Consultation on the draft Local Board Plans 2026

Written Feedback

Waitākere Ranges Volume #1.pdf

Regional Organisations

23 June 2026 to 23 July 2026

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Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#170

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: Aktive

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

4. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

5. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?**

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

6. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

Email submission received through WRLB inbox. See attachment.

AK Have your Say
Draft 2026 Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the draft 2026 Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan.

Introduction

Aktive is a charitable trust with a vision of making Auckland the world's most active city. Our purpose is to unite and inspire leaders and organisations in Tāmaki Makaurau to enhance the wellbeing of Aucklanders and create more connected communities through sport and physical activity.

Aktive has chosen to focus its efforts on tamariki and rangatahi who are underactive or where historic inequities exist. This sees us working with and for tamariki and rangatahi who are:

- Māori
- living in low socio-economic areas
- disabled
- young women and girls
- from Pacific, Indian and Asian communities
- from the Rainbow community.

We are a key strategic partner of Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa, Auckland Council and major grant-makers and funders. Aktive partners with, and invests in, a range of organisations and projects that get more people active in Auckland.

Response to the draft 2026 Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan

We have read the consultation documents and draft 2026 Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan to help inform this submission. We firstly want to acknowledge the significant investment into our sector by Local Boards. Aktive is pleased to be able to provide funding to the Local Board towards delivery the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Sport and Active Recreation Facilities Plan later in 2026.

Natural environment

Aktive supports the Objective *'Manukau Harbour beaches are swim safe'* and the initiative:

- *Support the strategic priorities of the Manukau Harbour Forum and act as a voice for improving the harbour's water quality. Support oversight of septic tanks to protect water quality.*

Community

Aktive supports the Objective '*Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for recreation, sport, play, and enjoyment'* and support the following key initiatives:

- *Realise the potential of parks and open space like Waitipu (the former Waitākere Quarry), Ōkaurirahi | Ceramco Park, the Kay Road bale fill site, some Glen Eden neighbourhood parks, and possibly the southern side of Waikumete Cemetery.*
- *Open the Waitipu Park (former Waitākere Quarry).*
- *Add accessibility features / elements to playgrounds developments where it is feasible.*
- *Ensure our parks and parks assets are well-looked after and improved.*
- *Prepare a Waitākere Ranges Local Parks Management Plan for our 200 local parks.*
- *Support community-led sport and cultural activities within local parks.*

We agree with the Objective '*Parks and facilities are adaptable in the face of climate change, growth pressures and changing community needs'* and support the following key initiatives:

- *Support the relocation of Bethells Beach Surf Lifesavings Patrol clubhouse in Te Henga.*
- *Investigate a solar panel pilot on a community facility.*

Transport

We see value in the Objective '*Support a variety of safe and sustainable transport options for the people of, and those visiting, the Waitākere Ranges local board area'* and the following priority:

- *Greenways projects / extensions and other related community led active transport initiatives.*

We agree with the Objective '*Our roads are critical to our dispersed communities - their management needs to respond to our unique needs'* and support the following priority:

- *The consideration of the safety of people using bikes - as future maintenance is carried out - on a few key and agreed rural roads. For example, possibly widening the sealed shoulder or other similar treatments.*

Advocacy

Aktive supports the following Local Board advocacy priorities:

- *Regional investment in Waitipu Park.*
- *Acquisition of new parkland and funding upgrades within existing parkland to support a growing population and diverse recreational needs.*
- *A track and recreation plan for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and improved communication on the track reopening programme. Governing Body.*
- *Support for continued recreational use of the Avondale Racecourse, at least one more swimming complex in the west, and funding for Te Whau Pathway*.

Overall comments

Overall, we see many positive outcomes from the draft Plan and welcome the strong emphasis on sport and recreation through open space and parks to meet the long-term needs of the growing population. We strongly support the focus on addressing climate change through club house relocation and solar energy considerations.

We acknowledge the investment into the Local Board's Play Plan and would like to see this as a focus of the Local Board's work programme going forward aligned to the outcomes of the Plan.

We acknowledge the Local Board's co-investment into the development of the Waitakere Ranges Local Board Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan and would like to see this as a focus of the Local Board's work programmes going forward. While we acknowledge the Plan is not yet drafted, we understand it is proposed for financial year 2027 meaning it will be adopted within this current trimester. As such we believe that it should be specifically referenced within this Plan to ensure it remains a priority for the Local Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft 2026 Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan consultation; this opportunity is greatly valued. Aktive is happy to expand on any of the points above in greater detail as required.

We look forward to the positive play, active recreation and sport outcomes Local Board investment in our communities will deliver.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#216

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: Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative New Zealand)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

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Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached file

creative nz
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

0800 CREATIVE
info@creativenz.govt.nz
www.creativenz.govt.nz

L2 2-12 Allen Street
Te Aro, Wellington
6011

22 July 2026

Auckland Local Board Plans

By email to: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

E te Kaunihera, tēnā koutou katoa

Submission to: Auckland Council Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau

Subject: **Draft Auckland Local Board Plans 2026**

From: Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative New Zealand)

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Local Boards' three-year plans for 2026.

2. Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori build stronger, more connected communities across Auckland, and create vibrant and prosperous communities where people want to live, work and visit.

3. Auckland Council has 21 local boards, each playing an essential role in supporting arts and culture across the Auckland region. The **Auckland Local Board Plans are an important opportunity for Local Boards to build on their investment in the arts**, and unlock the arts' economic, cultural and social benefits.

4. We thank Auckland Council and each of the 21 Local Boards for their ongoing support of arts, ngā toi, culture and creativity in Tāmaki Makaurau, and look forward to continuing to work with you to realise the enormous potential creativity can bring to all your communities.

Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori are foundational community services that shape how people live, connect and feel about where they belong

5. From festivals, concerts, public art and murals to galleries, libraries, arts hubs and marae, creativity shapes how the city looks, sounds and feels. It creates vibrant communities that people are proud to call home.

6. We know that Aucklanders value the arts and are engaging with the arts more than ever before. Two in three Aucklanders agree that arts and culture have a vital role to play in the future of where they live. Support for public funding of the arts in Auckland has increased since 2020, with over half of Aucklanders believing Auckland Council should help fund the arts.

7. Our *New Zealanders and the Arts—Ko Aotearoa me ōna Toi* research[1] shows that Aucklanders recognise the economic and social benefits of the arts, with:
    - 75 percent of Aucklanders agreeing that the arts create jobs, both in and around the creative industries, and the majority agreeing that the arts contribute positively to our economy
    - over half of Aucklanders valuing the arts for creating opportunities to socialise and connect
    - 69 percent of Aucklanders agreeing that the arts play a role in raising awareness of societal and environmental issues.

8. Young people, Māori, Pacific peoples and Asian New Zealanders are also more likely than other Auckland residents to agree that the arts are an important way of connecting with their culture, and that taking part in the arts supports their identity. Rainbow communities and people with lived experience of disability participate highly in the arts and need more accessible and inclusive environments to support their engagement.

Together we can create healthy, sustainable and thriving arts ecosystems in local communities

9. Through the Local Board Plans, we encourage each of the Local Boards to prioritise investment in the following.
    - **Cultural programmes and events** which encourage people to visit their local town centres, attracting visitors and shoppers. These programmes and events also bring diverse local communities together, build social connections and bring public spaces to life.
    - **Events and festivals that boost economic development and tourism** are also essential pathways for artists, producers, technicians and arts administrators to build the skills, knowledge and expertise that support bigger events, such as Pasifika and larger musicals and concerts. Smaller festivals and events are crucial to build the skills, knowledge and expertise that support bigger events such as Pasifika and larger musicals, concerts and exhibitions.
    - **Public art, murals and activated public spaces** provide a sense of place, telling the history and stories of mana whenua and your communities' unique identities, and making public spaces safer. We encourage working with your local arts and culture

[1] Auckland residents survey findings in *New Zealanders and the arts—Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2023): https://creativenz.govt.nz/-/media/project/creative-nz/creativenz/publicationsfiles/2024-nzers-and-the-arts/20240730nzartsaucklandfinal.pdf

organisations, artists and creatives to explore ways of working together to further community opportunities.

- **Community halls, venues and gathering spaces** are important facilities for people to gather, rehearse and participate in community choirs, dance, kapa haka, theatre groups, reading clubs, craft-making and more, to experience arts and culture.
- **Making council owned venues available to arts communities to use free of charge or at reduced rates**. Dedicated spaces for Māori and Pacific peoples in your local areas are also crucial cultural centres for whānau, hapū, iwi and the wider community.
- **Ensuring investment reaches across the wider arts ecosystem**, including creative infrastructure in the city that works closely with communities across all of Auckland, ensuring a network of cultural infrastructure and cultural facilities. This network needs resources to deliver in a complementary way, to support staff who have the skills, knowledge and experience to successfully deliver services and activities in ways that are fit-for-purpose, high-quality and responsive to the needs of residents and visitors.
- **Lean into *Toi Whītiki***, Auckland Council's Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan, which sets out a fantastic, community-led and region-wide roadmap.

Prioritise investment in arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori as important community services

10. Our research demonstrates that Aucklanders place considerable value on the arts at a community level.[2] Arts and culture programmes and services support local board priorities, including:
    - employment for rangatahi
    - safer communities
    - celebrating diverse communities
    - town centre vitality
    - stronger local economies.

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[2] Auckland residents survey findings in *New Zealanders and the arts—Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2023): https://creativenz.govt.nz/-/media/project/creative-nz/creativenz/publicationsfiles/2024-nzers-and-the-arts/20240730nzartsaucklandfinal.pdf

11. To ensure these programmes continue to serve crucial community functions, local boards' prioritisation of arts and culture in three-year plans is essential.

Supporting arts and culture in Local Board Plans delivers social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits

12. We know councils around the country are facing significant pressures, with tight budgets and growing community expectations meaning plans are being carefully designed to deliver value and a pathway for the future. Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi are part of the solution.

13. Auckland Council's recently commissioned *The Arts Matter* research found that Council's investment in arts and ngā toi is advancing outcomes across Council's vision and priorities.[3] This includes significant social, cultural, environmental and economic contributions that:

    - support community connection at local festivals and events
    - grow local economies by creating jobs, supporting local businesses and driving tourism
    - boost environmental awareness through storytelling, education and building understanding of complex issues like climate change
    - build social resilience by revitalising city centres and transforming public spaces into safe, vibrant and socially cohesive hubs
    - spark innovation and learning with creative practice-building skills, including imagination, problem solving and learning.

14. The arts contribute $18.5 billion to New Zealand's economy, 4.2 percent of our total GDP[4] and more than our wine, seafood and international education sectors.

15. In 2024, Auckland's arts and creative sector contributed over $8.5 billion to New Zealand's GDP, creating jobs and supporting local businesses. It is the largest arts and creative employer in the country, employing more than 50,000 people. The *Auckland Economic Monitor* shows 'Arts and recreation services' are experiencing strong growth in Auckland, with 11.7 percent of growth in contributions to Auckland's GDP and 7.1 percent of employment growth in the year to March 2024.

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3 Auckland Council, *The Arts Matter*, 2026.

4 Infometrics Sector Profiles 2025, Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture & Heritage, Arts and Creative Industry Profile Report.

16. However, this growth relies on a strong arts ecosystem and pathways for young people to experience creativity, in order to nurture and develop creativity.

17. Economic conditions are putting sustained pressure on the arts community – creators, presenters and supporters alike. Arts organisations operate on thin margins and are highly vulnerable to any changes in relationships with funders. Making a living from the arts is hard for artists and practitioners,[5] and the wider arts ecosystem is fragile. While public engagement with the arts is strong compared with other countries, arts are often on the margins of public investment and support.

Ngā toi Māori and mātauranga Māori are distinctive to Aotearoa New Zealand and central to our unique national identity

18. Te reo, mātauranga Māori and ngā toi Māori are central to Auckland's unique identity, as the largest Māori city in the world. Success in protecting, revitalising and promoting Māori artforms supports many artists, practitioners and tourism operators in the region, and positively enhances Auckland's national and international reputation.

Together we can create healthy, sustainable and thriving arts ecosystems in local communities

19. We highly value Auckland Council and the Auckland Local Boards as partners in the arts, alongside mana whenua, iwi and hapū, community trusts and private givers. Demand for Creative New Zealand's services is high, and we are supporting a much lower proportion of proposals than we have historically. Private investments, including corporate sponsorship and private donations, are also down in the current economic climate.

20. Over the coming year we will be implementing our tuku rauemi approach. This means empowering communities as decision-makers, entrusting them to support arts and ngā toi Māori development that best meets their communities' needs. To do this, we will partner with organisations across the regions to lead local arts development and capability building, set their own priorities and make funding decisions.

21. We believe a regional partnership approach will strengthen co-operation on longer-term planning and investment between regional stakeholders, including local government and trusts, and Creative New Zealand. This approach will also create opportunities to grow

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[5] Creative New Zealand, *A Profile of Creative Professionals 2023*. New Zealanders employed in creative professions continue to experience low pay compared to New Zealanders earning a salary or wage. The median income for creative professionals is just $37,000, substantially less than the median income of $61,000 for New Zealanders earning a wage or salary.

investment regionally by leveraging Creative New Zealand funds, incentivising new investment, and helping arts organisations partner to secure philanthropic funding.

22. Auckland's communities are vital for the arts and ngā toi Māori to develop and grow. We want to see an arts ecosystem in the region where artists, creatives and ringatoi are supported to thrive, with viable creative careers and strong arts infrastructure. Together we can create a healthy and strong environment for the arts community, to help achieve its potential and share the benefits of the arts and ngā toi with all Aucklanders.

Creative New Zealand's interest in the arts in Auckland

23. Creative New Zealand receives funding through Vote: Arts, Culture and Heritage and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board Te Puna Tahua. In 2024/25, Creative New Zealand **invested nearly $61 million in the arts in New Zealand**, through investing in the arts, developing the arts, and providing leadership in the arts.

24. In 2024/25, we **invested $17.7 million of direct financial support in Auckland**, almost 30 percent of our total investment by region. In addition, our investment in activity that takes place nationwide (17.2 percent) and online (4.5 percent) sees benefits flow to Auckland by supporting arts and cultural experiences presented in the region; and our international programme (7.1 percent) adds additional investment to Auckland via artists based in the region.

25. Under the Creative Communities Scheme, we provide funding to territorial authorities to support local arts activities. The annual allocation to Auckland Council under the Scheme is **$1.33 million**. In 2024/25, this funding supported **246 projects** which engaged 26,539 participants and had 395,572 attendances. Allocations to territorial authorities under the Scheme are based on a population-based formula.

Final thoughts

26. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Local Board Plans.

27. To quote Deputy Mayor Desley Simpson at the launch of *The Arts Matter,* 'Arts matter because people matter. A culturally vibrant Tāmaki Makaurau is essential to our region's future and the stories we tell as a nation. So, let's champion creativity… as a foundation for belonging, for identity, for innovation and community resilience.' We wholeheartedly agree.

28. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this submission further. The key contact person is:



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#27

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Submitter details:

Organisation: City Builders Association

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Somewhat agree

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Support most

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

   Do not support most

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

4. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?**

   Do not support much

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

5. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?

Support most

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

6. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?

Support most

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

I support the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026 emphasis on protecting the natural environment and kauri forest character of the ranges, restoring streams and biodiversity, managing limited growth sensitively, supporting community resilience, and maintaining local facilities in this special western area.

However, with the 7.9% rates increase for 2026/27 and council-wide fiscal pressures, the board must apply strong fiscal restraint and demonstrate prudent financial management as required by Local Government Act 2002 s.101. Environmental protection and rural/coastal character are critical, but initiatives must be fully costed, sequenced, and balanced against ratepayer affordability. Make clear choices on deferring or scaling back lower-priority items rather than assuming additional funding will be available.

In particular, safeguard high-value community assets such as parks, sports facilities, and local reserves that support recreation and wellbeing while preserving the unique character of the Waitākere Ranges and kauri forests. Focus on practical, high-impact actions for pest control, stream health, and climate resilience. In the final adopted plan and Local Board Agreement, detail the efficiency measures and prioritisation framework that will protect the environment and community without contributing to further rates pressure. Waitākere Ranges residents value the natural environment highly and expect disciplined stewardship of both natural and financial resources.

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#218

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: Civic Trust Auckland (CTA)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

4. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

5. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?**

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

6. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached file

Submission of Civic Trust Auckland
Draft Local Board Plans – all

[redacted]
www.civictrustauckland.org.nz

Introduction

1. Civic Trust Auckland (CTA) is a non-profit public interest group, incorporated in 1968, with activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region

2. The aims of the Trust include:

- Protection of natural landforms
- Preservation of heritage, in all its aspects
- Encouragement of good planning, for the city and region.

3. CTA is on Auckland Council's list of regional stakeholders and we have previously provided submissions on Local Board plans, as well as on many other Auckland Council plans. We submitted on Council's Annual Plan 2026/2027, and that submission is on our website here. We understand that our submissions on the Annual Plan were made available for local board consideration. We refer in this submission to the draft local board plans to some of the points we made in our Annual Plan submission (in **bold**).

4. We would here like to thank the Local Board members for their work and advocacy. We have a couple of suggestions for your newsletters: that there could be more items about what has been happening in the local board area in addition to the standard Auckland Council notices, and that perhaps in each issue the chair could introduce one of the other board members, so that communities have more opportunity to get to know all of their Local Board members.

5. CTA generally supports the initiatives in the draft local board plans. Our focus is primarily on the Environment sections of the plans.

6. We would also like to commend the aspiration of various local boards to develop parks and spaces that are inclusive, can be easily used and accessed by everyone and meet the needs of the community, including (as per the Howick Local Board Plan) neurodiverse children. We emphasise the point we have made in previous submissions about universal design, and also playgrounds that are accessible for children with disabilities. We draw your attention in particular to Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton as an example of a playground that is intended to cater for children with disabilities.

7. In our February 2014 submission on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan, and in several of our other submissions, we supported the principle of universal design. Our 2014 submission said:

- Universal Design principles need to be incorporated into new builds and modifications of existing residential buildings in order to cater not only for people with disabilities but others who can benefit from improved access, including the ageing population, those using pushchairs, moving house or office, injured people and people carrying loads. This will ensure access to housing, jobs, public transport, businesses, community and recreational facilities throughout Auckland for all Aucklanders and increase the choice of where people can live, work and play.
- Incorporation of Universal Design principles will improve the quality of life for people who currently face significant barriers in terms of physical access. The economic benefit is that such people will be able to live in independent accommodation and those of working age will have more opportunity to work and thus support themselves and contribute more to the economy. These barriers include stairs and showers with lips.
- Solutions to these barriers include open plan houses with open plan bathrooms with wet shower areas, limited stairs, handrails. A percentage of new housing stock should cater for these needs. This would open up options in the private rental market, taking away the current reliance on Housing New Zealand houses and enable people with access barriers to buy or rent houses without the need for extensive and costly modifications. The Auckland Plan states on page 70, *"One in five Aucklanders has a disability, and this figure will increase with an ageing population. There is unrealised potential for Aucklanders with disabilities to contribute socially and economically. Barriers that prevent this, such as attitudes and physical access, must be addressed".*
- On page 74, The Auckland Plan states, *"Other communities and groups, such as ethnic communities and those with disabilities, also face barriers. Removing structural or institutional barriers so that all Aucklanders are viewed and treated equally is fundamental to improving the well-being of all, and realising the full potential of our diverse populations."*

8. We would like Local Boards to include in their advocacy to Council some requirement in policy and rules for the provision of accessible housing, universal design principles.

9. We would also like to see more advocacy with regard to public transport, for example, with stories in Local Board newsletters about successful and enjoyable rides on public transport, or perhaps competitions between local boards to see which one has the greatest number of public transport rides logged by their community in a particular month, similar to the Bike Month (March) and Biketober (October) initiatives.

10. We appreciate the friendliness and good service given by bus drivers across the city, which supports these very necessary services.

11. Although we can appreciate that advertising on buses is a useful way for Auckland Transport to gain revenue, we suggest that AT exercises caution when it comes to obscuring the passengers' view through the bus windows, and the perpetual circulation of mobile ratepayer-funded advertising certainly has its detractors.

12. It is good to see Local Boards encouraging the use of low-carbon transport options. However, CTA does not give unlimited support to scooters, as per our Annual Plan submission (pg 6), where we stated that: **"where a cycle lane has been provided, e-scooters *must* be ridden in the cycle lane…. e-scooters pose a danger to people on foot, especially those with hearing, sight, or mobility issues. Being passed closely by a scooter is a distressing experience for a pedestrian, and already many people have been injured by e-scooters. Nationally, between 2021 and 2023, there were over 7,000 ACC claims for e-scooter related injuries, with a 37% increase in 2023. There have been several deaths from e-scooters in Auckland and many serious head injuries. We therefore submit that e-scooters be banned from footpaths, at least in places where there is a high density of pedestrians. We also submit that the current speed limit for commercial e-scooters (we understand it is 25 kph) is too high for when scooters are sharing the same space as pedestrians."**

13. We'd also like to draw to other Local Boards' attention the Henderson-Massey key initiative of investigating "smart" traffic lights that use sensors or cameras to give longer green lights where traffic is heavy, respond to rush hours, incidents and weather and prioritise buses. CTA supports some sort of light sequencing and enablement of left-turning when not crossing the path of oncoming traffic, thereby saving time and emissions.

14. We'd like Local Boards to promote car pooling as a transport option, and facilitate this within their Local Board area, namely, commuting (by neighbours, co-workers, or classmates), school runs (by parents taking turns driving a group of neighbourhood children to school and back), and business (efficient coordination of tasks and workers to enable shared transportation as needed).

15. CTA supports Local Boards investing in expanding the pedestrian network, and, although the cycling network cannot go everywhere, CTA supports its extension particularly where it enables commuting. We also support Local Boards advocating for such public transport measures as bus shelters and seating at bus stops. We also support the proposal by several Local Boards of an extra discount for students and children on public transport fares on top of the weekly $50 fare cap.

16. We are pleased to see Local Boards including in their key initiatives to support their community to be better prepared for emergencies like floods and storms, including reviewing the provision of community-led emergency centres.

17. CTA is of the view that Local Boards can learn much from each other, and we would encourage members to read each others' Draft Local Board Plans and collaborate on matters of

mutual interest. Many aspects of plans relate to more than one board (especially to directly neighbouring boards) and some of them relate to Auckland as a whole, for example, as regards transport, climate change and community engagement, and shared management of the harbour edge of the Waitematā Harbour.

18. CTA notes that many Local Boards are intending to review the use of their Council buildings. Notwithstanding the temptation to sell assets deemed no longer to be of use, CTA supports rigorous investigation as to what alternative use those assets may be put to. We would particularly like to highlight this advocacy point from the Waiheke Local Board (pg 22 of their plan): "*Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing,"* as a much better alternative to selling underused Council buildings.

Area Plans

1. We include here a summary of Graeme Easte's presentation to the Policy and Planning Committee on 10 March 2026 (here is a link to it), which CTA supports, advocating for the application of Area Plans. (Graeme began by playing the song "Little Boxes" by Pete Seeger.)

2. It was originally intended that the Unitary Plan (operative in 2016) would be supplemented with 21 Area Plans - one for each Local Board area - to reflect its local issues, challenges and opportunities over a 30-year time frame. All Local Boards did extensive workshopping with planning staff and community representatives, in order to fine-tune the application of the Unitary Plan process as it applied to their particular area but also to begin work on their own Area Plan.

3. Initially only four Area Plans were to be fully developed as pilots. Development of the remaining Area Plans was cancelled in about 2015. Ten of the 17 Local Boards subsequently developed "mini" Area Plans, Precinct Plans or Centre Plans for parts of their area.

4. Graeme recommended that work on expanding the coverage of Area Plans should start with those Local Boards which have expressed strong interest in such a workstream, and that the older existing plans should have priority for a refresh, but not at the expense of those Boards without Area Plans or only partial coverage.

5. Four Local Boards have Area Plans that cover their entire area:

- Devonport-Takapuna (plus 3 Centre Plans)
- Hibiscus and Bays (plus 3 Centre Plans)
- Māngere-Ōtāhuhu
- Ōtara-Papatoetoe

Ten Local Boards have only partial Area Plans or Centre Plans:

- Albert-Eden (1 Precinct Plan, 2 shared plans)
- Franklin (1 Centre Plan)
- Henderson-Massey (2 Centre Plans)
- Howick (2 Centre Plans)
- Manurewa } shared partial

- Papakura } Area Plan
- Puketāpapa (1 shared plan)
- Rodney (1 Centre Plan)
- Waitākere Ranges (1 Centre Plan)
- Waitematā (3 Centre Plans + 1 shared plan)

Seven Local Boards have no Area or Centre Plans at all:

- Great Barrier
- Kaipātiki
- Ōrākei
- Maungakiekie-Tāmaki
- Upper Harbour
- Waiheke
- Whau

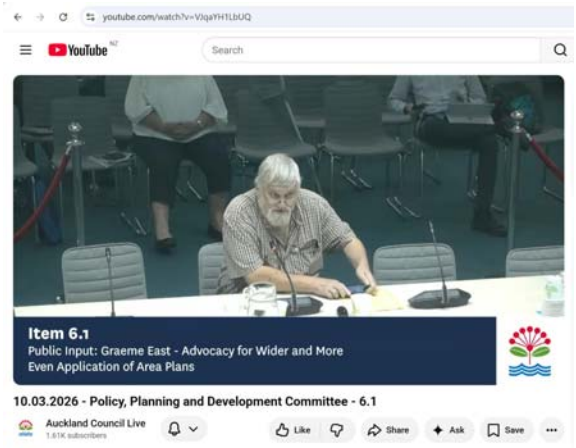
6. Local Board Chairs have told Graeme that having local plans has made a real difference to accommodating development in their ward, particularly as the urban environment intensifies.

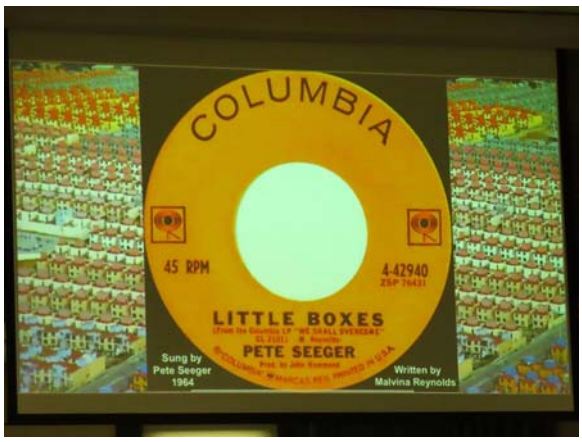
7. Graeme's request to the Policy and Planning Committee:

(1) That in revising the existing Auckland Plan (the Auckland Spatial Plan) in line with the new legislation, and any consequent changes to the Unitary Plan, consideration be given to potential measures to protect and enhance **local** features and character.

(2) That when the work on the Regional Spatial Plan and the Unitary Plan begins to tail off, then freed-up staff time and resources be reallocated to work on new and revised Local Area Plans.

(3) That priority should be given to those areas without an Area Plan at all.





NB When quoting from Local Board plans in our submission, we use *italics.* When quoting from our Annual Plan 2026/2027 submission, we use **bold.** Following Council's apparent oversight of some of our submissions in the Annual Plan 2026-2027 process, our advice from Council staff

has been to resubmit those points relevant to the 3-Year Local Board Plans so that they may be considered at the earliest convenience.

Albert-Eden

1. We were pleased to see a photo of the Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre on the Local Board Plan cover. We have expressed our support for the centre in previous submissions, and some CTA members are regular visitors to the centre. We still think recycling centres and/or libraries could be a drop-off place for used batteries, and would again encourage Council to consider the merits of this idea.

2. CTA supports Albert-Eden communities that consistently say that *"climate action and environment projects are a priority"* (pg 10), and we support the Local Board in setting out a low carbon pathway in its Climate Action Plan. We endorse environmental restoration in areas like Te Auauanga, Waititīko, Pt Chevalier Beach and Mōtū Manawa Marine Reserve, rare lava rock forests and around the tūpuna maunga.

3. We are pleased that the plan reflects *"reducing emissions, protecting biodiversity, building community resilience"* (pg 11) and that the Local Board refers to the relevant Shoreline Adaption Plan to guide actions.

4. CTA also supports the following:

- *Help households be ready for an emergency, refresh the Albert-Eden Local Board Emergency Readiness and Response Plan and support marae and groups to join our Community Emergency Hub network* (pg 14).

- *Improve Chamberlain Park by adding a new local park and walking and cycling paths, restoring Waitītiko / Meola Creek and shifting golf holes to keep an 18-hole golf course* (pg 15).

5. CTA submitted in June 2015 on keeping the 18-hole course, being only public golf course on the central isthmus and used by a diverse range of Aucklanders of all ages and ethnicities, at that time seeing in excess of 50,000 rounds per year, so we are very supportive of this outcome that accommodates broader community usage without surrendering the 18-hole nature of the golf course.

- *Make the most of land purchased in the flood buy-out by turning any suitable sites into new parks* (pg16).

- *Implement low carbon practices through capital projects when upgrading or developing our assets, for example minimising construction waste or adding renewal energy generation* (pg 16).

6. In our submission on the government's Emissions Reduction Plan in November 2021, we stated "that adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, as well as buildings in general should also be considered in the first instance. An example is the Civic Administration Building in Auckland's civic square, where a recent promotion for these apartments states: 'The most environmentally friendly new build is the one you don't actually build.… The CAB has reused its original steel frame…. Reusing such a large portion of the building (after passing considerable forms of strength testing) vastly reduces its carbon footprint…. Our team has painstakingly removed 19 floors/2,130 tonnes of concrete and diverted 98% of the demolition material from landfill.'"

7. We support the advocacy for *"Increased budget for buying open space, to ensure the shortfalls in service provision in urban areas can be addressed"* (pg 16).

8. CTA supports all the objectives listed on pages 18-19. In particular, we support the community changing their travel patterns *"to include more low carbon options."* However, please note our comments in the introduction to this submission about e-scooters.

9. We strongly support the following key initiatives in the plan: *"Work with Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the three Tāmaki Makaurau rōpū of Marutūāhu, Ngāti Whātua and Waiohua-Tāmaki who are creating Te Kukūnga Waka (Carrington residential development). Provide community services for new communities coming to large-scale developments in our area, like Te Kukūnga Waka (Carrington residential development) and University of Auckland Epsom Campus (pg 21); and the advocacy (pg 23): "Preservation and use of the heritage building at the northern end of Te Kukūnga Waka (Carrington residential development), working with Marutūāhu and their aspirations."*

10. As per our submission on the 2023 Local Board Plan, CTA recognises the regional nature of Building One's heritage significance, as denoted by its inclusion on Council's heritage schedule as a Category A building, and its Category 1 building status on Heritage NZ's List, and strongly supports a community wellbeing hub being incorporated into this building on the Carrington residential site. Currently, we are concerned that Building One is deteriorating, and that with tiles removed from the roof, rain is getting in, to add to the damage done by vandals over the years the building has been left empty. We strongly urge the Local Board to lobby Auckland Council and the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport to protect this Category I and Category A building so that it can be preserved. It is a matter of urgency to make the building watertight, for example, by the use of tarpaulins, or by having the tiles that were removed from the roof put back in place. CTA understands that the building was set aside for adaptive re-use and that within the Albert-Eden Local Board Area reside many of the 600 groups or individuals who have expressed interest in a tenancy in the building.

11. Our Annual Plan submission included the following: **"We also suggest the local board takes any action available, including enforcement orders, to halt and remedy what appear to be intentional actions that will harm the main building of Oakley/Carrington Hospital at the Unitec campus. The building is Category A Scheduled Heritage within the Auckland Unitary Plan (Item 1618), excluding the additions made after 1905, and is a Category 1 Historic Place on the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) List / Rārangi Korero (Item 96). https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-details/96/Carrington%20Hospital%20(Former)."**

12. That submission included a photo showing the roof of Building One. We include below a historic photo of the building and also an updated photo showing a close-up of the roof, the gap where the tiles should be continuing all the way around the building, then two photos showing damage inside the building.

13. We strongly support the Local Board retaining this objective in its plan: *"Protect and celebrate our historic heritage by being good stewards of the assets we own and supporting others to care for theirs"* (page 22) and we suggest that it follows that the Local Board should focus its efforts on Building One.









14. We support the Local Board's advocacy, especially: *"Planning rules to protect historic heritage, special character, viewshafts of the tūpuna maunga (ancestral mountains) and sites and places of significance to mana whenua."*

15. Our Annual Plan submission also included: **"the local board advocates to Council for the repurposing of the old Mt Eden Prison."**

16. We support the priorities to: *"Provide safe and accessible walking, cycling and micro-mobility options for people to use, including by adding missing links and connections"* (pg 28); *"Provide the missing walking and cycling connection running east to west across our local board area"* (pg 29); *"Set safe speed limits to provide a consistent and safe speed environment, working towards survivable speeds on our local roads;"* (pg 29) and *"Ensure footpaths are wide, accessible, and safe"* (pg 29).

17. We repeat our request from our 2023 feedback that a Liberty Swing be reinstated in Rocket Park, along with some of the other original equipment for this special park, to support children with disabilities, as per the objective in the 2026 plan (pg 14): *"We celebrate diversity, making sure everyone is empowered to participate and feel like they belong,"* the key initiatives (pg 14): *"Reduce barriers so everyone can be an active part of our community, especially children, young and older people, migrant communities, LGBTQ+ communities, people with physical or intellectual disabilities and transient populations;* and *Work with groups to ensure that our programmes work for everyone and that our spaces feel safe and accessible,"* the objective (pg 15): *"People and communities have access to spaces and services that improve their wellbeing, help them learn and meet their changing needs;"* and the objective: *"Our community is healthy and active and can include movement and fun in everyday life,"* with the associated initiative: *"Make our parks and public places fun so everyone has space and feels comfortable to play and recreate, especially children,"* and the obj*ective: "*Our parks and open space meet the needs of our changing population" (pg 15).

18. We understand that the original purpose of Rocket Park was to provide accessibility for children with disabilities. We draw the Local Board's attention to this blog about the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton https://www.magicalbridge.co.nz/

Aotea-Great-Barrier

1. CTA strongly supports the climate change and resilience initiatives that the Local Board has invested in (pg 10).

2. We support (in particular) the key initiatives to:

- *Partner with mana whenua to restore the mauri (life force) of whenua, moana, awa and taonga species and strengthen climate resilience on the island.*
- *Support the local Emergency Response Team to deliver emergency readiness, response and recovery initiatives to strengthen island resilience.*

- *Improve our council 'microgrid' to help us better capture, store and manage electricity locally.*
- *Ensure our village spaces, parks, reserves and beaches are safe, well-maintained and reflect our natural way of life.*
- *Partner with mana whenua, Department of Conservation and the community to investigate connecting track networks.*

3. We support all the Environment key initiatives and all the advocacy in this section. We are of the view that all the other Local Boards could support this advocacy as well, as much of it is relevant to the rest of Auckland.

4. In association with Tautaki Auckland, the Local Board developed the Aotea Great Barrier Island Destination Management Plan (focused on sustainable, regenerative tourism that balances economic growth with environmental protection) and CTA supports those identified efforts to those ends (pp 20-22).

5. We support the priorities under Transport, in particular (which we also supported in 2023): *"Support the introduction of a community passenger transport service"* (pg 25).

Devonport-Takapuna

1. In our last Local Board Plan submission, we encouraged the Local Board "to advocate for bike racks on buses that go across the Auckland Harbour Bridge," so we are very pleased to note that there are now 15 buses that carry bicycles over the harbour bridge.

2. We support the following objective: *"Our parks, facilities and recreational spaces are safe, accessible and meet the needs of our community"* and we particularly support the following key initiatives: *"Ensure accessibility is a key consideration in the development and maintenance of our parks, facilities and recreational spaces; Develop and maintain our parks, community facilities and recreational spaces with sustainable and locally sourced materials where possible;"* and *"Complete the Devonport-Takapuna Local Parks Management Plan."*

3. We support the objective to *"… explore opportunities to reflect Māori identity and support Māori wellbeing in our parks, public spaces and community facilities"* and the key initiatives associated with this objective.

4. We strongly support the Local Board's advocacy for the *"Establishment of a regional heritage facilities maintenance fund to support local boards to maintain, renew and preserve heritage buildings"* (pg 14).

5. We would have liked to have seen the retention of the objective that: "Natural and built heritage are conserved and both colonial and Māori history and significant places are valued, promoted, and celebrated" (page 19, 2023 Local Board Plan).

6. We support all of the Local Board's objectives under Environment (pp 16-17) and all the key initiatives, with comments as follows:

As regards *"Support appropriate planting and the principle of 'the right tree in the right place,"* we note that trees that grow large sometimes block views of both landscapes and attractive buildings, and that trees should not be encased in concrete, nor should they be put in a place where they will impact on infrastructure such as water pipes. In 2023 we stated, in response to the 'right tree in the right place' principle that "we would caution that the wrong tree in the wrong place (in any Local Board area) does not necessarily get removed but that it is allowed to live out its natural life, or there is consideration given to transplanting the tree. We understand that there is modern machinery that enables the transplanting of large trees. Perhaps Local Boards (including this one) could advocate to the Governing Body and/or central government for investment in one of these machines."

7. Regarding *"Support initiatives … such as education on: using bike hubs and electric scooters … different ways to travel for short journeys,"* please see our comments in the introduction to this submission about e-scooters on pages 2-3.

8. We support all the advocacy for the Natural Environment (pg 17).

9. We support all the Built Environment key initiatives (pg 19).

10. We would support the retention of the initiative from the previous plan: "Utilisation of regional funding to retrofit assets and upgrade them with solar energy saving measures" (pg 22, 2023 Local Board Plan).

11. We support the advocacy to the governing body as per page 20:

- *More funding to protect and renew our heritage assets.*
- *Invest in infrastructure and open spaces in areas where increased housing density is planned under Unitary Plan Change 120.*
- *Consult more with the Auckland Urban Design Panel for advice around large-scale developments.*

12. Regarding large-scale developments, we bring the Local Board's attention to the principles of universal design as outlined on pages 1-2 of this submission.

13. On page 24 under Transport, *"High dependency on motor vehicles"* is mentioned as a challenge, and we submit that the Local Board could encourage and advocate for the use of public transport, as per our suggestion on page 2.

14. We look forward to Local Boards having more control over local transport decisions as a result of the proposed legislation reform.

15. We support slowing traffic, in the interests of safety, as per the priority on page 24: *"Install speed advisory signs and other measures to help slow traffic across the area."*

16. From our Annual Plan submission:
CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· **Working with Council to support people impacted by flooding events**
· **Advocacy to the Governing Body or other entities for support, including the Lake Road upgrade, the development of the Francis Esmonde link and a new ferry terminal at Bayswater**
· **Completion and adoption of the Devonport -Takapuna Local Parks Management Plan to help guide decisions and investment in parks and open spaces.**

17. We note that The Flagstaff, the Devonport Local Community Newspaper, revealed (on 2 July, 2026) the five 8-storey tower development plans proposed for Devonport by Peninsula Capital. These multi-level buildings rising behind heritage streetscape (pictured below) clearly block the maunga behind and would surely impact the proposed UNESCO World Heritage Site status that is being sought for all the Tūpuna Maunga of Auckland.



18. If intensification of such a scale is to be considered, perhaps master planning for that end of the peninsula might include consideration of the RNZN vacating its current site (and possibly relocating to Whangarei), in part, good for housing in Auckland and also potentially positive for Northland.

Franklin

1. CTA supports the objectives and key initiatives (pages 17-18) under "Natural Environment," and the advocacy on pages 18-19.

2. We suggest the retention of the following initiative from the 2023 plan (pg 26/33?): “Require all public space projects in urban/future urban areas to actively contribute to increases in tree canopy cover and more green infrastructure.”

3. Under Transport, we support the Local Board working towards safe travel by foot, bike and mobility scooter, and note the inclusion of mobility scooters (page 27).

4. We support the ideas listed in the Opportunities section (page 28), particularly that of leveraging the Manukau Harbour and Hauraki Gulf as a Blue Highway. We see this as benefitting other parts of Auckland too, reducing reliance on the roading network and congestion across the city.

5. Under Transport priorities, we note: *“Investigate options to improve safety and environmental protection on Franklin’s beaches, so that vehicle use does not create harm to people or place e.g. at Karioitahi Beach, Umupuia and Kawakawa Bay.”* In general, we do not support vehicles driving on beaches. We strongly support the priority to *“Work with community providers to facilitate youth uptake of walking and cycling as a mechanism to address congestion and parking capacity,”* which we see as also facilitating youth health and environmental health. We support advocacy for better public transport routes, including more ferry services.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Continue to invest in community-led pest management and environmental restoration programmes, with an emphasis on initiatives that engage Māori and youth**
- **Local and community leadership in the delivery of initiatives and programmes where appropriate**
- **Progress delivery of the Paparata Local Purpose Reserve (Bombay) concept plan**
- **Investigate and develop options that will address community safety and environment at Karioitahi Beach so that this special place can be enjoyed by locals and visitors and the unique environment is protected**
- **Commence work to progress delivery of the Paparata Local Purpose Reserve (Bombay) concept plan , ensuring that the local community has the opportunity to partner in delivery where feasible.**
- **Continue to seek options for the development of Clarks Beach Reserves in line with future need so that the board is able to invest in improvements that align with both future need and existing community aspiration.**

CTA commends the Franklin Local Board for its intention to engage with the community in order to garner their ideas and input.

<u>Henderson-Massey</u>

1. We support the Local Board in continuing with the key initiative (pg 14) to *"Develop parks, community and play spaces that can be easily used and accessed by everyone and meet the needs of the community,"* and draw members' attention to Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton, mentioned in the introduction to our submission.

2. We support all the key initiatives in the Natural Environment section (pp 17-18) and the advocacy on page 18.

3. Under Built Environment, we strongly support the objective of *"Community places and spaces are more accessible, sustainable and improve our collective wellbeing"* (pg 20), and in particular, the key initiatives of *"Make sure we consider sustainability and accessibility when we build and maintain community facilities and buildings"* and *"Identify and progress neighbourhood transport initiatives that improve safety, such as walking and cycling paths and speed calming measures."*

4. Regarding sustainability and accessibility, please see our comments about universal design on page 2.

5. In the Transport section, we particularly support the following key initiatives: *"Look into and set up traffic flow solutions such as 'smart' traffic lights that use sensors or cameras to give longer green lights where traffic is heavy, respond to rush hours, incidents and weather and prioritise buses;" "Introduce a weekly public transport fare cap for children and young people in addition to the existing $50 fare cap"* and *"Prioritise safety and ways to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in local streets and around every local school."* While an enhanced pedestrian environment is desirable, so too is the free flow of traffic, sequenced where necessary.

Hibiscus and Bays

1. In our last Local Board Plan submission, we encouraged the Local Board to advocate to Auckland Transport for bike racks on buses that go across the Auckland Harbour Bridge, so we are delighted that there are now 15 buses that carry bicycles over the harbour bridge on the NX1 route.

2. Under Community on page 15, we support the key initiative of *"Support communities to share stories about local heritage in ways that help people understand their area, feel a sense of identity and belonging, and learn about local history. This includes using te reo Māori place names and a range of storytelling approaches."*

3. We support all the key initiatives and advocacy under Natural Environment (pp 19-20). We note that one key initiative is: *"Support the development and increased use of parks, reserves and sports fields that are accessible, equitable and meet current and future community needs."* A visit by a CTA Board member to the Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve in January this year

revealed that although there is supposedly a track alongside the Nukumea Stream that is suitable for wheelchairs, it was not possible to get the wheelchair past the kauri dieback cleaning station, it being misleading to describe the track as accessible for wheelchairs.

4. We support the key initiatives and advocacy under Built Environment (pp 22-23) and under Transport (pg 29).

5. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· **Supporting further protection of our sea, soil and fresh water from contamination and sedimentation, through increased monitoring and extending projects such as local stream restoration including the Weiti River**
· **Continuing our commitment to protecting our natural environment - such as advancing restoration efforts along the Weiti River and strengthening monitoring to reduce contamination and sedimentation in our waterways**
· **Ensuring Hibiscus and Bays is welcoming and supportive for all through collaboration with a broader range of local residents and an increased focus on inclusive design, so it is accessible and usable for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds**

CTA strongly supports this Local Board's focus on inclusive design, and would like to see other Local Boards focus on this as well, and for it to be included in Auckland Council's vision.

The remainder has been covered on page 2 of this submission.

Howick

1. We support the Local Board's long list of key initiatives on pages 14-16 under Community and will provide comments on the following. *"Work with Animal Management to address local issues, and clearly communicate rules and regulations to the community, especially the rules around having dogs in public spaces"* (pg 14). Some dog owners do not seem to know that their dogs should be on a leash at all times in public spaces, except in designated off-leash areas. Other owners clearly do know this, and are flouting this rule. We encourage this Local Board (and all others) to implement the $300 fine for a dog being off-leash in an on-leash area, as well as the other infringements relating to dogs. There are owners who regularly walk their dogs off-leash, and their disregard for Auckland Council's Dog Management Bylaw is unfair on other dog owners and to those members of the public who have a real fear of dogs, whatever they look like and whatever size they are.

2. *"Develop inclusive play spaces designed for neurodiverse children, supporting safe, engaging, and enjoyable experiences for all"* (pg 14). We strongly support this initiative. Like universal design, such play spaces are suitable for everyone. Please see our note on page 1

about the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton, established in December 2023, New Zealand's first fully inclusive and accessible playground designed for people of all ages, sizes, and physical or neurological abilities.

3. We support the objectives and key initiatives under Natural Environment on pages 18-21, and the advocacy on pages 21-222 noting, however, as in our 2023 feedback, as regards the following key initiative: *"Support the Tūpuna Maunga Authority to protect and enhance Ōhuiarangi / Pigeon Mountain"* that we do support protecting the maunga but we do not support the removal of trees from any of the maunga across Auckland. We maintain the position that particular trees that are not wanted on the maunga should live out their natural lives while replacement planting of other species is planned for.

4. We support the objectives and key initiatives under Built Environment on pages 24 - 26, though we caution with regard to *"Look into selling underperforming properties to help fund priority projects."* It may be better for these properties to remain in Council ownership rather than be lost to the private sector, and rather than use their sale to fund projects, make them perform better. This is a case where the community should be consulted about the use of buildings within their area, as regrettably, some Council buildings are not fully utilised due to lack of information about them, and also regrettably, some underused Council buildings are not maintained and become unusable.

5. Under Transport, the priority *"Identify high congestion areas and investigate options for improvement to reduce travel time and keep our emissions low"* seems to in part be answered by *"Provide safe, reliable, and timely public transport, with improved bus services, accessible routes, and well -designed, sheltered bus stops for the community."* We think there is an opportunity for all Local Boards to promote public transport more, for Local Board members to use it more themselves, and to investigate barriers to people using transport. We would like to see, for example, employers offer more incentives for their employees to use public transport and for the reintroduction of glide time, where practicable, to remove the barrier of being late for work.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Run regular seminars for community groups/organisations on the local grant's application process**
- **Continue advocacy of the Tāmaki Estuary on water quality and coastal erosion**
- **Support our volunteer groups with resources needed for ecological volunteering, such as stream clean-ups and pest plant weeding**
- **Tackling the challenges of environmental protection and restoration remains a high priority**
- **Continue to support environmental groups and explore new initiatives**

Kaipātiki

1. We note the following on page 4 (From the Chair): *"To ensure a sustainable network of community assets, the board will take a fiscally responsible, long-term approach to renewing them. This includes reviewing the condition and performance of existing assets and recognising that, under ongoing limited funding, some assets may need to be considered for decommissioning (for example removing or deconstructing them)."* We repeat what we have written above in this submission, that unfortunately, some Council buildings are not fully utilised due to lack of information about them, and also unfortunately, some underused Council buildings are not maintained and become unusable. In our view, the community should be consulted about the use of buildings in their area.

2. In the 2023 draft plan, CTA supported the initiative (pg 14) to: "Investigate installing solar on facilities with significant solar potential, including: Birkenhead Pool and Leisure Centre, Kaipātiki Local Board Office, Glenfield Pool and Leisure Centre." We are therefore pleased to know that the Birkenhead Pool and Leisure Centre now has solar panels installed on its roof, that roof work is underway at the Glenfield Centre to add solar panels, and that the Board Office is in line to receive solar panels as well.

3. CTA supported the Kaipātiki Local Board's advocacy to the Governing Body in the draft 2023 plan (pg 18) "to protect and celebrate our built and cultural heritage" and would like to see this retained in the 2026 plan.

4. Also in the 2023 plan, we supported "the ability for local boards to have direct decision-making authority to make temporary changes to dog access rules to mitigate environmental or social problems" (page 23) and we are pleased to note that the changes proposed by the Kaipātiki and Devonport-Takapuna Local Boards to rules for local beaches and reserves came into effect in January 2026.

5. Again, we support advocacy to *"reinstate legislation that provides general tree protection Central Government"* (page 20), and would also continue to support the following, if it were included in the plan: "for urban planning legislation to adequately protect special ecological areas" (2023 plan, pg 23).

6. We strongly support this new advocacy: *"Advocate to introduce waste recovery schemes that make those who create waste responsible for dealing with it"* (pg 20).

7. We are pleased that the following key initiative has been retained: *"Consider the effects of climate change when developing places and spaces by avoiding areas or activities that are vulnerable to climate risks like drought, extreme rainfall, coastal flooding and heat."*

8. We continue to support *"continued improvement of the bus and ferry network serving Kaipātiki with: cheaper ferry and bus fares, maintaining our existing three ferry services – with increased frequency, more buses going to more destinations more often,"* and also *"a continued*

move to electric buses and ferries serving Kaipātiki" (pg 31). In our view, the Waitematā Harbour could be used much more for transport - being a waterway that does not need maintenance the way roads and rail do.

9. Under Community, one of the key initiatives is: *"Invest in natural solutions that improve our parks and public spaces, including planting notable trees for shade, wildflower meadows for increased biodiversity and natural play items such as māra hūpara."* We support this initiative (alongside all the others), and appreciate that the wildflower meadows will attract more insects and other biodiversity than grass. We would like to see fruit trees included in the plantings in parks and public spaces, for the additional benefit of providing food for the community. We also like the use of māra hūpara, not only for the connection with both nature and local Māori history, but also due to its attractiveness and sustainability.

10. We support all the objectives, key initiatives, and advocacy under Natural Environment (pages 19 - 21). A number of our board members have enjoyed walking along the treetop boardwalk at Kauri Glen Reserve.

11. Under Transport, we strongly support the following priority: "*Consider introducing reduced speed limits (safer speeds) on a case-by-case basis on roads where vulnerable road users are often present, and where the impact on traffic flow will be minor"* (pg 31). It is our understanding that driving in a city, constantly stopping and starting at traffic lights, a lower speed limit tends to affect travel time only by seconds.

12. Under Economic Development, we support the following two key initiatives: *"Support local businesses to use more sustainable practices, such as reducing waste, cutting greenhouse gas emissions and using resources more efficiently,"* and *"Promote retail opportunities provided by the Wairau zero-waste hub and other second -hand providers like op-shops."*

13. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· **Support environmental groups, community volunteers, and our diverse communities to carry out environmental restoration projects, including stream clean-ups, habitat improvement, native riparian planting, and pest control**
· **Improvements to Little Shoal Bay / Wai Manawa Reserve**
· **Healthy Waters Ngā Wairau project, working alongside that project to ensure the parks, sport, and recreational outcomes are being suitably included and considered**
· **Invest in maintenance and renewal of our parks, playgrounds, community buildings, recreation facilities, and other public spaces so they continue to meet our communities needs**
· **Support a community-led approach for the delivery of relevant and diverse services that develop and connect the community**

· **Make substantial progress on the planning and delivery of major local projects, including the Beach Haven Coastal Connection (Stage 3), Birkenhead War Memorial masterplan implementation, and improvements to Little Shoal Bay / Wai Manawa Reserve**

CTA endorses the Kaipātiki Local Board's community-led approach, and congratulates this local board on the huge response (about 5,000 people) to its consultation on the future use of recreation at A.F. Thomas Park. However this consultation was done, it clearly worked, and perhaps lessons can be learned by other local boards.

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

1. In our 2023 submission on the Local Board Plans, CTA supported the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board to "Revive the Māngere Gateway Heritage plan to enhance Stonefields and promote and regain heritage values" (pg 17). We understand that the Local Board has been actively working to revive this plan, including funding programmes designed to enhance the Otuataua Stonefields, and we are pleased about this.

2. We support all the key initiatives under Natural Environment in the current draft plan (pp 17-18), in particular: *"Support the creation of a new Māngere Ōtāhuhu Community Recycling Centre, making it easier for people to recycle and reduce waste,"* and we endorse the opportunity under Economic Development that *"The proposed community recycling centre could help create new sustainable community enterprises and provide more jobs."* We also particularly support: *"Fund education and community programmes that work with people to reduce and manage household waste, prevent illegal dumping, and build shared care and pride in our local environment,"* and *"Work with the community to develop and deliver local climate action plans and support community-led projects that help people cut emissions, use energy wisely and choose low -carbon ways to get around."*

3. We would like to note that CTA is very supportive of Respect Mt Richmond / Ōtāhuhu in its efforts to save the exotic trees on that maunga. On page 10 in your plan it is noted that *"Māngere -Ōtāhuhu has low tree canopy cover"* and that a key initiative (pg 17) is *"Work with landowners and developers to plant more trees (ngāhere) across private land, new developments and green open spaces;"* and an advocacy point (pg 18) is *"Funding to help local boards achieve regional and local targets for urban ngahere (tree) cover in the areas where there is less than 15 per cent of tree canopy cover. This provides habitats for birds and insects, and shade from extreme heat."* It is our view that exotic trees contribute to the canopy just as much as natives, and they also provide habitat for fauna and shade for people. We have proposed in various submissions that unwanted trees be left to live out their natural lives, and that it should be only then that they are replaced with other trees.

4. We note the challenge stated in the Built Environment section (pg 19): *"Plan Change 120 proposes to avoid building homes in flood-prone parts of Māngere-Ōtāhuhu to improve safety, but pushes to build new housing into fewer areas. This could increase pressure on already stretched local infrastructure and services.*" In our submission on Plan Change 120, we

supported those communities which stated that infrastructure and services would be put under pressure by intensification, including in our points as follows: 7(c) “CTA submits that to reduce capacity in certain locations, such intensification could be reallocated elsewhere in order to meet the arbitrary 2 million total required by PC120. This might be done by, for example, allowing THAB in some locations or allowing a variation in the number of floors in an apartment block; 8(c) PC120 needs to include planning for infrastructure, in order to support safe, resilient, and sustainable intensification. This includes schools, hospitals, green space, and transport. Growth should be directed to places where the necessary infrastructure is planned, funded, and deliverable; 8(d) In our view, it is poor planning to rely on potential legislation and/or private investment for future infrastructure. We know that some parts of the city have been waiting years for appropriate infrastructure and we know that the availability of funding for such work is not increasing. CTA considers that development should not be enabled where infrastructure is not practicably able to be provided.” The ability to accommodate such changes is now more attainable given the reduction of the government’s target from 2 million homes down to 1.4 million homes.

5. CTA supports all the key initiatives on page 20, particularly: *“Make sure new community buildings are designed to work well in a changing climate, are healthy and contribute to a quality built environment,”* as well as all the advocacy on page 21.

6. We also support all the priorities under Transport (pg 26).

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Deliver coastal and storm -water resilience work in the Manukau Harbour -adjacent suburbs (such as improvements to seawalls or planting buffer zones) to support long -term climate adaptation**
- **Continue the native tree planting and understory restoration programme across key reserves and corridors (for example around waterways in Māngere East and Favona**
- **Roll out community -led waste -minimisation and resource -recovery initiatives — supporting local groups to divert material from landfill**
- **Work with Auckland Transport and Economic Development Office to support our transport and economic aspirations**

CTA supports the efforts of Respect Mount Richmond Ōtāhuhu to save the trees on their local maunga from felling by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority. This group is having to raise community money to defend itself in court against the TMA, which is funded by Council (ratepayer) money. We do not think that removing trees from the maunga aligns with Auckland's Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy. This strategy states that it will have been successful when (amongst other aims) it has:

- **increased canopy cover to 30 per cent across Auckland's urban area, and at least 15 per cent in every local board area**

- **increased the network of green infrastructure on public land**
- **improved links between green spaces by establishing ecological corridors**
- **instilled a sense of pride in Aucklanders for their urban ngahere.**

The strategy also states that "Protecting existing ngahere is crucial to safeguarding the added values and benefits mature trees provide …. (pg 42). The benefits provided by trees become exponentially greater as they mature. It's also more cost effective to care for mature trees…. People often have strong emotional connections to landmark, mature trees in their neighbourhoods, and are more likely to mourn the loss of a large tree. Additionally, some native species, such as kākā, and bats, prefer taller trees and their presence can significantly improve the biodiversity value of an area (pg 45)."

CTA submits that there needs to be better alignment between the Urban Ngahere Strategy and the Tūpuna Maunga Authority's Operational Plan, and that the views of all Aucklanders need to be taken into account.

Manurewa

1. In the 2023 plan, CTA was pleased to note: "increase awareness of the notable tree schedule to protect more of our trees" (page 26) and we supported the key initiative to "Replace every tree removed from the streetscape due to damage, storms and accidents within one year" (page 27). We understand that due to financial constraints, further storm damage, and high operational costs have meant that this goal was not met, but we encourage the Local Board to continue with tree replacement. We submit that awareness of the notable tree schedule could be included in the Local Board's advocacy to the Governing Body.

2. Regarding the key initiative *"Look at options to improve access and usability across our parks and facilities. This may include identifying and removing physical barriers, upgrading paths, amenities, and signage, and working closely with disability groups to meet their needs"* (pg 17) we draw the Local Board's attention to the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton as being a playground that caters for children with disabilities.

3. CTA supports all the climate change and sustainability initiatives on page 17, as well at the key initiatives under Natural Environment on pages 20-21 and the advocacy on page 22.

4. We support the Economic Development key initiatives of: *"Support industrial zones to move to a low-impact, low-carbon economy and adapt to the impacts of climate change;"* and *"Support initiatives that strengthen community economic resilience in response to climate change. This may include community-led renewable energy projects, such as solar generation and storage, that reduce energy costs, create local jobs, and increase energy security."*

5. We support the Transport priorities on page 29 and 30, particularly: *"Continue to support evidence-based ways to slow down traffic. This could be speed humps and raised pedestrian crossings around schools;"* and *"Look at options to improve safety and traffic management like*

slowing down traffic and improved parking around the Homai quadrant which includes Sturdee Road." We understand that when driving in a city and constantly stopping and starting at traffic lights, a lower speed limit tends to affect travel time only by seconds. We note that some suburbs have introduced 30 km or 40 km limits in some areas, which seem to work well.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· **Continue to support ways to plant and retain more trees on public and private land and suburban streets**
· **Deliver a new neighbourhood park at Glenveagh Reserve.**
· **Continue to invest in our two illegal dumping pilot programmes: a proactive illegal dumping collection initiative and an illegal dumping enforcement programme.**

<u>Maungakiekie-Tāmaki</u>

1. With regard to the advocacy to *"Work with relevant agencies to advocate for policies and initiatives that reduce dog attacks, support responsible ownership, and keep our community safe"* (pg15), CTA suggests that this advocacy could include asking Auckland Council to direct its Animal Management Officers to remind/warn dog owners that they need to keep their dogs on a leash at all times, except in off-leash areas, and if they do not, they are liable for a $300 fine.

2. We support the Natural Environment key initiatives (pp 17-18), particularly *"Support rangatahi as leaders in climate action and investigate opportunities for rangatahi led environmental initiatives."* We also support the advocacy in this section (pp18-19).

3. We support the Built Environment key initiatives (pp 21-22) and the advocacy on page 22. We recommend the example of the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton as a playground that caters for children with disabilities, as regards the initiative: *"Develop playground designs which are inclusive of all ages and abilities."*

4. We support the following Economic Development key initiatives page 24: *"Support initiatives which encourage businesses to do something about their impact on the environment"* (pg 24) and *"Support initiatives which encourage local procurement and the promotion of services within our community"* (pg 25).

5. CTA supports the Transport priorities (pp 27-28).

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· **Partnering with mana whenua and community groups on restoration, food resilience planting, and environmental education**
· **Exploring increased compliance resourcing and enhancing community emergency preparedness**
· **Continuing work to improve our parks and open spaces, including progressing plans for Waikaraka Park, focused on making sure local facilities, parks and green spaces keep pace**
· **Advancing important environmental restoration projects like Ōmaru Creek, continuing to care for our natural environment guided by shared values.**

CTA congratulates the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board on the completion of the Te Kōpua o Hiku bridge at the Panmure Basin, which will mean safer, easier walking and cycling.

Ōrākei

1. In the 2023 draft plans, CTA supported the seismic restoration of the Remuera Library and we are pleased to see this project completed.

2. We strongly support the first key initiative on page 21: *"Ensure that the heritage of our people, places and buildings is recognised, protected and valued by working with council organisations, supporting community groups and investing in eligible projects."*

3. We also support the Natural Environment key initiatives (pp 17-18) and the advocacy on page 19.

4. Alongside *"Encourage developers to prioritise sustainable design in their developments"* (pg 21), CTA would like to see "Encourage developers to prioritise universal design in their developments," and we refer the Local Board to page 2 of this submission, where we have written about universal design.

5. Regarding the initiative: "Look for opportunities to provide new venues for community use such as land reclamation (creating new land by filling in areas of water), buying property or working with community providers," firstly, we would urge the Local Board to undertake extensive consultation before considering land reclamation, due to the expense, the requirement for constant maintenance, and the vulnerability to flooding. Further, when we read on the next page the initiative: *"Decommission under-used assets like Leicester Hall, to invest in better value assets and services,"* we question why the Local Board would consider new venues for community use when there already are such venues, such as Leicester Hall, which has a kitchen, off-street parking, and is wheelchair accessible. We suggest that the Local Board considers that the community might like to be involved in the maintenance of such buildings, and potentially making it more fit for purpose, rather than looking to provide new buildings.

Furthermore, are such venues as Leicester Hall well-known to the community? Could they be advertised in the Local Board newsletters?

6. Potentially, *"Review[ing] the local board's lease portfolio to ensure that leased sites are providing the best value to community and identify what might be missing"* would bring to light what is needed, what is already available, and what could be done to make the best use of such assets.

7. We support the priorities under Transport and the associated advocacy. We support speed limits for e-bikes, e-scooters and low-powered vehicles, and we would like to see a ban on e-scooters using footpaths, in line with the Local Board aiming at more safety for pedestrians.

8. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· **Increasing investment in restoration and pest-management programmes to grow and protect your natural environment. Our reserves and open spaces are one of the most vital resources in Ōrākei**
· **Continued investment in growing and protecting our parks and playgrounds.**

CTA endorses efforts by this board to work with the neighbouring Waitematā Local Board on matters regarding the health of the Waitematā Harbour that connecting those board areas.

<u>Otara-Papatoetoe</u>

1. CTA supports the initiatives on page 14 under Community: *"Support climate resilience and local sustainability education and engagement initiatives for young people;"* and *"Continue to develop a 'multi -park management plan' that manages the use, development and protection of all parks, reserves and open spaces in the area."*

2. We support the Natural Environment key initiatives on pages 17-18 and the advocacy on page 18.

3. We suggest that the criticism on page 26 of *"Unreliable, infrequent and limited public transport options encourage more residents to travel by car"* is less valid than it was 3 years ago, as public transport in Auckland is improving all the time. We are of the view that what is needed is more promotion of public transport to people who do not think outside of taking their car with them everywhere they go.

4. We support the priorities on pages 27 and 28 under Transport. As per our submission 3 years ago, we support free public transport, not only to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and congestion, but to improve the health of the population, as overall, we do not move enough. We have suggested in previous submissions a trial of free transport.

5. We agree that Puhinui Station is a crucial transport hub, and, as we stated in our 2023 submission, we are of the view that the AirportLink service needs more publicity.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA does not support this local board changing garden edging to chemical application, as this is an environmental risk, with chemicals running into waterways, killings beneficial insects and disrupting the natural soil balance. We note that weeds can build up resistance to the chemicals.

We do support this local board's seismic strengthening of Papatoetoe Town Hall, a 1917 heritage hall which is still in frequent use for community events.

Papakura

1. Under Community, we support the key initiative: *"Support the protection of sites of Māori and European significance including the enhancement of Pukekooiwiriki Paa."*

2. CTA also supports the Natural Environment key initiatives on pages 18-20 and the advocacy on page 20.

3. Thank you for including *"Support 'universal access' design so people of all ages and abilities can access our facilities, and 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' (CPTED) in upgrades where budgets allow"* in your key initiatives under Built Environment. CTA is a strong supporter of universal design, and your draft plan is the only one we have seen that mentions this design principle, which we see as catering not only for people with disabilities but others who can benefit from improved access, including the ageing population, thus increasing housing options for more people and improving the quality of life for people who currently face significant barriers in terms of physical access.

4. Under this same objective, *"Resilience, safety and universal access,"* we point out that in addition to native trees to *"provide shade, shelter and heat-resilient landscaping,"* that non-native trees provide the same benefits, and some provide fruit as well.

5. Also on page 24, under *"Objective 6: Regeneration and service property optimisation: Identify and sell assets that are underused and reinvest the money from the sales into upgrades for community spaces and facilities to benefit the community,"* we suggest (as we have to several other Local Boards) that some Council buildings are not fully utilised due to the community lacking awareness of them, that some underused Council buildings are not maintained properly

and so become unusable, and that the community should be consulted about the use of buildings in their area.

6. We support all the priorities and advocacy under Transport (pp 33-36).

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA does not support discontinuing funding for the following: ecological and environmental volunteers; Pest Free Urban South; Papakura Stream restoration; Wai care water quality education programming; Manukau Harbour Forum; and Finding Papakura Bats initiatives.

We do support the reduction of the number of public rubbish bins in public spaces as long as this leads to less rubbish, not more.

We also support the following:
· Progress a refresh of the greenways plan and other pathway opportunities (in particular , the McLennan Memorial Park pathway , plus connecting Kauri Flats School to Pulman Park, as well as connections around Hingaia to Drury).

<u>Puketāpapa</u>

1. Regarding the key initiatives under Community, we make the following comments.

"Assess the possibility of additional space for off-leash dog exercising." We hope that this initiative will lead to more compliance in on-leash areas, which is a problem across the city, with people out walking feeling intimidated by dogs and also by some of their owners, who do not like being challenged about their off-leash dog(s).

"Review current community services and facilities and assess how well they meet the needs of a growing population to identify any unmet needs and plan for future investment." We recommend that such a review involve strong engagement with the community, as part of this review may reveal that there are some services and facilities about which the community is not aware.

"Fund a masterplan for Monte Cecilia Park to consider the future use of the park, including the Liston Village land and any other future community facilities." We are grateful for the Local Board opposition to the proposed demolition of dwellings at Liston Village, due to the ongoing and growing need for housing for elderly people.

2. We support the key initiatives under Natural Environment on pages 18-19, especially the updating of the Puketāpapa Local Climate Action Plan and the Puketāpapa Urban Ngahere Action Plan 2021, as we are aware that plans can be written and celebrated but then forgotten,

partly as a result of new people coming into various roles. We also support the advocacy on pages 19-20.

3. Under the Built Environment key initiatives (page 22) CTA is pleased to see *"Find ways to respond to the future growth expected in our area as a result of Proposed Plan Change 120, for example review the area plan for parts of Puketāpapa and Albert-Eden local boards."* We would encourage the Local Board to review the area plan, as per our notes about area and centre plans (on page 4-5).

4. We support the advocacy (pg 23): *"Advocate to build power lines underground, particularly where footpath space is limited"* and *"Advocate for 'beautification' at the White Swan Road Transpower substation in Mt Roskill."* Aside from the issue of limited space, we support beautifying streetscapes by removing visual contamination.

5. Under Economic Development, we support the key initiatives (pg 25): *"Sustainable business programmes that help reduce carbon emissions"* and "Fund programmes that help reduce pollution"

6. We support under Transport, the priority *"Seek transport solutions that better-manage traffic flow during peak times, like 'dynamic' lanes that can change direction or use, and responsive traffic lights to help reduce waiting times"* (pg 27). We have read that the Henderson-Massey Local Board is looking at "smart" traffic lights, so perhaps these two Local Boards could share their learnings such traffic lights, initially with each other, then with other Local Boards.

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following project proposed by this local board:

· **Investigating how to respond to the future growth expected in our area as a result of Proposed Plan Change 120: Housing Intensification and Resilience**

We also support the following projects, particularly the community informed vision:

· **Deliver new neighbourhood park at 3-7 Howell Crescent, Roskill**

· **Wairaki Stream Ecological Enhancement and daylighting projects**

· **Developing a Monte Cecilia Master Plan, providing us with a community informed vision, and enable us to strategically invest in the park in the years ahead.**

· **Focusing our environmental restoration work along the awa and coastline. In particular control of pest plants and animals, protection of native species and the restoration of walking tracks so they feel safe and accessible to the community again.**

<u>Rodney</u>

1. A key initiative under Community on page 12 that we support is *"Include climate-resilient design features in all minor works and renewals so climate-resilience becomes a routine part of everyday delivery."*

2. Under Community on page 13, *"Transition facilities to multi-use, adaptable places and review our underused buildings and spaces to repurpose or sell and reinvest where growth and usage are highest,"* we suggest that such facilities are of high importance to the community and that if they are considered underused currently, then selling them is not the right response. Perhaps those community groups that currently take advantage of the community discount offered (up to 50% off) could be encouraged to pay the full amount, as they would presumably consider this preferable to losing the building. We like the key initiative of *"Make community facilities more multi-purpose by coordinating bookings, using movable equipment and offering a wider mix of activities across halls, libraries and recreation spaces."*

3. Under Advocacy on page 14, CTA strongly supports *"Advocate for more investment in regional parks in our local board area to meet the pressures of population growth and tourism."*

4. CTA supports all the key initiatives under Natural Environment (pp 16-17) and the advocacy (pp 17-18.

5. We support the advocacy under Built Environment, especially *"Advocate to make sure new development does not go ahead before essential infrastructure is in place."* Our comments about infrastructure and PC120 on page 14 are relevant to this.

6. Under Transport, we support the key initiative *"Improve public transport frequency, reliability and services hours on key routes"* (pg 28).

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· **Progress reserve and playgrounds projects, enhance greenways, increase rural roadside weed control, and maintain heritage sites**

We particularly support this local board's aim to maintain heritage sites.

· **Support volunteers to restore biodiversity through planting, pest plant and animal control, species protection, and local education**
· **Provide waste education, school freshwater programmes, and community-led stream restoration and catchment management plans to improve waterway health**
· **Supporting volunteers and environmental groups with planting, pest control, and clean -ups to protect biodiversity and create safe habitats for wildlife.**

<u>Upper Harbour</u>

1. CTA supports the Natural Environment key initiatives on pages 15-16.

2. In the 2023 draft plan, the Local Board stated that "Reducing carbon emissions as individuals can be difficult" and that "Communities need support and opportunities to make changes and live more sustainably" (page 16). We are pleased to see that in the current draft plan, included is: *"Support community-led initiatives and projects that encourage sustainable lifestyles, waste minimisation climate resilience and adaptation,"* along with further support for people to take positive environmental action.

3. We support all the advocacy on page 16 and 17, particularly *"Advocate for more funding for compliance and education to ensure that minimising construction and demolition waste is a priority,"* as this has been a submission point for CTA, for example, in our submission on the government's Emissions Reduction Plan, as referred to on page 6 of this submission.

4. Under Built Environment, key initiative, page 19: *"Improve or dispose of assets that provide lower community benefits to provide more funds for priority spaces and facilities,"* as with our comments for other Local Boards, we caution about disposing of Council buildings because they are such a useful asset for the community, and suggest that instead, community groups may prefer to pay more for hire than lose the use of a building forever, and that buildings could be better advertised, for example, via Local Board newsletters. We therefore support the initiative on page 20: *"Support different uses of community spaces, including sharing spaces with community lease holders and creating hubs and community partnership opportunities."*

5. We support the transport priorities on page 26, particularly: *"Advocate to make public transport cheaper and easier for young people to use" and "Advocate for Hobsonville ferry to be included in the $50 a week Auckland public transport fare cap initiative."* Perhaps the Upper Harbour Local Board would like to join the other Local Board that are advocating for young people to be entitled to a further discount on the $50 fare cap.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA does not support reducing discretionary funding across all programmes and projects including environmental outcomes, events and activations, cycling initiatives and community outcomes.

We do support reducing maintenance like bollard and post and rail repairs and some garden maintenance, cost savings that most local boards are considering.

We do not agree with the proposed Option 2: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee at Albany Stadium Pool by $1 (Fees will become $2), and certainly not Option 3: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee by $ 4 (Fees will become $5).

We suggest that an alternative to increasing those fees would be to better monitor and enforce other existing regulations, e.g., implement the already existing fines ($300) for walking a dog off-leash in an on-leash area. Such infringements could perhaps be

attended to by compliance officers who are already looking at issues of non-compliance by members of the public.

We do support the following:

· **Prioritise support for initiatives that deliver outcomes for our environment including community -led ecological initiatives, construction waste education, and the restoration projects.**

Waiheke

1. CTA supports all the Natural Environment key initiatives pages 16-17 and highlight *"Promote responsible pet ownership,"* as this is an initiative that we think all Local Boards could adopt. We also particularly like *"Continue to support and endorse organisations that enable Waiheke to move toward a fossil-fuel free future"* and *"Investigate the feasibility of using solar microgrids to power our community facilities."*

2. We are also very supportive of all the advocacy on page 18 and would like all Local Boards that have shores to adopt those same points, and all the Local Boards in Auckland to join you in advocating to *"Ban the sale and use of fireworks in Aotearoa."*

3. We support all of the key initiatives under Built Environment (pp 20-22) and recommend investigating the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton for the initiative: *"Make sure we prioritise accessibility and inclusivity when we renew our playgrounds and facilities in line with the 'Waiheke Be Accessible' plan."*

4. We support all the advocacy on page 22, in particular *"Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing,"* as a much better alternative to selling underused Council buildings.

5. As regard the priorities under Transport, CTA particularly supports *"Advocate for legislative change that would enable Waiheke ferries to be included in the Public Transport Operating Model;" "Advocate for the integration of AT HOP cards so monthly passes can be used on all ferry services;"* and *"Support work toward ensuring routes to all Waiheke schools are safe for walking and cycling."*

6. We also suggest encouraging seniors who travel for free on HOP Gold cards to Waiheke to make a donation at the ferry terminal at Matiatia or online, perhaps towards a Waiheke community or an ecological need.

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Deliver investment in key areas, specifically:**
- **programmes which protect, restore, and enhance the island's natural environment**
- **Deliver actions within the Waiheke Local Carbon Action Plan**
- **Create connection to places and heritage through the installation of historical and cultural markers and dual naming of parks**
- **Improve walking/cycling network connections as outlined within the Waiheke Pathways Plan**
- **Ecological restoration and pest management programmes remain a high priority and the increase in birdlife and improved eco -systems is a testament to the on-going investment in this space**
- **Delivering actions from our Climate Action Plan remains a priority . To support resiliency on the motu, solar panels will be installed at Onetangi Sports Pavilion and Ostend Hall, and we will investigate development of community microgrids.**

CTA notes that many local boards had planned the dual naming of parks and we hope that these plans have either already been carried out or will soon be underway.

We suggest that learnings from investigating the development of community microgrids could inform other local boards.

<u>Waitākere Ranges</u>

1. In the 2023 Local Board Draft Plan, CTA supported this key initiative, which in various forms has been adopted by other Local Boards: *"Ensure universal design for accessibility is embedded into all park development projects to enable everyone to access their local parks"* (page 25). We would encourage its reinstatement in this year's draft plan.

2. Under Community, we support *"Prepare a Waitākere Ranges Local Parks Management Plan for our 200 local parks"* (pg 14). We like the emphasis on supporting "well *sited tree planting in parks,"* and the intention to *"Investigate a solar panel pilot on a community facility."* The Aotea / Great Barrier Island Service Centre could perhaps assist with this pilot, being fully powered by solar energy.

3. We note on page 15 *"Support for continued recreational use of the Avondale Racecourse,"* and CTA supports this aspiration too, this multi-purpose large green space serving not just West Auckland but other residents across the city, such as with the longstanding Avondale Market
The land also has a vital role in absorbing excess rainfall and slowing floodwaters. We support this board and the Whau Local Board in their request to Auckland Council to purchase the property as a public asset.

4. We support the Local Board in continuing to work to *"formally recognise the area as a Dark Sky place"* (pg 16).

5. It is pleasing to see the 27 active environmental volunteer groups being recognised and appreciated by the Local Board (pg 16).

6. CTA supports all the Natural Environment key initiatives (pg 18) and the advocacy (pg 19).

7. In the Transport section, we endorse the statement that *"Freeing up road space for those without alternatives (e.g., tradespeople) is essential"* (pg 26). We support the Transport priorities (pg 28), particularly, *"A bus or shuttle services to places like Piha, and appropriately sized buses on narrow / vulnerable bush clad routes."*

8. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Mobility scooter, walking and cycling connections, particularly through parks**
- **Continue to invest in environmental restoration programmes with a focus on the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and our waterways**
- **Deliver park development, including play and amenity improvements in Swanson, Te Henga and Titirangi**
- **Provide tree planting and shelter to provide shade and amenity in parks, as well as berm planting in streets with low tree cover**
- **Continue to invest in local climate action to increase resilience and decrease emissions**
- **Working on fit-for-purpose transport improvements like investigating a trial bus service to Piha, advocating for smaller buses, and creating safer local connections**
- **Improve Glen Eden town centre, and protect and enhance the nationally significant Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area**
- **Support the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum work programme, particularly community engagement**
- **Review maintenance of local parks and facilities to ensure they are well maintained while looking for savings**

<u>Waitematā</u>

1. In CTA's submission on the 2023 draft plan, we strongly supported this advocacy: *"Auckland Council to advocate for changes to legislation and regulations to enable councils to introduce planning controls on how urban trees are assessed and protected. Auckland Council to simplify and better resource processes for identifying and protecting mature trees"* (page 25). We would like to see this point retained in the 2026 plan.

2. In CTA's submission on the 2023 draft plan, under "Our Places" there were a detailed points about the city's historic heritage which we would like to see included in the 2026 plan to provide more detailed form than the somewhat general objective (pg 23 in the 2026 plan) *"Our unique special character and our historic heritage is valued, protected and enhanced."* In last year's

draft plan, we read: “We want to increase understanding, protection and conservation of city centre heritage places, landscapes and stories” (page 33) and “Valued elements of heritage and special character in the local board area should be recognised formally and informally to assist with its protection and incorporation in the development of our urban landscapes” (page 34).

3. There was also this key initiative (pg 36): “Provide feedback on resource consents and planning processes to ensure heritage sites and Special Character Areas are protected” and the following advocacy (pg 37): “Advocate to the Governing Body to allocate adequate funds to restore and preserve its heritage buildings, including incorporating seismic strengthening where necessary, to ensure their ongoing usage; Advocate to the Governing Body to allocate adequate funds to continue identification and formal protection of heritage and character elements of the Waitematā environment; and Advocate to the Governing Body to retain the council’s Heritage Acquisition Fund to assist with the protection and adaptive re-use of significant heritage buildings in the local board area.”

4. We submit that some of this advocacy in points 2 and 3 above be included again.

5. We also supported the following initiatives (pg 44): “Support the preservation of significant heritage buildings such as Carlile House, the former Fitzroy Hotel and St James Theatre.” We are pleased to see that the St James Theatre is currently being restored and we wish the Local Board to support initiatives that make the facility viable. Carlile House and the Fitzroy Hotel are languishing and we submit that the Local Board include some advocacy position that would enable efforts to retain these buildings.

6. As last year, CTA submits that an important addition to the draft plan is the recognition that significant parts of the landscape need protecting, particularly the Waitematā Harbour and volcanic cones, and notwithstanding governmental aversion to amenity, the views of that harbour from certain identified vantage points and the view of and between the volcanic cones that it would we are all assured qualify as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

7. Under Community, as regards the key initiative on page 15: *“Review our portfolio of buildings and consider reducing our asset footprint to have fewer but better assets that are fit for purpose and well used,”* as part of any proposed community facility rationalisation, CTA opposes the sale of Grey Lynn Public Library, and consider that building (pictured below left) which faces the busy arterial route of Great North Road, usefully provides the basis of expansion on the site (pictured below right), which runs down to Arch Hill Reserve.





8. We support all the key initiatives under Natural Environment on pages 18-19 and the advocacy on page 20.

9. Under Built Environment, we particularly appreciate the opportunity expressed as *"We value our special character and historic heritage areas and want to enable appropriate development that does not compromise the values that make them special to our community*" (pg 22).

10. We support the long list of key initiatives on pages 22-24. Having strongly supported the key initiative in the 2023 plan to: *"Deliver seismic strengthening, restoration and modernisation of Leys Institute Library and Gymnasium to preserve as a heritage taonga for future generations"* and having submitted for this through a number of Council processes, CTA is pleased to see the key initiative in the 2026 draft plan: *"Complete the refurbishment of the Leys Institute and Gymnasium into a valuable library and community facility and celebrate its reopening alongside the Friends of Leys Institute and the wider community"* (pg 23).

11. We support the advocacy on page 24-25: *"Enabling appropriate development, such as infill housing behind a character property and raising the height of houses, in special character and historic heritage areas without compromising the features that make them valued by the community."* We note the risk of over-intensification and so our support is very much subject to avoidance of negative effects that may compromise the underlying heritage values.

12. We support the idea to *"Reduce barriers to outdoor dining, street trading and activations making it easier for bars, cafes and community groups to use footpaths and street space to create vibrant people friendly streets."*

13. We particularly support the priority of *"Review streets where slower speeds are appropriate and explore opportunities for low-traffic neighbourhoods and greater safety around schools."*

14. CTA has the view that this initiative is essential for pedestrian safety: *"Provide clear direction on the management of micromobility that balances safety, accessibility for different groups, particularly in high-density and pedestrian areas."* Having people on skateboards, bicycles and e-scooters ride down the footpaths on Queen Street is plainly dangerous for pedestrians. It

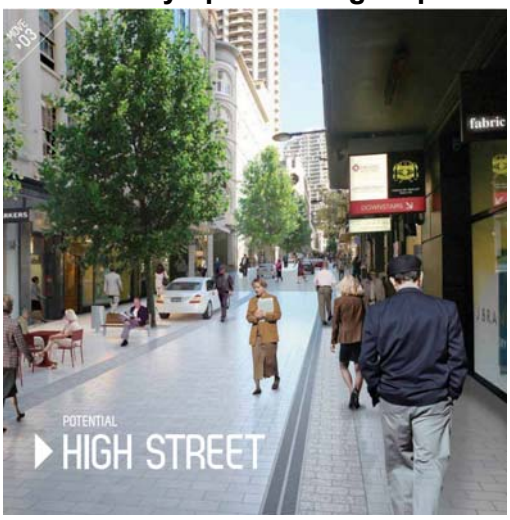
seems that no one is taking any responsibility for this, despite the increasing number of accidents and near accidents with e-scooters, the latter making walking in the city centre in particular an experience fraught with anxiety. Furthermore, adults don't seem to know or care that riding a bicycle on the footpath is illegal, and while bylaws state that skateboarders must not ride in a way that could be dangerous, intimidating, or a nuisance, simply riding a skateboard on the footpath on Queen St is dangerous and intimidating.

15. We also note, as mentioned in the Challenges section for Transport, "aging and uneven footpaths," with many trip hazards, but it is also to be seen with new paving (e.g., on Victoria Street East), where slippery materials were used and currently signs are up to warn pedestrians about slipping, as some people have already slipped and fallen. Pedestrians were also put in danger with the slippery-when-wet tiles that were installed some years ago on Karangahape Road. Such design mistakes should not be repeated.

16. From our Annual Plan submission:

3(d) CTA does not support the currently proposed further expenditure on High Street in the city centre. As we said during our 23 March presentation, this expenditure is unnecessary, and, notwithstanding the supportive consultation results produced, the changes are, in fact, unwanted by many of the High Street businesses, which have had to bear several disruptions over the last couple of decades.

3(e) Council does not have endless money and there is no demonstrable return for the level of investment envisaged for High Street. If a redesign does go ahead, however, it should be simplified. The existing road already provides good natural drainage, and so, rather than digging up the whole street, something like the CCMP vision (below left), perhaps just substitute different new kerbstones, like the ones Council has used successfully up in Karangahape Road (below right).





3(f) Emily Place has $10.5 million in line to be spent; however, there are other projects around the city that we consider are more worthwhile, for example, fixing the Ernest Davis steps, and other projects that would enhance the neighbourhood.



(In conjunction with fixing the Ernest David steps, it would be a worthwhile project at the same time to consider creating a pocket park at the bottom of the steps adjacent to the scheduled Station Hotel. This would involve Auckland Transport.)

3(g) CTA strongly supports Jan Gehl's 2010 proposal to make Hobson and Nelson Streets two-way: (see pp 104-107). This would transform these streets from high-speed, one-way "motorway-focused" roads, which would slow traffic and improve local connectivity. Consideration might also usefully be given to retention of the level and southern-most span of the soon to be demolished Hobson Street on-ramp. It's an existing and potentially useful piece of urban infrastructure.

Whau

1. Under Community (pg 14), we support *"Develop a Whau Local Parks Management Plan to guide the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation of the 146 parks and reserves in the local board area."*

2. Under *"Community and environment are prepared for climate change and lower emissions"* (pg 14) we support the following key initiatives: *"Support community groups to help people of all backgrounds and abilities to get emergency ready for local hazards including severe weather events;" "Increase programmes and education around climate change risks and ways to take*

action, including in schools and for our diverse communities;" "Plant more trees to increase our tree canopy cover in our town centres, parks, and road reserves;" and "Support implementation of the Shoreline Adaptation Plans (Manukau Harbour North SAP and Waitemata Harbour West SAP) to manage coastal erosion and coastal flooding risks affecting council land and assets."

3. CTA supports all the key initiatives under Natural Environment (pg 17) and the advocacy on page 18.

4. We support the key initiative (pg 20) *"Plant trees in town centres and along road reserves to create green corridors that connect small and large open spaces,"* using the principle of the right tree in the right place.

5. We support *"Install physical markers to celebrate the historical Māori portage route between Waitematā and Manukau Harbours via the Whau River"* (pg 20), noting that for the Auckland Heritage Festival in October 2017, CTA held two events, in collaboration with Walk Auckland, where participants walked the portage routes in Otahuhu and New Lynn.

6. We strongly support *"Investment in greenspace, including funding to secure Avondale Racecourse to provide open space and recreation areas for the community."*

7. We note the document titled 'Avondale - Town Centre Regeneration High Level Project Plan, produced by Eke Panuku in November 2017. (AVONDALE) It notes *The Avondale Racecourse is adjacent to the town centre. It provides an attractive outlook and contributes to the character of the area through its racing activities and the popular Sunday markets. The racecourse also represents a potential future opportunity to significantly contribute to housing supply in Auckland.*





8. More recently, a submission by NZTR to Auckland Council's proposed Plan Change 120 to encourage intensive housing development rezoning for buildings up to 34.5m high. CTA considers the scale of development proposed is evident in the height limits anticipated under PC120 seems excessive. CTA supports the Whau Local Board's proposed 'Investment in greenspace, including funding to secure Avondale Racecourse to provide open space and recreation areas for the community.' Some of the community's wishes for retention of open space are outlined on this link below:

9. Under Economic Development, we endorse *"Support local businesses to reduce emissions and waste and lessen their impact on local waterways."*

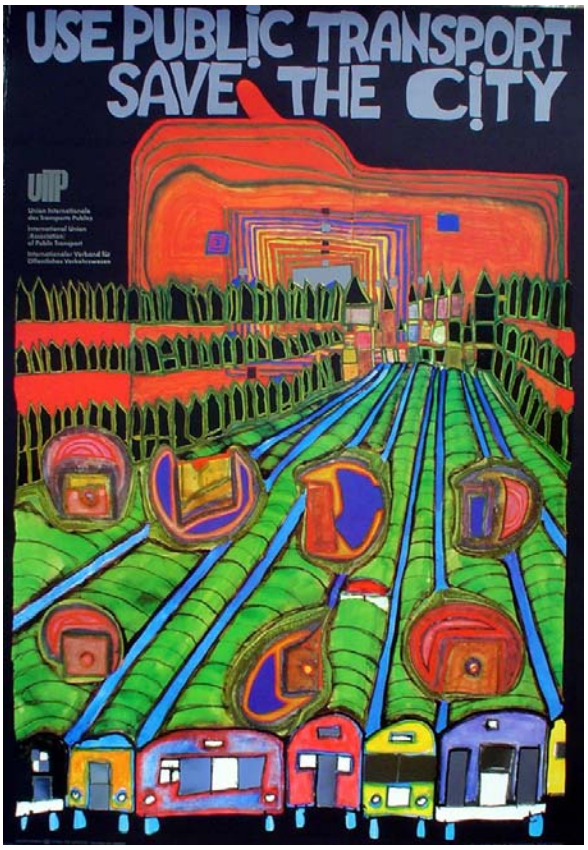
10. We support all of the Transport priorities on pages 24-25, particularly noting *"Encourage more public transport use and multi -modal travel through … provide bike infrastructure on trains and buses."* We note that 15 buses on the NX1 route now have space for bicycles, and that buses that travel to and from Whau could be similarly outfitted.

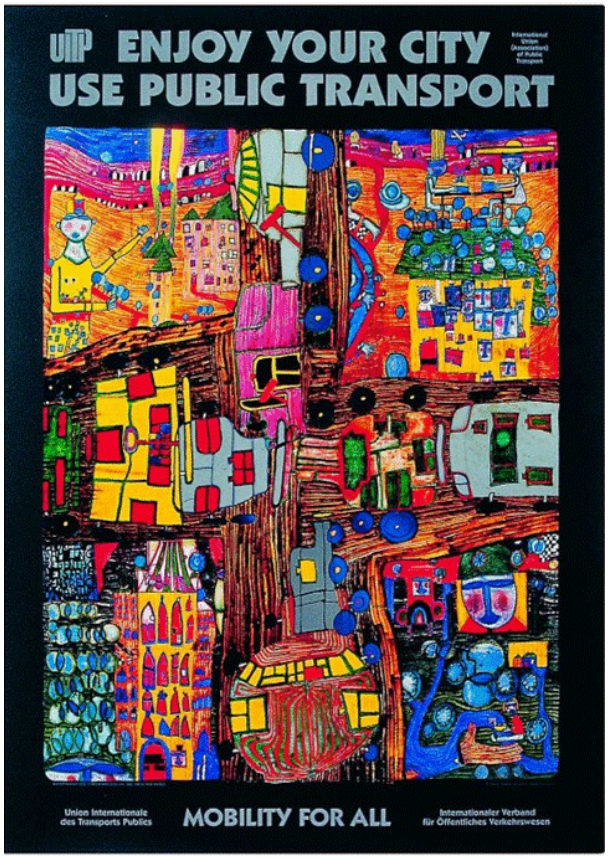
11. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Improve water quality and flood resilience of Whau streams and rivers through collaboration with volunteers, local schools, community hubs, organisations, and neighbouring local boards**
- **Develop a Local Parks Management Plan to guide decisions on managing use, development, and protection of all 146 parks, reserves and open space within the Whau**
- **Plan and design a local park in conjunction with the stormwater pond construction at the old Crown Lynn Pottery site**
- **Improve coordination for community resilience and emergency preparedness across Whau hubs, houses, and other community spaces**
- **Progress Whau heritage initiatives including to renew and provide interpretation for existing Pou and to install physical markers along the historic portage route that links the Waitematā and Manukau harbours.**
- **Aim to improve the water quality and flood resilience of our waterways and fund a coordinator to support emergency preparedness.**
- **Advocate for the acquisition of a significant proportion of Avondale Racecourse to remain open space.**
- **Construction of Te Hono library and community centre, design of a pool and recreation centre in the Whau area and a park at Crown Lynn Place.**
- **Aim to deliver initiatives that recognise the rich heritage in our area.**

We conclude by sharing these two inspiring posters by Hundertwasser that promote public transport:





Date of submission: 23 July, 2026

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#217

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: Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

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5. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?**

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6. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?

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7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached file

Submission of Community Groups Feeding the Homeless

Draft Local Board Plans - all

Name: Audrey van Ryn (Secretary)
Organisation: Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.
Date of submission: 23 July 2026

The focus of Community Groups Feeding the Homeless (CGFH), in existence for 8 years, is on feeding homeless people and supporting them in other ways. We act as an umbrella group that supports a number of groups, including Sunday Blessings (Waitematā) and Waka of Caring (Manurewa). We maintain a list of free community meals in the city centre.

We greatly appreciate the support that local boards in general give to people experiencing homelessness and at risk of experiencing homelessness, including the funding provided by the Manurewa Local Board to support the Waka of Caring drop-in centre, and by the Waitematā Local Board for Sunday Blessings, WeCare and CGFH itself.

We repeat our advocacy as per the 2023 Local Board Plans for pātaka kai (https://www.patakai.co.nz/) and community fridges to be established and supported in all Local Board areas.

In our 2023 feedback, we suggested that once the food scraps bins were in place, that the community be encouraged to place any edible food that they don't need in a pātaka kai or community fridge rather than in their food scraps bin.

We would also like to remind Local Boards that all the Sikh gurdwaras throughout Auckland are open 24/7, with food available for anyone in need.

We see the Local Board newsletters as a useful way to inform local communities about such things as pātaka kai and encourage the public and food outlets to donate their excess food to them, and to donate unneeded clothing or household goods to op shops or centres like the Waka of Caring drop-in centre.

CGFH would like to express our appreciation to the libraries and community centres that provide a safe and welcoming place for homeless people and support them in a number of ways.

We include extracts from our 2 July written submission and our 17 July oral submission to government on the Summary Offences (Move-on Orders) Amendment Bill that we consider are relevant to Local Boards:

"Housing First needs more funding and visibility. It has a dedicated website and is mentioned on the websites of members of its collective, but in our experience, the programme is not well known in New Zealand. More landlords need to know that they can place their houses into the Housing First pool and the tenancy and property will be managed, with the rental payments guaranteed … We think the government and councils could help to publicise the programme more, such as in local board newsletters, on billboards and on buses.

"Members of CGFH have advocated since 2016 for the re-establishment in Auckland of a night shelter (ideally, a number of small to medium-sized night shelters), which most other cities in New Zealand have, and which existed in our city until 2012. For

people experiencing homelessness, a night shelter would provide a place to sleep and potentially somewhere to store their belongings.

“In addition to night shelters, we have advocated for (more) funding from both central and local government to provide activities for homeless people during the day, such as the programmes carried out at the Auckland City Mission, so that these people can be occupied, feel valued, gain confidence, contribute, and learn a skill. We acknowledge Heart of the City’s successful Street Guardians[1] initiative, which we understand is still operating, as “a positive approach to addressing begging in the city centre. It gives people who would otherwise be begging the opportunity to spend a day undertaking activities with community organisations, such as restoring wetlands to planting trees and cleaning beaches.

“We have also advocated to Auckland Council that lockers for homeless people (and others, such as travellers) be provided, in Auckland, perhaps at the central railway stations. This should mean that fewer items are left on the street and thus would facilitate people to become more actively involved in the community, to travel on public transport, and to seek work. It should also mean that people are more able to retain their important documents, essentials medications and personal belongings … The new railway stations could be good places for lockers.

“We also think lockers for homeless people to store their gear would go some way to solving the problem of people leaving bedding and other items on the street. The new railway stations could be good places for lockers.”

Having read the Local Board draft plans, we would like to share the Waiheke Local Board’s advocacy (pg 22) with regard to underused Council buildings, that “Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing.” We would extend this to suggest that unused or underused Council buildings could be considered as night shelters for people experiencing homelessness.

We endorse the support and/or recognition of these local boards for those experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless, and/or advocating for kai sovereignty, as expressed in their draft plans, as follows.

Albert- Eden

Work with organisations, such as Auckland City Mission, Lifewise or Salvation Army, to provide support to people experiencing homelessness, including accommodation facilities, wrap-around services and kai (food) (pg 15).

More resources to address the growing need for mental health and emergency housing services in local areas (pg 16).

Aotea- Great Barrier

Support investigations and initiatives into local housing solutions for kaumātua, pensioners, papakāinga (settlement) and worker accommodation.

Devonport-Takapuna

Increased funding and resourcing for the council’s regional homelessness initiatives.

Howick

Develop a holistic approach to community resilience by integrating social wellbeing, economic resilience, disaster readiness, and sustainable food-growing initiatives.

Kaipātiki

Work with community organisations to support improved outcomes for our homeless.

Support community-led low carbon food initiatives that also promote kai (food) sovereignty (people and communities having control over their own food systems).

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

Support community gardens, māra kai and other initiatives to improve food security at a local level.

A regional approach to solutions that address homelessness , rough sleeping and poor housing standards for the most vulnerable in our communities.

More resources to help build the resilience of our most vulnerable communities and better prepare them for emergencies and disasters.

Manurewa

Support initiatives that improve the health and wellbeing of our people in partnership with community organisations, including initiatives addressing homelessness.

Work with community partners who are working to reduce harm related to smoking, vaping, gambling, alcohol, drug use, solvent and inhalant abuse, and unhealthy diets.

Continue to fund a community broker role to deliver the Ngā Hapori Momoho Thriving Communities Strategy, connect the community with council departments and elected members and use external funding services.

Continue to support Auckland Teaching Gardens and fund other community food initiatives such as local food markets and community gardens.

Continue to fund locally led food sovereignty and initiate ways to strengthen community-led food systems in Manurewa.

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Investigate opportunities for community -led initiatives such as projects that help residents to grow their own food.

Otara-Papatoetoe

We need to work with government agencies, community groups, and social services to address the underlying causes of homelessness. Together we can make sure our policies and programmes focus on long-term community resilience and compassion for our communities of greatest need, including people experiencing homelessness.

Work with experts and community leaders on how to best help people experiencing homelessness.

Advocate for a meaningful, collaborative approach between Auckland Council and central government to address the underlying causes of homelessness, noting that policies like ‘move-on orders’ do not solve the problem.

Support māra kai and community garden initiatives – including through the Ōtara Kai Village, to continue to provide our communities with education and healthy options.

Papakura

Support placemaking, community-led activations, māra kai and food security initiatives that build resilience and local identity.

Upper Harbour

Advocate for shared agency solutions for issues such as community safety, homelessness and protecting our natural corridors that keep our public spaces safe and easy to access for the whole community.

Waiheke

Partner with health organisations to ensure mental health and disability support for tangata whaiora (a person seeking wellness) is accessible for all members of our community.

Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing.

Advocate for and use national policy changes (like National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) to lower the permitted standards for minor dwellings, making sure these are prioritised for long-term residential housing.

Support the vision of the Waiheke Food Charter, to work toward a sustainable local food system.

Waitākere Ranges

Investigate opportunities to promote kai sovereignty.

Waitematā

Waitematā … works with communities and partners to support people experiencing homelessness.

As a local board, we recognise and respond to complex challenges such as homelessness, public safety perceptions, ageing infrastructure and pressure on limited open space.

Homelessness continues to be a complex and visible issue in parts of Waitematā and requires coordinated responses beyond the local board’s direct control.

Support local and regional initiatives and organisations that address homelessness, particularly youth homelessness.

Support and strengthen our network of community gardens and food resilience initiatives that enable communities to grow, share, and access healthy, culturally appropriate kai, while building local capability and connected, sustainable neighbourhoods.

The delivery of affordable, public, and community housing in the city centre and inner suburbs that helps addresses homelessness, supports quality urban living, enables people to live close to jobs and services, and sustains long-term community wellbeing.

Improved access for people experiencing mental health, addiction, and social challenges through coordinated, place-based service delivery that enhances safety, inclusion, and wellbeing in the city centre.

Whau

Develop a low carbon, resilient, local food system that provides Whau residents access to fresh and healthy food.

Support our vulnerable people and rough sleepers through cross -agency partnerships and community programmes.

Increased Housing First placements in Auckland, with priority for high-need areas such as the Whau.

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#180

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: Community Waitakere

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

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See attached submission.

COMMUNITY WAITĀKERE

Submission to the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

Submitted by: Community Waitākere

Introduction

Community Waitākere welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026.

For more than 40 years Community Waitākere has worked alongside communities throughout West Auckland to strengthen community leadership, environmental stewardship, resilience, collaboration and social wellbeing. We work in partnership with mana whenua, community organisations, schools, volunteers, local boards and government agencies to enable communities to identify solutions and lead positive change.

We strongly support the vision and direction of the Draft Plan. In particular, we welcome its commitment to community resilience, protection of Te Wao Nui ā Tiriwa, climate action, equitable outcomes, strengthening relationships with Te Kawerau ā Maki, and recognising the essential contribution of community organisations and volunteers.

The draft plan rightly identifies that delivering its objectives will require working in partnership with community organisations and prioritising investment towards these outcomes. We encourage the Board to strengthen this commitment by explicitly recognising community-led development as a key delivery approach across the Plan.

Overall recommendations

Community Waitākere recommends that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board:

- Increase long-term investment in community-led development and neighbourhood resilience.
- Expand strategic partnership funding for trusted community organisations delivering multiple Local Board outcomes.
- Strengthen investment in climate adaptation and community preparedness following the 2023 storms.
- Continue supporting environmental restoration through community-led initiatives.
- Invest in local leadership development, particularly for rangatahi, Māori, Pacific peoples and culturally diverse communities.
- Recognise community organisations as strategic partners in delivering the Local Board Plan rather than solely as service providers.

Community

Community Waitākere strongly supports the Board's aspiration for "a sense of community in loved places" and its objectives of connected communities, improved wellbeing and resilience, vibrant arts and culture, and welcoming community facilities.

The draft plan acknowledges the lasting impacts of the 2023 storms, the pressures of the rising cost of living, and the importance of community resilience. It also recognises the significant contribution of volunteers and community organisations managing many local facilities and services.

Community Waitākere supports the proposed initiatives to:

- strengthen community resilience and storm preparedness
- improve engagement with culturally diverse communities
- activate community facilities
- support volunteer organisations
- increase accessibility within parks
- strengthen arts and cultural participation.

Recommendation

Alongside these initiatives, we recommend that the Board:

- establish multi-year strategic partnership agreements with community organisations;
- increase investment in community-led development approaches that build local leadership and neighbourhood networks;
- support community hubs as centres for resilience, learning and connection;
- strengthen local volunteer capability through training, coordination and succession planning.

Building community capability before emergencies occur creates stronger, more resilient communities able to respond collectively when future challenges arise.

Natural Environment

Community Waitākere strongly supports the Board's commitment to restoring biodiversity, protecting waterways, improving water quality, strengthening pest management and implementing the Waitākere Ranges Climate Plan.

The Plan appropriately recognises:

- the ecological significance of Te Wao Nui ā Tiriwa
- the importance of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area
- community environmental volunteers
- restoration of streams and wetlands
- climate adaptation
- partnerships with mana whenua.

Community-led environmental restoration delivers multiple outcomes simultaneously including biodiversity, climate resilience, education, health and community connection.

Recommendation

Community Waitākere encourages the Board to:

- increase funding for community restoration groups;
- invest in environmental education and behaviour change;
- support community climate adaptation projects;
- strengthen catchment-based collaboration;
- invest in community-led monitoring, citizen science and restoration programmes.

Climate resilience

Community Waitākere particularly supports the strong focus on resilience following the devastating impacts of the 2023 storms. The Plan recognises the need for better preparedness, resilient infrastructure, emergency capability and active management of storm-affected land.

Infrastructure alone cannot create resilient communities.

Neighbourhood relationships, trusted local organisations, volunteer networks and local leadership are equally important components of resilience.

Recommendation

The Local Board should:

- establish a dedicated community resilience investment programme;
- support neighbourhood resilience planning;
- fund community emergency preparedness initiatives;
- strengthen local food resilience and kai sovereignty initiatives;
- support local renewable energy and resilience projects;
- continue advocating for regional investment in resilient communities.

Māori outcomes

Community Waitākere strongly supports the Board's commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Te Kawerau ā Maki, Hoani Waititi Marae, the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum and embedding mātauranga Māori throughout environmental and community initiatives.

We encourage continued investment that:

- supports Māori-led initiatives;
- strengthens Māori participation in governance;

- embeds Māori knowledge within environmental restoration;
- supports marae development and community aspirations;
- strengthens opportunities for rangatahi Māori leadership.

Economic development

We support the Board's recognition that prosperous communities depend upon vibrant centres, arts, sustainable tourism and strong local partnerships.

Community organisations contribute significantly to local economic development by:

- supporting volunteers;
- developing skills;
- building local leadership;
- connecting residents with employment pathways;
- attracting external investment;
- strengthening social enterprise.

We encourage the Board to recognise this contribution through ongoing investment in community capability.

Transport

Community Waitākere supports the Board's advocacy for safer, more sustainable and more resilient transport networks.

Particularly important are:

- improved public transport options;
- safer walking and cycling;
- resilient transport infrastructure;
- improved access for isolated communities;
- reduced transport emissions.

We support continued advocacy for transport investment that enables communities to remain connected during future emergencies.

Strategic partnerships

One of the strongest themes throughout the Draft Plan is partnership.

Community Waitākere welcomes the Board's recognition that achieving these outcomes requires working alongside community organisations.

We recommend that this commitment be strengthened through:

- multi-year partnership funding agreements;
- collaborative planning with key community organisations;
- flexible operational funding alongside project funding;
- investment in organisational capability and leadership;
- shared evaluation of long-term community outcomes.

This approach provides greater value for money, enables organisations to leverage external funding, retains skilled staff, and creates lasting impact.

Conclusion

Community Waitākere strongly supports the direction of the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026.

We commend the Board for its strong emphasis on community resilience, environmental restoration, climate action, partnership with mana whenua and protection of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

To maximise the impact of the Plan, we encourage the Board to make an explicit commitment to:

- sustained investment in community-led development;
- strategic partnership funding for trusted community organisations;
- increased investment in community climate resilience;
- long-term support for environmental restoration partnerships;
- equitable investment that enables Māori, Pacific peoples, diverse communities and rangatahi to lead local solutions.

Community Waitākere looks forward to continuing to work with the Waitākere Ranges Local Board, Te Kawerau ā Maki, mana whenua, community organisations and local residents to achieve a resilient, connected and thriving Waitākere Ranges.

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#172

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Submitter details:

Organisation: For Communities Against Alcohol Harm

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

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   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

4. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

5. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?**

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

6. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

Email submission sent to WRLB inbox - see attachment.

23 July 2026

Local Board Plan
Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026 (the draft plan).

This feedback is provided on behalf of Communities Against Alcohol Harm (CAAH). We are a charity that supports communities in navigating alcohol licensing processes to reduce alcohol-related harm across Aotearoa.

Since 2014 CAAH has provided advice and support to local community organisations, members of the public, local government members and stakeholders relating to applications for alcohol licences within local community areas initially in South Auckland but now throughout Aotearoa.

We are active in the community supporting work to reduce alcohol related harm. We offer pro bono support to objectors. We also support local board members in your alcohol licensing role. Of note, we supported community members whose opposition prevented a second liquor store opening in the Glen Eden town centre, less than 100 metres away from the existing Glen Mall store.

Feedback

Overall we support the vision and priorities set out in the draft plan.

However we would like to recommend that the local board consider strengthening the Community focus area. We know that residents experience alcohol-related harm such as noise, nuisance, and anti-social behaviour. Even relatively few off-licences in vulnerable locations can have significant impacts on community well-being and safety. This is a challenge that could be recognised.

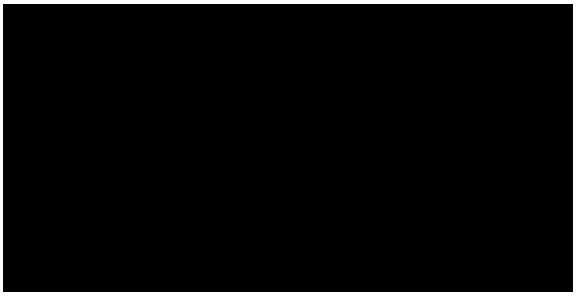
CAAH recommends the inclusion of "safety" in the goal: *Enhanced **safety,** wellbeing and resilience of local communities* together with a key initiative to achieve this objective *Support community safety approaches including alcohol harm reduction programmes.*

We also recommend the local board include an advocacy position: *Advocate for legislative and policy change to help reduce social harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping.*

CAAH welcomes opportunities to partner with the local board to continue helping people navigating complex alcohol licensing processes, working to reduce alcohol-related harm and improving safety in Waitākere Ranges.

We would like to present our feedback to the local board if this option is available.

Ngā mihi,



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#178

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: Forest and Bird

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

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Email submission via WRLB inbox - see attachment.

23 July 2026

To: Auckland Council
Resource Consents
Private Bag 92300
Auckland 1142

Forest & Bird
GIVING NATURE A VOICE
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.

Submission on Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan

➢ Emailed to: waitakererangeslocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

1. **Submitter details**
   Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc. (Forest & Bird)
   Waitākere Branch
   [redacted]

2. **Trade competition declaration**
   Forest & Bird would not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

3. **Hearing options**
   We may wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Introduction

Forest & Bird is New Zealand's largest and longest-serving independent conservation organisation, with over 100,000 members and supporters. Its mission is to be a voice for nature, on land, in fresh water, and at sea, on behalf of its members and supporters. Volunteers in 44 branches throughout Aotearoa carry out community conservation projects and advocate for nature. Forest & Bird has seven branches and two nationally coordinated projects in the Auckland region alone.

The Waitākere branch covers the area from the Waionui Inlet, west to the Tasman, east to Hobsonville, with its southern boundary being the Manukau Harbour. The branch carries out a range of activities across its area, including weed control, pest control, native plantings, education events, content creation and environmental advocacy. This includes ongoing work at Matuku Reserve and the Colin Kerr-Taylor Memorial Reserve in Kumeu, and support for Habitat Te Henga, within the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area. Everyone involved in the branch is a volunteer, including the committee, trappers and supporters.

Forest & Bird also has one of its national conservation projects located in the branch area: Ark in the Park. Located within Cascade Kauri Park and the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, Ark in the Park is a partnership between Forest & Bird and Auckland Council, supported by mana whenua Te Kawerau ā Maki, and the surrounding community in a de-facto bufferzone. This unfenced ecosanctuary aims to enhance native biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, across more than 2,200 hectares. The project is a flagship community restoration project,

Our Approach

This submission responds to the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026. Forest & Bird's Waitākere branch is also submitting separately on the draft plans of other local boards within our operating area - namely Whau, Henderson-Massey, Rodney and Upper Harbour and comparison across boards has been valuable to our process.
We are structuring our submission to include Objectives, Key Initiatives, and Advocacy items, just as they appear in the draft Local Board Plan, along with commentary on some items and localised specifics. We have underlined new wording for objectives and initiatives and used strike-through to signal removal of some wording in our proposed modifications.

Te hapori / Community - Sense of community in loved places, with a passion for arts and culture sustaining mental and physical wellbeing

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Community. We particularly welcome the objective to investigate opportunities to promote kai sovereignty, and the recognition of the foothills' potential as a future food basket.

We would like to offer the below objectives and key initiatives to integrate into the plan:

Objectives	**Key Initiatives**
Enhanced wellbeing and resilience of local communities.	<u>Provide grants to local groups for projects or actions which will have a positive impact on community resilience (such as those maintaining or creating carbon sinks, or nature-based solutions</u>

Objectives	Key Initiatives
	such as restoring wetlands, creating room for streams to flow naturally, protecting sand dunes and mangroves) Investigate opportunities to promote kai sovereignty including community gardens and produce sharing initiatives and education on food growing, preparation and reducing food waste Support initiatives that build community networks and connections which help communities respond to emergencies and the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss
Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for recreation, ~~sport, play, and~~ enjoyment and support climate resilience	Incorporate native trees, rain gardens, swales and daylighted streams on the fringes of local parks, and wetlands or floodable areas within larger open spaces such as Waitipu Park and Ōkaurirahi/Ceramco Park,
We adopt best practices for all council maintenance and projects	Improve climate impact statements in council reports to consider net emissions, biodiversity loss, effect on impermeable surfaces and stormwater, and scarce resource use and recovery.

Advocacy
We would like to suggest the following additional advocacy point:

- That any track reopening decisions made ahead of the Heritage Area Forum's strategic plan be guided by protecting the 'heart of the ngahere' and give genuine consideration to the interim track reopening plan jointly presented by Te Kawerau ā Maki and Federated Mountain Clubs - to Governing Body.
- Support for the Avondale Racecourse to also function as blue-green network infrastructure, capturing stormwater and building climate resilience for the wider Whau catchment, alongside its continued recreational use - to Governing Body
- Reinstatement of general tree protection legislation - to Central Government.
- Ongoing, multi-year, dedicated grant funding for community environmental and restoration groups, so they can plan and deliver programmes across multiple seasons rather than one funding cycle at a time - to Governing Body.
- Use of non-potable water for irrigation of sports and recreation facilities - to Watercare.
- Greater public understanding of infrastructure maintenance and fault-reporting policies - to Governing Body, Auckland Transport and Watercare.
- Long-term (50 to 100 year) climate risk-scenario planning - to Governing Body.
- Ensure an adequate level of renewals funding to keep existing community assets well maintained and adapted to be resilient to climate change - to Governing Body.

Commentary

We welcome the Board's focus on connected, resilient communities and its recognition of the important role of partnerships with mana whenua and communities in achieving lasting local outcomes.

This plan's own vision for Community, "sense of community in loved places, with a passion for arts and culture sustaining mental and physical wellbeing," already gestures at the role nature plays in this board's identity, the Waitākere Ranges, its streams and its coastline are very much part of what makes these places loved. We would encourage the Board to make that connection explicit, naming the natural environment alongside arts and culture as something that sustains wellbeing, rather than leaving it as an unstated assumption behind "loved places."

Auckland Council's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy recognises that parks and open spaces can deliver multiple benefits for both people and nature. Across the Whau area, community-led conservation initiatives have demonstrated that environmental restoration delivers benefits beyond biodiversity, strengthening social connections, building local stewardship and creating opportunities for people to contribute positively to their neighbourhoods. We encourage the Board to continue recognising nature as an essential part of community wellbeing and resilience, not simply as a recreational amenity.

Climate action and connection to our environment can be enhanced further through supporting kai sovereignty initiatives in our communities - strengthening resilience while cutting the emissions embedded in how food is grown, moved and shared.

Track access to the Regional Park needs to be balanced with strong biosecurity and kaitiakitanga, a position this plan already holds and one we would encourage the Board to maintain publicly, including when it is contested.

Embedding environmental and climate considerations within the Community outcome helps ensure these priorities are reflected in the everyday work of community development, rather than being left solely to environmental work programmes.

Te taiao māori / Natural environment - Forest (Ngahere) and waterways are protected and restored, and people can access nature in a responsibly way.

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Natural Environment and would like to offer the below objectives and key initiatives to integrate into the plan:

Objectives	**Key Initiatives**
Our native biodiversity & supporting ecological areas (whether in public or private land) are protected, restored and enhanced.	Fund a dedicated role (or existing organisation) to formally coordinate pest control and restoration across the Board area, so efforts reinforce each other at a landscape scale and complement the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum's strategic plan.

Objectives	Key Initiatives
	Support responsible cat ownership through desexing and containment encouragement, and work with neighbouring boards on control of feral and stray cats in areas of high biodiversity value. Identify and prioritise restoration planting opportunities, for community and council projects, that create ecological connections by retiring hard-to-maintain areas within existing parks and reserves. Support the extension of dog control measures to protect vulnerable shorebirds Partner with the community groups and mana whenua to implement projects focusing on education, planting, weed management, water quality, pest management and indigenous biodiversity protection and restoration initiatives across public and private land
We seek to understand climate change risks, take action to reduce climate impacts, and prepare to adapt and respond to future events.	Support and engage with coastal communities on shoreline and flood risk adaption planning related to council assets, favouring nature-based solutions where practicable in line with the Manukau North and Whatipu Shoreline Adaptation Plans. Plant more trees for shade in public spaces to mitigate the causes and consequences of climate change (e.g., removing pollutants and limiting the urban heat island effect)
Streams and wetlands are healthy, restored, and better able to support natural flood processes and native biodiversity.	Support wetland works in Te Henga Valley and continue restoration of the Piha wetland to improve natural hydrology may also support flood storage benefits during heavy rainfall. Prioritise ecological maintenance projects that protect and enhance identified potential inanga spawning sites through bank stabilisation, pest plant control, sediment control and pest animal control Work with Healthy Waters to provide education and support that ensures commercial and industrial sites upgrade their on-site stormwater management to prevent contamination at the source.

Advocacy
We support all the current advocacy points under Natural Environment and would like to suggest the following additional advocacy points:

- Stronger monitoring of activities that cause sediment runoff into streams and harbour margins, and stronger penalties for those who knowingly cause harmful sedimentation - to Governing Body.

- Raise awareness of and advocate for dark sky areas and reduced light pollution around the Waitākere Local Board Area during grey-faced petrel/ōi fledging season (November to January), building on this plan's reference to Dark Sky recognition - to Governing Body.
- That Council integrate blue-green corridors, including the North-West Wildlink connecting the Waitākere Ranges to the Hauraki Gulf, into its own planning tools and policy, working across relevant Council teams, so these corridors are protected and realised rather than relying only on community-led restoration - to Governing Body.
- That conservation remain the primary purpose for any public conservation land within the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area - to Central Government.
- Ongoing, dedicated grant funding for the community environmental groups already carrying out restoration and pest control work across this board's area - to Governing Body.
- Continued Natural Environment Targeted Rate funding to maintain and grow current investment in pest control, kauri dieback management and biodiversity restoration across Tāmaki Makaurau - to Governing Body

Commentary

Waitākere Ranges Local Board has built a strong Natural Environment section, and we commend the Board for it. This is a comprehensive section, with a welcome focus on ecological restoration, kauri dieback, Manukau Harbour water quality, stream and wetland restoration, climate adaptation, and support for the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum's strategic plan.

The Waitākere Ranges are central to the area's ecological health, but their long-term resilience also depends on the habitats that connect them to the wider landscape, and to communities themselves. The Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance provides a valuable informal network for the many groups doing this work, but this plan notes a need for more formal coordination for environmental work across the area. A funded coordination role would address this need and ensure truly effective restoration through a landscape scale approach where efforts are reinforced and complement one another. Where the Board cannot resource this directly, advocating to Governing Body for funding may be an alternative option for this plan.

We encourage the Board to build on the strong foundations already established in this plan by strengthening ecological connectivity, including support for the North-West Wildlink, protecting important freshwater habitats such as īnanga spawning sites, and continuing to restore streams and wetlands throughout the local board area

As the more obvious threats of pest plants and animals become increasingly managed, consideration should be given to threats that remain unaddressed. Encouraging responsible pet management gives shorebirds, and one day kiwi, room to share this environment with the community around them.

Grey-faced petrel/ōi breed at Bethells (Te Henga), Piha and Muriwai. Artificial light disorients fledglings on their first flights out to sea, causing grounding, often fatally, largely between November and January. Recognising the central Ranges as a Dark Sky place protects that fledging window directly.

Te taiao kua hangaia / Built environment - Choice of housing, distinctive areas, bush clad lifestyle, with highest density housing near centres, services, and transport connections.

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Built Environment and would like to offer the below objectives and key initiatives to integrate into the plan:

Objectives	**Key Initiatives**
Storm buy-out land is put to good interim and long-term use while future decisions are made.	Work with Auckland Council to identify storm buy-out sites suited to community-led native planting, weed control and other low-risk interim uses under the region-wide Future Land Use Expressions of Interest process, prioritising sites that can also function as natural flood storage, consistent with the Making Space for Water programme.

Advocacy

We support all the current advocacy points under Built Environment and welcome effort to ensure planning reform aligns with the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act. We would like to suggest the following additional advocacy points:

- Streamline and speed up the Future Land Use Expressions of Interest process for storm buy-out land, so that community groups already seeking to plant out specific sites are not left waiting longer than necessary - to Governing Body.
- Funding for construction and demolition waste compliance and education - to Governing Body.
- Advocate that Auckland's planning rules require urban green space, particularly indigenous canopy trees and nature-based stormwater management such as swales and rain gardens, to be designed into all higher-density development - to Governing Body
- Increased funding to actively monitor and enforce compliance with green infrastructure and canopy requirements attached to resource consents, so that planting and green space required at the time of consent is not lost - to Governing Body
- Advocate that infrastructure capacity be confirmed before new housing and town centre development proceeds, and that intensification not be enabled within Significant Ecological Areas - to Governing Body and Central Government

Commentary

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act exists because this community wanted its landscape protected from the development pressure that has reshaped much of the rest of Auckland, and this plan's commitment that the built environment here be subservient to the natural environment reflects the same intent. The planning reforms now before Parliament put that protection at real risk. Forest & Bird continues to advocate to Central Government for the Heritage Area Act's protections to be carried through into the new planning system and supports the Board's strong position on this matter.

Storm buy-out land is a genuine opportunity named in this plan. Council's Future Land Use Expressions of Interest process allows community groups to plant out these sites; directing that process toward sites that can also function as flood storage under Making Space for Water gets more from land that would otherwise sit idle.

Green infrastructure functions as essential infrastructure in new development. Indigenous canopy and nature-based stormwater measures such as swales and rain gardens reduce flooding, improve water quality and support biodiversity, but only if they are designed in from the outset and Council has the resources to monitor and enforce them once consent is granted.

Te whanaketanga ā-ōhanga / Economic development - People experiencing our centres, spaces, culture, facilities and parks - uplifting communities.

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Economic Development and offer the below objectives and key initiatives to integrate into the plan:

Objectives	**Key Initiatives**
Sustainable economic activity	Support projects that engage, advise, educate and assist local businesses and residents to minimise waste and build a circular economy.

Advocacy
We support all the current advocacy points under Economic Development. We would like to suggest the following additional advocacy point:

- Funding for the expansion of community recycling and resource recovery facilities serving this local board area - to Governing Body.

Tūnuku /Transport - Reliable, safe and sustainable transport options.

We agree with all draft priorities under Transport and would like to offer the below objectives and key initiatives to integrate into the plan:

Objectives	**Key Initiatives**
Support a variety of safe and sustainable transport options for the people of, and those visiting, the Waitākere Ranges local board area	Prioritise native tree canopy along cycleway and shared path routes, and permeable surfacing for new or renewed parking areas where practical.

Advocacy
We support all the current priorities under Transport. We would like to suggest the following additional advocacy points:

- Advocate for the Local Board Transport Capital Fund to remain available across the Board's whole area, to support the delivery of local walkway and cycleway connections with native planting components - to Governing Body
- Improved weed management on motorways and road reserves - to Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and Governing Body
- Long-term planning to provide low-emission infrastructure for e-scooters, e-bikes and electric cars, such as electric vehicle charging stations, in larger development areas - to Governing Body
- Increased monitoring of air quality in the urban parts of this board’s area, recognising this section’s own concern that traffic pollution contributes to poor health outcomes - to Governing Body.

Conclusion

This is a thoughtful and well-developed draft plan that already places considerable emphasis on climate resilience, environmental restoration and partnership with mana whenua. Our recommendations are intended to strengthen that direction through minor additions that further integrate nature into the Board's vision for the Waitākere Ranges. Thank you for considering Forest & Bird's submission.

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#171

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: Healthy Auckland Together

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

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7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

Email submission sent to WRLB inbox - see attachment.

Healthy Auckland Together submission on the Waitākere ranges Draft Local Board Plan 2026

Thank you for the opportunity for Healthy Auckland Together (HAT) to provide a submission on the Waitākere Ranges draft Local Board Plan 2026.

Ngā mihi,



About Healthy Auckland Together

Healthy Auckland Together is committed to improving Tāmaki Makaurau so that it is an environment where all people can live full and healthy lives. By working collaboratively, we want to make it easier for everyone to be active, eat better and live longer lives. Healthy Auckland Together is a coalition of more than 30 partners representing local government, mana whenua, health agencies, non-government organisations, academia and consumer interest groups.

Creating a healthy city

Aucklanders deserve to live in communities that support all ages and all abilities to have freedom and build connections within their neighbourhoods. How our cities and neighbourhoods are designed, built and managed has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the people who live, work and learn in these areas.

However, increasing cost pressures on households, petrol and diesel vehicles dominating our streets, inequitable access to quality green space, and urban intensification without community-friendly design have led to a city with high demand for food support, decreased rates of active travel amongst children and diminishing outdoor play. These changes demonstrate the need for stronger local coordination and continued investment to improve the wellbeing of our communities.

Waitākere Ranges has a key role in the community and street spaces that enable good lives for all people. Enabling access to nourishing food, providing more opportunities to play and creating safe and healthy street environments will contribute to outcomes identified in the Auckland Plan 2050.

Mana Whenua

Engagement with Mana whenua is critical for improving outcomes for Māori. When iwi and Māori are involved in decision making around the built and natural environments, tamariki and whānau are supported to connect with local whenua, waterways, histories, mātauranga and cultural practices. Involvement in transport design and decisions, required under the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009, supports Māori identity being reflected in the transport network.

Local Food Systems

A strong local food system is about more than food. It strengthens community connections, builds resilience to economic and climate challenges, encourages local enterprise, and contributes to thriving neighbourhoods. Working alongside communities and investing in healthy local food initiatives can help deliver many of the outcomes the Local Board is already seeking, including improved health and wellbeing, stronger communities, environmental sustainability and greater local resilience.

Outdoor Play

Engaging in outdoor play is a fundamental right of children in Aotearoa New Zealand and is an important contributor to physical, mental, social, emotional, and cultural wellbeing across the life course. When children engage in outdoor play they experience better physical health through increased strength, bone health, cardiovascular and metabolic health; better mental health through stress reduction, emotional resilience and improved confidence, creativity, curiosity, and problem-solving; and greater social wellbeing through connections with other, belonging and intergenerational relationships.

Healthy Transport

The transport system has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of everyone, wherever they live. How we get about has positive impacts, adults and children who travel actively, whether

they scoot, cycle or walk are protected against cardiovascular diseases, breast cancer, colorectal cancer and diabetes; improve learning and social connectedness in children and supports overall mental wellbeing. In contrast, reliance on petrol and diesel vehicles has led to increasing air pollution from vehicle emissions, causing damage to our cardiovascular and immune systems, leading to asthma, hospitalisations and deaths in communities; and ever-increasing vehicle sizes pose greater safety risks to our most vulnerable road users.

Recommendations

Through cleaner air, safer streets, more opportunities for play and access to nourishing local food, Waitākere Ranges can be a place where communities live longer, healthier lives. To support these outcomes for your communities, Healthy Auckland Together suggests the following recommendations.

Community

The Waitākere Ranges Local Board plan is to be commended for including actions on strengthening the opportunities for communities to celebrate inclusion, cultural heritage, events, sports and recreation in parks and town centres.

We **support** the objective of "Enhanced wellbeing and resilience of local communities", particularly the priority to "Investigate opportunities to promote kai sovereignty."

We also **support** the objective “Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for recreation, sport, play, and enjoyment,” as it highlights the importance of accessible play.

The draft Local Board plan could be strengthened to enable opportunities for play, improve accessibility and increase access to nourishing food.

To improve outcomes for your communities, we **recommend** that:

- The objective of "Enhanced wellbeing and resilience of local communities" adds a priority to “Adopt a healthy local food strategy plan with implementation embedded in workplans.” More information about developing a local food strategy can be found in Appendix 2.
- The objective “Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for recreation, sport, play, and enjoyment” includes a priority to “Implement the Waitākere Ranges Play Plan by progressing actions and projects that expand play opportunities beyond traditional playgrounds, including playful street art, installations, natural play features and other community play events. “

Natural Environment

The Waitākere Ranges Local Board plan does well for including extensive actions to care for, protect and restore the natural environment in the Waitākere Ranges. The natural environment is interconnected with the health and wellbeing of communities. A strong natural environment

supports mental wellbeing and mitigates the impact of air pollution and high temperatures on our most vulnerable.

We **support** your objective for "Ecological areas (whether in public or private land) are protected, restored and enhanced."

Built Environment

Waitākere Ranges' built environment are key places for people to learn, work and play, and good access to supportive and welcoming public spaces contributes to the health and wellbeing of communities. Safe and well-designed town centres facilitate play and improve access for pedestrians.

We **support** your objective for a "successful and resilient centre that attracts further investment, development and jobs."

To improve outcomes for your communities, we **recommend** that:

- Wording is strengthened to incorporate play into urban spaces, working with new developments and existing built environments.

Transport

The overall implementation of the Waitākere Ranges Local Board's new responsibilities in transport is a positive approach to enabling good health through increased safety and active travel.

Improving equity in transport is crucial for a healthier community and requires addressing wider systematic issues, including unsafe driving behaviour, congestion, personal safety issues and prioritising environments that support children's independent mobility. Understanding the social stigma experienced by youth while cycling and using public transport is also relevant to improving uptake of healthy behaviours. The involvement of Māori, Pacific and disabled communities when developing actions is integral to good equity outcomes.

We **support** all objectives in this focus area as they address the safety, accessibility and promotion of active and public transport.

To improve outcomes for your communities, we **recommend** that:

- Wording is strengthened to include safe traffic speeds in school catchments, town centres and marae.
- A priority is included to advocate for a time of use charging scheme that is equitable and raises funds that are used to improve public and active transport
- An objective is added to engage with Mana Whenua and Māori to embed Māori identity, partnership and kaitiakitanga

Conclusion

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Waitākere Ranges Draft Local Board Plan 2026.

Appendix 1 Tabled Recommendations

Community			
Objective	**Priority**	**Stance**	**Recommendation**
2	-	Addition	Add a priority to "Adopt a healthy local food strategy plan with implementation embedded in workplans." More information about developing a local food strategy can be found in Appendix 2.
3	-	Addition	Add a priority to "Implement the Waitākere Ranges Play Plan by progressing actions and projects that expand play opportunities beyond traditional playgrounds, including playful street art, installations, natural play features and other community play events."
Natural Environment			
Objective	**Priority**	**Stance**	**Recommendation**
Built Environment			
Objective	**Priority**	**Stance**	**Recommendation**
1	1	Strengthen	Change wording to "Support the delivery of placemaking, play opportunities and economic outcomes to protect and enhance our special places, town, villages and settlements.
Transport			
Objective	**Priority**	**Stance**	**Recommendation**
1	4	Strengthen	Change wording to "Safe traffic speeds in school catchments, town centres and around marae where those communities support it"
1	-	Addition	Add a priority to "advocate for a fair and equitable time of use charging scheme that uses funds to improve public and active transport"
-	-	Addition	Add an objective to "engage with Mana Whenua and Māori to embed Māori identity, partnership and kaitiakitanga in the Waitākere Ranges transport network"

Appendix 2 Developing a healthy local food strategy

1. Understand the local food system

Commit to a local food system wānanga involving Local Board members, mana whenua, community organisations and other key stakeholders.

Map existing food-related services, programmes, community assets, growing spaces, food providers and local champions across the Local Board area. Identify existing strengths, gaps and opportunities, and explore how current resources and investment could be better aligned to maximise impact, collaboration and equity.

Developing a shared understanding of the local food system will help inform future investment and strengthen collaboration across the community.

2. Strengthen community partnerships

Actively engage with the organisations, volunteers and community leaders already working to improve local food access and wellbeing.

Visit community gardens, food hubs, māra kai, food rescue organisations, cooking and nutrition programmes, schools and local initiatives. Listen to the experiences of those working on the ground and build ongoing relationships that support genuine collaboration and shared decision-making.

Promote existing initiatives through Local Board communication channels to increase community awareness, participation and support.

3. Invest in local food initiatives

Increase support for proven community-led food initiatives through funding, programming and longer-term partnerships.

This could include supporting community gardens and māra kai, strengthening local food hubs, providing dedicated funding for key coordination roles, improving access to small grants, streamlining Council processes, and providing greater certainty through longer-term lease arrangements where appropriate.

Building the capability and sustainability of successful community initiatives represents a practical investment in the long-term resilience of the Local Board area.

4. Create healthier food environments

Support initiatives that enable access to nourishing food and drink for everyone.

This may include expanding access to drinking water, supporting culturally appropriate food initiatives, encouraging healthier food options at community events and Council facilities, celebrating businesses that provide healthy choices, and supporting community organisations to offer nutritious food through their programmes.

Although Local Boards have limited influence over commercial food marketing, they can play an important leadership role by creating environments that encourage healthier choices and promote community wellbeing.

5. Celebrate and grow local food leadership

Champion the stories, people and initiatives that are already strengthening the local food system.

Share local successes through community events, digital communications and neighbourhood networks. Increase public awareness of local food initiatives and encourage greater participation across the community.

Work alongside community organisations, mana whenua, schools, growers, businesses and residents to develop a shared vision for a resilient local food system that is better prepared for future economic, environmental and social challenges.

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#153

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: Kai West Collective

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Somewhat agree

   Tell us more

   The draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects many of the aspirations of our community, particularly its commitment to community wellbeing, environmental restoration, climate resilience and local leadership. These are all important foundations for creating thriving neighbourhoods.

   However, we believe the Plan could be strengthened by recognising the important role that local food systems play in achieving these outcomes. Access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food is fundamental to community wellbeing, resilience and social connection, yet food is not currently recognised as a strategic priority.

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Support all

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

   Overall, we support the proposed community goals and believe they provide a strong foundation for creating connected, healthy and resilient neighbourhoods.

   We encourage the Local Board to strengthen these goals by recognising the important role that local food systems play in community wellbeing. Food is much more than nourishment—

it brings people together, strengthens community connections, supports cultural identity, creates opportunities for learning and local enterprise, and builds resilience during times of hardship.

We recommend including a commitment to Kai Motuhake by supporting community food growing, local food markets, food forests, community kitchens and neighbourhood food initiatives. Developing a coordinated approach through a Waitākere Ranges Kai Charter would help connect people, knowledge and resources, creating stronger partnerships and greater long-term impact.

3. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?

Support all

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

We support the proposed goals for the natural environment and commend the Local Board's commitment to ecological restoration, healthy waterways and climate resilience.

We encourage the Board to broaden its approach by recognising that food systems can also contribute to environmental outcomes. Community food forests, edible landscapes, māra kai and regenerative growing practices can strengthen biodiversity, improve soil health, increase urban canopy cover, support flood resilience and reconnect people with nature.

We also encourage the Local Board to support an Edible Waitākere Ranges initiative by mapping existing public fruit trees, propagating heritage fruit tree varieties, increasing fruit tree planting in suitable public spaces, and sharing information about each tree's history, harvesting seasons, care and food uses. This would celebrate local whakapapa while improving community access to healthy food.

4. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?

Support

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

We support the objective of creating successful and resilient centres.

We encourage the Local Board to consider how the built environment can also strengthen local food resilience. Public spaces should be designed to encourage community connection and support access to healthy food through community gardens, food forests, local markets, edible streetscapes and welcoming gathering spaces.

Planning for food alongside transport, housing and public spaces creates more liveable neighbourhoods while supporting local enterprise, reducing food insecurity and strengthening community resilience.

5. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?

Support most

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

We support the focus on sustainable economic activity and opportunities for rangatahi.

We encourage the Local Board to recognise the local food economy as an important contributor to economic development. Supporting local growers, food producers, markets, community enterprises and neighbourhood food initiatives creates employment, strengthens local businesses, keeps money circulating within the community and improves access to affordable healthy food.

Community-led markets and local food enterprises also provide valuable pathways for emerging entrepreneurs, social enterprises and rangatahi to develop skills, build confidence and test new business ideas.

Supporting a coordinated local food system through a Waitākere Ranges Kai Charter would further strengthen collaboration and investment across the local food economy.

6. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?

Support all

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

We support the goal of providing safe and sustainable transport options that respond to the unique geography of the Waitākere Ranges.

We encourage the Local Board to also consider how transport influences access to healthy food. Many residents rely on local shops, markets and community food initiatives, particularly those with limited transport options.

Planning neighbourhoods where people can safely walk, cycle or use public transport to access affordable fresh food contributes to healthier communities, reduces emissions and strengthens local resilience. Supporting local markets and neighbourhood food hubs also reduces the need for people to travel long distances to access healthy food.

7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

We encourage the Waitākere Ranges Local Board to recognise food as a strategic enabler that contributes across many of the outcomes identified in the Plan, including community wellbeing, environmental restoration, climate resilience, economic development and neighbourhood resilience.

Rather than viewing food as a standalone issue, we encourage a coordinated systems approach that strengthens Kai Motuhake—communities having greater agency over how food is grown, shared and accessed.

A Waitākere Ranges Kai Charter presents an opportunity to bring together mana whenua, community organisations, schools, growers, local businesses and residents around a shared vision for the local food system. The Charter would help coordinate existing efforts, align investment, strengthen partnerships and support collective action over the long term.

By investing in local food systems today, the Local Board can create healthier communities, stronger local economies, more resilient neighbourhoods and a lasting legacy for future generations.

Kai West Collective Submission to the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026–2029

Tēnā koutou e te Poari ā-Rohe o Waitākere Ranges,

Kai West welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan.

At Kai West, we envision a West Auckland where everyone has access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food through a thriving local food system. We believe food is much more than nourishment, it is a foundation for wellbeing, resilience, connection, culture, environmental regeneration and local economic development.

The Waitākere Ranges Local Board has a long history of supporting community wellbeing, environmental restoration and local leadership. We believe there is an opportunity to further strengthen these commitments by recognising the role that local food systems play in achieving these outcomes.

As communities continue to experience increasing financial pressures, climate-related events and growing food insecurity, investing in local food resilience has never been more important.

Strengthening Community Wellbeing Through Mana Motuhake o te Kai

Kai West advocates for **Kai Motuhake - Food Sovereignty,** where communities have greater agency over how food is grown, shared and accessed.

Supporting local food systems is not simply about growing more food. It is about creating the conditions where communities build capability, strengthen relationships, share knowledge, create local opportunities, and become more resilient to future challenges. When communities are supported to lead local solutions, food becomes a connector for health, culture, environmental stewardship, local enterprise and community wellbeing.

We encourage the Local Board to explicitly recognise kai sovereignty and local food resilience within the Local Board Plan as important contributors to:

- Healthy communities.
- Climate resilience.
- Community preparedness.
- Environmental restoration.
- Social connectedness.
- Local economic development.
- Māori aspirations and partnership.
- Community wellbeing.

Our Recommendations

1. Recognise Kai Motuhake - Food Sovereignty as a Local Priority

Include a commitment within the Local Board Plan to strengthen Kai Motuhake by supporting local food resilience, community food initiatives and equitable access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food.

Food is a powerful connector that contributes to many of the Local Board's existing priorities, including community wellbeing, climate action, biodiversity, economic development and neighbourhood resilience.

2. Develop a Waitākere Ranges Food System Approach

Support a collaborative food systems approach by bringing together mana whenua, community organisations, schools, growers, local businesses and residents to better understand and strengthen the local food system.

This could include:

- Mapping existing food initiatives, māra kai, community gardens, food hubs, food relief providers, local food enterprises and community champions.
- Identifying existing strengths, gaps and opportunities across the local food system.
- Supporting collaboration through local networks rather than isolated projects.
- Co-designing a Waitākere Ranges Kai Charter that establishes a shared vision, guiding principles and collective commitments for strengthening the local food system.
- Developing a shared understanding of where investment and coordination can have the greatest impact.

Strong local food systems are built through relationships, coordination and shared leadership.

3. Protect and Enable Community Kai Growing

Advocate through the Auckland Unitary Plan (2026–2036) for stronger provisions that protect and enable community food growing within urban areas.

We recommend the Local Board champion:

- Long-term protection of community growing spaces.
- Provision for community agriculture in parks and public open spaces where appropriate.
- Food forests and edible landscapes within public spaces.
- Community gardens and māra kai as recognised community infrastructure.
- Greater access to underutilised public land for community food growing.

We also encourage the Local Board to advocate for a **streamlined approvals process for community agricultural activities**, making it easier for communities to establish māra kai, food forests and other local food growing initiatives.

These spaces provide multiple benefits including biodiversity, climate adaptation, community wellbeing, education and food resilience.

4. Streamline Council Processes for Community Food Projects

One of the greatest barriers communities face is navigating Council processes to establish community food initiatives.

We recommend the Local Board advocate for:

- A streamlined approvals process for community agricultural activities.
- Clear guidance for communities seeking to establish māra kai, food forests and edible landscapes.
- Greater consistency across Council departments.
- Longer-term occupation agreements where appropriate.

Reducing these barriers enables communities to focus on growing food, strengthening neighbourhood connections and creating lasting community assets.

5. Grow an Edible Waitākere Ranges

The Waitākere Ranges is already home to many fruit trees that tell the stories of our communities. Many were planted by previous generations and continue to provide seasonal abundance, yet much of this valuable resource remains undocumented and underutilised.

We encourage the Local Board to develop an **Edible Waitākere Ranges** initiative that celebrates, protects and expands our edible landscape.

This could include:

- Mapping existing public fruit and nut trees across the local board area and making this information publicly accessible through an interactive map.
- Identifying heritage fruit trees and documenting their whakapapa, history and cultural significance.
- Propagating heritage fruit tree varieties to preserve local genetics and establish future community orchards.
- Increasing the planting of fruit and nut trees in parks, reserves, streets, schools and public spaces where appropriate.
- Integrating edible trees into urban greening, ngahere restoration and neighbourhood enhancement projects.
- Developing educational signage or digital resources that share each tree's story, harvesting seasons, care instructions, recipes, preserving ideas and cultural significance.
- Encouraging community harvesting events, seasonal celebrations, fruit tree care workshops and food preservation wānanga centred around local harvests.

Viewing fruit trees as community infrastructure creates neighbourhoods that are more abundant, connected and resilient while celebrating local history, mātauranga, biodiversity and seasonal food traditions.

6. Integrate Food into Climate Action and Ngahere Planning

As the Local Board continues investing in ngahere restoration, biodiversity and flood mitigation, we encourage consideration of productive landscapes where appropriate.

Food forests and regenerative planting approaches can contribute to:

- Increased biodiversity.
- Flood resilience.

- Urban cooling.
- Carbon sequestration.
- Community stewardship.
- Local food resilience.

Where suitable, integrating edible species into restoration projects can deliver environmental, cultural and community wellbeing outcomes simultaneously.

7. Invest in Community Leadership and Backbone Coordination

Across the Waitākere Ranges there are many organisations already delivering valuable food initiatives.

The Waitākere Ranges already has an incredible network of organisations, schools, mana whenua, growers, volunteers and community leaders working to improve local food resilience. The greatest opportunity is not necessarily creating new programmes, but strengthening the connections between these people, their knowledge, resources and existing initiatives.

A **Waitākere Ranges Kai Charter** could become the mechanism that helps coordinate this work. Co-designed with mana whenua, community organisations, schools, growers, local businesses and residents, the Charter would provide a shared vision for the local food system, establish common principles and collective commitments, and identify shared priorities for action.

The Charter would:

- Bring together people, knowledge and resources around a common vision.
- Align existing initiatives and investment.
- Encourage collaboration rather than duplication.
- Strengthen advocacy for local food resilience.
- Support shared measurement and learning.
- Celebrate local leadership and collective achievements.
- Provide a long-term framework for strengthening **Kai Motuhake** across the Waitākere Ranges.

Investment in backbone coordination enables:

- Greater collaboration and collective action.
- Reduced duplication of effort.
- Better sharing of knowledge, skills and resources.
- Stronger neighbourhood leadership.
- More effective use of funding and investment.
- Shared advocacy across organisations.
- Stronger partnerships between community, mana whenua and local government.
- Greater long-term impact.

Without coordination, many initiatives remain isolated projects.

With coordination, communities build capability, relationships and local infrastructure. Through a shared Kai Charter, individual activities become part of a connected local food system that communities can collectively lead, grow and sustain over time.

8. Support Local Food Markets and Community Enterprise

Community-led markets are an important part of a resilient local food system.

They provide affordable access to fresh produce while creating opportunities for local growers, food producers, makers and entrepreneurs to participate in the local economy.

We encourage the Local Board to:

- Support the establishment and long-term sustainability of community-led markets.
- Reduce barriers to market establishment.
- Explore opportunities to assist with permitting processes and associated costs.
- Encourage partnerships that strengthen neighbourhood food economies.
- Support affordable participation for emerging growers, community enterprises and social enterprises.

Markets are more than places to purchase food, they strengthen local economies, create opportunities for local enterprise, foster community connection and improve equitable access to healthy food.

9. Celebrate Local Food Leadership

Communities across the Waitākere Ranges already possess incredible knowledge, skills and leadership.

The Local Board can help strengthen these assets by celebrating the people and organisations already contributing to local food resilience.

This could include:

- Sharing stories of local food champions.
- Promoting local food initiatives through Local Board communications.
- Supporting neighbourhood events that celebrate seasonal food, local growers and community harvests.
- Encouraging schools, community groups and residents to participate in local food initiatives.

Celebrating local success inspires others to become involved and strengthens a shared sense of ownership, belonging and pride.

Why This Matters

Building resilient food systems is not about creating more projects, it is about connecting the people, knowledge, resources and places that already exist.

When communities are supported to work together, they build the capability, relationships and local infrastructure needed to create lasting change.

Food becomes more than something we consume. It becomes a connector for health, culture, learning, environmental stewardship, local enterprise and community resilience.

This is the essence of **Kai Motuhake,** communities exercising greater agency over how food is grown, shared and accessed.

Closing

Kai West believes the Waitākere Ranges has an opportunity to become a leader in developing a coordinated, community-led local food system.

By investing in local leadership, supporting backbone coordination, and co-designing a **Waitākere Ranges Kai Charter**, the Local Board can help create a shared vision that brings together people, knowledge, resources and action. A Kai Charter would provide a platform for organisations to move beyond individual projects and work collectively towards shared outcomes, while strengthening relationships, aligning investment and celebrating the unique strengths of the Waitākere Ranges.

Together, these actions will strengthen **Mana Motuhake o te Kai** by enabling communities to exercise greater agency over how food is grown, shared and accessed. In doing so, the Local Board can help create healthier people, thriving neighbourhoods, a more resilient local food system, and a lasting legacy for future generations.

Kai West looks forward to continuing to work alongside the Waitākere Ranges Local Board, Te Kawerau ā Maki, mana whenua, community organisations and local residents to grow a local food system that strengthens people, place and the environment.

Ngā mihi nui,

Kai West Collective

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#125

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: National Public Health Service – Northern Region

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Somewhat agree

   Tell us more

   See attached

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Support most

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

   See attached

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

   Support most

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

   See attached file

4. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?**

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

5. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

6. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?**

   Support most

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

   See attached file

7. **Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?**

   See attached file

23 July 2026

Auckland Council

akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Local Board Plans 2026

Thank you for the opportunity for the National Public Health Service – Northern Region, Health New Zealand I Te Whatu Ora, to provide technical advice on Auckland Council's Local Board Plans 2026.



1. Introduction and overview

This technical advice is provided on behalf of the National Public Health Service - Northern Region (**NPHS-NR**), Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora. NPHS-NR has statutory responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people and communities under the Healthy Futures (Pae Ora) Act 2022,[1] and local authorities have duties to improve, promote and protect public health under the Health Act 1956. The Local Board Plans 2026 (**the Plans**) will influence the conditions in which people live, learn, work, travel and connect across Tāmaki Makaurau. For that reason, NPHS-NR welcomes the opportunity to provide advice that supports healthy, safe, resilient and equitable local communities.

Our overarching and plan-specific feedback relates to four of the five focus areas in the Plans and reflects NPHS-NR's priorities for community health:

- Safe, accessible and active transport.
- Reducing alcohol, tobacco and vaping harm.
- Food security and nutrition.
- Improving air quality and heat resilience.
- Equitable and inclusive communities.

Across all Focus Areas in the Plans, NPHS-NR recommends that Local Boards uphold initiatives and objectives that contribute to equitable health outcomes and focus on those with the greatest need. This includes prioritising actions that benefit Māori, Pacific peoples, disabled people, children and young people, older people, migrant communities and communities experiencing higher deprivation.

[1] s3a Health NZ is mandated to 'protect, promote and improve the health of all New Zealanders'
s13(c) Health NZ is to 'promote health and prevent… ill health, including by collaborating with other agencies and organisations'
s14(1)(k) Health NZ is to 'collaborate with other agencies and organisations… to address the wider determinants of health'

It also includes working in ways that uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, support meaningful engagement with mana whenua and mataawaka, and enable communities to shape local solutions. Areas where this is particularly relevant in a health context have been highlighted in the body of our advice.

Where NPHS-NR has not made a specific comment on a focus area, objective or priority within a Local Board Plan, this should be read as general support for the direction of that content. **Appendix 1** summarises the specific amendments NPHS-NR recommends for individual Local Board Plans. Recommendations about harmful commodities in Part Two: General Comments should also be taken as suggested amendments to all Plans.

2. General comments

NPHS-NR values the role Local Boards play in supporting community wellbeing and local action on the wider determinants of health.

In the Northern Region (Auckland and Northland), around 15% of adults reported hazardous drinking in 2024/25, a slight increase from 13% in the previous year.[2] An estimated 7% of adults in the region smoke tobacco daily, trending upwards slightly over the last three years.[3] Daily vaping is more common, with 10% of adults in the region reporting daily vape use - almost double the rate observed in 2020/2021 (6%).[4]

Physical activity and food security indicators also highlight areas where local action can support better health outcomes. Only 40% of adult Aucklanders are sufficiently physically active, and only 38% of children use active transport to and from school, an important proxy for physical activity.[5] For fruit and vegetable intake, only 4% and 6% of Auckland adults meet the guidelines, respectively, while 15% of children are missing breakfast more than 3 times during the week.[6]

NPHS-NR encourages the inclusion of clear objectives and initiatives in Local Board Plans to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products; improve active and public transport options; and increase access to nourishing food environments.

[2] 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics
[3] 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics
[4] 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics
[5] NZ Healthy Survey Data. https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/regional-data-release-new-zealand-health-survey
[6] See 6

The following suggested objectives and initiatives are intended to be practical options that sit within Local Board influence, partnership and advocacy roles. Suggested objectives and initiatives include:

Support community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. For example:

- Providing clear mechanisms for communities to raise concerns about alcohol harm, and ensuring those concerns can inform alcohol licensing processes and any future review of Auckland Council's Local Alcohol Policy.
- Supporting community members to navigate the process of applying for an alcohol ban area.
- Seeking feedback on community concerns about public areas that should be smokefree or vapefree.
- Collaborating with local community organisations and partners with shared goals to reduce harm.
- Engaging with public health organisations, including NPHS-NR, to share information, strengthen local evidence and support community-led harm reduction initiatives.

Support community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally. For example:

- Objecting to alcohol licence applications of concern and supporting community members or groups if they wish to object through this process. This process can also involve recommending stronger conditions on licences that can mitigate alcohol harm.
- Reflecting community preferences in any future review of Auckland Council's Local Alcohol Policy (LAP).

Promote safe, inclusive and healthy public spaces. For example:

- Prioritising provision of public events that are free from alcohol, tobacco and vapes.
- Ensuring signage is clear and visible in public smoke-free and vape-free designated areas.
- Reporting non-compliance of tobacco, vape or alcohol retailers through relevant channels.
- Raising community awareness of available mechanisms to make complaints about non-compliance. In the case of tobacco and vape retailers, this includes our smoking and vaping complaints toolkit.
- Support community provision of healthy food and drink, including urban agriculture, community gardens and well-located public drinking fountains.
- Support and invest in a comprehensive approach to play opportunities, including formal play infrastructure and initiatives that integrate play into public spaces and community settings, enabling participation by people of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.
- Improving road safety through evidence-informed measures such as lower speeds in high-pedestrian areas and on local roads, raised crossings, safer school travel environments, and other measures that support active transport and accessible local streets.
    - NPHS-NR strongly endorses the holistic framing used in Papakura's Plan under Focus Areas Three (Built Environment) and Five (Transport). This framing takes a determinants-of-health-based approach, and as a result NPHS-NR supports the use of this language across all other Plans.

3. Local Board Plans: Individual Technical Advice

Alongside this overarching advice, NPHS-NR provides targeted feedback for seven Local Boards: Henderson-Massey, Waitematā, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa, Papakura and Whau. These Local Boards were prioritised based on the higher numbers of alcohol, tobacco, and vape retailers in their areas, as well as the proportion of priority populations within Local Board Areas, including Māori and Pacific communities.

3.1 Henderson-Massey

NPHS-NR supports the plan from the Henderson-Massey Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR supports objectives associated with community aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vapes. Smoking data in the Henderson-Massey Local Board area reflects the efforts being made to decrease smoking-related harm, with 8% of adults smoking regularly in 2023, down from 15% in the Census five years prior.[7] We particularly endorse the initiative to support community safety approaches, specifically including alcohol harm reduction, and encourage the strengthening of this by collaborating with local community organisations and partners with shared goals to reduce harm.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

[7] Tobacco Control Data Repository. https://www.tcdata.org.nz/new-zealand-census/cigarette-smoking-behaviour-prevalence-maps-2013-2018-2023/?name=Territorial+Authority+and+Auckland+local+board&x=-369170&y=1749118&zoom=10.

Objectives one, two and three support accessibility to active and public transport, which can contribute to improved physical activity, mental wellbeing, social connection and access to local services.[8]

NPHS-NR supports, in part, objective three of Focus Area Five: Transport. We recommend that road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments be explicitly referenced, as these measures can reduce injury risk and improve safety for people walking, cycling, using mobility aids or accessing schools and community facilities.

3.2 Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports objective three of Focus Area Two: Natural Environment. NPHS-NR also supports initiative five, objective three from Focus Area One: Community as this contributes to local food security and equitable access to nutritious foods. These measures can directly support improved health outcomes for local communities.

NPHS-NR supports in part:

- Focus Area One: Community

In the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area, 14% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 20% in the Census five years prior.[9] We acknowledge the opportunity noted around having a culturally diverse range of active and established community groups that provide a strong platform for community-led transformation. NPHS-NR encourages the Local Board to support community participation in decisions about how alcohol, tobacco and vaping products are

[8] Sergio A. Useche, Francisco J. Llamazares, Cristina Marin (2024) Good for the planet… and for you too? Comparing five travel and health-related outcomes among active, motorized, and public transport commuters. Journal of Transport & Health, Volume 38, 101893.
[9] See 7.

sold, supplied and experienced in local neighbourhoods, including through local advocacy, community engagement and collaboration with public health partners.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports in part objective three and recommends that it explicitly include urban ngahere (forests) planting along road corridors and in high-heat areas. This would support efforts to improve air quality, reduce urban heat and strengthen wider health and wellbeing co-benefits.[10]

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports in part objectives one, two, and three. Road calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed limits are effective ways to improve safety and lower the risk of injury in local streets. As a result, NPHS-NR recommends that these measures be included as part of these objectives.

3.3 Manurewa

NPHS-NR supports the plan from the Manurewa Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR supports the initiative focused on upstream measures to reduce harm related to smoking, vaping, alcohol and other community harms. In the Manurewa Local Board area, 12% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 19% in the Census five years prior.[11] NPHS-NR strongly endorses the objectives and key initiatives to work with community partners to reduce harm and identify

[10] Iungman T, Caballe SV, Segura-Barrero R, Cirach M, et al,. Co-benefits of nature-based solutions: A health impact assessment of the Barcelon Green Corridor (*Eixos Verds)* plan. (2025). Environment International. 196: 109313
[11] See 7.

opportunities to increase community safety. NPHS-NR values the Manurewa Local Board's role in supporting community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally. NPHS-NR also supports the objective to ensure community facilities are welcoming, accessible and designed so that everyone can use them.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports objective three, initiative one, as this measure mitigates the negative health impact of poor air quality and helps to improve heat resilience in the local area. NPHS-NR also supports objective four, as this objective contributes to positive health impacts associated with food security and access to nutritious foods.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one to three as they contribute to increased opportunities for active travel, improved access to public transport, reduced transport barriers and broader health benefits associated with physical activity, social connection and access to essential services.

NPHS-NR supports in part initiative two, objective one of Focus Area Three: Built Environment. We recommend that people walking, cycling, using mobility aids and accessing public transport are explicitly reflected as part of encouraging people to stop, spend time and participate in community spaces.

3.4 Ōtara-Papatoetoe

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports objectives two and four (initiative one) in particular, as these priorities contribute to food security, education, and equitable access to nutritious foods locally. NPHS-NR also supports initiative two in objective four as it supports the ongoing efforts to mitigate negative health outcomes associated with poor air quality, as well as improving local heat resilience.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one, two, three and five.

NPHS-NR supports in part initiative one, objective two of Focus Area Five. We recommend that road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments are explicitly included to improve safety for people walking, cycling, using mobility aids and accessing schools, services and public spaces.

NPHS-NR opposes in part the current framing of objective four of Focus Area Five because it may privilege general private vehicle access rather than the specific accessibility needs of people who have limited or no practical transport alternatives, particularly disabled people and their whānau. NPHS-NR recommends reframing the objective to focus on transport accessibility for disabled people, older people, whānau with mobility or access needs, and others who may need to use private motor vehicles. Suggested wording: "Provide safe and accessible transport options for people who need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices."

We commend the initiative in Focus Area One: Community, and support the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board to continue engaging with alcohol licensing and local alcohol policy (LAP) processes and encourage supporting community participation in how alcohol is sold and supplied in the local area. NPHS-NR opposes, in part, the initiative, as there is not currently a process through which the Local Board can oppose new vape shops. However, we encourage the use and promotion of the smoking and vaping complaints toolkit to report retailers that are non-compliant with legislation.

3.5 Papakura

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Papakura Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR strongly endorses the initiative to support community safety approaches, including alcohol harm reduction, and encourages the Local Board to strengthen this by collaborating with local community organisations and partners with shared harm reduction goals. In the Papakura Local Board area, 9% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 18% in the Census five years prior.[12] NPHS-NR also encourages initiatives that support community aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products.

NPHS-NR also supports initiative two, objective two within Focus Area One, as it contributes to food security and local access to nutritious food.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports objective three within Focus Area Two. This objective will help improve local environmental conditions by mitigating the impacts of poor air

[12] See 7.

quality, supporting urban cooling and strengthening community resilience to increasing temperatures associated with climate change.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment and Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports the Built Environment objectives in the Papakura Local Board Plan. We particularly note the Plan's positive approach to transport, including pedestrian safety and shaded areas. These measures can support active transport, improve local amenity and contribute to better air quality and heat resilience. NPHS-NR recommends that similar wording be considered for the transport and built environment sections of other Local Board Plans where appropriate.

3.6 Waitematā

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Waitematā Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR supports initiative eight, objective two as it contributes to priorities related to food security and access to nutritious food. NPHS-NR also supports priorities related to minimising alcohol and tobacco related harm, including vaping. In the Waitematā Local Board area, 4% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 9% in the Census five years prior.[13] We encourage the Waitematā Local Board to continue supporting initiatives that are focused on further decreasing local smoking prevalence.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports initiatives two and three within objective one, as these initiatives mitigate the negative health outcomes associated with poor air quality

[13] See 7.

and improves local heat resilience. NPHS-NR also supports initiative five, objective three, as it contributes to food security and local access to nutritious foods. NPHS-NR particularly supports initiative three of objective three, as it helps build community connection around active transport and can strengthen the population health benefits associated with walking, cycling and other active modes.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

NPHS-NR supports objectives one (all initiatives) and two (initiatives three, four and six) as they support the improvement of active transport and mitigate the negative health impact of poor air quality, respectively.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one to five. These objectives support safer and more accessible transport options, encourage physical activity through active transport, improve access to employment, education and services, and contribute to reduced exposure to transport-related air pollution, which mitigates the negative health impacts associated with poor air quality.

There are no specific suggested amendments for Waitematā Local Board, other than the general comments in Part Two of this submission.

3.7 Whau

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Whau Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR strongly supports the objective to collaborate with local community organisations, businesses and partners such as New Zealand Police to build safe local spaces. This objective could be strengthened by adding an initiative to

engage with public health organisations, including NPHS-NR, to share information, strengthen local evidence and support harm reduction initiatives. NPHS-NR also supports initiative three, objective one, as it contributes to healthy food environments and equitable access to nutritious food. NPHS-NR further supports initiative three, objective six, as it contributes to efforts to reduce the health impacts of poor air quality and urban heat.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

NPHS-NR also supports initiative two, objective one of Focus Area Three: Built Environment, as it contributes to reducing exposure to poor air quality and urban heat.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one and three within the Whau Plan.

NPHS-NR supports in part objective two of Focus Area Five. We recommend including effective strategies such as lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures, particularly around schools and community facilities. These measures would support safer, more liveable streets and contribute to health and wellbeing objectives in Focus Area One: Community.

4. Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to provide technical advice on Auckland Council's Local Board Plans 2026. NPHS-NR values its ongoing relationship with Auckland Council and Local Boards, and welcomes continued engagement on actions that support healthy, safe, resilient and equitable communities across Tāmaki Makaurau

Appendix 1: Overview of Suggested Amendments to Local Board Plans

Table 1: Henderson-Massey

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Five	Support in part	Objective three should explicitly include road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments to improve local street safety, particularly for children, pedestrians, cyclists and people using mobility aids

Table 2: Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Objective two should include ways that the Local Board can support community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally. Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products.
Two	Support in part	Objective three should include urban ngahere (forests) planting along road corridors and high-heat areas to support improved air quality, heat resilience and wider health co-benefits.
Five	Support in part	Objectives one to three should include road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments to improve road safety locally.

Table 3: Manurewa

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Three	Support in part	Objective one should explicitly include people walking, cycling, using mobility aids and accessing public transport as part of encouraging people to stop, spend time and participate in community spaces.

Table 4: Ōtara-Papatoetoe

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Oppose in part	NPHS-NR opposes in part the initiative that seeks to oppose new vape shops, despite our support for harmful commodity reduction in communities. There is not currently a process through which the Local Board can oppose new vape shops. Instead, we encourage the use and promotion of the smoking and vaping complaints toolkit to report retailers that are non-compliant with legislation, and to include in the plan initiatives associated with community participation and engaging in future regulatory opportunities.
Five	Support in part	Objective two should include road calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed limits to effectively improve road safety locally.
	Oppose in part	Objective four should be reframed to focus on transport accessibility for disabled people, older people, whānau with mobility or access needs, and others who may need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices.

		Suggested wording: "Provide safe and accessible transport options for people who need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices."

Table 5: Papakura

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Three	Support in part	Objectives one and three should include lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures to improve local street safety, particularly around schools and community facilities.

Table 6: Whau

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Five	Support in part	Objective two should include lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures to improve local street safety, particularly around schools and community facilities.

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#211

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: Tapasa Navigating Futures

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

4. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

5. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?**

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

6. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached feedback from 234 participants - Pacific community.

TAPASĀ
Navigating the Future

Summary Report: Pasifika Community Feedback

Local Board Plan 2026 – Early Engagement (Rangatahi & Community Voices)

[redacted]

Overview

- **Total responses analysed: 234** *(survey and in-person workshops – talanoa)*
- **Primary audience:** Strong representation from **rangatahi (under 18)**
- **Ethnicity:** Predominantly **Pasifika**

Data Collection Methods

Feedback was gathered using a mixed-method, culturally grounded approach:

- **Online surveys**
- **Teacher-led talanoa in schools**
- **Youth-led talanoa with peers** (informal, relational engagement)
- **In-person community workshops (talanoa sessions)**

Insight:

This approach enabled depth + scale:

- Surveys provided breadth
- Talanoa provided rich, culturally grounded insights

Local Board Representation

Henderson-Massey Local Board (strongest representation)

- Ranui
- Massey
- Henderson
- Te Atatū South
- Glendene

Whau Local Board

- New Lynn
- Kelston
- Avondale

Waitākere Ranges Local Board

- Limited representation (e.g. Sturges area)

Key Insight

- **Henderson-Massey:** Strong engagement and reach
- **Whau:** Moderate participation
- **Waitākere Ranges:** Underrepresented

Recommendation:

Increase targeted engagement in **Waitākere Ranges communities** in upcoming phases.

Demographic Snapshot

Age Distribution

- Majority of responses from rangatahi (under 18)
- Additional input from adult community members and families

Insight:

Youth voice is central and highly influential in shaping priorities.

Ethnicity

- Majority: **Wider Pasifika communities**

  Tuvaluan, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Kiribati, Fiji, Tonga, Māori, and mixed identities.

TAPASĀ
Navigating the Future

Key Themes from Feedback

What matters most

- Community connection and belonging
- Youth programmes and activities
- Parks, open spaces, recreation
- Culture, arts, and identity

"Being able to connect with people in my community and feel safe where I live."
"Having spaces where young people can hang out and do positive things."
"Our culture and events keep us together and strong."

What communities want more of

- More **youth opportunities and safe activities**
- More **community events and gatherings**
- Stronger **family and wellbeing support**
- Accessible **community spaces and facilities**

"More things for youth to do so they stay out of trouble."
"More events that bring everyone together."
"Support for families and places where we can go without worrying about money."

Key concerns

- Safety and crime
- Lack of youth activities
- Community disconnection
- Pressure on families

"There's not enough for young people, so they get into trouble."
"Safety is a big issue in our area, especially at night."
"Some families are struggling and need more support."

Priority improvements

- Investment in **youth programmes**
- Improved **community spaces**
- Increased **support services**
- More **culturally grounded initiatives**

"More youth programmes would make a big difference."
"We need better parks and places to gather."
"Helping families will help the whole community."

Key Insights

Youth-led priorities are clear

Across 234 responses:

- Strong demand for **safe, engaging spaces**
- Clear link between **lack of activities and safety concerns**

Engagement method is effective

- Talanoa (teacher-led and youth-led) enabled:
    - Deeper, more honest insights
    - Higher participation
    - Stronger cultural relevance

Confirms value of **relational, community-led engagement**

"It's easier to talk when it feels like a real conversation, not a survey."

Culture and identity are central

- Cultural connection is central to wellbeing. Strong emphasis on:
    - Cultural expression
    - Community events
    - Identity and belonging

"Our culture is what keeps our community strong."

TAPASĀ
Navigating the Future

Alignment with Engagement Approach

Findings strongly validate the current plan:

- Facilitator-led engagement across community groups
- Talanoa-based methods
- Youth-focused engagement (including peer-led)
- Multi-channel feedback collection

Recommendations

Engagement

- Expand youth-led talanoa model
- Increase outreach in Waitākere Ranges
- Continue leveraging schools, churches, and community networks

Investment Priorities

1. Youth programmes and safe activities
2. Community spaces and facilities
3. Cultural events and initiatives
4. Family and wellbeing support

Data Improvements

- Capture Local Board area directly
- Continue building on mixed-method engagement (survey + talanoa)

Closing Summary

"Across 234 responses gathered through surveys and talanoa, Pasifika communities—particularly rangatahi—are calling for greater investment in youth opportunities, safe community spaces, and culturally grounded initiatives, while highlighting the need for stronger engagement in Waitākere Ranges and across Whau."

The inclusion of community voice highlights a clear message:
Engagement that is **by the community, for the community** leads to more meaningful, actionable insights.

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#179

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: TAPASA NAVIGATING FUTURES ALONGSIDE LE MOANA WEST COLLECTIVE.

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

4. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

5. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?**

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

6. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

Email submission received. See attachment.

RESPONSE: SUBMISSION DRAFT WAITĀKERE RANGES LOCAL BOARD PLAN 2026

SUBMITTED BY TAPASA NAVIGATING FUTURES ALONGSIDE LE MOANA WEST COLLECTIVE.

SUMMARY

Tapasā, alongside Le Moana West Collective, supports the overall direction of the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan. We respectfully propose the following considerations to ensure the growing Pacific population within the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area is reflected in future planning, investment and decision-making.

The Pacific population in the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area increased from 6,093 people in 2018 to 7,104 in 2023 and now represents 13.2% of the local population. This growing presence presents an opportunity for the Local Board to strengthen its relationships with Pacific communities and better understand their social, economic, educational and cultural aspirations.

We recommend that the final Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan include a clear commitment to working alongside Pacific communities, in partnership with Tapasā and Le Moana West Collective, to explore the development of a Pacific Strategy or coordinated Pacific engagement approach.

This would provide the Local Board with an established and trusted pathway for connecting with Pacific communities, identifying shared priorities and supporting community-led outcomes.

WHO & WHY LE MOANA WEST COLLECTIVE?

Le Moana West Collective is a Pacific-led collective impact initiative connected to more than 200 Pacific organisations and leaders across West Auckland, including churches, schools, sports clubs, youth groups, health providers, cultural organisations, government agencies and community leaders.

The Collective was established in response to a shared need for a dedicated Pacific platform that could connect organisations, strengthen relationships, share knowledge and coordinate responses to community priorities.

Rather than replacing existing organisations, Le Moana West Collective provides the relationships, coordination and collaborative infrastructure that enable organisations and communities to work more effectively together.

The Collective works across areas including:

- community leadership and organisational capability
- youth leadership and governance
- health and wellbeing
- education and future pathways
- climate resilience and emergency preparedness
- cultural revitalisation
- civic participation
- economic development
- sport and active wellbeing

Through this network, Le Moana West Collective can support the Local Board by:

- convening Pacific organisations around shared priorities
- strengthening relationships between Pacific communities, mana whenua, Auckland Council and other partners
- supporting community-led design and decision-making
- building leadership, governance and organisational capability
- connecting communities with funding, partnerships and opportunities
- strengthening Pacific participation and representation
- reducing duplication across engagement processes
- coordinating responses to complex community challenges

Partnering with Tapasā and Le Moana West Collective would give the Waitākere Ranges Local Board access to an established, credible and community-led network. This would strengthen engagement, support more informed investment and help ensure the aspirations of more than 7,000 Pacific residents are meaningfully reflected in the implementation of the Local Board Plan.

CONSIDERATIONS WITHIN THE NEXT 3-YEAR PLAN

IMPROVE LOCAL PACIFIC DATA AND VISIBILITY

We encourage the Local Board to strengthen the collection and use of local Pacific data so that planning and investment are informed by the experiences, needs and aspirations of Pacific communities living across the Waitākere Ranges area.

Pacific communities should be visible not only within population statistics, but also within the priorities, actions and measures used to assess the success of the Local Board Plan.

STRENGTHEN PACIFIC PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

The Local Board has an opportunity to create more consistent pathways for Pacific residents, organisations and leaders to contribute to local planning and decision-making.

Working alongside Tapasā and Le Moana West Collective would support trusted engagement, strengthen civic participation and ensure Pacific perspectives are included early in the development of local initiatives.

SUPPORT CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Pacific communities should be actively included in local climate resilience and emergency preparedness planning.

Le Moana West Collective is already delivering Project SAUNI, an initiative focused on preparing Pacific communities for climate resilience and emergency preparedness.

The Waitākere Ranges Local Board could build on and support this existing work to better understand what climate resilience looks like for Pacific families, strengthen trusted community networks and ensure preparedness information and support reach communities effectively.

Partnering with Project SAUNI would allow the Board to invest in an established, community-led approach rather than duplicating existing efforts.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO LOCAL SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Local Board should consider the barriers Pacific families may experience when accessing local services, facilities, funding, recreation, education and leadership opportunities.

A coordinated partnership approach would help identify where gaps exist and support more accessible, culturally responsive and community-led solutions.

INVEST IN PACIFIC YOUNG PEOPLE AND FUTURE LEADERSHIP

Pacific peoples are one of Aotearoa New Zealand's youngest and growing populations. Pacific young people therefore represent an increasingly important part of the Waitākere Ranges community and its future leadership, workforce and community development.

We encourage the Local Board to support opportunities for Pacific youth leadership, governance, cultural identity, education, employment, creativity, sport and civic participation. Investment in young people will strengthen both current community wellbeing and the future leadership of the area.

SUPPORT PACIFIC CULTURE, IDENTITY AND BELONGING

Pacific cultures, languages and community knowledge contribute to the identity and diversity of West Auckland.

The Local Board can strengthen belonging by supporting Pacific cultural events, language initiatives, community spaces, storytelling, creative projects and opportunities for Pacific communities to celebrate and share their identities.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

We recognise that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board serves a diverse and geographically widespread community. Our proposal is not to create additional or competing engagement structures, but to strengthen the Board's ability to connect with Pacific communities through relationships and networks that already exist.

A partnership with Tapasā and Le Moana West Collective would provide a practical and trusted pathway for understanding Pacific aspirations, improving participation and supporting more coordinated investment and community-led outcomes.

Our approach is grounded in strong relationships, our ongoing commitment to strengthening our relationship with Te Kawerau ā Maki. We recognise our shared whakapapa connections across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa and acknowledge our position as Pacific communities living within their rohe.

We seek to work alongside the Waitākere Ranges Local Board in the same spirit of trust, respect and long-term partnership, to determine an approach that is appropriate to the local context and responsive to the more than 7,000 Pacific people who call the Waitākere Ranges home.

Fakaaue lahi mahaki, Thank you.

Submitted by Tapasā Navigating Futures alongside Le Moana West Collective

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#213

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: Te Kotahi a Tāmaki

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

4. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

5. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?**

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

6. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached file

Te Kotahi a Tāmaki – Marae Collective

Submission from the TKAT - Marae Collective on the Draft Local Board Plans 2026–2029

Purpose

This submission reflects the aspirations and priorities shared by marae representatives across two regional hui facilitated by Auckland Council on 31 March 2026 and 6th July 2026 as part of the development of the Draft Local Board Plans 2026–2029 through community partnership agreement.

The first hui, held on 31 March 2026, focused on understanding the aspirations, challenges and support needs of marae across Tāmaki Makaurau. The second hui, held during the Draft Local Board Plans consultation on 6th July 2026, provided an opportunity for marae to review the draft plans, discuss local priorities and identify opportunities to strengthen partnerships between marae, local boards and Auckland Council.

Together, these discussions highlighted a shared vision for stronger partnerships, meaningful engagement, investment in marae capability, and greater recognition of marae as trusted community leaders and connectors.

Marae play a vital role in supporting whānau, preserving te ao Māori, strengthening communities and responding to local needs. They provide cultural leadership, social support, emergency response, and opportunities for whānau to connect, learn and thrive.

We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Draft Local Board Plans and encourage all 21 Local Boards to continue strengthening their partnerships with marae over the next three years.

Our Recommendations

1. Build enduring partnerships with marae

We encourage all Local Boards to move beyond one-off consultation and establish ongoing relationships with marae throughout the work programme. Early and meaningful engagement enables better decision-making and ensures Māori voices help shape local priorities from the outset.

We also encourage more opportunities for elected members to meet directly with marae through regular hui, site visits and community-led conversations.

2. Recognise marae as trusted community partners

Whānau who may experience barriers to participation, and communities who are less likely to engage through formal consultation.

Local Boards should continue working alongside marae to reach these communities and support more inclusive engagement across Tāmaki Makaurau.

3. Invest in strong, sustainable marae

Marae require ongoing investment to continue delivering for their communities.

We encourage Local Boards to advocate for initiatives that strengthen:

- governance capability
- operational sustainability
- legal and compliance knowledge
- tikanga leadership
- community engagement capability
- emergency preparedness and resilience.

Clearer information about Council funding opportunities, criteria and application timeframes would also help marae plan more effectively.

4. Support rangatahi and whānau wellbeing

Rangatahi should remain a key priority across all Local Board Plans.

We encourage Local Boards to support initiatives that:

- strengthen cultural identity and belonging
- improve access to sport, recreation and wellbeing programmes
- provide wraparound support for tamariki and rangatahi
- create more opportunities for rangatahi leadership and participation in local decision-making.

5. Strengthen Te Tiriti partnerships

We acknowledge the distinct roles of both mana whenua and mātāwaka and encourage Local Boards to continue honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi through meaningful partnership, early engagement and opportunities to contribute to decision-making where appropriate.

Planning processes should also recognise that whakapapa and iwi relationships extend beyond Local Board boundaries, allowing marae and iwi to contribute to multiple Local Board Plans where relevant.

6. Encourage collaboration across Tāmaki Makaurau

There is significant value in creating opportunities for marae to connect with one another, local boards and Council staff.

Regional hui, expos and networking opportunities would support collaboration, knowledge sharing and stronger relationships between Māori organisations and Auckland Council.

Summay

The Marae Collective welcomes the positive relationships that continue to develop with Auckland Council and Local Boards.

We look forward to working in partnership to ensure Local Board Plans deliver meaningful outcomes for Māori communities and reflect the aspirations of whānau across Tāmaki Makaurau.

By investing in long-term relationships, recognising marae as trusted community partners and engaging early in decision-making, Local Boards can strengthen outcomes not only for Māori, but for the wider communities they serve.

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#136

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: Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi Arts Regional Trust

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Support all

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

   As the regional arts trust for Tāmaki Makaurau, Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi appreciates the investment by the Waitākere Local Board in supporting local arts, culture and creativity events, programmes and facilities such as Waitākere Arts (WCCAC). We also note your Te Kawerau ā Maki Partnerships with mana whenua to protect local cultural history.

   It is good to see this commitment reflected in the local plan in your goal to sustain a vibrant arts and culture network.

   We would encourage the board to find opportunities to collaborate further with your local arts and culture organisations and practitioners to explore the potential for further development of arts and culture programmes and events to support wider goals of community connection, building the success and resilience of Glen Eden, and develop the economic wellbeing of rangatahi.

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

4. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

5. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

6. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

7. **Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?**

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#115

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: The Tree Council

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

4. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

5. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?**

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

6. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

7. **Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?**

The Tree Council
Tiakina Rākau • est 1986

Submission - Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

15 July 2026

From: The Tree Council
[redacted]

1. Introduction

1.1. Thank you for the opportunity to present The Tree Council's submission on the proposed **Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026.** This submission is made by The Tree Council, an independent, voluntary organisation, a non-profit incorporated charitable society which has been serving the Auckland community since 1986 in the protection of trees and as advocates for the significant benefits and services that our trees and green spaces provide.

1.2. Your draft states that this plan sets direction to protect, restore and improve our natural environment so that ecosystems can thrive and adapt to a changing climate and environmental pressures. You state that the local board will support ways to achieve positive outcomes for the environment that restore ecosystems, improve water quality and support climate adaptation.

1.3. The Tree Council applauds these initiatives and intentions, and provides the following comment and recommendations.

2. Maori Outcomes

2.1. We commend you for your support for establishing a marae at Te Henga for Te Kawerau ā Maki. However we would like to see a

commitment to providing some funding towards achieving this outcome. The iwi is on a timetable to get the work done now having obtained the relevant consents and cannot do so without funding. All parts of Auckland Council, including your local board, should be contributing towards this funding. We are glad to see you advocating to the Governing Body for regional funding of the marae.

3. Community

3.1. The growing of fruit in suburban gardens has gone out of fashion in recent years and with intensification the space to do so will soon be unavailable to most people living in Auckland. Therefore having the opportunity to grow fruit in public spaces (parks, reserves, streets) is something that people value highly and, as you state in your plan, mara kai and orchards are part of the cultural heritage of this area. Public consultations on the type of trees desired for public planting often results in suggestions for fruit trees.

3.2. Having public collections of different types of fruit trees would enable educational opportunities to take place that could include for example daily care, pruning, propagation, grafting, cookery, heritage and history etc. This could involve schools as well as public workshops, adoption by community or friends groups.

3.3. The public collections on public land in local parks and streets could be localised to reflect the fact that some varieties of fruit trees are better suited to grow in specific areas of Auckland. They should also reflect the orchard and market gardening heritage of the Waitākere Ranges and the families who dedicated generations to managing this land productively. Your plan recognises the “protection of foothills rural land for potential future food basket (as climate pressures trigger a rethink)” as well as a proposal to “investigate opportunities to promote kai sovereignty” and we strongly support this and believe it links well to the idea of fruit tree collections.

3.4. We urge you to advocate for the growing of fruit trees on local parks and streets in your local board area and to reach out to the public to identify fruit trees on private land that could provide the basis for the collection via propagation &/or transplanting.

3.5. Support for this project can be enhanced by working with NZ Tree Crops Association, The Tree Council and local groups in your area.

3.6. We agree with your focus on community resilience and recovery from the storm damage and your aspiration of “tree protection and increase

tree cover" and support the principle of "right tree, right place" in your statement of "*well sited* tree planting in parks".

3.7. We note your commitment to advocate for "a track and recreation plan for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and improved communication on the track reopening programme". We strongly support the iwi's proposal for a kauri sanctuary in the healthy centre of the Ranges where tracks will never be reopened to protect the healthy kauri ecosystem. So any additional tracks must be located around the edge of the forest and must be in line with the agreement with Te Kawerau ā Maki and the National Pest Management Plan for kauri regarding standards for dry foot tracks and cleaning stations prior to opening new tracks. It also needs to fit within the Strategic Plan to be developed by the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum and must not be the cart before the horse.

4. Natural Environment

4.1. We do not agree with the statement in your plan that "The last five-yearly monitoring report, 'State of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area 2023', found that generally the objectives of the WRHAA were being met". This report was produced without the benefit of any significant monitoring of the heritage features or state of the environment in the previous 5 years (or in fact 15 years) and therefore it is impossible to say whether the objectives are being met or not. Future reports must be honest about the basis for the reporting and not try to cover up a lack of data. This requires effective and consistent funding of the monitoring - not just funding the writing of the report. We would like to see the local board advocating to the Governing Body for the monitoring to be adequately funded.

4.2. We are pleased to see your objective's emphasis on protection, enhancement of biodiversity and ecological restoration across both public and private land and fully support this approach.

4.3. We are delighted to see your proposal to advocate to the Governing Body for increased funding to restore and enhance the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and to support the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum in developing a strategic plan.

4.4. As you have kauri in many of your local reserves you should consider getting them urgently tested for kauri dieback and if found to be positive then you should consider getting more of them treated with phosphite to keep them alive. Kauri dieback has an almost 100% mortality rate so all infected trees will die without treatment.

4.5. We recommend you work with the Kauri Rescue Trust for the best way to approach this problem. There is an urgency as trees in which the disease has progressed too far will not survive even after treatment, so the earlier this happens the better. Kauri are carbon sinks, we need to keep these trees alive as long as possible. Kauri Rescue has already been working to treat trees in local parks, including in Titirangi and Henderson, and this work can be expanded with the support of local boards.

4.6. We are delighted to see your proposal to advocate to the Governing Body for continued education, research, and controls of kauri dieback.

4.7. We understand that the loss of tree canopy cover from development and changes in land use, particularly in the urban parts of your local board area, makes it harder to maintain and increase tree canopy coverage in line with the local board goals to provide shade, support biodiversity and help manage urban stormwater. We support your aspiration for “additional ecological restoration in the eastern foothills”. However we are disappointed not to see that one of your plan objectives is to enhance tree cover within the local board area by implementing actions from the Local Board Urban Ngahere (forest) Strategy Action Plan to enable opportunities to enhance tree cover to be identified and activated. We think this could be linked to the development of the “blue-green network” so that there is a clear guide to how and where this can occur to have the greatest impact on minimising climate change flooding.

4.8. We fully support your proposal to advocate to the Governing Body for funding for remediation and planting of landslides and storm affected properties.

4.9. We are delighted to see recognition of and your support for the important role mana whenua and community groups play in working to enhance, restore and protect biodiversity.

4.10. We urge you to oppose all consents proposing to remove trees in Significant Ecological Areas and Scheduled Notable Trees on both private and public land, as well as street and park trees, as these are so important to retain for future generations. So few urban trees currently have legal protection it is vital to retain them.

5. <u>In addition</u> we would like to see specific support, including financial support, for the following initiatives to protect and enhance existing tree cover:

5.1. Practical support and (for eg legal) advice for private landowners wishing to provide permanent protection for their trees eg via covenants &/or scheduling to enable protection of existing tree cover on private land to be optimised as most of the mature trees in Auckland are on private land with no legal protection.

5.2. Grants for private landowners to maintain Scheduled Notable Trees on their property.

5.3. Provide permanent and visible physical labels for all Scheduled Notable Trees in the local board area to enable the public to see that this tree is legally protected and tell the stories of our natural heritage.

5.4. Look for opportunities to schedule additional mature trees and encourage Council to undertake Plan Changes to the Unitary Plan to regularly add new trees to Schedule 10 (Notable Trees).

5.5. Look for opportunities to raise awareness of the value of Scheduled Notable Trees by organising events to celebrate them such as guided walks, community picnics, heritage talks.

5.6. We would like to see specific support, including financial support, for mana whenua, local communities and groups undertaking the following types of initiatives within the local board area:
- 5.6.1. water quality testing
- 5.6.2. monitoring of beaches
- 5.6.3. treatment of diseased kauri trees on local parks and private land
- 5.6.4. monitoring for myrtle rust
- 5.6.5. weed control
- 5.6.6. pest control
- 5.6.7. protection of rare birds eg dotterel
- 5.6.8. restoration planting

5.7. Public education on issues affecting biodiversity such as:
- 5.7.1. kauri dieback, myrtle rust
- 5.7.2. weeds
- 5.7.3. animal and insect pests
- 5.7.4. other biosecurity threats
- 5.7.5. control of dogs in sensitive areas
- 5.7.6. conflicting uses eg vehicles on beaches
- 5.7.7. rules for marine reserves

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#139

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: Tuia Waitākere

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Strongly agree

   Tell us more

   Yes. Overall, we think the draft plan reflects many of the needs and aspirations we see across the Waitākere Ranges local board area, particularly the focus on connected communities, resilience, recreation, sport, play, arts, culture, te taiao, climate resilience and safe transport. These align strongly with Tuia Waitākere's impact strategy and our long-term focus on community-led wellbeing.

   We would like the final plan to more clearly recognise the role of trusted community partners in delivery. We deeply value our strong relationship with the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and would like to continue growing this partnership long into the future, particularly where shared priorities can be turned into practical action for communities.

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Support all

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

   We strongly support the community goals, especially the focus on diverse communities being connected and proud, enhanced wellbeing and resilience, parks and open spaces for sport, recreation and play, and arts, culture and facilities that enliven the west. This is closely

aligned to our focus on community-led design, local leadership, belonging and healthy, active lives.

Love the specific call out of community led sport within local parks however would like to see this framed in a more long term vision, so not just more people now, but a look at the system that supports community led sport and how that can be invested in for long term sustainability

We would encourage stronger wording around long-term support for community organisations and clubs who already hold trusted local relationships. These groups are often the backbone of resilience, inclusion, sport, play, culture and everyday wellbeing.

3. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?

Support all

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

We support the natural environment goals, particularly restoring ecological areas, improving streams and wetlands, supporting climate adaptation and protecting the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area. This aligns with our view that wellbeing is connected to whānau, culture, whenua, waterways and access to nature.

We would like the final plan to keep linking environmental outcomes to community wellbeing, play, active recreation and local connection. Restoration, climate resilience and responsible access all work best when communities, mana whenua and local organisations are properly resourced to lead and participate.

4. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?

Support

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

We support the focus on successful and resilient centres that attract investment, development and jobs. Glen Eden and other local centres are important community anchors, and quality development near services and transport can support access, local identity, housing choice and stronger community connection.

We would encourage the built environment section to more clearly recognise public and community spaces as wellbeing infrastructure. Parks, play spaces, sport and recreation facilities, community halls, libraries and safe gathering places are essential to how people connect, move, participate and belong.

5. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?

Support most

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

We support the focus on a successful and resilient Glen Eden, economic wellbeing for rangatahi and sustainable economic activity. This aligns with our strategic focus on local leadership, youth pathways, Māori and community-led aspirations, and building capability so communities can shape their own future.

Also really enjoy seeing Te Kawerau ā Makis's tourism plan mentioned here as this is both a good way to support mana whenua aspirations, as well as bring in visitors to our rohe to engage in it in planned ways that could bring awareness and economic benefit.

We would encourage economic development to be framed broadly. Prosperity is not only about jobs and investment; it is also about rangatahi confidence, cultural identity, local leadership, access to opportunities, creative expression, community capability and whānau wellbeing.

6. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?

Support most

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

We support the transport goals, particularly safe and sustainable options, safe travel to school, active transport, better public transport, resilient roads and solutions that respond to the unique needs of dispersed and more isolated communities. This aligns with our focus on active travel, equity, climate action and access to healthy, active lives.

We would like priority given to routes that connect people to schools, parks, clubs, marae, community facilities, libraries, local centres and public transport. Transport decisions should especially consider tamariki, rangatahi, older adults, disabled people and communities where cost, safety and distance are major barriers.

Also, there is growing evidence of play based activities leading to creation of safe and inviting spaces for people to practice walking and active transport. To this end we would like to see reference to thinking differently about existing travel routes to encourage health promoting behaviour change around active transport, which has the potential to save significant cost in/on infrastructure upgrades to encourage active transport options.

7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

Overall, we support the direction of the draft plan and appreciate the Board's continued focus on wellbeing, resilience, the natural environment, Māori outcomes, community places, sport, recreation, arts, culture and sustainable transport. These priorities sit strongly alongside Tuia Waitākere's 20-year impact strategy and our commitment to shifting systems for long-term community wellbeing.

We also want to acknowledge how much we value our relationship with the Waitākere Ranges Local Board. There is a strong foundation of trust, shared kaupapa and practical local mahi between us, and we would welcome the opportunity to keep strengthening this relationship over the coming years so we can continue working together for the wellbeing of people and places across the Waitākere Ranges.

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#128

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: West Auckland Deaf Community

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Somewhat agree

   Tell us more

   See attached file

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Support most

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

   See attached file

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

4. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?**

   I don't know

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

See attached file

5. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

6. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?**

   I don't know

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

7. **Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?**

   See attached file

West Auckland Deaf Community Submission

Draft Local Board Plans

This submission is based on feedback shared by members of the West Auckland Deaf community during a community engagement session.

Accessibility and Inclusion

- Deaf people want better access to community events, services, and information.
- Providing an interpreter is important, but it does not always mean Deaf people feel fully included. Information and communication should be accessible from the beginning.
- New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) should be more visible across West Auckland through signs, public information, events, and promotional material.
- The history and contribution of the Deaf community in West Auckland, including the former Kelston School for the Deaf and Lopdell House, should be recognised and promoted.

Transport

- Public transport needs to be more accessible for Deaf people.
- Emergency announcements should always include visual information, not only spoken announcements.
- Participants raised concerns about train station closures and limited transport options.
- Smaller buses may be more suitable for some West Auckland communities.
- More walking and cycling paths are needed, and existing pathways should be completed to better connect communities.

Housing and Urban Development

- New housing developments should include enough parking to reduce congestion on local streets.
- New developments should include safe and accessible walkways between neighbourhoods.
- Community feedback should be considered more carefully during planning decisions.

Community Participation

- Deaf people often miss community events because NZSL interpreters are not provided.

- Community organisations need easier access to funding for NZSL interpreters and accessibility support.
- Funding application processes should be simpler and easier to access.

Children and Families

- Deaf children often miss out on holiday programmes, sports, and community activities because they are not accessible.
- More inclusive programmes are needed so Deaf children can participate equally.
- Road safety around schools is also an important concern.

Safety

- More visual emergency information is needed in public places, public transport, beaches, and other public spaces.
- Better signage and public safety information would benefit Deaf people.

Deaf Community

- Deaf people have their own language, culture, and identity, which should be recognised and respected.
- As technology changes, many voice-only systems create new barriers for Deaf people.
- Future technology and public services should be designed with Deaf accessibility in mind from the beginning.

Communication and Engagement

- Participants valued the opportunity to meet directly with Local Board members.
- Regular engagement with the Deaf community is important, rather than one-off consultations.
- The option to provide feedback in NZSL through video is welcomed and should continue.

Recommendations

We recommend that the Local Boards:

- Improve accessibility and inclusion for Deaf people in all community activities.
- Increase the visibility and promotion of NZSL throughout West Auckland.
- Improve accessible public transport, emergency information, and walking and cycling connections.
- Support funding for NZSL interpreters at community events and activities.
- Make community programmes more accessible for Deaf children, young people, adults, and older people.

- Continue regular engagement with the Deaf community and involve Deaf people in future planning and decision-making.

Deaf Community Engagement Role

We recommend creating a part-time or full-time Deaf Community Engagement role within the West Auckland Local Boards.

This person would:

- Build strong relationships with the Deaf community.
- Encourage Deaf people to take part in community events and local decision-making.
- Improve communication between the Local Board and the Deaf community.
- Promote New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) and Deaf awareness across West Auckland.
- Help make meetings, information, and events more accessible.

Regular Deaf Community Meetings

We recommend holding **regular Deaf community meetings** (for example, every 3–6 months) so the Local Board can continue listening to Deaf people's views, provide updates, and work together on local issues.

A small koha or e-gift voucher should be provided to participants to recognise their time and help cover travel or petrol costs. With the cost of living continuing to increase, this will help remove barriers to participation.

Where possible, engagement should be Deaf-led and held in NZSL. Many Deaf people are more comfortable sharing their ideas and experiences in Deaf-led NZSL spaces, where they can communicate directly in their own language and culture. This helps build trust, encourages participation, and leads to better community engagement.

Conclusion

The West Auckland Deaf community wants to work in partnership with the Local Boards to create a more inclusive and accessible community. We hope our feedback will help improve future planning so Deaf people of all ages can fully participate in community life.

Thank you for considering our submission.

We look forward to continuing to work together to make West Auckland a place where Deaf people feel welcomed, included, and connected.

Have Your Say on the Draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

#210

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: ZEAL

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us more

2. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Community*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

3. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Natural Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

4. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for our *Built Environment*?**

   Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

5. **What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Economic Development* in our area?**

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

6. What's your opinion of our proposed three-year goals for *Transport* in our area?

Tell us whether we have got it right, missed anything, and what we should consider for the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached ZEAL Youth engagement insights feedback.

Youth Engagement Insights | Summer 2026

Introduction

Between February and April, we engaged **110 young people** across West Auckland through a series of youth activations at **New Lynn Memorial Square, Railside Avenue (Henderson), and Parrs Park**. This engagement was supported by the Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges, and Whau Local Boards as part of their local board planning process.

Our approach centred on **low-barrier, youth-friendly activations** that prioritised whakawhanaungatanga, creating safe and welcoming environments where rangatahi could share their perspectives openly. Young people were invited to reflect on:

- the issues and concerns they are experiencing,
- what improvements they would like to see in their communities, and
- what they want more of in their day-to-day lives.

Where relevant, responses were designed to allow multiple selections (e.g. local board areas), recognising the fluid way young people move across communities for school, social connection, and activities.

Short video

To complement the findings in this report, we have created a short video capturing the voice, energy, and perspectives of some of the young people we engaged with at one of our Whau activations.

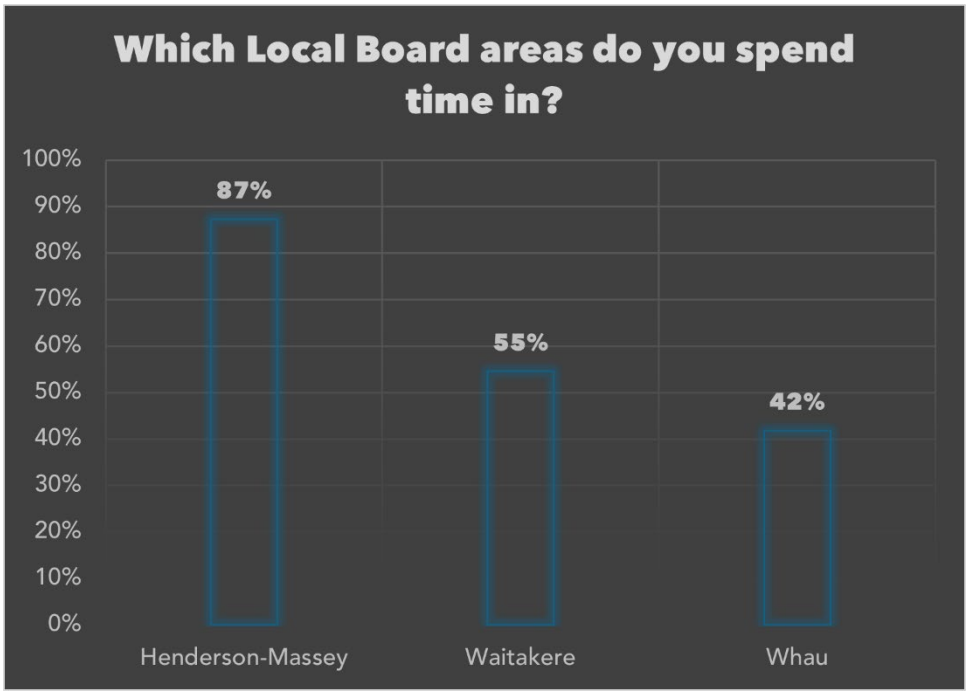
The video brings the data to life—highlighting the environments, conversations, and real experiences behind the insights shared. It reflects the strong desire among rangatahi for safer spaces, more opportunities, and greater connection within their communities.

NB: This video is for reporting purposes only and is not for public distribution.

🔗 Watch the video here: **https://youtu.be/b3_HRxNdq5w**

Commentary & Findings

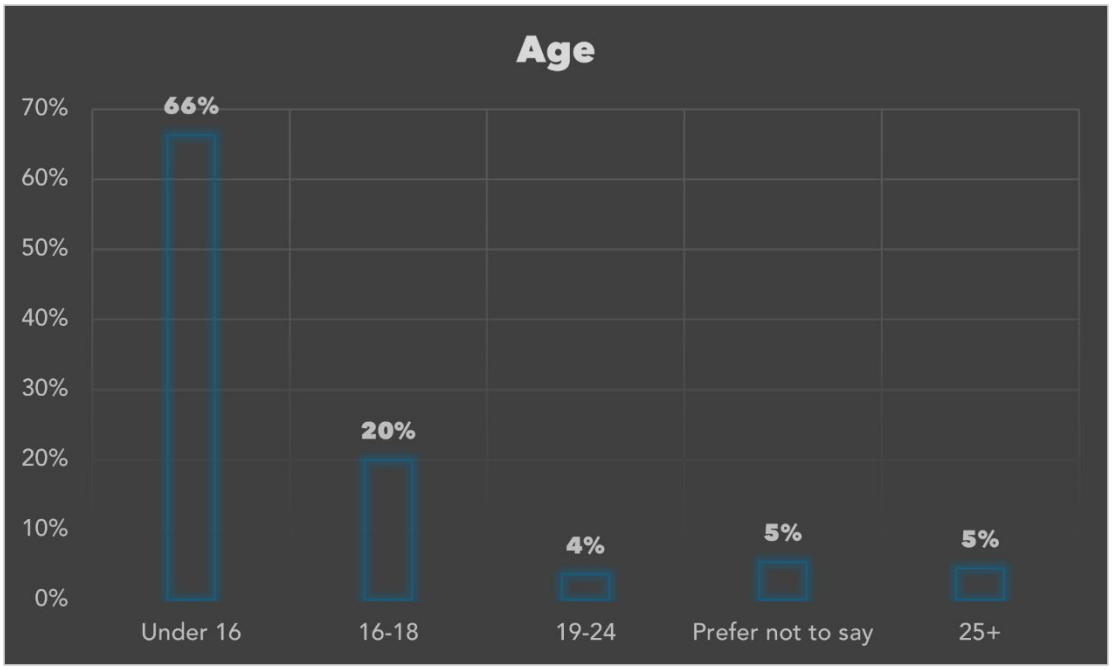
Local Board Areas (Movement & Reach)



- **Henderson-Massey (87%)** is the dominant area, reflecting a higher turnout at Railside Avenue Activations.
- **32%** of respondents said they spend time in more than one of the three local board areas. This reflects strong local pull factors between local board areas.

Insight:
Young people are highly mobile across local board boundaries. Planning and investment should consider **West Auckland as an interconnected ecosystem**. Services and programmes that collaborate across boards will better match how rangatahi actually live.

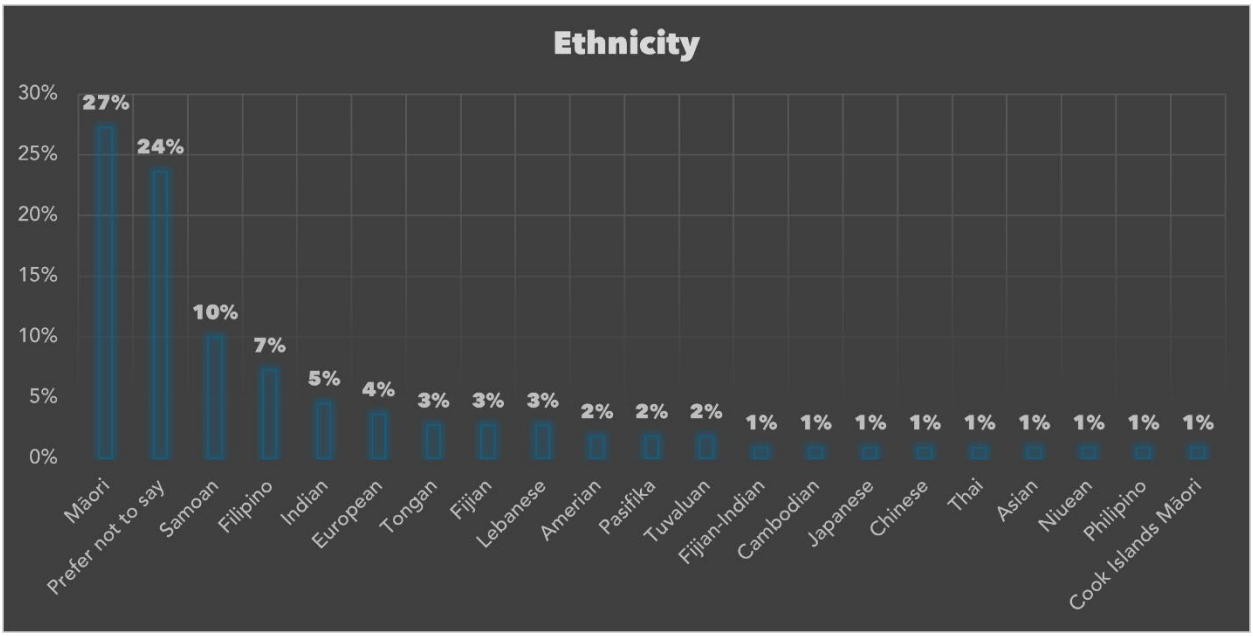
Age Profile



- **66% under 16**, **20% aged 16-18**
- Very small representation of 19+ age groups

Insight:
This engagement strongly reflects **early to mid-adolescence voices**, which is valuable for early intervention and prevention. However, it suggests a gap in engagement with **older youth (18-24)**, who may require different outreach strategies (e.g. employment pathways, tertiary spaces, digital engagement).

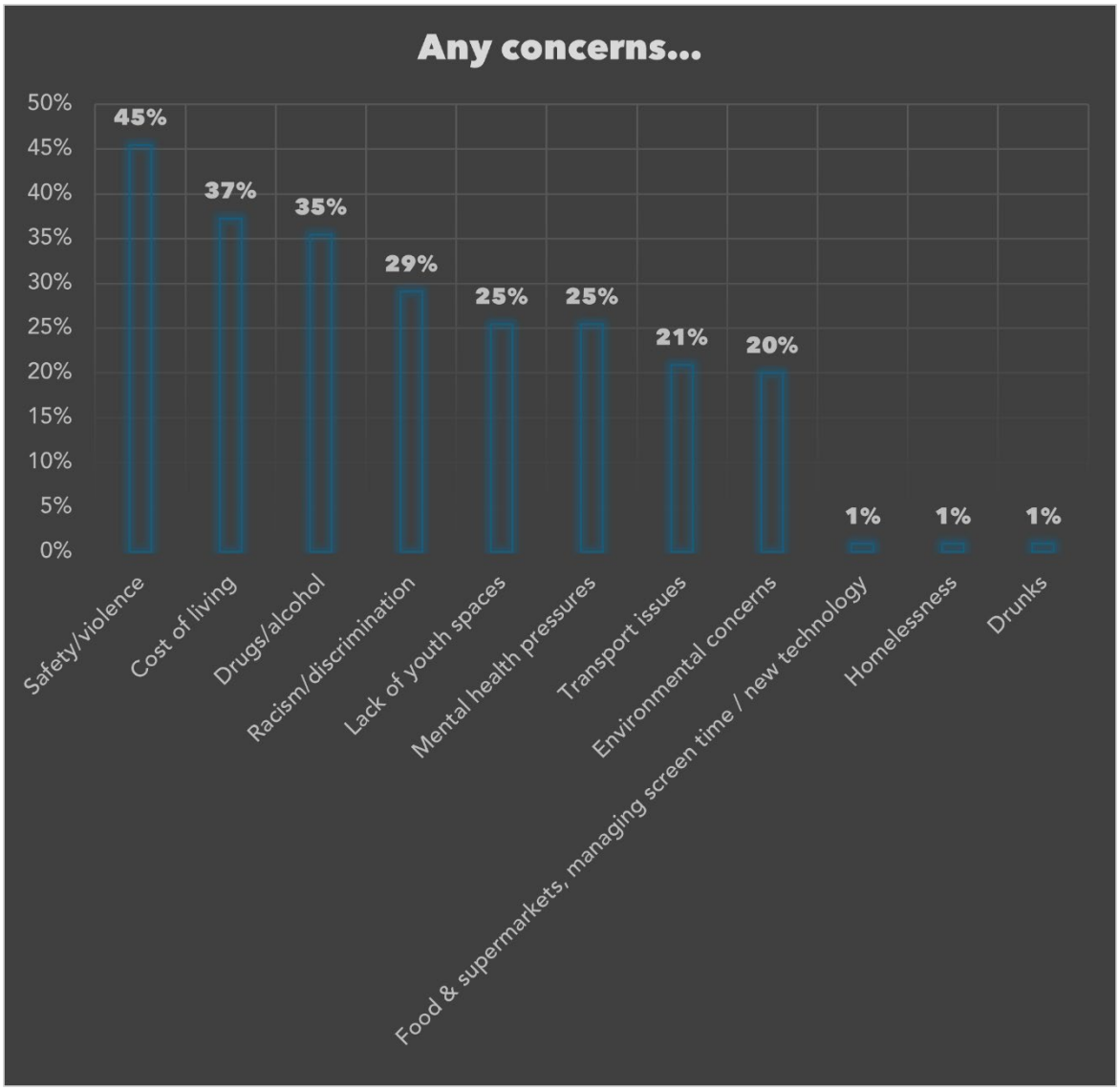
Ethnicity



- Strong representation of **Māori (27%)** and **Pacific communities (Samoan 10%, Tongan, Fijian, etc.)**
- Notable diversity across many smaller groups
- **24% preferred not to say**

Insight:
The data reflects the **super-diverse reality of West Auckland**, with a strong Māori and Pacific presence. The high "prefer not to say" response reinforces the importance of **trust-based, mana-enhancing engagement approaches**—young people are sceptical of how ethnicity-based narratives might be crafted from data they share in public spaces like activations.

Key Concerns



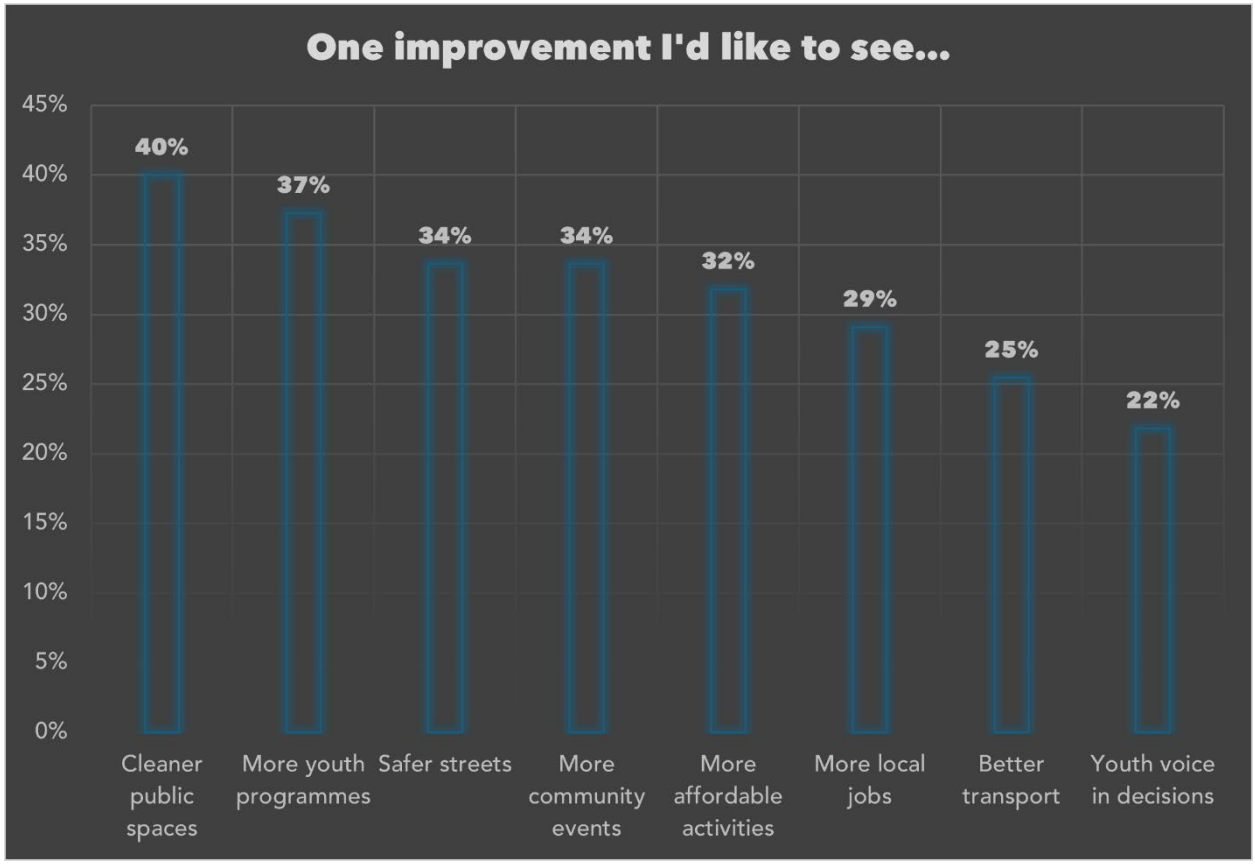
Top concerns identified:

1. **Safety/violence (45%)**
2. **Cost of living (37%)**
3. **Drugs/alcohol (35%)**
4. **Racism/discrimination (29%)**
5. **Lack of youth spaces & mental health pressures (25%)**

Insight:

- Safety is the most dominant concern, signalling that **physical and emotional safety in public spaces is not guaranteed for many rangatahi**.
- Cost of living appearing this high suggests young people are **acutely aware of household stress and economic pressure**.
- Social issues (racism, drugs, mental health) are interconnected, pointing to a need for **holistic, community-wide responses rather than isolated interventions**.

Improvements Young People Want



Top priorities:

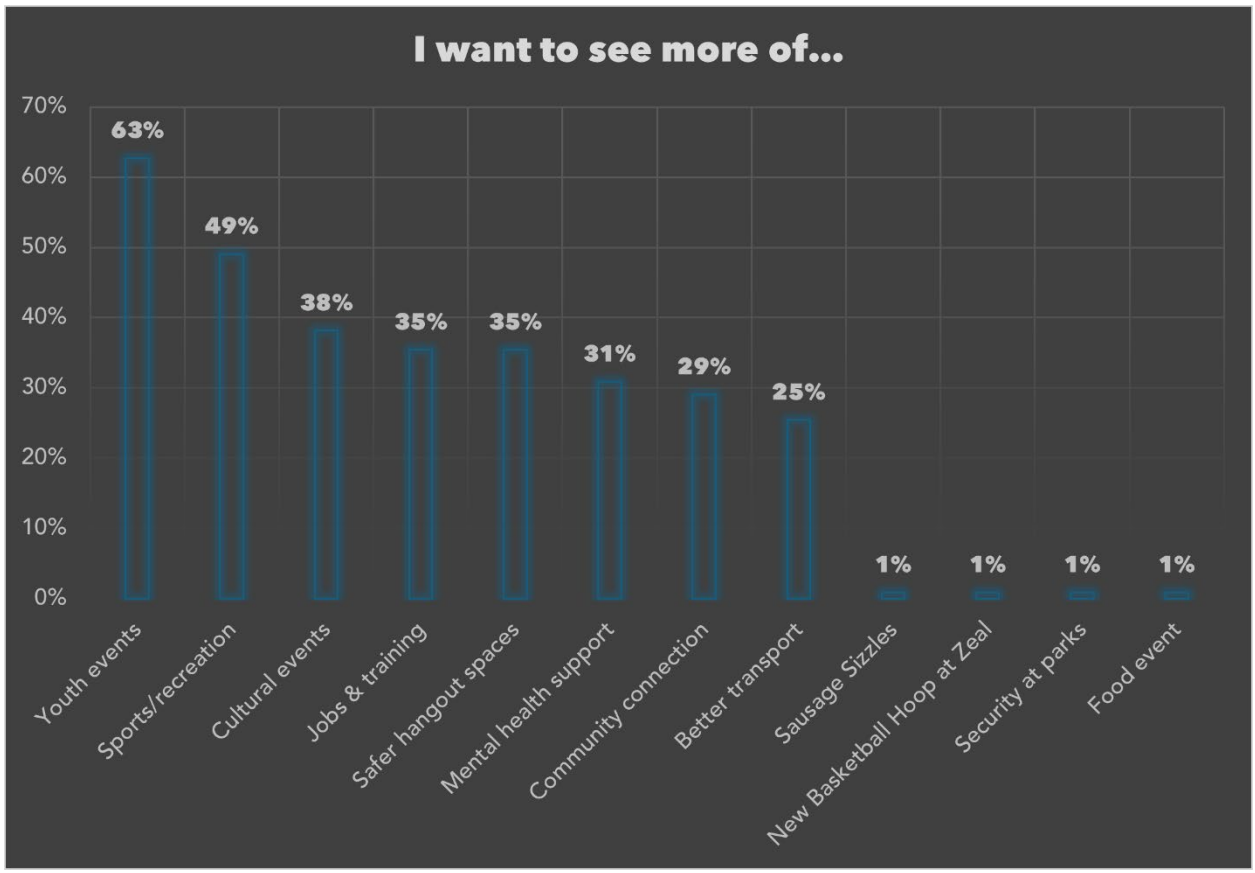
- **Cleaner public spaces (40%)**
- **More youth programmes (37%)**
- **Safer streets (34%)**
- **More community events (34%)**
- **More affordable activities (32%)**

Insight:
Young people are asking for **visible, practical improvements**:

- Environments that feel safe and cared for
- More structured opportunities to engage positively
- Affordable access to activities

This reinforces that **activation + environment + accessibility** must work together.

What Young People Want More Of



Top responses:

- **Youth events (63%)**
- **Sports/recreation (49%)**
- **Cultural events (38%)**
- **Jobs & training (35%)**
- **Safer hangout spaces (35%)**

Insight:
There is a clear call for:

- **More things to do**
- **More places to belong**
- **More pathways into the future (jobs/training)**

Notably, **events and activation rank highest**, showing that well-designed, youth-led experiences are a powerful engagement tool—but they must connect into **ongoing opportunities and spaces** to sustain impact.

Overall Themes (Synthesis)

Across all graphs, three consistent themes emerge:

1. Safety + Belonging

Young people want to feel safe in public spaces and have places where they belong. Safety concerns are not abstract—they are lived realities.

2. Access + Affordability

Cost is a real barrier. There is strong demand for **free or low-cost programmes, events, and activities**.

3. Connection + Opportunity

Rangatahi are seeking:

- connection (events, culture, community),
- expression (youth spaces),
- and future pathways (jobs, training).

Implications for Local Boards

- Invest in **youth activation as both engagement and prevention**
- Prioritise **safe, well-maintained, youth-friendly public spaces**
- Support **cross-board collaboration** to reflect real movement patterns
- Increase **accessible programmes and events**, particularly low-cost/free
- Strengthen **pathways into employment and skills development**
- Continue to resource **mana-enhancing, relationship-based engagement approaches**

Other observations

- Notably, around 1 in 5 rangatahi showed consistently high engagement across all response areas, indicating a group who are both highly motivated to participate and experiencing layered challenges—representing a key cohort for deeper engagement, co-design, and leadership opportunities.
- Responses showed a strong alignment between identified concerns and desired improvements, indicating that rangatahi have a clear understanding of both the challenges they face and the types of solutions that would make a meaningful difference.
- Mental health support was frequently selected alongside connection-based responses, reinforcing that rangatahi view wellbeing as strongly linked to belonging, safe environments, and opportunities to engage.
- The concept of 'youth spaces' extended beyond physical locations, encompassing safety, belonging, structured activities, and opportunities for connection.
- Transport emerged as an enabling factor, frequently selected alongside participation-based opportunities, suggesting it acts as a key barrier to access rather than a standalone concern.
- Cost of living pressures were identified even among younger respondents, indicating that economic stress is being felt at a household level and shaping young people's experiences.
- Qualitative responses highlighted concerns about safety in public spaces, including exposure to antisocial behaviour and a desire for increased visible safety measures.
- Interest in jobs and training opportunities signals a strong aspiration among rangatahi for pathways into employment and independence.
- Open-ended responses ranged from practical, place-based suggestions to broader social concerns, reflecting both immediate lived experience and wider awareness of community issues.
- A subset of respondents indicated multiple overlapping concerns, highlighting the importance of integrated, holistic responses to support young people experiencing more complex challenges.

Overall, the data shows that rangatahi are not only highly aware of the challenges in their communities, but are also clear and consistent in the solutions they are seeking—centred on safety, connection, opportunity, and access.