreciate the council considering these points and hope for a prudent fiscally responsible path forward that protects residential affordability while delivering necessary services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.
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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 2026-2027

#8122

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit my opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and urge a focus on reducing wasteful Council spending and reforming backroom costs.Key concerns and positions- Oppose the 7.9% average residential rates increase. The proposed increase translates to about $320 for the average household coming on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (in 2022 dollars) and well above the 12% cumulative inflation over the same period.- Expenditure reductions are essential. The Council must reduce spending on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and reduce consultancy and professional services rather

than continuing to grow these items.- Eliminate or scale back discretionary programmes. Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and according to the Alliance briefing emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs. Freeze vacancies and avoid hiring for non-essential roles; this would save at least $17 million immediately.- Rebalance priorities away from targeted Māori spend. The $10 million per year spent on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) is not a core local government function; redirecting funds away from this line item would reduce pressure on rates.- Alternative budget framework. The Alliance proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) which would cap the rate rise at 3% by: - $50 million from personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze - $50 million from capping consultants - $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation - $20 million by prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grantsClosingI urge Auckland Council to adopt the rate settings and expenditure controls outlined above prioritising essential services and avoiding wasteful spending. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#8159

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. This level exceeds inflation and delivers a disproportionate burden on households including my own where the current rates are already high and rising faster than the benefits received. The impact of such an increase on already stretched family budgets is unacceptable.I urge the Council to adopt the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance approach to reduce wasteful expenditure and to cap rates increases. Specifically I support:1) Reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.2) Cutting spending on consultancy and professional services rather than

continuing to increase these items.3) Cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.4) Freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.5) Cutting Māori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million per year on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a role for local government.Overall the Alliance's alternative budgetreducing new Council spending by $150 million (about 2 percent)should be seriously considered to keep rates increases to around 3 percent. This would be achieved by the measures above and targeted efficiency improvements including contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Additional points I wish to raise: I have lived at my address for over 40 years and I cannot align the rates with the perceived value. The unused food bin is a clear example of misallocated funds and I urge council to consult with communities before implementing costly in-house projects.In closing I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.
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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?

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

#8212

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current average residential rates bill is $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of 30% (in 2022 dollars) against 12% cumulative inflation. The rate increase should be aligned with inflation and demonstrated efficiency savings.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance position to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and to curb consultancy and professional services spend. Detailed spending by the Council group shows $126 million per year on consultants with the average consultant earning about $200k and payroll/contract expenditure rising well ahead of inflation. A $150 million reduction in new Council

spending (2% impact) could cap the average rate increase at approximately 3%.Specific measures I advocate:- Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Curb consultant and professional services spending by $50 million.- Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to save a further $30 million.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million per year and not demonstrably reducing net emissions.- Reduce Māori-specific spending such as the approximately $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) which I consider not a core local government function.Additional context: direct operating expenditure and personnel costs have risen significantly relative to inflation with a large portion of spending allocated to corporate support and non-essential functions. Redirecting these funds to essential services will better protect ratepayers while still maintaining core public services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

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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.

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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	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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8214

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent and urge Council to prioritise reductions in wasteful expenditure and a tighter cap on ratepayer costs.Key points:- The proposed 7.9% increase is excessive. The average residential rates bill already stands at $4069; real increases since 2022 have been 30% (in 2022 dollars) against 12% inflation. A 7.9% rise compounds this unfairly for households.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. Direct operating expenditure has grown well beyond inflation and personnel/other expenses have risen far faster than consumer prices.- Reduce spend

on consultancy and professional services. The current level of consultants costs including an average consultant pay of around $200k is unsustainable and diverts funds from essential services.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. This measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to Ngā Mātārae (Māori Outcomes). Local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary programmes.Additional context:- The proposed budget includes 2% for maintaining existing assets and 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows with 4.4% for CRL operating costs. A reallocation toward core services and asset efficiency is warranted.- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget demonstrates that reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) can cap the rate rise to about 3% enabling a focus on essential services and reforming spending practices.I request that the Council consider substantial cost containment measures and pursue a more affordable rates path for ratepayers rather than approving a near-8% increase.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

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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?

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	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

#8235

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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:

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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

This is an extra cost that will fall directly on households increasing the average rates bill by about $320 and lifting the current average residential rates to roughly $4069. In real terms residents have faced a 30 percent increase since 2022 (in 2022 dollars) well ahead of general inflation. I believe the council must curb wasteful spending and hold rates increases to at or below inflation.Key concerns- The proposed 7.9 percent split shows 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs 2 percent for maintaining assets and 1.5 percent for new assets as Auckland grows. This mix indicates a heavy ongoing burden on ratepayers for operational costs not just essential services. - Spend on consultants and

professional services is excessive. The council group spends around 126 million per year with Auckland Council alone contributing to this trend. The average consultant earns about 200k a level that is not sustainable for a council facing affordability pressures.- Staff costs are rising faster than inflation. Payroll totals about 1.3 billion while six-figure salaries and six-figure-plus roles have grown notably; this needs urgent alignment with service delivery priorities.- Wasteful backroom costs must be cut. The 'six-figure salaries' and other corporate expenditures undermine trust and affordability.Agreed actions- Freeze or reduce payroll by not filling non-essential vacancies. This is estimated to save at least 17 million immediately.- Cap and reduce consultancy spend across the Council and CCOs by 50 million with a broader cap on professional services.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs around 36 million annually and emits more carbon than it saves.- Cut spending on Māori outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) by refocusing roles and funding away from a stand-alone expenditure line given this is not a core local government function.- Freeze new discretionary grants prioritise statutory/essential services over non-core programmes.Alternative budget frameworkReduce new Council spending by 150 million (2%) enabling an average rates increase of about 3 percent. This would align with affordability pressures while preserving essential services.Aucklanders are under too much pressure. Give us a break to begin to heal.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.

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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?

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	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

#8271

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the average residential rates rise of 7.9 percent which represents about $320 for the typical household and continues a pattern of increases well above inflation. Since 2010 rates have risen by 85% in real terms far outstripping cumulative inflation of 12% and population growth of 22%. The current plan allocates 4.4% to CRL operating costs 2% for existing asset maintenance and 1.5% for new assets while not addressing the underlying need to curb wasteful expenditure.I support reducing expenditure on corporate and back-room office functions across the Council and CCOs. The ratepayer brief highlights annual spending on consultants at $126 million across the Council

group with large average consultancies and high paid staff costs. I urge a comprehensive review of personnel costs and a hiring freeze for non-essential roles to deliver immediate savingspotentially at least $17 millionwithout compromising essential services.I also urge reducing consultancy and professional services spend rather than allowing continued growth in these areas. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance notes $590 million spent on consultants and contractors and $868.4 million in direct expenditure for corporate and business support. This level of expenditure is unsustainable within a ratepayer-friendly budget.Additionally I call for cancellation of the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and purportedly saves emissions but has not demonstrated net environmental benefits. I request prioritisation of statutory and essential services over discretionary programmes and a freeze on hiring to curb payroll costs.Finally I oppose continued Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on Ngā Mātārae (Maori Outcomes). I believe local government should prioritise core services over targeted expenditure that may be better addressed by other agencies or funding mechanisms.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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- **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?

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

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	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

#8277

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I write to submit my views on the proposed 2026/27 annual plan and the planned average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent.I oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates rise. With current average rates at $4069 and a real increase since 2022 of 30 percent (versus 12 percent CPI) the burden on households is growing faster than inflation and family budgets can bear. The breakdown shows 4.4% of the increase goes to CRL operating costs while 2% covers maintaining existing assets and 1.5% for new assets. This is not sustainable for ratepayers who must balance essential living costs.Auckland Council should reduce wasteful expenditure and re-prioritise

spending. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposes an alternative budget reducing new and existing costs by $150 million (2%) which would cap the rate rise to around 3 percent. Specific measures include:- Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze: $50 million- Capping spending on consultants: $50 million- Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: $30 million- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: $20 millionKey cost concerns include: $126 million per year on consultants across the Council group; payroll and six-figure salaries for many staff; direct operating expenditure rising well ahead of inflation; and $868.4 million spent on eighteen corporate and business support functions. The council should also consider suspending or cancelling non-essential programmes such as the Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million/year and reportedly emitting more carbon than it saves. Additionally I oppose continued spend on Māori Outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) at about $10 million/year given this is not a core local government role.I understand households must budget tightly; the Council must do the same. Freeze non-essential staffing trim consultancy and back-office spend renegotiate contracts and prioritise essential services over discretionary programmes. This approach would protect ratepayers while maintaining core city functions.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#8295

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

Based on the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing this would equate to about $320 for the average household while real rate increases since 2022 have already reached 30%. I view such a rise as unaffordable for many ratepayers and not justified by the current trajectory of Council expenditure.Key concerns- Expenditure growth is outpacing inflation and population growth. Direct operating expenditure rose 78% from 2013 to 2023 with payroll at $1.3 billion and consultants at $590 million. Eighty-one corporate and backroom functions indicate entrenched cost drivers that do not align with prudent ratepayer outcomes.- The structure of the 7.9% increase allocates 4.4%

to CRL operating costs and only 2% to maintaining existing assets with 1.5% for growth. This mix suggests a heavy burden on households without corresponding transparency on value delivered.Agreed positions (as submitted)- Oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9%.- The Council needs to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- The Council needs to reduce the spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continue to increase these expenditure items.- The Council should cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and per the Alliance briefing emits more carbon than it saves.- The Council should freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- The Council should cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a role of local government.Alternative budget approachAdopt the Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping rates to about 3%: $50 million from personnel costs $50 million from consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations/vendor consolidation and $20 million by prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI request that my submission be considered in full and urge careful scrutiny of spend drivers over rate increases.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.)

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	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
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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 2026-2027

#8299

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge a comprehensive reduction in wasteful council spending before any further rate hikes are considered.Agreed positions- Oppose the average residential rates by at least 7.9%.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these items.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this alone would save at least $17 million

right away.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the approximately $10 million per year on the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) which I believe is not a proper local government role.Additional point- My demand is a disciplined budget: reduce rates by 5% each year for the next five years to restore affordability ensure the budget balances and stop spending at levels that Auckland households cannot sustain.Key data I rely on- The proposed increase translates to around $320 extra per average household with the current average bill at $4069.- Since 2010 rates have risen 85% well above inflation and population growth indicating a systemic spend problem.- Spending on consultants and backroom functions has grown markedly while direct operating costs and payroll have risen faster than inflation.I urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget framework targeting at least a $150 million reduction in new spending (2%) to cap the rates rise at around 3% with concrete savings from personnel controls consultant caps and contract renegotiations. Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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**
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- **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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	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

#8324

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and urge a focused reduction in wasteful Council spending.Key points- The proposed 7.9% average increase equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a real rate rise of 30% since 2022 (versus 12% inflation). This is unaffordable for many ratepayers.- The breakdown shows 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. The burden of growth should come from efficiency gains not higher residential rate demands.- Since the Super City amalgamation rates have risen 85% well above inflation and population growth.

This trend should reverse through savings and prioritisation.Policy asks and evidence-based rationale- Reduce corporate and backroom spend across the Council and CCOs. The current expenditure on consultants and contractors totals $590 million with consultants averaging around $200k per assignment. A tighter cap on external contractors will free funds for essential services.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million annually and emitting more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or cut payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles. A pause on hiring would save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the approximately $10 million per year allocated to the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) recognising that this is not a core local government function.- Targeted reductions in consultant spend and renegotiated contracts should be pursued ahead of further rate increases.Alternative budget approach- The Ratepayers' Alliance proposes limiting rate increases to around 3% by reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and pursuing efficiency gains through organisation-wide reform.ClosingI request that Council consider these reductions as a matter of urgency to avoid excess rate increases and to ensure prudent stewardship of public funds.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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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- **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):

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- **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?

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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?

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

#8354

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

Since 2010 rates have risen 85 percent well above inflation and population growth. The proposed breakdown2% for existing assets 1.5% for new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costsdoes not justify such a high uplift given the Council's documented spending patterns.The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance's alternative budget shows that a targeted $150 million reduction in new Council spending (a 2% reduction) could cap the rate rise at about 3 percent. This would be achieved by:- Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze: $50 million- Capping expenditure on consultants: $50 million- Contract renegotiations and vendor

consolidation: $30 million- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: $20 millionI urge the Council to act on clear measurable savings in line with these figures.Specific spending areas warrant immediate scrutiny:- Consultants and professional services: $126 million per year across the Council group with the average consultant earning around $200k. This is excessive given the scale of services required.- Corporate and backroom functions: eight hundred sixty-eight million dollars in direct expenditure across 18 functions; personnel costs and other expenses have risen faster than inflation.- Six-figure payrolls and staff costs: over 6000 staff in the Council group earning six figures rising by 64% under current leadership; 72 employees earn more than the mayor.- Māori outcomes: $171 million over 10 years including the Ngā Mātārae function which I believe is not a direct local government responsibility; I support reallocating these funds to essential services.- Food Scraps Programme: $36 million per year that reportedly emits more carbon than it saves; I support cancelling this programme.Under current economic conditions conserving resources is essential. I urge a prudent service-focused approach that prioritises core services and maintains essential infrastructure without placing an undue burden on households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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):

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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.

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

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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

#8356

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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.

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

This rise would amount to about $320 for the average household (current average rates bill $4069). The ratepayer burden has grown markedly since 2022 with a real increase of 30% in that period while cumulative inflation runs around 12%. It is prudent to seek substantial savings before accepting further ratepayer pain.Key concerns and constructive recommendations1) Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. The current cost structure appears inflated relative to core service delivery; targeting these functions can lower the rate impact without harming essential services.2) Curb spend on consultancy and professional

services. Reducing externally commissioned expertise and relying more on internal capacity will help stabilise rates.3) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves. Reallocate funds to core municipal priorities with verifiable environmental and social benefits.4) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. A targeted hiring freeze could deliver immediate savings of at least $17 million.5) Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). Local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary sector-specific programmes.Funding-leveraging approach (alternative budget idea)- Reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2% cap on rate increases) to limit the average residential rates rise to around 3%: - $50 million from personnel cost reductions through organisational change and hiring freezes - $50 million from capping consultancy spend - $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation - $20 million from prioritising statutory services over discretionary grantsClosingI urge the Council to adopt a leaner operating model with transparent savings measures before imposing higher rates on households. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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- **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

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- **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

#8364

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

1) Rates and spending- The proposed 7.9% average increase would add about $320 for the average household on top of a current average bill of $4069. This represents a real increase well beyond inflation and population growth. I support capping the increase at a more affordable level by cutting wasteful spend instead of raising rates.2) Waste and backroom costs- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb consultancy and professional services. Current data show substantial spending in these areas which should be prioritised for savings to protect household finances.3) Specific programme and staffing

savings- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or cut payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.- I oppose continuing high Māori-specific expenditure at levels such as the $10 million per year spent on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) which I view as not a core local government function. Reallocating these funds to essential services would better reflect Council responsibilities to ratepayers.4) Overall savings plan- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget advocates reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) which would cap the rate rise at around 3% through targeted cuts: personnel costs consultants contract renegotiations and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants. Stop wasteful spending and reinvest in essential services that meet residents' core needs.In conclusion I urge the Council to adopt a cost-conscious plan that prioritises essential services reduces non-essential and discretionary expenditure and lowers the rate rise below inflation. If possible I would welcome the opportunity to provide further input in writing or at a later stage of the process.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.
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	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

#8380

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance has reviewed the plan in detail and I rely on those figures in this submission.1) Rates and affordability- The proposed 7.9% average increase equates to about $320 more per average household on top of an ongoing real increase in rates since 2022 of 30% (in 2022 dollars) versus 12% cumulative inflation. This is unacceptable in a time of flat wages and rising living costs.2) Spending reforms needed now- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than allowing continual growth in these areas.- A disciplined

performance-based approach to expenditure is essential before any further rate burden is placed on households.3) Specific wasteful or discretionary programmes- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and the briefing indicates emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this measure alone could save at least $17 million promptly.4) Maori outcomes budget- The submission notes a position to reduce Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year spent on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a role of local government.5) Overall spending framework- The Council should adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the average residential rates increase at around 3%. This includes a focus on staff costs consultant spend contract renegotiations and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.- Wasteful spending generally needs oversight and a robust review process is required to ensure value for money.ClosingI request that the Council seriously considers these reforms before approving any rate increases beyond inflation.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.
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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.
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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?

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

#8427

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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**
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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose this level of increase and urge a crisis of spending restraint across the Council and CCOs to protect households from further real-terms rises.Key points for consideration:- The proposed 7.9% increase translates to about $320 extra per average household on a current average bill of $4069. Since 2010 rates have risen 85%well above inflation and population growth. It is reasonable to ask whether higher costs are being matched by commensurate savings.- The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget demonstrates that reducing new spending by $150 million (a 2% cut) can cap rate rises at around 3%. Achieving this requires: freezing non-essential payroll

reducing personnel costs capping consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.- I urge the Council to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions and to cut the spend on consultancy and professional services instead of continuing a rising trend.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme estimated at $36 million per year which reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles a move that could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the approximately $10 million per year spent on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core function of local government.- Spending on consultants (£126 million per year across the Council group) and escalation in personnel costs since 2022 are concerning and should be revisited with an focus on efficiency and core services.Additional remarks:COUNCIL SPENDING is the main driver here not inflation alone. I expect a rigorous programme of organisational change supplier consolidation and responsible budgeting. Political rhetoric about 'public transport' or '2030 plans' must not mask the need for prudent ratepayer-focused decisions.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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):

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- **Water service strategies**
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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.

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.
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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?

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

#8428

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current trajectory places a disproportionate burden on households with the average residential rate bill rising from $2781 in 2022 to $4069 now and a real increase of 30 percent since 2022 (32 percent in 2022 dollars vs. 12 percent inflation). A more prudent path is needed that protects essential services while curbing wasteful spending.Proposed actions I support (Agrees)1) Oppose the 7.9% average residential rates increase; aim for closer to 3% by cutting non-essential spend.2) Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.3) Reduce spending on consultancy and professional services rather than allowing these costs to

climb.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.5) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.6) Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori Outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) department arguing that this is not a core local government function.7) Implement a Council-wide organisational change to limit personnel costs and cap external contracting.Additional points- Senior residents on fixed pensions are disproportionately affected by rate rises; policy should consider protecting vulnerable ratepayers.Proposed budget priorities (alternative approach)- Remove or defer discretionary grants and non-essential programmes to prioritise statutory and essential services.- Seek contract renegotiation and vendor consolidation to achieve structural savings.- Allocate any savings toward maintaining essential urban services transport and water infrastructure rather than new or expanded programmes.ClosingI request the Council pursue responsible savings measures that bring rates increases in line with inflation and essential needs while improving efficiency and accountability in spending.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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):

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- **Water service strategies**
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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.

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

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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?

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

#8434

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a strong and direct tone to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase and to demand a reset of Council spending toward essential services and lower costs.I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% (approximately $320 for the average household). Since 2010 rates have risen 85%well above inflation and population growthand it is unacceptable to place another large increase on households while the Council's cost base remains bloated. The breakdown of the 7.9% rise2% for maintaining assets 1.5% for new assets to accommodate growth and 4.4% for CRL operating costsshows a heavy tilt toward ongoing and

speculative expenditure rather than delivering core services efficiently.To achieve affordability I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping average residential rates increases at 3%. This requires: a) freezing or reducing payroll by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles saving at least $17 million immediately; b) cutting spending on personnel and consultants including a cap on consultants of $50 million; c) contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation (another $30 million); d) prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants ($20 million). These measures align with the goal of getting back to basics in a time of crisis for households.I also urge immediate action to reduce wasteful expenditure that does not improve Aucklanders' daily lives:- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staff expansion in non-essential areas and virtual back-office functions that drive up payroll and administrative overhead.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Ngā Mātārae department arguing that this is not the core remit of local government.Additional point: focus rates settlement on essential services and debt management not discretionary schemes. Get back to basics; households face reduced incomes and rising costs and Council must reflect that reality.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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**
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- **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):

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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?

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	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

#8449

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

1. Opposition to the rates rise and its affordability impactI oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% (approximately $320 for the average household). This represents a real increase well above inflation and adds significant cost pressure on households already affected by high living costs. The current average residential rates bill sits at $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of about 30% in 2022 dollars far exceeding cumulative inflation.2. Core concerns about spending and efficiencyThe rate rise is driven in part by CRL operating costs and rising asset maintenance. I support reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across

the Council and CCOs and I urge a substantial reduction in consultancy and professional services rather than continued growth in these areas. Direct operating expenditure and staff costs have grown well ahead of inflation and there is clear potential to achieve savings through organisational efficiency.3. Specific programme and payroll considerationsI support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not filling non‘essential vacancies which could save at least $17 million immediately. I also call for capping consultancy spend and renegotiating contracts with vendor consolidation where feasible. I oppose continuing expenditure on discretionary programmes that do not align with core statutory responsibilities.4. Programmes and targeted spendingI request that the Food Scraps Programme currently costing about $36 million per year be cancelled as it is not proven to save emissions and diverts funds from essential services. I respectfully request a review of Māori outcomes spending including the Ngā Mātārae portfolio which represents around $10 million per year; I believe these functions should be delivered within the core statutory responsibilities of local government and across Council‘funded services.5. Alternative budgeting approachI support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping the average rate increase to about 3% achieved through personnel cost reductions cap on consultants contract renegotiations and prioritising essential services.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#8452

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key context: the proposed increase equates to about $320 per average household on top of a current average residential bill of $4069. Since 2010 rates have risen by 85% far outpacing cumulative inflation (12% in real terms) and population growth (22%). The breakdown shows 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as the city grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. A rate rise of this magnitude above inflation is unsupportable given this track record and ongoing cost pressures.Agreed positions- Oppose the average residential rates by at least 7.9%. A more targeted approach is needed.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions

across the Council and CCOs and cut consultancy and professional services rather than sustaining rising totals.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing about $36 million per year which reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million/year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a core local-government function.Additional points- Current spend on consultants totals about $126 million across the Council group with the average consultant around $200000. This is inconsistent with prudent measures during tight fiscal times.- Personnel costs have risen significantly while direct operating expenditure grew 78% between 2013 and 2023far above inflation.- A restrained budget that prioritises statutory and essential services over discretionary grants would better serve residents who are already under financial strain.ClosingPeople are struggling as it is. A huge increase will be disastrous for households and families.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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):

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- **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?

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Rank	Area
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	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

#8463

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

1. Rates and affordability- The proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% is well above inflation and not acceptable as a stand-alone policy aim. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 a real increase of 30% since 2022 (versus 12% cumulative inflation). I urge the Council to cap the increase at 3% by implementing targeted savings outlined below.2. Spending reform to fund rate relief- Reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2% reduction) to fund the rate cap. This can be achieved by: - Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze for non-essential roles: $50 million. - Capping spending on consultants

and professional services: $50 million. - Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: $30 million. - Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: $20 million.3. Specific areas to reduce waste- Cut corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and is alleged to emit more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this alone would save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a core local government role.4. Overall stewardship- Direct operating expenditure has grown well ahead of inflation and personnel costs and other expenses have risen markedly since 2022. A disciplined transparent review of all expenditure is essential before asking ratepayers to fund higher bills.ClosingI request the opportunity to speak at hearings to elaborate on these points. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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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- **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

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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?

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

#8471

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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**
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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I appreciate the opportunity to submit on the proposed 2026/27 annual plan and respectfully oppose the anticipated average residential rates increase of 7.9%.I note the current average residential rates bill is $4069 and the proposed increase would represent a further cost burden for households with a real increase well above the rate of inflation since 2022. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposes an alternative budget that would reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping the average residential rates increase to around 3%. This requires targeted savings across two dozen areas including significant reductions in staff and consultancy

costs and a re-prioritisation of discretionary spending.Key positions I support:1) Oppose the 7.9% average residential rates increase and seek a lower inflation-aligned outcome. 2) Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.3) Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these items.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and in assessment emits more carbon than it saves.5) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.6) Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year devoted to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a core function of local government.I further emphasise the need to prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and to pursue contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation to achieve meaningful savings as outlined in the Alliance framework. The cumulative impact of payroll and consultancy costs as well as outsized governance and back-office spend is inconsistent with a prudent fiscally responsible plan for ratepayers.Closing:I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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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- **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):

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

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	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

#8481

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

Based on the Alliance's briefing this would equate to about $320 for the average household while real rate increases since 2022 have already reached roughly 30 percent in 2022 dollars far outpacing inflation. I urge the Council to instead cap the rise at about 3 percent by pursuing meaningful efficiency improvements.I agree that the Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across both the Council and CCOs. Spending on consultants and professional services is excessive and should be reduced not expanded. The Alliance's figures show consultant costs at about $126 million per year across the Council group with the average

consultant at around $200k. Curbing this will directly lower the rates burden.I also agree that the Council should cancel non-essential programmes with high cost and uncertain return. In particular the Food Scraps Programme is costly at $36 million per year and per the briefing emits more carbon than it saves. This is not an efficient use of ratepayer funds.Additionally I support freezing staffing or reducing payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which the briefing indicates could save at least $17 million immediately. A broader review of staff costs is warranted to bring personnel expenses in line with service priorities.I further oppose ongoing spend on Māori-specific programmes such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Maori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). I believe local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Finally I note the broader case that since the Super City amalgamation rates have risen by about 85 percent well above inflation and population growth. Reducing wasteful expenditure is essential to delivering affordable services to ratepayers.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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- **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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8497

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong opposition to the proposed average 7.9% residential rates increase and urge a reset of Council spending to prioritise essential services and curb waste.1. Rates and affordability- The proposed 7.9% increase represents about $320 for the average household on top of a long-term trend of rising costs. Since 2010 rates have risen 85% far exceeding inflation and population growth. I oppose increases above inflation and support targeting a 3% cap as outlined by the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget.2. Spending reductions and efficiency- I agree the Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- I agree the

Council should reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than allowing these costs to keep rising.- I agree with freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non‘essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- I agree to cut non-essential Māori-specific spending including the $10 million/year on the MaÅ ri Outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) department as this is not a local government core function.3. Specific programme concerns- I oppose continuing the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million/year and in the assessment emits more carbon than it saves.- The overall pattern of cost growth is unsustainable: staff and other expenses have risen faster than inflation with expenditure on consultants contractors and corporate functions contributing to unaffordable rate rises.4. Local impacts and priorities- As a Waiheke Island resident I experience limited footpaths and rely on local services paid through rates. Our street lacks footpaths; we manage water and sewage locally and pay for wharves and transport services. The current rate burden undermines essential services and local amenity investment.ClosingI urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance's approach: reduce new spending by at least $150 million to cap rates increases at 3% prioritise statutory/essential services and terminate or scale back discretionary programmes and backroom costs.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

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

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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

#8499

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the 7.9 percent increase and note that the current average residential rates bill is $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of around 30 percent. The proposed breakdown shows 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs 2 percent for maintaining existing assets and 1.5 percent for new assets as Auckland grows. This compounds the pressure on ratepayers while the Council continues to face high personnel and consultant costs.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance position to reduce new Council spending by at least $150 million which would cap the rate rise at approximately 3 percent. Specific measures I urge include:- Reducing personnel costs through organisational change

and a hiring freeze for non-essential roles to save at least $17 million immediately.- Capping spending on consultants and professional services at $50 million.- Renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors to save about $30 million.- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants with a reallocation away from non-core activities.In addition I request immediate action on the following aligned with responsible spending and environmental stewardship:- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme estimated at $36 million per year due to its carbon footprint and limited demonstrable net savings.- Freeze or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles and pursue efficiency improvements within corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs.- Consider reductions in Māori-specific spending including the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) funding where appropriate for local government scope while preserving core services and community wellbeing.Given these reforms a more affordable rate path is achievable without compromising essential municipal services. I request the opportunity to present my views at hearings to explain these points in detail.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#8521

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a constructive solution-focused way to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for disciplined spending that protects essential services without imposing unnecessary burdens on households.Key positions- Oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9%. The current average bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 with a real rates increase since 2022 of 30% (vs. 12% inflation). The proposed 7.9% (approximately $320 per household) is not affordable for many ratepayers.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cut spend on

consultancy and professional services rather than allow these items to keep rising.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a role of local government.- Adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping the rate rise to about 3% by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Additional points- Stop spending on 'green paint' road projects and luxury items like cycle lanes where not essential; reduce the orange-cone clutter that wastes public money and undermines good governance. Focus resources on core essential services and transparent governance.- The essence of good governance is that it should broadly be invisible to those being governed. Government overreach - centrally and locally - has become a standardised formula across the western world and is fundamentally destructive to the societies that it seeks to govern. It is time for government - local and central - to take a massive step back and recognise that to be politic is to be wise judicious and appropriately removed from the operatorship of the society that it is governing. A light touch from an invisible hand is what people are craving.- The hard-earned money and savings of ratepayers should not be able to be spent ad infinitum by individuals who have no 'skin in the game' themselves. Determine what are the baseline services you are responsible for and stick to that. ClosingI request that the Council consider a disciplined reallocation of resources with a focus on efficiency procurement reform and restraint in non-essential projects to achieve a more moderate rate rise and better value for Aucklanders.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#8523

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27.This proposed rise about $320 for the average household is well above inflation and far above what residents can reasonably absorb. Since 2010 rates have risen 85% while inflation ran around 34% and population grew 22%. The breakdown of the 7.9% increase2% to maintain existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costsdemonstrates a heavy burden on households while project costs continue to climb.I urge the Council to implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget reducing new Council spending by $150 million to cap

the rate rise at around 3%. This can be achieved by:- Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze: potential saving about $50 million.- Capping spending on consultants: about $50 million savings.- Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: around $30 million.- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: approximately $20 million.The Council must address wasteful expenditure instead of endorsing further increases. Notable concerns include the substantial payroll and contractor costs: payroll at about $1.3 billion and consultants/contractors at $590 million with six-figure salaries across 6123 staff and 72 people earning more than the mayor. Direct operating expenditure and staff costs have grown well ahead of inflation while eighteen corporate and business support functions accounted for nearly $868 million in direct expenditure. These figures point to a governance and cost-control gap that must be closed before asking ratepayers to fund higher bills.Additionally I oppose ongoing spend on Māori outcomes as a council function; reallocate to essential local government responsibilities.I ask that the Council prioritise core statutory services and modest sustainable funding levels over discretionary or non-essential spending.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.
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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?

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

#8532

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key points- I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. This would equate to approximately $320 for the average household and far outstrips any reasonable measure of inflation or growth in personal incomes.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cut spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to lift these lines.- I support cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this alone would save at least $17

million immediately.- I do not support continuing or increasing Māori-specific spending at the current level; for example the $10 million per year spent on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) is not a core local government function.Rationale and contextThe Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance highlights that the current 7.9 percent increase comprises 2 percent for maintaining assets 1.5 percent for new assets and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs. Since 2010 rates have risen by 85 percent well above inflation and population growth. Spending on consultants six-figure salaries and corporate functions has grown substantially while operating and personnel costs have consistently outpaced inflation. A targeted reduction in non-essential discretionary and backroom costs can fund essential services while keeping rate increases to a level closer to inflation.Alternative approachI support the Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2 percent) to cap rates increases at about 3 percent prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.)

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	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
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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 2026-2027

#8580

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge Council to act on wasteful spending before seeking higher rates from households.Raising rates above inflation is not acceptable when there is clear evidence of excessive spending growth. The proposed 7.9% increase comprises 2% to maintain assets 1.5% for new assets due to growth and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. Since 2010 rates have risen by 85% far outstripping inflation and population growth. To address this I support the Ratepayers' Alliance plan to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) capping the rate rise to around 3% by focusing on specific reductions.Key cost-reduction measures I support

include:- Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze for non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Capping spending on consultants and professional services and pursuing contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation to save around $50 million.- Canceling discretionary programmes with questionable value notably the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freezing or reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles and re-evaluating staff levels contributing to lower operating costs.- Cutting targeted Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year on the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this function should be addressed by core local government duties not separate programmes.I also endorse prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and focusing on core governance maintenance and safety responsibilities. Reducing consultants improving procurement practices and re-aligning budgets with actual community needs will deliver more value for ratepayers and improve transparency.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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
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	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

#8618

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit my views on the proposed 2026/27 annual plan and the accompanying 7.9 percent average residential rates increase.I oppose the proposed rates rise as excessive and out of step with inflation. The current average residential bill is $4069 and since 2022 rates have risen by about 30 percent in real terms far outstripping consumer inflation. The 7.9 percent uplift comprises 2 percent to maintain existing assets 1.5 percent for growth-related new assets and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs. Given the scale of cost pressures I support targeted savings that avoid disproportionately burdening households.I urge the Council to reduce expenditure on corporate and

backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and to curb spending on consultancy and professional services which currently adds to overall rates pressure. The Council's payrolls and outsourced services are substantial; I note the combined direct operating expenditure growth and high consultant costs as well as the significant number of six-figure salaries. A leaner organisation would protect essential services while delivering better value.I advocate cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and based on analysis appears to emit more carbon than it saves. Redirecting those funds to essential services would better serve residents while reducing unnecessary environmental and financial costs.I support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. I also support trimming Māori-specific spending such as the Nga Mātārae (Maori outcomes) budget of about $10 million per year arguing that this is not a core local government function.Proposed alternative budgeting including reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2 percent) could cap the average residential rates increase at around 3 percent. This would require prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and relaxing non-essential programmes.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#8686

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a personal and sincere capacity to oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to advocate for meaningful reductions in wasteful council spending. The proposed rise is well above inflation and risks placing an unfair burden on households.Key concerns and positions:1) Oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% (approximately $320 for the average household). The current average bill is $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of about 30 percent far outpacing cumulative inflation.2) Wasteful and excessive backroom costs must be addressed. Council spending on consultants is about $126 million per year across the Council group

with $60 million by the Auckland Council parent and an average consultant earning about $200k. Spending on corporate and business support functions is substantial and payroll costs have risen significantly.3) Reduce consultancy and professional services. The ongoing rise in contractual spend should be curbed to protect ratepayer value.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. It costs $36 million per year and based on available data emits more carbon than it saves; funds should be redirected to essential services.5) Freeze staffing and cut payroll costs. Not hiring for vacant non-essential roles could save at least $17 million immediately.6) Limit Māori-specific spending. The $10 million per year allocated to the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) should be reviewed as a local-government function with a focus on core statutory responsibilities.Alternative budget approach:I support reducing new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) to cap the rate increase at around 3% primarily by: $50 million saving from personnel costs $50 million cap on consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.I urge the Council to pursue these reductions to protect households while maintaining essential services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.)

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

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

#8712

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I write to oppose the proposed 7.9% average residential rates increase and to urge a substantial reduction in wasteful Council and CCO spending before any further rate rises.Strong opposition to the rate rise- The proposed 7.9% increase would add about $320 to the average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022. With rates already rising well above inflation further increases are not affordable for many ratepayers.Expenditure reductions aligned with responsible budgeting- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these

items.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing about $36 million per year which reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori Outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) department recognising that this is not a core local government function.Additional cost-saving priorities- Eliminate wastage within Auckland Transport and reduce cycle lanes where they do not align with core services or demonstrate clear benefit.- Start being fiscally responsible instead of assuming ratepayers have discretionary funds to subsidise nonessential Council projects.Alternative budgeting approach- I support the Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by about $150 million (2%) to cap the average residential rates increase at 3% by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and renegotiating contracts where possible.ClosingI request that my submission be considered in the consultation process and invite less expenditure growth and more prudent cost control to protect households from excessive rate increases.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.

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- **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.
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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?

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

#8714

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key points1) Rates increase. The proposed average residential rates rise of 7.9 percent equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30 percent real increase since 2022 in constant dollars. This is well above inflation and past population-driven growth and it is not acceptable to households already squeezed by the cost of living.2) Wasteful expenditure and backroom costs. I support reducing spending on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. A substantial reduction in personnel costs and outsourcing is required to bring operating costs back to prudent levels.3) Consultants and professional services. I oppose continuing to

expand consultancy and professional services. The current level of $126 million per year across the Council group with high average consultant fees is unsustainable and should be capped with a focus on core statutory services.4) Payroll restraint. I support freezing staffing or reducing payroll by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. This measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately and help cap rates.5) Māori-focused expenditure. I oppose discretionary Māori-specific spending such as the claimed $10 million per year on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). Local government has a duty to provide essential services not to fund niche programmes that fall outside core responsibilities.Alternative budget frameworkThe Council should implement the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) thereby capping the average rates rise to about 3 percent. This includes $50 million savings from personnel changes and hiring freezes $50 million from consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and $20 million prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.ClosingI request consideration of a lower rates path aligned with real household affordability and a clear reallocation of funds toward essential services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.
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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 2026-2027

#8724

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge a program of expenditure restraint to bring rates back to the level of inflation and population growth.Key points- The proposed 7.9% average residential rates increase equates to roughly $320 for the average household on top of a current average bill of $4069. Since 2022 rates have risen by about 30% in real terms far outstripping overall inflation (12%) and far exceeding population growth (22% since amalgamation). The breakdown shows 2% for existing assets 1.5% for growth and 4.4% for CRL operating costs.- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the

Council and CCOs and cut spending on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to expand these lines.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this could save at least $17 million promptly.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori outcomes' department totalling around $10 million per year as this is not a core local-government function.Alternative budget and outcome- If new Council spending is reduced by $150 million (2%) the average residential rate increase can be capped to about 3% achieved through: (i) $50 million from personnel costs via organisational change and freezes; (ii) $50 million from consulting; (iii) $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; (iv) $20 million prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.Additional context- The more rates rise the less available for essential local services and local businesses; streamlining and restraint make growth possible without placing an undue burden on households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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):

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- **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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	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

#8829

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a personal and sincere tone to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for reductions in wasteful Council spending.I agree with the following positions:- Oppose the average residential rates by at least 7.9%.- The Council needs to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- The Council needs to reduce the spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continue to increase these expenditure items.- The Council should cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- The Council should freeze staffing

and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which would save at least $17 million right away.- The Council should cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year spent on the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a function of local government.Additional point: Council spending appears out of control. Ratepayers are not endless cash cows; the Council must live within its means as ratepayers do in their households.From the data available a more accountable budget could cap rate increases by about 3% if spending on consultants is reduced payroll costs are restrained and discretionary expenditures are prioritised to statutory services. An interim plan to reduce new spending by approximately $150 million via a 2% overall reduction would help bring reform to core operating costs and protect essential services.I urge Council to prioritise efficiency transparency and value-for-money and to demonstrate fiscal responsibility before imposing further burdens on households already facing cost pressures.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

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	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

#8832

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit this opposed constructive submission regarding the proposed 2026/27 annual plan and the average 7.9 percent residential rates increase.1) Oppose the 7.9% rates increase and seek spend reform- I oppose the proposed 7.9% average increase and urge the Council to keep the rise to a level aligned with inflation with a view to protecting households already under financial pressure.- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and cut spending on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these items.2) Targeted savings to cap rates- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not

hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Reform contract arrangements: cap consultancy spend renegotiate supplier contracts and pursue vendor consolidation to save $30“50 million.- Reprioritise funding away from discretionary grants to essential statutory services.3) Focus on value for ratepayers- The current spend on Māori Outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) and related programmes is not a local-government obligation; I support reallocating such funding toward core council services that benefit all ratepayers.- The overall payroll and consultant costs appear to be growing faster than inflation; prioritising essential services will improve efficiency and value for money.Additional points- Rodney residents including our community will not benefit from the City Rail Link. Finance for this project should be targeted rates or user pays with extra government support where appropriate.I support an alternative budget approach that reduces new Council spending by about $150 million (2%) to cap rates increases at around 3% as proposed by the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance. This would rely on staff freezes consultant caps contract renegotiation and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

8914,337204,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,Key positions- Oppose the average 7.9 percent rates rise. The proposed increase translates to approximately $320 more per household on top of a 30 percent real increase since 2022 (in 2022 dollars) and well above inflation. Rates have risen 85 percent since the 2010 Super City amalgamation far exceeding population growth and inflation.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. Corporate and business support functions currently cost $868.4 million in direct expenditure across 18 functions; this level is unsustainable given the ratepayer burden.- Curb consultancy and professional services spend. Council and CCOs spend about $126 million per year on consultants with the average consultant receiving around $200k. This is excessive given budget pressures on essential services.- Cancel non-essential programmes. Specifically discontinue the Food Scraps Programme (about $36 million/year) due to its limited net carbon savings.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling non-essential vacancies. Halting new hires in non-critical areas could save at least $17 million immediately.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants. Reduce Māori-specific spending including the approximately $10 million/year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) which I do not regard as a core local-government function.Rationale- The proposed mix2% for maintaining assets 1.5% for new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costsdemonstrates a misalignment with prudent local-government budgeting given the recent cost pressures and the burden on households.- The council's current trajectory of rising personnel costs and outsourced professional services is not sustainable and fails to meet the expectations of ratepayers who voted for value-for-money governance.I request that the Council adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget framework prioritising a cap on the rates increase at around 3% by delivering targeted reductions as outlined above.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

8945,337162,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge a comprehensive reduction in wasteful Council spending before any further rate rises are considered.Why this matters- The proposed 7.9% average increase translates to about $320 for the average household on top of a last decade where rates have risen 85% since the Super City amalgamation far outpacing inflation (about 34%) and population growth (22%).- A large portion of the rate rise “ 4.4% “ goes to CRL operating costs; 2% for maintaining assets; 1.5% for new assets. This does not appear to be matched by transparent outcomes for communities.Agreed positions1) Oppose the 7.9% increase and cap rates growth to a more constrained level aligned with disciplined spending controls.2) Reduce corporate and backroom spending across the Council and CCOs.3) Reduce consultancy and professional services expenditure rather than letting it grow.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.5) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.6) Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) given this is not a core local government function.Additional points- The Council should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and pursue contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation worth about $30 million.- Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze along with tighter control on consultants would bring immediate relief to ratepayers.ClosingWayne Brown needs to act on his election promises. He's definitely no Mr Fix It.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,, 0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0 ,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

8956,337150,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,The rate so far has risen 85% since the 2010 amalgamation with real increases far outpacing inflation and residents deserve a plan that trims waste rather than passes costs onto households.Position and rationale1) Oppose the 7.9% increase. The average residential bill is now about $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of 30%. An average rise of 7.9% represents more than inflation-adjusted growth and is not justified given the current service levels for many households including rural ratepayers who already face higher relative costs.2) Reduce corporate and backroom spending across the Council and CCOs. Spending on consultants is $126 million per year and payroll/costs continue to outpace inflation. A tighter focus on core services is required.3) Cut consultancy and professional services. The Alliance spreadsheet shows substantial recurring costs in this area; halting further increases and renegotiating contracts are essential.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. The programme costs $36 million per year and is claimed to emit more carbon than it saves; funds should be redirected to essential services with clear measurable environmental and community benefits.5) Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs. Not hiring for vacant non-essential roles would save at least $17 million immediately and address bloated payroll.6) Cut Māori-specific spending. The $10 million/year on the Māori outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) department should be reconsidered as a local government function with funds redirected to statutory services.7) Additional note. It is noted that rates rose by 18% for 2026 in our rural area despite fewer visible services; a more accurate equitable and transparent budgeting approach is needed.Alternative budget framingA 3% cap on average residential rates is possible if spending is reined in by $150 million through personnel controls consultant reductions contract renegotiations and prioritising core statutory services over discretionary grants.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a

hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9005,337081,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,I submit in strong opposition to the proposed average 7.9% residential rates increase.1) Rate increase and spending priorities- The proposed 7.9% increase is excessive effectively adding about $320 to the average household bill (current average $4069). I urge Council to cap the increase at 3% or less by cutting non-essential expenditure.- Core savings should come from reducing corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and by cutting consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to expand these lines.2) Specific spending reductions and policy changes- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing around $36 million per year which also emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze hiring for vacant non-essential roles or cap payroll growth; halting new positions would save at least $17 million promptly.- Reduce Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes framework (Ngā Mātārae) which I do not believe is a proper local-government responsibility.3) Alternative budget framework- I support the Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (roughly 2%) thereby delivering a rate increase around 3%: ¢ $50 million from personnel cost reductions via organisational change and hiring freezes ¢ $50 million from capping spending on consultants ¢ $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation ¢ $20 million by prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants4) Context and fairness- Since 2010 rates have risen 85% while inflation and population growth have not kept pace. A more disciplined approach to spend is essential to ensure rates reflect actual service needs and not discretionary expansions.I urge Auckland Council to adopt a fiscally prudent path that prioritises essential services and drives meaningful reductions in wasteful spend. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9010,337076,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,I submit to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for restraint in wasteful Council spending in line with the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing.Position and rationale- Oppose the average residential rates increase of at least 7.9%. The current average residential rates bill is about $4069 and the proposed increase would add roughly $320 for the average household. A sustained pattern of rate rises well above inflation is unaffordable and inequitable for households many of which are already feeling pressure from regular cost of living increases.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. A focus on pruning indirect costs will protect essential services for ratepayers.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services. The Alliance outlines that consultant costs are excessive and rising; curbing these would directly lower the rate burden.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs approximately $36 million per year and is claimed to emit more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure the Alliance argues would save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). These functions are not a core local government responsibility and should be prioritised accordingly.Alternative budget and impact- The Alliance's plan proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) to

cap the rate rise at around 3%. This would be achieved through: a $50 million saving from personnel costs via organisational change and hiring freezes; $50 million from cap on consultants; $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; and $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI request that my submission be considered in determining a more affordable rate path and a sustainable value-for-money approach to Council expenditure.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9012,337074,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,I submit in strong direct terms to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent for 2026/27 and to demand substantial cuts to wasteful council spending and backroom costs.Key concerns- The proposed 7.9% rates rise is excessive. This represents an average increase of about $320 per household at a time when rates have grown 85% since the 2010 amalgamation far outpacing both inflation (‰ˆ34%) and population growth (‰ˆ22%). The bulk of the increase drives CRL operating costs (4.4%) while only 2% is for maintaining assets and 1.5% for new assets due to growth. - Wasteful spending must be pruned. Council spending on consultants totals about $126 million per year across the group with the parent council alone spending $60 million and consultants averaging $200k each. A focus on reducing corporate backroom and procurement costs is essential.- Cutting non-core programmes and personnel costs is necessary. The council should freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. There must be tighter control of payroll and six-figure salaries given 6123 Council/CCO employees earning six figures and 72 staff paid more than the mayor.- Redirection of funds away from discretionary programmes. I support terminating the Food Scraps Programme ($36 million/year) which according to analysis emits more carbon than it saves. I also support reducing Māori-specific expendituresuch as the $10 million per year spent on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae)as this is not a core local government responsibility.- An affordable alternative requires a real cap on new spending. The Ratepayers' Alliance model shows a viable path: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2% cap on rate rises) via: (1) $50 million from personnel costs (2) $50 million from consultants (3) $30 million from renegotiations and vendor consolidation and (4) $20 million from prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.ClosingI urge the Council to adopt a responsible spending plan that reduces waste freezes non-essential roles and aligns rate increases with real needs and inflation.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9017,337064,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,The council should not seek rate rises well above inflation when there are clear opportunities to trim wasteful expenditure and refocus on essential services.Key concerns and asks- The 7.9% increase is breakdown: 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This allocation appears excessive while basic ratepayer burdens have already risen 30% in real terms since 2022 far above wider inflation.- Expenditure reductions must precede rate hikes. The council should reduce spending on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb consultancy and professional services rather than increasing these categories.- Cancel the Food

Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that would save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Maori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local government responsibility.Alternative budget approachI support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (approximately a 2% reduction) to cap the average residential rates increase at around 3%. This would be achieved by:- $50 million savings from personnel costs through organisational changes and a hiring freeze;- $50 million from capping spending on consultants;- $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation;- $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.ConclusionRates increases should be aligned with inflation and population growth not used to fund expanding back office functions and high-cost programmes with questionable value. Please consider a tightened budget and tangible savings prior to approving any increase.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9051,337025,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,I submit in strong and direct terms to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for substantial reductions in wasteful council spending.Key positions- Oppose the 7.9% rates increase. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of 30% in 2022 dollars far exceeding inflation. The plan allocates 4.4% for CRL operating costs which alongside other cost pressures compounds this rise.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs. The current structure shows high payroll and admin costs including 6123 Council/CCO employees on six-figure salaries with 72 staff paid more than the mayor's $306741.- Cut consultancy and professional services. Council spending on consultants is about $126 million per year across the group with the average consultant earning around $200k.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme ($36 million/year) as it costs more in emissions than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles a measure that would save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million/year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) recognising this is not a core local government function.- Align spending with essential statutory services and avoid discretionary grants that do not directly serve ratepayers.Allocation and funding focus- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap average rates increase at around 3% through targeted savings in personnel consultants contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation.ClosingI urge the Council to prioritise essential services reduce wasteful overheads and return to responsible sustainable rate levels. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9134,336928,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,Key concerns- The proposed 7.9% increase equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 in an inflationary environment that remains elevated. The breakdown shows 2% for maintaining assets 1.5% for growth-related new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This level is inappropriate

while there is clear scope to reduce non-essential expenditure.- There is extensive evidence of rising personnel and backroom costs including 6123 Council and CCO employees on six-figure salaries and 72 staff paid more than the mayor. Direct operating expenditure has grown well above inflation with substantial reliance on consultants and contractors.- The Council should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary programmes and review high-cost non-core activities that do not deliver clear public benefit.Proposed alternative budget and prioritiesThe Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget recommends reducing new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) to cap average residential rates increases at approximately 3%. Specific reductions sought:- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Reduce expenditure on personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze where appropriate.- Curb spending on consultants and professional services by $50 million.- Renegotiate contracts and pursue vendor consolidation to save about $30 million.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants with a $20 million reallocation.Additional points- Targeted reductions in Māori-specific spend including the $10 million per year allocated to Ngā Mātārae should be re-evaluated for alignment with local government roles and statutory responsibilities.- The Food Scraps Programme is a costly initiative at $36 million per year and should be cancelled if it cannot demonstrate net carbon savings.ClosingI request that the Council consider significant efficiency measures and the proposed $150 million savings plan in forming any final decision on rate increases.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9158,336902,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,I submit in strong and direct terms to oppose the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase and to advocate for urgent reduction of wasteful Council spending.The proposed increase is excessive. The average residential rates rise of 7.9 percent equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a current average bill of $4069. Since 2022 rates have risen by about 30 percent in real terms far outpacing cumulative inflation. The breakdown shows 2 percent for maintaining existing assets 1.5 percent for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs. This structure disproportionately burdens households while the Council expands backroom spend.There is clear scope to tighten spending without compromising essential services. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposes an Alternative Budget to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2 percent) to cap rates at about 3 percent. Key measures include: reducing personnel costs via organisational changes and a hiring freeze ($50 million) capping consultant and professional services spend ($50 million) renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors ($30 million) and prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants ($20 million).Specific wasteful areas must be addressed. Council spending on consultants and professional services is excessive with about $126 million per year across the Council group and average consultant pay around $200k. Payroll and other expenses have grown far faster than inflation with staff costs alone at about $1.3 billion and 6123 employees earning six-figure salaries. Eighteen corporate and business support functions cost nearly $869 million in direct expenditure. These backroom costs should be tightened not rewarded with higher rate increases.Other targeted savings are warranted. Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves. Freeze hiring for vacant non-essential roles to save at least $17 million immediately. Review Māori-focused spend including the

Ngā Mātārae department's $10 million annual allocation as local government funding should focus on statutory duties and essential services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9159,336901,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,Key concerns- I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. This rise far exceeds both inflation and population growth and is not acceptable to ratepayers.- The proposed breakdown shows 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs with 2 percent for maintaining assets and 1.5 percent for new assets as Auckland grows. This level of ongoing cost pressure is unsustainable for households and should be reined in.- The Council must cut spending on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and reduce expenditure on consultancy and professional services rather than allow these costs to continue rising.- I urge cancellation of the nonsensical and unwanted Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves. If I have any food scraps I want them for my own compost bin.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Reduce Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year on the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) since in my view this is not a role for local government. Pure wokery- Each year rates increases have exceeded inflation by a large margin; this pattern must end. It is time for fiscal responsibility not ongoing spendthrift habits.ClosingI request the Council to adopt restraint on operating and payroll costs prioritise essential services and implement targeted reductions in consultants and discretionary spend to keep rates increases reasonable and affordable.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9168,336891,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,Key concerns- The proposed 7.9% increase is excessive relative to inflation and outpaced only by persistent growth in operating costs with a large portion reportedly directed to CRL operating costs and asset maintenance rather than essential services. The average household bill would rise by about $320 while the real increase since 2022 already stands well above inflation.- There is clear scope to tighten wasteful expenditure. The Council should reduce corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cut consultancy and professional services rather than expanding these lines.- The Food Scraps Programme is unwarranted at $36 million per year with emissions benefits not convincingly matching the cost. It should be cancelled.- Staffing costs must be controlled. Freeze non-essential hires and reduce payroll by not filling vacant roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae 'Maori Outcomes' portfolio at about $10 million per year should be reassessed. This is not a core local government role and funds should prioritise statutory and essential services.Support for an alternative budget- I support the Ratepayers' Alliance recommendation to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) capping the average rate increase at around 3%. This would be achieved through: $50 million in personnel cost reductions via organisational change and a hiring freeze; $50 million cap on consultants; $30 million in contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; and $20 million prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.Additional note- Try living on the pension

and paying the rates that you selfish over spending people are doing.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9198,336859,,Upper Harbour,Do not support most,I submit in strong opposition to the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase for 2026/27 and advocate for immediate reductions in wasteful Council spending to constrain rate rises.Key position: oppose the 7.9% increase. The proposed rise equates to about $320 for the average household and continues a pattern of costs outpacing inflation. Since the 2010 Super City amalgamation rates have risen 85%well above cumulative inflation (34%) and population growth (22%). A fair and responsible council must prioritise efficiency before asking households to fund further growth in operating costs.Wasteful spending must be reduced. The Council should:- Cut expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than allowing these items to grow.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) arguing that this is not a core local government function.Alternative budget approach. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) which would cap the average residential rate rise at around 3% through:- $50 million savings from personnel costs via organisational change and hiring freezes.- $50 million from capping consultant spend.- $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation.- $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Rationale. Direct operating expenditure has risen far faster than inflation (78% 2013“2023) and payroll alone amounts to about $1.3 billion. A leaner cost base is feasible without compromising essential services accountability or growth.Closing. I request careful consideration of alternate budgeting options and urge the Council to adopt a restrained approach to spending that preserves core services while reducing backroom and consultancy costs.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#9224

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge a pause to wasteful spending so that ratepayers are not burdened beyond inflation.Agreed positions to be reflected in the submission1) Oppose the 7.9% average residential rates increase. This rise represents a significant burden on households approximately $320 for the average home and exceeds prudent limits while real increases since 2022 have already outpaced inflation.2) Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.3) Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these items.4) Cancel the Food Scraps

Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.5) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.6) Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year devoted to the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a core local government role.Additional pointsWe are paying increased rates and getting less for them. Public areas in my district are overgrown with gorse nightshades and other noxious plants. There is a need to prioritise basic services over vanity projects and to focus ratepayer funds on essential infrastructure and maintenance rather than discretionary or unproven schemes.In line with the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget I urge the Council to reduce new spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the average rates increase at around 3%:- $50 million by reducing personnel costs through organisational changes and a hiring freeze- $50 million by capping consultants- $30 million through contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation- $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grantsClosingI request the opportunity to provide further input at a hearing if possible but I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#9229

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong opposition to the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and urge a substantial reduction in wasteful Council spending. The current trajectory has seen rates rise far ahead of inflation and population growth with a real increase since 2022 of about 30 percent in rates while inflation sits around 12 percent.Key concerns and requests1) Rates position: Oppose an average 7.9% increase. This would impose an excessive burden on households already paying an average $4069 in rates with little evidence of reforms to curb waste.2) Wasteful backroom costs: The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the

Council and CCOs. Gap-filling increases in payroll and consultants are unsustainable.3) Consultants and professional services: Curb spend on external consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these items.4) Specific programmes to retire: Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs $36 million/year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves).5) Payroll discipline: Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles; this could save at least $17 million immediately.6) Māori sector expenditure: Reconsider and reduce Māori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million/year on the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) which is not a direct local-government obligation.Rationale and alternative budgeting- The Council's current spending mix drives rising rates while essential services are at risk. The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget proposes a $150 million reduction in new spending (2%) capping the rate rise to about 3% by: reducing staffing costs capping consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.- Specific savings: $50 million from personnel cost reductions $50 million from consultant caps $30 million from renegotiations and $20 million from prioritising statutory services.I urge Council to adopt a disciplined evidence-based cost-reduction approach before imposing higher rates on ratepayers.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.
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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?

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

#9287

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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:

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- **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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. The current average rates bill is $4069 and the real increase since 2022 is already around 30 percent in 2022 dollars vs. 12 percent consumer inflation. The breakdown shows 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This level is unsustainable for households and far exceeds what is reasonable to support core statutory services.The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget outlines a credible path to cap the rate rise at around 3 percent by reducing spending on administration consulting and non-essential activities.

Specifically:- Reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) achieving an average rate increase of about 3%.- Freeze or reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles delivering an immediate saving of at least $17 million.- Cap spending on consultants and professional services at $50 million.- Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to save $30 million.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million.Additional areas where the draft plan should tighten expenditure include:- Reducing personnel costs and back-office functions across the Council and CCOs which currently comprise a large portion of operating costs.- Cutting spending on Māori-focused programs including the $10 million/year attributed to the Māori outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) department which I believe falls outside the essential responsibilities of local government.Other concerns to highlight:- Spending on consultants amounts to about $126 million per year across the Council group with the average consultant receiving around $200k. This pattern suggests a need for tighter governance and budget discipline.- Direct operating expenditure has risen far faster than inflation and discretionary spending should be prioritised to protect core local services.I request fair consideration of these points and a move toward stronger affordability and value for ratepayers. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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):

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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.

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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	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

#9293

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

The proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent and the associated rising cost-of-living pressures demand a clear focus on reducing waste and improving value for money across the Council and its CCOs.Agreed priorities:1) Reduce corporate and backroom spending. The Council and CCOs should cut non-frontline costs including corporate and business support functions to restore efficiency and accountability in spending.2) Curb consultancy and professional services. Spend on consultants and contractors has grown substantially; freezing or reducing these expenses will deliver immediate savings and protect ratepayers from ongoing cost escalations.3) Cancel the

Food Scraps Programme. At $36 million per year and with questionable carbon savings this programme should be discontinued to deliver immediate relief to ratepayers.4) Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles. This measure alone could save at least $17 million promptly and reduce ongoing payroll drift.5) Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Maori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). Local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over niche programmes.6) Consider broader structural reform of the current Council-Local Government framework. If more radical changes are pursued including reviewing the role and cost of CCOs this could further reduce overhead and improve service delivery for residents.Additional points:- Direct operating and personnel costs have grown far faster than inflation; rationalising staffing and procurement will help restore value for money.- An alternative budgeting approach prioritising essential services and renegotiating contracts could cap rate increases while maintaining core functions.I request the opportunity to speak at hearings to elaborate on these proposals and to present a detailed evidence-based alternative budget that places ratepayer interests first.Sincerely{name redacted}{address redacted}{email redacted}I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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- **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.

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

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	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

#9305

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

Based on the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing this level of increase is excessive and out of step with both inflation and real household budgets. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of 30 percent (against 12 percent cumulative inflation). It is unacceptable to pile this burden on ratepayers while wasteful and excessive spending continues.Iains Seymour-Hart's positions:- Oppose the 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and support a cap on rates growth closer to 3 percent.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spend on consultancy and

professional services rather than permitting continued growth in these areas.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emissions appear to exceed savings.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this would save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) arguing it is not a local government remit.The proposed 7.9% increase comprises 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. A more responsible path is to implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2% cap) through:- $50 million savings from personnel costs via organisational change and hiring freezes- $50 million from capped consultant spend- $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation- $20 million by prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grantsAdditionally the Council must focus on basics: berm maintenance water services rubbish collection city cleanliness and tourist safety. Mayor Wayne Brown should stop shifting blame to Central Government and urgently pursue cost reductions to lessen the rates burden; his recent conduct undermines public trust.By focusing on the basics reducing the size of the Council wage bill increasing productivity and working smarter the result MUST be to signficantly reduce the rates over time. Any increase is unacceptable. Closing: I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#9321

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current average residential rates bill is already $4069 and since 2022 rates have risen by 30 percent in real terms far outpacing inflation. A 7.9 percent rise would push households further into hardship given the cost of living pressures.Agreed positions- Oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9 percent. The cost of living is bad enough without a further rise that will disproportionately hit homeowners and renters alike.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. Address wasteful overheads rather than passing costs to ratepayers.- Reduce spending on consultancy and professional services. Curbing

external advice and contracting will help lower operating costs.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million per year which purportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) noting this is not a statutory local government responsibility.Additional points- The proposed budget should align with a responsible services-first approach. The cost of living for Auckland households cannot bear further rate increases while discretionary spend and backroom costs remain high.- The Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget suggests reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) enabling an average rate increase closer to 3% through targeted reductions in personnel consultants vendor negotiations and prioritising essential services.I urge the Council to prioritise essential services and deliver genuine efficiency gains before imposing higher rates recognising that every dollar spent on vanity projects or external consultants is a dollar not available for essential local services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#9331

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current plan would add about $320 to the average household bill on top of a real rates rise of around 30% since 2022 (well above inflation). I urge you to align rates with inflation not with escalating backroom costs.Key points and requests:1) Oppose the 7.9% increase. The proposed split shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs and 2% for maintaining existing assets with 1.5% for growth. Flattening or cutting non-essential spending is essential before pushing ratepayers to cover these costs.2) Reduce corporate and backroom expenditure across the Council and CCOs. Spending on consultants is $126 million per year across the group (around $60 million by the Council alone) with

many consultants earning substantial sums. A dedicated efficiency drive is required.3) Freeze staffing and cut payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles. The current payroll and staffing growth contribute significantly to cost pressure; halting non-essential hires would immediately save at least $17 million.4) Cut consultant and professional services spend. The ongoing rise in these costs is unsustainable and should be capped or reduced substantially.5) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. At $36 million per year it emits more carbon than it saves and should be scrapped.6) Reduce Māori-specific spending. The $10 million per year for the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) is not a core local government function and should be redirected.In line with the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget I support reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) enabling a cap of approximately 3% on residential rates by: $50 million from personnel costs $50 million from consultants $30 million from contracts and vendor consolidation and $20 million redirected to statutory/essential services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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
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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?

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

#9348

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit my formal opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and urge a substantial reduction in wasteful Council spending. The proposed increase which equates to about $320 for the average household far outstrips real budgetary needs and inflation.Key concerns and positions:1) Rates burden and fiscal discipline. The 7.9% rise represents a real burden on households. The Council should cap the increase to align with inflation and improve affordability rather than perpetuate a pattern of rising rates.2) Expenditure on corporate backroom functions and consultants. The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office

functions across the Council and CCOs and curb consultancy and professional services which have ballooned in recent years. A more efficient structure is essential.3) Specific programme spending. The ongoing Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million per year should be cancelled as it emits more carbon than it saves. This aligns with a goal of prudent outcome-focused spend.4) Staffing and payroll. Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. Implementing this measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately.5) Māori-specific expenditure. Consider reducing Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) arguing that this is not a role of local government.6) Alternative budget framing. I support the Ratepayers' Alliance approach to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap rates growth at around 3% through careful savings in personnel consultants contract renegotiations and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.7) Additional note. The total renovation of Queen Street as Auckland's gateway is a concern and should be reflected in the Council's prioritisation of essential public works.In closing I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.)

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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?

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

#9371

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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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- **Transport**
- **Water**
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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current context requires a disciplined approach to ratepayers' money and greater transparency on how funds are allocated.1) Rates and affordability- I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. This is well above inflation and places an undue burden on households. The proposed rise translates to roughly $320 extra per year for the average household on top of ongoing cost pressures.2) Wasteful and discretionary spending must be cut- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these items.-

Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and in my view emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this alone would save at least $17 million right away.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the approximately $10 million per year on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a function of local government.3) Alternative budget approach- The Ratepayers' Alliance proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (about 2 percent) to cap the average residential rates increase at around 3 percent. This includes $50 million from personnel costs through organisational changes and hiring freezes $50 million from capping consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.4) Stewardship and responsibility- Council has a duty to steward ratepayers' money carefully providing core services within a strict budget and living within ratepayers' means.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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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- **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

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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?

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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?

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

#9373

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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:

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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

Based on the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing this increase would add approximately $320 to the average household bill on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (in 2022 dollars) and a cumulative rate rise well above inflation and population growth.I support the Council's need to fund essential services but I urge reductions in wasteful and non‘essential expenditure so that rates stay affordable. I propose the Council adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget reducing new spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the average residential rates increase at 3% through:1) Reducing personnel costs via organisational change and a hiring freeze for non‘essential roles

saving about $50 million.2) Capping spending on consultants and professional services at $50 million.3) Renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors to save around $30 million.4) Focusing statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million.Key areas of concern include:- Corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs which require meaningful reduction.- High consultancies and professional services which have risen significantly and should be capped or redirected.- The Food Scraps Programme costing about $36 million annually which the Alliance argues may emit more carbon than it saves.- Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae department's roughly $10 million per year which the submitter views as not a local government core function.Additionally I request the Council cancel recruitment company retainer contracts and Legal counsel retainer contracts to deliver additional savings.Overall the rate increase should reflect inflation and population growth not outpace them with ongoing discretionary growth. A disciplined reduction in non‘core expenditure will deliver a more affordable rates outcome while preserving essential public services and accountability.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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- **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

#9420

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

Households can hardly afford further rate increases and Auckland's rates history shows a pattern of outsized growth well above inflation and population increases.Key points:- The proposed average residential rates rise of 7.9% equates to about $320 for the average household on current average rates of $4069 (up from $2781 in 2022). Since 2022 the real increase is 30% against 12% cumulative inflation a clear misalignment with household affordability.- The 7.9% increase is not all for essential needs: 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This distribution warrants scrutiny and re-prioritisation to protect core

services.- Wasteful spending must be addressed before burdening ratepayers further. Notable concerns include $126 million per year on consultants across the Council group payroll and contractor costs that have risen faster than inflation and six-figure salaries across many staff. The overall payroll is around $1.3 billion with $590 million on consultants and contractors while 18 corporate and business support functions cost $868.4 million in direct expenditure.Proposed Council actions:- Implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping average rates increases at about 3%.- Achieve savings through: freezing non-essential vacant positions cutting personnel costs capping consultancy spend renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors.- Reprioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants while cancelling non-core programmes with questionable value such as the Food Scraps Programme (costing $36 million/year and emitting more carbon than saved).- Significantly reduce Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year allocated to Ngā Mātārae arguing it is not a local-government responsibility.Additional context:Households deserve a focus on affordability reduced overstaffing and restraint in non-essential programmes. The Council can do better for ratepayers by filtering spending through necessity and effectiveness.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#9485

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I write as a ratepayer with concerns about the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent.1) Oppose the 7.9% increase as the default rate rise- The proposed increase would add about $320 to the average household bill on top of a real rate increase of 30% since 2022 (vs. 12% inflation). Rates should not outpace inflation or household means. I urge the Council to limit any increase to a level compatible with families' budgeting and essential services.2) Reducing wasteful and backroom spending- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Significantly cut spending on consultancy and professional

services rather than continuing to expand these items.3) Specific programme cuts and payroll controls- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs about $36 million per year) which reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.4) Re-evaluate Māori-specific and other targeted spend- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a function of local government and reallocate to statutory and essential services.5) Overall approach- Rates increases should be restrained to reflect the Council's ability to fund core services while living within its means aligning with households' experiences of inflation and cost pressures.Additional point- Rate increases are contributing to inflationary pressure in the country and place a heavy burden on households. The Council should prioritise essential services and manageable rates while pursuing reforms to reduce overall spend.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.

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- **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?

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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?

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

#9512

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit this submission in a constructive solution-focused manner to register my opposition to the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to advocate for tighter controls on wasteful Council spending.Key points- I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent which is around $320 for the average household especially given the real rates increase since 2022 is already 30 percent against 12 percent inflation.- The breakdown shows 2 percent for maintaining assets 1.5 percent for new assets tied to growth and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs. This level of increase above inflation is not justifiable without verifiable efficiency gains.-

There is ample evidence of wasteful expenditure that could be reduced to protect ratepayers notably: - Consultants: about $126 million per year across the Council group with the average consultant earning around $200k. - Corporate and backroom functions: 18 functions cost $868.4 million in direct expenditure. - Payroll and staff costs: payroll of $1.3 billion with significant six-figure salaries and dozens paid above the mayor's level. - The Food Scraps Programme costs $36 million per year yet evidence suggests it emits more carbon than it saves.- I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposals to cap rate increases through a $150 million reduction in new spending (about 2%) achieved by: - Reducing personnel costs via organisational change and hiring freezes: $50 million - Capping consultant spending: $50 million - Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: $30 million - Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: $20 million- I also support freezing or reducing payroll by not filling non-essential vacancies which could save at least $17 million immediately and I oppose continuing to fund Māori-specific spending such as Ngā Mātārae at $10 million per year per the provided framework.Conclusion and request- I request that Council adopt a responsible budget that reduces new spending by at least $150 million to keep rates closer to 3 percent and protect households from further inflationary pressure while preserving essential services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.

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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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	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

#9596

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

1. Rates and affordability- The proposed average residential rates rise of 7.9 percent is excessive and out of step with inflation. The current average rates bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 a real increase of about 30 percent far exceeding the 12 percent cumulative inflation. I urge you to honour your obligation to ratepayers by constraining rate rises to at most 3 percent as outlined in the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget.2. Spending reform and backroom cost cuts- There is a clear need to shrink corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs. State the intent to reduce spending on consultants and professional services which total around $126 million

annually across the Council group and are a major driver of cost growth.- Freeze or reduce payroll by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately.- Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to achieve meaningful savings as well as prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.3. Specific program and equity concerns- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and according to independent assessments emits more carbon than it saves.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a function of local government.- The combined effect of personnel costs and other expenses increased well above inflation in recent years while direct operating expenditure grew far faster than inflation. A disciplined re-prioritisation is required.Alternative budget framework- The Ratepayers' Alliance proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) enabling an average rate increase capped at around 3 percent.ClosingI urge the Council to adopt a leaner budget prioritise essential services and deliver real rate relief to households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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.)

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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?

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

#9632

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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**
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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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average rates rise and request the Council to pursue substantial cost reductions instead of further rate hikes. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 and since 2022 residents have faced a real increase of about 30 percent well above inflation. The proposed increase is broken down as: 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This compounds pressure on households already squeezed by rising living costs.A plan aligned with ratepayer interests is the Council's own initiative to reduce wasteful expenditure. I support the Ratepayers' Alliance's Alternative Budget which

proposes a $150 million reduction in new spending (about 2%) to cap the rate rise at around 3 percent. Specific measures I support include:- Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze: potential saving of $50 million.- Capping spending on consultants and professional services: potential saving of $50 million.- Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: potential saving of $30 million.- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: potential saving of $20 million.I further urge cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which is claimed to cost about $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves. I also support freezing staffing levels or reducing payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. In line with the community's view on scope I support reducing Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that these activities are not a core function of local government.I ask the Council to focus on core statutory responsibilities and essential services and to halt unnecessary or discretionary programmes where evidence shows limited benefit.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

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

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	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

#9655

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

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?

Do not support most

Tell us why

The currently proposed rise is neither affordable nor justified given the Council's spending trajectory over recent years.Key concerns and positions:- I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. The impact is a real-terms burden on households already facing inflation well above wage growth.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. Spending on consultants and professional services should be slowed and better controlled.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not

filling vacant non-essential roles; this measure would save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori outcomes' function on the premise that this is not a core local-government role.Rationale and supporting data:- Since 2010 rates have risen 85% far outpacing inflation (34%) and population growth (22%). A 7.9% average increase compounds this misalignment.- The rate rise funds are allocated roughly as: 4.4% for CRL operating costs 2% for maintaining assets and 1.5% for new assets to service growth. Consider re-prioritisation to protect essential services.- The Council's payroll and contractor costs are high; payroll alone is about $1.3 billion with substantial consultant costs ($590 million). A responsible reset is overdue.Alternative Budget proposal (summarised):Reduce new Council spending by $150 million to cap rates at about 3% through: $50m from personnel reductions $50m from consultant caps $30m from renegotiations/vendor consolidation and $20m from prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.I would like to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

#9666

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: N/A

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback:

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Do not support most

Tell us why

The proposed increase would cost the average household about $320 more per year on top of a 30% real rise since 2022 far outpacing inflation and population growth.Key points- The 7.9% increase is broken down as 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This allocation shows that the largest pressure comes from ongoing operating costs rather than truly essential growth needs.- There is clear opportunity to rebalance the budget by reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom functions and by limiting consultancy and professional services which have grown rapidly and often duplicate internal

capabilities.- The Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million/year and not demonstrably saving emissions should be canceled or re-scoped to better align with core council responsibilities.- Payroll costs are high and freezing vacancies or not filling non-essential roles could save substantial funds immediately (the Alliance estimates at least $17 million). A pause on non-essential recruitment would contribute to keeping rates more affordable.- Māori-specific expenditure including the Ngā Mātārae 'Maori Outcomes' area at around $10 million per year should be reviewed to ensure alignment with local government responsibilities and statutory duties.Alternative budget approachTo cap the rate rise at around 3% and reduce pressure on households the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposes a $150 million reduction in new council spending (about 2%) allocated as:- Personnel costs: $50 million- Consultants: $50 million- Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: $30 million- Essential statutory services prioritisation: $20 millionConclusionI urge the Council to adopt a leaner more targeted budget that prioritises statutory and essential services curtails backroom spending freezes non-essential hires and cancels or re-scopes non-core programmes. This approach would deliver a fairer rate path while maintaining Auckland's core public services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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