Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026 Summary of Feedback

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Summary of feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026

Purpose

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

Executive Summary

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

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

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

Engagement Approach

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

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

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

Support was provided to submitters including:

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

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

Māori engagement

Mana whenua

A co-ordinated approach was taken by local boards so that mana whenua were invited to engage with relevant local boards in one hui rather than receiving separate invitations from each local board. For the Waitākere Ranges Local Board, engagement took place with two Rangatira ki te Rangatira Governance Hui with Te Kawerau ā Maki and West Local Boards in March and July.

Mana whenua were sent a copy of the draft local board plan in June 2026 and encouraged to provide written feedback through multiple options including through a new iwi feedback form developed specifically for mana whenua to be able to have their say across multiple local boards within their rohe (area of interest). Te Kawerau ā Maki elected to provide feedback via the Rangatira ki te Rangatira Governance Hui and in writing.

Marae and mātāwaka

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

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

Feedback from mātāwaka was via Te Kotahi-ā-Tāmaki and a mātāwaka hui held at Hoani Waititi Marae with the three west local boards in March, and a Mātāwaka Network of Practice hui in July.

Stakeholder and community engagement

Table 1: Summary of early engagement activities

Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Huingā Rangatira – mana whenua engagement with Te Kawerau ā Maki.	• A Rangatira ki te Rangatira Governance Hui was held on Friday 27 March 2026 and Friday 3 July between Te Kawerau ā Maki, Henderson-Massey, Whau and Waitākere Ranges Local Boards.	Friday 27 March 2026 - 21 Attendees Friday 3 July 2026 – 15 attendees
Mātāwaka hui	• Hui held on Monday 30 March 2026 at Hoani Waititi Marae with Henderson-Massey, Whau and Waitākere Ranges Local Boards.	9 pieces of feedback received during the korero.
Glen Eden Twilight Christmas Festival	• Early engagement pop up stall held at Harold Moody Park on Saturday 22nd December 2025.	145 pieces of feedback received
Waitangi @ Waititi	• Early engagement pop up stall held at Parrs Park, Oratia on Friday 6 February 2026.	492 pieces of feedback received
Regional stakeholders hui	• A regional stakeholders hui was held at Te Mānawa on 25 February 2026 with stakeholders across the North and West Auckland region.	68 participants

Glenora Muster Day Event	• Early engagement pop up stall held at Duck Park on Saturday 28th February 2026.	122 pieces of feedback received
Bethells Beach Community Day	• Early engagement pop up stall held at the event at Te Henga, Waitākere Ranges Regional Park on Sunday 8th March 2026.	140 pieces of feedback received
Henderson Valley Residents Association Community Day	• Early engagement pop up stall held at the event at Te Henga, Waitākere Ranges Regional Park on Saturday 14th March 2026.	209 pieces of feedback received
Te Kotahi a Tāmaki Marae Collective	• An early engagement hui was held with the Collective on Tuesday 31 March. Key priorities identified included resilience, environmental protection, wellbeing, infrastructure, and funding support.	

Table 2: Summary of consultation activities during the consultation period

Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Have Your Say Event	This was a publicly promoted opportunity to provide feedback or ask questions directly with an elected member. Held at Glen Eden Library.	10 spoken interactions. 1 formal submission.
Marae and mātāwaka regional hui on Friday 03 July 2026	Local Board project team, Local Board engagement advisors and members of Te Kotahi-ā-Tāmaki (marae collective)	Marae and mātāwaka representatives including: • Te Mahurehure marae (Albert-Eden) • Whaataapaka marae (Franklin) • Mataatua marae (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu) • Te Awamaarahi marae (Port Waikato, closest to Franklin) • And individuals.
Community Partner events	The following community partners held events to support the consultation: • ZEAL • Tapasa Navigating Futures • Falelalaga • Sign West	Numbers varied, each event reaching different communities in different ways. Content was aimed at getting specific perspectives, raising awareness and directing attendees to online or hardcopy feedback options.

Generic submissions

15 organisations provided submissions to more than one local board plan process. A brief summary of their content is included in the sections below.

Submitted as a Regional Organisation	Submission summary
City Builders Association	Support environmental protection.
The Tree Council	Environment Objective not met, funding for environmental monitoring, plant landslides, treat Kauri in local parks, better management of roadside spraying, support for QEII process, signs on scheduled trees, environmental education.
National Public Health Service – Northern Region	Seeks reduction of alcohol; tobacco & vaping, supports food security, improve air quality & heat resilience, supports equitable & inclusive communities, supports play opportunities, seeks safe / lower traffic speeds roads, active transport, safe school travel,
West Auckland Deaf Community	Seeks deaf awareness / programmes, more visible Sign Language, more visible emergency signs, a Deaf Community Engagement role, on-site parking for new builds, more accessible PT for deaf, emergency alerts with visual aid, smaller buses, more walking & cycling paths, safety school travel,
Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi Arts Regional Trust	Investment in arts, further collaboration, arts build success and resilience of Glen Eden, develop economic wellbeing of rangatahi.
Tuia Waitākere	Recognise role community partners play; grow partnership, loves call-out of community led sport, need long-term sustainability of community led sport, supports Environment chapter, supports successful and resilience centres, supports programmes for rangatahi, supports tourism plan, supports safe and sustainable transport, support safe school travel, notes that priorities aligns with Tuia Waitākere's 20-year impact strategy.
Aktive	Acknowledges LBs promotion of physical activity, supports objectives promoting physical activity, supports Waitipu Park, seeks more parks to accommodate for growth, supports track plan / Integrated Recreation Plan, supports advocacy for the Avondale Racecourse, support Manukau swim safe, supports Greenway and active transport, supports wider road shoulder for safer cycling.
Healthy Auckland Together	Support various objectives, add heath food to 'community resilience', refer Play Plan, supports protection of public & private ecological areas, supports successful centres that attract investment, emphasis road safety around schools; centres and marae, supports time of use; PT; walking & cycling, embed Māori identity.
For Communities Against Alcohol Harm	Opposes another liquid store in Glen Eden, greater emphasis around alcohol related harm, add "safety" to Enhance wellbeing objective, add advocacy to govt regarding alcohol & vape harm.
Forest and Bird	Seeks more environmental grants, add more narrative to objectives and initiatives, remove refer to sport & play, manage cats and dogs, education for waste management, supports urban trees and native planted swales, suggestions to amend many initiatives, opposes development in Significant Environmental Areas, funding for recycling and waste reduction, native trees on cycleways, permeable cycleways, Local Board Transport Capital fund for active transport, manage weeds along motorways, supports electric vehicle charging stations,
TAPASA NAVIGATING FUTURES ALONGSIDE LE MOANA WEST COLLECTIVE.	Improve local pacific data and visibility, strengthen pacific people's participation in local decision-making, support climate resilience and emergency preparedness, improve pacific people's access to local service and opportunities, invest in pacific young people and future leadership; support pacific; identity and belonging.
Community Waitākere	Fund community lead, supports climate adaptation & community preparedness, supports maori-led initiatives & governance, supports marae development, supports Rangatahi leadership, seeks development agreement, supports resilience hubs, seeks training for volunteers, supports kai security and renewable energy, seeks more restoration funding, seeks environmental education, supports community climate adaptation projects, supports citizen science monitoring, supports sustainable tourism, supports volunteers and local leads, supports employment pathway, supports safe; sustainable low carbon transport options.
ZEAL	Outlined youth concerns: violence; clean spaces; events; youth programmes; sport and recreation; and jobs and training.
Tapasa Navigating Futures	Supports youth opportunities; safer spaces; and cultural grounded initiatives.

Te Kotahi a Tāmaki	Notes marae play vital role in supporting whānau, seeks developing relationship between local boards and marae, notes whānau who experience barriers less likely to engage, seeks marae investment, notes marae key emergency response centres,

Summary of feedback

General feedback received on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan

Community

Sense of community in loved places, with a passion for arts and culture sustaining mental and physical wellbeing. Covering the place and the people, parks, recreation and activities, arts, creative sector and heritage.

Objectives

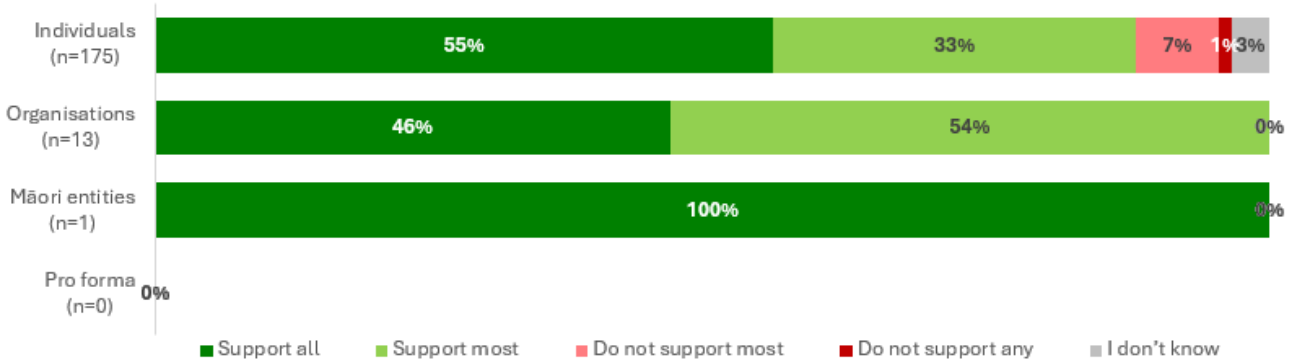
- People from our diverse communities are connected and proud.
- Enhanced wellbeing and resilience of local communities.
- Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for recreation, sport, play and enjoyment.
- Parks and facilities are adaptable in the face of climate change, growth pressures and changing community needs.
- Sustain a vibrant arts and culture network that enables and enlivens the west.
- Libraries and facilities provide welcoming spaces at the heart of the community.

Advocacy

- Seek regional and / or government research on slip prone land and support in mitigating at risk sites.
- Regional funding to support resilient communities.
- Funding to implement Local Area Plans.
- Regional investment in Waitipu Park.
- Acquisition of new parkland and funding upgrades within existing parkland to support a growing population and diverse recreational needs.
- A track and recreation plan for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and improved communication on the track reopening programme.
- Support for continued recreational use of the Avondale Racecourse, at least one more swimming complex in the west, and funding for Te Whau Pathway.

With the benefit of the Objectives of the Community chapter listed in the submission form, submitters were asked: *"What's your opinion of our three-year goals for our Community?"*

175 submissions responded to this question. The graph below shows submitter's high-level support / opposition.



Submitter themes generated from this question were greatly varied. However, themes that repeated included:

- Support for community gardens / food resilience.
- Improve Ceramco Park.
- Deaf awareness / engagement.
- Less support for arts.
- Support arts.
- More parks, better parks planning, better community facilities.
- Supports resilience.
- Supports pride and diversity.

Natural Environment

Forest (Ngāhere) and waterways are protected and restored, and people can access nature in a responsible way. Covering the Waitākere Ranges generally, biodiversity, water and air quality.

Objectives

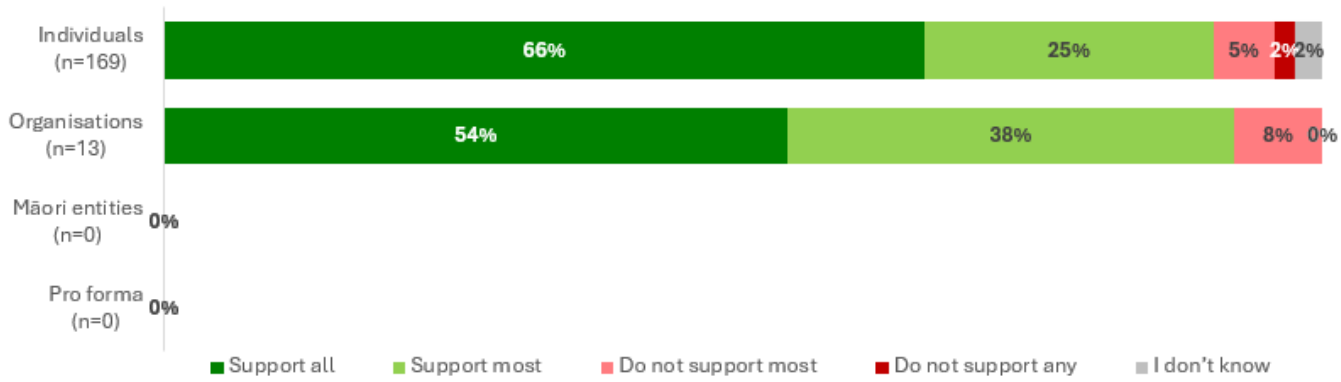
- Ecological areas (whether in public or private land) are protected, restored and enhanced.
- Manukau Harbour beaches are swim safe.
- Streams and wetlands are healthy, restored, and better able to support natural flood processes.
- We seek to understand climate change risks, take action to reduce climate impacts, and prepare to adapt and respond to future events.

Advocacy priorities

- Increased funding to restore and enhance the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.
- Continued education, research, and controls of kauri dieback.
- Funding to address water contamination in our waterways, harbour, and coastal areas.
- Increased funding for Waicare, to support community water quality monitoring.
- Funding for remediation and planting of landslides and storm affected properties.
- Funding to scale up management of weed material that ensures the health of the Ngāhere (forest).

With the benefit of the Objectives of the Natural Environment chapter listed in the submission form, submitters were asked: "*What's your opinion of our three-year goals for our Natural Environment?*"

169 submissions responded to this question. The graph below shows submitter's high-level support / opposition.



Submitter themes generated from the Natural Environment question were varied. However, themes that repeated included:

- Keep waterways clear / flood prevention and preparedness.
- Ecological health.
- Support for community gardens / food resilience / wild forging.
- Support Manukau swim safe goal / Manukau Harbour Forum.
- Support heathy waterways.
- Open tracks / with min standards.
- Oppose built structure near Ranges.
- Protect Ranges / Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area / rockpools.
- Treat Kauri.

Built Environment

Choice of housing, distinctive areas, bush-clad lifestyle, with the highest density housing near centres, services, and transport connections. This chapter outlined lifestyle choices, and housing growth.

Objectives

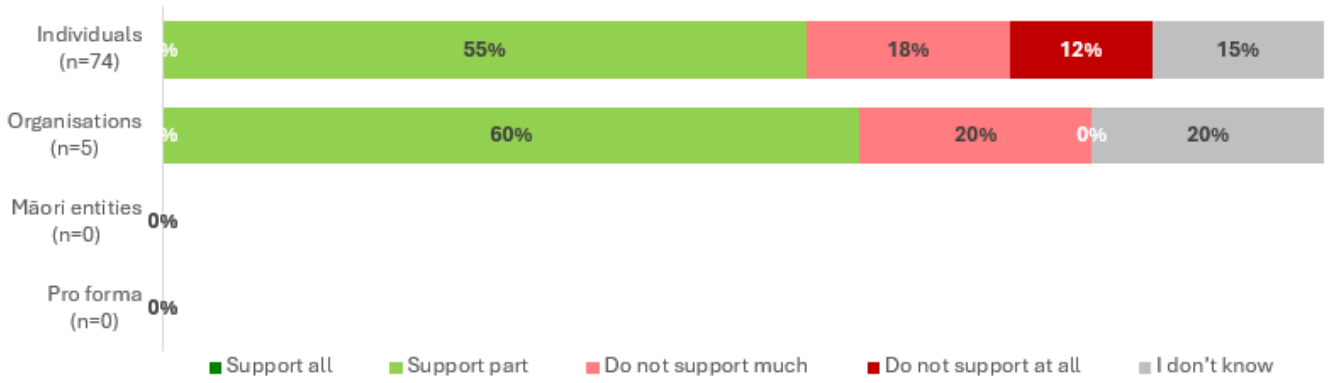
- Successful and resilient centres that attract further investment, development and jobs.

Advocacy priorities

- That the unique Māori identity and mana whenua perspectives are part of planning and design.
- A planning framework that delivers quality housing development that:
    - Hold inter-generational value and are sought after.
    - Create a sense of place and pride.
    - Retain suburban tree cover.
    - Have the necessary service for day one.
- Planning rules where the built environment is subservient to the natural environment (as per the objectives Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act).
- Planning rules that support the highest level of development around train stations. And, considering further height at Glen Eden with placemaking or social betterment dispensations.
- A funded programme to manage and upgrade stormwater pipes, channels and culvert that are better suited to future climatic events.
- Funding for the Making Space for Water programme for areas with higher flood risk.

With the benefit of the Objectives of the Built Environment chapter listed in the submission form, submitters were asked: "*What's your opinion of our three-year goals for our Built Environment?*"

74 submissions responded to this question. The graph below shows submitter's high-level support / opposition.



Submitter themes generated from the Built Environment question were varied. However, themes that repeated included:

- Better planning / design of developments.
- Infrastructure before developments.
- Glen Eden revitalisation (largest theme against Built question. Repeated more so against Economic question).
- Oppose terraced housing and its quality.
- Oppose infill toward Ranges.
- Vague chapter.

Economic Development

People experiencing our centres, spaces, culture, facilities and parks - uplifting communities.

Objectives

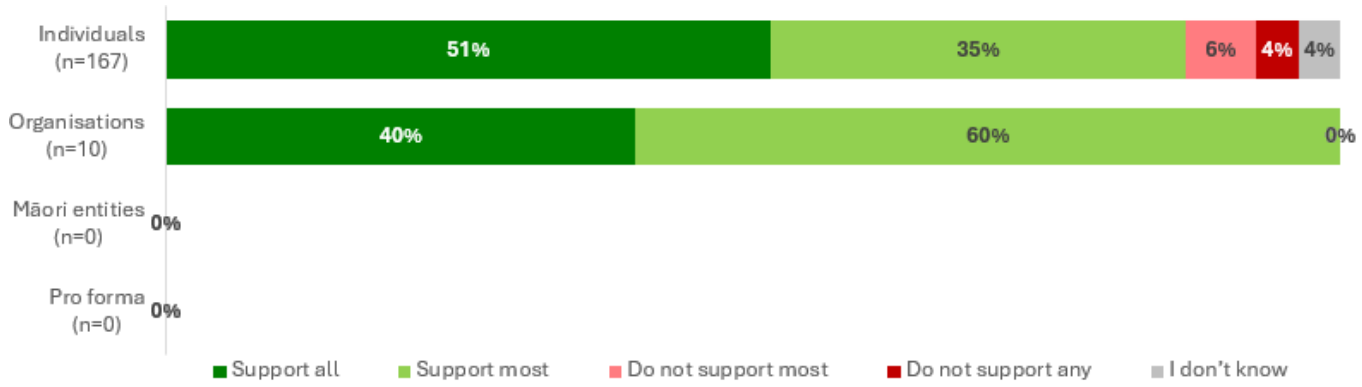
- A successful and resilient Glen Eden that attracts further investment, development and jobs.
- Economic wellbeing for rangatahi.
- Sustainable economic activity.

Advocacy priorities

- Well planned development at Glen Eden and Swanson.
- Inclusion of Glen Eden as a priority location under the Urban Regeneration Programme.
- Procurement of local suppliers for Council maintenance contracts. Contracts to contain strengthened accountability clauses.
- Funding for sustainable tourism through Te Kawerau ā Maki's proposed tourism plan.
- Fibre roll-out to all areas.
- Electricity resilience to reduce power outages including undergrounding and tree trimming around lines.

With the benefit of the Objectives of the Economic Development chapter listed in the submission form, submitters were asked: "*What's your opinion of our three-year goals for our Economic Development in our area?*"

167 submissions responded to this question. The graph below shows submitter's high-level support / opposition.



Submitter themes generated from the Economic Development question were varied. However, themes that repeated included:

- Support arts.
- Glen Eden in poor state / support revitalisation.
- Support level rail crossing removal.
- Support Rangatahi programmes.
- Supports vibrant centres / Titirangi as distinctive destination.

Transport

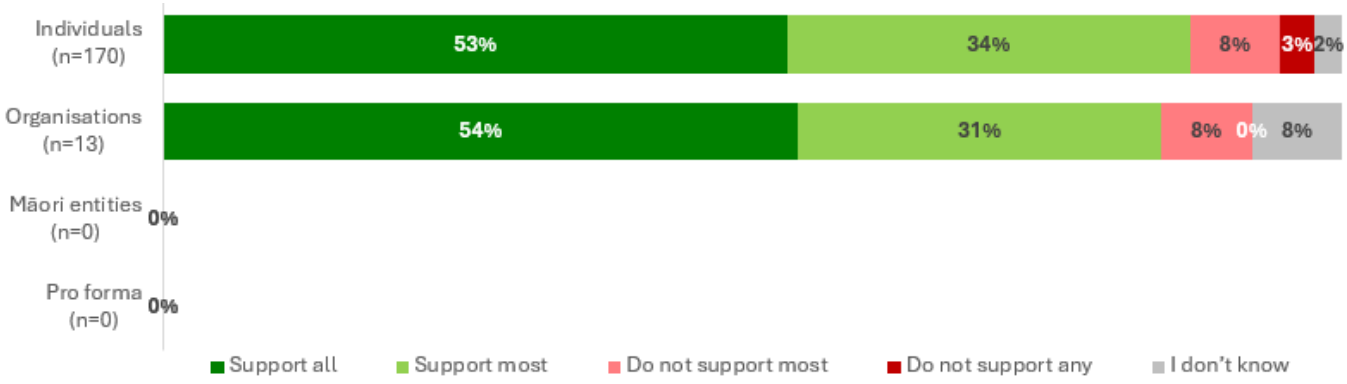
Reliable, safe and sustainable transport options.

Priorities

- Deliver safe travel to school initiatives as budget is available.
- Greenways projects / extensions and other related community led active transport initiatives.
- Investigate electric vehicle chargers on council land.
- Safe traffic speeds near schools and centres where those communities support it.
- Fund initiatives that support more people using buses and trains.
- A bus or shuttle services to places like Piha, and appropriately sized buses on narrow / vulnerable bush-clad routes.
- Direct, reliable and frequent public transport option/s in response to west Aucklanders commuting south-east for employment.
- Urgent replacement of level rail crossings with over or under passes.
- Culverts, stormwater pipes and roadside drains that are kept in great order.
- A programme to identify a response to storm related risks to our roads.
- Upgrade critical roads (that also carry lifeline services) so they are more resilience to storm impacts.
- The consideration of the safety of people using bikes - as future maintenance is carried out - on a few key and agreed rural roads. For example, possibly widening the sealed shoulder or other similar treatments.

With the benefit of the Objectives of the Transport chapter listed in the submission form, submitters were asked: "*What's your opinion of our three-year goals for our Transport [SIC] in our area?*"

170 submissions responded to this question. The graph below shows submitter's high-level support / opposition.



Repeating submission themes generated from the Transport question included:

- Support active travel.
- Safer roads, safer school travel.
- Support smaller and coastal buses.
- Free public transport / better PT.
- Level rail crossing removal.
- Lower traffic speeds.
- More park and rides / capacity.
- No more speed humps.

Other questions asked

As part of the draft local board plan consultation, the following additional questions were asked. Submission points or themes from these questions typically repeated those against the five chapters focused questions. The number of submission points received to these questions are included below in the table.

Question 1: Overall, do you think that the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?	*Question 7: Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2026?*
174 submission points received	117 submission points received

Four Outcomes section of the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan

The draft 2026 Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan included four Outcomes sections. Māori Outcomes, Climate Outcomes, Equity Outcomes, and Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area. While specific feedback was not sought in direct relation to these sections, the following is noted.

Māori outcomes

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

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

The draft plan proposed the following objectives that specifically support Māori outcomes in our area:

- Community:
    - People from our diverse communities are connected and proud.
- Economic Development:
    - Economic wellbeing for rangatahi.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Support for marae.
- Support for marae place in community (especially during disasters).
- Support for Rangatahi training and (youth activities).

Climate outcomes

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

The draft plan proposed the following specific objectives that specifically support climate outcomes in our area:

- Community:
    - Enhanced wellbeing and resilience of local communities.
    - Parks and facilities are adaptable in the face of climate change, growth pressures and changing community needs.
- Natural Environment:
    - Ecological areas (whether in public or private land) are protected, restored and enhanced.
    - We seek to understand climate change risks, take action to reduce climate impacts, and prepare to adapt and respond to future events.
- Transport:
    - Support a variety of safe and sustainable transport options for the people of, and those visiting, the Waitākere Ranges local board area.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Resilience roads and drains.
- Kai sovereignty.
- Sustainable transport.
- Restore / plant more areas.

Equitable outcomes

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

The draft plan proposed the following objectives that specifically support equitable outcomes in our area:

- Community:
    - People from our diverse communities are connected and proud.
    - Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for recreation, sport, play, and enjoyment.
    - Sustain a vibrant arts and culture network that enables and enlivens the west.
- Built Environment:
    - Successful and resilient centre that attract further investment, development and jobs.
- Economic Development:
    - Economic wellbeing for rangatahi.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Support arts and events.
- Make youth feel safe and welcome.
- Seek meeting spaces for diverse peoples.

Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area

The Waitākere Ranges local board has an important role with regard to the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act.

The draft plan proposed the following objectives that specifically support Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area outcomes in our area:

- Built Environment:
    - Ecological areas (whether in public or private land) are protected, restored and enhanced.
    - Streams and wetlands are healthy, restored, and better able to support natural flood processes.

Other feedback received

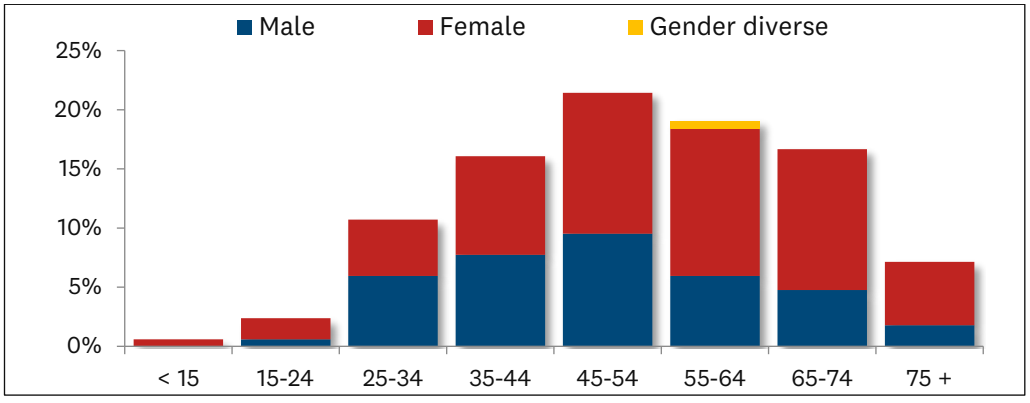
Feedback received through formal submissions that relates more closely to the Work Programme matters included seeking:

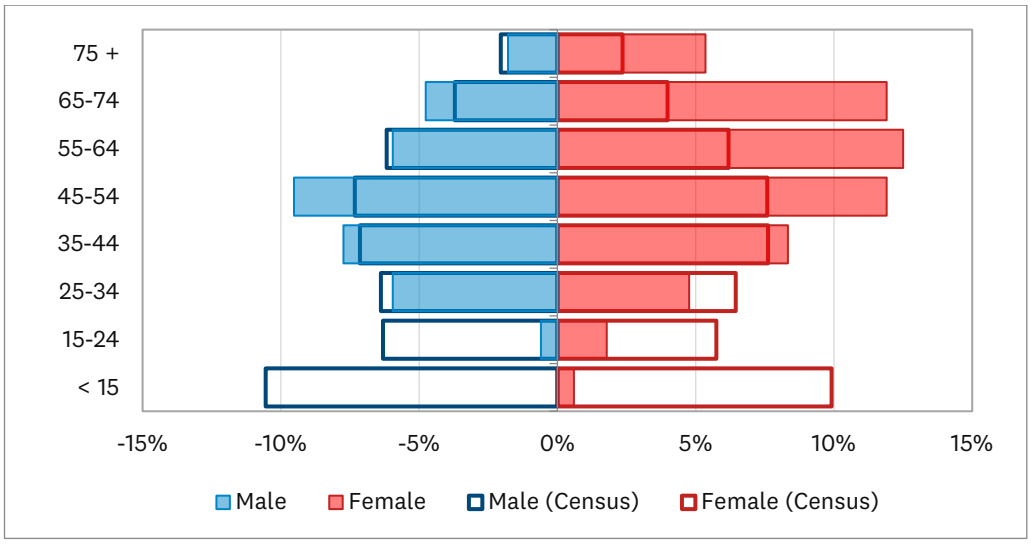
- a fenced dog park area.
- improvement to Ceramco Park fields.
- improvement to the Ceramco Park running tracks.
- improvement of the Kaurilands Domain (incl drainage).
- an improved entry to Ceramco Park.
- no toilets at Waitipu Park because they will attract issues.
- a permanent BBQ & shelter at Vale Park.
- a pump track in Waitākere Township.
- a half court in Waitākere Township.
- development of destination park/s.
- more facilities for Swanson.
- support Settlers Hall.
- Parrs Park changing rooms.
- community gardens.
- mountain biking.
- camping.
- cycleway lighting through Parrs Park.
- Piha power generation and storage.
- Floating beach platforms for play.
- Shared use track between 10 Landing Road and Tamariki Reserve.

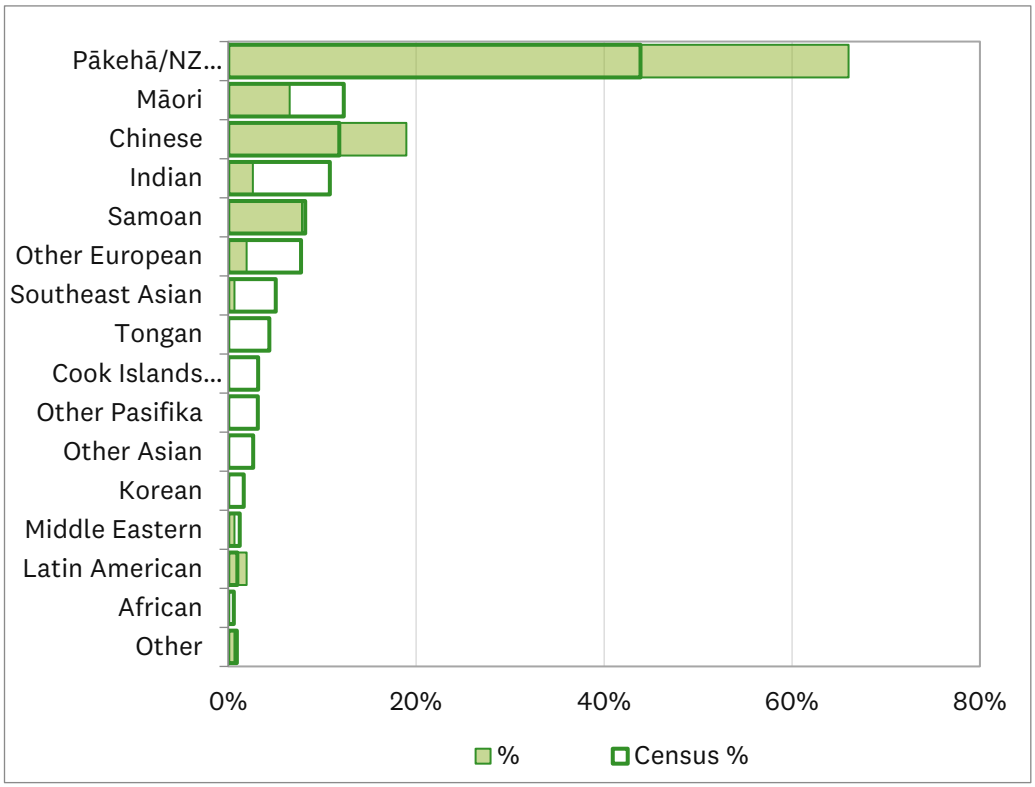
Who we heard from

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

Submitters (Individuals vs Organisation)	No.	Buzzly	Event	Total	%
Individual	183	0	171	354	92%
Organisation	32	0	0	32	8%
Total	**215**	**0**	**171**	**386**	**100%**




75 +
65-74
55-64
45-54
35-44
25-34
15-24
< 15
-15%
-10%
-5%
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5%
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Male
Female
Male (Census)
Female (Census)


Pākehā/NZ...
Māori
Chinese
Indian
Samoan
Other European
Southeast Asian
Tongan
Cook Islands...
Other Pasifika
Other Asian
Korean
Middle Eastern
Latin American
African
Other
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