Annual Plan 2026/2027

Written Feedback

Māori Entities

Volume 2

April 2026

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Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4218

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 Ākitai Waiohua

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

[Feedback provided verbally at mana whenua hui]

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?

Tell us why

Māngere-Ōtahuhu Local Board identifies that a key focus area is supporting local youth employment and skills development through community-led initiatives that open pathways to future opportunities. Initiatives such as these are important and supported by Te Ākitai Waiohua and should be supported by the Council. If these programmes are to be left to local boards then additional funding must be made available.

Te Ākitai Waiohua opposes the Local Services Targeted Rate for the Māngere-Ōtahuhu and Ōtara-Papatoetoe local board areas to make up the funding shortfalls. It is acknowledged that local community services are the most significant local board expenditure (e.g. libraries, events, sports and recreation), and that cost savings options have been identified in addition to the targeted rate.

Local community services are important but are not utilised by everyone. Therefore, it is preferable to see cost savings options rather than a targeted rate applied to everyone. The Local Services Targeted Rate is not equitable on top of the proposed 7.9% general rates increase. Why should the most deprived communities get hit twice when they are one least able to a ord it?

The area of Māngere was also significantly affected by the extreme flooding events of 2023, and ongoing works to protect this community must be prioritised. It is not acceptable for low income housing to be in areas susceptible to natural hazards such as flooding, putting our most vulnerable communities at risk.

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.

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?

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)

Māori Economic Development: What's in train that helps to support Māori economic development? What is council doing other than Māori Outcomes? Housing our people is important to economic security. Support initiatives for local youth employment and skills development.

Local Community: Oppose Local Services Targeted Rate. Why should community of Māngere-Ōtāhuhu get hit by additional increases on top of proposed rates rise? Fairer funding model is not equitable. If cost increases are outside control of the Board then provide additional funding 2024-26 rates below the LTP projections. Alternatively, address shortfall ($1.05M) by reducing expenditure.

Te Taiao: Critical to address flood resilience and climate change adaptation. Climate change significantly impacts our Marae, Papākainga and Urupā. Ensure infrastructure projects avoid impacts on te taiao. Support continued engagement on strategic planning and projects to protect te taiao. Sufficiently fund local board initiatives.

Engagement: Consultation is not engagement

1. New Fairer Funding Model is not of its name – fair. Based on the higher rates of deprivation in the 2 Local Boards of Māngere – Ōtahuhu and Ōtara – Papatoetoe which equates to 15% of the criteria used to determine the need. We believe one o funding was approved to maintain services for 2025/ 26 and a case now should be for the current period to not disadvantage ratepayers in these two areas until a revised assessment can be made.

2. Key Projects planned for 2026/ 27 – Māngere – Ōtahuhu Local Board. There are not many projects planned in this section that advance and / or support the needs of the Mana Whenua and the community in a cogent manner. That may well be as a result of the Fairer Funding Model and a shortfall that is required to be made up. It demonstrates no sense of where to next.

3. I would like to see a stronger relationship or established Huinga Rangatira – Mana ki te Mana within Māngere – Ōtahuhu Local Board.

4. Notably no commentary in any of the Local Boards mention the importance of partnerships or relationships with mana whenua. It is di icult to acknowledge the premise in where mana whenua iwi actually sit or configure, if at all.

5. Do not progress with the Local Services Targeted Rates for Māngere-Ōtahuhu and Ōtara-Papatoetoe local boards.

6. Reconsider the Fairer Funding Model to ensure equitable funding to deprived communities such as increasing the proportion of funding allocated based on deprivation (e.g. 75% population/20% deprivation/5% land area).

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?

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.

Te Ākitai Waiohua
Settlement Trust

29 March 2026

Annual Plan Team
Auckland Council
Via email: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Tēnā koe,

RE: Submission on Auckland Council Annual Plan 2026/27 – Te Ākitai Waiohua Settlement Trust

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's Annual Budget 20226/27. We are providing this submission on behalf of Te Ākitai Waiohua Settlement Trust (Te Ākitai). We can confirm that we have authority to submit on our organisation's behalf.

1. About us

Whakapapa

Te Ākitai Waiohua are descended from Kiwi Tāmaki, the grandson of Huakaiwaka, himself the ancestor of the Waiohua iwi, who lived in Tamaki (the Auckland isthmus). The name Te Ākitai commemorates Kiwi Tamaki's uncle Huatau, who, in the early 18th century, died at sea in the Manukau Harbour and whose body was washed up (āki) by the sea (tai) on Puketutu Island.

Kiwi Tamaki was killed in battle with Te Taou hapu (sub-tribe) of Ngati Whātua in the mid- 18th century. Ngati Whātua settled in Tamaki and the Waiohua retreated to Drury, Pokeno, Kirikiri/Papakura, Ramarama and other parts of South Auckland. In the 1780s Te Ākitai Waiohua re-established settlements at Wiri, Pūkaki and Ōtahuhu. Kiwi Tāmaki had a surviving son named Rangimatoru, who lived in South Auckland with Ngā Oho, a hapū of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei formed by intermarriages between Ngāti Whātua and Waiohua people. He died circa 1793, fighting alongside Ngāti Whātua in a war with Hauraki Gulf-based iwi Ngāti Pāoa, and was succeeded by his son Pepene te Tihi.

In the 1820s Ngāpuhi of Northland acquired muskets and attacked Tāmaki, leading the local tribes to retreat to the Waikato. In 1835 the tribes returned and Te Ākitai Waiohua resettled at Pūkaki, Papakura, Pukekōiwiriki (Red Hill near Papakura) and Pōkeno.

Te Ākitai Waiohua became supporters of the Māori King Movement when it arose in the 1850s. By 1861 the chiefs of Te Ākitai Waiohua were Pepene Te Tihi, grandson of Kiwi Tāmaki, and his son Ihaka Wirihana Takaanini. They lived at Pūkaki, Māngere and Ramarama. Before the invasion of the Waikato by the colonial government, Ihaka Takaanini was accused of being a rebel. Tribal land at Māngere was confiscated and Pepene Te Tihi, Ihaka, his wife and three children were arrested. Pepene, Ihaka and two of the children died in custody in 1863-1864. The surviving child, Te Wirihana Takaanini, became the chief of Te Ākitai Waiohua.

Rohe

The traditional Te Akitai Waiohua rohe (refer to **Appendix 1**) extends west from Otakanini Pa, South Kaipara which is situated on a navigable creek that joins the Kaipara Harbour south of Aotea Bluff, thence east across to Puhoi and then in a straight line to the coast to the north of Wenderholm Regional Park, thence south down the Eastern Coast, excluding the Hauraki islands, to Tapapakanga Regional Park on the western shores of the Firth of Thames, thence across the Hunua Ranges including the Clevedon/Wairoa district, Papakura, Drury, Ararimu to Mangatāwhiri and Pōkeno, thence to Tuakau and Onewhero on the left bank of the Waikato River, thence along the left bank of the Waikato River including Tuhimata and Pukekohe to Port Waikato, thence northward, excluding Awhitu, Maioro and Waiuku, but including Patumahoe, Tuhimata and Pukekohe, Karaka, Manurewa, Clendon, Māngere, Onehunga and Hillsborough and the islands of the Manukau Harbour such as Puketutu Island; thence to Auckland Central including the eastern suburbs and Meadowbank, thence westward to the Waitakere Ranges and up the west coast to Otakanini Pa at South Kaipara.

Historically, land in the traditional rohe of Te Ākitai Waiohua has been used for fishing, travel, occupation, and cultivation. Settlement was seasonal as the people stayed at main sites during winter, moved to smaller camps to plant gardens during spring, fished and collected kaimoana from fishing camps during summer and then returned to the main settlements again during autumn to harvest and store crops in preparation for winter. Te Ākitai Waiohua were accomplished fishermen and farmers growing fruit, vegetables and raising livestock through to the 1860's. However, the Land Wars changed everything.

The Te Akitai Waiohua principal area of interest (refer to **Appendix 2**) is land within and surrounding Pūkaki Marae, which is in a rural area just south of the suburb of Māngere on the Waokauri Creek, an inlet of the Manukau Harbour. Te Ākitai are also associated with Makaurau marae at Ihumatao, just south-west of Māngere. The Te Akitai Waiohua rohe spans areas managed by Auckland Council and extends across the Albert-Eden; Devonport-Takapuna; Henderson-Massey; Howick; Manurewa; Māngere- Ōtāhuhu; Puketāpapa; Upper Harbour; Waitematā; Whau; Ōtara-Papatoetoe; Aotea/Great Barrier; Franklin; Hibiscus and Bays; Kaipātiki; Maungakiekie-Tāmaki; Papakura; Rodney; Waiheke; Waitākere Ranges; and Ōrākei Local Boards.

Te Ākitai Waiohua Settlement Trust

On 5 March 2011, the Crown recognised the mandate of Te Ākitai Waiohua and the mandated negotiators to negotiate a comprehensive settlement of the historical Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi claims of Te Ākitai Waiohua with the Crown. The Crown agreed the Terms of Negotiation with the Authority in December 2012, setting the broad rules of engagement between the parties. In December 2016, an Agreement in Principle (AIP) was signed to outline the settlement claim and redress to be included. The AIP was developed into a Deed of Settlement describing the final settlement package and then signed off by the Authority in December 2021. There are currently approximately 400 registered members on the Te Ākitai Waiohua register.

Strategic Direction

Te Ākitai Waiohua's over-arching vision is 'Te Ākitai Oho Moata' (translated as Te Ākitai awake at early dawn), meaning that it exists to prepare Te Akitai Waiohua for the future. The overall strategic vision of the Te Akitai Waiohua Settlement Trust is to successfully achieve the strategic objectives set in accordance with the four pou as areas of priority and core values and principles of Te Akitai Waiohua so that our people are ready for the future.

Our four strategic Pou are:

- **Cultural Identity** – developing a strong understanding of Te Ākitai and Te Waiohua so we can be proud of who we are and prevent this knowledge from being lost
- **Environment kaitiakitanga** – enabling Te Ākitai Waiohua to exercise its traditional role as kaitiaki over the environment and resources of Tāmaki Makaurau
- **Economic Development** – identifying valuable opportunities for Te Ākitai Waiohua to successfully build an economic base and achieve long term sustainable wealth
- **Social Wellbeing** – assisting future generations of Te Ākitai Waiohua by improving access to education, health and wellbeing, employment, training and housing while encouraging involvement

Guiding principles

Te Ākitai Waiohua have three Guiding Principles that are particularly pertinent to the proposed Annual Plan. These relate to: Te Tiriti o Waitangi; Equity; and Holistic Management. We cite their importance in relation to their use by Auckland Council

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

The Auckland Plan (2050) articulates Auckland Councils commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as (amongst others), "The Treaty is an exchange of promises. Rangatira (chiefs) and the Governor (on behalf of the British Crown) agreed to a relationship where they would share power and authority. The Crown promised that Māori would enjoy equal citizenship and retain rangatiratanga over their iwi and hapū, territories, resources and taonga.' It also states: "Giving life to Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the Auckland Plan contributes to a more equitable future for Aucklanders and generations to come."

Equity

Two quotes encapsulate Te Ākitai Waiohua's perspective regarding equity. Both make a clear distinction between equity and equality.

Merriam-Webster (2017) states: "While apparently similar, the application of equity and equality can lead to significantly different outcomes for marginalized people. Equality means each individual or group of people is given the same resources and opportunities. Equity recognises that each person has different circumstances and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) (2017) mirrors this explanation: "The absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined

socially, economically, demographically, or geographically. As such, equity is the process and equality are the outcome of that process."

In alignment with this thinking, Te Ākitai Waiohua consider that it is not enough to provide people with the same resources (i.e., equality). To reduce the disparity gap, the underlying issues, and individual needs of at risk and vulnerable populations must be effectively addressed (i.e., via equity)

The proposed Annual Budget higher rates along with cuts to Auckland Council services and Local Services Targeted Rates are a major concern for us. We are concerned that proposed changes will increase hardship for those who are already struggling. This means that Auckland Council need to recognise that we are not all starting on a level playing fact. In fact, some people aren't even on the field. Hence, we need to work closely together to find enduring solutions, while accommodating the needs of people who need it most.

Holistic Management

Karl-Henrik Robert (1989) stated: "A robust framework for success is only possible when we manage the whole. Managing pieces in isolation will only create fragmented success. By managing the whole, success is possible for everything and everyone." For Te Ākitai, the whole refers to enhancing cultural identity; environmental kaitiakitanga; economic development, and social wellbeing. This is the lens through which we view the world. This is a wider lens than the decision-making criteria employed by Auckland Council for the Annual Budget. That is, the wellbeing of people and the environment and economic wellbeing are more accurate barometers of success than money alone.

Context - Working with Auckland Council and (formerly known CCOs)

Te Ākitai Waiohua has been working with Auckland Council (and the legacy councils) at both a governance and operational level for many years.

At a governance level we have provided input to Auckland Plan 2050 and the Future Development Strategy; Tāmaki Ora Māori Outcomes; Long Term Plan 2024-34; Annual Plans; and a multitude of strategic policy documents and policies.

More recently at a 'Have Your Say' event for Māori Organisations on Friday 20th March 2026 at the Auckland Town Hall in front of Councillors, I emphasised the following:

- Te Ākitai Waiohua has been presenting to the Annual Budget since 2013 including the 2025 /26 Plan.
- Thematically, similar matters, concerns and feedback have been provided.
- Such themes including:
    - Appropriate engagement / consultation
    - Decision making at a Governance Level
    - Increase in rates relative to lower socio-economic communities and groupings and adverse impacts
    - Understanding the meaning of equity versus equality and how Auckland Council uses those words
    - Our strategic priorities with our view on how these can best be used to mutual benefit

In conclusion, we / I asked for Councillors to really read and come to understand our commitment to our own people, communities and the wider population.

Operational level involvement has included inputting on:

- Local Board Priorities; Thriving Communities; Review of Council-Controlled Organisations (CCOs); Freshwater Management Policy; Tupuna Maunga Operational Plan; Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri Auckland's Climate Plan; Making Way for Water and many projects across Auckland Council and Council Controlled Organisations.

Te Ākitai Waiohua expectations for the relationship with Auckland Council are articulated in the *Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi) Principles*. These Principles include partnership; obligations to act reasonably and in good faith; active protection; mutual benefit; development and rangatiratanga.

We expect that Auckland Council will recognise Te Ākitai Waiohua strategic priorities and proactively work with us to identify mutually beneficial outcomes (also see Ministry for the Environment, 2010).

2. Understanding of the Proposal

We understand that Auckland Council has faced ongoing budget challenges for some time and, that additional costs of opening and operating the City Rail Link (CRL) are largely driving the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 per cent.

Te Ākitai Waiohua welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2026/27. However, it is disappointing to be making a submission that continues to raise similar concerns to those we have raised in previous submissions.

This submission focuses on the key concerns that Te Ākitai Waiohua has with the Annual Plan aligned to our four strategic pou.

3. Māori economic development

Economic development cannot be separated from te taiao (the environment) and social development. A key concern to Te Ākitai Waiohua is that the Annual Plan lacks anything that helps support Māori economic development, other than Māori Outcomes.

Funding identified for Māori Outcomes is supported, providing for the Marae Infrastructure Programme and grants to improve capacity to engage. Engagement through Mana ki te Mana is important but outcomes cannot be achieved without funding.

Te Ākitai Waiohua seeks engagement at the highest level of governance, to be involved in decision-making that impacts Māori economic development.

Māngere-Ōtahuhu Local Board identifies that a key focus area is supporting local youth employment and skills development through community-led initiatives that open pathways to future opportunities. Initiatives such as these are important and supported by Te Ākitai Waiohua and should be supported by the Council. If these programmes are to be left to local boards then additional funding must be made available.

Also important to Māori economic development is the availability of affordable housing to ensure economic security. Te Ākitai Waiohua supports policies that enable and encourage intensification in places that are accessible by public transport, jobs and education.

Recommendations

1. Recognize other parts of the business to drive Māori Economic Development including access to sites for commercial enterprise, startup costs for small business that provide unique products, utilising Te Taiao (harvesting of hives, nurseries, shared data as just some current examples)
2. Emphasis on Māori Outcomes funding as Māori Driven, Māori Led, Māori owned and not Business as Usual for Auckland Council.
3. Ensuring any Māori Economic Strategy utilised by Council is driven by the notion of Huinga Rangatira – Mana ki te Mana (as expressed in Ngā Mātārae's document) in terms of how they intended to engage with Mana Whenua.

4. Local community

Te Ākitai Waiohua opposes the Local Services Targeted Rate for the Māngere-Ōtahuhu and Ōtara-Papatoetoe local board areas to make up the funding shortfalls. It is acknowledged that local community services are the most significant local board expenditure (e.g. libraries, events, sports and recreation), and that cost savings options have been identified in addition to the targeted rate.

Local community services are important but are not utilised by everyone. Therefore, it is preferable to see cost savings options rather than a targeted rate applied to everyone. The Local Services Targeted Rate is not equitable on top of the proposed 7.9% general rates increase. Why should the most deprived communities get hit twice when they are one least able to afford it?

The Council's move to a more 'equitable' funding model for local board services was an attempt to move away from 'equality' based funding. The three factors used to allocate funding (80% population, 15% deprivation, and 5% land area) are not working when the most deprived communities being asked to pay more.

Equity is not about providing everyone with the same level of support but recognising that Māori communities face historical and systemic disadvantages that require targeted resourcing. For Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau, disparities are evident in housing insecurity, economic marginalisation, barriers to education and employment, and the impacts of urban development on whenua and taonga.

The local boards indicate that cost increases are outside their control and they are managing legacy local community services inherited. It is reasonable to expect that more local community services are provided in areas of lower deprivation where communities have less resources. Now, Local Boards like Māngere-Ōtahuhu and Ōtara-Papatoetoe appear to be punished under the Fairer Funding Model with less funding.

Although an additional $15 million is allocated to local boards to reduce identified shortfalls this is not enough. Additional funding should be provided to cover the shortfall rather than imposing a targeted rate.

The Long Term Plan 2024-34 projected higher rates rises than implemented between 2024 and 2026. Reduced general rates increases should not be at the expense of those communities least able to afford additional costs imposed by targeted rates.

- Projected rates increases in LTP: 7.1% (2024), 5.9% (2025) and 8.4% (2026)
- Annual Plan increases: 6.8% (2024) and 5.8% (2025), and proposed 7.9% (2026)

Options that reduce expenditure including, library hours, garden maintenance, discretionary funding, leisure centre fees are supported if additional funding is not provided to the local boards.

Recommendations

1. New Fairer Funding Model is not of its name – fair. Based on the higher rates of deprivation in the 2 Local Boards of Māngere – Ōtahuhu and Ōtara – Papatoetoe which equates to 15% of the criteria used to determine the need. We believe one off funding was approved to maintain services for 2025/ 26 and a case now should be for the current period to not disadvantage ratepayers in these two areas until a revised assessment can be made.
2. *Key Projects planned for 2026/ 27* – Māngere – Ōtahuhu Local Board. There are not many projects planned in this section that advance and / or support the needs of the Mana Whenua and the community in a cogent manner. That may well be as a result of the Fairer Funding Model and a shortfall that is required to be made up. It demonstrates no sense of where to next.
3. I would like to see a stronger relationship or established Huinga Rangatira – Mana ki te Mana within Māngere – Ōtahuhu Local Board.
4. Notably no commentary in any of the Local Boards mention the importance of partnerships or relationships with mana whenua. It is difficult to acknowledge the premise in where mana whenua iwi actually sit or configure, if at all.
5. Do not progress with the Local Services Targeted Rates for Māngere-Ōtahuhu and Ōtara-Papatoetoe local boards.
6. Reconsider the Fairer Funding Model to ensure equitable funding to deprived communities such as increasing the proportion of funding allocated based on deprivation (e.g. 75% population/20% deprivation/5% land area).

5. Te Taiao (Environment)

Te Ākitai Waiohua has a fundamental obligation to ensure that te taiao is protected and managed sustainably. Funding identified for te taiao is supported, including increased funding for regional pest management, and continuing marine biosecurity education and education.

Mātauranga Māori and place-based knowledge need to be integrated into te taiao projects, particularly natural hazards management.

Addressing flood resilience and climate change adaptation is a priority to Te Ākitai Waiohua. Climate change significantly impacts the Pūkaki Marae, papākainga and urupā due to coastal inundation and coastal erosion. Sufficient funding is required for ongoing work around the Pūkaki urupā due to its location on the edge of Te Pūkakitapu o Poutukeka and assistance with adaptation of the marae and papakāinga.

The area of Māngere was also significantly affected by the extreme flooding events of 2023, and ongoing works to protect this community must be prioritised. It is not acceptable for low income housing to be in areas susceptible to natural hazards such as flooding, putting our most vulnerable communities at risk.

A significant amount of the Annual Plan budget is allocated to the construction and maintenance of Council's infrastructure, including transport and water/wastewater. Te Ākitai Waiohua requires that all infrastructure projects avoid impacts on te taiao and look for opportunities to remediate and enhance.

Te Ākitai Waiohua support continued engagement on strategic planning and projects to protect te taiao.

Many local environmental projects are identified as local board initiatives. It is therefore important that local boards are sufficiently funded to undertake these initiatives with mana whenua and local communities. Funding of environmental projects must not be cut.

Te Ākitai Waiohua is concerned about the potential impacts of intensification (e.g. Plan Change 120) as well as reduced council services (e.g. cutting rubbish collections) on our significant cultural sites including Te Tiriti redress sites. Places such as Pukekōiwiriki and other reserves are vulnerable to illegal rubbish dumping that not only costs money to clean up but has significant impacts on the mauri and mana of sites, and intensification plans continue to encroach on our cultural landscape and have environmental impacts.

Recommendations

1. We do not believe any maintenance costs, restoration, revegetation efforts or generally those of the environment should be viewed as a cost that should be cut.
2. We also are strongly of the view in areas where sites of significance to Mana Whenua , have Te Tiriti obligations implicit or due to be designated as a Cultural site of significance should have it's funding cut but should be maintained.
3. Te Ākitai Waiohua seeks involvement in the decision-making, to influence decisions being made that affect the environment, our communities, economic development and our cultural identity.
4. Ensure sufficient funding is available for ongoing work around the Pūkaki urupā due to its location on the edge of Te Pūkakitapu o Poutukeka and assistance with adaptation of the marae and papakāinga.
5. Continue to prioritise environmental initiatives and support local boards to work with mana whenua and local communities to restore and enhance te taiao (e.g. illegal dumping).

6. Engagement

Consultation is not engagement, especially when it involves mana whenua being asked to comment on something that is already largely decided. Te Ākitai Waiohua seek engagement that helps to shape decisions and not simply responding to them.

Meaningful engagement requires the following:

- Genuine efforts are made to consult with Te Ākitai Waiohua in good faith.
- A projects has not already been decided upon before or during engagement and an open mind is needed to be ready to make modifications.
- All relevant information must be provided and opportunity to interrogate the information.
- Sufficient time is required for the information to be properly considered.
- A response to feedback is prepared and offered to Te Ākitai Waiohua.
- Te Ākitai Waiohua is resourced for engagement.

Unfortunately, once again we have had insufficient time and capacity to consider the Annual Plan and prepare a submission. This limits our ability to provide feedback on everything that may be of concern and requires focus on key concerns, providing comment and hoping that the Council considers our feedback amongst all other submitters.

Recommendations

1. Te Ākitai Waiohua seeks involvement in the decision-making, to influence decisions being make that affect the environment, our communities, economic development and our cultural identity. This is what partnership looks like.

7. City Centre

The Annual Plan seeks feedback on the City Centre. For Te Ākitai Waiohua the priority needs to be cultural identity and the connection of mana whenua and all iwi Māori within the Central Business District (City Centre).

After all, is this not the obvious and most significant point of difference between Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) and any other city throughout the world. It should showcase these stories, and whakapapa to represent the unique nature of mana whenua and iwi. It brings with it investment into:

- Cultural narrative and design
- Safety and security to ensure visitors and residents make conscious decisions to visit
- Showcasing innovation / economic brilliance that makes sense
- Providing access to these places and spaces
- Communication in all forms ..
- Exciting and purposeful at all times of the day and night

Te Ākitai Waiohua supports the development in the City Centre and the opportunities to reflect Māori identity and culture.

Recommendation:

1. Safety within the City Centre is a key priority to ensure visitors and residents are comfortable to come into the city.

7. Summary Conclusions

In its current form, the proposed Annual Plan 2026/2027 will exacerbate challenges described above.

To develop enduring, viable, long-term solutions, the Auckland Council will need to adopt Guiding Principles including committing to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Equity, and Holism.

We suggest that Auckland Council takes note to our recommendations above; that include:

1. Recognise that the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi; equity; and holism are fundamental to all decision making
2. Consider alternatives that incorporate the needs of people and the environment
3. Invest time now to yield long term rewards
4. Equity is key to success

He aha te mea nui o te ao

What is the most important thing in the world?

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

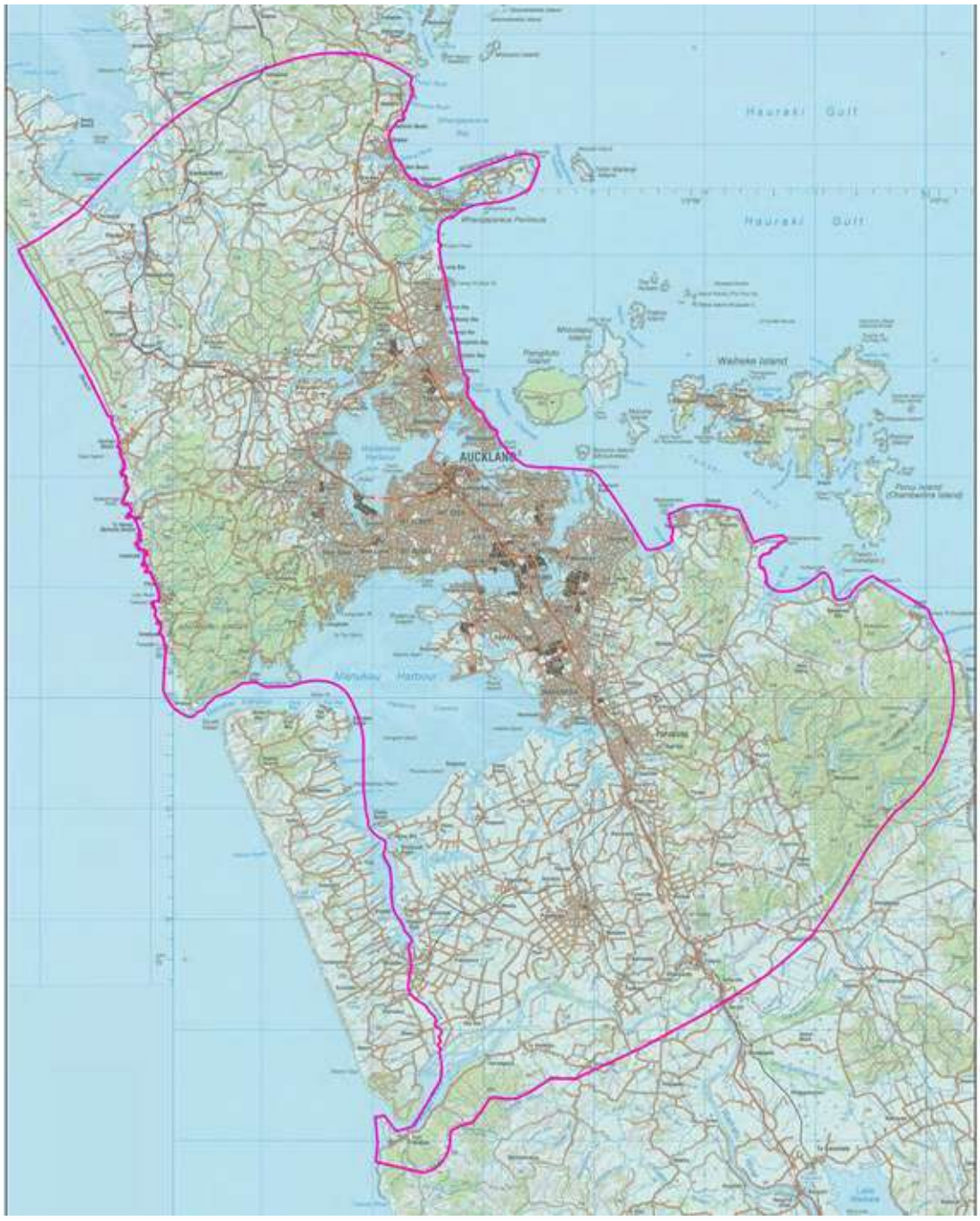
It is people, it is people, it is people.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Annual Budget 2026/2027. Please feel very welcome to contact us if you would like to discuss any aspects of our submission further.

Ngā mihi

[redacted]

Appendix 1 Traditional Rohe - Te Ākitai Waiohua



Appendix 2 – Localised Rohe Te Ākitai Waiohua



Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4226

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: Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust Board

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

[Feedback provided verbally at mana whenua hui]

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?

Aotea/Great Barrier

Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board Feedback:

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

Tell us why

Aotea is a Taonga, in the region. Resilience and Mana Motuhake. Occupied for 800 yrs. Unique island.

o 60% is conservation land

o Many Wahi tapu and endangered species.

o Tū Mai Taonga, our pest eradication project supporting biodiversity

Roads are an issue in the North of Aotea.

o Differences in Infrastructure and living conditions in the North of Aotea, South has a larger population, North is where the whanau got pushed onto a “reservation” by the Crown.

o Roading in the north of the island is an issue, in that there are 3 civil defence centres in Aotea, 2 are inaccessible, Motairehe and Kawa Marae.

- Iwi deal with constant traction issues, heavy corrugation, wash boarding, and deep rutting.
- Both Marae have the resources and skills to receive people in an emergency, as civil defence centres but due to flooding people can’t get to them.
- Some parts of the roads have been concreted. Most are unsealed and become dangerous during bad weather.
- Vehicles are covered in rust; they are bumpy and vehicle maintenance wears down the road.

o Request that roads to marae become sealed.

o Long-term goal to get roads sealed from Okiwi School to both marae.

Tourism

o The Local Board has supported whanau to greet and welcome manuhiri into the Visitor Centre, survey people and capture feedback from tourists and visitors.

o We've developed a Tourism Framework funded by the Local Board,

o We need a little more pūtea to complete that Tourism strategy.

o We want to be industry leaders in this sector. We know Aotea best, this is our place.

Moana ora

o Over the past three years Ngāti Rehua have been in partnership on two moana research projects - Pou Rāhui and Ahu Moana.

o Ahu-moana research, is a coordinated approach with community and agencies, working with mana whenua to guide decision making.

o Urgent focus, needed on declining Koura, Paua, and Tipa (scallops).

o Fisheries Management and biosecurity responses need to use local matauranga to inform those

o Those and responses need to be led by Iwi.

o Partnership must go beyond engagement to shared decision-making and resourcing.

o Local knowledge and matauranga to co-design and deliver the research

o They acknowledge the support and also continue to be the Tai Tuara.

- There has been no conversation with Auckland Transport for some time, point for RD to follow up

o There are 50 households at that end of the island,

o 2 hour drive due to the roads.

o This has been the case for decades. A change is urgently needed.

o Iwi aspirations are for whānau to reconnect to their turangawaewae

o All of the work is focussed on developing things so that more whānau can reconnect.

o If you're lucky enough to grow up on Aotea, most stay till 12 yrs old and move off-island to go to College. Then they leave, but they don't return, until they are kaumatua.

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.

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

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)

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

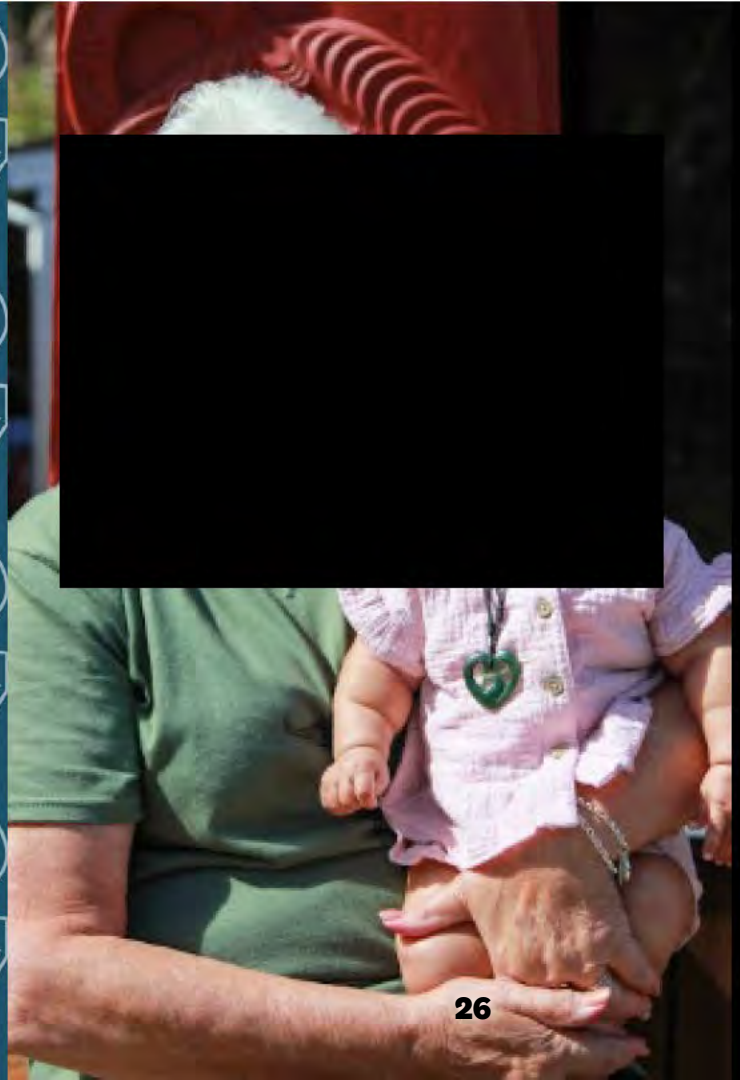
Question 6: City centre

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?

Kō Wai?

#4226



Unique Aotea

#4226
Ngāti Rehua
Ngātiwai ki Aotea
Iwi Trust Board

- Over 60% dedicated public conservation land.
- No reticulated electricity, public transport, or streetlights.
- Dark Sky Sanctuary
- Home to endangered species - black petrel, chevron skink, and Pāteke.
- Many cultural sites of significance
- No possums, ferrets, weasels, hedgehogs and Norway rats
- Home to rare and endemic species, banded rail, black petrel, dotterel, North island kaka, kakariki, pāteke brown teal, blue penguins, albatross and gannets.

Roads - North Aotea

#4226






#4226




#4226
Visitor Information

Ngāti Rehua Tourism Strategy Framework

Draft Report

#4226

January 2026




#4226
Ngāti Rehua
Ngātiwai ki Aotea
Iwi Trust Board
Moana Ora

Ngā mihi

Core capacity, climate response, wānanga, Summer Ambassador programme, Aotea Caulerpa response, Kauri Ora working group and field work, Pou Whenua kaitiaki, Tai Tū Moana Project Lead, Ahu Moana, Visitor Information Centre, Tourism Strategy, office renovation, and the development of business plans and essential assets such as the Te Pou Ramaroa van.


#4226
Ngāti Rehua
Ngātiwai ki Aotea
Iwi Trust Board
Ngā Mihi

Budget and Performance Committee – Annual Plan 2026/2027 Māori Organisations 'Have your say event'

Date: 20 March 2026

Time: 11:45 – 12:00pm

Venue: Auckland Town Hall

Mana Whenua: Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust Board

- Presented by [redacted] Trustee and [redacted] - Operations Manager
- Aotea is a Taonga, in the region.
- Resilience and Mana Motuhake. Occupied for 800 yrs.
- Unique island.
    - 60% is conservation land
    - Many Wahi tapu and endangered species.
    - Tū Mai Taonga, our pest eradication project supporting biodiversity
- Roads are an issue in the North of Aotea.
    - Differences in Infrastructure and living conditions in the North of Aotea, South has a larger population, North is where the whanau got pushed onto a "reservation" by the Crown.
    - Roading in the north of the island is an issue, in that there are 3 civil defence centres in Aotea, 2 are inaccessible, Motairehe and Kawa Marae.
        - Iwi deal with constant traction issues, heavy corrugation, wash boarding, and deep rutting.
        - Both Marae have the resources and skills to receive people in an emergency, as civil defence centres but due to flooding people can't get to them.
        - Some parts of the roads have been concreted. Most are unsealed and become dangerous during bad weather.
        - Vehicles are covered in rust; they are bumpy and vehicle maintenance wears down the road.
    - Request that roads to marae become sealed.
    - Long-term goal to get roads sealed from Okiwi School to both marae.
- Tourism
    - The Local Board has supported whanau to greet and welcome manuhiri into the Visitor Centre, survey people and capture feedback from tourists and visitors.
    - We've developed a Tourism Framework funded by the Local Board,
    - We need a little more pūtea to complete that Tourism strategy.
    - We want to be industry leaders in this sector. We know Aotea best, this is our place.
- Moana ora
    - Over the past three years Ngāti Rehua have been in partnership on two moana research projects - Pou Rāhui and Ahu Moana.

    - Ahu-moana research, is a coordinated approach with community and agencies, working with mana whenua to guide decision making.
    - Urgent focus, needed on declining Koura, Paua, and Tipa (scallops).
    - Fisheries Management and biosecurity responses need to use local matauranga to inform those
    - Those and responses need to be led by Iwi.
    - Partnership must go beyond engagement to shared decision-making and resourcing.
    - Local knowledge and matauranga to co-design and deliver the research
    - They acknowledge the support and also continue to be the Tai Tuara.
- There has been no conversation with **Auckland Transport for some time, point for RD to follow up**
    - There are 50 households at that end of the island,
    - 2 hour drive due to the roads.
    - This has been the case for decades. A change is urgently needed.
    - Iwi aspirations are for whānau to reconnect to their turangawaewae
    - All of the work is focussed on developing things so that more whānau can reconnect.
    - If you're lucky enough to grow up on Aotea, most stay till 12 yrs old and move off-island to go to College. Then they leave, but they don't return, until they are kaumatua.

Councillor Lee

- Thanked them for the work they are doing for the whole Island.
- Councillor Lee offered to help and requested Ngāti Rehua to contact him in regard to Kawa Road.
- He supports the Pou that was presented today
- He passed on his support to the people out on the island Aotea

Councillor Hills

- Raised issues on the roads in the North of Aotea.
- Is there a conversation with Auckland Transport. The roads in the North are worrying, as there is more climate change happening and over time these issues need to be addressed in an appropriate way.
- There is a change in the Local Board, they will get more power re: roading. The issue for Aotea is regarding scale, i.e. transitioning to give the Local Board more power, re Tourism and Transport.
- Acknowledged that Council is out of wack in regard with population numbers and funding.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4602

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 Runanga o Ngati Whatua

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

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua supports the overall direction of continuing to invest in essential infrastructure and resilience, but only where this is matched by genuine partnership with mana whenua, stronger Māori outcomes, and visible benefit to communities. We acknowledge that the proposed 7.9 per cent average residential rates increase was signalled in the Long-term Plan and that council is seeking to balance this with savings and ongoing investment in transport, water, and local services. Auckland Council says the increase is largely driven by the annual cost of the City Rail Link, alongside wider infrastructure and service costs.

From our perspective, the annual plan must do more than get on with it. It must show how council investment will uphold Te Tiriti-based relationships, strengthen climate resilience, protect te taiao, and support Māori-led place-based development. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua's strategic direction is grounded in representation, growth, and cultural excellence. That means we support investment where it:

strengthens infrastructure resilience, especially water and stormwater systems

protects and restores the natural environment

improves equitable access to transport and community facilities

embeds mana whenua voices in decision-making, design, and delivery

advances visible Māori outcomes across council activity.

We do not support a model where ratepayers are asked to carry rising costs while council continues to underinvest in prevention, co-governance capability, and Māori-led solutions. If rates are increasing, then Aucklanders should see better long-term value through smarter infrastructure planning, catchment-based resilience work, and stronger local partnerships with mana whenua. Council's own consultation material says that next year's long-term planning will cover transport, water, land use, and future growth; this annual plan should therefore begin laying the groundwork for those decisions in a way that properly recognises Māori outcomes now, not later.

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?

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua does not oppose reasonable fee adjustments where they are necessary and proportionate, but we are concerned about increases or new charges that create barriers to participation, wellbeing, or our environmental obligations. Auckland Council is proposing inflation-linked fee changes and also specific changes such as a new rubbish collection service fee for some rural and hard-to-access properties, changes to residential parking permit fees, increased fees for some pool and leisure facilities, and higher hourly charges for some regulatory services.

Our position is that:

access to pools, leisure, recreation, and community facilities should remain affordable, especially for whānau, rangatahi, kaumātua, and lower-income households

regulatory fee increases should not become another barrier for marae, cultural centres, papakāinga, Māori community initiatives, or projects that deliver wider public benefit

any waste-related changes should be assessed through an equity lens and should incentivise environmentally responsible behaviour rather than simply shifting cost burdens.

From a Ngāti Whātua perspective, council should be especially careful that fee settings do not undermine community resilience, hauora, and participation. In practical terms, this means maintaining affordable access to public facilities, considering fee relief or tailored approaches for marae and community-serving kaupapa, and ensuring that any changes are clearly justified and transparently explained.

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

Rodney,Upper Harbour

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

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua supports local investment that strengthens communities, protects the environment, and reflects the identity and aspirations of mana whenua. Auckland Council's consultation pages note that local boards are responsible for parks, libraries, pools, arts, recreation centres, community halls, local environmental programmes, and support for community groups.

From our perspective, local priorities should include:

1. Climate resilience and water infrastructure

Local investment must prioritise stormwater resilience, flood mitigation, stream restoration, catchment planning, and nature-based responses to climate disruption. This aligns strongly with our strategic objectives around growth and intergenerational wellbeing.

2. Māori outcomes visible at local level

Māori outcomes cannot sit only in regional policy language. They must be visible in local board work programmes, local capital projects, naming, design, cultural narrative, and resourcing for engagement with mana whenua.

3. Protection and restoration of te taiao

We support investment in native biodiversity, waterway restoration, pest control, regenerative planting, and the protection of culturally significant landscapes. Rodney's local board material, for example, highlights biodiversity support, roadside weed control, stream restoration planning, and climate resilience investment; that kind of direction is positive and should be strengthened across the rohe.

4. Community facilities and social resilience

Libraries, community hubs, parks, sports fields, and recreation facilities are not optional extras. They are core social infrastructure. They support learning, connection, emergency response capacity, and community cohesion.

5. Partnership and early engagement

Mana whenua must be engaged early and meaningfully in local planning, not brought in at the end. Local boards and council staff should be required to demonstrate how they have worked with mana whenua in shaping priorities and delivery.

If the online form requires one local board area, this wording can be tailored to the relevant board. At a Te Rūnanga level, however, our concern is that local investment across Tāmaki Makaurau must reflect mana whenua values, protect taonga, and strengthen communities over the long term.

Upper Harbour Local Board Feedback:

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

Support most

Tell us why

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua supports local investment that strengthens communities, protects the environment, and reflects the identity and aspirations of mana whenua. Auckland Council's consultation pages note that local boards are responsible for parks, libraries, pools, arts, recreation centres, community halls, local environmental programmes, and support for community groups.

From our perspective, local priorities should include:

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Mana whenua must be engaged early and meaningfully in local planning, not brought in at the end. Local boards and council staff should be required to demonstrate how they have worked with mana whenua in shaping priorities and delivery.

If the online form requires one local board area, this wording can be tailored to the relevant board. At a Te Rūnanga level, however, our concern is that local investment across Tāmaki Makaurau must reflect mana whenua values, protect taonga, and strengthen communities over the long term.

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.

I don't know

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)

Do not support

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)

Do not support

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)

Do not support

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

Our priorities for Auckland's future are resilience, environmental restoration, cultural protection, and infrastructure that serves both current and future generations. We place the highest priority on

stormwater and flood protection because climate disruption is already affecting communities and because underinvestment in prevention creates much larger social and financial costs later. Council itself identifies climate resilience, infrastructure, and environmental protection as core long-term issues.

We also place high priority on looking after beaches, streams, native bush, and cultural heritage. For Ngāti Whātua, these are not separate categories. Te taiao, wai, whenua, wāhi tapu, and cultural identity are interdependent. Investment in restoration and protection is therefore both an environmental and a cultural obligation.

We support public transport and active transport because these improve access, reduce emissions, and help create a more connected and equitable city. We support local parks and community facilities because they are essential social infrastructure. We support growth and town centre improvement where it is well planned, climate-aware, and undertaken in genuine partnership with mana whenua.

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.
6	**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.
4	**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
2	**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?

Our priorities for Auckland's future are resilience, environmental restoration, cultural protection, and infrastructure that serves both current and future generations. We place the highest priority on stormwater and flood protection because climate disruption is already affecting communities and because underinvestment in prevention creates much larger social and financial costs later. Council itself identifies climate resilience, infrastructure, and environmental protection as core long-term issues.

We also place high priority on looking after beaches, streams, native bush, and cultural heritage. For Ngāti Whātua, these are not separate categories. Te taiao, wai, whenua, wāhi tapu, and cultural identity are interdependent. Investment in restoration and protection is therefore both an environmental and a cultural obligation.

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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

#4781

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 Whakakitenga o Waikato

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

See attached feedback

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?

See feedback

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?

RESPONSE TO THE AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN 2026-2027

29 MARCH 2026

This response is filed for Waikato-Tainui by:

Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated
PO Box 648
Hamilton 3240

INTRODUCTION

1. This response is made on behalf of Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated (formerly known as Waikato-Tainui Te Kauhanganui Incorporated), in response to the Auckland City Council Annual Plan 2026-2027.

2. Waikato-Tainui seeks to protect and maintain the rights and interests it holds within Taamaki Makaurau, to ensure that whaanau are provided with opportunities for meaningful engagement, equity in service provision and delivery, and are included in decision-making processes that directly relate to interests held in whenua, wai and the natural environment. We are also cognisant of our outstanding claims and therefore seek to be engaged and consulted on any matters relating to places within our area of interest, inclusive of our outstanding Marine and Coastal Area claim.

3. Waikato-Tainui, Auckland City Council ('ACC') and Watercare signed a Kawenata in 2020 to affirm our long-standing relationship, with this agreement being refreshed and signed again in 2023. The 2023, re-signing resulted in the development of a strategic work programme between Waikato-Tainui and Watercare for the period of 2024-2029, largely reinforcing the commitment to Te Ture Whaimana- The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River. This is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato-River and any activities affecting the catchment. It prevails over any inconsistent national policy statements and national planning standards as set out under the River Settlement.

15. Te Ture Whaimana clearly states its objectives relate to:

    a) The restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River;
    b) The recognition that the Waikato River is degraded and should not be required to absorb further degradation as a result of human activities; and
    c) The protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora and fauna.

4. Auckland City sources more than 50% of its water from the Waikato River, therefore the embedding of, and adherence to Te Ture Whaimana will be vital to ensure that our kawenata is honoured and our tupuna awa is protected from further degradation. With many of our marae and whaanau residing within the city, our relationship with Auckland Council must continue to grow to better enable partnership and mutual respect. To achieve this Waikato-Tainui seeks a more collaborative and culturally responsive approach to

regional development – one that acknowledges and protects our identity, whenua, and future generations.

5. Waikato-Tainui has made significant investments in Auckland, reinforcing our long-term commitment to the region's economic and commercial growth. Our iwi has developed key assets, including the Novotel Auckland Airport and Te Arikinui Pullman Auckland Airport Hotels, which enhance the city's tourism and business infrastructure while creating employment and economic opportunities for our people. As an iwi with a strong commercial focus, we welcome further investment opportunities that align with our values and contribute to sustainable and inclusive development.

6. We encourage Auckland Council to engage with us to explore future collaborations in infrastructure, housing, commercial ventures, and environmental sustainability – ensuring a thriving future for both Waikato-Tainui and the wider Auckland community.

7. This response is provided on behalf of our 33 hapuu, 68 marae and more than 97,000 iwi members.

BACKGROUND TO WAIKATO-TAINUI

8. Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated (**Waikato-Tainui**) is the governing body for the 33 hapuu and 68 marae of Waikato (see **Appendix A**) and manages the tribal assets for the benefit of over 97,000 registered tribal members. It is also:

    a) the trustee of the Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust, the post-settlement governance entity for Waikato-Tainui for the purposes of the Waikato Raupatu Lands Deed of Settlement 1995 and the Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995;

    b) the trustee of the Waikato Raupatu River Trust, the post-settlement governance entity for Waikato-Tainui for the purposes of the Waikato-Tainui River Deed of Settlement 2009 and the Waikato Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010;

    c) the mandated iwi organisation for Waikato-Tainui for the purposes of the Maaori Fisheries Act 2004; and

d) the iwi aquaculture organisation for Waikato-Tainui for the purposes of the Maaori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004.

9. Waikato-Tainui marae are kaitiaki of their environment and regard the holistic integrated management of all elements of the environment (such as flora, fauna, land, air and water) with utmost importance.

10. Waikato-Tainui are tangata whenua and exercise mana whakahaere within our rohe (tribal region). Our tribal rohe is bounded by Taamaki Makaurau (Auckland) in the north and Te Rohe Potae (King Country) in the south and extends from the west coast to the mountain ranges of Hapuakohe and Kaimai in the east. Significant landmarks within the rohe of Waikato include the Waikato and Waipaa Rivers, the sacred mountains of Taupiri, Karioi, Pirongia and Maungatautari, and the west coast harbours of Whaaingaroa (Raglan), Manukau, Aotea and Kawhia moana, the eastern areas of Tikapa Moana (Firth of Thames), and principally, New Zealand's longest river, Te Awa o Waikato.

11. Our data indicates that at least 30,600 registered tribal members live within the Taamaki region. Of our 68 marae, there are a number that sit within the Auckland Council Boundaries. These include the following:

a) Makaurau Marae (Maangere)
b) Te Puea Memorial Marae (Maangere)
c) Puukaki Marae (Maangere)
d) Ngaa Hau e Whaa Marae (Pukekohe)
e) Rereteewhioi Marae (Waiuku)
f) Taahunakaitoto Marae (Waiuku)
g) Whaataapaka Marae (Karaka)
h) Umupuia Marae (Clevedon)

12. Both through its hapuu and collectively as an iwi, Waikato-Tainui has maintained ahi kaa, continues to exercise mana whakahaere, rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga, and upholds and exercises Waikato-Tainui tikanga, kawa, maatauranga and reo within the Waikato-Tainui rohe. We also acknowledge and affirm the intrinsic relationship of Waikato-Tainui with our natural environment.

WAIKATO-TAINUI OUTSTANDING AND REMAINING CLAIMS

13. Waikato-Tainui have several unresolved outstanding (Wai 30) and remaining te Tiriti o Waitangi grievances that are currently being negotiated with the Crown under the Treaty settlement negotiations process. These include (but are not limited to) claims in relation to the West Coast Harbours (Kaawhia, Aotea, Whaaingaroa and Manukau) and Taamaki Makaurau. These claims are comprehensive in nature and extend to matters concerning whenua, the takutai moana, the moana itself, social, cultural and economic issues.

14. Wai 30 is held by Te Whakakitenga o Waikato to be negotiated on behalf of all 33 hapuu of Waikato-Tainui. The Wai 30 claim is inclusive of those parts and interests included in the original Wai 30 claim filed in 1987, that were intentionally set aside to be addressed, negotiated and settled separately to the Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement 1995 and the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement 2010. This settlement represents a key part of the Wai 30 claim and is a continuation of these previous settlements.

15. Waikato-Tainui considers that our area of interest for settlement purposes to the moana includes the area of foreshore and seabed in and adjacent to each harbour bounded on the landward side by the line of mean high-water springs and on the seaward side by the outer limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone, including the beds of any rivers, lagoons, lakes and other water bodies that are part of the coastal marine area (within the meaning of the Resource Management Act 1991), as well as:

    a) the airspace and the water space;
    b) the subsoil, bedrock, minerals and other materials below the water bodies;
    c) the marine and estuarine waters (including the waters of any rivers, lagoons, lakes or other water bodies);
    d) the plants, animals and fish – flora and fauna;
    e) the physical and metaphysical elements of the areas, waters, natural resources and geographic features;
    f) the land, waters, water bodies (including rivers, lakes, wetlands, swamps, estuaries, streams, tributaries, springs, artesian waterways, and other natural watercourses), geographic features, natural resources, plants, animals, and activities within the catchment of each harbour which directly or indirectly interconnect with or affect the harbour; and

g) all physical and biological processes (including sediment movement, waves, tides, currents, and activities) within or affecting the areas, waters, natural resources and geographic features.

16. The claims themselves and the approach to negotiations is underpinned by the principles of mana motuhake, mana whakahaere and te mana o te moana. These principles are reflected in a Takarangi Framework (see **Appendix B**) and aspire to achieve autonomy, decision making rights, and co-governance/co-management rights to ensure the health and wellbeing of the moana.

17. Redress mechanisms in this regard are still being developed and negotiated with the Crown. In absence of settlement protections for these remaining claims, Waikato-Tainui reserves the right to directly engage with the Crown and the Auckland City Council on these matters and secure appropriate and necessary protections. Additionally, Waikato-Tainui seeks that Auckland City Council engages with Waikato-Tainui on any matters that impact or effect anything listed at [12] within our area of interest.

18. Waikato-Tainui appreciates Auckland City Council's continued commitment to working in partnership to uphold Te Ture Whaimana and our other settlement obligations. Although Waikato Tainui principally supports the annual plan's aim to better support communities, there are several points Waikato-Tainui wishes to raise regarding the Annual Plan 2026-2027.

OVERARCHING COMMENTS

19. Waikato-Tainui acknowledges Auckland Council's investment in infrastructure, water services, transport, and environmental initiatives. However, we have serious concerns regarding the insufficient recognition and protection of waahi tapu, cultural narratives, and the broader impacts of urban development on our people and environment. To better address these issues, it will be important for Auckland City Council to prioritise early, direct and meaningful engagement and consultation with iwi and mana whenua on any policy, initiative or other changes that may have a direct impact on Maaori.

20. Additionally, it will be important to retain and develop co-management frameworks and approaches with marae and hapuu to ensure that equitable opportunities for decision-

making, initiative development and implementation are provided to achieve strong outcomes for all parties.

21. The Auckland Council's Māori outcomes reporting shows the Māori population within Taamaki is nearing 230,000. Despite this, inequities between Maaori and the rest of the population remain stark. Stats NZ reports Māori employment fell to 62.0 percent in September 2024 (down from 64.4 percent in 2023), while unemployment rose to 11.2 percent by December 2025. Auckland also had the lowest home ownership rate nationally at 59.5 percent in 2023, alongside Māori household crowding of 23.3 percent nationally and 22.7 percent in Counties Manukau. Health disparities persist, with Ministry of Health noting higher Māori rates of major conditions. The outcomes report also highlighted ongoing transport inequities. These figures illustrate that decisions on rates, housing, transport, and environmental quality have significant implications for Māori wellbeing and Treaty responsibilities.

22. Waikato-Tainui can only partially support the annual plan, as it requires amendment so that all seven investment areas are expressly aligned with Te Ture Whaimana, the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan, existing and refreshed relationship instruments with Waikato-Tainui, and the practical exercise of mana whakahaere in Taamaki Makaurau. Without this amendment, there is the risk that Maaori communities are only able to comment on pre-formed investment packages rather than being able to influence and shape how projects are planned and implemented.

23. The submission points below will provide a critique of the seven investment areas as well as comment on the rates discussion.

RATES

24. Waikato-Tainui opposes 6.54% rates rise for residential property owners as this will significantly impact low-income households. With the cost of living increasing and minimum wage remaining at the same rate, there is a discrepancy between the affordability of housing, transport, energy and other community obligations. Increasing rates when many are already struggling to maintain their households creates undue

financial burden on a household and further heightens social inequities.

25. Waikato-Tainui is concerned that rates rise may exacerbate inequality for more vulnerable households, without providing them with increased benefit or equitable access to new infrastructure or services provided. The proposed infrastructure development focuses on specific areas within Taamaki, meaning the whole city must pay for infrastructure or services that may never be utilised by whaanau in lower socioeconomic areas. Waikato-Tainui questions whether a more equitable process can be implemented, where rates are scaled so they are proportionate to the level of deprivation faced by a community.

26. Waikato-Tainui recognises a need for ACC to design solutions that not only look at reducing rates long term but also address the social realities and inequities Maaori face. To achieve this, ACC needs to work collaboratively, in line with te Tirti o Waitangi obligations and principles to encourage and achieve strong social outcomes in housing, transport, employment and Taiao spaces for Maaori.

27. Furthermore, Waikato-Tainui seeks clarity around the rating of tiny homes, as many of our whanau utilise tiny homes for Papakainga or multi-generational living. The practice of having a number of whanau co-exist on a communal land is a traditional practice that has been long exercised. To enable our whaanau to continue these practices, ACC needs to re-examine policy surrounding the rating of tiny homes, to allow exemptions for those who live on Papakainga.

28. Waikato-Tanui would like to see the Maaori Land Rates Remission and Postponement Policy retained, without amendment. If this policy is intended to be altered or removed, ACC should first be subject to formal engagement processes with iwi and mana whenua to ensure that any amendment still provides appropriate and adequate protections for those utilising this policy.

29. Waikato-Tainui notes that Council's investment decisions, including water infrastructure, stormwater resilience, and urban development, should be accompanied by transparency regarding their impact on household rates. This includes clarity on how investments align with affordability objectives, social equity, and environmental obligations under Te Ture Whaimana, ensuring that ratepayer contributions support sustainable and culturally appropriate outcomes.

30. While Council is rightfully focused on the affordability of rates, we encourage a long-term view that integrates environmental, cultural, and social outcomes alongside financial considerations. This ensures that investment choices do not inadvertently shift costs to households or defer necessary environmental protection measures.

WATER

31. The protection and enhancement of Wai (water) is a fundamental value within our settlement; therefore we scrutinise how water will be managed within our river catchment. Taamaki's long-term plan identified water as one of its core investment areas, and Watercare's capital programme is extremely large. For Waikato-Tainui the key issue does not simply relate to water security; it is whether Taamaki's model will continue to externalise environmental and cultural cost onto Te Awa o Waikato. The Watercare-Waikato-Tainui work programme explicitly says reliance on the Waikato River should be reduced. That principle should appear directly in the annual plan.

32. ACC has indicated that as the region grows, the demand for drinking water and wastewater treatment will increase. However, without stringent restriction and regulation, increasing supply to the city will put an additional strain on our tuupuna awa as well as increased risk of further degradation. Watercare has committed to upholding and implementing Te Ture Whaimana, yet there is no mention of this obligation within this plan. Waikato-Tainui would like to re-iterate that Te Ture Whaimana must be embedded within legislation, policy and plans that relate to proposed or potential water takes and discharges.

33. Te Ture Whaimana sets an extremely high standard of how the awa should be maintained, protected and rehabilitated, and therefore should be at the forefront of any decisions that may have an impact on the Waikato River. Waikato-Tainui would like to see ACC and Watercare embed Te Ture Whaimana within its processes to ensure adherence.

34. Furthermore, the annual plan is deficient unless it includes a formal commitment to future water resilience for Taamaki that will prioritise demand reduction, leakage reduction, urban water reuse, stormwater retention, aquifer and catchment restoration, and diversified supply before any normalisation of increased dependence on the Waikato Rive occurs. The LTP signals water reuse and alternative supply as strategic choices,

however those choices must be filtered through Te Ture Whaimana non-degradation standard.

35. Waikato-Tainui also insists that all water infrastructure planning that may affect Waikato-sourced supply be jointly monitored using both engineering metrics and maatauranga Maaori indicators. That includes mauri, habitat integrity, sediment patterns, risks to waahi tapu, and cumulative catchment effects. Te Ture Whaimana itself requires the use of both maatauranga Maaori and the latest scientific methods.

36. Although the Te Ture Whaimana review is underway, this vision and strategy is paramount to any decision-making process and provides strong guidance on the standard that must be applied. The review will function to provide clear markers and standards that can be practically applied to ensure Te Ture Whaimana is upheld, therefore it is important to reference and note Te Ture Whaimana in all significant planning documents regardless of what stage the review has progressed to.

37. Given Watercare's ongoing reliance on the Waikato River as a key source of supply for Taamaki Makaurau, Waikato-Tainui considers that greater transparency is required around how this reliance is managed over time. In particular, there would be value in establishing a regular reporting approach providing visibility of abstraction levels, progress on demand reduction and alternative supply, and how Te Ture Whaimana is being implemented in practice. While the specific form of such reporting may sit outside the Annual Plan itself, signalling an expectation of transparent and consistent reporting would support stronger alignment between Council planning, Watercare's operational decisions, and the long-term health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

TRANSPORT

38. Waikato-Tainui supports transport investment, as this is vital to increase accessibility and connectivity across all public transport systems. The current infrastructure in unable to meet the needs of a growing population, especially for those who face higher levels of deprivation. The way in which this plan has framed transport investment is not appropriate as it is too network-centric and not sufficiently equity-led or mana whenua-led.

39. Maaori communities, marae and papakaainga-style properties, particularly the outer southern and western communities, are structurally disconnected from affordable, safe and reliable access to jobs, education, health care, and cultural sites. Regional transport

investment cannot be considered successful if it improves CBD throughfare while leaving suburban communities and those on the outskirts in the same position.

40. Waikato-Tainui therefore seeks three transport amendments. These are as follows:

    a) A Maaori accessibility and affordability test should be applied to all major transport investments, especially where the ratepayer burden is region-wide.

    b) The annual plan should commit to developing a marae and Maaori community access programme, including safe walking, bus access, crossings, and wayfinding around marae and key cultural destinations.

    c) City centre investment should not be assessed only by economic uplift, but also by whether it improves the connectivity and accessibility to public transport systems for Maaori communities living beyond the centre.

41. If these elements are incorporated into planning frameworks for the entirety of Taamaki's public transport network, the gap in equity for Maaori would be reduced. This will not only benefit Maaori but all residents within Taamaki, as it provides an alternative option to driving in cars, that is reliable and well connected.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

42. Council describes the built environment as requiring infrastructure to support a growing population. For Waikato-Tainui the built environment must be discussed as a cultural and hydrological question, not just a growth question. Built form affects runoff, flooding, stream health, heat, biodiversity, and the survival of cultural landscapes. The danger of looking at it from only a growth perspective, is that Taamaki may continue to intensify land use and development, without examining the cumulative impact on its surrounding environment.

43. Waikato-Tainui therefore seeks an amendment to the plan, to include that all significant built environment investment and urban regeneration programmes are subject to a cultural landscape and catchment effects framework. This framework should include early iwi engagement, no-build or low-impact treatment around waahi tapu and identified ancestral associations, stronger blue-green infrastructure requirements, and mandatory

design responses that restore rather than sever relationships between people, water, and place. This is also where outstanding Waikato-Tainui interests in Taamaki Makaurau and the west coast harbours become strategically relevant. Council should not plan as though those interests are peripheral.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

44. Waikato-Tainui recognises the importance of robust and well-connected infrastructure and the need for economic growth for the region, however we are concerned that the reformation of the Resource Management system and the removal of strong environmental protections will result in rapidly developed infrastructure that does not properly consider the impacts development will have on its surrounding natural environment. Robust spatial planning will therefore be required to ensure that necessary protections can be put in place, where required.

45. The proposed Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill do not provide compelling mechanisms to ensure that planning and development is sustainable and resilient to climate change. Therefore, the development of Taamaki's regional plan and Natural Environment Plan will be required to be informed by Te Ture Whaimana, as well as robust engagement and consultation with mana whenua, marae and iwi/hapuu. This will ensure that the region builds in necessary protections for the unique biodiversity and landscape within Taamaki, rather than applying a stock standard approach across the board.

46. The natural environment section within the annual plan is too generic. Waikato-Tainui's environmental plan explicitly states that environmental management must restore the environment to the state recalled in Kiingi Taawhiao maimai aroha and must enhance mana whakahaere and kaitiakitanga. Council language tends to sit at the level of managing, protecting, and improving. That is useful, but not ambitious enough for already degraded systems.

47. Waikato-Tainui support investment in biodiversity, pest management, restoration, and water quality, but insists that the natural environment section be reframed to highlight the importance of restoration of mauri, protection from further degradation, co-governance and partnership. This should include dedicated co-designed funding for marae and hapuu restoration, mana whenua monitoring, wetland and estuary cultural health assessments, and culturally grounded biosecurity surveillance. Auckland Council should also be asked to fund Iwi/hapuu monitoring tools and tohu-based systems, not just Western reporting

systems.

48. An examination and analysis of Iwi/hapuu environment plans as well as meaningful engagement and consultation with relevant iwi/hapuu will result in a robust spatial and infrastructure planning, that will be consider the real effects and impact of development on surrounding environments. Waikato-Tainui would like to be engaged in the development of the regional spatial plan and natural environment plan, to ensure that the wellbeing of our precious taonga, tupuna awa and whaanau are protected and maintained for current and future generations.

COMMUNITY

49. For Maaori, community investment determines where councils either reduce inequality or quietly compound it. Local boards are receiving additional operating support, but some boards are still considering service reductions or targeted rates to maintain service levels. That creates a serious equity issue because poorer communities can end up paying more locally to retain basics services that wealthier communities can more easily absorb.

50. Waikato-Tainui therefore oppose any local service model that shifts disproportionate burden onto high-deprivation or communities with a large Maaori population. A Treaty-consistent community investment model would prioritise marae-linked resilience, community facilities in areas of Maaori population growth, libraries and youth spaces, pools and recreation in southern communities, and direct support for papakaainga-enabling infrastructure and multi-generational living. Given Auckland's low home ownership rate and persistent crowding pressures, community infrastructure cannot be divorced from housing stress.

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

51. This area of investment creates significant opportunity, but only if Maaori are treated as economic partners, not event participants. Council's city centre priorities are highly focused on public space activation, visitors, productivity and economic vibrancy. Waikato-Tainui stresses that economic and cultural development must also include Maaori commercial opportunity, procurement, cultural authority, and visible recognition of tangata whenua histories in the places where council is investing most heavily.

52. To achieve Maaori outcomes any procurement plan for city centre and regionally significant projects, must include Maaori business participation, iwi and marae event partnerships, employment pathways, cultural narrative design, and mechanisms for co-investment where Waikato-Tainui seeks to participate commercially. Auckland Council's Maaori outcomes report shows the scale and importance of reducing equity gaps for Maaori in Taamaki Makaurau, this should be reflected in economic policy, not just identity statements.

WELL-MANAGED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

53. In order to have a "well-managed local government," governance must reflect Taamaki's demographic, by embedding te Tiriti o Waitangi principles and obligations. The Simplifying local government reform creates uncertainty around how councils will be combined to create a more efficient and effective method of regional management. Therefore, it will be important to create strong mechanisms to strengthen engagement and consultation with mana whenua, iwi, hapuu and marae, to ensure that our whaanau are meaningfully engaged, rather than being part of a tick box exercise.

54. Waikato-Tainui seeks the inclusion of a funded Maaori governance and engagement platform across the annual plan and next LTP cycle. These plans should include multi-year engagement funding, early design-stage engagement on transport, water, natural environment and city centre matters, shared monitoring, and annual public reporting on how Auckland Council has given effect to Te Ture Whaimana and relevant relationship instruments with Waikato-Tainui.

55. The annual plan already notes $16 million for Maaori outcomes, including marae infrastructure and grants to improve the capacity of mana whenua and mataawaka to engage in council decision-making. Waikato-Tainui believes that this funding is important, but unless it is tied to specific initiatives or projects that assist whaanau in achieving their aspirations, the fund will not achieve the desired outcome.

CENTRE CITY FEEDBACK

56. Waikato-Tainui supports investment that makes the centre safer, greener, more accessible, and more economically productive. However, a city centre strategy focused only on activation and return on transport spend is too narrow. The centre must also

visibly honour mana whenua, create Maaori economic opportunity, improve accessibility from outer communities, and restore ecological quality in the harbour-edge and stream-connected urban environment. The city centre already produces around one-fifth of Auckland's economic output, so decisions made for central city, will shape regional distribution of opportunity and burden.

57. Waikato-Tainui therefore recommends that city centre priorities be ordered as follows:

    1. Transport integration that improves whole-of-region access;
    2. Safety and public realm upgrades;
    3. Maaori place identity and cultural narrative embedded in design and programming;
    4. Green-blue infrastructure and water-sensitive urban design; and
    5. Maaori procurement, tenancy, enterprise, and development opportunities tied to major projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

58. Waikato-Tainui would like to provide the following recommendations for amendment to the current Annual Plan 2026/2027. Waikato-Tainui would like to see the following incorporated into the plan:

    a) Statement to ensure implementation of the plan is aligned with Te Ture Whaimana and the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan in all relevant water, catchment, natural environment, and infrastructure decisions.

    b) Council commits to reducing Auckland's reliance on the Waikato River, rather than increasing dependence on Te Awa o Waikato.

    c) All decisions affecting Waikato-sourced water will be co-designed with Waikato-Tainui.

    d) Council adopts a funded, multi-year governance and engagement framework with Waikato-Tainui across transport, water, city centre, spatial planning, and environmental investment decisions, consistent with the existing relationship and planned MOU review.

e) Council applies a Maaori equity lens to rates, local targeted rates, service changes, and infrastructure prioritisation, with regard to housing stress, overcrowding, transport disadvantage, and health inequities.

f) Council creates a marae, papakaainga, and Maaori community infrastructure package within community and built environment investment, including rating systems that do not penalise multi-generational Maaori living arrangements.

g) Council establishes Maaori outcomes, procurement, and place-identity requirements for city centre and regionally significant projects.

h) Council funds maatauranga Maaori monitoring, tohu-based environmental assessment, and co-governed reporting alongside conventional performance measures.

56. Waikato-Tainui would like to see inclusion within the annual plan, so that we are visible and included within planning, decision-making, infrastructure sequencing, water security, environmental restoration and city centre renewal projects. This inclusion will demonstrate real and meaningful partnership and consultation.

CONCLUSION

57. In conclusion, Waikato Tainui appreciates the Auckland City Council's commitment to long-term planning and community engagement. We trust that our submission will be considered thoughtfully in the finalisation of the Annual Plan 2026-2027. We look forward to continued collaboration towards a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future for all residents of Auckland.

58. Waikato-Tainui strongly advocate for increased Maaori representation in all decision-making processes related to the Annual Plan 2026/2027. Maaori must be treated as equal partners in shaping the future of Auckland, and we request that Auckland Council allocate funding to ensure meaningful iwi participation in the governance and oversight of key initiatives.

DATED **29 MARCH 2026**

TE WHAKAKITENGA O WAIKATO INCORPORATED

[redacted]

[redacted]

Environmental Planner, Waikato-Tainui

Address for Service:

[redacted]

Environmental Planner, Waikato-Tainui

[redacted]

Hamilton

Telephone: [redacted]

APPENDIX A – Waikato-Tainui 68 Marae



APPENDIX B – Waikato-Tainui Remaining Claims Takarangi Framework



Annual Plan 2026-2027

#4938

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: Ngāti Tamaoho Settlement Trust

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

[Feedback provided verbally at mana whenua hui]

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?

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?

NGĀTI TAMAOHO SETTLEMENT TRUST

29 March 2026

Online submission

Submission on Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2026/2027

Ko Te Mānukanuka o Hoturoa te moana

Ko Tainui te waka

Ko Mangatangi, Whātāpaka me Ngā Hau e Whā ngā marae

Introduction

1. This submission has been prepared by the Ngāti Tamaoho Settlement Trust (the Settlement Trust). As the post-settlement governance entity for Ngāti Tamaoho, the Settlement Trust was established to advocate for the rights and interests of Ngāti Tamaoho. We welcome the opportunity to make a submission on Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2026/2027 (proposed Annual Plan).

Background to Ngāti Tamaoho

2. Ngāti Tamaoho descend from the first peoples of Tāmaki Makaurau. And, since the arrival of our tūpuna – the earliest inhabitants of this land who formed groups, including Te Tini o Toi, Ngā Oho, Ngā Iwi, Ngā Ririki – we have exercised rangatiratanga across our takiwā. Our tūpuna also included members of the Tainui waka, including Taikehu, Poutūteka and Rakataura. We are the descendants of the union of these great peoples, brought together under the leadership of our eponymous tupuna, Tamaoho. And the whenua, including Te Mānukanuka o Hoturoa (Manukau Harbour), Āwhitu and Te Pūaha o Waikato, is our takiwā (see below figure for our Area of Interest).

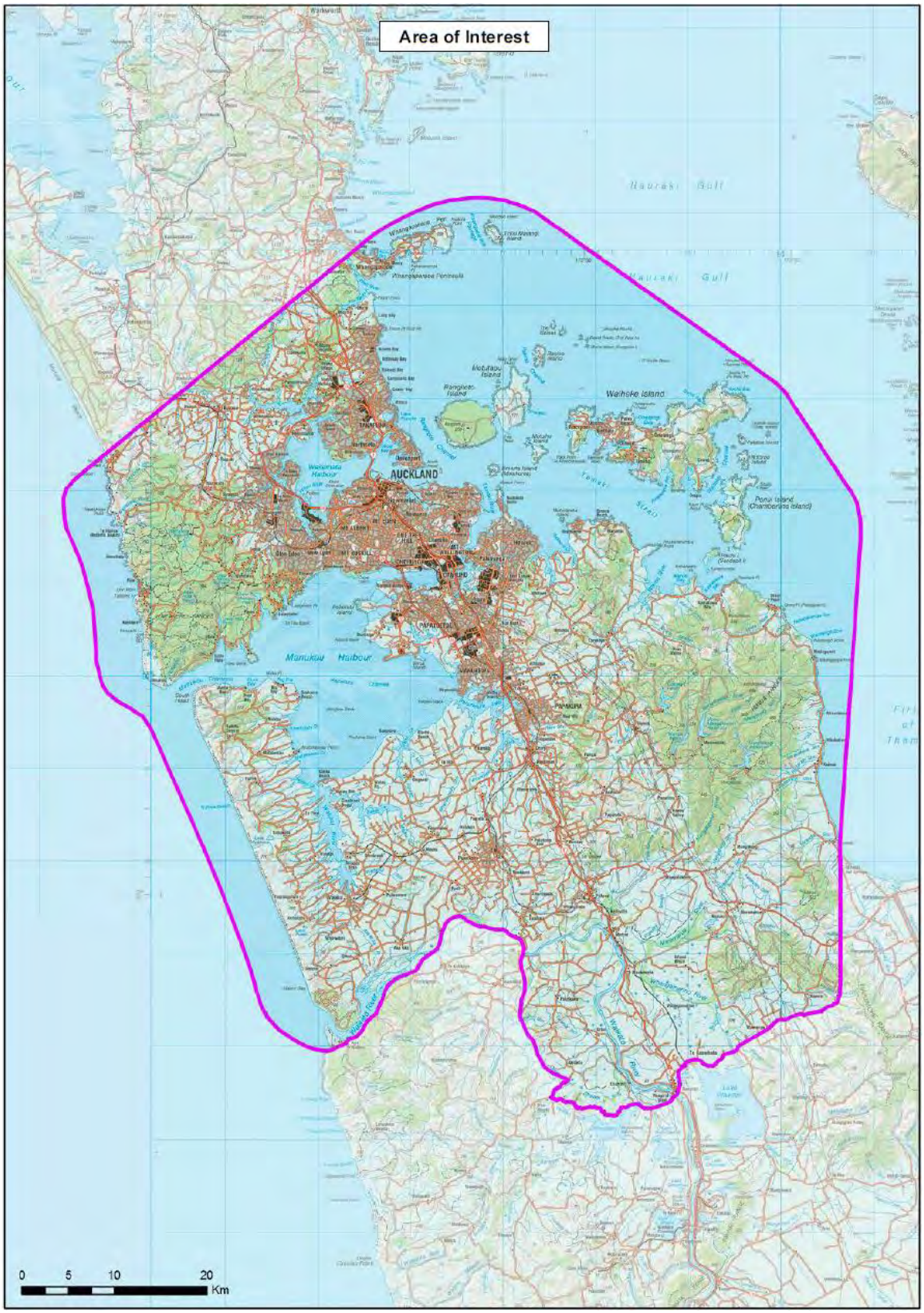


Figure 1: Tamaoho takiwā (Area of Interest)

3. Our tūpuna never ceded sovereignty. Our people were once prosperous. Since prior to 1840, our tūpuna sought to develop commercial relationships with Pākehā settlers by entering into land transactions with them and the Crown. However, in 1863, Ngāti Tamaoho were unfairly labelled as 'rebels'; their homes were burned and looted, they were evicted from their settlements, and their remaining land was confiscated. By 1900, our tūpuna were virtually landless, leading to generations of Ngāti Tamaoho suffering severe deprivation, which was further compounded by calamitous environmental degradation to serve Auckland's growth that Ngāti Tamaoho had no control over.

4. Our tūpuna never gave up on re-establishing our mana, within ourselves and across our takiwā. Since the middle of the 19th century, Ngāti Tamaoho has sought redress for its historical grievances with the Crown. The responsibility for seeking redress passed down through generations of Ngāti Tamaoho, and this journey saw our people engage in successive attempts to address the hurt of the past and to find a pathway forward for our people. This journey culminated in the realisation of the Ngāti Tamaoho Deed of Settlement (Deed of Settlement) and the Ngāti Tamaoho Claims Settlement Act 2018 (the Act).

5. The Deed of Settlement and the Act recognise our enduring relationship with our whenua, wai, wāhi tapu and reserves, and affirm expectations of a renewed relationship with the Crown and public institutions that is based on cooperation, mutual trust and respect for te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Treaty of Waitangi. In the Auckland Council context, this must include meaningful partnership in decisions that affect our rohe, our taonga, and the wellbeing of our people.

Submission

Overview

6. We understand that the proposed Annual Plan largely continues the direction set in Auckland Council's Long-term Plan 2024–2034, with a strong emphasis on water, transport, and enabling local boards to meet the needs of their communities. Auckland Council proposes to invest $3.9 billion in capital projects and $5.3 billion in essential services and activities, while also consulting on longer-term priorities that will feed into upcoming decisions on the next long-term plan, regional transport plans, water service strategies, and Auckland's spatial plan.

7. We recognise that the proposed Annual Plan is being prepared in a constrained financial environment. Auckland Council proposes an overall 7.9 per cent rates increase for the average-value residential property, with that increase driven in large part by the annual cost of owning and operating the City Rail Link, alongside changes

to targeted rates including an increase to the Water Quality Targeted Rate and the Natural Environment/Climate Action targeted rates.

8. Our interests in this proposed Annual Plan centre on five matters:

    8.1. protecting and restoring the wellbeing of the Manukau Harbour catchment, including prioritising iwi partnership around the restoration of the harbour;

    8.2. maintaining and strengthening natural environment investment;

    8.3. ensuring local board funding pressures do not erode environmental and community services in our rohe;

    8.4. embedding mana whenua partnership into long-term planning and infrastructure decisions;

    8.5. enabling iwi-led development, including papakāinga, marae-based development, and housing and economic opportunities for our people; and

    8.6. address coastal climate impacts and safeguarding sites of significance.

Water, stormwater and harbour health

9. We support Auckland Council's continued investment in water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. In particular, we support continued work funded by the Water Quality Targeted Rate, the Making Space for Water programme, the renewal and upgrade of flood protection assets such as the East Tāmaki Dam and Paremuka dam culverts, the continued rollout of the Central Interceptor, and the substantial programme to replace ageing water and wastewater pipes and treatment infrastructure across Auckland. These are necessary investments if Auckland is to reduce flood risk, prevent wastewater overflows, and improve the health of waterways.

10. We also note that Auckland Council plans to spend $829 million in operational expenditure and $1.551 billion in capital expenditure on water in 2026/2027. That scale of investment is significant and must deliver measurable environmental outcomes for communities and catchments that have long carried the burden of underinvestment and degraded water quality.

11. However, we seek stronger direction from Council that this investment will explicitly benefit the southern and western catchments that discharge into the Manukau Harbour, and that mana whenua will be involved in prioritising works, monitoring outcomes, and shaping future stormwater and water quality programmes. For Ngāti Tamaoho, water infrastructure investment cannot be assessed only through asset performance or engineering outputs; it must also be assessed through the recovery of

mauri, the reduction of contamination entering the harbour and its tributaries, and the strengthening of our ability to exercise kaitiakitanga.

12. We therefore urge that Auckland Council:

    12.1. establish, as a priority, the Manukau Harbour Restoration Programme that would be delivered in partnership with iwi;

    12.2. prioritise harbour and catchment restoration outcomes in areas of significance to Ngāti Tamaoho;

    12.3. report publicly, by catchment, on what the Water Quality Targeted Rate is achieving; and

    12.4. co-design with mana whenua a more explicit framework for identifying and sequencing water quality and flood resilience investment in culturally significant catchments.

Natural environment investment

13. We support the proposed Annual Plan's continued investment in the natural environment, including Auckland Council's commitment to the Regional Pest Management Plan 2020–2030, increased animal control, plant disease management including myrtle rust, continued kauri dieback work, marine biosecurity monitoring including caulerpa, and the expansion of community recycling centres. We also note the proposed natural environment spend of $752 million, operationally, and $76 million in capital investment. These commitments matter because environmental decline is cumulative and long-term, and because degraded ecosystems are harder and more expensive to restore once thresholds are crossed.

14. For Ngāti Tamaoho, this investment must not be understood simply as generic environmental management. It must be connected to the restoration of the mauri of our taonga environments, including the Manukau Harbour, our wetlands, our waterways, and the wider landscapes that sustain our people and our cultural practices. We therefore support the overall direction, but seek stronger place-based targeting and clearer recognition of mana whenua priorities within natural environment delivery.

15. We urge Auckland Council to give particular attention to:

    15.1. coastal climate adaptation and erosion management along the harbour coastline, with specific protection and resourcing for wāhi tapu and sites of significance and Whātāpaka Marae.

    15.2. increasing investment in coastal monitoring, sediment management and nature-based solutions to build resilience of harbour edges and estuaries;

15.3. marine biosecurity and sediment-related pressures affecting the Manukau Harbour;

15.4. community and mana whenua-led pest control and restoration programmes in the southern rohe;

15.5. the protection and restoration of wetlands and estuarine margins; and

15.6. long-term support for environmental programmes that combine ecological restoration with local capability and rangatahi development.

Local board funding pressures in Franklin and Papakura

16. We note that the Franklin Local Board has been allocated $10.9 million in capital investment and $26.1 million in operational spend for 2026/2027, including funding for Predator-free Franklin, the Franklin waterway protection partnership programme**,** environmental and local economic development services, community-led pest management, and environmental restoration work including options for Karioitahi Beach. We support these commitments and consider them important foundations for delivering practical outcomes in our wider rohe.

17. We especially support the continuation of local initiatives that improve environmental outcomes while building local relationships and community capability. Programmes such as the Franklin waterway protection partnership and community-led pest management align with the kind of place-based stewardship that mana whenua have long advocated for. These initiatives should be strengthened, not treated as discretionary extras vulnerable to future cuts.

18. At the same time, we are concerned by the picture presented in the Papakura Local Board area. Papakura has been allocated $7.7 million in capital investment and $18.3 million in operational spend**,** but the local board is also signalling cost pressures and has identified possible service changes that could include reducing library hours, reducing or stopping environmental and water quality activities, reducing grants, and reducing public rubbish bins and community programmes. We oppose any reduction in environmental and water quality activity in Papakura and do not support balancing local budgets in ways that shift the burden onto communities already experiencing environmental and social pressure.

19. From Ngāti Tamaoho's perspective, environmental programmes and community-based services in Papakura are not peripheral. They are part of the social and ecological infrastructure needed to uphold community wellbeing, maintain neighbourhood amenity, and protect waterways and public spaces. If council is serious about resilience, then environmental stewardship, local grants, libraries, and community support should not be the first areas exposed to retrenchment.

20. We therefore urge that Auckland Council:

    20.1. increase capital investment to revitalise the Papakura town centre, including streetscape upgrades, safety, lighting, planting and placemaking, so that it is welcoming, prosperous and fit-for-growth;

    20.2. protect environmental and water quality activity funding in Papakura;

    20.3. avoid service reductions that would disproportionately affect communities in the south; and

    20.4. work with mana whenua and local boards to identify where local environmental investment can produce the greatest catchment, harbour, and community benefit

Rates, targeted rates and accountability

21. We acknowledge the financial constraints facing Auckland Council and understand that the proposed 7.9 per cent residential rates increase is consistent with the Long-term Plan, and that the cost of owning and operating the City Rail Link is a major driver of the increase. We also note the proposed targeted rate changes, including the increase to the Water Quality Targeted Rate, and the smaller increase to the Natural Environment Targeted Rate and Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate**.**

22. We do not support the proposed rates increase. We recognise the need to fund core infrastructure and environmental investment, but in a time of high household cost pressures, we ask the Council to consider alternative options including deferrals, deeper efficiency savings, and targeted relief mechanisms, while protecting environment and community services in the south.

Planning for Auckland's future, Māori participation, and iwi-led development

23. Alongside the proposed annual plan, Auckland Council is asking for feedback on future priorities that will inform the Long-term Plan 2027–2037**,** regional transport plans**,** water service strategies, and Auckland's spatial plan. Council identifies key issues including population growth, infrastructure, climate resilience, environmental protection, and meeting the diverse needs of communities, and explicitly notes that these discussions will draw on key planning documents including Māori Outcomes.

24. We support Auckland Council seeking early input on these longer-term questions. However, for Ngāti Tamaoho, consultation alone is not sufficient. Future planning must include meaningful mana whenua participation in priority-setting, investment sequencing, growth planning and land use planning, particularly where these decisions will shape the form of development in the south, the pressure placed on our waterways and harbour, and the availability of land and infrastructure for papakāinga and iwi-led development.

25. We therefore seek a clearer commitment from Auckland Council that upcoming work on the spatial plan, transport planning, water services and longer-term growth planning will be undertaken with mana whenua, not merely after consultation with mana whenua. Ngāti Tamaoho expects a relationship that reflects the commitments already embedded in our settlement context and that enables us to help shape, rather than simply respond to, decisions affecting our rohe.

26. We also consider that future planning must better enable Māori housing, papakāinga, marae development, and iwi-led economic development**,** including on land held or used for Māori purposes. While the proposed Annual Plan is not the primary instrument for making those planning rules, it is the right place for Auckland Council to signal that its future strategic planning will support these outcomes, particularly in the south where housing need is acute and where iwi-led development can deliver both social and economic value.

Conclusion

27. In closing, Ngāti Tamaoho supports the broad direction of Auckland Council's proposed Annual Plan where it prioritises water, environmental protection, and local community investment**.** We support continued investment in stormwater, wastewater and flood resilience infrastructure, and in natural environment programmes that protect and restore te taiao. We also support local initiatives in Franklin that strengthen restoration and stewardship.

28. However, we are concerned that cost pressures and funding trade-offs may undermine environmental and community services in parts of our rohe, particularly in Papakura, and that the proposed Annual Plan does not yet go far enough in expressing how mana whenua will help shape future investment and growth decisions. We seek stronger place-based accountability for targeted rates, stronger focus on the Manukau Harbour and its catchment, protection of local environmental programmes, and a deeper partnership model for the strategic planning work that follows this proposed Annual Plan.

29. For Ngāti Tamaoho, te taiao is our tupuna, a source of identity, and a living inheritance that must be protected and restored. Auckland Council's proposed Annual Plan should therefore not only maintain services and infrastructure, but also help build the conditions for the recovery of our harbour, our waterways, our landscapes and our communities. We urge Auckland Council to adopt an annual plan that protects environmental investment, avoids retrenchment in the south, and gives effect to a genuine partnership with Ngāti Tamaoho in planning for Auckland's future.

30. We specifically seek a restoration programme for the Manukau Harbour, greater investment in coastal climate adaptation to safeguard sites of significance, no increase to rates, and increased investment to revitalise Papakura town centre.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5192

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Support most

Tell us why

[Feedback provided verbally at mana whenua hui]

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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:

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- **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)

Te Kawerau ā Maki also wants to work together with Council and Government on projects that directly impact our cultural, social, environmental, and economic wellbeing. Four key projects are (1) Te Henga marae and papakāinga, (2) Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Deed and the new Forum and Plan, (3) Te Onekiritea (Hobsonville) cultural precinct, and (4) Riverhead forest development. These items are all high priority matters in our own strategic and annual plans and directly link to our wellbeing. Last year Council and Crown largely address item 2 and the WRHA Forum will enter a BAU phase this year but will require ongoing support.

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):

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- **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.
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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?

#5192

AUCKLAND COUNCIL PROPOSED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

2026

TE KAWERAU Ā MAKI

March 2026

Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust

Karanga mai Tainui waka!
Karanga mai ko Te Kawerau ā Maki!
E ki ana te korero
Ko ngā Rau Pou ā Maki ngā tohu whakahī
Ko Te Wao nui ā Tiriwa te ngahere
Mai Waitākere awa ki Wai ō Pareira
Mai Te Korekore ki Nga Tai ā Rakataura
Na Maki te mana me te rangatiratanga
Tihei mauri ora!

Tēna koutou,

I write on behalf of Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust (the iwi development subsidiary of Te Kawerau Iwi Settlement Trust). These entities represent the uri of Te Kawerau ā Maki. I write to Auckland Council in the spirit of partnership.

Te Kawerau ā Maki acknowledge the ongoing challenges faced by Auckland Council including the challenges of climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, the housing and affordability crisis, aging or insufficient infrastructure, population growth, and regulatory changes. Te Kawerau ā Maki, as the iwi of West Auckland and North Shore, have also felt the acute impacts of these challenges including the lingering impacts of the 2023 cyclone on our rohe and in our communities. Te Kawerau ā Maki is committed to working with the Council to help tackle the challenges. In doing so our role is to advocate for the whenua, advocate for our people, and advocate for our West Auckland and North Shore communities.

The Council's proposed annual plan identifies some key outcome areas:

- Transport ($1,830m opex, $1,472m capex)
- Water ($829m opex, $1,551m capex)
- Built Environment ($72m opex, $150m capex)
- Natural Environment ($752m opex, $76m capex)
- Community ($976m opex, $367m capex)
- Economic and Cultural Development ($210m opex, $77m capex)
- Well-Managed Local Government ($260m opex, $246m capex)

We understand that Council can consider a broader range of options to address budget constraints including reviewing what council invests in and finding new ways to work with central government and other external partners (including the bed night levy which we in principle support). This could involve looking at the services Council provides to the community and how they are delivered.

We support Council's efforts in seeking to strike a balance while continuing to invest where it is needed most. In general we are supportive of the proposed annual plan, in particular continuing to invest $16m into Māori outcomes, coordinating and implementing kauri dieback management, and continuing with the targeted rates including increasing 3.5% to the NETR and CATTR funds (though noting we would support the NETR increasing to the average rate increase of 7.9%), and the ongoing WQTR and WMTR funds. We understand the need for the general rate increase (overall to 7.9%) to fund the infrastructure Auckland needs to protect its environment and communities, and while supportive, we are mindful of impacts of cost of living on our whanau and vulnerable communities and seek Council ensure it has good mechanisms to support those in need.

Our submission focuses on specific matters of importance to Te Kawerau ā Maki. There are matters specific to our iwi that we need to work with Council on in the spirit of true partnership.

Auckland Council as an agent of the Crown has a partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and as legislated under the Te Kawerau ā Maki Treaty Settlement (2014) and Claims Settlement Act (2015), the Resource Management Act (1991), the Local Government Act (Auckland) (2009) and as acknowledged in the Auckland Plan and Auckland Unitary Plan. Treaty Partnership means making decisions together where relevant and acting together wherever possible. Under our partnership and our rangatiratanga we have a decision-making role over matters that directly affect our wellbeing and our rights over our lands, waters, customary resources and other taonga. This role needs to be better supported and integrated with Council. Four key moves to achieve this are (1) a clear agreement of how Te Kawerau ā Maki and Council can work together (MOU), (2) maintaining baseline capacity funding for our constitutional and regulatory engagement role but adjusting for CPI, (3) a shared annual work programme, and (4) better and clearer procurement strategies and processes so that we can move into delivering service contracts for Council which is a cost-neutral way of meeting Council's outcomes while growing our capacity and capability, ahi kaa, and kaitiakitanga on our ancestral lands. These four moves can help us develop a stronger relationship and help ensure that our shared mahi is an efficient and effective use of time and money that helps take both parties forward in meeting our mutual goals including those of the Auckland Plan.

Te Kawerau ā Maki also wants to work together with Council and Government on projects that directly impact our cultural, social, environmental, and economic wellbeing. Four key projects are (1) Te Henga marae and papakāinga, (2) Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Deed and the new Forum and Plan, (3) Te Onekiritea (Hobsonville) cultural precinct, and (4) Riverhead forest development. These items are all high priority matters in our own strategic and annual plans and directly link to our wellbeing. Last year Council and Crown largely address item 2 and the WRHA Forum will enter a BAU phase this year but will require ongoing support. Following years of ignored requests to Council regarding item 4, last year we were forced to go around Council and obtained fast-track consent on our development at Riverhead Forest, but we maintain it would be beneficial for Council to work closer with us going forward on our aspirations there at a strategic level. While some meaningful progress is being made on item 1 and 3, more work is needed including strategic investment in our marae and papakāinga project through the marae infrastructure fund and other Council-group support.

We seek to 'reset' our relationship with Council, building off our positive collaboration with the Council in the Waitākere Ranges and at the Henderson Civic, and to help Council deliver better value-for-money with the iwi by negotiating a programme of work that achieves mutual and strategic outcomes. The operationalisation of such a work programme through Council Annual and Long-Term Plans is a key step.

We have attached, for context, our recent submissions on several three-year local board plans which provide local opportunities that may be relevant to the annual plan.

We look forward to working together in partnership.

Noho ora mai

[redacted]

Deputy Chair
Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust

Provision	Relief Sought	Budgetary Implication	Legal and Policy Alignment
NEW PROVISION: Te Henga Marae	The Te Henga marae and papakāinga project is known as the Kainga Whakahirahira (settlement of significance) to Te Kawerau ā Maki. It represents the return or renaissance of the iwi within our tribal heartland and is central to the cultural and social wellbeing of Te Kawerau ā Maki. Te Kawerau ā Maki are currently the only mana whenua iwi without a marae and papakāinga in the Auckland region with our last one flooded when Council constructed the dam at Waitākere. The establishment of a Te Kawerau marae at Te Henga was a longstanding legacy commitment of the former Waitākere City Council and goes back to around 1992. Te Kawerau ā Maki will require ongoing support from Council in the establishment of the Te Henga marae as the project is an absolute cultural and social priority for Te Kawerau ā Maki and is subsequently a key Maori wellbeing project for Council as defined in the Auckland Plan. The project includes $5.1m of infrastructure stage, $5.3m of marae facilities stage, and $4.95m of housing stage. We seek strategic investment from Council's Māori outcomes budget for the development of infrastructure for the project. There may be opportunity to seek funding from other parts of the Council group towards this. The total cost is $5.1m for these works. We will then seek other external and internal funding to deliver the remaining project stages. **This is our highest priority - we have both resource and building consent and want to start works this calendar year.**	Māori Outcomes Budget - $5,100,000	LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 2 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 4 TKaMCSA Part 2 WRHAA s7(2)(j) AUP RPS B6.2 AUP RPS B6.4 Te Tiriti Article II
NEW PROVISION: Riverhead forest strategic agreement	Te Kawerau ā Maki own in fee simple approximately 3,275 ha of Riverhead Forest. This was received as the main component of commercial redress within the 2015 Treaty Settlement and is the key strategic asset from which to drive the economic wellbeing of the iwi into the future. During the Unitary Plan hearings Te Kawerau ā Maki sought to have a precinct placed over the Riverhead Forest Treaty land to recognise its unique status as commercial redress land inextricably bound to the economic development of the iwi, and to enable Te Kawerau ā Maki to work with Council jointly on a solution that unlocked the potential of the land in a sustainable way. Due to the compressed timeframes of the PAUP process, Council went on the record noting that there was not the time or adequate information at hand to agree to the full scope requested by Te Kawerau ā Maki, but that as with other iwi submissions through the PAUP there would be future opportunity for a Council assisted plan change. Te Kawerau ā Maki see opportunity to work with Auckland Council and the Government to help address the current Auckland Housing Crisis, and potentially also assist with the planting of permanent native trees at a significant scale. Te Kawerau ā Maki have ambitions to provide large scale and strategic master planned community solutions at Riverhead staged over a 100-year timeframe. We request a dedicated Council officer appointee to work with us on the initial plans for this, eventually hopefully leading to a Council-supported plan change.	Nil (existing FTE capacity, assistance with plan change)	LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 2 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 TKaMCSA Part 3 RMA Part 2 AUP RPS B6.2.1(3) AUP RPS B6.2.1(4) AUP RPS B6.4.1 Te Tiriti Article II

NEW PROVISION: Te Onekiritea Point (Hobsonville)	Te Kawerau ā Maki owns 0.3 ha of land at Te Onekiritea (Hobsonville Point) as cultural redress land and has an exclusive right of refusal to purchase the surrounding 11ha of the Point though our Treaty Settlement. This is a key piece of our commercial redress opportunity. It is currently administered by Kainga Ora on behalf of the Crown and is surplus land. The ability to purchase the RFR is contingent on whether Council first wishes to purchase the land for open space (in which case the RFR transfers to Council). Council has confirmed it only requires a maximum of 4ha. Te Kawerau have for many years tried to acquire our redress at Te Onekiritea and develop a cultural precinct including the cultural redress land already owned by us in an integrated manner. We seek active support from Council to progress and formalise the matter including through a collaborative masterplan. We seek a formal non-monetary commitment from Council to assist us in resolving the matter, in terms of a lead Council officer.	Nil (relocation of existing FTE capacity)	LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 2 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 TKaMCSA Part 3 RMA Part 2 AUP RPS B6.2.1(3) AUP RPS B6.2.1(4) AUP RPS B6.4.1
NEW PROVISION: Regulatory Role and Partnership (Capacity Building)	Te Kawerau ā Maki has regulatory functions under the RMA, WRHAA and our Treaty Settlement Act. Our participation and partnership with Council in undertaking these functions is ad-hoc and project-specific, and a significant amount of this work (between 40-60%) is unfunded, with the burden falling directly on the iwi and making capacity building difficult. We note our current level of funding is around 1% of a local board on average ($18M+). We seek Council ongoing funding to support our genuine participation in the regulatory functions to cover the shortfall, and to help us build our capacity and relationship with Council. The increased funding provides a baseline business case from which we can develop capacity and capability (such as regulatory engagement and coordination). We seek this baseline funding be maintained but adjusted for CPI.	Māori outcomes budget - $206,740 adjusted for CPI (2.4%) to $211,701	LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 TKaMCSA s9 WRHAA s7(2)(i) RMA Part 2 NZCPS AUP RPS B6.2 AUP RPS B6.3 AUP RPS B6.5 Te Tiriti Article II Tikanga
NEW PROVISION: Waitākere Ranges Te Kawerau Rangers	Te Kawerau ā Maki heartland is the Waitākere Ranges, and we have stepped up to protect the environment here through the 2017 rāhui and many other projects and actions. This is our duty as kaitiaki, however this comes with an operational burden. We seek Council support in funding five full-time Te Kawerau ā Maki rangers to work alongside our Council and DOC peers in protecting the ngahere and WRHA in the spirit of partnership, and five full-time pest control rangers to focus on partnering with community on delivering on-the-ground pest and weed control. It is likely that some of this budget, particularly pest control contracts, could be re-allocated for this purpose, with most of the funds likely to be found within existing opex.	Nil (likely can be found within existing budgets related to WRHA - $700,000 p/a)	Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 TKaMCSA Part 2 WRHAA s7(2)(j) WRHAA s43 RMA Part 2 AUP RPS B6.2 AUP RPS B6.3 AUP RPS B6.5 Te Tiriti Article II Tikanga
NEW PROVISION: Te Kawerau ā Maki and Council Relationship Agreement / Mana Whakahono and Annual Plan	Te Kawerau ā Maki do not have a formal relationship agreement with Auckland Council, despite it being identified as an action within our Treaty Settlement, and having drafted one and lodging it as draft in 2017. We seek to integrate this with beginning the formal process of drafting a Mana Whakahono document under the provisions of the RMA if relevant. We previously asked to enter into a Mana Whakahono a Rohe on numerous occasions, including within LTP and Annual Plan submissions.	Nil (reallocation of existing FTE capacity)	RMA Sections 58L to 58U LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 AUP RPS B6.2 TKaMCSA s9 Te Tiriti Article II Tikanga

NEW PROVISION: Te Kōpua Henderson Creative Precinct	Continuing to support the collaborative development of Te Puna - the Te Kōpua Henderson Creative Precinct with Tātaki Unlimited, which is focused on the retention, attraction, and enhancement of creative industries and talent in the Henderson area.	Nil (existing funding secured – this is a continuation)	LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 TKaMCSA s9 AUP RPS B6.2 AUP RPS B6.3 Te Tiriti Article II Tikanga
NEW PROVISION: Te Kawerau ā Maki Community Officer	We seek joint local board funding to create two community officer roles – one in West Auckland and one in North Shore – to help us better connect with the Local Boards and community within our heartlands. Refer also to LB three-year plan submissions.	Local Board budgets - $200,000	LGA(Auckland) s3(f) Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 1 Auck Plan Maori Outcomes Direction 3 TKaMCSA s9 AUP RPS B6.2 AUP RPS B6.3 AUP RPS B6.5 Te Tiriti Article II Tikanga
NEW PROVISION: Waitākere Ranges Track Reopenings – Phase 2	In December 2017 Te Kawerau placed a rāhui over the Waitākere forest to help protect kauri from dieback disease, allow time for research, and infrastructure upgrades to help mitigate risk of spreading the disease within and to other kauri forests. Council and Te Kawerau worked together to upgrade and reopen (a concept of 'rolling reopenings') over 40km of walking tracks over roughly 4 years (excluding setbacks from covid19 and the anniversary storms) as part of Phase 1. In 2023 Te Kawerau proposed reopening further tracks, while protecting the core kauri forest, to enable a new multi-day encircling Hillary Trail and more loops tracks, and in late 2025 co-presented alongside community representatives an initial version of this as a viable Phase 2 track reopening that could be fast-tracked over the next 3 years. The total cost of this would be $14m but would provide the backbone to enable reopening of a Hillary Trail and better recreational offerings for community and visitors while protecting our fragile kauri forest. Given the national significance of the area, we request Council find this funding in order to fast-track the proposal submitted to the Parks Committee in 2025.	$14m to complete Phase 2 of track reopenings which has huge community, recreation, and tourism value.	
NEW PROVISION: NETR increase support	In 2018 Aucklanders strongly supported a natural environment target rate. While the LTP baseline increase of 3.5% is strongly supported, we would support going one step further and aligning this increase with the overall rate increase (7.9%). There remains strong support for the NTER and it has demonstrated strong performance with tangible and well delivered outcomes consistently since 2018. An increase would help further support and accelerate responses in pest and weed management, kauri dieback, and caulerpa.	Support proposed 3.5% increase, but recommend 7.9% to meet growing need.	

NEW PROVISION: Kauri Dieback survey in Waitākere	In 2021 (fieldwork in 2019-2020) a survey of kauri health in Waitākere Ranges was undertaken. Council committed to (and the WRHAA requires) 5-yearly updates on kauri forest health in order to consistently track this over the long-term and inform our management responses. This means fieldwork should be happening in 2026 to meet the timeframe promised. If Council does not intend to meet its commitment then we ask it fund us to do this mahi alongside contracted independent scientists and experts.	Committed opex budget	

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5202

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 Uri o Hau Settlement Trust

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

Te Uri o Hau acknowledges that the Annual Plan 2026/2027 continues to steady Auckland Council's finances, strengthen physical resilience, and prioritise investment in transport, water, and enabling Local Boards to respond to their communities. We support these intentions in principle.

We also acknowledge that many of our whānau live in the CBD and surrounding metropolitan areas, and the City Rail Link (CRL) will provide them with meaningful benefits, particularly at a time when

rising petrol prices make public transport increasingly important for whānau wellbeing and affordability. We recognise and support the aspiration to create a more accessible, climate-resilient transport system for all Aucklanders.

CRL Benefits Are Not Reaching the Northern Subdivision

However, our support is qualified by equity concerns related to the distribution of benefits across the region, especially for rural northern communities.

While we acknowledge some of our whānau will benefit from the CRL, the direct transport advantages do not extend into our rohe in the Northern Subdivision. Communities in Wellsford, Te Hana, Te Arai, Tomarata and Tāpora remain disconnected from Auckland's rail system and have virtually no public transport options.

Te Uri o Hau supports most of the Annual Plan's direction.

▪ We acknowledge that some of our whānau will benefit from CRL, especially with rising transport costs.

▪ We emphasise the urgent need to prioritise a northern transport network that reflects housing growth, rural isolation, and the outer boundaries of Auckland.

▪ We ask Council to apply an equity lens to rural and Māori communities who currently bear costs without receiving proportionate services.

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?

Te Uri o Hau has reviewed the proposed changes to rates, fees, and charges contained in the Annual Plan 2026/2027. While we acknowledge the financial pressures facing Auckland Council, we have

significant concerns about how these changes affect rural Māori communities in the Northern Subdivision, who already experience limited access to council services and infrastructure.

Many of our households transport waste themselves due to limited or inconsistent collection services.

▪ Adding fees without fixing service inequities disproportionately impacts rural, low-income, and Māori whānau.

▪ The proposal does not address rural waste challenges such as illegal dumping, lack of recycling stations, and limited resource recovery options.

Neutral on Changes to Kingsland and Onehunga BID Programme Areas. Te Uri o Hau does not oppose these changes but requests consideration of future BID-style models that could support economic development in northern communities such as Te Hana.

Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme

Position: No Comment on Specific Scheme, but Concern About Precedent - Although this scheme does not apply directly to Te Uri o Hau communities, we note the pattern of rural households bearing increasing costs for critical infrastructure.

Auckland Transport Proposal to Increase Residential Parking Permit Fees

Position: Do Not Support

Te Uri o Hau does not support this proposal because:

▪ The increases apply mainly to areas with access to high-frequency public transport.

▪ Northern rural communities do not have access to parking permit zones at all nor meaningful public transport alternatives.

▪ Ratepayers in our rohe would be contributing to a system they cannot use.

We do not support most of the proposed changes to fees and charges.

▪Rural Māori communities already experience low levels of service for waste, transport, and civic infrastructure, yet are required to absorb ongoing cost increases.

▪Fees should only increase where communities receive proportionate and accessible services.

▪We urge Auckland Council and Auckland Transport to apply a rural equity and Māori impact assessment before implementing any new or increased fees.

See attachment for full submission.

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

Rodney

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

Te Uri o Hau supports the overall direction of the Rodney Local Board's planned programme for 2026/2027 and acknowledges the fiscal constraints under which the Board is operating, including limited discretionary operational funding after unavoidable cost increases.

We strongly support the continuation of core local services, particularly investment in community facilities, environmental restoration, arts and cultural activity, youth engagement, libraries, education programmes, and biodiversity initiatives. These programmes align well with Te Uri o Hau values and contribute positively to community wellbeing.

However, our support is qualified by persistent and significant equity gaps in the northern part of the rohe, especially in Te Hana, Wellsford, Tapora, and the wider Northern Subdivision. These communities continue to experience chronic underinvestment in essential infrastructure, including drainage, water supply, transport connectivity, and community assets.

Key concerns include:

• Long-standing drainage, water, and commercial underinvestment in Te Hana

• Water supply, drainage, roading, and isolation risks in Tapora

• Stormwater, water supply constraints, and growth pressures in Wellsford

• Severe transport accessibility issues across the rohe, including the absence of public transport, poor pedestrian infrastructure, and the impacts of heavy vehicle movements associated with the Wayby Valley Landfill

Te Uri o Hau considers transport accessibility to be a critical and urgent issue and calls for prioritisation of a northern public transport network, safe active transport infrastructure, climate-resilient roading, and mitigation of regional freight impacts. We expect mana whenua to be actively involved in transport planning, design, and safety solutions.

We also strongly support expanded hapū-led environmental initiatives, with procurement pathways that prioritise mana whenua providers and stronger partnerships across Regional Parks within our rohe.

To address long-standing gaps in recreation and wellbeing infrastructure, Te Uri o Hau recommends that the Local Board explore the development of a public swimming pool through a partnership investment model, recognising the significant health, safety, youth engagement, and equity benefits such a facility would provide to a large and growing northern catchment.

In summary, Te Uri o Hau:

• Supports most of the Rodney Local Board's programme and priorities

• Acknowledges budget constraints, but expects equity-driven decision-making

• Calls for urgent infrastructure investment in Te Hana, Tapora, and Wellsford

• Identifies transport accessibility as a foundational need

• Seeks stronger mana whenua partnership in environmental, transport, and community development

• Supports strategic, co-investment approaches to delivering major community assets

Te Uri o Hau remains committed to working constructively with the Rodney Local Board to achieve outcomes that are equitable, resilient, and reflective of the needs of northern and Māori communities.

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)

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?

Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust Official Feedback
Auckland Council Annual Plan 2026/2027

Date: 26 March 2026

From: Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust,
[redacted]

Contact: [redacted] Te Uri o Hau Partnerships Manager

M: [redacted]
E: [redacted]

Ko Wai Mātou

1. Te Uri o Hau is an iwi authority whose area of interest is in the northern Kaipara region. Te Uri o Hau descends from Haumoewaarangi and Waihekeao who is the tribe's founding ancestors, and includes people who affiliate to ngā marae tuturu: Otamatea, Waikāretu, Ōruawharo, Arapaoa. In total there are 14 marae within the tribal boundaries.

2. Te Uri o Hau settled its historical grievances with the Crown in 2002. Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust has an elected board of 8 trustees charged with the responsibility to govern over the tribal assets, provide opportunities to enhance the wellbeing of its members and protect all interests of the hapū.

3. Today Te Uri o Hau has just over 8,000 members. 35% live in Tāmaki Makaurau.

PĀTAI ONE — Overall Plan & Proposed 7.9% Rates Increase

Position: Support Most

4. Te Uri o Hau acknowledges that the Annual Plan 2026/2027 continues to steady Auckland Council's finances, strengthen physical resilience, and prioritise investment in transport, water, and enabling Local Boards to respond to their communities. We support these intentions in principle.

5. We also acknowledge that many of our whānau live in the CBD and surrounding metropolitan areas, and the City Rail Link (CRL) will provide them with meaningful benefits, particularly at a time when rising petrol prices make public transport increasingly important for whānau wellbeing and affordability. We recognise and support the aspiration to create a more accessible, climate-resilient transport system for all Aucklanders.

Te Uri o Hau concerns:

CRL Benefits Are Not Reaching the Northern Subdivision

6. However, our support is **qualified by equity** concerns related to the distribution of benefits across the region, especially for rural northern communities.

7. While we acknowledge some of our whānau will benefit from the CRL, the direct transport advantages do not extend into our rohe in the Northern Subdivision. Communities in Wellsford, Te Hana, Te Arai, Tomarata and Tāpora remain disconnected from Auckland's rail system and have virtually no public transport options.

We request:

- Clarify how CRL benefits are intended to extend northwards over time
- Explain how the general rates system accounts for communities that do not receive an equivalent level of transport infrastructure

- Ensure rural and high-growth northern areas are prioritised for future transport investment

Affordability Considerations for Rural Ratepayers

8. While we acknowledge the need to fund the CRL, rural Māori communities continue to face significant financial pressures. Many receive minimal return from metropolitan transport investments, yet are expected to carry the same rate burden.

We request:

- More actively promote rates payment options, including payment plans, automatic instalments, and hardship support
- Consider mechanisms that reflect differing levels of benefit between rural and urban ratepayers
- Demonstrate how rural communities, including Te Uri o Hau, will see tangible outcomes from the Annual Plan priorities

Rising Costs Reinforce the Need for a Northern Transport Network

9. The rising cost of petrol has a disproportionate impact on rural Māori communities, who rely heavily on private vehicles due to the absence of public transport.
In addition, Rodney North is experiencing increasing housing pressures, with population growth expanding towards the outer reaches of the Auckland region.

We request:

- Development of a northern transport network, including bus services to Te Hana and Wellsford
- Integration of the Northern Corridor extensions to serve remote and rural communities
- Planning that anticipates future population growth and rising transport demand
- Investment in mobility options that reduce dependency on private vehicles

Support for the Annual Plan's Priority Focus Areas

10. Te Uri o Hau supports the stated priorities of:
    - Transport
    - Water
    - Local Board flexibility

11. These are important for our rohe, particularly given our community's vulnerability to:
    - Rural road failure
    - Limited water infrastructure
    - Local Board funding constraints
    - Rapid rural growth and climate impacts

12. However, we request that Council ensure these priorities translate into clear and visible investment in Rodney North.

Summary Position for Question 1

- Te Uri o Hau supports most of the Annual Plan's direction.
- We acknowledge that some of our whānau will benefit from CRL, especially with rising transport costs.
- We emphasise the urgent need to prioritise a northern transport network that reflects housing growth, rural isolation, and the outer boundaries of Auckland.
- We ask Council to apply an equity lens to rural and Māori communities who currently bear costs without receiving proportionate services.

PĀTAI TWO — Rates, Fees & Charges

Position: Do Not Support

13. Te Uri o Hau has reviewed the proposed changes to rates, fees, and charges contained in the Annual Plan 2026/2027. While we acknowledge the financial pressures facing Auckland Council, we have significant concerns about how these changes affect rural Māori communities in the Northern Subdivision, who already experience limited access to council services and infrastructure.

Te Uri o Hau concerns:

Introduction of a Refuse Bin/Bag Exchange Fee

- Many of our households transport waste themselves due to limited or inconsistent collection services.
- Adding fees without fixing service inequities disproportionately impacts rural, low-income, and Māori whānau.
- The proposal does not address rural waste challenges such as illegal dumping, lack of recycling stations, and limited resource recovery options.

We request:

- A rural equity review for waste charges.
- Expansion of resource recovery centres in the north, including support for a centre in our rohe.
- Consideration of a reduced or exempt fee for communities with limited kerbside service.

Changes to Kingsland and Onehunga BID Programme Areas

Position: Neutral / No Strong View

14. These changes relate to urban business districts outside our rohe. However, we note that regional BID costs are funded through the general rate, and therefore:

- Rural communities indirectly subsidise urban business development.
- There should be transparency about how these BID expansions support regional economic wellbeing, including rural areas.

15. Te Uri o Hau does not oppose these changes but requests consideration of future BID-style models that could support economic development in northern communities such as Te Hana.

Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme

Position: No Comment on Specific Scheme, but Concern About Precedent

16. Although this scheme does not apply directly to Te Uri o Hau communities, we note the pattern of rural households bearing increasing costs for critical infrastructure.

17. We request that Council ensure future rural infrastructure upgrades in Rodney North do not result in cost-shifting to whānau who already lack adequate water, wastewater, or stormwater services.

Auckland Transport Proposal to Increase Residential Parking Permit Fees

Position: Do Not Support

18. Te Uri o Hau does not support this proposal because:

- The increases apply mainly to areas with access to high-frequency public transport.
- Northern rural communities do not have access to parking permit zones at all nor meaningful public transport alternatives.
- Ratepayers in our rohe would be contributing to a system they cannot use.

We request:

- That any increases be limited to areas directly benefiting from parking management schemes.
- That AT identify an equivalent transport investment for Rodney North (e.g., a Wellsford–Te Hana bus loop).

Summary Position for Question 2

- We do not support most of the proposed changes to fees and charges.
- Rural Māori communities already experience low levels of service for waste, transport, and civic infrastructure, yet are required to absorb ongoing cost increases.
- Fees should only increase where communities receive proportionate and accessible services.
- We urge Auckland Council and Auckland Transport to apply a rural equity and Māori impact assessment before implementing any new or increased fees.

PĀTAI THREE: Rodney Local Board Priorities and Planned Investment for 2026/2027

Position: Support Most

19. Te Uri o Hau acknowledges the Rodney Local Board's planned programme of work for 2026/2027, including a capital budget of $10.5 million and operational expenditure of $29.4 million, and the commitment to continuing essential services despite rising delivery costs and constrained budgets. We recognise that only $400,000 of additional operational expenditure is truly discretionary after accounting for cost pressures.

20. Overall, we support the direction of the Local Board *in principle*, but emphasise that significant equity gaps remain in the northern part of the rohe, particularly in Te Hana, Wellsford, Tapora, and the wider Northern Subdivision.

Support for Continuation of Core Local Services

21. We continue to support the Board's commitment to delivering and renewing:
    - Toilets, buildings, sports fields, tracks, carparks
    - Playgrounds, greenways, rural weed control, and heritage site maintenance
    - Volunteer-led biodiversity and restoration programmes
    - Arts, cultural events, placemaking, and youth engagement
    - Libraries, skills training, social enterprise initiatives
    - Waste education, freshwater programmes, and catchment restoration

22. These programmes are important and align with Te Uri o Hau values.

Critical Local Issues Requiring Additional Investment

23. Despite general support, several severe and ongoing issues in our rohe require targeted investment.

Te Hana – Drainage, Water, and Commercial Underinvestment. Te Hana continues to be severely under-resourced, facing:

- Recurring drainage failures that impact homes, businesses, and roads
- Underinvestment in commercial development, limiting economic revitalisation
- No recent footpath or public realm upgrades despite a large Māori population and significant cultural heritage
- Infrastructure conditions that fall below acceptable standards for a key northern gateway community

Tapora – Drainage, Water Supply, and Roading. Tapora faces:

- Drainage blockages and runoff issues, especially during heavy rain
- Water supply constraints impacting households and economic activity
- Unsafe unsealed roads, which frequently become inaccessible due to forestry harvesting etc
- Isolation is severe weather events

Wellsford – Water, Stormwater and Growth Pressures. Wellsford continues to experience:

- Stormwater and drainage problems, affecting both rural and township areas
- Water supply limitations that restrict growth and resilience
- Increasing development pressure without matching investment in community services

Transport Accessibility – Te Uri o Hau Position

24. Transport accessibility remains one of the most significant challenges facing communities in the Northern Subdivision, and Te Uri o Hau emphasises that current levels of service do not meet the needs of our whānau or the wider community.

25. Our rohe has no meaningful public transport network, and the lack of regular, reliable, and affordable transport options contributes to:
    - Social isolation, particularly for rangatahi, kuia and kaumātua
    - Economic barriers, including access to employment, education, and services
    - Health inequities, due to limited access to medical facilities
    - Increased cost-of-living pressures, especially with rising petrol prices
    - Reduced climate resilience, as communities are entirely dependent on private vehicles

Urgent Priorities for Transport Accessibility

26. Te Uri o Hau requests that the Rodney Local Board—and Auckland Transport—prioritise investment in:

Northern Public Transport Network

Including:

- A Wellsford–Te Hana–Kaiwaka bus route
- A local one-way loop service connecting Te Hana, Wellsford township, schools, medical centres, and key services
- Integration with the Northern Expressway corridor as it expands over time

Safe Active Transport Infrastructure

Especially in:

- Te Hana, where there are no adequate footpaths or pedestrian safety measures
- Areas surrounding schools and community hubs
- Rural roads with high traffic volumes

Transport Responses to Regional Infrastructure

Such as:

- Heavy vehicle movements associated with the Wayby Valley Landfill, which place additional pressure on rural roads and create safety risks
- Planning for long-term impacts of freight and growth on local road networks

Climate-Resilient Transport Infrastructure

With particular focus on:

- Roads vulnerable to flooding and washouts
- Tapora, where access can be cut off during storm events
- Improved drainage and stormwater solutions to support safe mobility

Partnership with Mana Whenua

Te Uri o Hau requests to be involved in:

- Transport planning and design
- Safety assessments
- Cultural and community-led solutions, including signage, wayfinding, and pathway design

Public Swimming Pool – A Strategic Partnership Opportunity

27. Te Uri o Hau strongly recommends that the Local Board explore the development of a public swimming pool in partnership with co-investors, including:
    - Auckland Council
    - Local Board
    - Central Government funding streams
    - Philanthropic and community investors
    - Māori providers and iwi-led capital entities
    - Private investors (where appropriate)

Why this is needed:

28. The Northern Subdivision has no public pool, despite being geographically large and rapidly growing.
    - Swimming is a core health, recreation, and water-safety activity for tamariki and

rangatahi.
- A pool would provide youth engagement, hauora benefits, and accessible recreation.
- It would serve a 10,000+ catchment stretching from Kaiwaka–Wellsford–Te Hana–Tomarata–Tapora.

29. A partner model could deliver a high-value asset without placing the full burden on the Board's constrained budgets. Te Uri o Hau is open to exploring roles in governance, partnership, cultural design, and land identification should a feasibility study proceed.

Environmental Programme – Support with a Mana Whenua Lens

30. We strongly support environmental restoration and request:
    - Hapū-led restoration be embedded into all ecological programmes
    - Procurement pathways prioritise mana whenua providers
    - Stronger partnership across Regional Parks in our rohe, including Te Arai and the Wellsford–Tomarata coastal corridors

Summary Position for Pātai Three

Rodney Local Board Priorities and Planned Investment 2026/2027
Position: Support Most

Te Uri o Hau supports the overall direction of the Rodney Local Board's planned programme for 2026/2027 and acknowledges the fiscal constraints under which the Board is operating, including limited discretionary operational funding after unavoidable cost increases.

We strongly support the continuation of core local services, particularly investment in community facilities, environmental restoration, arts and cultural activity, youth engagement, libraries, education programmes, and biodiversity initiatives. These programmes align well with Te Uri o Hau values and contribute positively to community wellbeing.

However, our support is qualified by persistent and significant equity gaps in the northern part of the rohe, especially in Te Hana, Wellsford, Tapora, and the wider Northern Subdivision. These communities continue to experience chronic underinvestment in essential infrastructure, including drainage, water supply, transport connectivity, and community assets.
Key concerns include:

- Long-standing drainage, water, and commercial underinvestment in Te Hana
- Water supply, drainage, roading, and isolation risks in Tapora
- Stormwater, water supply constraints, and growth pressures in Wellsford
- Severe transport accessibility issues across the rohe, including the absence of public

transport, poor pedestrian infrastructure, and the impacts of heavy vehicle movements associated with the Wayby Valley Landfill

Te Uri o Hau considers transport accessibility to be a critical and urgent issue and calls for prioritisation of a northern public transport network, safe active transport infrastructure, climate-resilient roading, and mitigation of regional freight impacts. We expect mana whenua to be actively involved in transport planning, design, and safety solutions.

We also strongly support expanded hapū-led environmental initiatives, with procurement pathways that prioritise mana whenua providers and stronger partnerships across Regional Parks within our rohe.

To address long-standing gaps in recreation and wellbeing infrastructure, Te Uri o Hau recommends that the Local Board explore the development of a public swimming pool through a partnership investment model, recognising the significant health, safety, youth engagement, and equity benefits such a facility would provide to a large and growing northern catchment.

In summary, Te Uri o Hau:

- Supports most of the Rodney Local Board's programme and priorities
- Acknowledges budget constraints, but expects equity-driven decision-making
- Calls for urgent infrastructure investment in Te Hana, Tapora, and Wellsford
- Identifies transport accessibility as a foundational need
- Seeks stronger mana whenua partnership in environmental, transport, and community development
- Supports strategic, co-investment approaches to delivering major community assets

Te Uri o Hau remains committed to working constructively with the Rodney Local Board to achieve outcomes that are equitable, resilient, and reflective of the needs of northern and Māori communities.