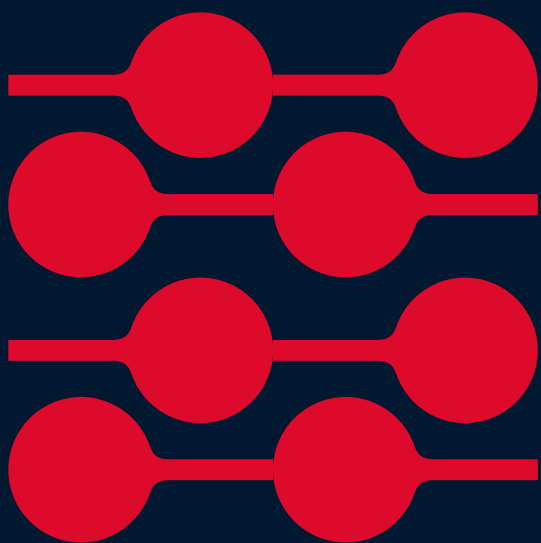
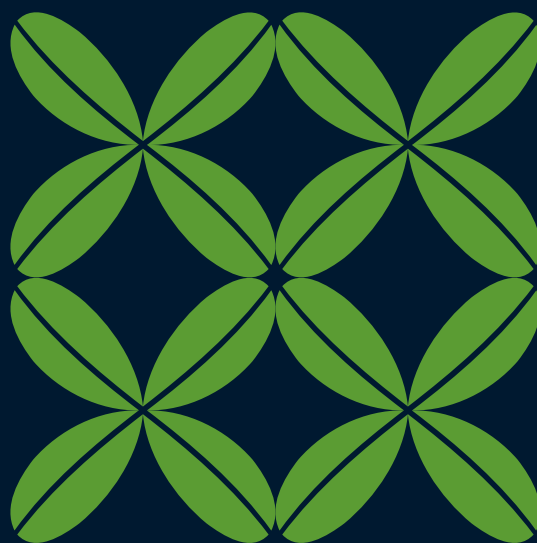




Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026 Summary of Feedback





Summary of feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

Purpose

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

Executive summary

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

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

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

Engagement Approach

The draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026 was developed using feedback received from public engagement carried out between November 2025 and April 2026. Feedback previously heard from the community on a wide range of topics, particularly during the 2026 Annual Budget consultation period, was also considered.

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

- Have Your Say events
- community events
- written submissions, including online and hard copy forms
- emails and letters
- digital tools including polls and story uploads
- Buzzly campaign for rangatahi (youth).

Support was provided to submitters including:

- Translated and interpreted summary draft Local Board Plans and feedback forms
- Information at Auckland Council libraries
- Online webinars and information available on the AK Have Your Say webpage.

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

Māori engagement

Mana whenua

A coordinated approach was taken by local boards so that mana whenua were invited to engage with relevant local boards in one hui rather than receiving separate invitations from each local board. For the Waitematā Local Board, engagement took place with three mana whenua entities (Ngāti Maru Rūnanga, Te Patukirikiri and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei) through three hui in early 2026.

Mana whenua were sent a copy of the draft local board plan in June 2026 and encouraged to provide written feedback through multiple options including through a new iwi feedback form developed specifically for mana whenua to be able to have their say across multiple local boards within their rohe (area of interest).

Marae and mātāwaka

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

Like the new iwi feedback form, a new marae feedback form developed specifically for marae to be able to have their say in a way that reflected their priorities.

Feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

Feedback was received from the following Māori entities on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026:

- Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei
- Te Kotahi a Tāmaki – Marae Collective
- Te Taurahere o Ngāti Porou ki Tāmaki
- Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi (regional arts trust for Tāmaki Makaurau)

The following provides a summary of their feedback.

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

They support the overall draft plan. They welcomed the board's commitment to working alongside them as tangata whenua of this rohe and encouraged continued investment in strong, enduring relationships founded on mutual trust, early engagement and shared decision-making. They supported integration of mātauranga Māori into environmental stewardship, and Tuna Mau/Western Park flood resilience, stream restoration and daylighting, predator control initiatives around Western Springs and coordinated pest plant management. They supported the restoration of ancestral place names and the visibility of te reo Māori and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei narratives through the naming, interpretation and design of parks, streets, public spaces and major civic projects and greater investment in cultural wayfinding, public art and storytelling.





Te Kotahi a Tāmaki – Marae Collective

They were supportive of the draft plan and encouraged the local board to deepen partnerships with marae, invest in marae capability, strengthen Māori participation in decision-making, and support whānau and rangatahi wellbeing. The submission views marae as key community partners that help deliver positive outcomes for Māori and the wider community.

Te Taurahere o Ngāti Porou ki Tāmaki

In the City Centre, they supported more public art by Māori a night-time cafe in City Centre, markets and stalls on Queen Street, more public toilets in City Centre, a localised Māori newsletter to promote events. They would also like to see hanging gardens, natives, edibles, flowers, native trees and plants; Māori and Pacific markets in vacant spaces; supported free wifi; sought ways to finding funding.

Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi (regional arts trust for Tāmaki Makaurau)

They supported the board’s strong commitment to arts and culture, and acknowledged the plan’s commitment to reflecting Māori whakapapa, arts, heritage and culture.

Stakeholder and community engagement

Table 1: Summary of early engagement activities

Activity	Details	Who was involved
Parnell Festival of Roses on Sunday 9 November 2025	Local board members engaged with the public throughout the duration of the event to spark early conversation and raise awareness of the plan. Engagement activities were devised by the Principal Engagement Advisor	Local board members, local board support staff, approx 7000 attendees across the day
Huingā Rangatira – mana whenua engagement with Ngāti Maru on 23 January 2026	An online hui to share the local board priorities and hear Ngāti Maru’s priorities	Two iwi representatives, local board staff
Huingā Rangatira – mana whenua engagement with Te Patukirkiri on 27 February 2026	An in-person hui to share the local board priorities and hear Te Patukirkiri’s priorities	Two iwi representatives, local board staff
Huingā Rangatira – mana whenua engagement with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei on 16 March 2026	An online hui to share the local board priorities and hear Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei’s priorities	Two iwi representatives, local board staff
Buzzly campaign	Buzzly is an online engagement platform for rangatahi (youth) that was used to seek rangatahi feedback on draft Waitematā Local Board Plan. Information was made available on the Buzzly Challenge Hub	38 submissions received via Buzzly

Table 2: Summary of consultation activities during the consultation period

Activity	Details	Who was involved
Have Your Say Event 1 - Britomart Market, 27 June 2026	Newly formed extension of the Britomart Market area Three gazebos set-up, very large stall area on a corner section	Local board members, local board support staff
Have Your Say Event 2 – Central City Library, 27 June	Engagement took place at same time as the All Whites match at the FIFA World Cup	Local board members, local board support staff, library staff
Have Your Say Event 3 – Grey Lynn Farmers Market, 28 June	A common engagement setting for the board, introduced a spinning wheel to the activation	Local board members, local board support staff
Have Your Say Event 4 – Parnell Farmers Market, 4 July	A common engagement setting for the board, a lot of interactions with postcards and forms used	Local board members, local board support staff
Have Your Say Event 5 – Central City Library, 17 July	School holiday period so different demographic, colouring-in competition to appeal to kids and their parents	Local board members, local board support staff, library staff
Advisory Panel – Diverse Communities	Panel members and representatives from local boards came together to discuss local board plans	
Advisory Panel – Seniors and Disability Panels		
Advisory Panel – Future Auckland (youth panel)		
Marae and mātāwaka regional hui on Friday 03 July 2026	Marae and mātāwaka representatives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Te Mahurehure marae (Albert-Eden) Whaataapaka marae (Franklin) Mataatua marae (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu) Te Awamaarahi marae (Port Waikato, closest to Franklin) And individuals. 	Local Board project team, Local Board engagement advisors and members of Te Kotahi-ā-Tāmaki (marae collective)
Community Partner event: The Asian Network Incorporated (TANI)	Focus on Wāitemata 's Asian community	94 submissions received
Community Partner event: Bluspur Consulting	Focus on Wāitemata's Pacific community	80 submissions received



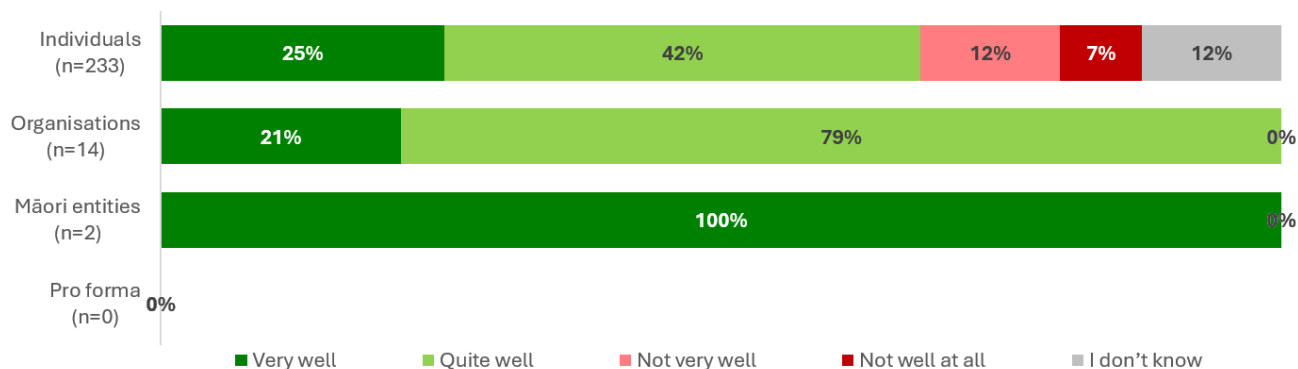


Summary of feedback

General feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan

Quantitative feedback

How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?



Qualitative feedback summary

Overall, there was strong support for the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026.

There was strong support, ranging from 65 to 80 per cent, with respondents saying the objectives for the five outcome areas reflected the needs and priorities of the community quite well or very well.

Areas related to community facilities, arts, events and the environment were strongly supported with positive comments.

The Community outcome received strong overall support, with many submitters endorsing the vision for a connected, inclusive and vibrant community, and highlighting the importance of arts, culture, events, libraries, community hubs, parks and other shared spaces in building wellbeing and a sense of belonging.

Feedback showed strong overall support for the Natural Environment outcome area, with many submitters describing it as one of the most important priorities for the local board. Respondents valued Waitematā's parks, green spaces, trees, waterways and coastal environments, and supported continued efforts to restore urban nature, improve harbour and stream water quality, reduce waste, and build climate resilience.

Transport generated mixed views. Comments on transport were positive in relation to the City Rail Link, and walking and cycling infrastructure, though negative about transport delivery, reliability, frequency and safety.

Safety and crime were areas of high concern for respondents. Safety and maintenance were recurring concerns, with requests for improved street lighting and safer public spaces.

There were mixed views on housing, density and development. Some supported higher-density development around transport hubs and advocated for reducing barriers to growth, while others expressed concerns about building heights, design quality, loss of heritage and special character, and the impacts of intensification on established neighbourhoods.



The feedback on economic development showed broad support for the goal of creating a vibrant, attractive and resilient local economy. A common theme was concern about the current challenges facing businesses, including retail vacancies, business closures, rising costs and construction disruption.

There were many comments that the plan needed to be more specific and discuss how actions were going to be achieved and measured.

Community

Waitematā is home to a connected, inclusive and resilient community, where residents, students and visitors feel welcome, can participate in community life, and have a strong sense of home and belonging. It is a place that supports and retains young people and talent, builds vibrant neighbourhoods, and works with communities and partners to support people experiencing homelessness.

Objectives

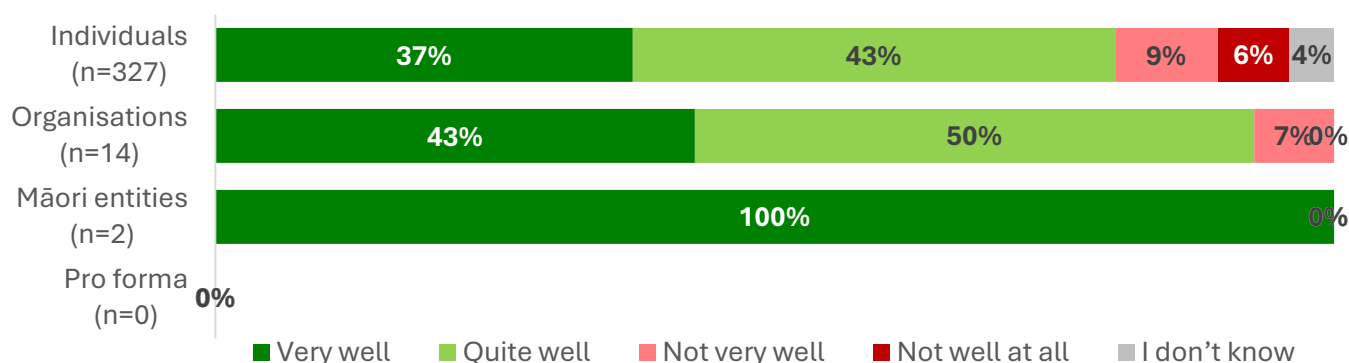
- Build a thriving cultural, social and recreational community through strong partnerships.
- Every part of our community feels welcome, connected and supported.
- Arts, culture and events are celebrated and create vibrant places and spaces.
- We have a rich network of much-loved community spaces.

Advocacy priorities

- The delivery of affordable, public, and community housing
- Improved access for people experiencing mental health, addiction, and social challenges
- Facility provision, operational arrangements, and funding models that reflect the significant regional use of Waitematā Local Board facilities
- A downtown Police station

Quantitative feedback

How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?



Qualitative feedback summary

The community outcome received strong overall support, with many submitters endorsing the vision for a connected, inclusive and vibrant community, and highlighting the importance of arts, culture, events,



libraries, community hubs, parks and other shared spaces in building wellbeing and a sense of belonging. Many respondents valued multiculturalism, community partnerships, neighbourhood identity, and opportunities for residents, families, young people, migrants and older people to connect. Several submitters called for more locally focused events, stronger support for creative and cultural activities, and greater recognition of community-led organisations, local businesses and volunteers as key partners in delivering community outcomes.

A recurring theme was the need to address homelessness, with many submitters seeking increased support services, shelters, Housing First approaches and coordinated partnerships, particularly for young people experiencing homelessness. Public safety was also raised frequently, with concerns about antisocial behaviour, crime, rough sleeping, substance use and perceptions of safety in the city centre. Respondents emphasised that safe, clean and well-maintained public spaces are essential to community wellbeing. Accessibility and inclusion were also identified as areas requiring greater focus, particularly for disabled people, older residents and diverse communities.

Many submitters sought more specific, measurable actions and clearer implementation plans. Other recurring themes included maintaining and upgrading community infrastructure, parks and walkways, supporting families and apartment-dwelling residents, and ensuring value for money and effective use of rates. While some respondents felt community development and homelessness initiatives should remain a council priority, others preferred a stronger focus on core services and infrastructure.

Natural Environment

The natural environment of Waitematā is woven throughout the urban form and supports the wellbeing of people, plants and fauna. Streams are restored; harbour waters and coastal environs are clean with regenerating ecologies.

Objectives

- Maintain, restore and enhance our urban natural environment.
- Develop and strengthen environmental partnerships.
- Champion more sustainable waste management options and community climate action.

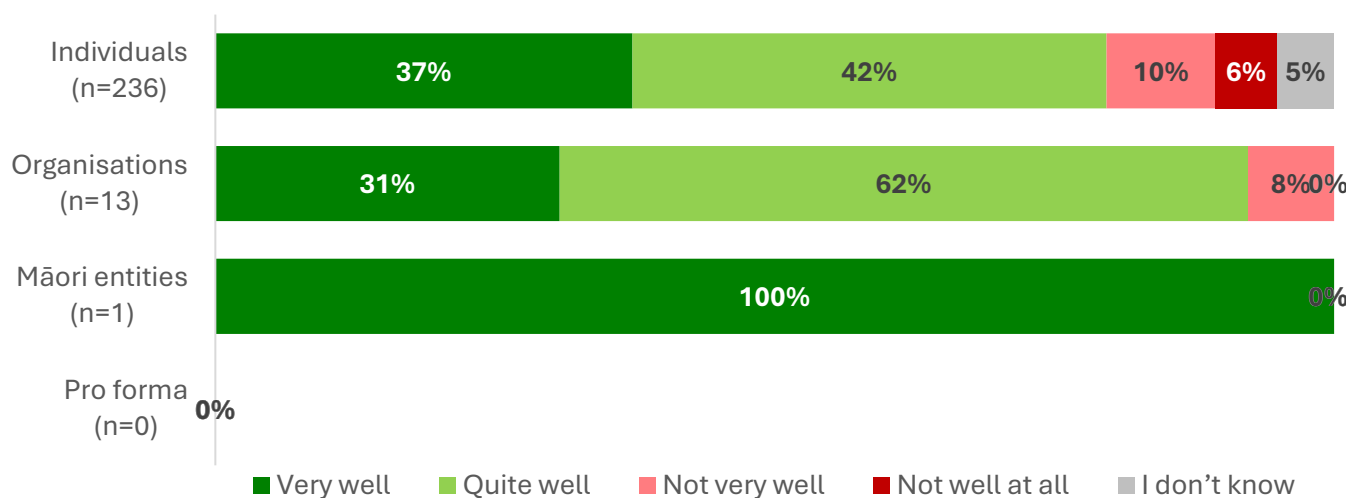
Advocacy priorities

- Increased regional investment in stormwater infrastructure, flood resilience, and coastal adaptation
- Improved planning and policy settings that enhance climate resilience.
- Continued and targeted transport investment that prioritises public transport, walking, and cycling to reduce emissions.

- Continued and equitable regional and central investment to achieve natural environment outcomes.
- Development of technical guidelines and funding tools to support communities to protect and restore the natural environment and build resilience.
- Development of a renewable energy strategy to improve resilience and lower costs for businesses and residents.
- The adoption of the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Ratepayers' Assistance Scheme to encourage and enable solar power uptake.

Quantitative feedback

How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?



Qualitative feedback summary

Public feedback showed strong overall support for the Natural Environment outcome area, with many submitters describing it as one of the most important priorities for the local board. Respondents valued Waitematā's parks, green spaces, trees, waterways and coastal environments, and supported continued efforts to restore urban nature, improve harbour and stream water quality, reduce waste, and build climate resilience. Many called for more tree planting, urban greening, biodiversity protection, native species restoration and community gardens.

A recurring theme was the need to focus not only on creating new environmental initiatives, but also on maintaining existing assets. Submitters highlighted concerns about park upkeep, pest and weed control, flooding and stormwater issues, rubbish management, and the condition of reserves, tracks and walkways. There was strong support for improving recycling, composting and food waste services, particularly for apartment dwellers, alongside better public education on waste reduction and recycling options.

Many respondents emphasised the value of community involvement, advocating for greater support for volunteer environmental projects, local stewardship, environmental education, and partnerships with businesses, mana whenua and community organisations. Several submitters also sought clearer implementation plans, targets, funding commitments and timelines. A notable number of submissions specifically requested the repair and reopening of the Weona-Westmere Coastal Walkway and highlighted its environmental and community significance. While feedback was predominantly supportive, a small number of respondents questioned the cost, feasibility or scope of some environmental initiatives.

Built Environment

From Auckland's city centre to its historic suburbs, the built environment of Waitematā is well-designed, vibrant, inclusive and people-focused, and supports low-carbon living, wellbeing and a strong sense of place.



Objectives

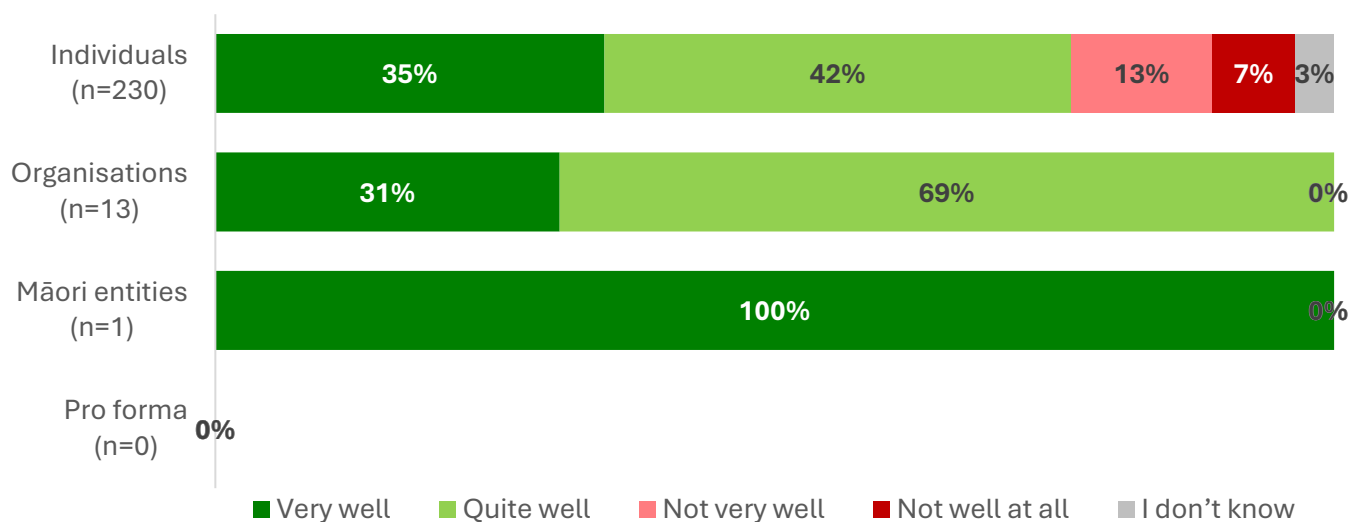
- Continue to build a world-class international city centre by enhancing the public realm, particularly around our train stations.
- Nature is woven into our urban form, and local assets, parks and green spaces contribute to storm and flooding resilience.
- Art and other design elements enliven our spaces and bring our community together.
- Our unique special character and our historic heritage is valued, protected and enhanced.
- Māori whakapapa, art, heritage and culture is reflected in the built form and names of our places.

Advocacy priorities

- Meaningful board involvement in regeneration activities across the city
- Refreshed City Centre Master Plan
- A creative hub supporting the arts sector
- Investment in policy work, regulation and funding to ensure high-quality apartment design, maintenance and management
- Enhance city centre amenity
- Enabling appropriate development without compromising special character and historic heritage
- Use emerging digital tools to deliver urban outcomes
- Reduce barriers to outdoor dining, street trading and activations

Quantitative feedback

How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?



Qualitative feedback summary

Public feedback on the built environment outcome area was diverse, with strong support for creating a vibrant, attractive and people-focused urban environment. Many submitters welcomed investment associated with the City Rail Link, improved public transport, pedestrian-friendly spaces, public realm upgrades, arts and cultural initiatives, and the integration of Māori identity and storytelling into the cityscape. Others emphasised the importance of reflecting Auckland's wider cultural diversity.



A recurring theme was safety, particularly in the city centre and around public transport. Submitters called for improved lighting, cleaner and better-maintained public spaces, stronger responses to antisocial behaviour and homelessness, and greater attention to accessibility for all users.

Housing and intensification generated mixed views. Some supported higher-density development around transport hubs and advocated for reducing barriers to growth, while others expressed concerns about building heights, design quality, loss of heritage and special character, and the impacts of intensification on established neighbourhoods. Heritage protection remained an important issue for many respondents.

There was also strong interest in greener urban environments, including more trees, parks, shaded areas, community gardens, and climate-resilient design. Many submitters stressed the need to prioritise core infrastructure such as wastewater, stormwater and public facilities, while ensuring public investment delivers value for money. Overall, respondents supported the vision of a vibrant, well-designed city but sought stronger emphasis on safety, practicality, environmental outcomes, and effective implementation.

Economic Development

Waitematā has a thriving, resilient and inclusive local economy, supported by a strong city centre and vibrant town centres, where businesses, tertiary institutions, creative sectors and communities work together to attract people to live, study, work and visit.

Objectives

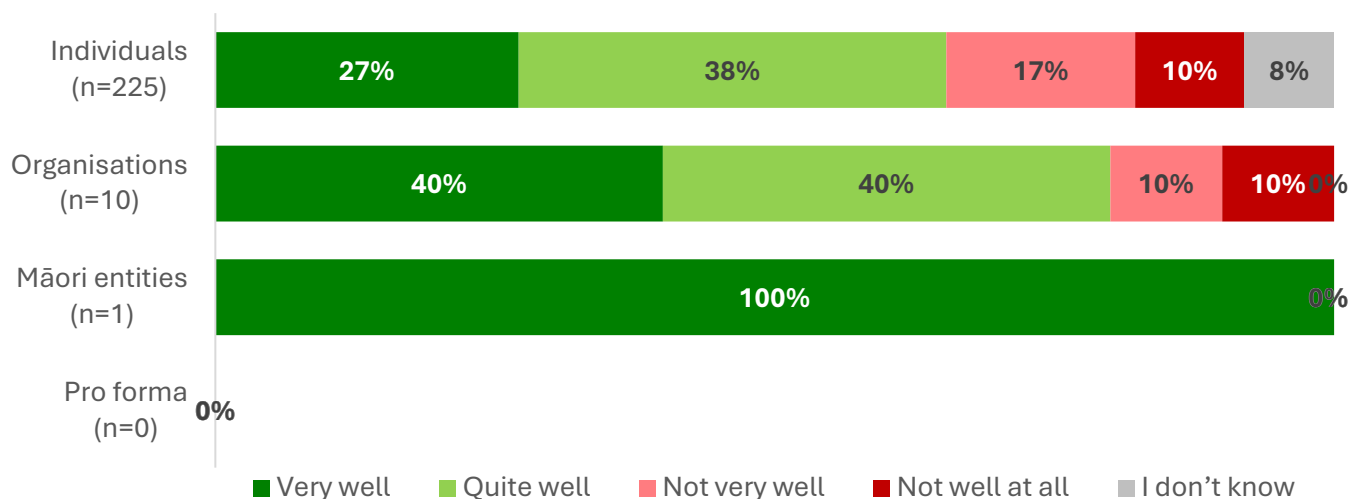
- Waitematā is recognised as a great destination catering to all interests.
 - Successful and resilient businesses.
 - Attract and retain people of all ages to live in Waitematā.
 - A coordinated regional approach to growing visitation, major events and the night-time economy
 - Develop a fair business-support policy for major infrastructure works
 - Align council research projects with tertiary institutions
 - Increase support for innovation and technology ecosystems
 - Support mana whenua-led development
 - Adopt local procurement strategies
- Ongoing Long-term Plan investment and city centre targeted rate to support economic activity

Advocacy priorities



Quantitative feedback

How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?



Qualitative feedback summary

The feedback on economic development showed broad support for the goal of creating a vibrant, attractive and resilient local economy, particularly through attracting more people to live, work, study and visit Waitematā. Many submitters highlighted the importance of revitalising the city centre and supported opportunities arising from the City Rail Link, tertiary institutions, creative industries, hospitality, tourism and the night-time economy. Several respondents advocated for placemaking initiatives, events, markets, public art, live music and activation of vacant spaces to increase foot traffic and support local businesses.

A common theme was concern about the current challenges facing businesses, including retail vacancies, business closures, rising costs, construction disruption and perceptions of declining city centre vitality. Many submitters called for stronger support for small businesses, improved activation of empty shops, reduced regulatory barriers and clearer actions to stimulate economic growth.

Views were divided on transport and accessibility. Some respondents argued that parking loss, road changes and cycleway projects have negatively affected businesses, while others supported reducing car dependence and creating more pedestrian-friendly centres. Safety, homelessness, cleanliness and the overall appearance of key areas such as Queen Street and Karangahape Road were also frequently raised as important factors influencing business confidence, visitor attraction and economic success.

Transport

Waitematā leads Auckland's low-carbon transport future. Investment in the City Rail Link, active travel infrastructure and people-centred streets delivers a climate-resilient multimodal transport network that enables safe, efficient and enjoyable movement for people of all ages and abilities.

Priorities

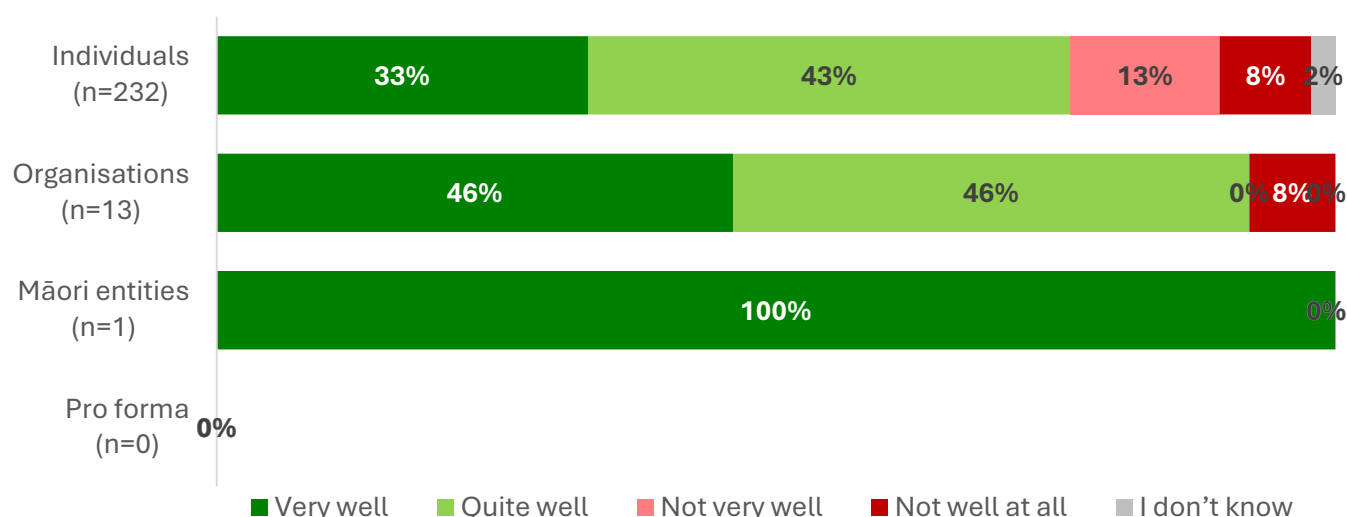
- Active modes are encouraged and enabled



- Data and technological innovations are harnessed to improve the transport network and lower emissions
- There are coherent transport and land-use strategies that leverage investment and deliver good urban outcomes
- Our streets are safe, functional, accessible and enjoyable to use
- Encourage public transport usage

Quantitative feedback

How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?



Qualitative feedback summary

Public feedback on transport was mixed but generally supportive of the draft direction, particularly the focus on public transport, active modes, safer streets and lower-emissions transport. Many submitters supported investment in the City Rail Link (CRL), improved bus services, cycling infrastructure, and walking connections, viewing these as essential to reducing congestion, improving accessibility and creating a more liveable city. Several respondents advocated for further cycleway connections, pedestrian improvements, bus priority measures and reduced reliance on private vehicles.

A strong theme was the need for public transport to be more reliable, frequent, affordable and accessible. Submitters called for increased bus frequencies, better route connections, cheaper fares, improved disability access, and enhancements to stations and stops. Safety was also a significant concern, with requests for better lighting, security, CCTV, staffing and anti-social behaviour management on public transport and in pedestrian areas.

Many comments focused on pedestrian safety and walkability, including footpath maintenance, safer crossings and improved access around transport hubs. Several submitters praised recent active transport improvements and sought faster delivery of cycleways and people-centred streets. However, others expressed concerns about cycleway projects, traffic calming measures, speed humps, parking loss and perceived impacts on motorists and businesses. Some respondents also highlighted the importance of balancing transport choices, maintaining access for older people, residents, customers and those with mobility needs, while continuing to improve sustainable transport options.



Feedback on considerations within the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan: Māori, Climate and Equitable outcomes

Māori Outcomes

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

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

Climate outcomes

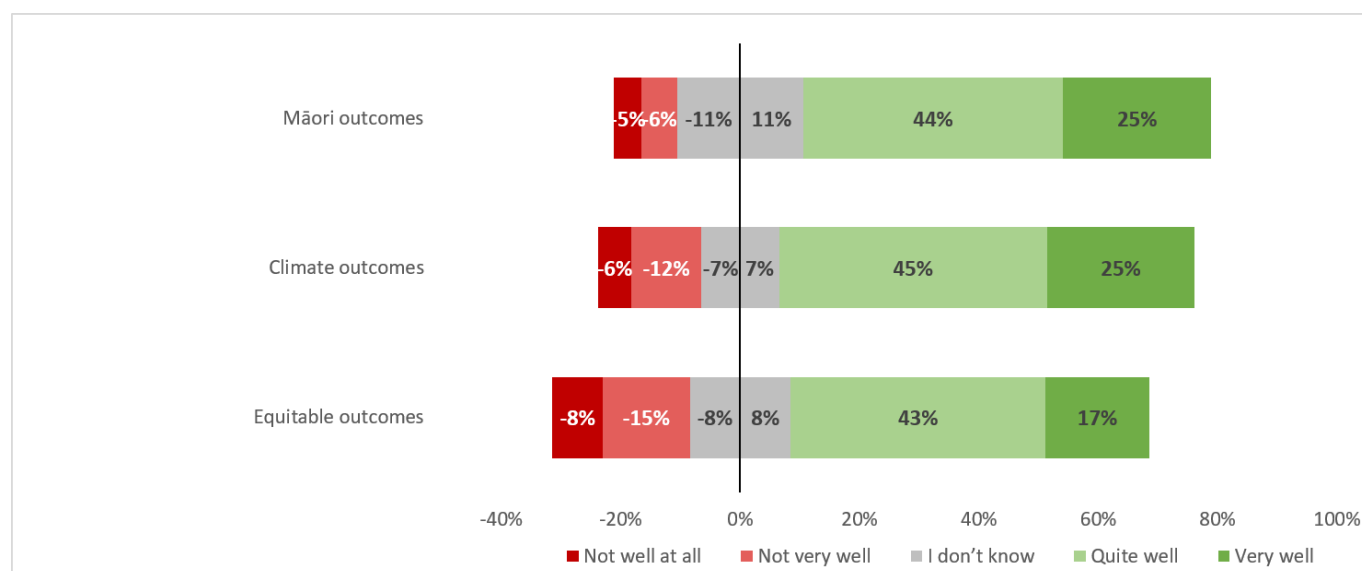
Local boards also have an important role to play in leading and supporting Auckland's response to the climate emergency, including supporting regional climate plan initiatives, integrating climate awareness into all decisions, including community investment.

Equitable outcomes

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

Quantitative feedback

How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?



Qualitative feedback summary

Feedback on Māori, climate and equitable outcomes was mixed, with many submitters supporting the inclusion of these priorities while others questioned their relevance or implementation. Comments highlighted strong support for continued partnership with mana whenua, the visibility of Māori culture, te reo Māori, public art and storytelling, and the incorporation of mātauranga Māori into environmental

stewardship and placemaking. Several respondents called for Māori outcomes to be further embedded across all outcome areas and for greater support for Māori-led businesses and initiatives.

Climate-related feedback generally supported stronger action on sustainability, resilience and adaptation. Submitters advocated for more tree planting, greener streets, active transport, reduced vehicle emissions, flood preparedness and practical responses to climate impacts. Some considered climate action a key priority, while others felt the plan lacked detail or clear actions.

Equity feedback focused on ensuring all residents can access and benefit from public spaces, services and opportunities. Key issues raised included safety in public spaces, homelessness, disability access and universal design, affordability, mental health, low-income communities and support for vulnerable groups. Some submitters felt the plan should more clearly identify target communities and provide more specific actions to achieve equitable outcomes.

A number of respondents also expressed concerns about the perceived emphasis on Māori outcomes or questioned whether these priorities should be central considerations.





Who we heard from

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

Ethnicity		Number	Percentage
European		126	39%
	Pākehā/NZ European	113	35%
	Other European	15	5%
Māori		29	9%
Pasifika		80	25%
	Samoan	63	19%
	Cook Islands Māori	12	4%
	Tongan	0	0%
	Other Pasifika	5	2%
Asian		110	34%
	Chinese	40	12%
	Indian	24	7%
	Filipino	3	1%
	Southeast Asian	14	4%
	Korean	5	2%
	Other Asian	27	8%
African/Middle Eastern/Latin		9	3%
Other		6	2%
Total		326	110%

Note: The above table only includes data for those that responded to the demographic questions, and respondents may have selected more than one option, which is why the percentage is more than 100 per cent.



Gender and age

