

Annual Plan 2026/2027

Written Feedback

Regional Organisations

Volume 2

April 2026

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Annual Plan 2026-2027

#3920

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: Auckland North Community and Development Inc

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

Support most

Tell us why

It will contribute to the essential infrastructure of the city. Local board budgetary plans vary considerably. We support some of these local board plans but not all.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

These are reasonable and will support investment in community facilities, infrastructure and environment.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Devonport-Takapuna

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current local board strategy appears to place disproportionate emphasis on reducing funding for community organisations. This approach risks undermining the very foundations that support local participation, neighbourhood safety, social cohesion, and community wellbeing.

A strategy that relies heavily on cutting community investment is neither balanced nor sustainable. Community organisations are essential partners in delivering local services efficiently and responsively, often achieving outcomes that Council cannot deliver on its own.

We strongly encourage a more balanced and future-focused approach—one that protects and strengthens investment across a range of community-focused categories. Maintaining support for community organisations ensures stronger local networks, safer environments, and greater opportunities for residents to participate and thrive.

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering changes to service levels or fees. What do you think about the proposed changes?

A. Reduced maintenance of bollards and fencing, stop scheduled maintenance for bush area (except High Value/Ecological areas), reduced service level for amenity gardens and planted areas, and reclassifying re-vegetation areas to bush areas.

Support

B. Reduced library hours over 7 days.

Support

C. Reduced local board funding to local organisations that deliver local events.

Do not support

D. Reduced budget available for contestable grants.

Do not support

E. Reduced funding for organisations that deliver support and services for seniors, youth, ethnic communities, sport and recreation and community wellbeing.

Do not support

F.Reduced funding support for The Depot, Devonport Museum, The Lake House, The Michael King Writers Centre, North Shore Brass, The Pumphouse and The Rose Centre.

Do not support

G. Reduced funding for parks volunteers.

Do not support

H. Reduced funding support for environmental restoration, planting, pest management, and waste minimisation.

Do not support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Reduced funding for community organisations: While cost-saving measures are undoubtedly necessary, reducing funding to community organisations is neither the most effective nor the most equitable way to achieve these savings. Community funding represents only a very small proportion of both the Auckland Council and local board budgets, yet the proposed reductions carry disproportionately large and long-term negative impacts.

Cutting this funding undermines community facilities, weakens engagement, and reduces volunteer participation—all of which are key contributors to wellbeing, safety, social cohesion, and local board plan outcomes. Over the past three to five years, many community organisations have already experienced substantial funding cuts from the local board, directly affecting their ability to deliver services and maintain community participation. Further reductions risk eroding the very community infrastructure that Council relies on.

We strongly encourage decision-makers to identify savings in areas with higher discretionary spend rather than targeting community organisations whose budgets are already stretched. These organisations generate significant economic and social value: they contribute meaningfully to local

GDP, strengthen the local economy, and deliver essential services far more efficiently than council can provide alone.

Greater recognition and a more informed understanding of the vital role community organisations play—economically, socially, and strategically—is needed. Protecting their funding is not simply an expense; it is an investment in resilient communities and in the successful delivery of the local board plan.

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

We support these initiatives

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?
(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
3	**Economic development and events –** growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
1	**Local parks, community and recreation services –** local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
5	**Planning and infrastructure to manage growth –** planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.

2	**Regional parks and environment –** looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
6	**Transport –** roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
4	**Flood resilience –** reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

Council has made significant investment in staffing to support community and recreation services. To maximise the value of this investment, it is essential to also increase direct investment in the communities and community organisations that these staff work alongside. Strengthening funding and support at the community level will enable these organisations to deliver outcomes more efficiently and sustainably.Over time, this approach will help shift council's role back toward empowering community-led initiatives, reducing the need for high levels of ongoing council staffing and intensive operational support. Investing directly in community capability and leadership creates stronger local ownership, improves service responsiveness, and represents a more cost-effective and resilient long-term model for delivering community and recreation outcomes.

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Events and city life – attract people to the city centre through events, culture and a strong sense of place.,Māori identity and culture – reflect and celebrate Māori identity and culture throughout the city centre.,Streets and public spaces – improve streets, parks and public spaces so the city centre is a great place to live and spend time in.,Supporting businesses – help businesses succeed by making them easier to access by attracting more visitors to the city with well-designed streets and public spaces.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#3993

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Submitter details:

Organisation: Ngā Tamariki Puāwai o Tāmaki Auckland Kindergarten Association

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

N/A

Tell us why

N/A

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

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

- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?
(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

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

	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

Sustaining community leases for AKA kindergartens - so we can maintain affordable, quality early early childhood education regardless of income

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

27 March 2026

Ngā Tamariki Puāwai o Tāmaki | Auckland Kindergarten Association (AKA) is a not-for-profit charitable trust providing quality, accessible early education to up to 10,000 two to five-year-old tamariki in neighbourhoods across the city. We have a Ngāti Whātua appointed Board Director, and serve many Māori whānau, as well as those of Pasifika, NZ-European, Chinese, Indian, and other heritages.

Our 112 kindergartens and centres are found in most Local Board areas: Albert-Eden, Devonport-Takapuna, Franklin, Henderson-Massey, Howick , Kaipātiki, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Ōrākei, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Puketāpapa, Rodney, Upper Harbour, Waiheke, Waitākere Ranges, Waitematā, and Whau. We serve many families who are ratepayers and voters in these areas.

With a revenue of $74m, a staff of 1000, and property contractors looking after our 112 sites, we contribute substantially to the economic strength of Tāmaki Makaurau. However, we have faced unprecedented cost pressures in the past few years including Covid-19, floods and inflation. We have operated with a deficit recently and have needed to cut costs.

We have relied on the support of Auckland Council since our beginnings in 1908, in particular the generosity of mayors such as Sir John Logan Campbell and Sir Arthur Myers. Community leases have enabled us to provide affordable early childhood education to tamariki from a range of social, economic and ethnic backgrounds, contributing to their lifelong learning and the prosperity of Tāmaki Makaurau.

We ask that Auckland Council and Local Boards:

- Continue to support our community leases. With more families under financial constraints, our low fees are needed, and are made possible with support through a mix of Auckland Council and Government leases;
- Consider the needs of young children and whānau in planning decisions around transport, and safe parking. Parents and whānau need to be able to park nearby in order to drop off and pick up children, but available parking is disappearing. We are not the same as schools – two-year-olds cannot walk long distances and need full supervision. They must be checked in and out of kindergarten by a parent or whānau;
- Consider the needs of young children and whānau in development. Additional traffic, inability to park, additional construction vehicles have have an outsize impact on whether whānau are able to physically access early childhood education facilities. Noise and pollution adversely impact young children and ECE staff; and construction vehicles block footpaths and can impede visibility and safety;
- Consider the needs of young children in emergency situations e.g, evacuating tamariki from floods takes longer than evacuating older children or adults. ECE settings need timely notifications and updates, but we are often overlooked in emergency communications;
- Continue to support Enviroschools. We have 47 Enviroschools teaching tamariki, kaiako and whānau about sustainability of people, place and things. It is a highly valued programme that aligns well with the national curriculum Te Whāriki;
- Protect the safety of Auckland's youngest residents e.g safe traffic speeds, safe scooter use, fewer environmental hazards eg industrial fires nearby ECEs impact children with toxic particles;
- Continue to support cultural events and play experiences equitably for children across the city. Multi-age experiences foster well-being and belonging, along with wider educational benefits;

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- Improve lighting in areas where there are kindergartens and ECE centres. Make our dark streets safer for our mostly female workforce;
- Communicate in a timely way any measures that may impact AKA's ongoing financial viability e.g we had no prior information about backflow prevention valves and charges. We are unable to pass those costs on to whānau;
- Waste disposal: we value Council's support in disposing of kindergarten waste in a timely way. Uncollected nappies pose a health hazard in the residential areas where we operate;
- Local Board members and Ward Councillors: we appreciate your support, whether it is helping with a problem, sharing information about development; celebrating our kindergarten milestones, and encouraging participation in early childhood education.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

[redacted]

[redacted]
CEO

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4030

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: Netball Northern Zone

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

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

Support most

Tell us why

Netball Northern supports the overall direction of the Annual Plan, particularly continued investment in community infrastructure, sports capacity development and the Sports and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund. These are critical to supporting participation in community sport across Auckland.However, we do not support all aspects of the plan due to the limited recognition of outdoor court sports, including netball, which supports high and growing participation numbers across women and girls. The plan places strong emphasis on sports fields and major facilities, while the capacity, condition and resilience of outdoor courts, lighting and

supporting amenities are not explicitly addressed.We are also concerned about ongoing operational funding pressures at local board level, including potential reductions to grants, maintenance and sport activation, which risk undermining volunteer-led community sport delivery. Netball Northern encourages stronger alignment between growth planning, local board funding decisions and the provision of fit-for-purpose netball facilities to ensure participation can be sustained and grown.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Albert-Eden,Devonport-Takapuna,Hibiscus and Bays,Howick,Kaipātiki,Māngere-Ōtāhuhu,Rodney,Upper Harbour

Albert-Eden Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

We strongly support the investigation into covered outdoor sport courts and recommend netball be considered a priority use due to its high participation and reliance on outdoor hardcourt infrastructure.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment and changes to services, fees and charges?

A. Restoration planning for Waititiko / Meola Creek, to leverage the improvements in water quality that will be achieved through the Central Interceptor.

I don't know

B. Investigating how to respond to future growth expected in our area.

Support

C. Trialling free off-peak access for Gold Card holders to swim at Mt Albert Aquatic Centre.

I don't know

3. Kingsland Business Society Inc is proposing to expand the geographic boundary of its Business Improvement District programme to include areas around the north end of Morningside Drive, and to increase the amount of targeted rate funds to be collected from $245,000 to $370,000 per year. If it is successful, ratepayers of business properties located within the BID expansion area will be required to pay the associated BID targeted rate. Do you support this proposal?

Tell us why

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Do not support most

Tell us why

We are concerned that reductions to grants and recreation funding may have unintended consequences for community sport organisations delivering high participation programmes, including netball.

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering changes to service levels or fees. What do you think about the proposed changes?

A. Reduced maintenance of bollards and fencing, stop scheduled maintenance for bush area (except High Value/Ecological areas), reduced service level for amenity gardens and planted areas, and reclassifying re-vegetation areas to bush areas.

B. Reduced library hours over 7 days.

C. Reduced local board funding to local organisations that deliver local events.

Do not support

D. Reduced budget available for contestable grants.

Do not support

E. Reduced funding for organisations that deliver support and services for seniors, youth, ethnic communities, sport and recreation and community wellbeing.

Do not support

F.Reduced funding support for The Depot, Devonport Museum, The Lake House, The Michael King Writers Centre, North Shore Brass, The Pumphouse and The Rose Centre.

G. Reduced funding for parks volunteers.

H. Reduced funding support for environmental restoration, planting, pest management, and waste minimisation.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

We strongly support the investigation into outdoor court provision and indoor court support in Hibiscus and Bays. Netball would welcome early engagement to ensure future facilities meet participation demand, lighting standards and year-round usability.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment and changes to fees and charges?

A. 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.

B. Supporting community access to a wide range of recreational opportunities through investigating new capex projects such as outdoor court provision and increasing support for indoor court provision through facilities grants.

Support

C. Creating safer town centres and other public spaces through actions such as an increased support for community safety and placemaking.

D. 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.

E. Introducing changes to a range of fees in pools and leisure centres, including casual recreation, dry and aquatic group fitness and pool lane hire to better align fees across our sites.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Howick Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

As sheltered and indoor court options are explored in Flat Bush, we encourage early inclusion of netball requirements to ensure any facilities are multi-use, fit-for-purpose and accessible to community clubs and schools. We also recommend the inclusion of exploring sheltered courts at Howick Pakuranga Netball Centre.

2. What do you think about the proposed local board specific key areas of spend?

A. Explore ways to get the best value from our play spaces so they continue to meet the needs of children and families.

B. Run regular seminars for community groups/organisations on the local grant's application process.

C. Identify what type of indoor/sheltered courts are necessary to support sports play in Flat Bush.

Support

D. Continue advocacy of the Tāmaki estuary on water quality and coastal erosion.

E. Continue to advocate to crime prevention organisations on behalf of the community for ongoing safety initiatives.

F. Continue to support our volunteer groups with resources needed for ecological volunteering, such as stream clean-ups and pest plant weeding.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Kaipātiki Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

As investment is directed to enable sport participation, we encourage Kaipātiki Local Board to ensure outdoor court sports such as netball are equally prioritised alongside sports fields.

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

We support efforts to maintain local services in areas with high participation in community sport, and encourage decision-makers to carefully consider the affordability impacts of targeted rates and fee increases on netball participation.

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering a Local Services Targeted Rate, changes to service levels or fees, or a combination of both approaches. We could introduce a Local Services Targeted Rate of $47.11 (GST inclusive) per Separately Used or Inhabited Part per annum on all rateable properties except those categorised as zero-rated in the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area ($0.91 cent per week) to cover the increased cost of delivering existing services. What do you think about this proposal?

3. We could adjust some service levels, fees and charges. What do you think about the proposed changes?

A. Reduce library hours - reduce hours at our four libraries as needed, without going below the regional minimum service level of 44 hours over 6 days at each library.

B. Reduce maintenance - Stop scheduled bollard and post-and-rail maintenance, stop scheduled maintenance for bush areas (except High Value/Ecological), change garden edging to chemical application, cease infill planting and mulching in amenity gardens and reclassify re-vegetation areas to bush areas.

C. Reduce discretionary funding for Community Wellbeing programmes and services, Environment Management programmes and services and community grants.

Do not support

D. Increase pools and leisure fees - Increase fees and charges by $1 for "Plus" services at Moana-Nui-ā-Kiwa Pool and Leisure Centre.

E. Charge adult visitors from outside the local board area at Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa Pool and Leisure Centre and Ōtāhuhu Pool and Leisure Centre (Toia).

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

4. Overall, how do you think the local board should address the cost increases?

A combination of a Local Service Targeted Rate and reductions to current service levels and/or increases to fees and charges

Rodney Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

With continued population growth in Rodney, we encourage greater focus on developing new netball courts and upgrading existing ones to meet current and future demand.

Upper Harbour Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

We support investment in sport infrastructure in Upper Harbour and encourage explicit inclusion of netball courts when delivering lighting, changing room and amenity upgrades at key sports parks.

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering changes to service levels or fees. What do you think about the proposed changes to service levels and fees and charges?

A. Reduce maintenance activities may include stopping scheduled work on bollards, post-and-rails, and low-value bush areas, ceasing amenity garden infill planting and mulching, and reclassifying re-vegetation areas as bush.

B. Reduce grants funding.

Do not support

C. Reduce funding across all programmes and projects including environmental outcomes, events and activations, cycling initiatives and community outcomes.

Do not support

D. Increase the fees and charges for Albany Stadium Pool: Option 1: Increase casual swim and swim plus fees by $1 (Fees will range from $5.00 - $11.40)

E. Increase the fees and charges for Albany Stadium Pool: Option 2: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee by $1 (Fees will become $2)

F. Increase the fees and charges for Albany Stadium Pool: Option 3: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee by $4 (Fees will become $5)

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

Across multiple local boards, Netball Northern encourages greater recognition of outdoor court sports within local decision-making. Netball courts require similar investment in lighting, drainage, surfacing and amenities as sports fields but are often overlooked. Stronger inclusion will support participation, equity and year-round use of council assets.

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?
(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
5	**Economic development and events –** growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.

1	**Local parks, community and recreation services –** local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
2	**Planning and infrastructure to manage growth –** planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
6	**Regional parks and environment –** looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
3	**Transport –** roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
4	**Flood resilience –** reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4239

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: Creative New Zealand

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

Other

Tell us why

Auckland Council plays an essential role in supporting arts and culture across the Auckland region. The Annual Plan is an important opportunity for Council to build its investment in the arts and unlock their economic and social benefits.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

Auckland Council plays an essential role in supporting arts and culture across the Auckland region. The Annual Plan is an important opportunity for Council to build its investment in the arts and unlock their economic and social benefits.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

In your Annual Plan for 2026/27, we encourage Council to prioritise investment in the following. o Cultural programmes, public art and venues that enhance the city centre and activate public spaces, such as by adopting a ‘percentage for art’ policy or involving artists in developing infrastructure projects that helps to not only enliven public spaces but improve public safety. It is fantastic to see the City Rail Link stations showcase Māori design and storytelling, with ngā toi representing unique features of Tāmaki Makaurau. o Developing viable creative pathways for artists and arts organisations to grow Auckland’s local economy, through better financial support, economic sustainability and accessible creative spaces. We strongly encourage Council to prioritise interventions that support these pathways, including making council-owned venues available to arts communities to use free of charge or at reduced rates for rehearsing, developing and presenting work. Dedicated spaces for Māori and Pacific peoples in local areas are also crucial cultural centres for whānau, hapū, iwi and the wider community. o Supporting events and festivals that boost economic development through support for local businesses and tourism, throughout Auckland’s local communities. Smaller festivals and events are essential to build the skills, knowledge and expertise that support bigger events such as Pasifika and larger musicals, concerts and exhibitions. o Ensure investment reaches across the wider arts ecosystem, including creative infrastructure in the city working closely with creative communities on their operation and delivery. This includes ensuring facilities resource and 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.We strongly encourage Council to ensure the

Annual Plan builds on findings in The Arts Matter and continues to embed the vision and directions of Toi Whītiki.We strongly encourage Council to invest in ngā toi Māori in the Annual Plan, as Council's support is a crucial part of ensuring ngā toi is being produced, enjoyed and celebrated.See attachment for full submission.

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

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6011

27 March 2026

Auckland Council – AK Have Your Say

By email to: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

E te Kaunihera, tēnā koutou katoa

Submission to: Auckland Council Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau

Subject: **Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027**

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

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's draft Annual Plan 2026/2027.

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

3. Auckland Council plays an essential role in supporting arts and culture across the Auckland region. The **Annual Plan is an important opportunity for Council to build its investment in the arts** and unlock their economic and social benefits.

4. We thank Council for its ongoing support of arts, ngā toi, culture and creativity in Tāmaki Makaurau, and look forward to continuing to work with you to realise the sector's enormous potential.

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

5. Auckland has its own creative heartbeat. From music and murals to festivals, galleries, libraries, community centres 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 shows that Aucklanders recognise the economic and social benefits of the arts.[1]

   - 75 percent of Aucklanders agree that the arts create jobs, both in and around the creative industries, and the majority agree that the arts contribute positively to our economy.
   - Over half of Aucklanders value the arts for creating opportunities to socialise and connect.
   - 69 percent of Aucklanders agree 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.

Supporting arts and culture in Auckland delivers social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits

9. We know councils around the country are facing significant pressures, with tight budgets and growing community expectations meaning Annual Plans are carefully designed to deliver value. Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi are part of the solution.

10. 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.[2] These include 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

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[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

[2] Auckland Council, *The Arts Matter*, 2026.

- spark innovation and learning with creative practice building skills including imagination, problem solving and learning.

11. The arts contribute $17.5 billion into New Zealand's economy, 4.2 percent of our total GDP. [3] 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.

12. However, this growth relies on a strong arts ecosystem, and the sector is facing challenges. 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,[4] 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.

13. Despite these uncertainties and constraints, Auckland's artists, ringatoi, practitioners and arts organisations are creating and presenting transformative arts and ngā toi, uplifting and showcasing the city around the country and to the world.

14. This includes Basement Theatre, a multidisciplinary performing arts venue that has been a welcoming hub for artists and audiences at the heart of Auckland's central city since 2009. With a strong reputation as a vital arts institution, it contributes to a more diverse, creative and liveable Auckland through accessible, community-focused programming and supporting professional creative practice. It relies on Auckland Council's support through venue subsidies and strategic grant funding, including the City Centre Activation Fund, alongside partnerships with other creative organisations including Creative New Zealand.

15. Auckland Council's investment is crucial to build a resilient arts and cultural sector in the region. This not only involves vital funding for activities and programmes, but also

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[3] Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture & Heritage, Arts and Creative Industry Profile Report 2024: https://www.mch.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-03/arts-and-creative-industry-profile-report-2024.pdf

[4] 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.

providing venues, relationships, and development opportunities to stimulate civic engagement, economic growth and sense of place.

16. In your Annual Plan for 2026/27, we encourage Council to prioritise investment in the following.

    - Cultural programmes, public art and venues that **enhance the city centre and activate public spaces**, such as by adopting a 'percentage for art' policy or involving artists in developing infrastructure projects that helps to not only enliven public spaces but improve public safety. It is fantastic to see the City Rail Link stations showcase Māori design and storytelling, with ngā toi representing unique features of Tāmaki Makaurau.
    - Developing viable creative pathways for artists and arts organisations to **grow Auckland's local economy**, through better financial support, economic sustainability and accessible creative spaces. We strongly encourage Council to prioritise interventions that support these pathways, including making council-owned venues available to arts communities to use free of charge or at reduced rates for rehearsing, developing and presenting work. Dedicated spaces for Māori and Pacific peoples in local areas are also crucial cultural centres for whānau, hapū, iwi and the wider community.
    - Supporting events and festivals that **boost economic development through support for local businesses and tourism**, throughout Auckland's local communities. Smaller festivals and events are essential to build the skills, knowledge and expertise that support bigger events such as Pasifika and larger musicals, concerts and exhibitions.
    - Ensure **investment reaches across the wider arts ecosystem**, including creative infrastructure in the city working closely with creative communities on their operation and delivery. This includes ensuring facilities resource and 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.

17. Auckland Council has a strong foundation for supporting arts and culture in the Annual Plan. It is fantastic to see the Council's recently launch its commissioned *The Arts Matter* research, with findings that highlight the Council's strengths in supporting the arts and

areas for future success. *Toi Whītiki*, the Council's Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan, also set out a fantastic, community-led and region-wide roadmap.

18. We strongly encourage Council to ensure the Annual Plan builds on findings in *The Arts Matter* and continues to embed the vision and directions of *Toi Whītiki*.

Local board priorities

19. We strongly encourage local boards to prioritise investment in arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori as important community services in 2026/27. While the new local board funding model will enable some local boards to increase their support for arts and culture (including Franklin and Rodney), others are proposing reduced funding for local events, arts facilities and programmes (including Devonport-Takapuna and Papakura).

20. Our research demonstrates that Aucklanders place considerable value on the arts at a community level.[5] Arts and cultural programmes and services support local board priorities, including employment for rangatahi, celebrating diverse communities, and Māori outcomes, among many others. To ensure these programmes continue to serve crucial community functions, local boards' prioritisation of arts and culture in the coming year is essential.

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

21. Te reo, mātauranga Māori and ngā toi Māori are central to Auckland's unique identity, as the largest Māori city in the world. As noted in *The Arts Matter*, Te Tiriti-centered practices and uplifting ngā toi Māori are important enablers for the Council's delivery of outcomes. 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.

22. **We strongly encourage Council to invest in ngā toi Māori in the Annual Plan, as Council's support is a crucial part of ensuring ngā toi is being produced, enjoyed and celebrated.** This includes dedicated funding and leadership of ngā toi Māori in Council to build cultural capability. Decision-makers should also consider prioritising partnerships with iwi and hapū to build well-resourced, thriving and visible ngā toi Māori practice and Māori cultural institutions.

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5 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

23. Tātaki Auckland Unlimited's collaboration with iwi Te Kawerau ā Maki to develop Te Puna Creative Innovation Quarter in Henderson has been an exciting development, as a world-class hub for screen, video gaming, creative tech, music, arts and performing arts. Auckland City's *The State of the City 2024* report highlights Te Puna as an example of the importance of 'clearly visible precincts and inclusive centres of gravity in Auckland that harness heritage, diversity and a mix of spaces.'[6]

24. The report further finds that Māori and Pacific peoples make valuable and dynamic contributions to Auckland's economy, yet remain underrepresented in the creative and innovation sectors. Council's support for wider and more inclusive participation of Māori and Pacific peoples in Auckland's creative and innovation sectors will support these parts of the economy to grow, attract diverse investment and create strong jobs.

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

25. We highly value Auckland Council as a partner 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.

26. In these uncertain and constrained times, our collective approach will ensure the creative sector and ngā toi can deliver value to the city's residents, businesses and visitors alike.

27. 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 who hold relationships with mana whenua and will lead local arts development and capability building, set their own priorities and make funding decisions.

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

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[6] Auckland City, *State of the City Report Auckland 2024*: https://aucklandeconomicdevelopment.com/economy-and-insights/research-and-reports/state-of-the-city-report-auckland-2024

29. 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, ringatoi and practitioners 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 it 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

30. 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 our funding, development, advocacy, leadership and partnership initiatives.

31. 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.

32. Our direct support for arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi in Auckland includes the following.

    - Funding for over **30 major Auckland-based arts organisations**, including orchestras, theatre companies, festivals, opera, craft/object and art galleries, dance companies, publishers and residencies, through multi-year investment programmes. The total value of these contracts in 2026 is **$11.36 million**. This investment equates to approximately 33 percent of total investment through these programmes.
    - 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.
    - Project-based funding to Auckland-based artists, arts practitioners and arts organisations to support a range of activities. In 2024/25, this funding **totalled $6.9 million** to support **136 projects**. This investment equates to approximately 26 percent of total investment through these programmes.

33. We also work strategically with key investors in Auckland's creative sector, including Auckland Council, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, Foundation North and Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi through the Auckland Arts Investors Forum, to help coordinate our investment in Auckland-based arts.

Final thoughts

34. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on Council's Annual Plan. We share your aspirations for Auckland and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

35. We're soon to co-host *All in for Arts—He waka toi e eke noa nei tātou* in Auckland, with the Arts Foundation.[7] It's always a vibrant event and a powerful space for bringing the Auckland creative community together, and to hear from locals about how arts and creativity impact their lives every day.

36. 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 not as a luxury but as a foundation for belonging, for identity, for innovation and community resilience.' We wholeheartedly agree.

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

Name: [redacted]

Position: [redacted]

[redacted]

Contact: [redacted]

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, nā

[redacted]

[7] https://www.thearts.co.nz/events/all-in-for-arts-2026

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4245

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: Honour the Maunga

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

N/A

Tell us why

N/A

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

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

- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

While Honour the Maunga has no issue with native revegetation in itself, we do not support the Operational Plan and Budget's vegetation restoration programme's intention to rid Ōwairaka and other maunga of non-native trees.The Authority's plans to rid Auckland's maunga of non-native trees remains a highly unpopular and divisive action so we call upon the draft annual operational plan and budget to be amended to delete references to, and budget for, felling healthy mature trees and to instead divert those funds into positive, unifying and constructive activities.

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?
(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4267

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: Disability Connect Incorporated

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

Support most

Tell us why

Based on our Annual Members Survey, we have around 5,800 members including disabled people, families, professionals and organisations who share our information widely. 69.7% are Parent/Guardian of a child/children with a disability. Disability Connect supports the intention to strengthen Auckland's financial resilience and invest in essential infrastructure. However, the plan does not adequately reflect the lived realities of disabled people and their families, who make up a significant part of Auckland's population and face ongoing barriers to participation, mobility and community inclusion.While we understand the financial pressures created by the City Rail Link and

the need for sustainable funding, accessibility and inclusion are not clearly embedded across the plan. Major investments in transport, parks, community facilities and urban development will only deliver fair outcomes if accessibility is intentionally designed, funded and measured.Disabled people and their families rely heavily on public transport, accessible community facilities, safe footpaths, inclusive parks and clear communication. The plan does not commit to universal design, co-design with disabled communities, or measurable accessibility outcomes.We support the overall direction but urge the council to integrate disability inclusion into every investment area so disabled Aucklanders can live the lives they choose.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

Based on our Annual Members Survey, we have around 5,800 members including disabled people, families, professionals and organisations who share our information widely. 69.7% are Parent/Guardian of a child/children with a disability.Disability Connect supports the intention to strengthen Auckland's financial resilience and invest in essential infrastructure. However, the plan does not adequately reflect the lived realities of disabled people and their families, who make up a significant part of Auckland's population and face ongoing barriers to participation, mobility and community inclusion.While we understand the financial pressures created by the City Rail Link and the need for sustainable funding, accessibility and inclusion are not clearly embedded across the plan. Major investments in transport, parks, community facilities and urban development will only deliver fair outcomes if accessibility is intentionally designed, funded and measured.Disabled people and their families rely heavily on public transport, accessible community facilities, safe footpaths, inclusive parks and clear communication. The plan does not commit to universal design, co-design with disabled communities, or measurable accessibility outcomes.We support the overall direction but urge the council to integrate disability inclusion into every investment area so disabled Aucklanders can live the lives they choose.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

Disability Connect encourages all local boards to• prioritise accessibility upgrades in community centres, libraries, playgrounds and parks• progress plans for at least one accessible path in every regional park and one local park for each local board without delay. Advancing at least one accessible track in regional parks is an important component of the 10 year annual plan. It is disappointing to see little progress in the planning or provision of accessible walking tracks, including signage, signalled in the current plans for regional parks and local boards.• invest in safe footpaths, lighting and crossings that support mobility-impaired residents• embed co-design with disabled people and families in all local projects• ensure local events, facilities and communications are accessible, including NZSL, Easy Read, plain language and audio formats.Local boards are closest to communities and play an important role in removing everyday barriers.Disability Connect is concerned that the plan• does not identify systemic barriers faced by disabled people and their families and whanau.• does not commit to universal design or accessibility standards• does not provide accessible versions of key documents• delays long-standing accessibility goals such as accessible tracks in regional parks• does not include disability-specific measures in major capital projects.We recommend• a dedicated Accessibility Action Plan with measurable targets• mandatory accessibility assessments for all capital projects• co-design with disability organisations• prioritised funding for accessibility upgrades in parks, transport and community facilities• clear accountability for delivering inclusive outcomes.Auckland cannot be a truly inclusive city unless disabled people and their families are fully considered in planning, investment and design. The Annual Plan 2026/2027 is strong in its financial and infrastructure focus, but it lacks clear commitments to accessibility, universal design and disability inclusion.Disability Connect urges Auckland Council to embed accessibility across all investment areas, accelerate overdue accessibility upgrades, and work in genuine partnership with disabled people and their families to create a city where everyone can live the life they choose.See attachment for full submission and supporting evidence.

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
6	**Economic development and events –** growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
2	**Local parks, community and recreation services –** local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
3	**Planning and infrastructure to manage growth –** planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
4	**Regional parks and environment –** looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
1	**Transport –** roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
5	**Flood resilience –** reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

• Universal design in all transport, parks and community facility upgrades• Accessible footpaths, crossings and bus stops• One accessible path in every regional park• Accessible communication formats, including NZSL, Easy Read and plain language• Co-design with disabled people and families• Investment in accessible toilets, changing facilities and mobility-friendly spaces• Ensuring all new infrastructure is future-proofed for accessibility.These priorities directly support choice, autonomy and self-determination for disabled people. For many disabled people and their families remaining in place is the most likely strategy in the event of a disaster. Committing to accessible infrastructure supports community resilience and should be prioritised as a matter of urgency.

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Better connections – improve links between the city centre, the waterfront and nearby neighbourhoods.,Getting around – make it easier to walk, drive, cycle and use public transport in the city centre and from east to west, including better traffic flow.,Safety – a safer and more welcoming city centre, both day and night, for residents, workers and visitors.,Streets and public

spaces – improve streets, parks and public spaces so the city centre is a great place to live and spend time in.

These optional questions help us understand who is engaging with us.

Which gender are you?

N / A

What is your age group?

Age	%
36-50	42
51-65	39.3
66-75	8.7
22-35	8.0
Under 21	1.0
Above 75	1.0

Which ethnic group(s) do you feel you belong to? (Please select as many as apply) Based on our Annual Members Survey, we have around 5,800 members including disabled people, families, professionals and organisations who share our information widely.

What Do You Identify As?	%
Parent/Guardian of a child/children with a disability	69.7
Professional	13.3
Person with a disability	12.3
Organisation Representative	4.8
Total	**100**

Ethnicity	%
NZ European	54.3
Pasifika	13.8
Maori	11.7
Chinese	6.9
South East Asian	6.4
Indian	6.4
European	3.2
African	0.5

Important privacy information

The personal information that you provide in this form will be held and protected by Auckland Council in accordance with our privacy policy (available at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy and at our libraries with council services) and with the Privacy Act 2020. The privacy policy explains how we can use and share your personal information in relation to any interaction you have with the council, and how you can access and correct that information. You should familiarise yourself with this policy before submitting this form.

Submission to Auckland Council – Annual Plan 2026/2027

From: Disability Connect

A parent-led disability information and advocacy service supporting disabled people and their families across Tāmaki Makaurau

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed rates increases

Position: Support most

Tell us why

Disability Connect supports the intention to strengthen Auckland's financial resilience and invest in essential infrastructure. However, the plan does not adequately reflect the lived realities of disabled people and their families, who make up a significant part of Auckland's population and face ongoing barriers to participation, mobility and community inclusion.

While we understand the financial pressures created by the City Rail Link and the need for sustainable funding, accessibility and inclusion are not clearly embedded across the plan. Major investments in transport, parks, community facilities and urban development will only deliver fair outcomes if accessibility is intentionally designed, funded and measured.

Disabled people and their families rely heavily on public transport, accessible community facilities, safe footpaths, inclusive parks and clear communication. The plan does not commit to universal design, co-design with disabled communities, or measurable accessibility outcomes.

We support the overall direction but urge the council to integrate disability inclusion into every investment area so disabled Aucklanders can live the lives they choose.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Tell us why:

Disability Connect is concerned that increases to fees, such as residential parking permits, refuse bin exchange fees and targeted rate changes, may have a greater impact on disabled people and their families. Many already face higher living costs and lower incomes which are fixed.

We ask the council to

• assess the accessibility and equity impacts of each fee change

• ensure disabled people are not disadvantaged for essential needs, such as accessible parking or waste services linked to medical conditions

• provide clear and accessible information about any exemptions or support options.

Without an equity lens, fee increases risk increasing hardship for families already under pressure.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Disability Connect encourages all local boards to

• prioritise accessibility upgrades in community centres, libraries, playgrounds and parks

• progress plans for at least one accessible path in every regional park and one local park for each local board without delay. Advancing at least one accessible track in regional parks is an important component of the 10 year annual plan. It is disappointing to see little progress in the planning or provision of accessible walking tracks, including signage, signalled in the current plans for regional parks and local boards.

• invest in safe footpaths, lighting and crossings that support mobility-impaired residents

• embed co-design with disabled people and families in all local projects

• ensure local events, facilities and communications are accessible, including NZSL, Easy Read, plain language and audio formats.

Local boards are closest to communities and play an important role in removing everyday barriers.

Question 4: Other feedback on the Annual Plan 2026/2027

Disability Connect is concerned that the plan

• does not identify systemic barriers faced by disabled people and their families and whanau.

• does not commit to universal design or accessibility standards

• does not provide accessible versions of key documents

• delays long-standing accessibility goals such as accessible tracks in regional parks

• does not include disability-specific measures in major capital projects.

We recommend

• a dedicated Accessibility Action Plan with measurable targets

• mandatory accessibility assessments for all capital projects

• co-design with disability organisations

• prioritised funding for accessibility upgrades in parks, transport and community facilities

• clear accountability for delivering inclusive outcomes.

Looking further ahead – shaping Auckland's longer-term future

Question 5: Long-term priorities (ranked 1 to 6)

1. Transport
2. Local parks, community and recreation services
3. Planning and infrastructure to manage growth
4. Regional parks and environment
5. Flood resilience
6. Economic development and events

What specific activities should be prioritised, and why

• Universal design in all transport, parks and community facility upgrades

• Accessible footpaths, crossings and bus stops

• One accessible path in every regional park

• Accessible communication formats, including NZSL, Easy Read and plain language

• Co-design with disabled people and families

• Investment in accessible toilets, changing facilities and mobility-friendly spaces

• Ensuring all new infrastructure is future-proofed for accessibility.

These priorities directly support choice, autonomy and self-determination for disabled people. For many disabled people and their families remaining in place is the most likely strategy in the event of a disaster. Committing to accessible infrastructure supports community resilience and should be prioritised as a matter of urgency.

Question 6: City Centre

Disability Connect recommends prioritising

• Safety, as disabled people often feel unsafe or unwelcome in the city centre

• Getting around, including accessible footpaths, crossings, transport hubs and wayfinding

• Streets and public spaces that are inclusive and easy to navigate

• Better connections between transport modes and key destinations.

All city centre upgrades should meet or exceed accessibility standards and be co-designed with disabled people. For many disabled people and their families remaining in place is the most likely strategy in the event of a disaster. Committing to accessible infrastructure in the city supports community resilience and should be prioritised as a matter of urgency.

Closing statement

Auckland cannot be a truly inclusive city unless disabled people and their families are fully considered in planning, investment and design. The Annual Plan 2026/2027 is strong in its financial and infrastructure focus, but it lacks clear commitments to accessibility, universal design and disability inclusion.

Disability Connect urges Auckland Council to embed accessibility across all investment areas, accelerate overdue accessibility upgrades, and work in genuine partnership with disabled people and their families to create a city where everyone can live the life they choose.

Supporting Evidence: Growing and Ageing Disabled Population in Auckland

Disability Connect Submission to Auckland Council Annual Plan 2026/2027

1. Purpose

This document provides supporting data and analysis to highlight the rapid growth and changing profile of Auckland's disabled population, and the resulting pressure on services, infrastructure, and community systems. It draws on Ministry of Education data (OIA 1351832), Auckland and national disability statistics, and sector evidence on access, workforce, and housing. The evidence demonstrates that Auckland is facing a structural increase in disability demand that requires coordinated, long term investment and planning.

2. Population growth and ageing trends

Auckland's disabled population is increasing in both absolute numbers and complexity of need. According to Auckland Council, 82,872 disabled people were recorded in Auckland in the 2023 Census. This represents 6.3 percent of the population, up from 5.5 percent in 2018. Over half of disabled Aucklanders experience housing unaffordability. Disability prevalence increases significantly with age. Data from Stats NZ and Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People shows that 16.6 percent of Aucklanders aged 65 and over are disabled. Ageing is a leading cause of impairment nationally, and around 17 percent of New Zealanders are disabled. Auckland's population is also ageing. By the late 2030s, around one in five Aucklanders will be over 65. The implication is that Auckland is experiencing a dual demand shift. There are increasing numbers of older people acquiring disability, alongside increasing numbers of disabled children who are surviving and transitioning into adulthood. This creates sustained and compounding demand across all parts of the disability system.

3. Education data as a leading indicator of future demand

Ministry of Education data (OIA 1351832) shows strong growth in the number of students requiring specialist education support. In Auckland, specialist school rolls have increased by 20 percent over the past five years and 41 percent over the past ten years.

Growth has continued year on year, including a 5.4 percent increase in 2024. There has also been a significant increase in the number of students remaining in specialist education beyond Year 13. The number of Year 14 and 15 students increased from 184 in 2014 to 325 in 2024, a 77 percent increase. The number of Year 15 students alone increased from 45 to 221 over the same period. There are also clear equity considerations. Māori students make up 31.4 percent of specialist school rolls, and Pasifika students make up 20 percent. These trends indicate increasing complexity and intensity of support needs, more young people requiring extended education pathways, and a rapidly growing cohort transitioning into adulthood who will require ongoing support.

4. The transition pipeline and system pressure

The data shows a clear and accelerating pipeline effect. More disabled children are entering the system, more are staying longer in school, and more high needs young people are leaving school and moving into adult services.

This pipeline is particularly significant in Auckland due to its population size and growth, its younger Māori and Pasifika populations, and the concentration of specialist services. As a result, there is increasing pressure on needs assessment and service coordination, supported employment and transition services, community participation services, and housing and residential supports.

5. Access and waitlist pressures

In Auckland, needs assessment services are delivered through Taikura Trust, now operating as Kaikaranga. Sector experience and community feedback indicate increasing numbers of referrals, delays in assessment and allocation of supports, and rising complexity of cases entering the system. Kaikaranga have informed us that the number of people entering their service for an assessment has increased in Auckland on average 10% per year. National evidence shows that a significant proportion of disabled people experience unmet need for services and supports, and that demand, increasing at 9% per year, is outpacing system capacity leading to a significant increase in the upcoming central government budget. The implication is that access to disability supports is becoming increasingly constrained, particularly at key transition points such as leaving school.

6. Funding growth compared to demand growth

While disability funding has increased over time, it has not kept pace with population growth, ageing related disability, or increasing recognition of neurodiversity and complex needs. Data from Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People indicates that more than half of disabled people experience multiple impairments, increasing the level of support required. At the same time, many disabled people report unmet needs for support, equipment, or services. This means the system is under strain not only because of increased numbers, but also because of the greater intensity of support required per person.

7. Workforce constraints

Workforce shortages are a significant limiting factor in the disability system. Across the sector, providers report difficulty recruiting and retaining staff, and demand for skilled and culturally competent workers continues to increase.

Data from Public Service Commission highlights broader inequities, including lower employment rates for disabled people compared with non disabled people. Without sufficient workforce capacity, services cannot expand to meet growing demand, even where funding is available.

8. Accessible housing demand

Housing is one of the most critical areas of unmet need for disabled people in Auckland. More than half of disabled Aucklanders experience housing unaffordability. There is also a severe shortage of accessible, adaptable and safe housing for disabled people- beyond physical disability to consider neurodiversity, Intellectual Disability, and sensory disabilities. Key issues include a limited supply of accessible homes, a lack of universal design in new housing, barriers to modifying private rentals, and long waitlists for social housing. The lack of accessible and adaptable housing has direct impacts on health, independence, and participation in education, employment, and community life.

9. Conclusion

The evidence shows that Auckland is experiencing a sustained and structural increase in disability demand. This is driven by increasing disability prevalence, a rapidly ageing population, a growing cohort of young people with complex needs transitioning into adulthood, and ongoing inequities for Māori and Pasifika communities. At the same time, the system of supports for disabled people, their families and whanau is under pressure from constrained access, funding that is not keeping pace with demand and complexity,

workforce shortages, and a critical shortage of accessible housing. This is not a short term issue. It represents a long term shift that requires coordinated planning and investment across infrastructure, housing, transport, and community services, particularly with the need for resilience in emergencies. Without this, unmet need and inequity will continue to grow across Auckland.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4298

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: Federated Farmers of New Zealand

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

Other

Tell us why

FFNZ is generally supportive of the proposed AP and the key activities proposed.2.3FFNZ understand that the average rate increase of 7.9% as proposed in the 2024-2034 LTP, is mainly due to the cost to run and own the Council's share of the City Rail Link. FFNZ's key concern in relation to the proposed average rate increase is the lack of information in the consultation material for rural ratepayers.FFNZ recognises the economic and environmental benefits of City Rail Link (CRL) including improved transport efficiency and economic growth.FFNZ acknowledges that while its members are not directly benefitting from this transport project, it will have flow on benefits for the

rural sector including by reducing congestion on roading networks and therefore more efficient transport of livestock and supplies.FFNZ encourages AC to ensure that rural communities, who rely significantly on the roading network and who contribute greatly to the region's economy, are not overlooked. We encourage AC to ensure it is investing in rural infrastructure and to carefully consider the rating impact on rural land users.FFNZ would support a bed visitor night levy as it will take the pressure off general rates for funding these sorts of activities, of which farmers contribute significantly to.Water quality targeted rate: While these are important projects and rural communities indirectly benefit from these, rural landowners already make significant on-farm investments in fencing, planting and sediment control. Allocating a defined portion of the WQTR rural water projects such as catchment group initiatives, wetland restoration and farm system improvements would result in more equitable support and effective region wide water quality outcomes.Natural environment targeted rate: FFNZ would like to see pest plant management as a key priority to protect biodiversity and farmland for the Aotea/Great Barrier, Franklin, Rodney, Waitākere and Waiheke local boards. Given the money for these programmes comes from the NETR, FFNZ would like to see the continuance (and if possible, increase) of pest plant management programmes in rural areas including road corridors, working alongside rural landowners for better outcomes.See attachment for full submission.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

FFNZ is generally supportive of the proposed AP and the key activities proposed.2.3FFNZ understand that the average rate increase of 7.9% as proposed in the 2024-2034 LTP, is mainly due to the cost to run and own the Council's share of the City Rail Link. FFNZ's key concern in relation to the proposed average rate increase is the lack of information in the consultation material for rural ratepayers.FFNZ recognises the economic and environmental benefits of City Rail Link (CRL) including improved transport efficiency and economic growth.FFNZ acknowledges that while its members are not directly benefitting from this transport project, it will have flow on benefits for the rural sector including by reducing congestion on roading networks and therefore more efficient transport of livestock and supplies.FFNZ encourages AC to ensure that rural communities, who rely significantly on the roading network and who contribute greatly to the region's economy, are not overlooked. We encourage AC to ensure it is investing in rural infrastructure and to carefully consider the rating impact on rural land users.FFNZ would support a bed visitor night levy as it will take the pressure off general rates for funding these sorts of activities, of which farmers contribute significantly to.Water quality targeted rate: While these are important projects and rural communities indirectly benefit from these, rural landowners already make significant on-farm

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Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

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

	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

SUBMISSION

TELEPHONE 0800 327 646 | WEBSITE WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ

FEDERATED FARMERS OF NEW ZEALAND

To: Auckland Council

Via email: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Address for service: [redacted]

Federated Farmers of New Zealand

M [redacted]

E [redacted]

SUMMARY OF RELIEF SOUGHT

- Auckland Council (AC) to include, in future consultation material example rural properties to explain how proposed average rating changes affect rural properties.
- AC continue to work with central government on new funding tools for visitor attraction and economic development including investigating a bed night visitor levy being to fund major events and destination marketing.
- AC to ensure it is investing in rural infrastructure and to carefully consider the rating impact on rural properties particularly where a project does not directly benefit rural ratepayers.
- That AC allocate a portion of the WQTR specifically to rural projects to ensure fair and effective water quality outcomes for rural communities.
- AC continue to fund region wide projects and continue to provide support for rural landowners.
- AC continue to provide adequate funding for local boards.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Auckland Federated Farmers (**Federated Farmers**, or **FFNZ**) appreciates this opportunity to submit on Auckland Council's (**AC** or **Council**) 2026-2027 Annual Plan (**AP**).

1.2 Federated Farmers has over 300 active members located in the AC area, who are also your rural ratepayers. We acknowledge any submissions from individual members of our organisation.

1.3 Federated Farmers routinely submits on annual plans and long-term plans around the country. We also submit on central government policies that affect local government revenue and spending.

1.4 Our general concerns in annual plan submission are around the transparency of rate setting, rate equity and both the overall and relative cost of local government on rural ratepayers. We base our arguments on the considerable costs of rates for farm businesses in terms of the value and relative accessibility of farmers to ratepayer funded services. We endeavour to make constructive proposals whenever the opportunity is provided.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS

2.1 FFNZ acknowledges that ongoing local government reform along with significant changes to resource management legislation creates a challenging environment for councils to plan and engage with their communities. FFNZ appreciates Council's efforts to consult despite this.

2.2 FFNZ is generally supportive of the proposed AP and the key activities proposed.

2.3 FFNZ understand that the average rate increase of 7.9% as proposed in the 2024-2034 LTP, is mainly due to the cost to run and own the Council's share of the City Rail Link. FFNZ's key concern in relation to the proposed average rate increase is the lack of information in the consultation material for rural ratepayers.

2.4 Section 95A(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 (**LGA**)[1] states (with underline added for emphasis) that:

"The purpose of the consultation document under section 82A(3) is to provide a basis for effective public participation in decision-making processes relating to the activities to be undertaken by the local authority in the coming year, and the effects of those activities on costs and funding…."

2.5 It difficult for rural rate payers to fully participate in the AP consultation as there is a lack of information about the impacts on rural rates. Page 31 of the consultation document sets out what the average rate increase means for residential and business properties but does not provide this information for rural properties.

[1] Local Government Act 2002, s95A(1).

Relief Sought:

- AC to include in its consultation material example rural properties to help rural ratepayers understand what the proposed rating changes mean for their property.

3. CITY RAIL LINK

3.1 FFNZ recognises the economic and environmental benefits of City Rail Link (CRL) including improved transport efficiency and economic growth.

3.2 FFNZ acknowledges that while its members are not directly benefitting from this transport project, it will have flow on benefits for the rural sector including by reducing congestion on roading networks and therefore more efficient transport of livestock and supplies.

3.3 FFNZ encourages AC to ensure that rural communities, who rely significantly on the roading network and who contribute greatly to the region's economy, are not overlooked. We encourage AC to ensure it is investing in rural infrastructure and to carefully consider the rating impact on rural land users.

Relief sought:

- AC to ensure it is investing in rural infrastructure.
- AC to carefully consider the rating impact on rural land users particularly where they do not directly benefit from transport projects.

4. BED NIGHT VISITOR LEVY

4.1 FFNZ understands that AC is looking to work with government on new funding tools for visitor attraction and economic development, including exploring a bed night visitor levy for major events and destination marketing.

4.2 Our members experience the benefits and costs of tourism in a very direct way. As well as concerns about the impacts of tourism (especially freedom camping) on their properties, they have a strong interest in the impacts on local infrastructure (especially roads, water, wastewater, and solid waste) shared with visitors, and the funding of that infrastructure, which is largely through property-value rates.

4.3 In addition to the broader impacts on infrastructure and on council rates, farmers also face direct farm-level impacts from tourism. Some of these are positive, including the ability for farmers to develop accommodation and food provision services aimed specifically at the tourist market, as ancillary or complementary businesses in support of farming all of which help revitalise rural and remote communities.

4.4 One of the major impacts of tourism on rural communities are increased traffic flows on the secondary road network, increasing local body maintenance costs and adding to the rural landowner's rates burden.

4.5 FFNZ would support a bed visitor night levy as it will take the pressure off general rates for funding these sorts of activities, of which farmers contribute significantly to.

Relief Sought

- FFNZ supports AC working with central government to explore rating tools including a bed night visitor levy to fund major events and destination marketing.

5. WATER QUALITY TARGETED RATE

5.1 The consultation material shows that WQTR funding is primarily directed towards large-scale urban infrastructure, including stormwater-wastewater separation works, the Central Interceptor wastewater tunnel, upgrades to dams and culverts, and a $500 million programme to renew ageing water and wastewater pipes.

5.2 While these are important projects and rural communities indirectly benefit from these, rural landowners already make significant on-farm investments in fencing, planting and sediment control. Allocating a defined portion of the WQTR rural water projects such as catchment group initiatives, wetland restoration and farm system improvements would result in more equitable support and effective region wide water quality outcomes.

Relief sought

- That AC allocate a portion of the WQTR specifically to rural projects to ensure fair and effective water quality outcomes for rural communities.

6. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TARGETED RATE

6.1 FFNZ supports projects funded by the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) such as pest management under the Regional Pest Management Plan, Kauri dieback protection and marine biosecurity monitoring. These efforts complement the work farmers do on farm.

6.2 FFNZ acknowledges that AC already provides support for rural landowners through the NETR. We recommend that AC continue to provide this support and make it more accessible for farmers.

6.3 FFNZ would like to see pest plant management as a key priority to protect biodiversity and farmland for the Aotea/Great Barrier, Franklin, Rodney, Waitākere and Waiheke local boards. Given the money for these programmes comes from the NETR, FFNZ would like to see the continuance (and if possible, increase) of pest plant management programmes in rural areas including road corridors, working alongside rural landowners for better outcomes.

Relief Sought

- AC continue to fund region wide projects and continue to provide support for rural landowners.

7. LOCAL BOARD PRIORITIES

7.1 FFNZ is pleased to see local board funding being a key programme for Council in its Annual Plan.

7.2 FFNZ believes that communities, and local board members as representatives of those communities, are best placed to understand priorities and where money should be spent. FFNZ emphasise that Local Boards should be engaging and reflecting their communities needs and wants through the decision-making processes.

Federated Farmers thanks Auckland Council for considering this submission.

About Federated Farmers

Federated Farmers is a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents the majority of farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers.

The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities.



Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4686

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: Sport Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

Support most

Tell us why

Sport Auckland is one of 5 Regional Sports Trusts in Auckland. Our Vision is to inspire our communities to live healthy active Lifestyles. In that regard we work closely with Auckland Council and 8 Local Boards in our catchment area, supporting all the plans that allow for our diverse communities to participate in sport, play, active recreation and physical activity. We strongly support Auckland Council's ongoing investment in community infrastructure and acknowledge the significant progress being made to address the regional shortfall of indoor courts and aquatic facilities. We strongly support retaining the increased Sport and Recreation Facility Investment

Fund to address the deficit in sports facilities in Auckland. We strongly support Council investigating partnerships with third parties such as schools and encourage better use of community assets through more multisport community hubs as opposed to standalone hubs and clubs. Sport Auckland supports investing $16 million into Māori outcomes as this investment aligns with our targeted population focus. We support and align to the sports field capacity development programme to develop, upgrade and renew sports fields to increase sports field capacity across Auckland.Sport Auckland supports land acquisitions for parks and open spaces to contribute to Aucklanders' quality of life, as well as make better use of the parks we already have which is critical as Auckland's urban environment intensifies and green space becomes sparse and harder to prioritise and protect. Sport Auckland supports Developing new travel solutions and improving public transport as a pragmatic response to climate change initiatives, so as to reduce travel and gas emissions that occur as codes provide and participants play Auckland-wide competitions.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

Changes to rates and fees is not a purpose for Sport Auckland to focus on. We will refrain from giving feedback on this question as it does not sit within our remit.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Albert-Eden,Aotea/Great Barrier,Howick,Maungakiekie-Tāmaki,Ōrākei,Puketāpapa,Waiheke,Waitematā

Albert-Eden Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

As Play, Active Recreation, Sport and Wellbeing are our strategic priorities, Sport Auckland acknowledges the completion of the Mill Park and Chamberlain Park Concept Plans and supports the Local Board delivering initiatives identified in these Plans.

We strongly support the proposed renewals of Coyle Park playground and Phyllis Reserve fields.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment and changes to services, fees and charges?

A. Restoration planning for Waititiko / Meola Creek, to leverage the improvements in water quality that will be achieved through the Central Interceptor.

I don't know

B. Investigating how to respond to future growth expected in our area.

Support

C. Trialling free off-peak access for Gold Card holders to swim at Mt Albert Aquatic Centre.

Support

3. Kingsland Business Society Inc is proposing to expand the geographic boundary of its Business Improvement District programme to include areas around the north end of Morningside Drive, and to increase the amount of targeted rate funds to be collected from $245,000 to $370,000 per year. If it is successful, ratepayers of business properties located within the BID expansion area will be required to pay the associated BID targeted rate. Do you support this proposal?

I don't know

Tell us why

Targeted Rates discussion is not within our remit to comment on.

Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

As Play. Active Recreation, Sport and Wellbeing are our key strategic priorities we support initiatives that will keep people active and socially connected. We have strategic initiatives that look to create additional services and play opportunities within our local libraries, which becomes a strong focal point for our local communities.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment and changes to services?

A. Improvements to the library service including additional programmes.

Support

B. Partnering with mana whenua and community on the coordination and engagement of island fisheries management and local Ahu Moana marine projects.

I don’t know

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Howick Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

Sport Auckland has a very strong partnership with the Howick Local Board and we support and align with many of the Local Board's initiatives.in play, sport, active recreation and wellbeing. We strongly support the development and progression of the Lloyd Elsmore Community Sports Hub and the multi-sport facility based out of Pakuranga Rugby Football Club. Both of these initiatives are essential for the community, and they cater for different sporting opportunities so they do not compete with each other.

WE support the focus of the Local Board around play opportunities and will continue to support and advocate for play activities within the local libraries as one key community venue where play can be possible for our tamariki within a safe environment.

We support the following planned key projects the development the permanent library, community and aquatic leisure centre in Flat Bush.

We support the development of the park at Ostrich Farm with community engagement.

2. What do you think about the proposed local board specific key areas of spend?

A. Explore ways to get the best value from our play spaces so they continue to meet the needs of children and families.

Support

B. Run regular seminars for community groups/organisations on the local grant's application process.

Support

C. Identify what type of indoor/sheltered courts are necessary to support sports play in Flat Bush.

Support

D. Continue advocacy of the Tāmaki estuary on water quality and coastal erosion.

I don’t know

E. Continue to advocate to crime prevention organisations on behalf of the community for ongoing safety initiatives.

I don’t know

F. Continue to support our volunteer groups with resources needed for ecological volunteering, such as stream clean-ups and pest plant weeding.

I don’t know

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Sport Auckland supports the Local Board delivering ways to get the best value from play spaces so they continue to meet the needs of tamariki and their whanau.

We support running regular seminars for community groups/organisations on the local grants application process.

We support identifying what type of indoor/sheltered courts are necessary to support sports play in Flat Bush which helps alleviate/address the regional shortfall of indoor and covered courts in the community.

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

Sport Auckland has a very strong partnership with the Local Board, including being a partner in the Strategic Relationship Partnership initiative. We strongly support the plans at Ferguson Domain but also strongly advocate for a multi-sport community hub at Mt Wellington War Memorial Domain. We are working closely with the Marist Rugby Football club on this site and would very much value seeing this initiative called out in the Local Board Plans as part of the Local Board's development of a Sport and Active Recreation Facility Plan.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment?

A. Environmental initiatives – working alongside mana whenua on restoration projects, expanding food resilience and edible planting programmes, and reinstating deferred environmental education activities.

I don’t know

B. Sport and recreation – providing one-off operational support to local sports clubs and facilities to strengthen participation and collaboration.

Support

C. Libraries and culture – enhancing programming for seniors and increasing investment in creative and cultural activities.

Support

D. Community safety and emergency readiness – exploring additional compliance officer resourcing in areas with limited coverage.

I don’t know

E. Local economy - supporting business associations to continue supporting local businesses and ongoing growth, development and liven-up our town centres.

I don’t know

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Sport Auckland supports the Local Board’s plans for sport and recreation to provide one -off operational support to local sports clubs and facilities to strengthen participation and collaboration. We have worked collaboratively with the Local Board and community partners over the last few years via the Local Board's Strategic Partnership initiatives and value the Local Board's foresight to look at ways to help keep the sustainability of local community clubs.

We are also looking at ways where the Glen Innes library could become a key partner in championing cultural play initiatives for our tamariki within the area.

3. What do you think of Onehunga Business Association Inc’s proposal to reduce the geographic boundary of the Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme, and amount of targeted rate to be collected?

I don't know

Tell us why

Rate increases and targeted rates are not within Sport Auckland's remit to comment on.

Ōrākei Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

Sport Auckland strongly supports the Local Board's plans to increase community-use sports fields provision either through redevelopment or expansion of their asset portfolio to address the forecasted move of Auckland Cricket into Colin Maiden Park and other demands on their sports fields.

Sport Auckland supports using $2.5 million of the Fix and Finish Fund toward sports fields improvements to Thomas Bloodworth Park and Shore Road East

We support the progressing of the design and feasibility studies for a breakwater seawall at Okahu Bay to provide boats with safe harbour access, enhanced marine recreation and continued growth of The Landing

We strongly support the continued investment in growing and protecting the Local Board's parks and playgrounds.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment and changes to services?

A. Increase community-use sports fields provision either through redevelopment or expansion of our asset portfolio to address the forecasted move of Auckland Cricket into Colin Maiden Park and other demands on our sports fields.

Support

B. 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.

Support

C. Changing the Meadowbank Community Centre project to a self-funded community centre to capitalise on existing investment and resources.

D. Construct a playground Remuera Library to optimise the under-used green space at the side of the building.

Support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

As Sport Auckland's strategic priorities are focused on play, sport, active recreation and wellbeing initiatives we strongly support the outlined key areas of additional investment. We would like to add that we strongly support Auckland Hockey and the investment in the hockey turfs at Colin Maiden precinct and the investment in the PADEL courts within Tennis Auckland's location. We will be helping both these codes to promote their offerings to the wider community and we will be advocating for investment in the water supply and lighting at the hockey turfs, in due course.

Sport Auckland continues to support the Glendowie Community Sports Hub through its lease negotiations with Auckland Council and the Orakei Local Board and for further development at that site for more multi-sport use,, within all the parameters that will be set in their lease.

We will continue to support Ngati Whatua Orakei with the continuation of their community multi sport and wellbeing hub.

Puketāpapa Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

Sport Auckland has a very strong working relationship and partnership with the Puketapapa Local Board and we support the Board's development of their Sports and Active Recreation Facilities Plan.

We support the development of a masterplan for Monte Cecilia Park to enable future strategic investment.

We will continue to work closely with the Local Board in helping to get the best use of the May Road War Memorial Park through collaboration with the May Park User Groups.

Waiheke Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

Sport Auckland supports the Local Board progressing the recommended actions in the Rangihoua Reserve Onetangi Sports Park Reserve Management Plan, creating connection to places and

heritage through the installation of historical and cultural markers and dual naming of parks and improving walking/cycling network connections as outlined in the Waiheke Pathways Plan.

We strongly support the building of new play features at Tawaipareira Reserve and the upgrading of the lighting at the Onetangi Sports Park.

As play, sport, active recreation and wellbeing is a strong priority focus of ours, Sport Auckland continues to work closely with the two local Primary Schools, and the Secondary School to ensure quality opportunities in sport and physical activity are being provided for the local tamariki, rangatahi and their wider whanau.

Waitematā Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

2. What do you think about the proposed changes to service levels, fees and charges?

A. Reduce library hours at Central City, Little Leys, Grey Lynn and Parnell Libraries.

Do not support

B. Reduce maintenance for bollard and post-and-rail.

C. Reduce community grant funding and accommodation grant funding.

Do not support

D. Increase fees for adult swim fees at council pools by up to $3.

Do not support

E. Reduce funding for environmental management activities.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Sport Auckland's strategic priorities are focused on play, sport, active recreation and wellbeing initiatives. Our vision is to inspire communities to live healthy active lifestyles. A vision that is so important at this critical time in our lives when there is a cost of living and fuel crisis. We also focus on addressing inequity within our community and advocating for social cohesion and a sense of belonging. To that end we do not support these proposed changes. Although we appreciate there are cost pressures facing us all, we believe the proposed changes to services will have the opposite effect of creating connectedness, social cohesion, a sense of belonging and addressing inequities. Many community clubs and other community facilities that are reliant on community grants may well not survive without them. Do not support

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
5	**Economic development and events –** growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
1	**Local parks, community and recreation services –** local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.

6	**Planning and infrastructure to manage growth –** planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
4	**Regional parks and environment –** looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
2	**Transport –** roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
3	**Flood resilience –** reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Better connections – improve links between the city centre, the waterfront and nearby neighbourhoods.,Getting around – make it easier to walk, drive, cycle and use public transport in the city centre and from east to west, including better traffic flow.,Māori identity and culture – reflect and celebrate Māori identity and culture throughout the city centre.,Safety – a safer and more welcoming city centre, both day and night, for residents, workers and visitors.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4692

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: Hapua Thrive

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

Support all

Tell us why

Supporting sustainable and varied transport options are vital and well as investigating in all forms of water infrastructure. Local boards understand local issues and have a connection with their communities

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Ōrākei,Waitematā

Ōrākei Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

We value the work being done to improve the water quality in conjunction with Waitemata Local Board, Ngati Whatua Orakei, and community particularly in the Waitaramoa /Hobson Bay area but cannot see specifc reference to this. The Newmarket (Ruareoreo) tunnel project completion will be a game changer and needs a direct mention. Whilst work is to do done in Thomas Bloodworth reserve and surrounds it is important to consider and work in with water infrastructure upgrades. We support actions that enhance water, walking, ecological and recreational values of Waitaramoa Bay parks and surrounds in conjunction with a Te ao Maori approach and supported by Ngati Whatua Orakei.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment and changes to services?

A. Increase community-use sports fields provision either through redevelopment or expansion of our asset portfolio to address the forecasted move of Auckland Cricket into Colin Maiden Park and other demands on our sports fields.

B. 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.

Support

C. Changing the Meadowbank Community Centre project to a self-funded community centre to capitalise on existing investment and resources.

D. Construct a playground Remuera Library to optimise the under-used green space at the side of the building.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

See above= need to include Water quality programmes, including reducing waste water discharges and flood resilience work

Waitematā Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

We like the way you have incorporated working with Other local boards but would also like to see specific mention of supporting improving the water quality in Waitaramoa Bay, It would be useful to specifically refer to the Newmarket (Ruareoreo) Gully Tunnel project and working with Ngati Whatua Orakei. Leveraging and supporting actions that enhance water, walking, recreational and eological values of Waitaramoa (Hobson) Bay and surrounds needs to be prioritised

2. What do you think about the proposed changes to service levels, fees and charges?

A. Reduce library hours at Central City, Little Leys, Grey Lynn and Parnell Libraries.

B. Reduce maintenance for bollard and post-and-rail.

C. Reduce community grant funding and accommodation grant funding.

D. Increase fees for adult swim fees at council pools by up to $3.

E. Reduce funding for environmental management activities.

Do not support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Environmental actions and support are vital and more funding not less is needed.

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?
(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
6	**Economic development and events –** growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
5	**Local parks, community and recreation services –** local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
1	**Planning and infrastructure to manage growth –** planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.

2	**Regional parks and environment –** looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
3	**Transport –** roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
4	**Flood resilience –** reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

reducing waste water entering waterways and increasing about of green infrastructure.

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Better connections – improve links between the city centre, the waterfront and nearby neighbourhoods.,Getting around – make it easier to walk, drive, cycle and use public transport in the city centre and from east to west, including better traffic flow.,Māori identity and culture – reflect and celebrate Māori identity and culture throughout the city centre.,Streets and public spaces – improve streets, parks and public spaces so the city centre is a great place to live and spend time in.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4714

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 Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makaurau

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

I don't know

Tell us why

Submission is attached

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

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

- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

Submission is attached

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?
(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

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

	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

Submission is attached

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Other (please specify):Submission is attached

Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makaurau



Submission on the Auckland Council 2026/2027 Annual Plan

Submitted on behalf of member organisations of Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makaurau: https://www.teohu.community/

Who are we?

Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makaurau (Te Ohu) is a civil society alliance of community, faith, and union organisations here in Auckland, including the Salvation Army, St Matthew-in-the-City, Community of St Luke Remuera, the Maritime Union, Community Housing Aotearoa, Lifewise, and many more. Our alliance is committed to the issues of poverty, inequality, and other challenges to wellbeing in Tāmaki Makaurau. We organise our communities to make Auckland a place where families and children flourish. We are committed to whakamana Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The housing catastrophe in Auckland continues to cause significant harm to our city. Our member organisations are united in their support for the policy initiatives listed in this submission.

Acknowledgement of progress

We want to acknowledge the work done by Auckland Council - Te Kaunihera ō Tāmaki Makaurau (the Council) to address the housing crisis and homelessness, and specifically the work done with us.

On August 19th, Council officials provided a report to Te Ohu in response to our submission on the Long Term Plan, fulfilling our request for a report on Council levers to address the housing crisis and homelessness. In that report, officials defined Council's current role in housing as "ancillary" and gave examples of the tools and levers Council could take within that definition. That report has helped form the basis of the policy "asks" in this submission.

Since our previous submission, we now have a representative on the Tāmaki Collaborative to End Homelessness, and we coordinate and communicate regularly with various council staff members, Government agency representatives, and support providers. This has been very helpful in building our relationships within the sector, building our understanding of issues and solutions, and allowing us to contribute to conversation around possible solutions.

Finally we want to acknowledge and congratulate the Mayor on continuing to provide $500,000 for homelessness initiatives through the Community Impact unit. Every dollar wisely spent on addressing homelessness is worth it, especially in a crisis like we are currently in. It is this leadership we want to see Auckland Council continue to build on.

Behind the policy asks

Our policy asks for 2026/2027 are based on the stories of lived experience and housing experts. In May 2025 we undertook a housing and homelessness listening campaign, holding 10 meetings across Auckland with a wide variety of communities.

We met with professionals working in the CBD who were homeowners, but were worried about those sleeping rough that they saw every day going to work. We met with renters and heard stories of living in rentals with holes in the roof, and where they didn't have access to running water. We met with people who had couch surfed for months between friends' houses and who had slept in cars. We met with people who had been homeless and slept rough, and we met with people who are sleeping on the streets of Auckland, under bridges, in parks, and in graveyards right now as you read this submission.

From there, representatives of each community meeting came together and met with policy experts from Community Housing Aotearoa. We looked at the tools and levers mentioned in the Planning, Environment and Parks Committee report from 19 August, 2024 created in response to Te Ohu's previous submission to Council, and we looked at what steps Council could implement to address and prevent homelessness in our city, based on the stories we had heard. We also met with public servants from local and central government. The policies we are calling for in this submission are based on this process.



Policy “asks” for the 2026/2027 Annual Plan

We are asking for the following policy commitments to be implemented in the 2026/2027 Annual Plan:

1. To commit to the progressive realisation of the Right to a Decent Home.

A decent home is defined as being one that is affordable, habitable, secure in tenure, in a suitable location with access to core services, accessible, and culturally adequate. When Auckland Council commits to the right to a decent home, this means that:

- The Right to a Decent Home is the foundation for developing policies at Auckland Council. This includes applying the seven housing decency principles as a consistent lens for reviewing and informing decisions related to housing and homelessness.
- The right to a decent home serves as a framework to guide and monitor housing-related activities, including the development and use of tools to deliver affordable, sustainable, and accessible housing.

2. To restore the Affordable Housing Work Programme with commitments for affordable housing through the Long Term Plan.

Auckland Council has stated its Affordable Housing Work Programme as having "been implemented with successful activities embedded as part of council's business as usual." This has not worked. It is time to redevelop an Affordable Housing Work Programme, with greater focus and consideration for various planning and policy tools, which could include:

- To support a pilot project to fund directly a specific affordable housing development of regional significance*
- modelling value capture, inclusionary housing and other planning mechanisms and incentives*
- exploring capital works required to enable Haumaru Housing to improve its housing
- waiving development fees to enable the delivery of social housing
- employing a "Right to a Decent Home Officer" who oversees housing policies
- fast-track consenting for social housing

**Inclusionary housing is a planning tool that incentivises developers to include affordable homes in new developments, retained for future benefit.*

**Value capture is an approach that enables councils to reclaim a share of land value increases from public investment and reinvest it into public goods like affordable housing.*

3. To work with Te Ohu Tāmaki to develop and deliver on an advocacy plan to central government for more social and affordable housing.*

Auckland Council has made a commitment to work with Te Ohu on advocacy to central government on things like public housing and removing barriers to inclusionary zoning. Let's make a plan and make it official.

*See mention in Planning, Environment and Parks Committee report 19 August, 2024.

4. Increase Auckland Council's current annual homelessness budget from $500,000 to $2,000,000, and work with Te Ohu Tāmaki and the housing and homelessness sector on how to best distribute this funding.

Greater investment is needed for housing and homelessness support services. Homelessness is increasing drastically - there has been a **53% rise in people sleeping rough in Auckland over four months from September 2024 – January 2025**, coinciding with a sharp decrease in emergency housing numbers. Funding for homelessness support services have been **slashed** nationwide.

Council can and must step up and play a role in addressing this, including by supporting **outreach services**, **Māori Wardens,** and other homelessness support services.

As well as this, costs of service provision have risen significantly since the $500,000 budget was first established, and an increase is needed to maintain the basic current provision of support services.

The Mayor's commitments

Last year, 2025, on September 17th, the Mayor, as a candidate, attended the 2025 Mayoral Wages and Houses Forum to hear stories of lived experience and expert perspectives on homelessness and the housing crisis. We would like to thank the Mayor for making the following commitments as a candidate in response to some of our policy "asks."

1. To commit to the progressive realisation of the Right to a Decent Home

The Mayor committed **"Yes"**

2. To restore the Affordable Housing Work Programme with commitments for affordable housing through the Long Term Plan.

The Mayor acknowledged he was only one vote, but **committed to asking other councillors.**

3. To work with Te Ohu Tāmaki to develop and deliver on an advocacy plan to central government for more social and affordable housing.

The Mayor committed **"Yes"**

4. Increase Auckland Council's current annual homelessness budget from $500,000 to $2,000,000, and work with Te Ohu Tāmaki and the housing and homelessness sector on how to best distribute this funding.

The Mayor acknowledged he was only one vote, but **committed to asking other councillors.**



Conclusion

We look forward to continuing our relationship with Auckland Council - Te Kaunihera ō Tāmaki Makaurau. From the perspective of Te Ohu, working with the Mayor, city councillors, council staff has been a fruitful and positive relationship and one we wish to deepen in the coming years.

To get in touch with any representative of Te Ohu Tāmaki, please contact the Lead Organiser at the following email address: [redacted]

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4798

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: Women in Urbanism Aotearoa

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

Support most

Tell us why

WiU is, overall, supportive of the Auckland Council Annual Plan 2026-2027 and believe this is the correct direction for Auckland.We strongly support the focus on transport and water. In particular, if Auckland Council takes a Making space for water approach, this provides opportunities to think about how we work with water in the face of climate change, including giving space for water in developments, stream daylighting across Auckland, and working more closely with/funding community groups and iwi working on this mahi already.WiUA has identified the following opportunities:Auckland Council needs long term adaptation planning in Auckland especially for

vulnerable communities, e.g. adaptation measures need to be invested in priority areas. For example, Auckland Council has previously created the Assessment of Vulnerability to climate change in Auckland Report in 2019, this can provide a preliminary basis for investment & priority for climate change adaptation investment.There is an opportunity for Local Boards to have their own Climate Adaptation Plans, or Climate action plans, something that Henderson-Massey Local Board has done previously with their Henderson-Massey Local Climate Action Plan 2020-2023.The recent transport reform in Auckland provides an opportunity to have a strong community focus where local issues as well as network issues are addressed. However, we note that some councillors and local boards may need a greater understanding of both the strategic vision on transport AND local experiences, in order to get effective decision making. Furthermore, it would be great to see key stakeholders, such as local schools, be more actively involved in local transport decisions. WiU is not supportive of asset sales. Although we acknowledge that the council has a limited budget and there are ongoing costs to maintaining and operating assets, any land or facilities sold off are likely to be very expensive (or impossible) to replace in the future. Such decisions need to be made in the context of the needs of the next 50-100 years, not just the next 1-3 years. We do not consider that the current annual plan process is able to take a sufficiently long-term approach to this matter.Auckland Council must be proactive about equitable access to infrastructure. This includes identifying those areas and people who are most at risk of shocks to infrastructure (including natural disasters, fuel costs, etc) and taking urgent steps to build resilience, sustainability, choice and adaptability into the systems that those Aucklander's rely on.This also includes taking stands on other equity matters such as pay equity. Women in Urbanism strongly supports the recent pay increases for employees in Auckland Council libraries, and supports Auckland Council continuing to close pay gaps.WiUA values the immediate actions from the City Centre Safety Action Plan. The next step is beyond the City Centre. Surveys undertaken in 2019 and 2024 by WiU found that the majority of women have experienced harassment or felt unsafe in public spaces (including public transport and walking). As was stated back in 2019, We can build all the buses and trains we want but if people aren't feeling safe, they're not going to use them. E.g. fixing footpaths around schools and public transport stops, improving lighting, improving visibility.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

1. Support rates increase 7.9%2. Supportive of targeted rates and place-based investment

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

WiU recognises the need for trade-offs and supports a fairer funding programme to local boards without service cuts.We want Auckland Council to continue to advocate to the central government for reduced or free public transport to minimise transport costs on households and reduce overall fuel use. Furthermore, continue to advocate for Auckland's direction in its own future.

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?
(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
6	**Economic development and events –** growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
5	**Local parks, community and recreation services –** local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
2	**Planning and infrastructure to manage growth –** planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
4	**Regional parks and environment –** looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects

3	**Transport –** roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
1	**Flood resilience –** reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

Auckland Council needs to prioritise activities and services which actively grow community sustainability and resilience. This includes adapting to climate change; additional transport options in poorly-served communities; integrated land-use and infrastructure planning (e.g. aiming for complete communities rather than greenfield expansion). WiUA would rank Economic Development and events higher if it focused on supporting small businesses. Events are a rare occurrence, rather a day to day likelihood matter, therefore this aspect is not seen as a priority. However, economic development is a priority and needs to be driven by local procurement, upskilling local workers i.e. CRL, and supporting local businesses.

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Māori identity and culture – reflect and celebrate Māori identity and culture throughout the city centre.,Safety – a safer and more welcoming city centre, both day and night, for residents, workers and visitors.,Streets and public spaces – improve streets, parks and public spaces so the city centre is a great place to live and spend time in.,Supporting businesses – help businesses succeed by making them easier to access by attracting more visitors to the city with well-designed streets and public spaces.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4816

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 Living Wage Movement

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

Support most

Tell us why

Because of the Living Wage

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

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

- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering a Local Services Targeted Rate, changes to service levels or fees, or a combination of both approaches. We could introduce a Local Services Targeted Rate of $47.11 (GST inclusive) per Separately Used or Inhabited Part per annum on all rateable properties except those categorised as zero-rated in the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area ($0.91 cent per week) to cover the increased cost of delivering existing services. What do you think about this proposal?

I don't know

3. We could adjust some service levels, fees and charges. What do you think about the proposed changes?

A. Reduce library hours - reduce hours at our four libraries as needed, without going below the regional minimum service level of 44 hours over 6 days at each library.

Do not support

B. Reduce maintenance - Stop scheduled bollard and post-and-rail maintenance, stop scheduled maintenance for bush areas (except High Value/Ecological), change garden edging to chemical application, cease infill planting and mulching in amenity gardens and reclassify re-vegetation areas to bush areas.

Do not support

C. Reduce discretionary funding for Community Wellbeing programmes and services, Environment Management programmes and services and community grants.

Do not support

D. Increase pools and leisure fees - Increase fees and charges by $1 for "Plus" services at Moana-Nui-ā-Kiwa Pool and Leisure Centre.

Do not support

E. Charge adult visitors from outside the local board area at Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa Pool and Leisure Centre and Ōtāhuhu Pool and Leisure Centre (Toia).

Do not support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

4. Overall, how do you think the local board should address the cost increases?

A combination of a Local Service Targeted Rate and reductions to current service levels and/or increases to fees and charges

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

Submission by the Living Wage Movement to work in partnership with Auckland Council.

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Submission to Auckland Council on the:

Annual Plan 2026/2027

The Living Wage Movement Tāmaki Makaurau

Submitted by the Living Wage Movement

Who is the Living Wage Movement

- The Living Wage Movement is a broad-based organisation made up of three streams; faith, union and community organisations. It has networks and members from Tāmaki Makaurau to the lively network of Ōtautahi and members across the motu, all who are proud to be part of the Living Wage family. The newest network of South Auckland Living Wage was recently established, by the community and its people.
- The Living Wage Movement is a non-partisan civil society alliance. Our mission is to end in-work poverty, improve the wellbeing of families and children and work towards social justice. Turning the stories and voices of our people into action and change for our communities, whilst building and training institutional leaders who are committed to the betterment of their communities.
- The Living Wage Movement acts as the vehicle in which all walks of society can come together, share, plan, reflect, and take action for the common good of the Living Wage for our workers, our family members, and our people.









What is the Living Wage?

- The Living Wage is the income necessary to provide workers and their families with the necessities of life. A Living Wage will enable workers to live with dignity and to participate as active citizens in society.
- The Living Wage is a response to growing poverty and inequality that continues to hold back so many Kiwi workers, their families and our economy. The Living Wage concept is a simple, yet powerful alternative – it's the hourly wage a worker needs to pay for the necessities of life and participate as an active citizen in the community.
- It reflects the expenses of workers and their families such as food, transportation, housing and childcare, and is calculated independently by the New Zealand Family Centre Social Policy Unit.
- For 2025/2026 the Living Wage rate was calculated at $28.95. The 2026/2027 rate will be announced on April 1st, and is applicable from September 1st each year for accredited employers.

Auckland Council's Accreditation

We are thankful to Mayor Wayne Brown and the Auckland Council for supporting the Auckland Council Living Wage Accreditation, which has significantly improved the lives of countless workers, their families, and their communities across Tāmaki Makaurau. The impact the Living Wage makes is huge, and is best explained by the workers who benefit themselves. Here is what Kinikini Tokimua, an Auckland Council Security Guard, shared at our Wages Houses Forum last year.

"One big thing the Living Wage has meant for me, is that I can afford to pay for a mortgage. For so many people in Auckland, housing is too expensive. The fact that I can own my own house and afford to pay my mortgage means that I have a secure home for myself and my family. It also means that my family is set up for generations to come. That is the difference a Living Wage can make."

"For the other people that I work with, the Living Wage has made a big difference too. The Living Wage is the difference between surviving, and thriving in our community. It means that my colleagues can afford to pay the bills and afford groceries, in a time when everything is so expensive. But it is about more than just the basics. The Living Wage means my colleagues can work decent hours and spend time with their families. It gives us a choice - a little extra that we can spend on presents for the kids, or to support a local business, or to save up for a holiday, or even maybe to save up and pay for a mortgage, like me."



“I stand here today to proudly say that I work at Auckland Council, a Living Wage Employer. Let’s keep this important change - and let’s keep going to change the lives of other workers who deserve it too.”

Policy “asks” for the 2026/2027 Annual Plan

1. **Maintaining the Living Wage as the minimum rate for all directly employed staff and regularly contracted workers at Auckland Council.**

The Living Wage is currently being paid to all directly employed staff and regularly contracted workers at Auckland Council. As the Living Wage rate increases/changes over the years, the commitment to paying all workers at Auckland Council a wage they can live on as minimum is vital.

2. **Maintaining Living Wage Employer Accreditation.**

The Accreditation scheme is an important way to lock in the Living Wage for future generations of workers and give them a sense of security in their work and life conditions, support the Living Wage Movement to continue to do important work to lift wages, and lets employers be symbols of the kind of change we want to see when it comes to ending poverty wages.

3. **To support Council Controlled Organisations to become Living Wage Accredited Employers.**

There are a few Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) that Auckland Council has influence over that are yet to become Living Wage Employers. We want to make sure any institution that is supported by public money pays its workers the Living Wage as a minimum, and becomes an official Living Wage Employer. We would also like to request a meeting with an assigned Councillor from each Council Controlled Organisation to work together with the Living Wage Movement on how to best achieve Living Wage Accreditation across all Council Controlled Organisations. This will include:

- Auckland Transport
- Watercare
- Tātaki Unlimited
- Ports of Auckland
- Auckland Future Fund

Accreditation for Council Controlled Organisations

The Living Wage provides workers and their families with the ability to meet the basic costs of living and participate fully in community life. It reflects a simple but powerful principle: that those who contribute to the running of our city should be able to live with dignity in the communities they serve.

Auckland Council has already shown that Living Wage accreditation is achievable and sustainable. The process, undertaken in partnership with Living Wage Movement Aotearoa, is clear, robust, and well-established. Nearly two years on, the Council continues to demonstrate that fair pay can sit alongside responsible governance and strong organisational performance.

The next logical step is to extend this leadership across the wider council whānau by supporting Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) - including Auckland Future Fund, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, Watercare, Auckland Transport and Ports of Auckland - to become accredited Living Wage Employers.

CCOs play a vital role in delivering services that Aucklanders rely on every day. Ensuring the workers who keep these services running are paid the Living Wage would strengthen Auckland Council’s commitment to fairness, responsible procurement, and inclusive economic development.

At a time when many households are facing rising living costs, extending Living Wage accreditation to CCOs would send a clear signal that Auckland Council values the people who serve this city.

The Living Wage is not only good for workers - it is good for our communities, good for our local economy, and good for the long-term wellbeing of Tāmaki Makaurau.

We are ready to meet with the relevant staff members, city councillors, and other stakeholders to make this dream a reality.

Mayor Wayne Brown's commitment

Last year, at a joint Wages and Houses Forum, the Mayor made three commitments as a candidate. We are grateful for the continued support and leadership from Auckland Council.

1. **Maintaining the Living Wage as the minimum rate for all directly employed staff and regularly contracted workers at Auckland Council.**

Mayor Wayne Brown committed "**Yes**"

2. **Maintaining Living Wage Employer Accreditation.**

Mayor Wayne Brown committed "**Yes**"

3. **To support Council Controlled Organisations to become Living Wage Accredited Employers.**

Mayor Wayne Brown committed "**Yes**"



Conclusion

Every worker deserves a wage they can live on, not just scrape by. Workers who benefit from the Living Wage are often those doing the jobs that are under-appreciated but vital. Auckland Council has shown they appreciate these workers and the work they do. We look forward to continuing working with Auckland Council to change workers' lives for the better in our wonderful city.

To get in touch with any representative of The Living Wage Movement, please contact the Auckland Organiser at the following email address:

[redacted]

For accreditation enquiries, please contact the Living Wage Employer Programme

[redacted]

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4819

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: CLM Community Sport

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

Support most

Tell us why

Across Counties Manukau (South Auckland), continued investment in sport and recreation infrastructure remains critical to ensuring our rapidly growing and diverse communities can access quality, local opportunities to be active. We acknowledge Auckland Council's progress in addressing regional gaps in indoor courts, aquatic provision and open space, and strongly support maintaining momentum through sustained and targeted investment.A key priority for our region is the retention of the enhanced Sport and Recreation Facility Investment Fund. This fund has already enabled community-led solutions in areas where traditional delivery models have struggled to keep pace

with demand. In South Auckland, where population growth, youth demographics and participation pressures are among the highest in the region, this investment is not only valuable—it is essential.Alongside regional investment, there are immediate, place-based opportunities that would significantly improve access and utilisation across several Local Board areas:Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local BoardMoyle Park – field upgrades with increased lighting across both fields to expand usable ساعات and support growing demandBeddingfield Park – playground renewal alongside the installation of a dirt volleyball court to diversify informal recreation opportunitiesMurphy Park – increased training field lighting and a dirt volleyball court to enhance both structured and casual useManurewa Local BoardMountfort Park – installation of field lighting on Field 5 to unlock additional winter training and competition capacityŌtara-Papatoetoe Local BoardNgāti Ōtara Park – increased lighting capacity and levelling of the DTA space to improve safety, usability and year-round accessLooking ahead, there is also a significant strategic opportunity to explore the future potential of the Manukau Sports Bowl as a regional anchor facility. We recommend investment into a feasibility scope and detailed study to assess the development of the Manukau Sports Bowl as a Regional Sports Hub in the heart of Manukau. This would consider its potential to become a multi-purpose, integrated facility supporting a wide range of community sport groups and organisations, with access to both indoor and outdoor courts and fields. Positioned within a key growth area and well-connected transport network, this development has the potential to transform access, strengthen pathways, and create a centralised, community-focused destination for sport and active recreation across South Auckland.We also strongly endorse Council's continued shift towards more innovative delivery approaches, particularly partnerships with schools and community providers. In Counties Manukau, where land constraints and high utilisation are ongoing challenges, these models are essential to maximising existing infrastructure and enabling more flexible, community-led use of space.Ongoing investment in asset renewals is equally important to ensure facilities remain safe, functional and fit for purpose. This is especially critical in high-use environments where infrastructure is under constant pressure.At a broader level, we recognise the importance of continued investment into regional and sub-regional initiatives that directly benefit South Auckland communities. Programmes such as the sports field capacity development programme, open space acquisition, and local upgrades like David Lange Park contribute to creating accessible, vibrant and connected environments that support participation, wellbeing and community cohesion.We also strongly support targeted investment into Māori outcomes, including marae infrastructure and initiatives that strengthen engagement with mana whenua and mataawaka. This aligns closely with the demographic profile of South Auckland and ensures that investment reflects the aspirations and needs of the communities it serves.Overall, there is a clear opportunity to align regional investment, local delivery and future planning—such as the proposed Manukau Sports Bowl feasibility study—to create a more equitable, accessible and sustainable sport and recreation system for Counties Manukau.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**

- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

The above items do not impact on our mahi.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Franklin,Māngere-Ōtāhuhu,Manurewa,Ōtara-Papatoetoe,Papakura

Franklin Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

We are broadly supportive of the direction outlined in the Franklin Local Board Plan 2026/2027 and the strong focus on investing in sport, active recreation and community spaces that respond to growth and local need. In particular, we support prioritising any additional operational funding towards delivering the key projects identified within the Local Board's Sport and Active Recreation Facilities Plan. This Plan provides a clear, evidence-based roadmap, and we acknowledge the Local Board's leadership in progressing this work.

From our perspective, there are several priority areas where continued momentum will be important. Advancing Papahua Sports Park remains a critical opportunity, particularly advocating for alignment with Auckland Council's growth programme to enable future sports facilities and services that can meet increasing demand. We also see value in progressing solutions at Karioitahi Beach that balance community access with environmental protection, ensuring it remains a safe and sustainable space for both locals and visitors.

Enabling the next stages of the Paparata Local Purpose Reserve (Bombay) concept plan is another positive step, especially where there are opportunities for local community partnership in delivery. Similarly, continuing to explore future development options for Clarks Beach Reserves is important to ensure investment keeps pace with growth while reflecting the aspirations of the community.

Overall, the proposed priorities reflect a well-considered approach that aligns with both current demand and future planning needs, and we support the Local Board in continuing to progress these initiatives.

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

We recognise the intent behind the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board's proposal to maintain and enhance local services, and the role a Local Services Targeted Rate could play in supporting this. Applying the rate to capital value appears to be the most equitable approach; however, it is important to carefully consider the additional pressure this may place on households already experiencing financial strain. Greater transparency around what this investment will deliver on the ground would also strengthen community understanding and confidence in the proposal.

There are also some clear, place-based opportunities that would make a meaningful difference to participation locally. Enhancing lighting and field quality at Moyle Park would increase usability and extend playing hours, while improvements at Beddingfield Park—such as a refreshed playground and the addition of a volleyball space—would broaden recreation options for families and young people. At Murphy Park, additional training lights and a similar volleyball provision would further support both organised sport and informal community use.

Taken together, these initiatives represent practical steps toward strengthening local infrastructure and improving access, provided they are delivered with careful consideration of community impact and long-term sustainability.

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering a Local Services Targeted Rate, changes to service levels or fees, or a combination of both approaches. We could introduce a Local Services Targeted Rate of $47.11 (GST inclusive) per Separately Used or Inhabited Part per annum on all rateable properties except those categorised as zero-rated in the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area ($0.91 cent per week) to cover the increased cost of delivering existing services. What do you think about this proposal?

Other

3. We could adjust some service levels, fees and charges. What do you think about the proposed changes?

A. Reduce library hours - reduce hours at our four libraries as needed, without going below the regional minimum service level of 44 hours over 6 days at each library.

Support

B. Reduce maintenance - Stop scheduled bollard and post-and-rail maintenance, stop scheduled maintenance for bush areas (except High Value/Ecological), change garden edging to chemical application, cease infill planting and mulching in amenity gardens and reclassify re-vegetation areas to bush areas.

I don't know

C. Reduce discretionary funding for Community Wellbeing programmes and services, Environment Management programmes and services and community grants.

Do not support

D. Increase pools and leisure fees - Increase fees and charges by $1 for "Plus" services at Moana-Nui-ā-Kiwa Pool and Leisure Centre.

Support

E. Charge adult visitors from outside the local board area at Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa Pool and Leisure Centre and Ōtāhuhu Pool and Leisure Centre (Toia).

Support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

The concept of introducing differential charging for aquatic facilities—particularly for those outside the Local Board area—has merit if it helps ease the cost burden on local residents. That said, there are practical challenges to work through to ensure any system is workable, fair, and does not unintentionally limit access for those who would benefit most.

We see real value in continuing to invest in community hubs such as libraries and leisure centres so they can better support evolving needs, including after-school programmes and spaces for young people. These environments are increasingly important as safe, accessible places for connection and activity within the community.

4. Overall, how do you think the local board should address the cost increases?

A combination of a Local Service Targeted Rate and reductions to current service levels and/or increases to fees and charges

Manurewa Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support all

Tell us why

CLM Community Sport supports options provided, acknowledging the allocation of $1.5 million of funding to support the delivery of the Manurewa War Memorial Park multi-sports pavilion, along with key projects which see continuation of improved sports fields, maintenance, sand-carpeting, lighting along with the new neighbourhood park at Glenveagh Reserve. We are fully supportive of the proposed new multi-cultural initiative and the continued funding for further delivery of the community's Pan-Pacific Strategy.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment?

A. Allocate up to $1.5 million of funding to support delivery of the Manurewa War Memorial Park multi-sports pavilion.

Support

B. Deliver a new multi-cultural initiative that responds to demands for increased ethnic engagement.

Support

C. Develop a civics education initiative that helps people understand the role of local boards and how they can get involved.

Support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

The allocation of $1.5 million into delivery of the Manurewa War Memorial Park multi-sports pavilion will ensure that quality facilities are made available for the community to have access to multi-sports opportunities and quality experiences as a whanau that sees them living, working and playing in their local area. The multi-cultural initiative ensures that the cultural capability and capacity of the Local Board and the wider community is increased to ensure more effective engagement and inclusive approach to local community development initiatives. The development of a civics education initiative will only enhance wider community engagement.

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Support most

Tell us why

We recognise the intent behind the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board's proposal to maintain and enhance local services, and the role a Local Services Targeted Rate could play in supporting this. Applying the rate to capital value appears to be the most equitable approach; however, it is important to carefully consider the additional pressure this may place on households already experiencing financial strain. Greater transparency around what this investment will deliver on the ground would also strengthen community understanding and confidence in the proposal.

The concept of introducing differential charging for aquatic facilities—particularly for those outside the Local Board area—has merit if it helps ease the cost burden on local residents. That said, there are practical challenges to work through to ensure any system is workable, fair, and does not unintentionally limit access for those who would benefit most.

We do see value in continuing to invest in community hubs such as libraries and leisure centres so they can better support evolving needs, including after-school programmes and spaces for young people. Reviewing the reduction of hours by facility before committing to proposed reduction would be advisable, as some communities may be impacted by reduced hours more than others. These environments are increasingly important as safe, accessible places for connection and activity within the community.

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing and other pressures, we must address an increase in the cost of delivering existing services within its current funding. To balance the budget, we are considering a Local Services Targeted Rate, changes to service levels or fees, or a combination of both approaches. We could introduce a Local Services Targeted Rate of $1.1 million capital value based rate charged to all properties (this would be around $27 based on average value urban residential property in the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board area) to cover the increased cost of delivering existing services. What do you think about this option?

Support

3. We could adjust some service levels, fees and charges. What do you think about the proposed changes?

A. Reduce maintenance - Stop scheduled bollard and post-and-rail maintenance, stop scheduled maintenance for bush areas (except High Value/Ecological), change garden edging to chemical application, cease infill planting and mulching in amenity gardens and reclassify re-vegetation areas to bush areas.

I don’t know

B. Reduce library hours: Ōtara Library, reduction of 4 hours per week; Papatoetoe Library, reduction of 2 hours per week; Tupu Youth Library, reduction of 5 hours per week; Manukau Library, reduction to a 6-day service, close on Sundays.

Do not support

C. Reduce discretionary spending on community grants, community and/or environment projects.

Support

D. Increase to fees for "Plus" (spa, sauna, and steam room entry) services by $1 at Ōtara Pool and Leisure Centre and Papatoetoe Centennial Pool (PCP).

Support

E. Charge adult visitors from outside the local board area at Ōtara Pool and Leisure Centre and Papatoetoe Centennial Pool (PCP).

Support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

The concept of introducing differential charging for aquatic facilities—particularly for those outside the Local Board area—has merit if it helps ease the cost burden on local residents. That said, there are practical challenges to work through to ensure any system is workable, fair, and does not unintentionally limit access for those who would benefit most.

4. Overall, how do you think the local board should address the cost increases?

A combination of a Local Service Targeted Rate and reductions to current service levels and/or increases to fees and charges

Papakura Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

From a CLM Community Sport perspective, we recognise the financial pressures facing the Local Board; however, we do not support the proposed reduction or removal of sports and park activation activities. These initiatives represent some of the most cost-effective ways to enable tamariki, rangatahi and whānau to be active, connect, and experience positive participation opportunities within their own communities. Retaining and, where possible, strengthening these activations will continue to play an important role in driving equitable access and community wellbeing.

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering changes to service levels or fees. What do you think about the proposed changes to service levels and fees and charges?

A. Reduce library hours on Mondays and Fridays at Sir Edmund Hillary Library.

Support

B. Reduce library hours on Saturdays at Sir Edmund Hillary Library.

Support

C. Reduce selected maintenance: Stop bollard and post-and-rail maintenance in parks, stop scheduled maintenance for bush areas (except high value/ecological).

Support

D. Charge a higher fee for visitors outside the Auckland region who visit Massey Park Pool.

Support

E. Reduce or discontinue grant funding.

Do not support

F. Reduce the numbers of public rubbish bins in public spaces such as town centres, parks and reserves.

Support

G. Reduce or discontinue some arts and culture activities.

Support

H. Reduce or discontinue some services and programmes in arts facilities and community centres.

Do not support

I. Reduce or discontinue some community development and support activities.

Do not support

J. Reduce or discontinue some environmental and water quality activities.

I don’t know

K. Reduce or discontinue civic events.

Support

L. Reduce or discontinue sports and park activation activities.

Do not support

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

We also acknowledge the rationale for introducing higher fees for visitors from outside the Auckland region at Massey Park Pool, particularly as a way to ease the cost burden on local ratepayers. While this approach has merit in principle, further consideration is needed around how it could be

implemented in a practical and efficient way, and whether the potential revenue generated would justify the complexity of delivery.

Looking ahead, we are supportive of progressing priority projects identified within the Sport and Recreation Plan, and welcome the opportunity for CLM Community Sport to work alongside Aktive and the Local Board to support delivery where appropriate.

We also see strong value in advancing the refresh of the greenways network and associated pathway connections, including developments through McLennan Memorial Park, improved links between Kauri Flats School and Pulman Park, and wider connectivity across Hingaia through to Drury. These initiatives will enhance access, support active transport, and create more connected communities.

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the 2026–2027 Annual Plan consultation. It is important that the voices of our Counties Manukau communities are reflected in decisions that shape future investment.From a CLM Community Sport perspective, we welcome the continued focus on strengthening play, active recreation and sport opportunities. These investments are critical to enabling tamariki, rangatahi and whānau across South Auckland to access quality, inclusive and locally relevant experiences that support wellbeing, connection and lifelong participation.We look forward to seeing these commitments translate into meaningful, on-the-ground outcomes for our communities.

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
4	**Economic development and events –** growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
1	**Local parks, community and recreation services –** local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
2	**Planning and infrastructure to manage growth –** planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
3	**Regional parks and environment –** looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
6	**Transport –** roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
5	**Flood resilience –** reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

Sport and Recreation as this is where the opportunities for our community to engage through physical activity options is made possible, which go a long way to address many social, health, mental and physical challenges faced.

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Better connections – improve links between the city centre, the waterfront and nearby neighbourhoods.,Events and city life – attract people to the city centre through events, culture and a strong sense of place.,Getting around – make it easier to walk, drive, cycle and use public transport in the city centre and from east to west, including better traffic flow.,Supporting businesses – help businesses succeed by making them easier to access by attracting more visitors to the city with well-designed streets and public spaces.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5082

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: Alcohol Healthwatch

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

N/A

Tell us why

N/A

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

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

- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

The alcohol licensing regime and fee-setting is part of a package of measures which, when used comprehensively, can create safer environments and significantly minimise rates of hazardous drinking and subsequently alcohol-related harm. This includes the Council's Local Alcohol Policy and the Alcohol Control Bylaw and similar policies.We strongly encourage the Council to also make a bylaw that reflects the costs of licensing activities and recommend that the Council consider opting for 100% cost recovery, increasing fees incrementally until the bylaw is reviewed in five years' time.We further recommend that the Council conduct a comprehensive review of all the costs incurred with licensing, which includes costs associated with administration, monitoring and enforcement to ensure that these are met by the sector.An alcohol licensing bylaw that sets fees that reflects the costs incurred with liquor licencing is not only a harm reduction strategy, but it also supports community outcomes.See attachment for full submission.

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5084

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: Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

Other

Tell us why

Environmental pressures across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland remain significant. While some improvements are being recorded, progress remains uneven and many ecosystems remain degraded across freshwater, coastal and terrestrial environments.- Key elements of the proposed Annual Plan are supported, including continued investment in Healthy Waters, Making Space for Water, and the City Rail Link.- However, current funding levels do not support the scale of work required to restore and build resilience into our natural systems.- It is a concern that fiscal pressures on local boards may reduce support for community-led environmental programmes,

which play a critical role in delivering outcomes across the region.- Increased investment in biodiversity, climate and environmental programmes is recommended to better reflect the scale of the challenges facing Tāmaki Makaurau.We acknowledge that the proposed general rates increase is primarily driven by the new operating and financing costs of the City Rail Link once it opens in 2026. We support this investment in reliable, low-emissions transport that aligns with Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri, Auckland's Climate Plan.We also support the continued funding for Healthy Waters and the Making Space for Water (MSfW) programme, enabling vital flood-resilience, stormwater and blue-green network mahi to continue in 2026/27.We understand the move toward a fairer funding model for local boards. However, there is a risk that environmental programmes and community-led initiatives may be reduced as boards respond to budget pressures. This is particularly concerning given that community conservation relies on a combination of regional and local support, and reductions at the local level can quickly limit the effectiveness of regional investment. Ensuring local boards are able to maintain support for environmental programmes will be important to sustain progress across the region.We call on Council to increase support for frontline, volunteer powered communities by ensuring local boards are adequately funded and grants are available.We support the continuation of NETR-funded programmes in 2026/27.Maintain the Climate Action Targeted Rate. An average increase of 22% in the WQTR is supported to address sediment and pollution in our waterways and improve catchment management.See attachment for full submission.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

Environmental pressures across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland remain significant. While some improvements are being recorded, progress remains uneven and many ecosystems remain degraded across freshwater, coastal and terrestrial environments.- Key elements of the proposed Annual Plan are supported, including continued investment in Healthy Waters, Making Space for Water, and the City Rail Link.- However, current funding levels do not support the scale of work required to restore and build resilience into our natural systems.- It is a concern that fiscal pressures on local boards may reduce support for community-led environmental programmes, which play a critical role in delivering outcomes across the region.- Increased investment in biodiversity, climate and environmental programmes is recommended to better reflect the scale of the challenges facing Tāmaki Makaurau.We acknowledge that the proposed general rates increase is primarily driven by the new operating and financing costs of the City Rail Link once it opens in 2026. We support this investment in reliable, low-emissions transport that aligns with Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri, Auckland's Climate Plan.We also support the continued funding for Healthy

Waters and the Making Space for Water (MSfW) programme, enabling vital flood-resilience, stormwater and blue-green network mahi to continue in 2026/27.We support the continuation of NETR-funded programmes in 2026/27.Maintain the Climate Action Targeted Rate.An average increase of 22% in the WQTR is supported to address sediment and pollution in our waterways and improve catchment management.See attachment for full submission.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Devonport-Takapuna,Hibiscus and Bays,Kaipātiki,Rodney,Upper Harbour

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

Our submission points relate specifically to the activities of Auckland Council within this area whether delivered by the Governing Body, Local Boards, or CCOs. For regional matters the branch supports the above submission points.

We note funding pressures need to be addressed by all Local Boards in our area listed above excluding Hibiscus and Bays and urge all boards to continue support for community and environmental services that contribute towards the restoration and protection of our environment.

The North Shore is a significant place for wildlife in Auckland. We are a key supporter of the North West Wildlink14 that should provide an ecological corridor that is safe, healthy, and connected, between the predator free islands of the Hauraki Gulf and the Waitākere Ranges. And with the Waitematā Harbour on our west coast and Hauraki Gulf on our east coast we have a range of habitats for marine life, sea and shore birds, and freshwater species. We are also in a part of Auckland that is growing with intensification. Our desire is that as we grow our neighbourhoods become places where both people and nature can thrive.

To do this we ask that all of Auckland Council invests in:

· Protection and restoration of Tīkapa Moana / the Hauraki Gulf, including a coordinated approach to intertidal ecosystems through enhanced and better integrated ecological monitoring, support for mana whenua and community-led initiatives, and integration with catchment management to reduce pressures on coastal environments.

· Re-establishing the North West Wildlink as a goal in managing ecological outcomes within North Auckland.

· The acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of public space that provides sustainable recreation opportunities for communities while also creating habitats for wildlife that are safe, healthy, and connected.

· Support for the community lead restoration networks; Restoring Takarunga Hauraki, Pupuke Birdsong, Pest Free Kaipātiki, Upper Waitematā Ecology Network, and Restore Hibiscus & Bays; and the groups within these networks; that are coordinating landscape scale ecological volunteer work within local neighbourhoods.

· Council and NGO programs and services that support our communities to live sustainably alongside nature; such as community rangers, Sustainable Schools, and community recycling centres.

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering changes to service levels or fees. What do you think about the proposed changes?

A. Reduced maintenance of bollards and fencing, stop scheduled maintenance for bush area (except High Value/Ecological areas), reduced service level for amenity gardens and planted areas, and reclassifying re-vegetation areas to bush areas.

B. Reduced library hours over 7 days.

C. Reduced local board funding to local organisations that deliver local events.

D. Reduced budget available for contestable grants.

E. Reduced funding for organisations that deliver support and services for seniors, youth, ethnic communities, sport and recreation and community wellbeing.

F.Reduced funding support for The Depot, Devonport Museum, The Lake House, The Michael King Writers Centre, North Shore Brass, The Pumphouse and The Rose Centre.

G. Reduced funding for parks volunteers.

H. Reduced funding support for environmental restoration, planting, pest management, and waste minimisation.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

The Hibiscus Coast is a significant place for wildlife in Auckland with a range of habitats from coastal and estuarine spaces to bush clad slopes in more rural areas.

We are a key supporter of the North West Wildlink that should provide an ecological corridor between the predator free islands of the Hauraki Gulf and the Waitākere Ranges.

We believe change to the local Ward Boundaries are required to provide a more coordinated approach to services, planning and ecological works. Of particular interest to Hibiscus Coast Branch is the inclusion of the rapidly developing urban areas to the west of Orewa (Western side of State Highway 1 - The Motorway) from the Waiwera River south to the Okura River and their associated catchments, including the urban areas of Milldale & Dairy Flat into the Hibiscus and Bays Ward.

Looking after the whole waterway (Catchment area) from the headwaters to the river/stream mouth discharge into the Hauraki Gulf is probably a more practical & sensible approach. Currently this is not possible with the current area-based funding models.

We are also in a part of Auckland that is growing with significant intensification - the impacts of sediment flowing from building sites into our waterways and coast and the intensive harvesting of inter-tidal marine life are issues of particular concern. The section 186A has been useful for some of the coastline but anecdotal reports suggest harvesting effort has moved outside the closure areas.

Our desire is that as we grow our neighbourhoods become places where both people and nature can thrive. To do this we ask that all of Auckland Council invests in:

· Supporting environmental groups to undertake research into the state of the Intertidal zone around the Auckland coastline and monitoring of the changes in the "Protected Zones". Furthermore, we urge Auckland Council to support and advocate central Government for changes to marine protection particularly in regard to the intertidal zone - up to 200m below Mean High water. To protect these important ecosystems, protection measures must be enacted for species that currently have no quota limit.

· Support for community lead restoration networks including Forest & Bird's Pest Free Hibiscus Coast Programme, Restore Hibiscus & Bays and the groups within these networks that are coordinating landscape scale ecological volunteer work within local neighbourhoods.

· Sustained Council and NGO programs and services that support our communities to live sustainably alongside nature; such as community rangers and community recycling centres.

· Re-establishing the North West Wildlink as a goal in managing ecological outcomes within North

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment and changes to fees and charges?

A. 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.

B. Supporting community access to a wide range of recreational opportunities through investigating new capex projects such as outdoor court provision and increasing support for indoor court provision through facilities grants.

C. Creating safer town centres and other public spaces through actions such as an increased support for community safety and placemaking.

D. 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.

E. Introducing changes to a range of fees in pools and leisure centres, including casual recreation, dry and aquatic group fitness and pool lane hire to better align fees across our sites.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Kaipātiki Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

We note funding pressures need to be addressed by all Local Boards in our area listed above excluding Hibiscus and Bays and urge all boards to continue support for community and environmental services that contribute towards the restoration and protection of our environment.

The North Shore is a significant place for wildlife in Auckland. We are a key supporter of the North West Wildlink14 that should provide an ecological corridor that is safe, healthy, and connected, between the predator free islands of the Hauraki Gulf and the Waitākere Ranges. And with the Waitematā Harbour on our west coast and Hauraki Gulf on our east coast we have a range of habitats for marine life, sea and shore birds, and freshwater species. We are also in a part of Auckland that is growing with intensification. Our desire is that as we grow our neighbourhoods become places where both people and nature can thrive.

To do this we ask that all of Auckland Council invests in:

· Protection and restoration of Tīkapa Moana / the Hauraki Gulf, including a coordinated approach to intertidal ecosystems through enhanced and better integrated ecological monitoring, support for mana whenua and community-led initiatives, and integration with catchment management to reduce pressures on coastal environments.

· Re-establishing the North West Wildlink as a goal in managing ecological outcomes within North Auckland.

· The acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of public space that provides sustainable recreation opportunities for communities while also creating habitats for wildlife that are safe, healthy, and connected.

· Support for the community lead restoration networks; Restoring Takarunga Hauraki, Pupuke Birdsong, Pest Free Kaipātiki, Upper Waitematā Ecology Network, and Restore Hibiscus & Bays; and the groups within these networks; that are coordinating landscape scale ecological volunteer work within local neighbourhoods.

· Council and NGO programs and services that support our communities to live sustainably alongside nature; such as community rangers, Sustainable Schools, and community recycling centres.

Tell us why

The Hibiscus Coast is a significant place for wildlife in Auckland with a range of habitats from coastal and estuarine spaces to bush clad slopes in more rural areas.

We are a key supporter of the North West Wildlink that should provide an ecological corridor between the predator free islands of the Hauraki Gulf and the Waitākere Ranges.

We believe change to the local Ward Boundaries are required to provide a more coordinated approach to services, planning and ecological works. Of particular interest to Hibiscus Coast Branch is the inclusion of the rapidly developing urban areas to the west of Orewa (Western side of State

Highway 1 - The Motorway) from the Waiwera River south to the Okura River and their associated catchments, including the urban areas of Milldale & Dairy Flat into the Hibiscus and Bays Ward.

Looking after the whole waterway (Catchment area) from the headwaters to the river/stream mouth discharge into the Hauraki Gulf is probably a more practical & sensible approach. Currently this is not possible with the current area-based funding models.

We are also in a part of Auckland that is growing with significant intensification - the impacts of sediment flowing from building sites into our waterways and coast and the intensive harvesting of inter-tidal marine life are issues of particular concern. The section 186A has been useful for some of the coastline but anecdotal reports suggest harvesting effort has moved outside the closure areas.

Our desire is that as we grow our neighbourhoods become places where both people and nature can thrive. To do this we ask that all of Auckland Council invests in:

· Supporting environmental groups to undertake research into the state of the Intertidal zone around the Auckland coastline and monitoring of the changes in the "Protected Zones". Furthermore, we urge Auckland Council to support and advocate central Government for changes to marine protection particularly in regard to the intertidal zone - up to 200m below Mean High water. To protect these important ecosystems, protection measures must be enacted for species that currently have no quota limit.

· Support for community lead restoration networks including Forest & Bird's Pest Free Hibiscus Coast Programme, Restore Hibiscus & Bays and the groups within these networks that are coordinating landscape scale ecological volunteer work within local neighbourhoods.

· Sustained Council and NGO programs and services that support our communities to live sustainably alongside nature; such as community rangers and community recycling centres.

· Re-establishing the North West Wildlink as a goal in managing ecological outcomes within North Auckland

Upper Harbour Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

We note funding pressures need to be addressed by all Local Boards in our area listed above excluding Hibiscus and Bays and urge all boards to continue support for community and environmental services that contribute towards the restoration and protection of our environment.

The North Shore is a significant place for wildlife in Auckland. We are a key supporter of the North West Wildlink14 that should provide an ecological corridor that is safe, healthy, and connected, between the predator free islands of the Hauraki Gulf and the Waitākere Ranges. And with the

Waitematā Harbour on our west coast and Hauraki Gulf on our east coast we have a range of habitats for marine life, sea and shore birds, and freshwater species. We are also in a part of Auckland that is growing with intensification. Our desire is that as we grow our neighbourhoods become places where both people and nature can thrive.

To do this we ask that all of Auckland Council invests in:

· Protection and restoration of Tīkapa Moana / the Hauraki Gulf, including a coordinated approach to intertidal ecosystems through enhanced and better integrated ecological monitoring, support for mana whenua and community-led initiatives, and integration with catchment management to reduce pressures on coastal environments.

· Re-establishing the North West Wildlink as a goal in managing ecological outcomes within North Auckland.

· The acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of public space that provides sustainable recreation opportunities for communities while also creating habitats for wildlife that are safe, healthy, and connected.

· Support for the community lead restoration networks; Restoring Takarunga Hauraki, Pupuke Birdsong, Pest Free Kaipātiki, Upper Waitematā Ecology Network, and Restore Hibiscus & Bays; and the groups within these networks; that are coordinating landscape scale ecological volunteer work within local neighbourhoods.

· Council and NGO programs and services that support our communities to live sustainably alongside nature; such as community rangers, Sustainable Schools, and community recycling centres.

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering changes to service levels or fees. What do you think about the proposed changes to service levels and fees and charges?

A. Reduce maintenance activities may include stopping scheduled work on bollards, post-and-rails, and low-value bush areas, ceasing amenity garden infill planting and mulching, and reclassifying re-vegetation areas as bush.

B. Reduce grants funding.

C. Reduce funding across all programmes and projects including environmental outcomes, events and activations, cycling initiatives and community outcomes.

D. Increase the fees and charges for Albany Stadium Pool: Option 1: Increase casual swim and swim plus fees by $1 (Fees will range from $5.00 - $11.40)

E. Increase the fees and charges for Albany Stadium Pool: Option 2: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee by $1 (Fees will become $2)

F. Increase the fees and charges for Albany Stadium Pool: Option 3: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee by $4 (Fees will become $5)

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

See attachment for full submission

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?
(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area

	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

Water and climate resilience, biodiversity and ecological integrity, low emissions and liveable urban systems, community capability. See attachment for full submission.

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

To: Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

- Submitted online

March 28, 2026

Feedback on the Auckland Council Annual Plan 2026/2027 by the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.

Submitter details
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc. (Forest & Bird)
Chancery Street, Auckland CBD
Auckland 1021

This feedback is on behalf of the organisation (Forest & Bird), including its Central Auckland, Hibiscus Coast, South Auckland, North Shore, Hauraki Islands, Waitakere and Warkworth branches. The preferred method of contact is email, as provided above.

Forest & Bird wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

Summary

- Environmental pressures across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland remain significant. While some improvements are being recorded, progress remains uneven and many ecosystems remain degraded across freshwater, coastal and terrestrial environments.
- Key elements of the proposed Annual Plan are supported, including continued investment in Healthy Waters, Making Space for Water, and the City Rail Link.
- However, current funding levels do not support the scale of work required to restore and build resilience into our natural systems.
- It is a concern that fiscal pressures on local boards may reduce support for community-led environmental programmes, which play a critical role in delivering outcomes across the region.
- Increased investment in biodiversity, climate and environmental programmes is recommended to better reflect the scale of the challenges facing Tāmaki Makaurau.

Introduction

1. **Forest & Bird is New Zealand's largest and longest-serving independent conservation organisation**, with over 100,000 members, supporters and volunteers working for an Aotearoa New Zealand where nature and people flourish together. Forest & Bird is an incorporated society with the constitutional objective to *take all reasonable steps within the power of the Society for the preservation and protection of the indigenous flora and fauna and the natural features of New Zealand.*

2. Our mission is to be a voice for nature on land, in freshwater, and at sea, by and on behalf of our members and supporters. Volunteers in 44 branches carry out community conservation projects and advocate for nature throughout Aotearoa.

3. This submission provides region-wide feedback on the 2026/27 Annual Plan, local responses reflecting the priorities, pressures and opportunities within individual local board areas and comments on future planning for Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Branch-level input is included to ensure feedback is grounded in local ecological knowledge.

4. This submission has been produced by Forest & Bird staff and is supported by the branches and their members, as well as the volunteers and supporters of Forest & Bird's own National Conservation Programmes in the region, Pest Free Hibiscus Coast (PFHC) and Ark in the Park.

5. **Forest & Bird actively supports conservation across Tāmaki Makaurau** with seven branches and two major nationally coordinated projects delivering outcomes on private and public land, including many Auckland Council sites across the region.

6. Forest & Bird expresses and acts upon a strong interest in Tāmaki Makaurau, regarding the protection and maintenance of indigenous biodiversity. This includes advocating for greater protection of indigenous species through sharing direction in planning, resource consents and policy.

7. **Forest & Bird projects enhance Council investment in managing its resources** by leveraging private funding and volunteer time to help deliver conservation outcomes on Council land. These partnerships have worked well and seen the reintroduction of taonga species (toutouwai NI robin and kōkako) and increased protection of pekapeka roa long-tailed bats in the Waitākere Ranges, alongside expanded predator control across Auckland parks, including the Hibiscus Coast, resulting in increased native bird populations.

8. Forest & Bird also undertake activities focused on upskilling our communities, which supports region-wide outcomes and ensures ongoing success of conservation initiatives.

9. Furthermore, the work of Forest & Bird and its branches increases the resilience of Tāmaki Makaurau by helping to restore and protect coastal ecosystems, stream margins, wetlands and forests, which provide essential services such as flood mitigation and land stabilisation.

Investment in conservation is needed to help keep Tāmaki Makaurau a great region

10. Aotearoa is experiencing a biodiversity crisis, with around 4000 native species now threatened or at risk of extinction due to invasive pests, habitat loss, direct exploitation (harvesting) and climate change[1]. These national trends are reflected in Tāmaki Makaurau, where population growth and ongoing land use changes continue to increase pressure on ecosystems.

11. Recent reporting[2],[3] shows that while improvements are occurring in some areas, many ecosystems remain degraded and significant work is still required. Key areas of concern include the ecological integrity of forests and wetlands, where fragmentation, ongoing land-use pressure and invasive species continue to limit ecosystem function[4],[5] . These ecosystems underpin biodiversity, water quality and climate resilience, yet remain vulnerable.

12. Freshwater systems are under increasing pressure, with lake water quality declining from already poor conditions and many rivers and streams showing degraded ecological health.

13. Pressures on our environment extend from land to sea. Estuarine and freshwater-influenced coastal waters remain under ongoing pressure from land-based runoff including the cumulative impacts of sedimentation[6]. Intertidal zones are also under increasing pressures from human activity, including harvesting with localised declines in intertidal life leading to recent rāhui. Multiple reports over many years have highlighted the degraded state of Tikapa Moana/Hauraki Gulf[7] and the need for improved sedimentation, sewage and storm water management.

14. Climate change adds further urgency. In 2024, Tāmaki Makaurau emitted 11,646 kilo-tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO2 e) into our atmosphere[8]. Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri, Auckland's Climate Plan[9], commits the region to halving emissions by 2030 and reaching net-zero by 2050. Major investments such as the City Rail Link will support a shift toward lower-emissions transport but achieving these targets will require sustained action across the wider system.

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[1] https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/biodiversity/anzbs-2020.pdf
[2] https://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz/media/bdlpganu/health-of-t%C4%81maki-makaurau-auckland-s-natural-environment-in-2025-auckland-council-sept-2025-accessible.pdf
[3] https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/content/dam/ac/docs/plans/auckland-plan/auckland-plan-three-yearly-progress-report-2025.pdf
[4] https://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz/media/plkfuyow/tr2025-22-forest-ecological-integrity-in-t%C4%81maki-makaurau-2009-2024.pdf
[5] https://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz/media/z0onqtef/tr2025-18-wetland-ecological-integrity-in-t%C4%81maki-makaurau-2010-2024.pdf
[6] https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/media/bnmjqdrp/coastal-water-quality-in-t%C4%81maki-makaurau-annual-data-summary-2025.pdf
[7] https://gulfjournal.org.nz/state-of-the-gulf/
[8] https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-region-industry-and-household-year-ended-2024/
[9] https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/en/plans-policies-bylaws-reports-projects/our-plans-strategies/topic-based-plans-strategies/environmental-plans-strategies/climate-plan.html

15. Overall, environmental monitoring shows that where sustained restoration and management efforts occur, ecosystems respond positively. This demonstrates that investment works and scaling it across the region is the central challenge. Sustained leadership and increased investment from Auckland Council, alongside collective effort across Tāmaki Makaurau, is essential to improve environmental health across the region.

Communities are doing the hard mahi

16. We recognise the value of mana whenua leadership in environmental restoration across Tāmaki Makaurau, with kaitiakitanga shaping long-term, place-based outcomes. We encourage continued co-governance and co-design approaches throughout Auckland Council.

17. Alongside this, communities across the region are actively restoring and protecting the places they care about. Across multiple organisations and thousands of hours of volunteer commitment we have seen pest populations managed (in some cases eradicated), wetlands replanted and urban ngahere/forests established and maintained.

18. This work contributes directly to biodiversity recovery, climate resilience and improved water quality. It also delivers significant value for Aucklanders, with volunteer labour, local knowledge and community funding multiplying the impact of council investment (see Appendix 1).

19. Auckland Council has played an important role in enabling this work through grants, partnerships and local board funding. Sustained investment in community-led restoration will be essential if Auckland is to respond effectively to the environmental pressures our region faces.

Auckland needs to invest in ecosystem services to strengthen climate change resilience

20. As well as being vitally important for its own sake, nature is an asset that provides Tāmaki Makaurau with services that it cannot afford to lose. Climate-fuelled storms such as the Auckland Anniversary floods, Cyclone Gabrielle and the intense rain events already experienced in 2026, clearly show the need for urgent action. With increasing frequency of these climate-driven storm events, further investment is needed to work with nature, so that our natural environment can protect our communities.

21. Nature-based solutions (as defined by the UNEA 5/5 resolution[10]), including restoring wetlands, stream margins and coastal ecosystems can reduce flood risk, improve water quality and support biodiversity at the same time. These approaches are increasingly recognised as essential infrastructure, that deliver benefits for people, biodiversity and resilience. Evidence indicates that nature-based solutions can provide up to 37% of the emissions reductions needed to meet Paris Agreement targets by 2030[11].

[10] https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?5226891/nature-based-solutions-UNEA
[11] https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/05/19/what-you-need-to-know-about-nature-based-solutions-to-climate-change

22. This working with nature approach has progressed through the Making Space for Water (MSFW) programme integrating blue-green infrastructure, catchment planning and maintenance. Delivering outcomes at the scale required will depend on sustained, long-term investment and coordination across council programmes.

23. While it is important to integrate more green spaces and nature-based solutions in our urban environment, it is also crucial that we protect and enhance those already present. The opportunity nature-based solutions provide the region must not be overlooked[12].

24. Auckland's environmental pressures are increasing, not easing. Addressing biodiversity decline, climate impacts and water-quality challenges will require urgent work and continued leadership from Auckland Council. Investment in nature, in community capability, and in resilient, catchment-based approaches is essential to protect the health of Tāmaki Makaurau and the quality of life Aucklanders value.

Recommended Budget Decisions

Changes to Rates and Fees

General Rates (average 9.53% increase)

25. We acknowledge that the proposed general rates increase is primarily driven by the new operating and financing costs of the City Rail Link once it opens in 2026. We support this investment in reliable, low-emissions transport that aligns with Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri, Auckland's Climate Plan.

26. We also support the continued funding for Healthy Waters and the Making Space for Water (MSfW) programme, enabling vital flood-resilience, stormwater and blue-green network mahi to continue in 2026/27.

27. We understand the move toward a fairer funding model for local boards. However, there is a risk that environmental programmes and community-led initiatives may be reduced as boards respond to budget pressures. This is particularly concerning given that community conservation relies on a combination of regional and local support, and reductions at the local level can quickly limit the effectiveness of regional investment. Ensuring local boards are able to maintain support for environmental programmes will be important to sustain progress across the region.

28. We call on Council to increase support for frontline, volunteer powered communities by ensuring local boards are adequately funded and grants are available.

[12] https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/sites/default/files/2025-06/F%26B_NBS_Resource_Online.pdf

Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR)

29. The proposed 3.5% increase to the Natural Environment Targeted Rate effectively maintains current funding levels when accounting for inflation.

30. While this supports the continuation of existing programmes, it restricts the ability to expand beyond current levels at a time when environmental pressures remain significant. Many environmental programmes require ongoing maintenance and follow-up work, and restoration efforts continue to grow over time, creating increasing demand on available resources.

31. Maintaining funding at current levels in real terms limits the ability to expand existing programmes, or to provide targeted acceleration funding to initiatives in areas with higher ecological value Groups and programmes that are motivated and ready to do more will be constrained by available funding We recommend this is taken into consideration for predator control projects to ensure high quality control is maintained, monitored and expanded as part of the NETR funded Pest Free Auckland initiative.

32. We support the continuation of NETR-funded programmes in 2026/27.

Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate (CATTR)

33. The proposed 3.5% increase to the Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate effectively maintains current levels of investment.

34. While major systems like the City Rail Link will support emissions reductions, achieving Auckland's climate targets will require continued expansion of public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure.

35. Maintaining current funding levels in real terms limits the ability to grow these programmes and support the level of behaviour change required.

Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR)

36. An average increase of 22% in the WQTR is supported to address sediment and pollution in our waterways and improve catchment management.

37. Earlier decisions to moderate WQTR increases slowed progress on these important works. As investment increases, there is now a need to accelerate delivery to address ongoing pressures on freshwater and coastal environments. Priority should be given to

    - Increasing resourcing, ideally through 'user pays', for compliance monitoring relevant to significant earthworks to decrease sedimentation in the regions fresh water and marine environment.

- Strengthening catchment-based management approaches that address sediment and nutrient inputs in rural and developing areas
- Scaling up existing nature-based solutionsto ensure freshwater and the wider natural environment is protected as the regions urban area grows.

Plans for your area

38. As boards respond to budget pressures under the fairer funding model, there is a risk that environmental and community-led initiatives are reduced. This would limit the effectiveness of wider council investment and slow progress on biodiversity, climate and water outcomes.

39. We call on Local Boards across the region to prioritise:
    - Funding and support for community driven environmental work (e.g., habitat restoration, pest control) and climate action (e.g., waste, active transport, education, etc).
    - Growth of active transport networks such as cycleways and walkways.
    - Establishment and development of green corridors.
    - Development and implementation of Climate Action Plans.
    - Circular economy strategies and actions.

40. Grants and investment into community services provide great value to Aucklanders. Many local boards invest a significant amount into support for local community conservation to protect taonga species or landscapes. Efforts like these are important for both nature and communities, enabling and empowering residents to take action for themselves, increasing ownership of our environmental challenges across the community, resulting in more long-term sustainability for conservation activity.

Planning for the future of Auckland

41. Achieving a Tāmaki Makaurau where nature and people flourish together will require investment at a greater scale and pace than current levels.

42. Recent reporting found that Auckland Council allocates only approximately 1.5% of rates revenue to biodiversity, compared with a national average of around 5.3%[13]. Increasing this level of investment is necessary to halt biodiversity decline and restore ecosystem health.

43. We recommend that the next Long-Term Plan prioritises sustained and increased investment across interconnected environmental and climate systems, including:

    Water and climate resilience

[13] https://eds.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Restoring-Nature-Report-FINAL-web.pdf

- Healthy Waters, to deliver long-term stormwater renewals and catchment improvements addressing sediment and nutrient inputs from both urban and rural areas
- Making Space for Water, to ensure flood resilience programmes can scale and remain adequately funded
- Nature-based solutions that reduce flood risk, improve water quality and support climate and biodiversity resilience

Biodiversity and ecological integrity

- Restoration and protection of habitat, including strengthening ecological connectivity through green corridors
- Expansion of targeted pest control and restoration programmes to support recovery at scale and maximise ecological gains.

Low-emissions and liveable urban systems

- Public transport and active transport infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve urban resilience

Community capability

- Sustained support for community-led conservation to build long-term capability and support delivery at scale

44. We recommend that biodiversity funding, including the Natural Environment Targeted Rate, is reviewed to ensure it can support the expansion of restoration, pest control and ecological connectivity programmes.

Branch Feedback

45. Northshore Branch

The following is specifically relevant to the North Shore branch area, covering the Eastern half of Upper Harbour Local Board, East Coast bays Subdivision of Hibiscus and Bays Local Board, Kaipātiki Local Board, and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

Our submission points relate specifically to the activities of Auckland Council within this area whether delivered by the Governing Body, Local Boards, or CCOs. For regional matters the branch supports the above submission points.

We note funding pressures need to be addressed by all Local Boards in our area listed above excluding Hibiscus and Bays and urge all boards to continue support for community and environmental services that contribute towards the restoration and protection of our environment.

The North Shore is a significant place for wildlife in Auckland. We are a key supporter of the North West Wildlink[14] that should provide an ecological corridor that is safe, healthy, and connected, between the predator free islands of the Hauraki Gulf and the Waitākere Ranges. And with the

[14] https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/projects/north-west-wildlink

Waitematā Harbour on our west coast and Hauraki Gulf on our east coast we have a range of habitats for marine life, sea and shore birds, and freshwater species. We are also in a part of Auckland that is growing with intensification. Our desire is that as we grow our neighbourhoods become places where both people and nature can thrive.

To do this we ask that all of Auckland Council invests in:

· Protection and restoration of Tīkapa Moana / the Hauraki Gulf, including a coordinated approach to intertidal ecosystems through enhanced and better integrated ecological monitoring, support for mana whenua and community-led initiatives, and integration with catchment management to reduce pressures on coastal environments.
· Re-establishing the North West Wildlink as a goal in managing ecological outcomes within North Auckland.
· The acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of public space that provides sustainable recreation opportunities for communities while also creating habitats for wildlife that are safe, healthy, and connected.
· Support for the community lead restoration networks; Restoring Takarunga Hauraki, Pupuke Birdsong, Pest Free Kaipātiki, Upper Waitematā Ecology Network, and Restore Hibiscus & Bays; and the groups within these networks; that are coordinating landscape scale ecological volunteer work within local neighbourhoods.
· Council and NGO programs and services that support our communities to live sustainably alongside nature; such as community rangers, Sustainable Schools, and community recycling centres.

46. Hibiscus Coast Branch

The following is specifically relevant to the Hibiscus Coast branch area, covering the Hibiscus Coast Subdivision of Hibiscus and Bays Local Board and Northern Rodney and Dairy Flat subdivisions of the Rodney Local Board.

Our submission points relate specifically to the activities of Auckland Council within this area whether delivered by the Governing Body, Local Boards, or CCOs. For regional matters the branch supports the above submission points.

The Hibiscus Coast is a significant place for wildlife in Auckland with a range of habitats from coastal and estuarine spaces to bush clad slopes in more rural areas.
We are a key supporter of the North West Wildlink that should provide an ecological corridor between the predator free islands of the Hauraki Gulf and the Waitākere Ranges.
We believe change to the local Ward Boundaries are required to provide a more coordinated approach to services, planning and ecological works. Of particular interest to Hibiscus Coast Branch is the inclusion of the rapidly developing urban areas to the west of Orewa (Western side of State Highway 1 - The Motorway) from the Waiwera River south to the Okura River and their associated catchments, including the urban areas of Milldale & Dairy Flat into the Hibiscus and Bays Ward. Looking after the whole waterway (Catchment area) from the headwaters to the river/stream mouth discharge into the Hauraki Gulf is probably a more practical & sensible approach. Currently this is not possible with the current area-based funding models.

We are also in a part of Auckland that is growing with significant intensification - the impacts of sediment flowing from building sites into our waterways and coast and the intensive harvesting of inter-tidal marine life are issues of particular concern. The section 186A has been useful for some of the coastline but anecdotal reports suggest harvesting effort has moved outside the closure areas.

Our desire is that as we grow our neighbourhoods become places where both people and nature can thrive. To do this we ask that all of Auckland Council invests in:
· Supporting environmental groups to undertake research into the state of the Intertidal zone around the Auckland coastline and monitoring of the changes in the "Protected Zones". Furthermore, we urge Auckland Council to support and advocate central Government for changes to marine protection particularly in regard to the intertidal zone - up to 200m below Mean High water. To protect these important ecosystems, protection measures must be enacted for species that currently have no quota limit.
· Support for community lead restoration networks including Forest & Bird's Pest Free Hibiscus Coast Programme, Restore Hibiscus & Bays and the groups within these networks that are coordinating landscape scale ecological volunteer work within local neighbourhoods.
· Sustained Council and NGO programs and services that support our communities to live sustainably alongside nature; such as community rangers and community recycling centres.
· Re-establishing the North West Wildlink as a goal in managing ecological outcomes within North Auckland.

Conclusion

47. We recognise the fiscal pressures facing Auckland Council, including the need to fund major infrastructure such as the City Rail Link and critical water services. However, under-investment in nature will increase long-term costs for ratepayers through avoidable damage, degraded ecosystem services and reduced community resilience.

48. Strengthening investment in water, biodiversity, climate resilience and community capability will be essential to protect the health of Tāmaki Makaurau and support the wellbeing of Aucklanders.

Forest & Bird stands ready to work with Auckland Council and local boards to deliver these outcomes.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit.

Regional Conservation Manager - Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.

Appendix 1. Cost Benefit

Forest & Bird and the many other groups that leverage private funding and volunteer time to help deliver conservation outcomes on Council land, exponentially boost the effectiveness of Council spending. This mahi also increases the resilience of Tāmaki Makaurau by helping to restore and protect native forests, wetlands and stream margins – all valuable nature-based solutions.
The financial benefit of the thousands of hours that volunteers put into carrying out this essential work, is illustrated in the following examples:

1. The Pest Free Waitakere Ranges Alliance: a network of 30 volunteer groups working to restore and protect the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area, recorded 57,600 hours of volunteer effort in 2025. This equates to more than $1.7 million worth of work at living wage rates or more than $3 million if undertaken by contractors or Council staff.

2. Forest & Bird's Pest Free Hibiscus Coast Programme: works across private and public land, including 132 Auckland Council parks, resulting in significant increases in bird populations.
For every dollar invested in the Pest Free Hibiscus Coast Project by Hibiscus & Bays Local Board in the last 3 years, Forest & Bird has leveraged five times that amount in grants and twenty times that amount in volunteer effort and organisational support. This programme
Through investment in community-led environmental programmes around the region, Auckland Council is getting millions of dollars' worth of output at comparatively little cost.

For the health of our environment, the many ecosystem services it supports and the community connection inherent in these programmes, it is essential funding for volunteer work is sustained.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5088

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: Pohutukawa Trust New Zealand

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

Other

Tell us why

The Pohutukawa Trust was established in March 1992 by the Weaver family, led by Ray Weaver, with the support of the first Mayor of Rodney, Sir Gordon Mason. Its primary objective is to rehabilitate the native flora and fauna of Kawau Island. The Trust and Kawau Island property owners are very concerned about any potential changes to, or reinterpretation of existing rules or long-standing management practices relating to facilities located in the area known as Sandspit. These facilities service the needs of Kawau landowners and have done so for many decades.We believe that any change to the services currently provided by the Council would have serious consequences and

would significantly impact private property owners' ability to continue using and enjoying their properties on Kawau Island as they have for generations.Changes that materially affect the provision or management of long-standing services and facilities—such as the car park, rubbish facilities and the building known as the carpark managers cottage—would impose unacceptable limitations on landowners' ability to use and manage their land. These limitations would impose restrictions to the use of their properties that would be markedly different from those applying to nearby mainland properties.The facilities at Sandspit provide a crucial gateway to the wider Kawau Bay area. For the many businesses located both on the Spit and throughout the greater Warkworth region, any reduction in these services—and the resulting decline in visitor activity—would have a significant economic impact.See attachment for full submission.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

The Pohutukawa Trust was established in March 1992 by the Weaver family, led by Ray Weaver, with the support of the first Mayor of Rodney, Sir Gordon Mason. Its primary objective is to rehabilitate the native flora and fauna of Kawau Island.The Trust and Kawau Island property owners are very concerned about any potential changes to, or reinterpretation of existing rules or long-standing management practices relating to facilities located in the area known as Sandspit. These facilities service the needs of Kawau landowners and have done so for many decades.We believe that any change to the services currently provided by the Council would have serious consequences and would significantly impact private property owners' ability to continue using and enjoying their properties on Kawau Island as they have for generations.Changes that materially affect the provision or management of long-standing services and facilities—such as the car park, rubbish facilities and the building known as the carpark managers cottage—would impose unacceptable limitations on landowners' ability to use and manage their land. These limitations would impose restrictions to the use of their properties that would be markedly different from those applying to nearby mainland properties.The facilities at Sandspit provide a crucial gateway to the wider Kawau Bay area. For the many businesses located both on the Spit and throughout the greater Warkworth region, any reduction in these services—and the resulting decline in visitor activity—would have a significant economic impact.See attachment for full submission.

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

Rodney

Tell us why

Over recent years there has been considerable discussion between landowners and other representative Kawau groups such as The Kawau Island Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc, (KIRRA) and council to ensure that all parties have a good understanding of the issues in the hope that a common way forward that fulfilled everyone's needs was reached. These discussions appear to have been fruitless and largely ignored by Council and the Rodney Local Board. The issue is of such

vital importance to our island that further consideration needs to form part the Rodney Local Board local boards budgetary funding facilities program for the Annual Auckland Plan 2026/2027.

The facilities at Sandspit provide a crucial gateway to the wider Kawau Bay area. For the many businesses located both on the Spit and throughout the greater Warkworth region, any reduction in these services—and the resulting decline in visitor activity—would have a significant economic impact.

See attachment for full submission.

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?
Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

We further note that the Governing Body approved a 'fairer funding' approach for local boards in the LTP 2024- 2034.This decision was made to address the funding imbalances between the 21 local boards that have been in place since Auckland Council was established in 2010.This approach allocates available funding to local boards based on an 'equitable funding level'.It is further noted to support the transition to this new equitable funding model, local boards will receive an extra $15 million of operating funding in the 2026/2027 year compared to 2025/2026. The Trust finds it inconceivable that Council is contemplating spending in excess of $200,000.00 dollars to renovate the old carpark managers cottage whilst removing or downgrading existing critical facilities used by the Kawau Island community and the wider region. This risks both the long-standing societal framework of Kawau Island and the regional economy.The Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) 2020–2030, adopted by the Council's Environment and Community Committee in 2018, sets out a programme for the removal of rats, possums, wallabies, and stoats from Kawau Island. Auckland Council is committed to providing partial funding for this initiative. This project is a partnership between landowners, Auckland Council, the Department of Conservation, the Pohutukawa Trust, Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Predator Free 2050, New Zealand Nature Fund and others. The success of this project is heavily dependent on access arrangements, like those which we have identified and detailed in this submission as affecting the normal day to day life of private property landowners. Any reduction in these services would not only increase costs

but could jeopardise the entire programme.In closing, the Pohutukawa Trust respectfully urges on behalf of Kawau Island landowners and the local community that use the Sandspit facilities that Auckland Council and the Rodney Local Board recognise the long-standing importance of the Sandspit facilities to the Kawau Island community and to the wider region.See attachment for full submission.

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

POHTUKAWA TRUST NEW ZEALAND

#5088

"To rehabilitate the native flora and fauna of Kawau Island"
"To promote the conservation of indigenous species in New Zealand"
"To achieve sustainable land use on Kawau Island"
REGISTERED CHARITY CC23836

[redacted]

Draft Annual AUCKLAND PLAN 2026/2027
Feedback on behalf of Pohutukawa Trust New Zealand
In support of Kawau Island "Te Kawau Tūmārō o Toi" property owners, March 2026.

My name is [redacted], and I am a member and current Chair of the Pohutukawa Trust New Zealand (the Trust). I am also a landowner on Kawau Island.

The Weaver family owns Lots 304 and 305 DP 7675, Lot 306 DP 7674, and Lot 303 DP 7674 on Kawau Island. I have personally been involved with Kawau Island since 1960, while my family's connection with the island dates to the early 1950s.

The Pohutukawa Trust was established in March 1992 by the Weaver family, led by Ray Weaver, with the support of the first Mayor of Rodney, Sir Gordon Mason. Its primary objective is "to rehabilitate the native flora and fauna of Kawau Island."

As most of Kawau Island is privately owned, the Trust also has the objective "to support landowners in the sustainable use of land on Kawau Island."

The Trust's feedback relates to apparent changes, proposed outcomes, or omissions in the Draft Annual Auckland Plan 2026/2027, specifically within the section covering the Rodney Local Board budget.

The Trust and Kawau Island property owners are very concerned about any potential changes to, or reinterpretation of existing rules or long-standing management practices relating to facilities located in the area known as Sandspit. These facilities service the needs of Kawau landowners and have done so for many decades.

We believe that any change to the services currently provided by the Council would have serious consequences and would significantly impact private property owners' ability to continue using and enjoying their properties on Kawau Island as they have for generations.

Changes that materially affect the provision or management of long-standing services and facilities—such as the car park, rubbish facilities and the building known as the carpark managers cottage—would impose unacceptable limitations on landowners' ability to use and manage their land. These limitations would impose restrictions to the use of their properties that would be markedly different from those applying to nearby mainland properties.

The facilities at Sandspit provide a crucial gateway to the wider Kawau Bay area. For the many businesses located both on the Spit and throughout the greater Warkworth region, any reduction in these services—and the resulting decline in visitor activity—would have a significant economic impact.

Over recent years there has been considerable discussion between landowners and other representative Kawau groups such as The Kawau Island Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc, (KIRRA) and council to ensure that all parties have a good understanding of the issues in the hope that a common way forward that fulfilled everyone's needs was reached. These discussions appear to have been fruitless and largely ignored by Council and the Rodney Local Board. The issue is of such

vital importance to our island that further consideration needs to form part the Rodney Local Board local boards budgetary funding facilities program for the Annual Auckland Plan 2026/2027.

The natural and physical resources on Kawau Island are highly valued by property owners, just as those on the nearby mainland are valued by their communities. The Trust believes that a short-sighted decision to remove or fail to maintain the facilities on the Spit would place both private and public areas under significant pressure from human activity. We have all seen the ever-growing amount of litter being deposited on roadways and beaches across the region.

It is not an inconsiderable expectation that the adoption of the new Auckland Plan 2026/2027 should enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing, as well as their health and safety. The loss or downgrading of any facilities on the Spit would severely diminish Kawau landowners' ability to be adequately served.

When considering service requirements, the uniqueness of Kawau Island—its community, characteristics, and geographical differences compared with properties on the adjacent mainland—must not be overlooked. This is not a discussion about a service of convenience; it is a plea for the retention of an essential service.

Houses, small batches, sheds, jetties, boats, moorings, coastal erosion control, kanuka as a renewable resource for firewood crafts and utility uses, and various home occupations, gardens, orchards, a desire to use some land for modest scale primary production, dwellings, and a determination to turn the islands ecological decline around (for there has been little regeneration until recent years) and restore the Islands flora and fauna, and enterprises based on tourism for example, are all part of life on Kawau that must be provided for and encouraged.

Private property owners on Kawau Island represent a valuable resource that warrants recognition, encouragement, and support. Over many decades, they have consistently demonstrated a willingness to engage constructively with local government. Through collaboration with local authorities and other stakeholders, landowners have shown a proven ability to contribute to and enhance facilities managed by the Rodney Local Board, thereby supporting both community needs and visitor access.

Kawau Island landowners have long understood the unique requirements of the island and have willingly contributed towards the provision of essential infrastructure. For example, property owners contributed approximately $20,000 towards the acquisition of land when it was needed to facilitate much-needed car parking space. They also assisted in the installation of monitoring cameras when required.

The island's original waste facility was located at Mansion House. When continuing this arrangement became unfeasible, landowners played an active role in establishing the replacement facility at The Spit.

It is important to note that these shared facilities not only serve the local community but also generate significant revenue through tourism and related activities, reinforcing the broader economic value of landowner contributions.

Kawau Island property owners have also contributed substantial private funds over many years to support and enhance facilities at Sandspit.

Page 14 of the draft Auckland Council Annual plan 2026/2027 the is statement is made which is at the heart of the Trusts and property owners concerns which reads.

- *"To promote the conservation of indigenous species in New Zealand".*
- *"Meeting the diverse needs of our communities".*
- *"Working in the heart of our communities' Local boards are responsible for services that strengthen communities in their area".*

We further note that the Governing Body approved a 'fairer funding' approach for local boards in the LTP 2024- 2034.
This decision was made to address the funding imbalances between the 21 local boards that have been in place since Auckland Council was established in 2010.
This approach allocates available funding to local boards based on an 'equitable funding level'.
It is further noted to support the transition to this new equitable funding model, local boards will receive an extra $15 million of operating funding in the 2026/2027 year compared to 2025/2026.

Page 14 goes on to say*: "Local boards will make decisions on the activities and services provided in their local area within the available funding. This could involve reprioritising spend to address the growing costs of running community facilities or introducing a local service targeted rate to maintain service levels".*

The Trust finds it inconceivable that Council is contemplating spending in excess of $200,000.00 dollars to renovate the old carpark managers cottage whilst removing or downgrading existing critical facilities used by the Kawau Island community and the wider region. This risks both the long-standing societal framework of Kawau Island and the regional economy.

The Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) 2020–2030, adopted by the Council's Environment and Community Committee in 2018, sets out a programme for the removal of rats, possums, wallabies, and stoats from Kawau Island. Auckland Council is committed to providing partial funding for this initiative. This project is a partnership between landowners, Auckland Council, the Department of Conservation, the Pohutukawa Trust, Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Predator Free 2050, New Zealand Nature Fund and others. The success of this project is heavily dependent on access arrangements, like those which we have identified and detailed in this submission as affecting the normal day to day life of private property landowners. Any reduction in these services would not only increase costs but could jeopardise the entire programme.

In closing, the Pohutukawa Trust respectfully urges on behalf of Kawau Island landowners and the local community that use the Sandspit facilities that Auckland Council and the Rodney Local Board recognise the long-standing importance of the Sandspit facilities to the Kawau Island community and to the wider region.

For generations, these facilities have provided the essential connection between Kawau Island and the mainland. They are not simply a matter of convenience; they are a fundamental part of the infrastructure that enables property owners, residents, visitors, and businesses to access and sustain the island community. The previous Rodney District Plans as they applied to Kawau Island evolved and developed over many years with constructive and democratic participation by the Kawau Island community as well as the general public, and it is this consultative and collaborative approach which needs to be preserved. The Kawau Island Vision Statement has in the past provided a valuable reference document and guide, clearly reflecting the general aspirations of the community for the long term. It is not acceptable to compromise the unique Kawau Island community.

Any reduction, reinterpretation, or removal of these services would have significant and disproportionate consequences for Kawau Island property owners compared with mainland residents. It would undermine decades of cooperative stewardship between private landowners and local government and place unnecessary pressure on both the natural environment and the surrounding communities.

It is not acceptable to compromise the unique Kawau Island community, the Island's character, and its traditional and historic activities.

The unique character of Kawau Island, with legal and traditional access to most properties from the sea, and a reliance on jetties and moorings to facilitate even basic daily life needs to be recognised and retained. The sea access and use of the foreshore at Kawau Island has been the case seamlessly since humans first set foot on the Island. For many of Kawau Island residents this access to there properties is exclusively dependant on services provided by the Sandspit facilities.

The Trust therefore strongly requests that Auckland Council confirm its ongoing commitment to maintaining and supporting the facilities at Sandspit in their current capacity, ensuring that they continue to serve the Kawau Island community and the wider Kawau Bay region.

By doing so, the Council will be recognising not only the practical needs of the Kawau Island community but also the substantial contributions that property owners have made—and continue to make—to environmental restoration, responsible land management, and the economic vitality of the region.

The Pohutukawa Trust welcomes the opportunity to continue working constructively with Auckland Council and the Rodney Local Board to ensure that these shared facilities are preserved and managed in a way that benefits both current and future generations.

[redacted]
[redacted]: Pohutukawa Trust New Zealand

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5096

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:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

N/A

Tell us why

N/A

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

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

- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

Among the local board key projects and what we plan to deliver sections in theAnnual Plan, we do not see anything that specifically references to homeless people and/or others suffering from food insecurity, though we note that more than half the local boards had such mentions in their three-year plans. We encourage them to maintain these initiatives and advocacy.We are also aware that in some local board areas there are community fridges,and we would encourage local boards to support the establishment of more of them.We appreciate the libraries and community centres throughout Auckland thatwelcome homeless people and have established programmes to support them,and/or facilities such as showers that homeless people can use.Another facility that we encourage local boards and Auckland Council itself toconsider is the provision of large lockers where homeless people (and others, such as travellers) can store their belongings, accessible at any time of the day.We understand there are differing views within Auckland Council about theproposed move-on orders. We agree with many other agencies and communitygroups that offences such as disorderly behaviour and intimidation are alreadycovered in the Summary Offences Act. Fining a homeless person up to $2,000 is just not sensible. To be arrested and put in prison for any amount of time is a distressing and disruptive experience, and for someone seeking a place to rent, having these experiences on their record makes it even harder to find a place to live.In addition to night shelters, we would like to see Auckland Council and Heart ofthe City put some funding into providing activities for homeless people during theday, so that these people can be occupied, feel valued, gain confidence, contribute,and learn a skill. We are aware of individuals who would like to offer their ideas andskill for these types of activities, and we acknowledge Heart of the City's successfulStreet Guardians initiative, which we understand is still operating, as a positiveapproach to addressing begging in the city centreSee attachment for full submission.

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

#5096

Submission of Community Groups Feeding the Homelss Inc.

Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2026/2027

Name: [redacted] (Secretary)
Organisation: Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.
Phone (daytime): [redacted]
Phone (evening): [redacted]
Email: [redacted]
Postal address: [redacted]

CGFH

The focus of Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc. (CGFH), which has been 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 last submitted to Auckland Council on the draft Local Board Plans on 14 August 2023.

1. People experiencing homelessness are amongst the most vulnerable members of our communities. We know that Auckland Council has put in place various initiatives, such as Kia Whai Kāinga Tatou Katoa – Auckland's regional, cross-sectoral homelessness plan – and the Aotearoa Homelessness Action Plan, and that some local boards initiate and/or support actions for the benefit of homeless and other vulnerable people, and CGFH very much appreciates this work. We are also very grateful to have received funding from two local boards (Waitematā and Manurewa) to support groups for which we provide administrative and practical support.

2. Among the local board key projects and "what we plan to deliver" sections in the Annual Plan, we do not see anything that specifically references to homeless people and/or others suffering from food insecurity, though we note that more than half the local boards had such mentions in their three-year plans. We encourage them to maintain these initiatives and advocacy.

3. We repeat the encouragement in our submission on the 2023 draft local board plans for local boards to support members of their communities wanting to establish Pātaka Kai (https://www.patakai.co.nz/), and that local boards publicise, perhaps in their e-newsletters, the locations of these free community pantries in their area.

4. We are also aware that in some local board areas there are community fridges, and we would encourage local boards to support the establishment of more of them. For both pantries and fridges, suggesting that members of the community put their excess produce (e.g., from fruit trees) or unwanted but usable food in them instead of in their food scraps bin would mean that more people who struggle to provide nutritious food for themselves and their families will be able to benefit from available food.

5. We appreciate the libraries and community centres throughout Auckland that welcome homeless people and have established programmes to support them, and/or facilities such as showers that homeless people can use.

6. Another facility that we encourage local boards and Auckland Council itself to consider is the provision of large lockers where homeless people (and others, such as travellers) can store their belongings, accessible at any time of the day. 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.

7. We note that in 25 July 2016, a comprehensive (36-page) study was published, entitled "A comparative review of public amenities design and management: Lockers, Showers, Toilets," undertaken by Auckland Council's Community Empowerment Unit. We suggest that the Community Empowerment Unit takes another look at this study and what discussions have been held since then. Also we submit that the Waitematā Local Board, which includes the following in its 2023 Local Board Plan: "Provision of public amenities: Advocate to Governing Body and CCOs to enhance provision of city centre public amenities such as drinking fountains, toilets, showers, and lockers which will support travel mode shift and climate change outcomes providing a rich urban experience for our tourists, visitors, families and seniors, and people experiencing homelessness," continue this advocacy.

8. We greatly support the empathy over enforcement approach by Auckland Council compliance officers, as outlined in this article (11July 2024) in Our Auckland. However, in our view, this approach needs monitoring, as empathy from compliance officers is not always the experience of the homeless people we talk to. This includes being woken when sleeping on the street by being poked at by someone's foot, or worse.

9. We understand there are differing views within Auckland Council about the proposed "move-on" orders. We agree with many other agencies and community groups that offences such as disorderly behaviour and intimidation are already covered in the Summary Offences Act.

10. Fining a homeless person up to $2,000 is just not sensible. To be arrested and put in prison for any amount of time is a distressing and disruptive experience, and for someone seeking a place to rent, having these experiences on their record makes it even harder to find a place to live.

11. We would like to see it acknowledged (by Heart of the City and others) that the downturn in business over the last few years cannot be solely or mostly blamed on the presence of homeless people and/or their belongings outside stores, that homeless people are present in overseas cities that cruise ships arriving in Auckland have visited, and that blame can also be attributed to the lengthy CRL disruption, ongoing road works in the city centre, the increase in online shopping, COVID, the cost of living, and the growing popularity of suburban malls (consider, for example, the effect that Westfield in Newmarket has had on the shops on Broadway).

12. The Amnesty International Aoteaora New Zealand press release of 23 February 2026 states that the move-on orders proposal: "effectively criminalises poverty and erodes fundamental civil liberties protected under New Zealand law…. When a person is forced to move, particularly one who may have no other place to go to, you remove their right to exist within the community…. We believe most New Zealanders would agree that criminalising and imprisoning a person who has no home, or who may have mental health or addiction issues, but has not broken the law, is abhorrent. It does not solve the issue of homelessness and appears a deeply worrying, disproportionate use of State power…. The Government needs to change tack and work with people impacted and those in the sector to come up with solutions that will be effective and uphold human rights."

13. We note that Housing First was launched at an Auckland Conversation on March 23, 2017, by the Social Housing Minister at the time, Amy Adams and the mayor at the time, Phil Goff. Mayor Goff was quoted as saying: "Homelessness is a growing problem in Auckland and it needs to be tackled as a priority. The housing first approach has worked in other cities in New Zealand and overseas and that is why we are adopting it here."

14. Housing First is funded by both central government (MHUD and MSD) and Auckland Council, and run by a collective of experienced community organisations: Kāhui Tū Kaha, Lifewise and the Auckland City Mission, LinkPeople and Vision West. Housing First 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 amongst the wider Auckland population – if they have heard of it at all. It is CGFH's view that robust advertising of the Housing First programme should be undertaken in order to attract more private landlords to place their properties into the programme. Such advertising could be done on a regular basis via Our Auckland and local board newsletters, and on bus shelters and buses. Traditional commercial advertising could also be employed.

15. CGFH advocates (as we have previously) for the establishment in Auckland of not just one night shelter, as exist in most other cities in New Zealand, but a number of smaller night shelters across the city, and we seek support for this from both Auckland Council and the providers of homelessness services.

16. In addition to night shelters, we would like to see Auckland Council and Heart of the City put some funding into providing activities for homeless people during the day, so that these people can be occupied, feel valued, gain confidence, contribute, and learn a skill. We are aware of individuals who would like to offer their ideas and skill for these types of activities, and we acknowledge Heart of the City's successful Street Guardians 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."

17. The City Mission has its own programmes too, and more people could be supported to engage with them, for example, by having a locker to put their gear in so they can go to Homeground to take part.

18. CGFH also suggests that the public be educated to not give money to people begging on the street, and that they be encouraged to engage with street whanau – to smile at them – rather than to behave negatively towards them or to ignore them.

Date of submission:
29 March 2026

Signature:

[redacted]

Secretary,
Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5102

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: Aotearoa New Zealand National Forum for the Decade of Healthy Ageing

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

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

N/A

Tell us why

Cities that work for older people, work for everyone. Council can play a fundamental role in enabling Auckland to be a liveable, age-friendly city and in optimising policies and resources to build vibrant, inclusive communities where all New Zealanders can age well, now and into the future.Our final point relates to the proposed changes to rates, fees and charges: in view of the rapid increases in the overall cost-of-living, we would urge Council to consider the financial challenges faced by increasing numbers of older people who are on a fixed income and are already experiencing incredible hardship. Meeting the rising costs of housing, heating, food, fuel, etc, is a daily struggle

for significant numbers of seniors living on Superannuation alone and who have no other source of income. Any general increases in 2026/27 will therefore make life even more difficult for many older people who are among the most vulnerable in society.See attachment for full submission

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

Cities that work for older people, work for everyone. Council can play a fundamental role in enabling Auckland to be a liveable, age-friendly city and in optimising policies and resources to build vibrant, inclusive communities where all New Zealanders can age well, now and into the future.Our final point relates to the proposed changes to rates, fees and charges: in view of the rapid increases in the overall cost-of-living, we would urge Council to consider the financial challenges faced by increasing numbers of older people who are on a fixed income and are already experiencing incredible hardship. Meeting the rising costs of housing, heating, food, fuel, etc, is a daily struggle for significant numbers of seniors living on Superannuation alone and who have no other source of income. Any general increases in 2026/27 will therefore make life even more difficult for many older people who are among the most vulnerable in society.See attachment for full submission

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

Council can be a powerful force for creating an environment where everyone can age well. The availability of accessible, affordable and quality housing for seniors will be critical in this. In Council's long-term priorities for its spatial plan, we would recommend that the following are considered:- age friendly housing close to transport and essential services- protecting and expanding senior housing- deliver kaumatua housing- universal design in council supported housing- lift cap on income related rent subsidy- accessible home modifications in council managed units- warm, safe, healthy homes

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

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Decade of healthy ageing
Aotearoa New Zealand National Forum
He Oranga Kaumātua | He Oranga Tāngata

29 March 2026

Annual Plan
Auckland Council

By email to: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Kia ora koutou

Auckland's Annual Plan 2026/27 – feedback from the Aotearoa New Zealand National Forum for the Decade of Healthy Ageing

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland's Annual Plan 2026/27. As Chair of The Aotearoa New Zealand National Forum for the Decade of Healthy Ageing / He Oranga Kaumātua, He Oranga Tangata (the National Forum), I am pleased to make the following submission on the National Forum's behalf.

To provide some background, the Aotearoa New Zealand National Forum for the Decade of Healthy Ageing is an initiative of the Office for Seniors, Age Concern New Zealand and The Selwyn Foundation. It was convened in 2023 in response to the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing – the global movement to improve the lives of older people, their whānau and communities. The National Forum brings together leading cross-sectoral organisations to carry out stakeholder engagement at a national policy level and raise awareness of the need for government, business and communities to prepare for the complex impact of population ageing. It works collaboratively to provide a platform for initiatives at local level that will improve the experience of ageing and enable older New Zealanders to age connected to culture, whānau, community and care.

In terms of planning for the future of Auckland, firstly we commend Council for its leadership as an Age Friendly Community. We also commend Council for its work on segmenting age data in its 2025 'Older Aucklanders: Results from the 2023 Census'. This is a key goal of the National Forum as too often everyone aged over 65 is simply considered together as one homogenous cohort. Auckland is a demographically diverse city and will experience the impacts of the structural ageing of the population earlier and with more intensity.

We agree with Council's goals to make public spaces work better for people, to get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure Council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study and visit.

However, while recognising that Council will have competing priorities in terms of meeting the diverse needs of communities, we would like the Annual (and Long-Term) Plan to more intentionally respond to Auckland's rapidly ageing population so we can meet the needs of older Aucklanders, improve their quality of life, and support their ability to age-in-place and live safely at home for longer. As per the intent of Council's Tāmaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumātua (the Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan), we must work to ensure that the city is age-friendly and inclusive for older generations now and in the future.

Council can be a powerful force for creating an environment where everyone can age well. The availability of accessible, affordable and quality housing for seniors will be critical in this. In Council's long-term priorities for its spatial plan, we would recommend that the following are considered:

- Unlocking Council land for age-friendly housing that is close to transport and essential services, enabling hyperlocal communities (becoming a '15-minute' city).
- Protecting and expanding existing senior housing, committing to no net loss of units.
- Partnering with Iwi and community housing providers to deliver kaumātua housing.
- Embedding universal design in all new Council-supported housing.
- Leveraging Council's influence to advocate to central government to lift the cap on the Income-Related Rent Subsidy, ensuring affordability for older tenants.
- Prioritising accessible home modifications in Council-managed units.
- Working with landlords, community housing providers and Kāinga Ora to ensure older people live in warm, safe and healthy homes.

Planning for this now is imperative. Rather than seeing it as an escalating cost burden, however, the social return on investment of helping older people age well for longer in their communities will lead to their enhanced wellbeing and increased ability to continue contributing and participating in society.

Cities that work for older people, work for everyone. Council can play a fundamental role in enabling Auckland to be a liveable, age-friendly city and in optimising policies and resources to build vibrant, inclusive communities where all New Zealanders can age well, now and into the future.

Our final point relates to the proposed changes to rates, fees and charges: in view of the rapid increases in the overall cost-of-living, we would urge Council to consider the financial challenges faced by increasing numbers of older people who are on a fixed income and are already experiencing incredible hardship. Meeting the rising costs of housing, heating, food, fuel, etc, is a daily struggle for significant numbers of seniors living on Superannuation alone and who have no other source of income. Any general increases in 2026/27 will therefore make life even more difficult for many older people who are among the most vulnerable in society.

I trust you will find our comments of value. In due course, should Council seek future input or support for new initiatives relating to older people's needs, the National Forum would be pleased to participate in any collective discussions that might ensure they are properly supported to remain independent for longer in the communities they know and love.

Ngā mihi

[redacted] | **Chair**
The Aotearoa New Zealand National Forum for the Decade of Healthy Ageing