



Consultation on the draft Local Board Plans 2026

Written Feedback Waiheke Volume #2

23 June 2026 to 23 July 2026



Sub #	Organisation Name	Page Number
#64	Waiheke Art Gallery	3
#80	Waiheke Eastern End Community Association (WEeCA), (committee)	6
#10	Waiheke Golf Club	12
#96	Waiheke Health Trust	17
#73	Waiheke Musical Museum Charitable Trust	21
#50	Waiheke Resources Trust	24



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#90

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: Waiheke Adult Learning

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Very well

Tell us why

The plan reflects our community.

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Please consider including under the second objective

- Support the provision of relevant learning opportunities on Waiheke.

Please consider including under the fifth objective

- Support community-led youth initiatives and implement recommendations of the 2024 Rangatahi/Youth Assessment with a plan to review the assessment within 3 - 5 years.

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Please consider including in the fourth objective

- Plan for future redevelopment of arts, learning and culture facilities.

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Please consider including in the first or fourth objective

- Support the provision of appropriate training and skill building opportunities.

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? *Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.*

Under the Levels of Service, Local community services section on page 30 please consider amending to read - We support strong diverse and vibrant communities through libraries and learning (replace literacy with learning).



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#64

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: Waiheke Art Gallery

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Strategic investment is required to ensure Waiheke is a place for creatives to live, work and learn. Particularly in relation to the priority for:

A flourishing arts sector that celebrates our unique island identity

- Support the arts community to generate, maintain and grow the arts on Waiheke

Support for the commissioning of a Creative Island Strategy alongside a revised Arts and Culture Needs Assessment will develop a road map for the long term creative ecosystem including infrastructure, facilities, opportunities for building capacity and capability, creative sector alignment as well as promotion of the motu as a cultural destination.

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Many existing cultural facilities are run down and not fit for purpose limited opportunities for growth.

Waiheke Art Gallery requires additional exhibition, storage, retail and teaching space in order to accommodate growing engagement and visitation and its developing role as a regional gallery.

The current building lacks infrastructure needed (such as temperature control) to store our permanent collection and host exhibitions of value.

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We support the objective that Waiheke is recognised as an arts destination. This priority requires investment in buildings, events and people to provide opportunities for creative practitioners and audiences/visitors.

Provision of shoulder season events and experiences and a focus on increasing longer stays on the island will provide economic benefit to island businesses and manage visitation.

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Investment is needed in developing the welcoming/arrival experience to the island including up to date information and staffing of concierge roles to manaaki our visitors.

- 7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.**



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#80

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: Waiheke Eastern End Community Association (WEeCA), (committee)

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Tell us why

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Overall, WEeCA supports the proposed community outcomes and associated initiatives, particularly those that strengthen community resilience, connectedness, and preparedness. As a geographically more isolated part of Waiheke Island, the Eastern End faces unique challenges during emergencies and natural disasters. Building resilient communities requires a strong partnership between the Local Board, Auckland Council and local communities to ensure residents are well connected, informed, and able to respond effectively when access to external assistance may be delayed.

We look forward to working with the Local Board, other local volunteer organisations, and residents' associations to help deliver these initiatives and strengthen community resilience across Waiheke Island.

Community Hubs and Resilience

We strongly support the proposed initiative to develop community hubs. WEeCA has established a community hub at Ōrapiu, with funding from the Local Board, Auckland Emergency Management and Te Ara Urutau Climate and Emergency Fund, that already serves as an important focal point for the Eastern End. With Local Board support, this hub could be expanded into a network of well-resourced community hubs that better serves the Eastern End's dispersed rural population. Such a network would improve community connectedness, strengthen emergency preparedness and response capability.

With respect to resilience initiatives, we also make the point that any disaster resulting in a failure of infrastructure (roads, bridges, power, and individual water supplies) leaves the Eastern End particularly vulnerable, especially as there is only one main road linking the Eastern End to the rest of the island. This is particularly obvious with the current slip on Waiheke Road, which is reduced to one lane, and there is no obvious signs it is soon to be repaired. Part of emergency preparedness is to keep our roads and bridges and causeways well maintained.

Celebrating the Eastern End's Heritage

The Eastern End has a rich Māori and European history that is largely invisible to both visitors and many Waiheke residents visiting the Eastern End. We encourage the Local Board to work in partnership with mana whenua, local historical groups, and the community to better recognise and interpret this important heritage. A practical first step would be the development of a small, publicly accessible heritage kiosk or interpretive display at a suitable location in the Eastern End, such as Te Matuku Stockyard Reserve. This would celebrate the area's cultural and historical significance, strengthen local identity, and enrich the visitor experience while supporting broader educational and cultural objectives for Waiheke Island.

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Overall, WEeCA supports the environmental objectives outlined in the Annual Plan and offers the following suggestions to strengthen implementation of some in the Eastern End.

Restore, Enhance and Protect Our Natural Environment

We strongly support the objective of restoring, enhancing, and protecting Waiheke's natural environment. The Eastern End contains some of the island's most significant ecological and landscape values, including its coastline, native bush, rural and coastal vistas, and the dark night sky. These natural assets are fundamental to the area's biodiversity, community wellbeing, and visitor economy. Continued investment in their protection and restoration, in partnership with local communities, is strongly supported.

While the Plan appropriately highlights advocacy for the potential development of a Marine Reserve in the north-west of Waiheke, it does not recognise the importance of the existing Te Matuku Marine Reserve. According to the Department of Conservation Te Matuku Marine Reserve is the island's largest and least-disturbed estuary, and it provides a rare and continuous ecological transition from freshwater to estuarine and marine environments - it is one of Waiheke Island's most significant marine conservation areas. The Reserve faces a number of ongoing pressures that warrant greater attention, including illegal fishing, speeding vessels and personal watercraft operating close to shore and within mangrove channels, increasing sedimentation following heavy rainfall, and the potential impacts of these activities on birdlife, marine habitats, and public safety.

We recommend that the Annual Plan includes a dedicated initiative to support or advocate for the long-term protection and management of the Te Matuku Marine Reserve to enhance and protect the reserve and its biodiversity, reducing sedimentation, improving public access and monitoring fishing and boat activity in the bay.

Dark Sky

We support the dark night sky initiative. We have previously supported an application for recognition of the Eastern End as a dark sky community and are interested in supporting the Board in this process to obtain international dark sky accreditation.

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

I don't know

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Our only comment on this section relates to the objective of improving the island's open space network, specifically the initiative to upgrade existing walking tracks. The Eastern End offers significant opportunities for walking and nature-based recreation, and enhancing the network of tracks in this area would provide substantial benefits for both the local community and visitors. Given the concern about pedestrian safety on the Eastern End roads, we would encourage the Board to plan to keep public walking tracks off roads, wherever possible.

We encourage consideration of restoring and reopening the walking track through the Te Matuku Bay Scenic Reserve. Any such proposal should be developed in consultation and collaboration with the local community to ensure it reflects local knowledge, values, and aspirations while supporting appropriate public access to this important natural area.

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

I don't know

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We wish to emphasise our support for the excellent businesses located in the Eastern End of Waiheke Island, and note that they have developed positive relationships with the local community. With respect to the Plan, we would support objectives promoting economic development that is environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable.

The Eastern End offers visitors a distinctive Waiheke experience built around its rural landscapes, bays, native ecosystems, dark skies, wineries, and hospitality businesses. These enterprises make an important contribution to Waiheke's visitor economy while protecting the natural and cultural values that make the island unique.

Many Eastern End businesses run sustainable practices alongside rainwater harvesting including solar power, and environmentally responsible land management and further support the wider Waiheke economy by promoting and selling locally produced goods such as olive oil, honey, chocolate, wine, and spirits, helping to showcase the island's producers and strengthen local economic resilience.

The Plan could place greater emphasis on the Eastern End's contribution to Waiheke's visitor economy through its unique combination of environmental, historical, and cultural values. Te Matuku Bay was once a thriving settlement, and the area's Māori and European heritage, together with its wetlands, landscapes, vineyards, bays, and natural attractions, provides visitors with an authentic Waiheke experience. Protecting and celebrating these values supports both the local economy and Waiheke's distinctive identity.

Eastern End businesses also support a fair rating model that retains the majority of locally generated revenue on the island. Reinvesting these funds directly into Waiheke's community services and infrastructure helps ensure the island remains a premier destination and continues to play an important role in Auckland's wider tourism offering.

The future success of Eastern End businesses remains closely linked to transport accessibility and infrastructure resilience, and protection of the natural environment. Limited public transport options, the loss of the Ōrapiu passenger ferry service, and the vulnerability of road connections can constrain visitor access and business growth. Improving transport connections while maintaining the area's special character would strengthen economic opportunities, support local businesses, and improve community resilience across Waiheke Island.

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Not very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Public Transport Infrastructure

WEeCA supports the objective of providing safe, fit-for-purpose, and environmentally sustainable transport infrastructure, including the proposed expansion of Park and Ride facilities. However, the Annual Plan does not adequately address the transport needs of the Eastern End, which currently has no public transport service despite its dispersed population and geographic isolation.

Equitable access to public transport is essential for community wellbeing, reducing transport emissions, and improving access to employment, education, health services, and community activities.

We recommend that the Local Board consider improved public transport options for the Eastern End and undertake targeted engagement with local residents to identify a model that is responsive to community needs and integrated with ferry services.

Safe Roding Network

WEeCA supports continued investment in road safety across Waiheke. The Eastern End's roads are typically narrow, winding, and shared by residents, visitors, cyclists and pedestrians. We encourage the Local Board to consider improved road safety measures throughout the Eastern End, including:

- additional warning signage for sharp and deceptive bends;
- greater use of shared-road and cyclist warning signage, including road markings such as "sharrows" particularly on steep and winding sections where slower uphill cyclists are particularly vulnerable

These relatively low-cost interventions would improve safety for all road users while reinforcing the shared nature of the Eastern End's rural road network.

Ferry Services

The loss of the passenger ferry service from Ōrapū has significantly reduced transport accessibility for Eastern End residents. The inability of current ferries to use the Ōrapū Wharf has removed an important public transport connection to Auckland and reduced transport options for one of the island's most isolated communities. This has implications beyond everyday travel. A functioning ferry service from the Eastern End would strengthen community resilience by providing an alternative transport and evacuation route during emergencies, road closures, or natural disasters.

We recommend that the Local Board advocate for the restoration of a passenger ferry service to Ōrapiu as part of future transport planning. This should include investigating the upgrades required to make the wharf fit-for-purpose for modern ferry operations and assessing the wider social, economic, and resilience benefits of reinstating this important transport link.

- 7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.**
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Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#10

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: Waiheke Golf Club

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Not very well

Tell us why

It focuses on the needs of youth and Maori but Waiheke's median age is 49- over the next 25 years the council predicts this will rise to 35% of the population to be over 65. The focus should be much more on seniors rather than juniors or Maori. The Maori population on the island is very small as is the Asian population.

- 2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Not very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

The golf club is the largest of the island (has more members than the art gallery) yet the plan makes little mention of sport - or the needs of seniors which will be 35% of Waiheke's population in the near future. Many golf club members are seniors who enjoy the recreation and socialability that golf offers.

Also Maori account for just 12.2% of the Waiheke population so why is there so much emphasis on Maori in this plan. It completely ignores the needs of the majority who are European..

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

All golfers and visitors to the course plus walkers and horse riders enjoy the natural environment of a golf course. Members plant trees and volunteers work all year round to ensure the course is in good condition - eg keeping weeds down, planting natives and pruning non natives as necessary.

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Not very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

golf courses prevent habitat fragmentation by offering safe corridors for birds, insects, and small wildlife to move through dense, developed areas. and filter runoff, reducing flood risks . The golf club provides accessible recreation promoting physical and mental well-being for locals.

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

The board should consider the economic benefits of an 18 hole golf course to the island.

An 18 hole golf course would boost the local economy by creating jobs, expanding year-round tourism and extending visitor stays beyond the traditional day trip and stimulate hospitality and retail spending.

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

The golf clubhouse is no longer fit for purpose s- the board needs to budget to replace it (most sensible choice as the building was originally a farm house from the 1920s) or to do considerable improvements to it so it will pass its WOF. The club has suggested that it could link with other sports clubs on the island for a new clubhouse - sports clubs sharing facilities is a council policy.

- 7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?
*Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.***

You could put solar on the roofs of all council buildings

Public consultation is currently open for the [Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026](#), which includes strategic guidelines for the [Waiheke Sport and Active Recreation Facilities Plan 2026](#). Islanders are invited to share feedback on how council funds (\$3.2M capital, \$7.6M operating) are allocated toward community wellbeing and facility upgrades.

Waiheke Active Sport and Recreation Plan 2026

A key objective of the Waiheke Active Sport and Recreation Plan is to maintain Onetangi Sports Park as Waiheke's high quality recreational precinct. The Waiheke Golf Club supports this strategy.

The board strategy includes focus on:

1. Our Backyard – enable safe, equitable access to open spaces.

The Waiheke Golf Club membership is the cheapest in the Auckland area. The club also offers a social membership for \$35 which is designed for non-golfers or community members who want to enjoy the club's facilities and social atmosphere on the island. The clubrooms are open to all as is the café facility. Junior golf club fees at \$50 for a year are cheap compared with \$160 for a netball season and \$99 for junior rugby season. Anyone can join the club and green fees for visitor players are also one of the lowest in Auckland. People can use the practice area for free. Walkers and horse riders can enjoy the perimeter of the course. The clubrooms are open to all as is the café facility.

2. Deliver innovative open spaces in high-density areas – optimise spaces to socialise and be active.

The golf club is opposite many of the island's vineyards so visitors can enjoy a game of golf and then a meal afterwards at the club café or at seven restaurants nearby. People can get to the club by public transport.

3. Enhance our response to climate disruption.

Club members and volunteers have planted many native trees on the course and have endeavoured to enhance the wetland areas where allowed. During heavy storms the course may be closed so members do not damage the course.

4. Protect and enhance our environment, biodiversity and heritage.

They often say golf is a good walk spoiled – golfers enjoy walking the Waiheke surrounds and many of our members volunteer to look after the course and environment.

5. Support healthy, active lives.

As well as juniors the club has many seniors for whom golf is their main recreation. Waiheke has a high proportion of older residents, with a median age of 49 (compared to the Auckland median of 36). This feature will become more pronounced over the next 25 years with 35% forecast to be aged over 65+. Golf provides both recreational and social benefits.

There are four key investment principles adopted in the strategy (benefits-led to holistic wellbeing, needs based, honouring Te Tiriti & working together). The Waiheke Golf Club's five year plan is aligned with these principles.

C.4 OTHER OUTDOOR

The plan states

Investigate building improvements for the Waiheke Golf Course. Ancillary • Functionality and building conditions have been cited. Complete investigations and scope possible remedial works on the building.

However here is no mention of confirming the golf club lease which was approved by the local board two years ago and there no budget in the plan to improve the council owned building in which the golf club has as its clubrooms. The golf club is the largest club on the island with 550 members – they council has built new clubrooms for the rugby club – it should also be planning for a new building for the golf club. The building was originally a farmhouse and is unlikely to pass it WOF this year. The council needs to plan for its permanent replacement.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#96

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: Waiheke Health Trust

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

While all communities have individual identities and needs, Waiheke presents with very specific challenges and opportunities along with a highly engaged population keen to have their priorities for our community prioritised. We commend the Local Board on a comprehensive draft plan that attempts to position Waiheke successfully for the near future and thank them for their open and honest consultation to date.

- 2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Firstly, thank you for the multiple ways that healthcare has been prioritised in the draft plan. The Waiheke Health Trust would like to offer some ways to make this advocacy even stronger.

We would suggest that the statement on page 10, 'all of our residents lack appropriate access to local health and wellbeing services' is incorrect. This could be replaced with, 'Our aging population is increasingly vulnerable to disability, injury, and delay in acute and preventive care as we lack residential and assisted care for this demographic.'

We would like to propose an addition to the Community Challenges on page 13: Lack of an island-wide model of healthcare that encompasses primary, community, after-hours and aged care.

The Trust was very pleased to read the first point on page 14 but wonder if the Local Board would be willing to move from a supportive role to an active role in this process. This could be phrased as, 'Take an active role in bringing together the island's providers of health and community services with the aim of developing and implementing an island-wide model of healthcare.'

We would suggest that an Advocacy section be added to the Community portion of the plan which has an item such as: Government funding to support capital and operational initiatives for the development of health related and aged care facilities.

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

This appears to be a very well-considered and comprehensive section of the plan with a large number of specific advocacy actions. Congratulations to the Board on this piece of work. As discussed above, we would like to see actions and advocacy within the Community section, and related to health particularly, be as focused and strong as the ones dealing with our island's natural environment.

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Waiheke Health Trust is appreciative of the Advocacy point related to available council property to be considered for health facilities, thank you.

We would suggest that it is not just the power and communications networks which are vulnerable during weather events, but also our ability to provide essential health services during these emergencies due to both outages and being cut-off from main land hospital care. Modern, integrated health facilities can help Waiheke protect its residents against a changing environment. We wonder if the initial advocacy point can be expanded to allow this important consideration to be recognised. We would suggest: Any available council property being considered for health facilities to ensure future-proofed healthcare across the lifespan or for the provision of affordable housing

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Waiheke Health Trust would be very supportive of Local Board employment programmes that encourage young island residents to pursue training and work in the health sector.

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Not very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

To acknowledge Waiheke's ageing population and our community members with disabilities, Waiheke Health Trust would like to see specific actions related to accessible travel and transportation for disabled people included in the plan. This could include a shared path from Mātīatia to Onetangi rather than a designated cycleway.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our *climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations*.

Waiheke is in a unique situation in NZ healthcare: rural in most aspects, yet in close proximity to a major urban centre (at least by helicopter). Current health care services on Waiheke are to be commended for doing our best with outdated and undersized facilities, diminishing support from regional and national public systems, staffing challenges and inefficiencies resulting from duplications of administration and services between two trusts, increasingly unaffordable housing and real estate, and policy-makers' increasing reliance on private providers of secondary health care which in turn requires costly, time-consuming and sometimes inaccessible travel to Auckland city for our neediest citizens. In addition, our aging population is increasingly vulnerable to disability, injury, and delay in acute and preventive care as we lack residential and assisted care for this demographic.

All this takes place in the context of long-term failures of national leaders to anticipate the costs and requirements of 21st century health care. As testing and technology develop and become the expected standard, and as political micromanagement of health care decisions becomes more frequent, workforce burnout is becoming more prevalent. There is no realistic fast fix for any of this.

We have studied similar communities in Aotearoa to learn how they are coping. We have the opportunity now to engage the wider Waiheke community in exploring how to locate, fund and create a convenient, accessible, modern and future-proofed health hub where services can be co-located, cooperative and coordinated. Having the capacity to combine such a

facility with assisted living beds for aging residents would be a huge benefit to those who want to live out their lives here in safety and comfort. Having the backing of the Local Board will go a long way to realizing this possibility for Waiheke.



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#73

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: Waiheke Musical Museum Charitable Trust

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Very well

Tell us why

Comprehensive and built on clear and solid principles.

- 2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

The plan outlines the challenges and opportunities for our diverse community succinctly and well. The emphasis on supporting local initiatives and volunteer groups that enhance connection, reduce isolation and promote community development is excellent - as this is the powerhouse of social connection, sense of personal value and self development. - and as the plan describes a key opportunity, with a strong cost/benefit ratio as the goodwill, energy, time and expertise in the community can be leveraged at relatively low cost. Consultation is valuable but so is moving more quickly to action and leveraging the people, the understanding, expertise, within the organisations and initiatives that already exist, are proven to be effective and that can see immediate opportunities to develop, if they had more resource. The importance of supporting rangatahi to enjoy and develop their lives, their potential and communities in the healthy ways they wish, cannot be overstated. Similarly, a focus on our older aged people and on people with disabilities is very important and

something where Waiheke could show leadership and innovation. Whilst this support is evident in the preamble of the Te hāpori Community section and in the Opportunities section, I would like to see this perhaps translated more directly into the 3-year goals/initiatives section also, perhaps something like: Objective: "Older people and those with disabilities feel valued and opportunities to engage with and contribute to the community as they wish" , Goal: "Support community led and centred initiatives to enable older people to participate fully in the community - through support for neutral places (low/no cost/accessible) to go to to connect, be entertained, pursue hobbies and interests and to contribute, companionship, knowledge, wisdom and expertise."

The objective: A flourishing arts sector that celebrates our unique island identity is laudable, but I think there should also be a bit more precision around the providing opportunities for participation and enjoyment of the arts by the wider and diverse community. Also clarifying that the arts is inclusive of all types of creativity and expression (literature, dance, theatre, music as well as the visual arts).

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Very comprehensive and specific. I think a key opportunity is supporting and leveraging further the goodwill and energy in the community through supporting suitable personal/household/local community behaviours and through developing further volunteer resource and power. (I see this is covered under Economic Development)

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Perhaps under "Improve our community's wellbeing by providing quality arts, recreational and community facilities" there could be something that references the populations that will be involved and catered for under the upgrades and plans outlined - e.g. Plan for future development of arts and culture facilities to support the needs of the diverse community, including rangatahi, older people and those with disabilities and particularly to ensure minimal barriers to access.

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Generally great work. The objective: "Waiheke is recognised as an arts destination", seems quite specific and with too strong a prominence in the context of the other 3 more general thematic objectives. I think it would be more appropriately located as an initiative under the objective "Strengthen our economy in keeping with the island's character and our need to increase our resiliency".

The initiative "Investigate ways to understand visitor data and tourism insights" could perhaps be extended to state its purpose i.e. "....to better understand and monitor visitor numbers and behaviours so that opportunities and impacts can be assessed."

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Great emphasis on walking and cycling and safety. Does transport including vehicle parking infrastructure as there is anecdotal evidence that the (seemingly) reduced public parking capacity at the ferry wharf may be pushing parkers back into Oneroa and compromising parking opportunities for locals accessing the area. Could "Considering the impacts of parking capacity and strategies on the community" be included?

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our *climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations*.

Generally, a very comprehensive and thoughtful plan. Thank you for your mahi.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#50

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: Waiheke Resources Trust

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

The five activity areas correctly identify what matters to Waiheke, but the plan reads as a list of intentions rather than a commitment to the partnerships already doing the work. WRT has spent 25+ years delivering on exactly these outcomes; ecological restoration in the Waiheke Wetland catchments, food rescue, compost production to NZS 4454 standard, the Electrify Waiheke programme, Marne Education Initiative, Beach Ambassadors, running a Sustainability Centre, Bike hub, Zero waste Events, and many more. The plan would be stronger if it named and resourced the community organisations already carrying this load, rather than treating them as generic "stakeholders."

- 2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Agree with the objectives, particularly partnership with Māori and youth opportunity. What's missing is food resilience and food security as an explicit thread. WRT's food rescue operation and Kai Conscious Café exist because the current system doesn't reliably get kai to the people who need it on an island with real supply-chain constraints. We'd like to see food security named as a distinct community wellbeing outcome, not folded silently into "a

healthy and supportive society." We'd also welcome recognition of the volunteer base that underpins most community-delivered services on Waiheke, and the Board's role in making that volunteering sustainable; training, H&S support, and insurance, rather than assuming goodwill alone will carry it.

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Broadly right, but "respond to the challenge of climate change" needs teeth. WRT would like the plan to commit to specific, measurable local actions, for example, backing distributed solar and EV uptake through the Electrify Waiheke programme, and supporting higher solar buy-back arrangements so households and organisations that export power aren't subsidising the grid for nothing. On waste, we'd point to WRT's compost operation as proof that landfill diversion at scale is achievable here. The plan should commit to procurement and infrastructure support e.g. a proper composting/organics facility led by a multi-modal community approach, rather than aspiration alone. "Sustainably manage our wai" should explicitly reference the Wetland catchment restoration work already underway.

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Agree with the objectives, particularly partnership with Māori and youth opportunity. What's missing is food resilience and food security as an explicit thread. WRT's food rescue operation and Kai Conscious Café exist because the current system doesn't reliably get kai to the people who need it on an island with real supply-chain constraints. We'd like to see food security named as a distinct community wellbeing outcome, not folded silently into "a healthy and supportive society." We'd also welcome recognition of the volunteer base that underpins most community-delivered services on Waiheke, and the Board's role in making that volunteering sustainable; training, H&S support, and insurance, rather than assuming goodwill alone will carry it.

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Agree in principle, but "environmentally, economically and socially sustainable" needs a mechanism, not just a value statement. WRT would like to see explicit support for a circular local economy through food rescue, compost, refurbished/second-life equipment, local trades as economic development, not just environmental nice-to-haves. On the visitor industry, sustainable management should mean visible investment in the infrastructure visitors actually strain (waste, transport, water), funded in a way that doesn't just fall on ratepayers.

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Agree with the objectives. The strongest lever here is supporting the shift to EVs and active transport that Electrify Waiheke is already building toward charging infrastructure, safe cycling/walking routes, and ferry terminal upgrades that make multi-modal trips i.e. bike/e-bike to ferry, genuinely workable. We'd like "environmentally friendly transport infrastructure" to name EV charging capacity as a specific commitment, not just an implied outcome. Please also set a specific goal to electrify Ferries as this accounts for 33% of all Waiheke transport derived carbon emissions.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

The plan's climate ambitions will only be credible if matched by procurement and partnership decisions, e.g. Council support for community energy initiatives, backing higher solar export rates, and funding for restoration work at the scale the ecological challenge actually requires.

On Māori outcomes, the plan should move from consultation language to co-delivery to show what's possible when relationships are resourced properly rather than treated as a box to tick.



2030

WRT Strategic Plan

August 2025

The Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan sets out what WRT aims to achieve over the next five years (July 2025 - June 2030), along with a high-level direction for the longer term. The following parameters were agreed:

Publication

The Strategic Plan is a WRT published document, available for sharing with external audiences. This includes donors, partners, allies and those interested. This plan makes it clear who we are, what we stand for and our aspirations for the future.

Thematic

The focus of this Strategic Plan is higher level than the previous plan, looking more at aims, themes and key outcomes rather than specific projects. It was recognised that the next five years are likely to be a period of significant change, and so the level of the Strategic Plan is broad, at the thematic level, allowing for the specific projects to be adapted to the context at the time. Annual plans and budgets will provide the project-level detail. This plan uses components of a whare to describe the elements of our work.

Inclusive process

This Strategic Plan has been prepared and agreed by the Board and staff of WRT. We will seek opportunities to discuss it with the Local Board and Council, other key donors, iwi, community groups and NGOs, and business. This provides a way to explain our approach and seek to build a base for future collaboration with WRT.



Focus of the Strategic Plan

Key directions

The Board has set the key directions:

- Evolution of the Sustainability Centre
- Long term funding - the Waiheke Fund
- Awareness and communications
- Our Te Tiriti journey

These are supported by the central pillar (poutokomanawa) - to be an 'effective and accountable organisation' (aka "get tangible results")' WRT will focus on making change on the ground through practical action, pilot projects, and viable full-scale systems.'

The panels on the inside walls (poupou) are our inspiring goals:

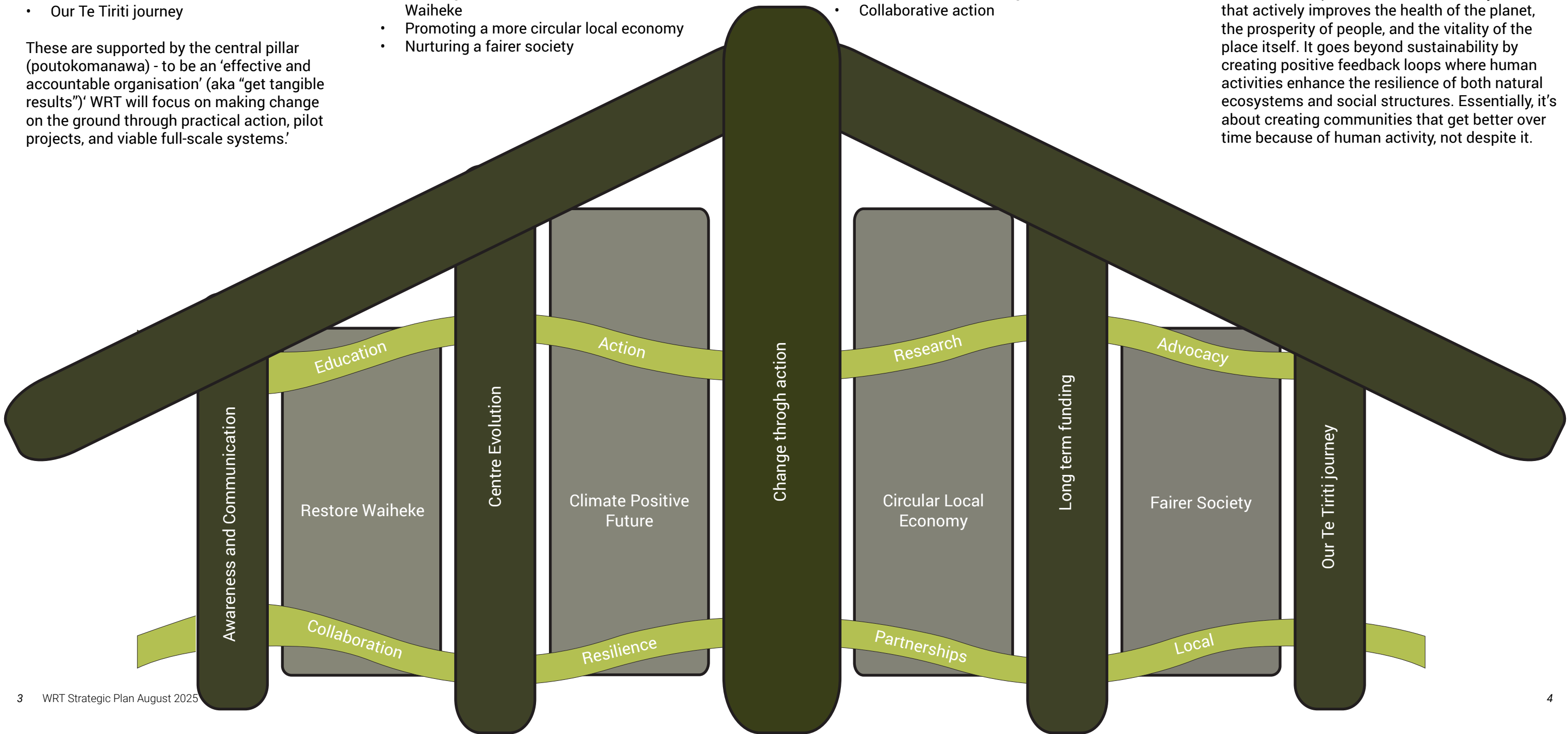
- Restoring Waiheke, from maunga to moana - our wetlands, rivers and marine environment
- Shaping a climate positive and resilient Waiheke
- Promoting a more circular local economy
- Nurturing a fairer society

Weaving together our support through making spaces for others:

- Education for action
- Research and advocacy
- Resilient self-sustaining communities
- Collaborative action

All come under the umbrella of our roof structure (tāhuhu), 'A regenerative community in action'.

Note: A regenerative community is a place-based, human-plus-more-than-human system that actively improves the health of the planet, the prosperity of people, and the vitality of the place itself. It goes beyond sustainability by creating positive feedback loops where human activities enhance the resilience of both natural ecosystems and social structures. Essentially, it's about creating communities that get better over time because of human activity, not despite it.



Building on Strengths

This Strategic Plan builds on the strengths and achievements of the past five years.

Overall achievements

The breadth of WRT's work and its achievements have grown over the past five years

- WRT has gained the respect of donors, allies and key audiences
- Influence with others that has created more impact (eg. through GIS mapping)
- WRT has started to provide support for those who are unengaged to get involved in advocacy (eg. support for submissions)
- More people with greater diversity have strong bonds with WRT
- WRT's education and engagement has brought people into sustainability
- The Sustainability Centre has become an entry point into Waiheke for many visitors – this could be a key aspect for the future
- WRT has been able to draw in and help grow other initiatives
- WRT has been a good partner in supporting the Waiheke Marine Project, Te Korowai o Waiheke and a range of other projects
- WRT has started to play a role in supporting other Hauraki Gulf islands
- WRT is involved in the work of regional and national organisations and events

Specific programmes that delivered and continue to deliver on one or more of our pou

- Kai Conscious has shown community in action

- Rescue food has become more accepted
- WRT has shown leadership on zero waste and the circular economy
- Composting has included education as well as tangible results
- Cycling as a mode of active transport is normalised and widely supported
- WRT has taken on a role in climate activation, waterways, Marine Education Initiative and wetlands, Kai Gardens and energy transition

Income Generation

- WRT has been successful in growing the funding base
- Project work has been agile in matching WRT capabilities with project funding



- opportunities
- WRT has a reputation for delivering results of a range of work
- WRT provides a range of resources to the community, including IP, collective knowledge, gazebo, speakers and an ethos for sustainability

Internal culture

- Staff, interns and volunteers have had opportunities to be trained and grow with WRT
- WRT strives for transparency, with clarity around organisational structure and remuneration
- There has been a commitment to support WRT's people, even when there have been difficulties
- The Board has supported positive change
- WRT has committed to become a progressive treaty partner – Tangata

te Tiriti

- There has been a culture of good communication and inclusivity
- Staff have chosen to work at WRT over other opportunities
- Staff align with the WRT culture
- The Sustainability Centre has become a place of belonging for staff, volunteers and the wider community



Photo: Liz Clarkson

Challenges for the Future

The breadth and quality of the work is impressive, but a challenge is to draw the programme strands together into

Key strategic themes - our pou (pillars) for the future:

Currently there are eight programmes for WRT's work outlined in the Annual Plan (see below); This Strategic Plan links across these complementary activities and consolidates them into strategic themes.

This Strategic Plan is created to provide a clear direction for WRT for the future, it includes outcomes that WRT aims to achieve over five years, along with high level direction for the longer term.

Climate change is likely to grow in importance and urgency over the next five years, both in terms of urgency of mitigation and the importance to build resilience:

- WRT supports the Waiheke (Local Board) climate plan, strategic plan and our own contributions will be a key part of working towards Waiheke's 2040 goal.
- Aspirational goals will be set for WRT's climate work towards a 'Climate Positive Waiheke', aiming to make our motu a climate model and leader in Aotearoa, and an example globally.
- WRT will seek to support Waiheke as a base for partnerships, pilot programmes and research on climate science, based on locally-sourced information.

Public engagement and mobilisation is a key theme across most of WRT's work:

Opportunities for the involvement of Waiheke's diverse communities will be a key cross-cutting issue.

- WRT will continue to highlight the importance of community involvement and, where possible, provide support for capability development and upskilling
- Facilitating and undertaking public advocacy is an important way to achieve our aims, including supporting under-served communities

Awareness of WRT is growing but public outreach and a re-brand is required:

As WRT has grown and extended its work, there is a need to refresh public understanding about what we do and how individuals and communities can get involved.

- An aim will be to make the Sustainability Centre a much more visible hub and gateway to Waiheke
- A clearer identity and branding will build public understanding and engagement

The WRT team has built a diversified stream of **income**, but a challenge is that WRT is still heavily reliant on contracts and project funding:

Long term funding will reduce the disruption including at times of political change

- WRT will continue to develop longer-term programmes through follow-on projects and long term relationships.
- Diversified funding will be built through continued innovation and effective delivery of outcomes.
- WRT will seek long-term support through donor partnerships.

Strategic Directions - Our Pou

Specific outcomes that we seek for WRT are to:

Develop the Sustainability Centre to become a gateway to Waiheke

- Create an attractive sustainability hub to broaden the visitor experience
- Provide a showcase for WRT's work and the work of others
- Develop an educational centre with practical, hands-on displays
- Inform visitors about their own role in sustainability, both as visitors and when they get back home
- Involve visitors and locals in WRT's work

Provide a longer term base of funding

The concept of a Fund For Waiheke is taking shape:

- WRT will take a leadership role
- A broad fund will provide funding for a range of initiatives and long term programmes for WRT and others
- Governance and accountability will be important to ensure trust and buy-in
- A pooled fund will make grants directed to a specific organisation or project
- A trusted intermediary, such as the Gift Trust, will provide experience and an existing structure for management of grants and investments
- An investment fund will provide a stream of income for long term capacity development and programmes

Deepen our treaty journey and partnerships:

- Integrate te Tiriti as a foundation of WRT's mission and aims, integrated across the work and organisation
- Support Ngāti Pāoa and Piritahi marae in achieving their aspirations
- Continue to collaborate on programmes such as Caulerpa management, tree planting, wetlands restoration and biodiversity planning
- Aim to develop an on-going relationship with mana whenua that is an integral part of WRT culture

Develop a clearer identity and common brand

WRT has strengthened its external communications over the last 5 years. Further development of the message, engagement and outreach is a strategic priority

- Build stronger public awareness about WRT and how people can get engaged, including visitors and non-resident house owners as well as residents
- Agree a stronger identity including exploring a common brand across Waiheke Resources Trust and the Waiheke Sustainability Centre
- Focus our activities on Waiheke but also offer support to other islands and the Hauraki Gulf as a whole

What We Stand For

Vision, Mission and Purpose:

Vision

A sustainable future for all

Waiheke's diverse community is connected, empowered, skilled and supported to actively protect and enhance the natural and social fabric of our island and the planet for future generations.

Mission

A sustainable community in action

We serve as a hub for the Waiheke community and its visitors, offering inspiration, guidance, and hands-on opportunities to cultivate the skills needed to cherish and actively protect the island's natural environments.

Purpose

- Undertake projects, and programmes which maximise sustainable practices on Waiheke
- Provide the Waiheke community with information and education to make ethical, effective and powerful decisions in respect of sustainability
- Undertake and generate community development initiatives on Waiheke for the benefit of people and our environment

- Provide training to assist people on Waiheke to gain knowledge and skills in sustainable practice
- Develop a model for communities in sustainable practice
- Promote, support and connect sustainability networks
- Conduct and support sustainability research, and share the findings when relevant
- Provide a working environment that fosters cohesiveness, belonging, innovation, upskilling and fun





NZ Registered Charity #CC34108



wrt.org.nz



info@wrt.org.nz



09 372 2915



1A Mako Street,
Oneroa, Auckland 1081