



Consultation on the draft Local Board Plans 2026

Written Feedback Waiheke Volume #1

23 June 2026 to 23 July 2026



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Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#26

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Aktive

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Very well

Tell us why

- 2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Overall we see many positive outcomes from the draft Plan and welcome the focus on play, sport and recreation and improving active transport. We see value in the initiatives proposed for the positive impacts this will have on the communities of Waiheke Island.

We are particularly supportive of the focus on the progressing recommended actions within the updated Waiheke Active Sport and Recreation Plan and submit this Plan should be the focus of work programme investment over the next three years.

We agree that continuing to invest in play beyond traditional playgrounds and promote play as 'an everywhere activity' will drive positive activity outcomes and we are pleased to support the proposed implementation the Waiheke Play Plan.

Aktive sees great value in progressing the recommended actions in the Waiheke Local Parks Management Plan and the Rangihoua Reserve and Onetangi Sports Park Reserve Management Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2026 Local Board Plan consultation; this opportunity is greatly valued.

Aktive is happy to expand on any of the points above in greater detail as required.

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We strongly support the key initiative:

-

Progress recommended actions within the updated Waiheke Active Sport and Recreation Plan.

We support the Objective to ‘Embrace Waiheke’s rich Māori identity and cultural history’ and the key initiatives to:

-

Invest in and support local, community-led initiatives that celebrate Māori identity and culture including:

-

Te Kete Rukuruku (te reo naming and dual naming of parks).

-

implementation of Te Aranga Design principles in park, playground, and green space upgrades.

-

Create connection to place and heritage through the installation of historical and cultural markers in our open spaces.

Aktive strongly supports the Objective to ‘Improve the open space network on the Island’ and the key initiatives to:

-

Progress recommended actions within the Waiheke Local Parks Management Plan and the Rangihoua Reserve and Onetangi Sports Park Reserve Management Plan.

-

Upgrade existing walking tracks including resurfacing, boardwalk construction, drainage improvements and realignment to better protect bush/coastal environments, while improving safety and walkability.

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We strongly support the Objective to ‘Improve our community’s wellbeing by providing quality arts, recreational and community facilities’ and the following key initiatives:

-

Continue to support local organisations with the development of a community swimming pool and consider consulting our community on a targeted rate if required.

-

Continue to work with partners and investigate options for future provision of community equestrian facilities.

-

Review and assess what water infrastructure and resources are needed to best support and set up sport and recreation groups.

- Explore the provision of all-age fitness equipment at well-used and visible sites.
- Ensure sites of significance are appropriately identified, marked and managed.

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We support the Objective of ‘Safe, fit-for purpose and environmentally friendly transport infrastructure’ and the following initiatives:

-

Increase bike storage, e-bike and electric vehicle charging facilities in our public spaces.

-

Progress work toward developing a continuous cycleway from Mātiatia to Onetangi.

We strongly support the Objective ‘Our community feels empowered to use active modes of transport where safely possible’ and the key initiatives:

-

Continue to deliver prioritised pedestrian and cycle links, guided by the Waiheke Pathways Plan.

-

Support the work of Cycle Action Waiheke and other local organisations that encourage and promote use of active modes.

We strongly support the Objective ‘A safe roading network that meets the needs of all road users, and supports the special character of Waiheke’ and the key initiatives:

-

Support implementation of the refreshed Waiheke 10-Year Transport Plan.

-

Support work toward ensuring routes to all Waiheke schools are safe for walking and cycling.

-

Implement speed calming measures in areas where speeding risk is found to be high.

-

Consider the accessibility needs of all road users when we upgrade our transport infrastructure.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

Overall we see many positive outcomes from the draft Plan and welcome the focus on play, sport and recreation and improving active transport. We see value in the initiatives proposed for the positive impacts this will have on the communities of Waiheke Island.

We are particularly supportive of the focus on the progressing recommended actions within the updated Waiheke Active Sport and Recreation Plan and submit this Plan should be the focus of work programme investment over the next three years.

We agree that continuing to invest in play beyond traditional playgrounds and promote play as ‘an everywhere activity’ will drive positive activity outcomes and we are pleased to support the proposed implementation the Waiheke Play Plan.

Aktive sees great value in progressing the recommended actions in the Waiheke Local Parks Management Plan and the Rangihoua Reserve and Onetangi Sports Park Reserve Management Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2026 Local Board Plan consultation; this opportunity is greatly valued.

Aktive is happy to expand on any of the points above in greater detail as required.



AK Have your Say

Draft 2026 Waiheke Local Board Plan

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

Introduction

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

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

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

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

Response to the draft 2026 Waiheke Local Board Plan

We have read the consultation documents and draft Local Board Plan to help inform this submission. We firstly want to acknowledge the significant investment into our sector by Local Boards and the investment by the Waiheke Local Board to develop a Sport and Active Recreation Facilities Plan.

Ground Floor, AUT Millennium, 17 Antares Place, Rosedale, Auckland 0632

active.org.nz



ActiveAuckland



aktive_akl



Active-Auckland



Community

Active supports the Objective *'A healthy and supportive society where people feel there is care, respect and all people are valued'* however we are unclear why none of the key initiatives to achieve this outcome consider the role that play, active recreation and sport offer in achieving a healthy and supportive society.

We strongly support the Objective to *'Strengthen collaboration and partnership with Māori'* and the key initiatives:

- *Develop mana whenua relationships to advance partnership and support mana whenua aspirations.*
- *Create opportunities for effective Māori participation and influence in decision making.*
- *Support te reo Māori to be seen, heard, spoken and learned throughout the places and spaces of Waiheke.*

We strongly agree with the Objective *'Children and youth feel valued, and that they have diverse opportunities to thrive'* and the key initiative:

- *Continue to invest in play beyond traditional playgrounds and promote play as 'an everywhere activity' through implementing the Waiheke Play Plan work programme.*

Built environment

Active supports the objective to *'Sustain and celebrate Māori identity, knowledge and practice'* through the key initiative:

- *Ensure sites of significance are appropriately identified, marked and managed.*

We strongly support the Objective to *'Improve our community's wellbeing by providing quality arts, recreational and community facilities'* and the following key initiatives:

- *Continue to support local organisations with the development of a community swimming pool and consider consulting our community on a targeted rate if required.*
- *Continue to work with partners and investigate options for future provision of community equestrian facilities.*
- *Review and assess what water infrastructure and resources are needed to best support and set up sport and recreation groups.*
- *Explore the provision of all-age fitness equipment at well-used and visible sites.*



We strongly support the key initiative:

- *Progress recommended actions within the updated Waiheke Active Sport and Recreation Plan.*

We support the Objective to 'Embrace Waiheke's rich Māori identity and cultural history' and the key initiatives to:

- *Invest in and support local, community-led initiatives that celebrate Māori identity and culture including:*
 - *Te Kete Rukuruku (te reo naming and dual naming of parks).*
 - *implementation of Te Aranga Design principles in park, playground, and green space upgrades.*
- *Create connection to place and heritage through the installation of historical and cultural markers in our open spaces.*

Active strongly supports the Objective to 'Improve the open space network on the Island' and the key initiatives to:

- *Progress recommended actions within the Waiheke Local Parks Management Plan and the Rangihoua Reserve and Onetangi Sports Park Reserve Management Plan.*
- *Upgrade existing walking tracks including resurfacing, boardwalk construction, drainage improvements and realignment to better protect bush/coastal environments, while improving safety and walkability.*

Transport

We support the Objective of 'Safe, fit-for purpose and environmentally friendly transport infrastructure' and the following initiatives:

- *Increase bike storage, e-bike and electric vehicle charging facilities in our public spaces.*
- *Progress work toward developing a continuous cycleway from Mātiatia to Onetangi.*

We strongly support the Objective 'Our community feels empowered to use active modes of transport where safely possible' and the key initiatives:

- *Continue to deliver prioritised pedestrian and cycle links, guided by the Waiheke Pathways Plan.*
- *Support the work of Cycle Action Waiheke and other local organisations that encourage and promote use of active modes.*



We strongly support the Objective 'A safe road network that meets the needs of all road users, and supports the special character of Waiheke' and the key initiatives:

- *Support implementation of the refreshed Waiheke 10-Year Transport Plan.*
- *Support work toward ensuring routes to all Waiheke schools are safe for walking and cycling.*
- *Implement speed calming measures in areas where speeding risk is found to be high.*
- *Consider the accessibility needs of all road users when we upgrade our transport infrastructure.*

Overall comments

Overall we see many positive outcomes from the draft Plan and welcome the focus on play, sport and recreation and improving active transport. We see value in the initiatives proposed for the positive impacts this will have on the communities of Waiheke Island.

We are particularly supportive of the focus on the progressing recommended actions within the updated Waiheke Active Sport and Recreation Plan and submit this Plan should be the focus of work programme investment over the next three years.

We agree that continuing to invest in play beyond traditional playgrounds and promote play as 'an everywhere activity' will drive positive activity outcomes and we are pleased to support the proposed implementation the Waiheke Play Plan.

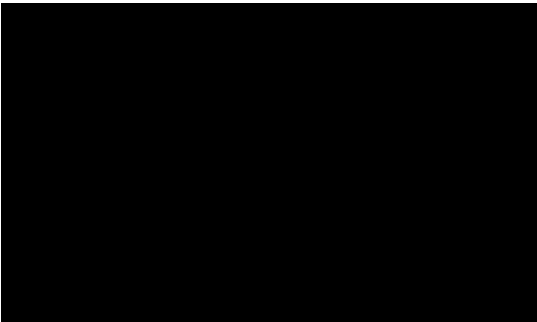
Active sees great value in progressing the recommended actions in the Waiheke Local Parks Management Plan and the Rangihoua Reserve and Onetangi Sports Park Reserve Management Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2026 Local Board Plan consultation; this opportunity is greatly valued.

Active is happy to expand on any of the points above in greater detail as required.



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





Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#155

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

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

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?

Tell us why

2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?
Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

See attached

22 July 2026

Auckland Local Board Plans

By email to: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

E te Kaunihera, tēnā koutou katoa

Submission to: Auckland Council Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau
Subject: **Draft Auckland Local Board Plans 2026**
From: Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative New Zealand)

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Local Boards' three-year plans for 2026.
2. Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori build stronger, more connected communities across Auckland, and create vibrant and prosperous communities where people want to live, work and visit.
3. Auckland Council has 21 local boards, each playing an essential role in supporting arts and culture across the Auckland region. The **Auckland Local Board Plans are an important opportunity for Local Boards to build on their investment in the arts**, and unlock the arts' economic, cultural and social benefits.
4. We thank Auckland Council and each of the 21 Local Boards for their ongoing support of arts, ngā toi, culture and creativity in Tāmaki Makaurau, and look forward to continuing to work with you to realise the enormous potential creativity can bring to all your communities.

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

5. From festivals, concerts, public art and murals to galleries, libraries, arts hubs and marae, creativity shapes how the city looks, sounds and feels. It creates vibrant communities that people are proud to call home.
6. We know that Aucklanders value the arts and are engaging with the arts more than ever before. Two in three Aucklanders agree that arts and culture have a vital role to play in the future of where they live. Support for public funding of the arts in Auckland has increased since 2020, with over half of Aucklanders believing Auckland Council should help fund the arts.



7. Our *New Zealanders and the Arts—Ko Aotearoa me ōna Toi* research¹ shows that Aucklanders recognise the economic and social benefits of the arts, with:
 - 75 percent of Aucklanders agreeing that the arts create jobs, both in and around the creative industries, and the majority agreeing that the arts contribute positively to our economy
 - over half of Aucklanders valuing the arts for creating opportunities to socialise and connect
 - 69 percent of Aucklanders agreeing that the arts play a role in raising awareness of societal and environmental issues.
8. Young people, Māori, Pacific peoples and Asian New Zealanders are also more likely than other Auckland residents to agree that the arts are an important way of connecting with their culture, and that taking part in the arts supports their identity. Rainbow communities and people with lived experience of disability participate highly in the arts and need more accessible and inclusive environments to support their engagement.

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

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

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



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

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

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

10. Our research demonstrates that Aucklanders place considerable value on the arts at a community level.² Arts and culture programmes and services support local board priorities, including:

- employment for rangatahi
- safer communities
- celebrating diverse communities
- town centre vitality
- stronger local economies.

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



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

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

12. We know councils around the country are facing significant pressures, with tight budgets and growing community expectations meaning plans are being carefully designed to deliver value and a pathway for the future. Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi are part of the solution.
13. Auckland Council's recently commissioned [The Arts Matter](#) research found that Council's investment in arts and ngā toi is advancing outcomes across Council's vision and priorities.³ This includes significant social, cultural, environmental and economic contributions that:
- support community connection at local festivals and events
 - grow local economies by creating jobs, supporting local businesses and driving tourism
 - boost environmental awareness through storytelling, education and building understanding of complex issues like climate change
 - build social resilience by revitalising city centres and transforming public spaces into safe, vibrant and socially cohesive hubs
 - spark innovation and learning with creative practice-building skills, including imagination, problem solving and learning.
14. The arts contribute \$18.5 billion to New Zealand's economy, 4.2 percent of our total GDP⁴ and more than our wine, seafood and international education sectors.
15. In 2024, Auckland's arts and creative sector contributed over \$8.5 billion to New Zealand's GDP, creating jobs and supporting local businesses. It is the largest arts and creative employer in the country, employing more than 50,000 people. The *Auckland Economic Monitor* shows 'Arts and recreation services' are experiencing strong growth in Auckland, with 11.7 percent of growth in contributions to Auckland's GDP and 7.1 percent of employment growth in the year to March 2024.

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

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



16. However, this growth relies on a strong arts ecosystem and pathways for young people to experience creativity, in order to nurture and develop creativity.
17. Economic conditions are putting sustained pressure on the arts community – creators, presenters and supporters alike. Arts organisations operate on thin margins and are highly vulnerable to any changes in relationships with funders. Making a living from the arts is hard for artists and practitioners,⁵ and the wider arts ecosystem is fragile. While public engagement with the arts is strong compared with other countries, arts are often on the margins of public investment and support.

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

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

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

19. We highly value Auckland Council and the Auckland Local Boards as partners in the arts, alongside mana whenua, iwi and hapū, community trusts and private givers. Demand for Creative New Zealand's services is high, and we are supporting a much lower proportion of proposals than we have historically. Private investments, including corporate sponsorship and private donations, are also down in the current economic climate.
20. Over the coming year we will be implementing our *tuku rauemi* approach. This means empowering communities as decision-makers, entrusting them to support arts and ngā toi Māori development that best meets their communities' needs. To do this, we will partner with organisations across the regions to lead local arts development and capability building, set their own priorities and make funding decisions.
21. We believe a regional partnership approach will strengthen co-operation on longer-term planning and investment between regional stakeholders, including local government and trusts, and Creative New Zealand. This approach will also create opportunities to grow

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



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

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

Creative New Zealand's interest in the arts in Auckland

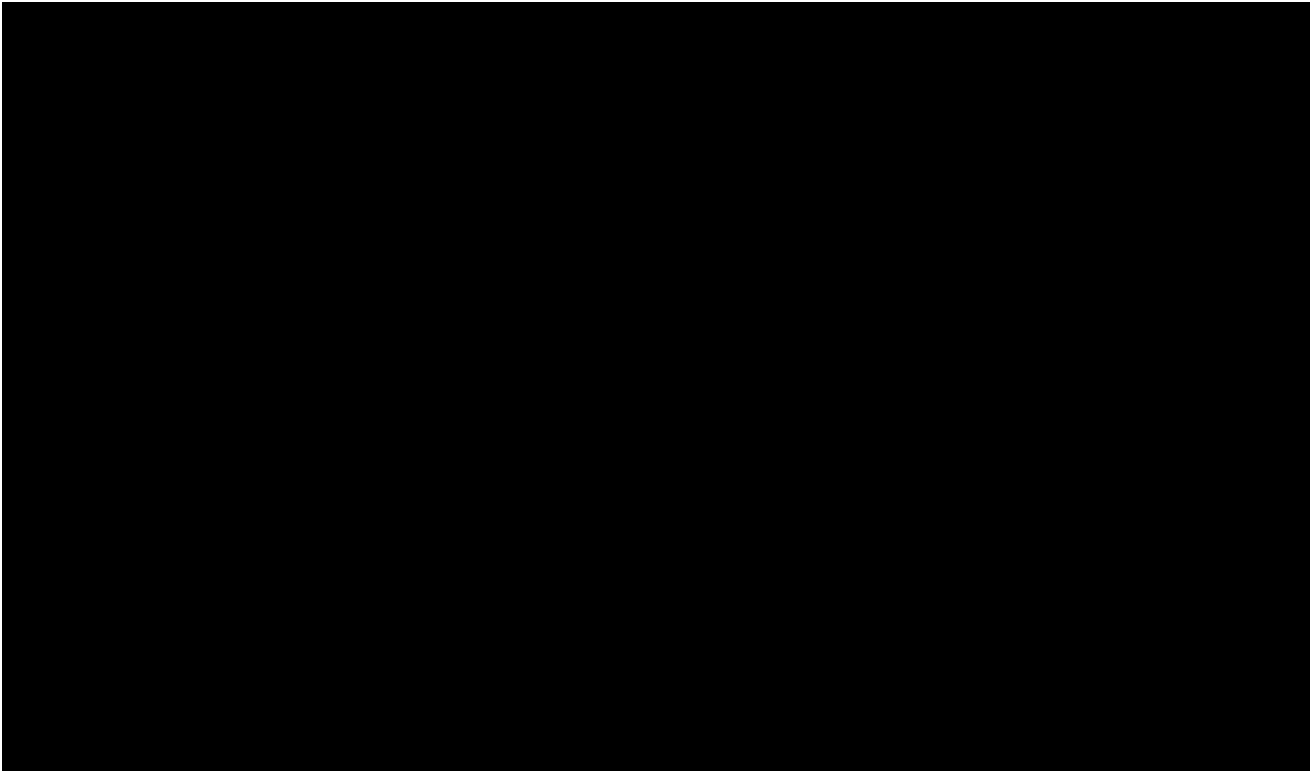
23. Creative New Zealand receives funding through Vote: Arts, Culture and Heritage and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board Te Puna Tahua. In 2024/25, Creative New Zealand **invested nearly \$61 million in the arts in New Zealand**, through investing in the arts, developing the arts, and providing leadership in the arts.
24. In 2024/25, we **invested \$17.7 million of direct financial support in Auckland**, almost 30 percent of our total investment by region. In addition, our investment in activity that takes place nationwide (17.2 percent) and online (4.5 percent) sees benefits flow to Auckland by supporting arts and cultural experiences presented in the region; and our international programme (7.1 percent) adds additional investment to Auckland via artists based in the region.
25. Under the Creative Communities Scheme, we provide funding to territorial authorities to support local arts activities. The annual allocation to Auckland Council under the Scheme is **\$1.33 million**. In 2024/25, this funding supported **246 projects** which engaged 26,539 participants and had 395,572 attendances. Allocations to territorial authorities under the Scheme are based on a population-based formula.

Final thoughts

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



7





Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#23

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: Citizens Advice Bureau Waiheke

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

The plan is aspirational but also covers off many of the issues that we see on Waiheke in respect to aging population , lack of mental health facilities and isolation .

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

The cost of travel ect is mentioned as a challenge but as far as I can see not addressed. At the CAB we support people to travel off island and see this as an issue for many members of the community,

Cost of living on Waiheke is a challenge for a lot of our community with an increasing number of people accessing food banks etc . We would like to see (maybe in the sustainable food section) a measure to support those people who are finding it difficult to access food.

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?**

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?**

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Adding an affordable transport system so that the most vulnerable has access to transport facilities .

Considering a means of transport for those who have disabilities and not on the transport routes .

- 7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.**



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#3

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: City Builders Association

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

I support the Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026 priorities around protecting island character and environment, supporting viticulture and tourism economy, enhancing community facilities and parks, improving ferry services and transport, and delivering sustainable development in this island fringe.

However, with the 7.9% rates increase for 2026/27 already locked in amid ongoing council debt and cost pressures, the board must apply strong fiscal restraint and demonstrate prudent financial management under Local Government Act 2002 s.101. Island services, ferry connectivity, and environmental protection bring real demands that should not disproportionately burden existing ratepayers. Fully cost and sequence initiatives, make clear choices on what to defer or scale back, and avoid spreading resources too thinly. Demand stronger efficiency in delivery of local services and facilities.

In particular, protect and efficiently maintain high-value assets such as parks, sports/recreation facilities, coastal areas, and community spaces that deliver strong returns on wellbeing, tourism, and island identity. Prioritise practical environmental protection and sustainable tourism initiatives that offer multiple benefits. In the final adopted plan and Local Board Agreement, clearly outline efficiency measures, trade-offs, and how core local priorities like character protection, ferry service improvements, and local economy support will be advanced without further rates escalation. Waiheke ratepayers need value for money and focused delivery on the things that matter most in this island fringe community.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#157

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Civic Trust Auckland (CTA)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Tell us why

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?
Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

See attached

Submission of Civic Trust Auckland
Draft Local Board Plans – all



www.civictrustauckland.org.nz

Introduction

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

2. The aims of the Trust include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Area Plans

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

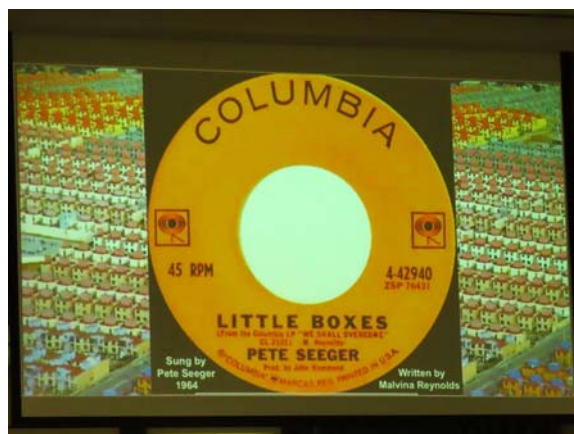
6. Local Board Chairs have told Graeme that having local plans has made a real difference to accommodating development in their ward, particularly as the urban environment intensifies.

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

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

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

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



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

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

Albert-Eden

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

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

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

4. CTA also supports the following:

- *Help households be ready for an emergency, refresh the Albert-Eden Local Board Emergency Readiness and Response Plan and support marae and groups to join our Community Emergency Hub network* (pg 14).
- *Improve Chamberlain Park by adding a new local park and walking and cycling paths, restoring Waititiko / Meola Creek and shifting golf holes to keep an 18-hole golf course* (pg 15).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

Aotea-Great-Barrier

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Devonport-Takapuna

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

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



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

Franklin

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

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

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

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

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

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

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

Henderson-Massey

1. We support the Local Board in continuing with the key initiative (pg 14) to *“Develop parks, community and play spaces that can be easily used and accessed by everyone and meet the needs of the community,”* and draw members’ attention to Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton, mentioned in the introduction to our submission.
2. We support all the key initiatives in the Natural Environment section (pp 17-18) and the advocacy on page 18.
3. Under Built Environment, we strongly support the objective of *“Community places and spaces are more accessible, sustainable and improve our collective wellbeing”* (pg 20), and in particular, the key initiatives of *“Make sure we consider sustainability and accessibility when we build and maintain community facilities and buildings”* and *“Identify and progress neighbourhood transport initiatives that improve safety, such as walking and cycling paths and speed calming measures.”*
4. Regarding sustainability and accessibility, please see our comments about universal design on page 2.
5. In the Transport section, we particularly support the following key initiatives: *“Look into and set up traffic flow solutions such as ‘smart’ traffic lights that use sensors or cameras to give longer green lights where traffic is heavy, respond to rush hours, incidents and weather and prioritise buses;”* *“Introduce a weekly public transport fare cap for children and young people in addition to the existing \$50 fare cap”* and *“Prioritise safety and ways to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in local streets and around every local school.”* While an enhanced pedestrian environment is desirable, so too is the free flow of traffic, sequenced where necessary.

Hibiscus and Bays

1. In our last Local Board Plan submission, we encouraged the Local Board to advocate to Auckland Transport for bike racks on buses that go across the Auckland Harbour Bridge, so we are delighted that there are now 15 buses that carry bicycles over the harbour bridge on the NX1 route.
2. Under Community on page 15, we support the key initiative of *“Support communities to share stories about local heritage in ways that help people understand their area, feel a sense of identity and belonging, and learn about local history. This includes using te reo Māori place names and a range of storytelling approaches.”*
3. We support all the key initiatives and advocacy under Natural Environment (pp 19-20). We note that one key initiative is: *“Support the development and increased use of parks, reserves and sports fields that are accessible, equitable and meet current and future community needs.”* A visit by a CTA Board member to the Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve in January this year

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

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

5. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

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

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

Howick

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

Kaipātiki

1. We note the following on page 4 (From the Chair): *“To ensure a sustainable network of community assets, the board will take a fiscally responsible, long-term approach to renewing them. This includes reviewing the condition and performance of existing assets and recognising that, under ongoing limited funding, some assets may need to be considered for decommissioning (for example removing or deconstructing them).”* We repeat what we have written above in this submission, that unfortunately, some Council buildings are not fully utilised due to lack of information about them, and also unfortunately, some underused Council buildings are not maintained and become unusable. In our view, the community should be consulted about the use of buildings in their area.
2. In the 2023 draft plan, CTA supported the initiative (pg 14) to: *“Investigate installing solar on facilities with significant solar potential, including: Birkenhead Pool and Leisure Centre, Kaipātiki Local Board Office, Glenfield Pool and Leisure Centre.”* We are therefore pleased to know that the Birkenhead Pool and Leisure Centre now has solar panels installed on its roof, that roof work is underway at the Glenfield Centre to add solar panels, and that the Board Office is in line to receive solar panels as well.
3. CTA supported the Kaipātiki Local Board’s advocacy to the Governing Body in the draft 2023 plan (pg 18) *“to protect and celebrate our built and cultural heritage”* and would like to see this retained in the 2026 plan.
4. Also in the 2023 plan, we supported *“the ability for local boards to have direct decision-making authority to make temporary changes to dog access rules to mitigate environmental or social problems”* (page 23) and we are pleased to note that the changes proposed by the Kaipātiki and Devonport-Takapuna Local Boards to rules for local beaches and reserves came into effect in January 2026.
5. Again, we support advocacy to *“reinstate legislation that provides general tree protection Central Government”* (page 20), and would also continue to support the following, if it were included in the plan: *“for urban planning legislation to adequately protect special ecological areas”* (2023 plan, pg 23).
6. We strongly support this new advocacy: *“Advocate to introduce waste recovery schemes that make those who create waste responsible for dealing with it”* (pg 20).
7. We are pleased that the following key initiative has been retained: *“Consider the effects of climate change when developing places and spaces by avoiding areas or activities that are vulnerable to climate risks like drought, extreme rainfall, coastal flooding and heat.”*
8. We continue to support *“continued improvement of the bus and ferry network serving Kaipātiki with: cheaper ferry and bus fares, maintaining our existing three ferry services – with increased frequency, more buses going to more destinations more often,”* and also *“a continued*

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

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

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

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

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

13. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

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

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

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Manurewa

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

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

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

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

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

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

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

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

Ōrākei

1. In the 2023 draft plans, CTA supported the seismic restoration of the Remuera Library and we are pleased to see this project completed.
2. We strongly support the first key initiative on page 21: *“Ensure that the heritage of our people, places and buildings is recognised, protected and valued by working with council organisations, supporting community groups and investing in eligible projects.”*
3. We also support the Natural Environment key initiatives (pp 17-18) and the advocacy on page 19.
4. Alongside *“Encourage developers to prioritise sustainable design in their developments”* (pg 21), CTA would like to see *“Encourage developers to prioritise universal design in their developments,”* and we refer the Local Board to page 2 of this submission, where we have written about universal design.
5. Regarding the initiative: *“Look for opportunities to provide new venues for community use such as land reclamation (creating new land by filling in areas of water), buying property or working with community providers,”* firstly, we would urge the Local Board to undertake extensive consultation before considering land reclamation, due to the expense, the requirement for constant maintenance, and the vulnerability to flooding. Further, when we read on the next page the initiative: *“Decommission under-used assets like Leicester Hall, to invest in better value assets and services,”* we question why the Local Board would consider new venues for community use when there already are such venues, such as Leicester Hall, which has a kitchen, off-street parking, and is wheelchair accessible. We suggest that the Local Board considers that the community might like to be involved in the maintenance of such buildings, and potentially making it more fit for purpose, rather than looking to provide new buildings.

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

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

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

8. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

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

Otara-Papatoetoe

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

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

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

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

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

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

Papakura

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

We also support the following:

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

Puketāpapa

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following project proposed by this local board:

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

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

- **Deliver new neighbourhood park at 3-7 Howell Crescent, Roskill**
- **Wairaki Stream Ecological Enhancement and daylighting projects**
- **Developing a Monte Cecilia Master Plan, providing us with a community informed vision, and enable us to strategically invest in the park in the years ahead.**
- **Focusing our environmental restoration work along the awa and coastline. In particular control of pest plants and animals, protection of native species and the restoration of walking tracks so they feel safe and accessible to the community again.**

Rodney

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

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

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

Upper Harbour

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

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

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

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

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

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

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

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

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

We do support the following:

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

Waiheke

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

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

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

Waitākere Ranges

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

Waitematā

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

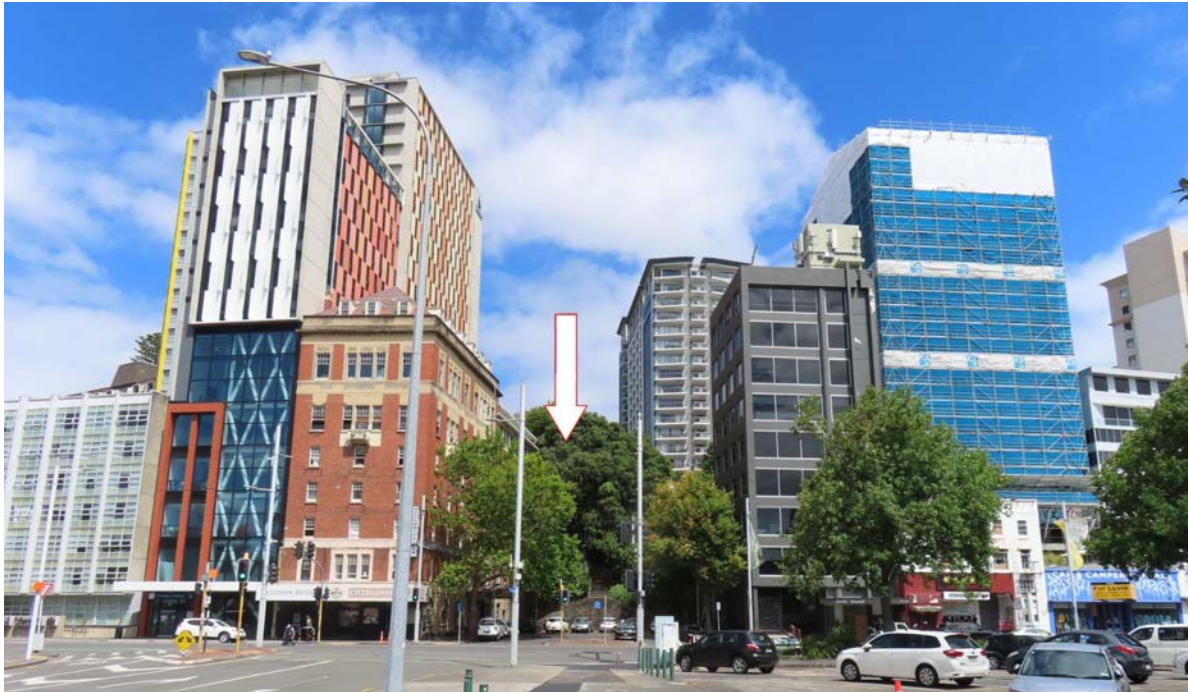
16. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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



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



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

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

Whau

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

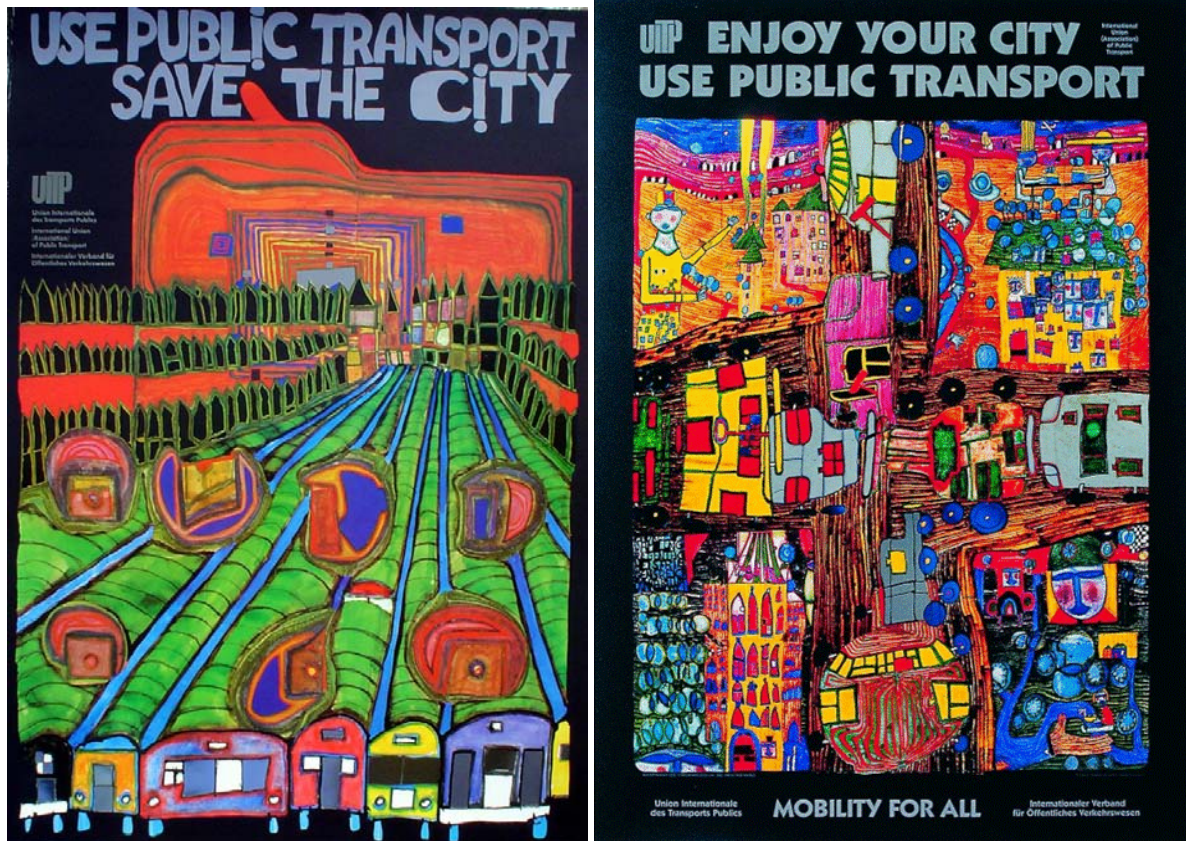
10. We support all of the Transport priorities on pages 24-25, particularly noting *“Encourage more public transport use and multi-modal travel through ... provide bike infrastructure on trains and buses.”* We note that 15 buses on the NX1 route now have space for bicycles, and that buses that travel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

11. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

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

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



Date of submission: 23 July, 2026



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#75

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: Communities Against Alcohol Harm

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

- 2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Feedback

Overall we support the vision and priorities set out in the draft plan. In particular we support the Board's

Community focus area. We commend the local board for including in the draft plan the key initiative: Support actions and policies aimed at reducing harm caused by alcohol, nicotine, drugs and gambling.

We also recommend the local board consider including an advocacy position: Advocate for legislative and

policy change to help reduce social harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping.

CAAH welcomes the opportunity to continue partnering with the Waiheke Local Board to assist people

navigate complex alcohol licensing processes, work to reduce alcohol-related harm and improve

community safety.

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

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026 (the draft

plan).

This feedback is provided on behalf of Communities Against Alcohol Harm (CAAH). We are a charity that

supports communities in navigating alcohol licensing processes to reduce alcohol-related harm across

Aotearoa. Since 2014 CAAH has provided advice and support to local community organisations, members

of the public, local government members and stakeholders relating to applications for alcohol licences

within local community areas initially in South Auckland but now throughout Aotearoa.

We offer pro bono support to objectors including on Waiheke. We also support local board members in

your alcohol licensing role.

23 July 2026

Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142



Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

Introduction

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

This feedback is provided on behalf of Communities Against Alcohol Harm (CAAH). We are a charity that supports communities in navigating alcohol licensing processes to reduce alcohol-related harm across Aotearoa. Since 2014 CAAH has provided advice and support to local community organisations, members of the public, local government members and stakeholders relating to applications for alcohol licences within local community areas initially in South Auckland but now throughout Aotearoa.

We offer pro bono support to objectors including on Waiheke. We also support local board members in your alcohol licensing role.

Feedback

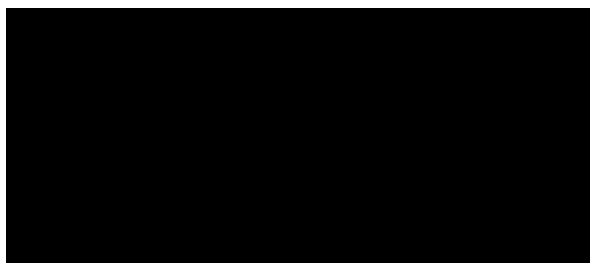
Overall we support the vision and priorities set out in the draft plan. In particular we support the Board's Community focus area. We commend the local board for including in the draft plan the key initiative: *Support actions and policies aimed at reducing harm caused by alcohol, nicotine, drugs and gambling.*

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

CAAH welcomes the opportunity to continue partnering with the Waiheke Local Board to assist people navigate complex alcohol licensing processes, work to reduce alcohol-related harm and improve community safety.

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

Ngā mihi,





Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#156

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?

Tell us why

2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?
Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

See attached

Submission of Community Groups Feeding the Homeless

Draft Local Board Plans - all



Organisation: Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.

Date of submission: 23 July 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“In addition to night shelters, we have advocated for (more) funding from both central and local government to provide activities for homeless people during the day, such as the programmes carried out at the Auckland City Mission, so that these people can be occupied, feel valued, gain confidence, contribute, and learn a skill. We acknowledge Heart of the City’s successful Street Guardians¹ initiative, which we understand is still operating, as “a positive approach to addressing begging in the city centre. It gives people who would otherwise be begging the opportunity to spend a day undertaking activities with community organisations, such as restoring wetlands to planting trees and cleaning beaches.

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

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

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

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

Albert- Eden

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

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

Aotea- Great Barrier

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

Devonport-Takapuna

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

Howick

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

Kaipātiki

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

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

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

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

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

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

Manurewa

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

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

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

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

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

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

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

Otara-Papatoetoe

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

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

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

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

Papakura

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

Upper Harbour

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

Waiheke

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

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

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

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

Waitākere Ranges

Investigate opportunities to promote kai sovereignty.

Waitematā

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whau

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

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

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



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#115

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Dark Sky Waiheke Island

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?

Quite well

Tell us why

DSWI's Comments suggested inclusions and considerations

The Chair's introduction clearly emphasizes some of the main challenges facing the island ie: climate change challenges, housing community resilience transport safety which are so vital and the need to work within financial constraints. Therefore it was good to see the mention of WLB acknowledging the importance of working with experienced community groups to achieve local goals.

It is heartening to see the protection of our natural dark night skies a priority again clearly stated in the body of the Draft Plan.

- 1) Te Taiao Māori: Natural Environment. (Pg 17) '..Protect and preserve Waiheke's dark night sky and the biodiversity impacted by artificial light levels and work towards achieving international dark sky accreditation.'

2) Te Taiao kua hangaia: Built Environment (pg 21) 'Promote changes to the Hauraki Gulf Island District Plan to facilitate required conditions for Dark Sky status accreditation by DarkSky International.'

'Upgrade community halls and facilities in line with the Waiheke Local Climate Action Plan and lighting with Dark Sky criteria.'

The URGENT commitment to encourage Auckland Council planners to acknowledge ALAN as a challenging pollutant to be mitigated. Updated Council evidence-based design and planning and frameworks ongoing are required for effective responsible lighting management plan going forward. The technology is available now more than it even has been. These robust mechanisms implemented locally to protect Waiheke's natural dark skies should be emphasised.

2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

DSWI's Comments, suggested inclusions and considerations:

- Waiheke faces a broad range of serious community challenges. These feature clearly as commitments in the 2026 Draft Plan, and WLB is to be commended for that.
- From the perspective of Dark Sky Waiheke Island (DSWI), the WLB, along with the community have continued to participate in ongoing events which connect, raise awareness, provide learning opportunities and enjoyment of Waiheke's beautiful dark skies. For example, DSWI with the Waiheke Walking Festival, and the Waiheke collective (WilderFest and Eco Film Festival), participate in events, environmental efforts and ongoing celebration of Matariki.
- These events continue to foster a strong sense of 'community' and awareness around ALAN as well as experiencing the natural dark night. This leads to an improved understanding of the significance of the cycles of day and night, appreciation of mātauranga Māori, interconnected local eco systems, and the sense of awe in experiencing and protection of the natural night sky that Waiheke enjoys. In 2026 funding towards a series of Matariki associated workshops and events at Piritahi marae with Rangatahi further reinforced these following public events in 2024 and 2025, and we hope that these programmes continue.

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

DSWI's Comments, suggested inclusions and considerations:

Waiheke's natural environment includes the cycle of day and night. Complex biodiversity relies on dark hours, as well as the daytime. So, in the Natural Environment introduction

paragraph, it would be helpful to state the goal to protect, preserve and improve the natural dark night sky.

This would 1) draw awareness to the night environment (alongside the daytime environments) and 2) reiterate the responsibility to protect it.

- The inclusion of the “Protect and preserve Waiheke’s dark night sky and the biodiversity impacted by artificial light levels and work towards achieving international dark sky accreditation.” On pg 17 of the Draft plan signals to the community and Auckland Council the continued commitment to preserve and protect the night environment along with the others mentioned. (land, coastlines, bush, wetland, marine)

- Waiheke Island sits in a unique position in the Hauraki Gulf, internationally recognised for one of most diverse populations of vulnerable seabirds, shorebird and migratory birds. ALAN is an immediate (yet completely reversible) challenge to these significant populations.

<https://www.gbiet.org/en37-seabird-super-highway>

<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/news/2022/10/19/light-pollution.html>

- As stated in the feedback to the 2023 Plan DSWI reiterates: ‘Waiheke Island, a jewel in the Hauraki Gulf is surrounded by seabirds, shore birds, migratory birds and land based nocturnal birds. In the forward of the WLB Draft Plan 2023 “We have continued with the central vision of Waiheke as an island sanctuary in the Gulf which was overwhelmingly supported in the last plan...”’

- If that generates questions, these can be responded to from an evidence-based position as an environmental issue and provides opportunity to give positive solution-based guidance.

- Note that “On Waiheke, we have a national park right above our heads which needs to be protected just like a terrestrial or marine national park.”

- To aspire to and gain International Dark Sky place or Dark Sky Community certification has the valuable advantage of being able to draw on current international evidence, experience, and support in this area for Waiheke and the Hauraki Gulf.

- ALAN is a now an increasingly damaging form of pollution, often overlooked as a significant source of wasted energy and emission and destructive effects on many systems, including human health see link: State of the Science Report 2026

- The energy wasted with non-directed light emitted into and polluting the atmosphere, this is directly associated with the impact of the wasted energy required to generate those very light sources.

- Waiheke Island (and Auckland City) has the advantage and opportunity to be leaders in the climate change response to implement these mitigations.

- There is increased pressure on the built and commercial environment on this small island, it is imperative to include ALAN mitigation in the wider climate change context.

Under Climate Action:

- Mention how reduction of light pollution can save energy (as explained in the 'DWSI's Comments' section) and thereby reduce our carbon footprint.

Under Our Environment:

- Maintain inclusion of 'Protection and Preservation of Waiheke's Dark Night Sky' as a 'Key Initiative' as it was in the 2020/23 plan. Nothing has changed since to warrant its omission this time.

For Tītī sake, turn off the lights - The University of Auckland

Artificial light at night correlates with seabird groundings: mapping city lights near a seabird breeding hotspot [PeerJ]

<https://www.tekorowaiowaiheke.org/waiheke-wildlife>

<https://www.nzseabirdtrust.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/646890434935473>

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

DSWI's Comments, suggested inclusions and considerations:

1) Open Spaces.

- With the ongoing initiative of Dark Sky places certification, there is potential to activate and optimise current public night sky observation points and spaces and enhance the open space network with interpretation information drawing on Māori astronomy, history and culture, biodiversity, information for astrophotography and stargazing, responsible eco-tourism and community events ie: Matariki.
 - More public viewing areas have been identified across the Waiheke Island and there is a potential to include other islands that fall under the WLB area. (previous image from presentation to the Planning committee 2021 document re: observations points are noted on the map, is on file)
 - There are other good dark open spaces and alternative outlooks in central and western, southern Waiheke and also in Whakanewha Regional Park. The viewing in a variety of directions are very good for Night Sky viewing. Ecological, information and interpretative
-

content at some of the current open spaces signage would add value to the local and visitor experience and placemaking around the island.

- The inclusion of stargazing and experiencing a dark night sky is an alternative, unique and informative experience for visitors as well as locals.
- There is already support from Waiheke residents and already proactive solutions in place. There is more building going on so to continue this awareness to new residents and developments to preserve and protect these areas.

2) Facilities:

Pg 19.'..Our assets are ageing, and the cost to maintain our community and recreational facilities to meet the needs of our communities is sometimes beyond available funding, particularly as assets age and renewal and operating costs increase"

Facility maintenance has the opportunity to lead by example with the use of efficient Dark Sky environmentally friendly lighting.

This technology is more available and cost effective than it ever has been and should be utilised.

<https://adlt.co.nz/resources/dark-sky-approved-luminaires/>

As mentioned on pg 21 “..Promote changes to the Hauraki Gulf Island District Plan to facilitate required conditions for Dark Sky status, helipad consents and housing aligned to the Housing Strategy..”

And “..Upgrade community halls and facilities in line with the Waiheke Local Climate Action Plan and lighting with Dark Sky criteria.’

The increase in damaging light pollution is often by increment, with the installation of more and more LED lights, this is becoming more evident and measurable on the island.

Unfortunately, Oneroa has documented petrel groundings, and is getting alarmingly brighter with some ongoing and new irresponsible private lighting breaches.

Without Council led motivation, awareness and will to limit unnecessary ALAN, this will likely increase to the detriment of biodiversity and the character and aesthetic of the built environment on Waiheke. Hence, robust mechanisms with the Auckland Council Lighting management plan could mitigate this and the introduction of dark sky friendly lighting requirements improve the situation across the island.

Waiheke community and supportive businesses that understand the benefits and importance of protecting and preserving the asset that is Waiheke’s beautiful night sky (for example the BNZ in Oneroa has honoured it’s commitment to their environmental pledge by not lighting their external signage at night) are encouraging this to be progressed urgently before it is too late.

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

DSWI's Comments, suggested inclusions and considerations:

Protecting and preserving Waiheke's Natural dark night skies through implementation in the Local Board Plan over the next 3 years and ongoing allows for these outcomes, contributing to the local sustainable economy:

- Provides a memorable visitor experience available after daylight hours and during the shoulder seasons (the night skies are at their best during winter months)
 - Winter brings Matariki and with it, opportunities to embrace the wonders and stories of Māori astronomy
 - Paves the way for low-impact ecotourism economic development opportunities from sharing world-class night skies.
 - Stargazing business and accommodation on the island now offer overnight Winter and shoulder season experiences to island visitors, which can be included in the range of diverse activities. This adds to economic development on Waiheke that is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.
 - This type of business depends on the maintenance of Waiheke's dark skies to offer quality visitor experiences, education and employment opportunities on island.
 - We note the statement – “..High-quality landscapes and access to outdoor activities (walking, cycling, swimming, boating) strengthen community well-being and attract visitors ..” Stargazing can be included in this list.
 - The very special character of Waiheke has, for many years, been its quiet dark night sky, a boat ride away from busy bright Auckland. A place to enjoy not only the vineyards, restaurants, art, walkways, beaches and baches and more, but to also experience the awe and connection that experiencing the southern stars under a natural dark sky provides.
 - Offers learning and opportunities, intellectual stimulation and citizen science opportunities for school goers, youth, adults and community groups
 - Provides the opportunity to offer unique and diverse community activities
 - Maintains Waiheke's attractive nightscapes and therefore its integrity and character in sharp contrast to the urban Auckland location
-

- Include under a statement regarding support from Auckland Council for Waiheke Island to attain Dark Sky certification in the near future.

Other areas with active economies recently embracing the Dark Sky advantage.

<https://www.wairarapa.space/look-after-our-night-sky/for-businesses/>

<https://www.kaikoura.co.nz/>

Light pollution mitigation is not hard to do, the benefits far outweigh the damage of inaction.

We cannot waste this opportunity. It was included in previous Local Board Plans now it needs to be strengthened and activated further in the 2026 plan.

Waiheke Island - Auckland's Dark Sky Island suburb, leading the way.

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

DSWI's Comments, suggested inclusions and considerations:

- Considerations as in the Built environment section with upgrades to Matiatia Wharf utilising modern dark sky friendly lighting systems that not only enhance and showcases the gateway to the island but also respond to the unique ecology of Matiatia Bay.
- Ensuring ongoing upgrades to streetlighting systems to international standards dark sky and Dark Sky lumens and hardware.
- Ensuring additional facility lighting ie: Bus stops, public conveniences are planned for practically with ALAN mitigating design solutions. There are now systems available to achieve safe, cost effective and practical lighting where and when it is required.
- Cost effective, unnecessary ALAN is an expensive waste of energy and ratepayers money.

FIVE SIMPLE STEPS TO REDUCE LIGHT POLLUTION

- Each of us can easily implement practical solutions to reduce light pollution by following the International Dark Sky Association 5 Principles for Community Outdoor Lighting:
 - Useful – Install lighting only when and where it's needed.
 - Low Light Levels – Light should be no brighter than necessary.
-

- Targeted – Shield your lights so they shine down on the ground, which reduces harmful glare and decreases skyglow.
- Controlled – Use controls such as timers, dimmers, and motion sensors on outdoor lights.
- The Appropriate Colour – Use warm colour lights where possible. Limit the use of harmful blue wavelength lighting.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

Maori Astronomy:

Links to: Prof Rangi Mataamua (Maori astronomy Matariki etc. Living by the Stars) and Dr. Pauline Harris

<https://livingbythestars.co.nz/>

<https://nzase.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-07-Pauline-Harris-profile-NZASE.pdf>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/new-zealands-quest-to-become-a-dark-sky-nation>

Supporting links:

State of the Science Report on Light Pollution 2026

<https://darksky.org/app/uploads/2026/06/ALAN-State-of-the-Science-2026-EN.pdf>

Artificial light at night correlates with seabird groundings: mapping city lights near a seabird breeding hotspot [PeerJ]

For Titi sake, turn off the lights - The University of Auckland

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<https://www.kaikoura.co.nz/>

<https://adlt.co.nz/resources/dark-sky-approved-luminaires/>

Professor John Hearnshaws Book: 'New Zealand Dark Sky Handbook 2021', already on file at the Waiheke Local Board supplied by DSWI for Local Board and community use.

Dark Sky Waiheke Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/DarkSkyWaihekeIsland>

Dark Sky New Zealand Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/DarkSkyNZ>

Videos:

Saving the Dark <https://youtu.be/6fHxNn-FEnc>

Dark Sacred Night <https://youtu.be/6fHxNn-FEnc>

International Organizations:

DSI <https://www.darksky.org/about/>

ADSA <https://www.australasiandarkskyalliance.org/>

Feedback to the Waiheke Local Board Draft Plan 2026

Provided by

Dark Sky Waiheke Island

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[REDACTED]

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To the Waiheke Local Board:

This submission is made on behalf of Dark Sky Waiheke Island (DSWI) – a group of volunteers (Nalayini Brito, Gareth Davies, Kim Wesney, Mary Matthews) who advocate for the protection, preservation and improvement of Waiheke's natural dark night sky through the limitation of light pollution caused by ALAN (Artificial Light At Night), community and business education about the responsible lighting.

Outlined in the recent updated Report: [Artificial Light at Night: State of the Science 2026](#) ALAN (Artificial Light at Night) is a type of harmful pollution that is increasingly impacting ecological, biological and economic systems both locally and worldwide.

Local and City councils have a responsibility to facilitate the mitigation of this pollutant by installing available modern technology and solutions that serve the requirements of those communities and economies they serve to reduce the long-term destructive effects of this fast-growing problem.

By enshrining this commitment within Council plans this now urgent issue can be addressed and activated resulting in positive outcomes in many areas.

B. Background Summary:

- The protection and preservation of our natural dark skies via the limitation of light pollution is considered hugely beneficial to residents of Waiheke Island who, by simply looking up and seeing the wonder of the Island's pristine night sky, are able to directly connect with the natural environment above Aotearoa. Such dark sky preservation is also beneficial to the native flora and fauna of the Island and Hauraki Gulf, many of whom are adversely affected by the impact of ALAN.
- From 2018 the Waiheke Local Board approved a *Notice of Motion* to protect Waiheke's night skies following a presentation by DSWI and this commitment and support has continued through subsequent Waiheke Local Board plans.
- This commitment is highlighted in the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026 in the sections:
 - 1) Te Taiao Māori: Natural Environment. (Pg 17) '*Protect and preserve Waiheke's dark night sky and the biodiversity impacted by artificial light levels and work towards achieving international dark sky accreditation.*'
 - 2) Te Taiao kua hangaia: Built Environment (pg 21) '*Promote changes to the Hauraki Gulf Island District Plan to facilitate required conditions for Dark Sky status.*'

'Upgrade community halls and facilities in line with the Waiheke Local Climate Action Plan and lighting with Dark Sky criteria.'

- Strong community support for protecting and preserving and improving Waiheke's natural dark skies continues with DSWI ongoing advocacy and collaboration with conservation groups, events and initiatives, for example, Forest and Bird, Waiheke Marine Project, Te Korowai o Waiheke, Seabird Trust, Native Bird Rescue Waiheke, Waiheke Walking Festival, Waiheke Island Tourism Inc., Waiheke mana whenua and iwi, Ngati Paoa, Piritahi Marae, Auckland University, Waiheke schools and supportive Waiheke businesses.
- Waiheke has a unique opportunity to lead the way being located near a metropolitan area, (where now internationally, focus is on mitigating the destructive cost of ALAN is being implemented) and the Hauraki Gulf highlighting the environmental, economic and societal benefits of mitigating this reversible pollutant.
- Robust updates to the mechanisms of the Auckland Council lighting plan are urgently required. Recent mis – use of the current guidance which allows for ongoing irresponsible and damaging ALAN installations and new builds not in alignment with the Local Plan and unique environmental location in the Hauraki Gulf. This is now urgent as Waiheke continues to be developed.
- The goal to also achieve Dark Sky International Certification for Waiheke continues. DSI certified places continue to increase around Aotearoa New Zealand. There are now 10 certified NZ Dark Sky places and over 16 initiatives aspiring to DSI certification of which Waiheke is one of the earliest.
- A comprehensive historical timeline of work undertaken so far is available at the Local Board and in previous Plan feedback materials and the prior plans. (briefly summarized below) Full details on the background of this initiative are available on request. Waiheke Local Board is familiar with the timeline which is on file.
- Currently feedback from senior planners at Auckland Council regarding the current Lighting Management plan require the Local Board to progress the Local Board Goals and certification initiative.
- In July 2018 funding was approved for the development of a Lighting Management Plan which was subsequently completed in 2021 for eastern Waiheke.
- Progress was presented to the Waiheke Local Board at 2021 and 2023 and subsequent activity (Ongoing public outreach, community education and engagement, Sky quality measurements completed, Lighting Management Plan completed, Compliance Schedule completed, Observation Points for public access identified, Council departmental approvals requested for eastern end only: (Community Facilities, Licensing & Regulatory Compliance, Parks Sports and Recreation, Planning), Auckland Transport has approved the Lighting Management Plan and changed the eastern end streetlights from 4000k to 3000k to comply.
- The request was submitted to the Auckland Council Planning Committee in August 2021 - 2023 to endorse the Waiheke Local Board and Dark Sky Waiheke's application to the International Dark Sky Association for International Dark Sky Park accreditation in eastern Waiheke by providing a letter of support which was responded as above.
- Due to limited public and private outdoor lighting, eastern Waiheke has a high-quality dark sky which falls within the Dark Sky International Association's guidelines for an International Dark Sky Place. Areas such as the many islands at the east end of Waiheke as well as the Regional Park at Whakanewha are also very dark and should be considered for Dark Sky protection.
- An 'Information Package' on Dark Skies for Waiheke East was prepared by DSWI and submitted to Waiheke Local Board in May 2025 as the discussion document to investigate how Waiheke East could become a certified Dark Sky Place. Following a workshop attended by members of the Local Board, DSWI and members of the Waiheke East community it was decided that the Local Board should approach Auckland Council to get the lighting regulations

changed for the whole of Waiheke so that the regulations complied with the guideline requirements of DarkSky International.

C. Our Feedback:

Below is DSWI's considered feedback and is ordered in line with the Feedback Form

1. How well do you think our plan reflects the needs and aspirations for our community for the next three years?

Very Well / Quite well / not very well / not well at all / I don't know:

DSWI's Comments suggested inclusions and considerations

The Chair's introduction clearly emphasises some of the main challenges facing the island ie: climate change challenges, housing community resilience transport safety which are so vital and the need to work within financial constraints. Therefore it was good to see the mention of WLB acknowledging the importance of working with experienced community groups to achieve local goals.

It is heartening to see the protection of our natural dark night skies a priority again clearly stated in the body of the Draft Plan.

- **1) Te Taiao Māori: Natural Environment.** (Pg 17) *'..Protect and preserve Waiheke's dark night sky and the biodiversity impacted by artificial light levels and work towards achieving international dark sky accreditation.'*
- 2) Te Taiao kua hangaia: Built Environment** (pg 21) *'Promote changes to the Hauraki Gulf Island District Plan to facilitate required conditions for Dark Sky status accreditation by DarkSky International.'*
- 'Upgrade community halls and facilities in line with the Waiheke Local Climate Action Plan and lighting with Dark Sky criteria.'*

The **URGENT** commitment to encourage Auckland Council planners to acknowledge ALAN as a challenging pollutant to be mitigated. Updated Council evidence-based design and planning and frameworks ongoing are required for effective responsible lighting management plan going forward. The technology is available now more than it even has been. These robust mechanisms implemented locally to protect Waiheke's natural dark skies should be emphasised.

Activity areas

*The draft local board plan focuses on five key areas of activity: **Community, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economic Development and Transport.***

2. Te hāpori - Community

Objectives:

- *A resilient, connected and compassionate community*
- *A healthy and supportive society, where people feel there is care, respect and all people are valued*
- *Strengthen collaboration and partnership with Māori*
- *Enhance Māori wellbeing and potential*
- *A flourishing arts sector that celebrates our unique island identity*
- *Children and youth feel valued, and that they have diverse opportunities to thrive.*

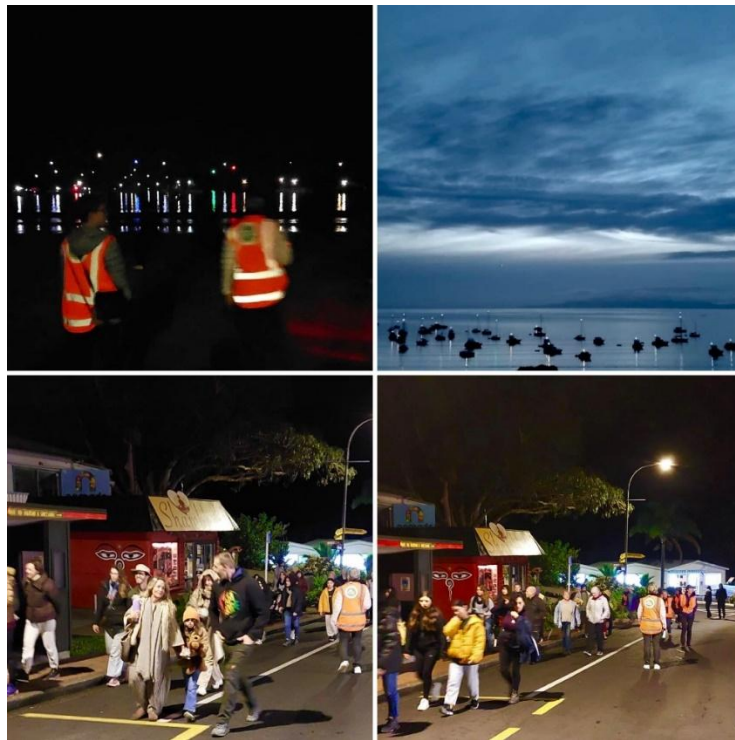
How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our Community in this section?

Very Well / Quite well / not very well / not well at all / I don't know:

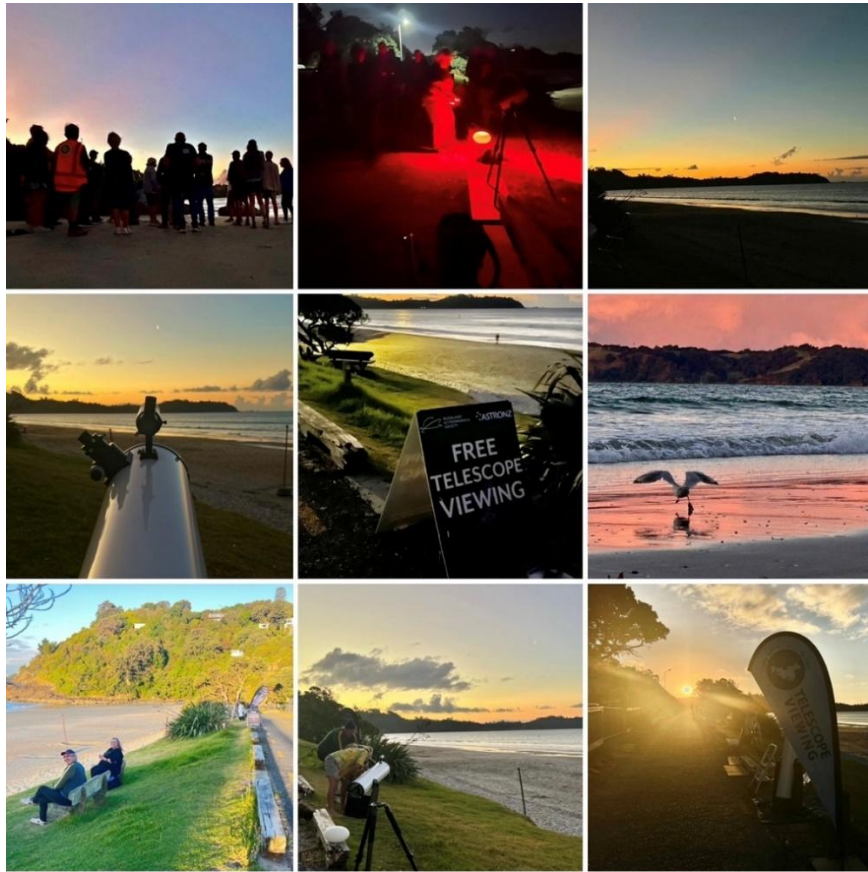
Tell us why and is there anything else you think we should include or consider?

DSWI's Comments, suggested inclusions and considerations:

- Waiheke faces a broad range of serious community challenges. These feature clearly as commitments in the 2026 Draft Plan, and WLB is to be commended for that.
- From the perspective of Dark Sky Waiheke Island (DSWI), the WLB, along with the community have continued to participate in ongoing events which connect, raise awareness, provide learning opportunities and enjoyment of Waiheke's beautiful dark skies. For example, DSWI with the Waiheke Walking Festival, and the Waiheke collective (WilderFest and Eco Film Festival), participate in events, environmental efforts and ongoing celebration of Matariki.
- These events continue to foster a strong sense of 'community' and awareness around ALAN as well as experiencing the natural dark night. This leads to an improved understanding of the significance of the cycles of day and night, appreciation of mātauranga Māori, interconnected local eco systems, and the sense of awe in experiencing and protection of the natural night sky that Waiheke enjoys. In 2026 funding towards a series of Matariki associated workshops and events at Pirihahi marae with Rangatahi further reinforced these following public events in 2024 and 2025, and we hope that these programmes continue.



Matariki celebrations 2025 with Ngāti Pāoa, DSWI and the Waiheke Walking Festival.



2026 Waiheke Walking Festival – Onetangi Beach

3. Te taiao māori - Natural Environment

Objectives:

- *Restore, enhance, and protect our natural environment in partnership with our community*
- *Respond to the challenge of climate change in a way that secures a sustainable future for our islands*
- *Improve conservation of our marine and coastal environment*
- *Reduce the amount of waste that ends up in our landfills*
- *Sustainably manage our wai.*

How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of 'Our environment' in this section?

Very Well / Quite well / not very well / not well at all / I don't know:

Tell us why and is there anything else you think we should include or consider?

DSWI's Comments, suggested inclusions and considerations:

Waiheke's natural environment includes the cycle of day and night. Complex biodiversity relies on dark hours, as well as the daytime. So, in the **Natural Environment** introduction paragraph, it would be helpful to state the goal to protect, preserve and improve the natural dark night sky.

This would 1) draw awareness to the night environment (alongside the daytime environments) and 2) reiterate the responsibility to protect it.

- The inclusion of the *"Protect and preserve Waiheke's dark night sky and the biodiversity impacted by artificial light levels and work towards achieving international dark sky accreditation."* On pg 17 of the Draft plan signals to the community and Auckland Council the continued commitment to preserve and protect the night environment along with the others mentioned. (land, coastlines, bush, wetland, marine)
- Waiheke Island sits in a unique position in the Hauraki Gulf, internationally recognised for one of most diverse populations of vulnerable seabirds, shorebird and migratory birds. ALAN is an immediate (yet completely reversible) challenge to these significant populations.
<https://www.gbiet.org/en37-seabird-super-highway>
<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/news/2022/10/19/light-pollution.html>
- As stated in the feedback to the 2023 Plan DSWI reiterates: 'Waiheke Island, a jewel in the Hauraki Gulf is surrounded by seabirds, shore birds, migratory birds and land based nocturnal birds. In the forward of the WLB Draft Plan 2023 *"We have continued with the central vision of Waiheke as an island sanctuary in the Gulf which was overwhelmingly supported in the last plan..."*
- If that generates questions, these can be responded to from an evidence-based position as an environmental issue and provides opportunity to give positive solution-based guidance.
- Note that ***"On Waiheke, we have a national park right above our heads which needs to be protected just like a terrestrial or marine national park."***
- To aspire to and gain International Dark Sky place or Dark Sky Community certification has the valuable advantage of being able to draw on current international evidence, experience, and support in this area for Waiheke and the Hauraki Gulf.
- ALAN is now an increasingly damaging form of pollution, often overlooked as a significant source of wasted energy and emission and destructive effects on many systems, including human health see link: [State of the Science Report 2026](#)
- The energy wasted with non-directed light emitted into and polluting the atmosphere, this is directly associated with the impact of the wasted energy required to generate those very light sources.
- Waiheke Island (and Auckland City) has the advantage and opportunity to be leaders in the climate change response to implement these mitigations.
- There is increased pressure on the built and commercial environment on this small island, it is imperative to include ALAN mitigation in the wider climate change context.

Under **Climate Action**:

- Mention how reduction of light pollution can save energy (as explained in the 'DWSI's Comments' section) and thereby reduce our carbon footprint.

Under **Our Environment**:

- Maintain inclusion of 'Protection and Preservation of Waiheke's Dark Night Sky' as a 'Key Initiative' as it was in the 2020/23 plan. **Nothing has changed since to warrant its omission this time.**

[For Titi sake, turn off the lights - The University of Auckland](#)

[Artificial light at night correlates with seabird groundings: mapping city lights near a seabird breeding hotspot \[PeerJ\]](#)

<https://www.tekorowaiowaiheke.org/waiheke-wildlife>

<https://www.nzseabirdtrust.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/646890434935473>

4. Te taiao kua hangaia - Built Environment

Objectives:

- *Planning that enables local placemaking*
- *Sustainable living in healthy homes*
- *Sustain and celebrate Māori identity, knowledge and practice*
- *Improve our community's wellbeing by providing quality arts, recreational and community facilities*
- *Embrace Waiheke's rich Māori identity and cultural history*
- *Improve the open space network on the island.*

How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of 'Our facilities and open spaces' in this section?

Very Well / Quite well / not very well / not well at all / I don't know:

Tell us why and is there anything else you think we should include or consider?

DSWI's Comments, suggested inclusions and considerations:

1) Open Spaces.

- With the ongoing initiative of Dark Sky places certification, there is potential to activate and optimise current public night sky observation points and spaces and enhance the open space network with interpretation information drawing on Māori astronomy, history and culture, biodiversity, information for astrophotography and stargazing, responsible eco-tourism and community events ie: Matariki.
- More public viewing areas have been identified across the Waiheke Island and there is a potential to include other islands that fall under the WLB area. (previous image from

presentation to the Planning committee 2021 document re: observations points are noted on the map, is on file)

- There are other good dark open spaces and alternative outlooks in central and western, southern Waiheke and also in Whakanewha Regional Park. The viewing in a variety of directions are very good for Night Sky viewing. Ecological, information and interpretative content at some of the current open spaces signage would add value to the local and visitor experience and placemaking around the island.
- The inclusion of stargazing and experiencing a dark night sky is an alternative, unique and informative experience for visitors as well as locals.
- There is already support from Waiheke residents and already proactive solutions in place. There is more building going on so to continue this awareness to new residents and developments to preserve and protect these areas.

Waiheke Local Board area



The Waiheke Local Board area includes Waiheke Island along with Rangitoto, Motutapu, Motukorea, Motuihe, Ponui, Rākino and smaller islands, some of which are uninhabited reserves. Waiheke is the largest island. The Waiheke Local Board area (including Rākino and Ponui islands) is home to an estimated 9,790 people. More than 500,000 people visit Waiheke each year. Waiheke Island has around 40km of beaches and the eastern part is mostly farmland, vineyards and a regional park.

2) Facilities:

Pg 19.'..Our assets are ageing, and the cost to maintain our community and recreational facilities to meet the needs of our communities is sometimes beyond available funding, particularly as assets age and renewal and operating costs increase"

Facility maintenance has the opportunity to lead by example with the use of efficient Dark Sky environmentally friendly lighting.

This technology is more available and cost effective than it ever has been and should be utilised.

<https://adlt.co.nz/resources/dark-sky-approved-luminaires/>

As mentioned on pg 21 “..Promote changes to the Hauraki Gulf Island District Plan to facilitate required conditions for Dark Sky status, helipad consents and housing aligned to the Housing Strategy..”

And “..Upgrade community halls and facilities in line with the Waiheke Local Climate Action Plan and lighting with Dark Sky criteria.’

The increase in damaging light pollution is often by increment, with the installation of more and more LED lights, this is becoming more evident and measurable on the island.

Unfortunately, Oneroa has documented petrel groundings, and is getting alarmingly brighter with some ongoing and new irresponsible private lighting breaches.

Without Council led motivation, awareness and will to limit unnecessary ALAN, this will likely increase to the detriment of biodiversity and the character and aesthetic of the built environment on Waiheke. Hence, robust mechanisms with the Auckland Council Lighting management plan could mitigate this and the introduction of dark sky friendly lighting requirements improve the situation across the island.

Waiheke community and supportive businesses that understand the benefits and importance of protecting and preserving the asset that is Waiheke’s beautiful night sky (for example the BNZ in Oneroa has honoured it’s commitment to their environmental pledge by not lighting their external signage at night) are encouraging this to be progressed urgently before it is too late.

5. Te whanaketanga ā-ōhanga - Economic Development

Objectives:

- *Economic development on Waiheke is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable*
- *Our visitor industry is managed sustainably*
- *Waiheke is recognised as an arts destination*
- *Strengthen our economy in keeping with the island’s character and our need to increase our resiliency.*

How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of 'Our places' in this section?

Very Well / Quite well / not very well / not well at all / I don’t know:

Tell us why and is there anything else you think we should include or consider?

DSWI's Comments, suggested inclusions and considerations:

Protecting and preserving Waiheke's Natural dark night skies through implementation in the Local Board Plan over the next 3 years and ongoing allows for these outcomes, contributing to the local sustainable economy:

- Provides a memorable visitor experience available after daylight hours and during the shoulder seasons (the night skies are at their best during winter months)
- Winter brings Matariki and with it, opportunities to embrace the wonders and stories of Māori astronomy
- Paves the way for low-impact ecotourism economic development opportunities from sharing world-class night skies.
- Stargazing business and accommodation on the island now offer overnight Winter and shoulder season experiences to island visitors, which can be included in the range of diverse activities. This adds to economic development on Waiheke that is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.
- This type of business depends on the maintenance of Waiheke's dark skies to offer quality visitor experiences, education and employment opportunities on island.
- We note the statement – “..High-quality landscapes and access to outdoor activities (walking, cycling, swimming, boating) strengthen community well-being and attract visitors ..” Stargazing can be included in this list.
- The very special character of Waiheke has, for many years, been its quiet dark night sky, a boat ride away from busy bright Auckland. A place to enjoy not only the vineyards, restaurants, art, walkways, beaches and baches and more, but to also experience the awe and connection that experiencing the southern stars under a natural dark sky provides.
- Offers learning and opportunities, intellectual stimulation and citizen science opportunities for school goers, youth, adults and community groups
- Provides the opportunity to offer unique and diverse community activities
- Maintains Waiheke's attractive nightscapes and therefore its integrity and character in sharp contrast to the urban Auckland location
- Include under a statement regarding support from Auckland Council for Waiheke Island to attain Dark Sky certification in the near future.

Other areas with active economies recently embracing the Dark Sky advantage.

<https://www.wairarapa.space/look-after-our-night-sky/for-businesses/>

<https://www.kaikoura.co.nz/>

Light pollution mitigation is not hard to do, the benefits far outweigh the damage of inaction.

We cannot waste this opportunity. It was included in previous Local Board Plans now it needs to be strengthened and activated further in the 2026 plan.

Waiheke Island - Auckland's Dark Sky Island suburb, leading the way.

6. Tūnuku - Transport

Objectives:

- *Safe, fit-for-purpose and environmentally friendly transport infrastructure*
- *Our community feels empowered to use active modes of transport where safely possible*
- *Our ferry terminals are inviting, fit-for-purpose gateways to our island*
- *A safe roading network that meets the needs of all road users and supports the special character of Waiheke.*

How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of 'Our facilities and open spaces' in this section?

Very Well / Quite well / not very well / not well at all / I don't know:

Tell us why and is there anything else you think we should include or consider?

DSWI's Comments, suggested inclusions and considerations:

- Considerations as in the Built environment section with upgrades to Matiatia Wharf utilising modern dark sky friendly lighting systems that not only enhance and showcases the gateway to the island but also respond to the unique ecology of Matiatia Bay.
- Ensuring ongoing upgrades to streetlighting systems to international standards dark sky and Dark Sky lumens and hardware.
- Ensuring additional facility lighting ie: Bus stops, public conveniences are planned for practically with ALAN mitigating design solutions. There are now systems available to achieve safe, cost effective and practical lighting where and when it is required.
- **Cost effective, unnecessary ALAN is an expensive waste of energy and ratepayers money.**

FIVE SIMPLE STEPS TO REDUCE LIGHT POLLUTION

- Each of us can easily implement practical solutions to reduce light pollution by following the International Dark Sky Association 5 Principles for Community Outdoor Lighting:
- Useful – Install lighting only when and where it's needed.
- Low Light Levels – Light should be no brighter than necessary.
- Targeted – Shield your lights so they shine down on the ground, which reduces harmful glare and decreases skyglow.
- Controlled – Use controls such as timers, dimmers, and motion sensors on outdoor lights.
- The Appropriate Colour – Use warm colour lights where possible. Limit the use of harmful blue wavelength lighting.

This feedback has been from a DSWI advocacy perspective. We will continue working with the Local Board and the Waiheke Community to achieve the aim of the protection and preservation of Waiheke Island's dark night skies through the limitation of light pollution and the achievement of Dark Sky certification for the Waiheke's unique biodiversity, community and generations to come.

Supporting links:

State of the Science Report on Light Pollution 2026 <https://darksky.org/app/uploads/2026/06/ALAN-State-of-the-Science-2026-EN.pdf>

[Artificial light at night correlates with seabird groundings: mapping city lights near a seabird breeding hotspot \[PeerJ\]](#)

[For Titi sake, turn off the lights - The University of Auckland](#)

<https://www.tekorowaiowaiheke.org/waiheke-wildlife>

<https://www.nzseabirdtrust.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/646890434935473>

<https://www.wairarapa.space/look-after-our-night-sky/for-businesses/>

<https://www.kaikoura.co.nz/>

<https://adlt.co.nz/resources/dark-sky-approved-luminaires/>

Professor John Hearnshaws Book: *'New Zealand Dark Sky Handbook 2021'*, already on file at the Waiheke Local Board supplied by DSWI for Local Board and community use.

Dark Sky Waiheke Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/DarkSkyWaihekeIsland>

Dark Sky New Zealand Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/DarkSkyNZ>

Maori Astronomy:

Links to: Prof Rangi Mataamua (Maori astronomy Matariki etc. Living by the Stars) and Dr. Pauline Harris

<https://livingbythestars.co.nz/>

<https://nzase.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-07-Pauline-Harris-profile-NZASE.pdf>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/new-zealands-quest-to-become-a-dark-sky-nation>

Videos:

Saving the Dark <https://youtu.be/6fHxNn-FEnc>

Dark Sacred Night <https://youtu.be/6fHxNn-FEnc>

International Organizations:

DSI <https://www.darksky.org/about/>

ADSA <https://www.australasiandarkskyalliance.org/>



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#132

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: Electrify Waiheke

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

Broadly speaking the plan covers the main areas of action we would like to see outcomes for - more detail outlined below.

- 2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Agree with the objectives, particularly partnership with Māori and youth opportunities. Stronger language could be used in regard to implementation of the Readiness and Response Plan, especially in regard to committing community facilities with resilient infrastructure (such as solar and batteries) to facilitate emergency response activities.

Facilitation of electrification upskilling could also be a stated goal or opportunity for rangatahi and Māori locally in what is becoming a growth industry.

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Broadly right, but "respond to the challenge of climate change" needs teeth. We would like the plan to commit to specific, measurable local actions, for example, backing distributed energy solutions (microgrids are a potential solution, but there are various options out there such as community batteries or street level battery infrastructure which could also enable positive equitable, emissions, and financial outcomes; as well as other distributed energy frameworks and models), and EV uptake through Electrify Waiheke activities and flagship climate plan initiatives.

Ferry Decarbonisation is also a big one here regarding the climate plan, but is covered under the Transport section.

In the Advocacy section we would like the WLB to recognise its (existing) role in advocating to the various Ferry companies regarding de-carbonisation, as well as a supporting role with advocating to local electricity infrastructure providers where needed (e.g. Vector).

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Especially support any initiatives which increase energy efficiency, promote healthy homes, and lower energy bills for low income residents, and renters (e.g. balcony solar).

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Broadly agree, although would like to see stronger language reflecting the business opportunities that decarbonisation and electrification can have on Waiheke and commitments to facilitating and supporting those opportunities. Would also like to see stronger language around lowering business emissions (especially through transport within those businesses - electrification is a big opportunity here).

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Agree with the objectives. The strongest lever here is supporting the shift to EVs and active transport that Electrify Waiheke is and the WLB are already building toward charging infrastructure, safe cycling/walking routes, and ferry terminal upgrades that make multi-modal trips i.e. bike/e-bike to ferry, genuinely workable. We'd like "environmentally friendly transport infrastructure" to name EV charging capacity as a specific commitment, not just an implied outcome. While it is a large and longer term issue, please also set a specific goal to decarbonise Ferries as this accounts for 33% of all Waiheke transport derived carbon emissions.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? *Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.*

The plan's climate ambitions will only be credible if matched by procurement and partnership decisions, e.g. Council support for community energy initiatives etc

Overall we would like to see more specific language around electrification - especially connecting it to reducing carbon emissions to meet the Waiheke Local Climate Plan's emissions targets, supporting resilience in the face of climate change outcomes, and producing more equitable outcomes for our local community.

SUBMISSION

on the Waiheke Local Board Plan

Electrify Waiheke is a community group with a **Vision** of “Waiheke, powered by clean energy.” We seek to enact that vision through our **Mission** “Electrify Waiheke, united in climate action and guided by kaitiakitanga, acts to urgently accelerate Waiheke’s transition to clean renewable energy, sustainable transport, energy efficiency; and resilient, equitable, low-emissions living.”

With consideration to both the vision and mission of our organisation, we submit our feedback on the Local Board Plan below.

1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?

Quite Well

Broadly speaking the plan covers the main areas of action we would like to see outcomes for - more detail outlined below.

2. Community – objectives

Quite Well

Agree with the objectives, particularly partnership with Māori and youth opportunities. Stronger language could be used in regard to implementation of the Readiness and Response Plan, especially in regard to committing community facilities with resilient infrastructure (such as solar and batteries) to facilitate emergency response activities.

Facilitation of electrification upskilling could also be a stated goal or opportunity for rangatahi and Māori locally in what is becoming a growth industry.

3. Natural Environment – Objectives

Quite Well

Broadly right, but “respond to the challenge of climate change” needs teeth. We would like the plan to commit to specific, measurable local actions, for example, backing distributed energy solutions (microgrids are a potential solution, but there are various options out there such as community batteries or street level battery infrastructure which could also enable positive equitable, emissions, and financial outcomes; as well as other distributed energy frameworks and models), and EV uptake through Electrify Waiheke activities and flagship climate plan initiatives.

Ferry Decarbonisation is also a big one here regarding the climate plan, but is covered under the Transport section.

In the Advocacy section we would like the WLB to recognise its (existing) role in advocating to the various Ferry companies regarding de-carbonisation, as well as a supporting role with advocating to local electricity infrastructure providers where needed (e.g. Vector).

4. Built Environment – Objectives

Quite Well

Especially support any initiatives which increase energy efficiency, promote healthy homes, and lower energy bills for low income residents, and renters (e.g. balcony solar).

5. Economic Development – objectives

Quite Well

Broadly agree, although would like to see stronger language reflecting the business opportunities that decarbonisation and electrification can have on Waiheke and commitments to facilitating and supporting those opportunities. Would also like to see stronger language around lowering business emissions (especially through transport within those businesses - electrification is a big opportunity here).

6. Transport

Quite Well

Agree with the objectives. The strongest lever here is supporting the shift to EVs and active transport that Electrify Waiheke is and the WLB are already building toward charging infrastructure, safe cycling/walking routes, and ferry terminal upgrades that make multi-modal trips i.e. bike/e-bike to ferry, genuinely workable. We'd like "environmentally friendly transport infrastructure" to name EV charging capacity as a specific commitment, not just an implied outcome. While it is a large and longer term issue, please also set a specific goal to decarbonise Ferries as this accounts for 33% of all Waiheke transport derived carbon emissions.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

The plan's climate ambitions will only be credible if matched by procurement and partnership decisions, e.g. Council support for community energy initiatives etc

Overall we would like to see more specific language around electrification - especially connecting it to reducing carbon emissions to meet the Waiheke Local Climate Plan's emissions targets, supporting resilience in the face of climate change outcomes, and producing more equitable outcomes for our local community.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#93

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: Gardens4Health

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? *Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.***

There is no mention of food security or the existing food system on Waiheke.



Submission on 3 year local board plan for Waiheke.

Tēna koe,

I am writing on behalf of Gardens4Health: a network that is connected to over 130 community food gardens across the Auckland isthmus. Our team works every day with communities dedicated to improving access to fresh, healthy kai in their neighborhoods, most of whom do so without receiving any payment. We have seen first hand the impact of negligent kai infrastructure in our communities and how this impacts everyone. We want our leaders to have a robust plan for food resilience that is grounded in the existing work of communities, and our Council to be active in addressing the rapid increase of food inequity that is impacting everyone. This work cannot be done by volunteers alone.

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

Across Waiheke, community organisations, schools, mana whenua, growers, volunteers and local businesses are already making an important contribution to improving access to healthy food. However, increasing pressures on household budgets, climate uncertainty, population growth and rising demand for food support demonstrate the need for stronger local coordination and continued investment.

I believe the Waiheke Local Board has an important opportunity to strengthen its existing commitments by recognising food as a strategic priority and working alongside communities to build a healthier, more resilient and more equitable local food system.

The actions below are practical, evidence-informed steps that can be implemented over the next one to three years to improve access to healthy food, strengthen community resilience, and support the long-term wellbeing of everyone who lives, works and learns in Waiheke.

How these actions support your existing commitments

These recommendations align closely with the outcomes and aspirations of both the Local Board Plan and the Auckland Plan 2050. Together, they would contribute to healthier communities, stronger neighbourhoods, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, local economic participation and greater social connectedness.

By strengthening the local food system, the Local Board can help create lasting benefits that extend well beyond food itself, improving quality of life while supporting communities to become more resilient, self-reliant and better prepared for future challenges.

Recommended Actions

1. Understand the local food system

- Commit to a local food system wānanga involving Local Board members, mana whenua, community organisations and other key stakeholders.
- Map existing food-related services, programmes, community assets, growing spaces, food providers and local champions across the Local Board area. Identify existing strengths, gaps and opportunities, and explore how current resources and investment could be better aligned to maximise impact, collaboration and equity.
- Develop a shared understanding of the local food system will help inform future investment and strengthen collaboration across the community.

2. Strengthen community partnerships

- Actively engage with the organisations, volunteers and community leaders already working to improve local food access and wellbeing.
- Visit community gardens, food hubs, māra kai, food rescue organisations, cooking and nutrition programmes, schools and local initiatives. Listen to the experiences of those working on the ground and build ongoing relationships that support genuine collaboration and shared decision-making.
- Promote existing initiatives through Local Board communication channels to increase community awareness, participation and support.

3. Invest in local food initiatives

- Increase support for proven community-led food initiatives through funding, programming and longer-term partnerships. This could include supporting community gardens and māra kai, strengthening local food hubs, providing dedicated funding for key coordination roles, improving access to small grants, streamlining Council processes, and providing greater certainty through longer-term lease arrangements where appropriate.
- Build the capability and sustainability of successful community initiatives, which represents a practical investment in the long-term resilience of the Local Board area.

4. Create healthier food environments

- Support initiatives that enable access to nourishing food and drink for everyone. This may include expanding access to drinking water, supporting culturally appropriate food initiatives, encouraging healthier food options at community events and Council facilities, celebrating businesses that provide healthy choices, and supporting community organisations to offer nutritious food through their programmes.
- Although Local Boards have limited influence over commercial food marketing, they can play an important leadership role by creating environments that encourage healthier choices and promote community wellbeing.

5. Celebrate and grow local food leadership

- Champion the stories, people and initiatives that are already strengthening the local food system.
- Share local successes through community events, digital communications and neighbourhood networks. Increase public awareness of local food initiatives and encourage greater participation across the community.
- Work alongside community organisations, mana whenua, schools, growers, businesses and residents to develop a shared vision for a resilient local food system that is better prepared for future economic, environmental and social challenges.

I believe the Waiheke Local Board has an opportunity to become a leader in creating a healthier, more resilient and more connected community through practical investment in its local food system.

Supporting better access to good, nutritious and affordable food is not simply a response to current challenges. It is an investment in healthier people, stronger communities, greater resilience, local economic development and a more sustainable future.

By working alongside local communities and building on the strengths that already exist, the Local Board can help create lasting benefits for current and future generations while delivering on its vision for a thriving Waiheke.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of the Waiheke community.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#77

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Healthy Auckland Together

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Tell us why

Creating a healthy city

Aucklanders deserve to live in communities that support all ages and all abilities to have freedom

and build connections within their neighbourhoods. How our cities and neighbourhoods are

designed, built and managed has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the people who

live, work and learn in these areas.

However, increasing cost pressures on households, petrol and diesel vehicles dominating our streets,

inequitable access to quality green space, and urban intensification without community-friendly

design have led to a city with high demand for food support, decreased rates of active travel

amongst children and diminishing outdoor play. These changes demonstrate the need for stronger

local coordination and continued investment to improve the wellbeing of our communities.

Waiheke has a key role in the community and street spaces that enable good lives for all people.

Enabling access to nourishing food, providing more opportunities to play and creating safe and

healthy street environments will contribute to outcomes identified in the Auckland Plan 2050.

2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Recommendations

Through cleaner air, safer streets, more opportunities for play and access to nourishing local food,

Waiheke can be a place where communities live longer, healthier lives. To support these outcomes

for your communities, Healthy Auckland Together suggests the following recommendations.

Community

The Waiheke plan is to be commended for including actions on strengthening the opportunities for

communities to celebrate inclusion, cultural heritage, events, sports and recreation in parks and

town centres.

We strongly support the objective of "A resilient, connected and compassionate community", particularly the priority to "Support the vision of the Waiheke Food Charter, to work toward a sustainable local food system."

We also strongly support the objective of "Children and youth feel valued, and that they have diverse opportunities to thrive" and commend the local board for giving effect to the Waiheke Play

Plan work programme.

The draft Local Board plan could be strengthened to enable opportunities to improve accessibility

and increase access to nourishing food.

To improve outcomes for your communities, we recommend that:

The priority “Support the vision of the Waiheke Food Charter, to work toward a sustainable local food system” includes implementation of the Waiheke Food Charter into workplans.

More information about developing a healthy local food strategy can be found in Appendix

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Natural Environment

The Waiheke plan does well for including extensive actions to care for, protect and restore the natural environment in Waiheke. The natural environment is interconnected with the health and

wellbeing of communities. A strong natural environment supports mental wellbeing and mitigates

the impact of air pollution and high temperatures on our most vulnerable.

We support your objective “restore, enhance and protect our natural environment in partnership

with our community” and its approach to recognising the ngāhere on the island.

To improve outcomes for your communities, we recommend that:

Wording is strengthened to incorporate the relevance of air quality and tree canopy along roadways.

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Built Environment

Waiheke's built environment are key places for people to learn, work and play, and good access to

supportive and welcoming public spaces contributes to the health and wellbeing of communities.

Safe and well-designed town centres facilitate play and improve access for pedestrians.

We support the priority "Make sure we prioritise accessibility and inclusivity when we renew our

playgrounds and facilities in line with the 'Waiheke Be Accessible' plan."

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Transport

The overall implementation of Waiheke's new responsibilities in transport is positive approach to

enabling good health through increased safety, active travel.

Improving equity in transport is crucial for a healthier community and requires addressing wider

systematic issues including unsafe driving behaviour, congestion, personal safety issues and prioritising environments that support children's independent mobility. Understanding the social

stigma experienced by youth while cycling and using public transport is also relevant to improving

uptake of healthy behaviours. The involvement of Māori, Pacific and disabled communities when

developing actions is integral to good equity outcomes.

We support all of your objectives in this focus area, as they address the safety, accessibility and

promotion of active and public transport.

To improve outcomes for your communities, we recommend that:

Wording is strengthened to include safe speeds in school catchments, town centres and around marae.

An objective is added to embed Māori identity, partnership and kaitiakitanga.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

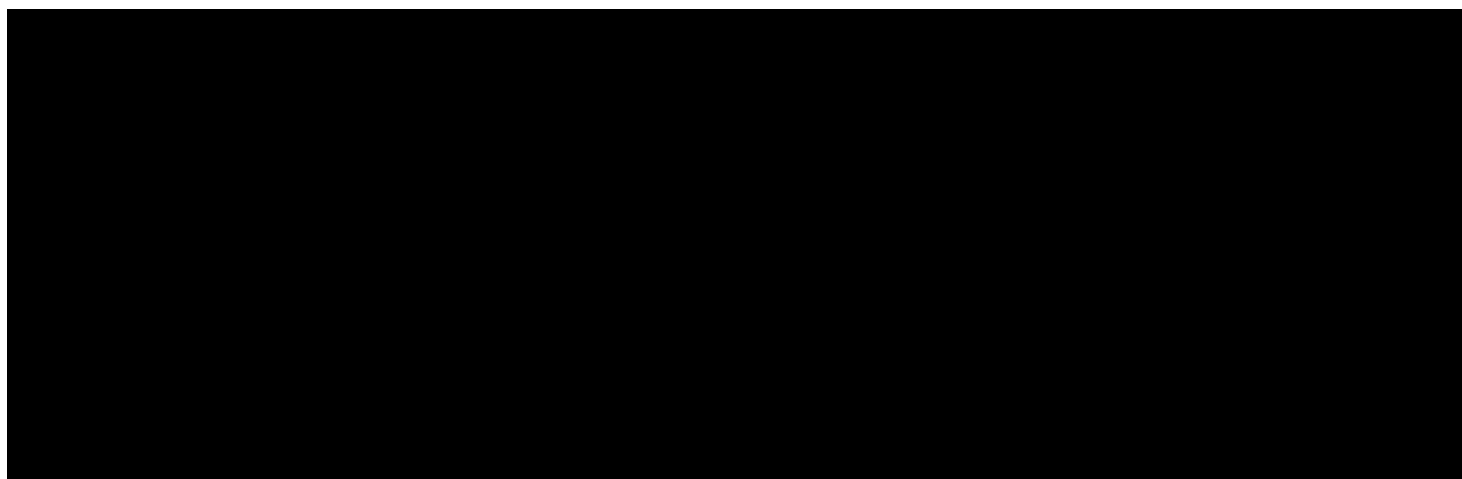
Please refer to the attached document in full.



Healthy Auckland Together submission on the Waiheke Draft Local Board Plan 2026

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

Ngā mihi,



About Healthy Auckland Together



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



Creating a healthy city

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

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

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

Mana Whenua

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

Local Food Systems

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

Outdoor Play

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

Healthy Transport

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



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

Recommendations

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

Community

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

We **strongly support** the objective of "A resilient, connected and compassionate community", particularly the priority to "Support the vision of the Waiheke Food Charter, to work toward a sustainable local food system."

We also **strongly support** the objective of "Children and youth feel valued, and that they have diverse opportunities to thrive" and commend the local board for giving effect to the Waiheke Play Plan work programme.

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

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

- The priority "Support the vision of the Waiheke Food Charter, to work toward a sustainable local food system" includes implementation of the Waiheke Food Charter into workplans. More information about developing a healthy local food strategy can be found in Appendix 2.

Natural Environment

The Waiheke plan does well for including extensive actions to care for, protect and restore the natural environment in Waiheke. The natural environment is interconnected with the health and wellbeing of communities. A strong natural environment supports mental wellbeing and mitigates the impact of air pollution and high temperatures on our most vulnerable.

We **support** your objective "restore, enhance and protect our natural environment in partnership with our community" and its approach to recognising the ngāhere on the island.

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



- Wording is strengthened to incorporate the relevance of air quality and tree canopy along roadways.

Built Environment

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

We **support** the priority "Make sure we prioritise accessibility and inclusivity when we renew our playgrounds and facilities in line with the 'Waiheke Be Accessible' plan."

Transport

The overall implementation of Waiheke's new responsibilities in transport is positive approach to enabling good health through increased safety, active travel.

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

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

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

- Wording is strengthened to include safe speeds in school catchments, town centres and around marae.
- An objective is added to embed Māori identity, partnership and kaitiakitanga.

Conclusion

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



Appendix 1 Tabled Recommendations

Community			
Objective	Priority	Stance	Recommendation
1	5	Strengthen	Change to “Implement the vision of the Waiheke Food Charter by embedding into local board workplans, to work toward a sustainable local food system” More information about developing a healthy local food strategy can be found in Appendix 2.
Natural Environment			
Objective	Priority	Stance	Recommendation
1	2	Strengthen	Change wording to “Recognise our island Ngāhere as a form of climate resilience and public health action, and support work to protect and grow our native canopy cover, including along our roadways.”
Transport			
Objective	Priority	Stance	Recommendation
4	4	Strengthen	Change wording to “Implement speed calming measures, including safe speeds, in areas where speeding risk is found to be high and around schools, town centres and marae.”
-	-	Addition	Add an objective “engage with Mana Whenua and Māori to embed Māori identity, partnership and kaitiakitanga in Waiheke’s transport network.



Appendix 2 Developing a healthy local food strategy

1. Understand the local food system

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

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

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

2. Strengthen community partnerships

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

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

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

3. Invest in local food initiatives

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

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

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

4. Create healthier food environments

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

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



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

5. Celebrate and grow local food leadership

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

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

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



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#78

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: National Public Health Service – Northern Region

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

See attached file

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See attached file

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See attached file

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See attached file

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? *Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.*

See attached file

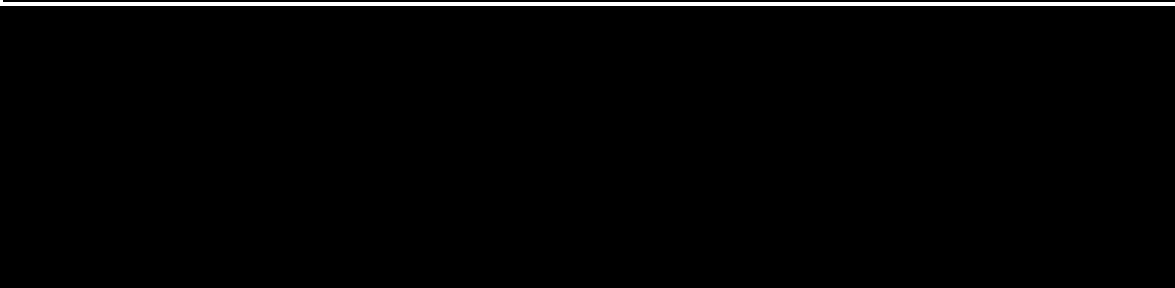
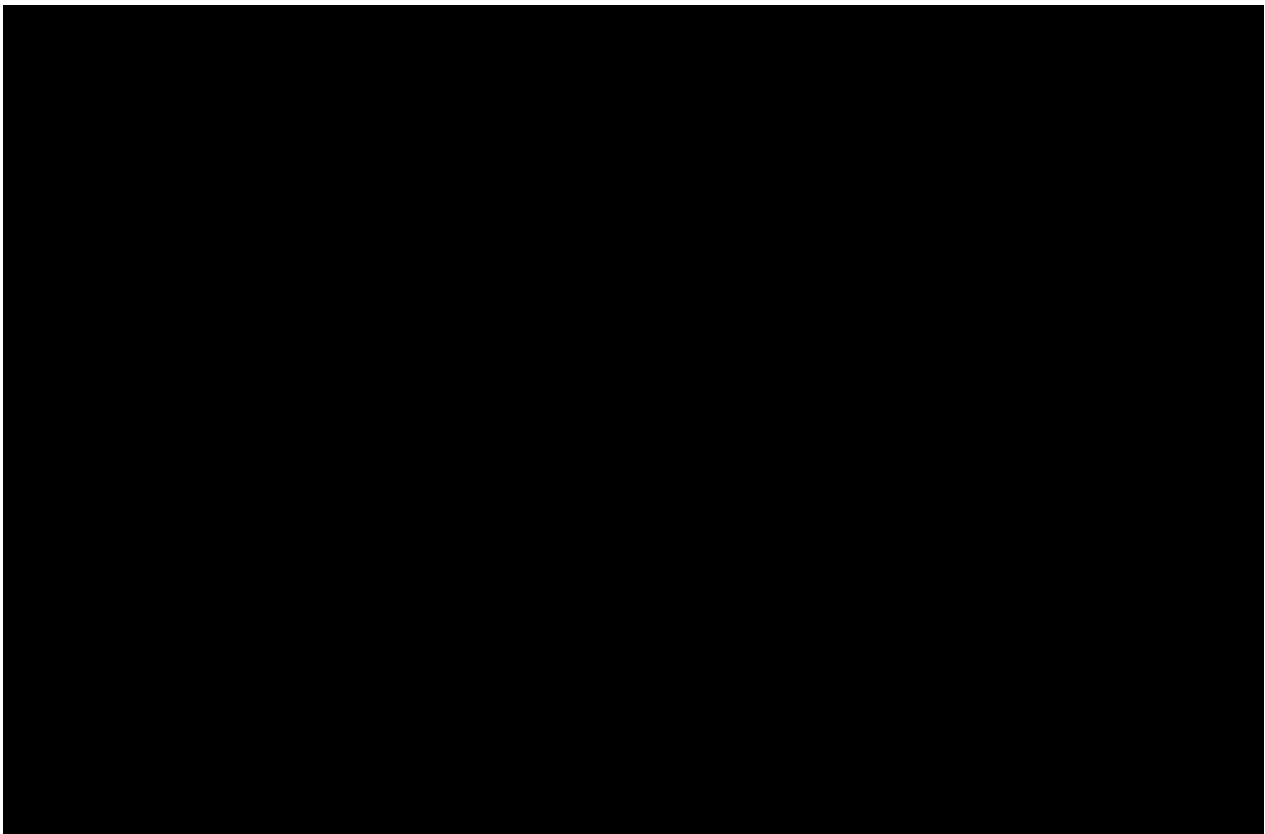
23 July 2026

Auckland Council

akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Local Board Plans 2026

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



1. Introduction and overview

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. General comments

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

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

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

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

² 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics

³ 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics

⁴ 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics

⁵ NZ Healthy Survey Data. <https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/regional-data-release-new-zealand-health-survey>

⁶ See 6

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

Suggested objectives and initiatives include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Local Board Plans: Individual Technical

Advice

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

3.1 Henderson-Massey

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

- Focus Area One: Community

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

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

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

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

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

3.2 Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

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

NPHS-NR supports in part:

- Focus Area One: Community

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

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

⁹ See 7.

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

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

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

- Focus Area Five: Transport

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

3.3 Manurewa

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

- Focus Area One: Community

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

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

¹¹ See 7.

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

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

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

- Focus Area Five: Transport

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

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

3.4 Ōtara–Papatoetoe

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

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

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

- Focus Area Five: Transport

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

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

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

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

3.5 Papakura

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

- Focus Area One: Community

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

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

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

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

¹² See 7.

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

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

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

3.6 Waitematā

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

- Focus Area One: Community

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

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

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

¹³ See 7.

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

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

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

- Focus Area Five: Transport

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

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

3.7 Whau

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

- Focus Area One: Community

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

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

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

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

- Focus Area Five: Transport

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

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

4. Conclusion

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

Appendix 1: Overview of Suggested Amendments to Local Board Plans

Table 1: Henderson–Massey

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

Table 2: Māngere–Ōtāhuhu

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

Table 3: Manurewa

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

Table 4: Ōtara-Papatoetoe

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

		Suggested wording: "Provide safe and accessible transport options for people who need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices."
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Table 5: Papakura

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Three	Support in part	Objectives one and three should include lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures to improve local street safety, particularly around schools and community facilities.

Table 6: Whau

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Five	Support in part	Objective two should include lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures to improve local street safety, particularly around schools and community facilities.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#120

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: Night Shift Stargazing Waiheke

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?

Quite well

Tell us why

This submission is made on behalf of Night Shift Stargazing Waiheke – a small boutique company specialising in personalised stargazing experiences on Waiheke Island, twilight nature walks, education, astrophotography, research and dark sky advocacy. Comments will focus primarily on the areas of Natural environment, Built Environment and Economic Development around the protection and preservation of Waiheke's natural dark skies via the limitation of light pollution. This is considered hugely beneficial to residents of Waiheke Island who, by simply looking up and seeing the wonder of the Island's pristine night sky, are able to directly connect with the natural environment above Aotearoa. Dark sky preservation is also beneficial to the native flora and fauna of the Island and Hauraki Gulf, many of which are adversely affected by the impact of ALAN. Protecting and preserving Waiheke's Natural dark night skies through implementation in the Local Board Plan over the next 3 years and ongoing allows for these impacts contributing to the local sustainable economy: this allows for low-impact ecotourism economic development opportunities, sharing world-class night skies, near Auckland, offering quality visitor experiences and opportunities for local employment and longer stay opportunities in the Winter and shoulder season.

2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Waiheke faces a broad range of significant community challenges, which the WLB is committed to address.

WLB to continue to support Dark Sky community activities such as Public viewings, workshops and events collaborating with other organizations continue to nurture a sense of 'community'. These events raise awareness around ALAN as well as a shared experience of the natural dark night. This leads to improved understanding of the significance of the cycles of day and night, appreciation of mātauranga Māori, interconnected local eco systems, a sense of awe in experiencing and sense of purpose in helping to protect of the natural night sky that Waiheke enjoys.

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Waiheke's natural environment includes the cycle of day and night. Complex biodiversity relies on dark hours, as well and the daytime. So, in the Natural Environment introduction paragraph, it would be helpful to state the goal to protect, preserve and improve the natural dark night sky.

This draws public and Auckland Council awareness to the night environment (alongside the daytime environments) and reiterates the urgent responsibility to protect it.

Waiheke Island sits in a unique position in the Hauraki Gulf, internationally recognised for one of most diverse populations of vulnerable seabirds, shorebird and migratory birds. ALAN is an immediate (yet completely reversable) challenge to these significant populations.

ALAN is a now an increasingly damaging form of pollution, often overlooked as a significant source of wasted energy and emission and destructive effects on many systems, including human health link: Artificial Light at Night: State of the Science Report 2026.

There is increased pressure on the built and commercial environment on this small island, it is imperative to include ALAN mitigation in the wider climate change context.

Maintain inclusion of 'Protection and Preservation of Waiheke's Dark Night Sky' as a 'Key Initiative'

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

As mentioned on pg 21 “..Promote changes to the Hauraki Gulf Island District Plan to facilitate required conditions for Dark Sky status, helipad consents and housing aligned to the Housing Strategy..”

And “..Upgrade community halls and facilities in line with the Waiheke Local Climate Action Plan and lighting with Dark Sky criteria.’

The increase in damaging light pollution is often by increment, with the installation of more and more LED lights, this is becoming more evident and measurable on the island.

Unfortunately, Oneroa has documented petrel groundings, and is getting alarmingly brighter with some ongoing and new irresponsible private lighting breaches.

Without Council led motivation, awareness and will to limit unnecessary ALAN, this will likely increase to the detriment of biodiversity and the character and aesthetic of the built environment on Waiheke. Hence, robust mechanisms with the Auckland Council Lighting management plan could mitigate this and the introduction of dark sky friendly lighting requirements improve the situation across the island.

Open Spaces.

With the ongoing initiative of Dark Sky places certification, there is potential to activate and optimize current public night sky observation points and spaces and enhance the open space network with interpretation information drawing on Māori astronomy, history and culture, information for astrophotography and stargazing, responsible eco-tourism and community events ie: Matariki.

Waiheke community and supportive businesses builders and designers that understand the benefits and importance of protecting and preserving the asset that is Waiheke’s beautiful night sky (for example the BNZ in Oneroa has honoured it’s commitment to their environmental pledge by not lighting their external signage at night) are encouraging this to be progressed urgently before it is too late.

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Protecting and preserving Waiheke's Natural dark night skies through implementation in the Local Board Plan over the next 3 years and ongoing allow for these outcomes contributing to the local sustainable economy:

- Stargazing tours provide a memorable visitor experience available after daylight hours and during the shoulder seasons (the night skies are at their best during winter months)
- Paves the way for low-impact ecotourism economic development opportunities from sharing world-class night skies, near Auckland. <https://www.aucklandnz.com/inspire/the-best-places-to-stargaze-in-auckland>
- Winter brings Matariki and with it, opportunities to embrace the wonders and stories of Māori astronomy
- Stargazing business and accommodation on the island now offer overnight Winter and shoulder season experiences to island visitors, which can be included in the range of diverse activities. This adds to economic development on Waiheke that is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.

This type of business depends on the maintenance of Waiheke's dark skies to offer quality visitor experiences, education and employment opportunities on island.

We note the statement – “..High-quality landscapes and access to outdoor activities (walking, cycling, swimming, boating) strengthen community well-being and attract visitors ..” Stargazing can be included in this list.

- The special character of Waiheke has, for many years, been its quiet dark night sky, a boat ride away from busy bright Auckland. A place to enjoy not only the vineyards, restaurants, art, walkways, beaches and baches and more, but to also experience the awe and connection that experiencing the southern stars under a natural dark sky provides.
- Offers learning and opportunities, intellectual stimulation and citizen science opportunities for school goers, youth, adults and community groups
- Provides the opportunity to offer unique and diverse community activities
- Maintains Waiheke's attractive nightscapes and therefore its integrity and character in sharp contrast to the urban Auckland location
- Include under a statement regarding support from Auckland Council for Waiheke Island to attain Dark Sky certification in the near future.

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- Considerations as in the Built environment section with upgrades to Matiatia Wharf utilising modern dark sky friendly lighting systems that not only enhance and showcases the gateway to the island but also respond to the unique ecology of Matiatia Bay.
- Ensuring ongoing upgrades to streetlighting systems to international standards dark sky and Dark Sky lumens and hardware.
- Ensuring additional facility lighting ie: Bus stops, public conveniences are planned for practically with ALAN mitigating design solutions. There are now systems available to achieve safe, cost effective and practical lighting where and when it is required.
- Cost effective, unnecessary ALAN is an expensive waste of energy and ratepayers money.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

This feedback has been from a Stargazing Business perspective. We will continue working with Waiheke Community, organizations and WLB to achieve the aim of the protection and preservation of Waiheke Island's dark night skies through the limitation of light pollution and the achievement of Dark Sky certification for the Waiheke's unique biodiversity, community local economy and generations to come.

Supporting links: State of the Science Report on Light Pollution 2026

<https://darksky.org/app/uploads/2026/06/ALAN-State-of-the-Science-2026-EN.pdf>

<https://www.wairarapa.space/look-after-our-night-sky/for-businesses/>

<https://www.kaikoura.co.nz/>

Tātai arorangi:

<https://livingbythestars.co.nz/>

<https://nzase.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-07-Pauline-Harris-profile-NZASE.pdf>

<https://www.darksky.org/about/>

<https://www.australasiandarkskyalliance.org/>



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#32

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: Pouteria Charitable (Conservation) Trust

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Tell us why

see attached document

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

see attached document

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

see attached document

4. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

see attached document

- 5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

see attached document

- 6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

see attached document

- 7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? *Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.***

see attached document

Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

Consultation closes 11.59pm Thursday 23 July 2026

BASIC INFORMATION

Are you providing

Personal Feedback NO

or

Feedback as the Official Representative of an Organisation YES if “yes” then...

Organisation Name Pouteria Charitable (Conservation) Trust

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS

Gender NA (organisation)

Age Group NA (organisation)

What Ethnic Group

NA (organisation)

What can the Local Board do to improve the way we engage with you when making decisions about the Island’s future?

Site visits would improve understanding.

FEEDBACK

At the recent Local Board meet and greet, at Onetangi Hall, it was suggested that interested parties comment on all the key initiatives that are relevant to them. In order to do this we have decided to provide written feedback following the order in which the key initiatives are set out under their respective headings in the draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026. Our comments are in italics.

1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our Islands for the next three years?

Very well / quite well / not very well / not well at all / I don’t know

Comments:

Pages 8 through 11 of the draft Plan set out the vision for overarching outcomes from the draft Plan. Equitable outcomes, fairness and sustainability all get a mention.

A 9 July 2026 Gulf News / Waiheke Weekender article (page 40) headed “Council wants to uproot anti moth plant rule” contained the statement: “(Phil) Brown (Council head of natural environment delivery) said due to cost, aside from the Biosecurity Focus Areas the council relies on public complaints. This raises an equity issue, on top of the fairness concern of imposing high costs on some landowners.”

We are Waiheke. We are not Auckland Mainland. We are an Island. We have unique advantages. Arguing that the moth plant control rules on Waiheke are inequitable or unfair and we should remove them, to be fair and equitable with the Auckland Mainland, is lowest common denominator thinking and should be rejected.

When prospective purchasers purchase land on Waiheke they are deemed to be aware of the relevant laws, rules, etc (ignorance is no excuse) and, prior to purchase, they had the opportunity to undertake due diligence. By purchasing land here on Waiheke, purchasers accept the rights and responsibilities of ownership.

The issue is similar if an individual purchases a dog. On becoming a dog owner one is subject to the rights and responsibilities of being a dog owner. Not everybody chooses to buy land on Waiheke or become a dog owner. Should we require everyone or no-one to own a dog in the interests of fairness and equity?

Equally, in respect of landowners on Waiheke, is it “fair” for a small percentage of landowners, who are not controlling moth plant on their properties, to undermine the time, effort and resources other landowners have put and continue to put in to controlling moth plant on their properties and who are abiding by the social contract? Clearly not!

In respect of dog owners on Waiheke - is it “fair” for a small percentage of non-compliant dog owners to undermine the amenity of Waiheke for the rest of the population (who are abiding by the social contract), not to mention posing a threat to kiwi, dotterel, banded rail, weka? Clearly not!

Accountability is key. Accountability is only achievable with a back stop of enforcement.

People respond to incentives. Many landowners on Waiheke are voluntarily working to control moth plant on their properties. Other landowners have been “encouraged” into working to control moth plant on their properties, by their neighbours, because enforcement provisions backstop the moth plant control rule. Yet other landowners have been “encouraged” by letters from Auckland Council (footnote 1). Some landowners, however, are immune to education and persuasion and for those people it is critical Waiheke has competent, efficient enforcement procedures – because, when it comes to moth plant, a single errant landowner is potentially catastrophically destructive to the efforts of others.

Footnote 1 – Auckland Council Officers have advised they have historically preferred education over enforcement. This will have both skewed the enforcement statistics (as referred to by Mr Brown) such that the statistics should be ignored and resulted in errant landowners not controlling their moth plant which has exacerbated the scale of the problem we are now faced with.

Under headings “Climate outcomes” and “Equitable outcomes” (page 10) the draft Plan mentions “restoring the environment” and a thriving “natural environment”. Clearly the environment will not

be restored and the natural environment will not thrive if the current moth plant control rules are relaxed or removed.

2. Community objectives – how well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our Community in this section?

Very well / quite well / not very well / not well at all / I don't know

Comments:

Thankfully, in this document, the Local Board recognises that Waiheke has a “unique character” as a result of its “coastal environment and geographic isolation” from Auckland and that “Waiheke’s volunteer groups are active and dedicated” and they “understand Waiheke’s unique character”.

Both the history of Waiheke and the kind of people who choose Waiheke as their home lead one to think that, as a proportion of landowners / residents, it is very likely that more Waihekeans (than Aucklanders) are involved, in some way, in conservation and are concerned about the quality of Waiheke’s natural environment.

Waiheke has no possums, wallabies or deer. Feral pigs and goats have been eradicated. There is an ongoing mustelid eradication programme. Historically Waiheke (and Rakino) have had stricter moth plant control rules than Auckland Mainland and many many landowners and volunteers have invested significant resources (both time and money) in moth plant control across both private and public land with positive results.

So, it would be a great shame, not to mention a waste of a lot of effort and money, to see the moth plant controls relaxed or removed as Waiheke’s natural environment will inevitably degrade as a result. When it comes to moth plant every weak link (a non-complying landowner) undermines the efforts of all the complying landowners.

The following key initiatives, in particular, warrant comment:

- A resilient, connected and compassionate community – support local initiatives including volunteer groups, that enhance connection and diversity, reduce isolation and promote community development.

Locals invariably know their local environment better than non-locals and / or Council Officers. Taking advantage of local knowledge is key to effective strategic planning and successful outcomes.

While conservation field work requires a level of fitness, community groups have roles for people who are disabled or live at distance. With the changing IT landscape, community groups have roles for volunteers to provide website, admin and fundraising support. Being involved as a volunteer in a community group, even remotely, has the potential to enhance connection, reduce isolation and build meaning in people’s lives.

- Children and youth feel valued, and that they have diverse opportunities to thrive – support community led initiatives that enable Tamariki and whanau to develop confidence, skills and connections.

Ideally youth are introduced to the natural environment at an early age. Conservation field work generally requires a level of fitness. Many existing volunteers are elderly, so we need to encourage and educate our youth about the natural environment and encourage their participation. There is potential for joint working between schools and local community groups.

3. Natural environment - how well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our Natural Environment in this section?

Very well / quite well / not very well / not well at all / I don't know

Comments:

We support the Local Board, in this document, recognising that:

- “we must ensure that our streams, beaches, bays and surrounding Gulf are protected and enhanced, and that biodiversity is protected and restored. Community education and volunteer programmes have a crucial role to play. We will foster partnerships and collaborative relationships with volunteer groups committed to protecting, restoring and enhancing our natural environments such as wetlands, native bush, coastlines and marine environment.”
- “we will promote best practice for environmental management including stormwater, wastewater, wetlands, weed and animal pest control.”

We support the Local Board also identifying that it wants to:

- “grow and care for healthy, thriving forests across the island.”
- “preserve wetlands, bush and coastal habitats while maintaining public access and recreational opportunities”
- “manage invasive species and pests”
- “manage our large numbers of visitors and make sure they are aware of how to maintain and protect our unique environment”

The following key initiatives, in particular, warrant comment:

- Support initiatives which protect, restore, and enhance the island's indigenous biodiversity

In order to support the island's indigenous biodiversity efficiently and effectively the artificial boundary between Auckland Council and DoC has to go. Pest plants and animals don't care about the human constructs of boundaries, ownership and responsibility. Unless and until the island is regarded holistically there will be inefficiencies and wasted resources, positive outcomes will be harder to achieve and volunteer frustrations will continue to undermine volunteer goodwill and efforts.

We note that the Waiheke Local Park Management Plan 2023, rather short-sightedly, does not encompass the DoC administered Reserves on Waiheke. The lack of a holistic plan for all public land on Waiheke leads to nonsensical outcomes, for example the buffer zone project has been implemented (on three properties only) in Te Matuku environs. The park being buffer zone protected (by the Council spending very significant resource on private land already subject to pest plant and animal control covenants in favour of DoC) was the rather low ecological value Matuku Bay Esplanade Reserve on the north side of Te Matuku Peninsula, whereas the DoC administered, nationally and regionally significant Te Matuku Bay Scenic Reserve is not directly relevant to the allocation of buffer zone funding. We note that the Plan promotes “cooperative management” – if only!

In particular, talk to Pouteria Charitable Trust about

1. the most important wetlands on the island (in Te Matuku Bay);
2. the Esplanade Reserve between the Marine Reserve and Te Matuku Bay Scenic Reserve;
3. the Road Reserve adjacent to the DoC Reserves; and

their “management” by Auckland Council contractors.

- Recognise our island Ngahere as a form of climate resilience, and support work to protect and grow our native canopy cover.

In a 9 July 2026 Article in the Gulf News / Waiheke Weekender Mr Brown, of Auckland Council, was reported as saying “Moth plant is a bad weed, one of the worst weeds around. But it is not the only one.” True, there are many pest plants, but moth plant is absolutely the worst – ask anyone in the field undertaking actual pest plant control work! Climbing asparagus can be controlled over a relatively short period (as can ginger, tobacco, blackberry, gorse, etc). Moth plant seed banks require vigilance for a decade or more.

If you have seen rampant moth plant infestations you will be aware that they climb high for the light (even into the tops of mature podocarp trees) and then smother the trees with pods, which ripen and spread seed both below and on the wind.

Our native canopy cover will neither be protected nor grow if the moth plant control rules are relaxed or removed.

Only a relatively small percentage of landowners are not trying to control their moth plant. It is necessary to understand that moth plant control is a process and as long as landowners are making good progress (using appropriate methodology) they should be encouraged to continue, however, it is critical that those landowners not controlling, or adequately controlling, moth plant should be subjected to enforcement.

When a person buys land on Waiheke they are deemed to know the law (ignorance is no excuse). Equally prospective buyers have an opportunity to undertake due diligence before purchasing. As such, land owners cannot escape their obligations - to do so breaches the social contract with all the other landowners and undermines all the efforts of complying landowners.

- Investigate how to ensure the disposal of noxious weeds is more accessible for our community

As at the time of writing the writer understands 14,000 pods have been collected, so far, in the Waiheke 2026 moth pod collection competition. That’s 7 million seeds (more or less) removed from our environment! Local volunteers had to organise this competition. Pouteria Charitable Trust put up one third of the prize funding required to get this competition off the ground, as timely funding had not been forthcoming from Auckland Council. Pod collection competitions ought to be an annual and well publicised event for the foreseeable future. The rewards massively outweigh the limited risk / cost.

- Continue to support the work and public messaging of predator free groups, including Te Korowai O Waiheke and pest control programmes

Pest animal control has been “flavour of the decade”. Pest plant control is the poor cousin. A healthy natural environment needs both pest plant and animal control. A phenomenal amount of money has been spent (and is still being spent) on projects like TKOW, yet Mr Brown balks at \$100k being spent on moth plant control enforcement. A funding balance needs to be achieved. Stop funding rat pilots, they are a waste of money! The technology does not exist, at present, for cost effective eradication of rats on Waiheke. When the technology exists relook at rat eradication. In the meantime, fund moth plant control enforcement and education.

The payment of workers to undertake tasks volunteers and land owners have previously undertaken has second order consequences. Volunteer efforts oft times reduce as paid employees increase.

- Support freshwater ecosystem restoration projects, including streams and wetlands

The three most important wetlands on Waiheke are in Te Matuku Bay (per Auckland Council's own report). They span the boundaries of the Marine Reserve, Auckland Council's Esplanade Reserve and DoC's Te Matuku Bay Scenic Reserve. There is historically and currently NO holistic management. This is madness and an inefficient use of resources.

- Promote responsible pet ownership

Waiheke needs both more signage and enforcement. Like with moth plant and property owners, it is probably only 10% of dog owners who do not comply with local bylaws. There should be consequences for those owners. No longer should a minority be permitted to degrade environmental amenity for the majority.

With kiwi having been released in Te Matuku Environs it is critical that local signage clearly shows where dogs are prohibited or required to be on a lead (especially on the shell bank and when Te Matuku Bay Scenic Reserve Council Track is reopened). Signage empowers locals to bring community pressure to bear as well as to know when to call in enforcement on errant dog owners.

- Continue to support marine restoration and regeneration projects with key community organisations, schools and other agencies.

Pouteria Charitable Trust is one local volunteer led organisation working in Te Matuku Environs undertaking regeneration and periodic clean up events around Te Matuku Bay foreshore. Others volunteer groups include the Te Matuku Regeneration Group working on the Peninsula between Te Matuku and Awaawaroa inlets. Support can take many forms and need not be financial.

4. Built environment – how well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our Built Environment in this section?

Very well / quite well / not very well / not well at all / I don't know

Comments:

We support the Local Board, in this document, recognising that:

- "Our community facilities and open spaces are important to our community's wellbeing and sense of belonging"
- "We will do our best to ensure our facilities, playgrounds, parks, reserves and track networks are well maintained and provide opportunities for recreation and connection."

It is a great loss then that "the Waiheke Local Parks Management Plan is the Local Board's guiding document for the management of our parks and reserves", because that document ignores DoC administered reserves and as such is only a partial management plan for the parks and reserves located on the island.

The following key initiatives, in particular, warrant comment:

- "Improve the open space network on the island – upgrade existing walking tracks including...to better protect bush / coastal environments, while improving safety and walkability."

The public should have some benefit from land in public ownership. Auckland Council spent a significant amount of money on establishing the public walking track through Te Matuku Bay Scenic Reserve, only to close it within a very short time due to Kauri Die Back concerns. That track has been

now been closed for coming up a decade and is in need of maintenance prior to reopening. The track needs clearing of wind fallen trees, clearing of new growth (in parts it is unclear the route of the track as the bush has taken over) and some repair work where small slips have undermined the track. Clear paths and signage through the grasslands area on Te Matuku peninsula are required to stop walkers trespassing on the Te Matuku Point Lane properties. In addition, a new northern exit route for the track needs to be sorted (the prior exit route being too close to Kauri).

Recent developments in the area have seen an easement granted, in the Council's favour, through Koha Bay land. A path formed through that easement would enable walkers to walk from Orapiu Wharf to Te Matuku Bay foreshore on the north side of Te Matuku Peninsula approximately 98% off road.

Were a new northern exit route to the track through Te Matuku Bay Scenic Reserve sorted then walkers could walk from Orapiu Wharf to Auckland Council's Stockyard Reserve largely off road.

There are already public toilets at both Orapiu Wharf and the Stockyard Reserve.

There is potential, with DoC agreement, for the walkway to then extend off road from the Stockyards Reserve through Stewardship Reserve West and the Historic Pioneer Cemetery Reserve in to Waiheke Scenic Reserve and potentially on to Ngati Poa land and on towards Man O War or onto the Fenwick peninsula and over to Awaawaroa Bay via the recently reopened Fenwick Track.

A walk from Orapiu Wharf to Man of War Wharf with supporting ferry services through (now) largely pristine mature podocarp forest would be a significant addition to the Islands assets.

5. Economic development – how well do you think we captured Economic development needs and priorities in this section?

Very well / quite well / not very well / not well at all / I don't know

Comments:

We support the Local Board recognising "Waiheke's extraordinary natural landscape" and "high quality landscapes and access to outdoor activities" as well as having a "vision of Waiheke being a leader in destination sustainability".

The following key initiatives, in particular, warrant comment:

- Our visitor industry is managed sustainably – actively promote Waiheke's identity as a unique natural destination and a shelter in the Hauraki Gulf, including encouraging visitors to respect Waiheke's natural environment.
- Our visitor industry is managed sustainably – support eco-tourism and eco-adventure opportunities on Waiheke that sustain and help regenerate our environment.

Relax or remove the moth plant control rules and both sustainability and Waiheke's uniqueness as a natural destination will be undermined. Undermining our natural environment does the opposite of supporting eco-tourism.

- Our visitor industry is managed sustainably – work with our networks to develop a trail or series of trails that combines walking, art, food and cultural experiences.

Te Matuku environs have a long history of both Maori and European settlers, as such it presents an excellent opportunity for walking cultural tours. One of the most significant pa sites on the island sits above Orapiu Road between Omaru and Te Matuku Bays. All the local bays have interesting

European settlor stories and the Historic Precinct is historic because it contains both the Waiheke Pioneer Cemetery and the site of the Island's first school. Te Matuku adds an historical dimension to the Around Waiheke Walk.

- Our visitor industry is managed sustainably – provide targeted funding to community groups that actively grow conservation volunteerism.

It is challenging for Eastern End volunteer groups to recruit new volunteers. There is a limited local population, many of whom who are elderly, many of whom are already undertaking conservation projects on their own land and / or already volunteering. Local volunteer groups all need support attracting new and ideally younger volunteers.

- Our visitor industry is managed sustainably – develop and deliver an education approach to encourage visitors to respect the islands vulnerable natural and community environments.

Ensure signs for dog controls are adequate - both in terms of relevant information and locations.

- Strengthen our economy in keeping with the island's character and our need to increase resiliency – support and advocate for council-delivered projects on Waiheke that create employment.

Council delivered projects involving employment and / or contractors should be mindful of the Shirkey Principle. Conservation is a process. Timely, efficient employment of the right methodology results in a reduced need for inputs over time. This is relevant to both moth plant control (wider pest plant control also) and also enforcement. Council should see inputs reduce over time as outcomes are achieved. If this isn't happening then timely, efficient employment of the right methodology is not happening and contracts and contractors need review. Talk to Pouteria Charitable Trust, our data proves our assertions.

6. Transport – how well do you think we captured our Transport needs and priorities in this section?

Very well / quite well / not very well / not well at all / I don't know

Comments:

We support the local board in understanding park and ride facilities are required, but that's only part of the solution.

Eastern End residents do not have a bus service. There are no sensible park and rides. In any event seasonally even getting the bus from Onetangi may not be possible. In summer we have gone to Onetangi to catch the bus to the Ferry only to not be able to get on a bus as the buses are full with tourists from their first stop at Onetangi Beach.

Recently parking at Matiatia was changed (without consultation) when the 48 hour carpark started being enforced as a 48 hour carpark. This was a change from custom and practise and Auckland Council / Auckland Transport should have been estopped from changing that custom and practise without either prior consultation or notice.

Now, after the change, we have observed that the 48 hour carpark is often less than half full. That vacancy should be turned into a revenue stream meeting the intermittent needs of Eastern End residents to leave the island for periods in excess of 48 hours.

In the CBD residents are able to obtain extra street parking permits on payment of a fee and on proof of address and limited by registration plate. For Eastern End residents a similar scheme should be established. We are happy to pay a fair daily rate for each period of parking in excess of 48 hours, but we need both certainty and flexibility.

The following key initiatives, in particular, warrant comment:

- Safe, fit for purpose and environmentally friendly transport infrastructure – advocate for legislative change that would enable Waiheke ferries to be included in the Public Transport Operating Model.

Around October 2023 Auckland Transport implemented changes to the Half Moon Bay ferry service to integrate that service into the wider Auckland public transport network. A period of significant disruption occurred after – reduced timetables, loss of multi trip concession tickets, short notice and frequent cancellations, increased costs and reduced timetable flexibility. Hopefully lessons have been learnt from that “integration” and so similar problems will be avoided if / when Waiheke’s ferry service is integrated into the wider public transport network.

- Our community feels empowered to use active modes of transport where safely possible – continue to deliver prioritised pedestrian ... links ...

A largely off road walking track from Orapiu Wharf to (see response under heading “Built Environment” above) would offer a much safer and nicer alternative to walking along Orapiu Road, much of which has no berms.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft Local Board Plan?

Nice map on page 7 – at least it acknowledges the DoC administered Reserves in Te Matuku Environs.

Under the heading Advocacy on page 22 are aims around short term visitor accommodation, preventing further loss of residential housing stock and seeking changes to the National Environmental Standards for detached minor residential dwellings.

Incentivise something and you will get more of it. For a number of years (continuing) it has been easier to obtain consent to add multiple visitor accommodation units onto a property than to get consent for a full time caretaker or WOOFA accommodation unit / minor dwelling. This, in part, drove the proliferation of short term visitor accommodation at the expense of long term accommodation for local workers (which was decidedly unhelpful given one needs the latter to service the former). It also undermined landowner’s ability to provide themselves with aging in place options like having separate accommodation for live close personal care workers. In light of “an aging community, without sufficient local services to enable community members to age in place” and the over proliferation of short term visitor accommodation the incentives need to be addressed and changed.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#65

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: Protect our Gulf

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.**



22 July, 2026

RE: Feedback to the Draft Local Board Plan 2026

From: **Protect our Gulf**

Dear Waiheke Local Board members,

We are an environmental group who works for the benefit and protection of the peoples and environment of the Hauraki Gulf and are based on Waiheke Island. Between us we are involved in a number of sustainability and environmental initiatives in our community.

We have the following comments to make on the Draft Plan.

In general it's a clear and straightforward plan which identifies areas to support the community with clear high level objectives. We have also included comments related to ongoing issues which may not be specific local board plan issues but would like the feedback to land where it will be included or considered as part of local board feedback.

We'd also like to see included a reminder that Waiheke Local Board has voted to be:

GE Free – particularly focusing on crop and field.
Nuclear Free and
TPPA Free

Through judicial review islanders have requested and won the retention of the rural urban boundary which limits how small subdivisions can be made across the island in certain areas.

These can sometimes be seen as symbolic gestures but nevertheless recognise the commitment of successive generations to the principles outlined above and should be highlighted in the plan.

People have also been very concerned about the use of glyphosate in parks. While it may be necessary for removal of mothplant and asparagus, people have repeatedly said they don't want it continuously spread on road verges.

With the fast track legislation it would be good to have a generic comment that any development needs to meet a higher threshold in order to proceed than may be available through fast track legislation. Specifically, a consideration of the particularly finite nature of resources on all the islands of the Hauraki Gulf including Waiheke. This means a limit to water take, land and sea based resource and the added consideration of septic management.

In our view, any development, aside from the buildings already within the Oneroa reticulation area, need to provide for their own septic management and they should not be leveraging off public reticulation which needs to be provided and guaranteed for future generations. In addition, we question whether Waiheke is the best place for another large development particularly as it is unclear how the labour needs will be met either for the build or for the ongoing hospitality workers required. We would like this to be considered in terms of local board feedback to the Onsen proposal at Oneroa and signalled to the developer.

Additional points from looking at the plan which it would be great to consider:

p. 10, the addition of equity of access to services including transport, mental health and housing and access to work and educational opportunities particularly for young people.

p.13 adding “to build resilience”. Perhaps by supporting residents groups, or encouraging them to map vulnerable people in their area and develop a plan as to how to check in with them.

With the increasing numbers of homeless people on Waiheke, we feel more should be done to support them whether it is through supporting Living Waters Initiatives or having other initiatives with support.

We feel that it's important to keep the pressure on alcohol outlets and premises and ensure that opening times are not extended and to work with the Alcohol Authority in Auckland. Having said that we understand that there is an interest in moving on the people who drink at Ostend Domain. It is our observation that this is akin to Move On orders and we feel there are other mechanisms available to the police to address disorderly behaviour. If it is a social problem then reducing the time at which alcohol can be sold, or to whom would be a more effective strategy than criminalising people who are sitting in a park and reducing everyone's civil liberties.

Under **natural environment**, while we think that eradication of stoats could be close, even though its incredibly costly, we do not want to see any further rat pilots on the island. Either the next steps are eradication, or the management of rat and cat populations so they minimise the damage to our natural environment. The use of pilots is confusing, leads to removal of rats and then their subsequent reinfestation. People expect to be supported then find they are not in the allocated area and cannot receive support. It also continues to be unclear how the emphasis on predator removal affects other initiatives which are also designed to protect and enhance bird life. We'd like to see an audit of the Predator Free project, and an evaluation of how far it's delivered value for money and realistic next steps.

While we love the flowers on roundabouts, we wonder in the current situation where all costs need to be looked at carefully, if a perennial shrub might be more useful than annual flowers that are replaced three times a year. Particularly when there is such a need to get rid of mothplant and asparagus on public land.

Also in terms of nature, we'd like to see more effort by Auckland Transport to reduce and manage lighting in the Western End of the Island. From Oneroa to Onetangi we see periodic replacement of lamp posts with huge posts with light that is not directed and very strong (particularly from Matiatia into Oneroa, Oneroa, the main road into Little Oneroa, Surfdale Roundabout, the strand in Onetangi all come to mind). We've been told we can request lights to be dimmed individually. There is more and more evidence that bright light at night is harmful to both wildlife and humans. We request that there is a moratorium on new lampposts in on side streets which can remain in the dark. In addition we'd like the lumens to be reduced across the lighting infrastructure with proper shields so there is no spill, and for some evaluation of whether we need that many lights and such tall lamp posts which also create visual pollution on the landscape. We'd like to see a commitment to dark skies more strongly in the plan, or action which brings us dark skies to Waiheke. This has been in the plan since about 2015. Useful savings could be made in reducing lighting when many people feel the lighting is excessive, rather than imposing more lighting on us that the ratepayers then have to pay for.

We'd also like a review of the lighting around Kennedy Point Wharf. The light at night is very strong both from the marina and the Wharf area. As a penguin breeding ground, and a quiet island where ferries do not operate between 8pm and 6am it would be good to see this managed better.

Auckland Council and Auckland Transport should take a leadership role in this and perhaps the local board could fund some public education so that people also don't leave their outside lights on all night, have them on sensors and make them directional so they don't shine into other people's houses.

Under **built environment** we support zero waste and acknowledge all the efforts made to remove building materials from the waste stream. There needs to be more focus on how to support individuals to remove mothplant and for this to be a strong focus in parks and reserves controlled by Council. One idea could be to have a longer moth plant amnesty, rather than people putting it in domestic waste.

There are huge gains to be made in terms of reducing the waste stream by better engagement by the hospitality industry around single use containers which we'd like to see phased out as soon as possible, as well as a reuse process for coffee cups.

We also note that we are very vulnerable in terms of food security if weather events occur and note that the board is supporting local food growing initiatives but we believe more are required.

Septic in storm water continues to be an issue. We'd like some "joined-up" thinking on how best to protect the marine environment. It would be good to see opportunities for a realigning of budgets to address the septic issues and stormwater management. We note the emphasis on track building and wonder if some of this could be reallocated to septic and stormwater management if there is a lack of funding elsewhere. The state of our marine environment deteriorates every year. Since 2013 there are hardly any mussels on our Northern beaches, whereas before they could be found in the intertidal rocks. Onetangi has

had a number of days where the septic runoff has made it unfit for swimming and Palm Beach (from memory) also turned up as unsafe last Summer. We'd like to see resource prioritised to deal with this. Examples that we know of where things are not working – Putiki Road, where the scraping of the swale simply results in the bank falling into the swale and blocking the pipes, then ending up in the wetland after heavy rain. Waiheke Road also results in gravel shooting down the road, across the road and into the drain at corner of Waiheke Road and Third avenue. This really needs to be remedied as that water flows over the road, destroys the asphalt and ends up in the sea. With more extreme weather events we really need to address these issues as a priority.

Over the last three years we also note more erosion at Surfdale Beach, the water pooling across the causeway when high tides have coincided with high rainfall, and at Blackpool, the seawall less than a half a foot higher than high tide. The water continues to gush out of the car park at Matiatia. We don't know what the solutions are but in the same way we have a roading plan **we urgently need a stormwater management plan which manages water up the catchments so they are less likely to create unmanaged stormwater into the sea and damage to roads.** On this we note the huge improvement at the corner of Hamilton Road and Miami Avenue.

We support long term stay over holiday accommodation and the ability to minor dwellings on the land. However, we are concerned that this does not lead to an increase in subdivisions. We already note that people overcapitalise on their properties without compliance monitoring keeping up. As such people are building additional sleepouts and garages but the septic is not being upgraded to keep up. There needs to be some mechanism to monitor this.

We think it's imperative to retain the rural urban boundary and the provisions for subdivision and do not want to see these changed and would like to see local board support for this.

In terms of **economic development** we note that the plan is very tourism focused. We'd like to see some support for small business development and support for Council contracts particularly in terms of catering, consultation and building contracts to favour local contractors.

In terms of **transport** we would like to see Waiheke included in some kind of Public Transport Operating Model. We note the \$400 price for the outer Harbour ferries which I think are in the Public Transport Framework. <https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/at-hop-card/top-up-at-hop-card/at-hop-monthly-pass/> For the first time the AT HOP monthly pass is cheaper than the Fullers monthly pass. This suggests that there is already the capacity to include Waiheke in any comprehensive fare scheme and we would like to see this happen. We'd also like this to be accompanied by a level playing field which sees both Island Direct and Fullers benefit from the Gold Card Spend. We'd like some focus on resilience of service where a certain number of ferries are guaranteed for the island and the buses meet both ferries. We value both Matiatia to Auckland Services and would like them to be treated equitably.

We would welcome electric ferries when they come in at an affordable price point & traffic calming, including the use of mobile speed cameras to slow down vehicles on the island and continue to support a speed limit of 40km/h off the main roads.

Additional points not covered elsewhere: We think there is an important advocacy role for the Local Board in terms of disability services and community resilience. Currently this is in terms of advocating that the house on the corner of Homai and Te Toki remains for the benefit of the Waiheke disability community but failing this it could be for other housing needs.

We support no take areas and marine reserves, including the Hākaimangō-Matiatia Reserve and an end to bottom trawling.

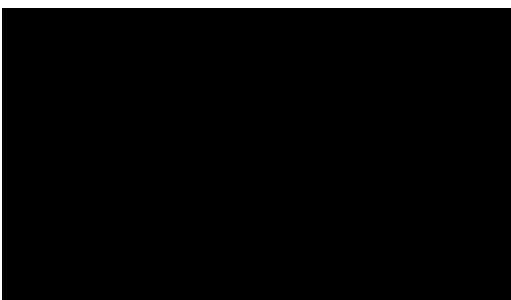
We favour the retention of Council land and properties at Ostend and it's use for social housing and/or the housing of community groups.

Lastly we note the high rates of suicide on Waiheke. We'd like to see some further support for mental health services but also better access to recreation, work and study opportunities for youth and working age adults off the island. Regularising the fares may go some way towards ensuring that people do not feel trapped on an island they cannot afford to leave.

From a personal perspective, as someone who is connected to Artworks and the Cinema, I have appreciated greater support for both and hope this can continue into the future.

Kind regards and thank you for your hard work in being a voice for the community.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope some of these ideas can be reflected in the plan, or used to guide decisions.





Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#76

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: Quiet Sky Waitemata

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Tell us why

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

The Natural Environment

Introduction

“Waitematā values its natural environment, but it is a vulnerable taonga shaped by its coastal setting, distinctive geology, and highly urbanised landscape. The area has few remnants of native vegetation remaining, so protecting and restoring biodiversity, waterways and the local ngāhere/forest and reducing noise pollution are critical to the health and resilience of our communities.” (p17).

Challenges

Noise pollution; Increasing background noise levels due to intensification and aerial traffic

Our Plan

Continue to oppose activities that increase urban noise across the city, e.g. helicopters.

Proactively reduce noise by considering noise as a criterion when investing in infrastructure e.g. electric buses, electric tools rather than petrol driven (water blasters, leaf blowers, ...)

Advocacy

Advocate for the next review of Auckland Council's Unitary Plan to strengthen noise considerations as a major issue for public well-being.

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Our Plan

"Support a noise strategy to reduce impacts of noise on all Waitemata residents". (p.23)

Advocacy

Advocate for the next review of Auckland Council's Unitary Plan to include strengthening and clarification of the wording in section E25 (Noise and Vibration), particularly around objectives and policies³.

3 Examples where wording could be strengthened include E25.3 Policies

(3) Encourage activities to locate in zones where the noise generated is compatible with other activities and, where practicable, adjacent zones. "Encourage" could be strengthened to "Require" for example

(5) Prevent significant noise-generating activities other than roads and railway lines from establishing in or immediately adjoining residential zones.

E25.6.32 This reads: "The take-off or landing of a helicopter on any site except for emergency services must not exceed Ldn 50dB or 85dB LAFmax measured within the boundary or the notional boundary of any adjacent site containing activities sensitive to noise and Ldn 60dBA within the boundary of any other site." This has been construed to mean helicopters are Ok in any zone if those noise levels are met. This should be clarified to state that it only defines a noise level, and says nothing about whether such an activity is acceptable in a particular zone.

4 See NZTA Research Report 299

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Not very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Challenges

Traffic noise is the most common cause of complaints about noise in cities⁴. Traffic and associated noise increase with intensification. Helicopters are a significant noise problem in the city and the Gulf islands.

Our Plan

Objective: Consider noise minimisation and reduction a key objective of transport policy decisions and investments.

Initiative: Waitematā Local Board (WLB) to declare support for a Plan Change to make private helicopters in urban residential zones a prohibited activity

Advocacy

Waitematā Local Board to advocate for responsible strategic planning, regulation and dedicated infrastructure for any future urban air mobility in Auckland City. Urban air mobility to be treated as a discretionary class of transport activity, not a permitted residential activity.

3 Examples where wording could be strengthened include E25.3 Policies

(3) Encourage activities to locate in zones where the noise generated is compatible with other activities and, where practicable, adjacent zones. “Encourage” could be strengthened to “Require” for example

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any zone if those noise levels are met. This should be clarified to state that it only defines a noise level, and says nothing about whether such an activity is acceptable in a particular zone.

4 See NZTA Research Report 299

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

Please find attached a copy of our feedback to the Waitematā Local Board Draft Plan.

You may wonder why we are sending this to you. Quiet Sky Waitematā (QSW) formed in response to a private helicopter consent application in Westmere Auckland in 2021. For five years this community group has advocated for a quieter sky to the Waitematā Local Board area and the Auckland Council Policy, Planning and Development Committee. For five years we have opposed the Westmere helicopter consent granted in 2025 (effectively as a permitted activity) and which is currently under appeal in the Environment Court.

QSW feel strongly that the message needs to go citywide as the prospect of a private helicopter on Westmere's waterfront sets a worrying precedent for all coastal wards and, in particular, our Gulf Island wards. Auckland Council rules do not sufficiently anticipate the growing appetite for urban air mobility in urban and suburban residential zones. This rapidly evolving technology requires a proactive response to come from communities in Auckland City.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit on your draft plans.

Ngā mihi nui

Jeanette Budgett (Chair)

Quiet Sky Waitematā

Ph: +64210583200

Web: www.quietsky.nz

Feedback to the Waitematā Local Board Draft Plan

Quiet Sky Waitematā, 17 July 2026

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide feedback on your draft plan. Quiet Sky Waitematā submits on two issues which we think need deeper consideration in the WLB Plan.

1. Noise
2. Urban air transport planning and regulation (helicopters now and the future which might include for example air taxis and drone deliveries)

We have provided some suggested wording for each section of the plan for your consideration.

Noise

There is very strong international scientific and policy consensus that environmental noise is a significant public health issue in cities. The World Health Organisation (WHO) considers environmental noise to be **one of the leading environmental health risks**, second only to air pollution in Europe among environmental exposures.

The Waitematā Local Board draft plan mentions noise only in the Built Environment section and notes a challenge only in the central city and Newmarket. The initiative to “Support a noise strategy to reduce impacts of noise on city centre residents”¹ does not seem sufficient to us for such an important issue affecting public wellbeing.

The importance of noise is reflected in plans in many cities around the world. For example, the **London Plan**² requires planning decisions to:

- avoid significant adverse noise impacts on health and quality of life;
- mitigate and minimise existing and potential adverse impacts of noise;
- improve and enhance the acoustic environment and promote appropriate soundscapes (including Quiet Areas and spaces of relative tranquillity).

Quiet Sky Waitemata believes that peace and quiet are taonga, like sections of urban wilderness, and increasingly rare in our residential suburbs. We believe this issue affects people across the Board’s area, not just in the central city. We believe that consideration should be given to preservation of peaceful spaces and minimisation of noise in multiple sections of the Board’s plan, including The Natural Environment, The Built Environment and Transport. This consideration should include policy statements, action plans and advocacy where appropriate.

Urban air transport planning and regulation

A specific example of where better noise management in the city is needed is the case of urban helicopters. Auckland needs better helicopter planning rules now, and a framework for future changes as urban air mobility technology matures rapidly.

¹ It is not clear what strategy this is, who is developing it, what scope it has or how it will influence Council planning decisions.

² [London Plan 2021, Policy D14 Noise](#)

Auckland City's Planning and Policy Committee has declined to make private helicopters in urban residential zones a prohibited activity in recent years. The activity status of helicopters in Auckland's coastal suburbs remains a "non-complying" activity.

This "non-complying activity" status allows prospective helicopter landing and take off resource consent holders to assert the effects will be minor. In some cases, notably a recent one in Westmere, they will be granted. Such a case-by-case approach places an unacceptable and enormous burden on communities to oppose each single application.

In an intensifying city where urban densities are projected to rise, it is becoming essential to protect people from stressful noise, to protect urban amenity, privacy, public safety, and the environment.

Development of urban air mobility (UAM) has considerable momentum, yet international research identifies there is little social license for private helicopter transport between urban residential sites. There is broad public acceptance of helicopters for emergency, rescue and medical reasons. Accordingly, many cities are concentrating helicopter traffic at recognised transport nodes e.g. airports, railway stations, and hospitals, with public heliports known as "vertiports."

Proposed text changes to the Waitemata Local Board Draft Plan

We follow your draft structure and propose the following insertions *in italics*.

The Natural Environment

Introduction

"Waitematā values its natural environment, but it is a vulnerable taonga shaped by its coastal setting, distinctive geology, and highly urbanised landscape. The area has few remnants of native vegetation remaining, so protecting and restoring biodiversity, waterways and the local ngāhere/forest *and reducing noise pollution* are critical to the health and resilience of our communities." (p17).

Challenges

Noise pollution; Increasing background noise levels due to intensification and aerial traffic

Our Plan

Continue to oppose activities that increase urban noise across the city, e.g. helicopters.

Proactively reduce noise by considering noise as a criterion when investing in infrastructure e.g. electric buses, electric tools rather than petrol driven (water blasters, leaf blowers, ...)

Advocacy

Advocate for the next review of Auckland Council's Unitary Plan to strengthen noise considerations as a major issue for public well-being.

The Built environment

Our Plan

“Support a noise strategy to reduce impacts of noise *on all Waitemata residents*”. (p.23)

Advocacy

Advocate for the next review of Auckland Council’s Unitary Plan to include strengthening and clarification of the wording in section E25 (Noise and Vibration), particularly around objectives and policies³.

Transport

Challenges

Traffic noise is the most common cause of complaints about noise in cities⁴. Traffic and associated noise increase with intensification. Helicopters are a significant noise problem in the city and the Gulf islands.

Our Plan

Objective: Consider noise minimisation and reduction a key objective of transport policy decisions and investments.

Initiative: Waitematā Local Board (WLB) to declare support for a Plan Change to make private helicopters in urban residential zones a prohibited activity

Advocacy

Waitematā Local Board to advocate for responsible strategic planning, regulation and dedicated infrastructure for any future urban air mobility in Auckland City. Urban air mobility to be treated as a discretionary class of transport activity, not a permitted residential activity.

³ Examples where wording could be strengthened include E25.3 Policies

(3) Encourage activities to locate in zones where the noise generated is compatible with other activities and, where practicable, adjacent zones. “Encourage” could be strengthened to “Require” for example

(5) Prevent significant noise-generating activities other than roads and railway lines from establishing in or immediately adjoining residential zones.

E25.6.32

This reads: “The take-off or landing of a helicopter on any site except for emergency services must not exceed Ldn 50dB or 85dB LAFmax measured within the boundary or the notional boundary of any adjacent site containing activities sensitive to noise and Ldn 60dBA within the boundary of any other site.” This has been construed to mean helicopters are Ok in any zone if those noise levels are met. This should be clarified to state that it only defines a noise level, and says nothing about whether such an activity is acceptable in a particular zone.

⁴ See [NZTA Research Report 299](#)



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#62

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: Rōpū Rangatahi o Waiheke

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

I think this captures the needs and priorities of our community well. It would be valuable for the final plan to explicitly acknowledge that the youth needs assessment will be an ongoing process of research and engagement. As rangatahi evolve, their needs, aspirations, and challenges will also change. The community plan should therefore remain responsive and adaptable, with regular review and updated youth insights informing future priorities and actions.

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? *Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.*

Overall, I think the draft Local Board Plan reflects many of the key priorities being raised across our community, particularly around wellbeing, connection, environmental stewardship, and creating a thriving Waiheke for future generations.

One area I would encourage the Board to strengthen is the visibility of rangatahi throughout the plan. Rather than being referenced as a single stakeholder group, youth should be recognised as active partners in decision-making, co-design, and implementation. We have seen through the Waiheke youth needs assessment and the establishment of Rōpū Rangatahi o Waiheke that young people want meaningful opportunities to contribute to their community, not just be consulted occasionally.

I would also encourage the plan to acknowledge the importance of sustained investment in low-barrier, youth-led spaces and initiatives that support belonging, creativity, leadership, and mental wellbeing. These are often the places where the strongest community connections are formed.

Finally, I appreciate the collaborative approach reflected in the draft and would welcome continued partnership between the Local Board, community organisations, mana whenua, and rangatahi as the plan is implemented and reviewed over time.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#125

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc. (Forest & Bird)

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

Forest & Bird appreciates the positive direction reflected throughout this draft plan.

While our recommendations are relatively minor, we hope they help guide continued progress towards thriving communities, thriving nature, and a more climate-resilient future.

Thank you for considering our submission.

- 2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We agree with the draft objectives and key initiatives in the Community section and would like to add the following key initiatives for consideration:

Objective

Key initiatives

Our communities are resilient with strong connections to their neighbourhoods and natural environment

Provide grants to local groups for projects or actions with a positive impact on community resilience, including those maintaining or creating carbon sinks, or nature-based solutions such as restoring wetlands, creating room for streams to flow naturally, and protecting sand dunes and mangroves.

Support community-led food initiatives such as community gardens, education on growing and preparing food, reducing food waste, and sharing produce.

Support initiatives that build community networks and connections which help communities respond to emergencies and the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Our parks and open space meet the needs of our changing population

Invest in natural solutions that improve parks and public spaces, including native plantings, large shade trees, raingardens, swales and daylighted streams, in local parks and open spaces, including wetlands or floodable areas in larger sites.

Council maintenance, projects and community investment decisions maximise net benefit to nature and climate resilience.

Consider and evaluate the environmental and climate impact of all local board projects and improve climate impact statements in council reports to cover net emissions, biodiversity loss, impermeable surfaces and stormwater effects, and scarce resource use and recovery.

Advocacy

We would like to suggest the below additional advocacy points under Community:

-

Adopt long-term (50 to 100 year) risk scenario planning for climate change impacts across council asset and infrastructure planning - to Governing Body.

-

Fund non-potable water reuse for irrigation and operation of sports, aquatic and recreation facilities - to Watercare.

-

Greater public understanding of infrastructure maintenance and fault-reporting policies - to Governing Body, Auckland Transport and Watercare.

-

Ensure an adequate level of renewals funding to keep existing community assets well maintained and adapted to be resilient to climate change - to Governing Body.

- Ongoing, multi-year, dedicated grant funding for community environmental and restoration groups, so they can plan and deliver programmes across multiple seasons rather than one funding cycle at a time - to Governing Body.

Commentary

Climate resilience and healthy communities are not separate outcomes. A community's ability to withstand climate impacts depends as much on its social networks, local food security and access to nature-based solutions as it does on physical infrastructure.

Supporting kai resilience, through initiatives such as community gardens and food-sharing networks, reduces both the environmental and financial cost of how communities feed themselves, cutting food miles while easing pressure on household budgets.

Embedding climate resilience, restoration that creates carbon sinks, and nature-based solutions within the Community outcome helps ensure these considerations are reflected in the everyday work of community development, rather than being left solely to environmental work programmes.

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We agree the draft objectives and key initiatives under Natural Environment and would like to suggest the below for consideration:

Objectives

Key Initiatives

Our native biodiversity and supporting ecological areas (whether on public or private land) are protected, restored and enhanced

Partner with community groups and mana whenua to implement projects focusing on education, planting, weed management, water quality, pest management, and indigenous biodiversity protection and restoration initiatives across public and private land.

Identify and prioritise restoration planting opportunities, for community and council projects, that create ecological connections by retiring hard-to-maintain areas within existing parks and reserves.

Support responsible cat ownership through desexing and containment encouragement, and work with neighbouring boards on control of feral and stray cats in areas of high biodiversity value.

Ensure monitoring and compliance of dog access rules keep high-value conservation areas free of dogs while providing space for responsible pet ownership elsewhere

Streams and wetlands are healthy, restored, and better able to support natural flood processes and native biodiversity

Deliver a local freshwater stream quality programme to identify and mitigate pollution sources and protect coastal waters.

Prioritise the restoration of wetlands where they exist or can be re-established.

Prioritise ecological maintenance projects that protect and enhance identified potential inanga spawning sites through bank stabilisation, pest plant control, sediment control and pest animal control.

Work with Healthy Waters to provide education and support that ensures commercial and industrial sites upgrade their on-site stormwater management to prevent contamination at the source.

We understand climate change risks, take action to reduce climate impacts, and prepare to adapt and respond to future events

Support and engage with communities on shoreline and flood risk adaptation planning related to council assets, favouring nature-based solutions where practicable, in line with the local Shoreline Adaptation Plan

Plant more trees for shade in public spaces to mitigate the causes and consequences of climate change.

Deliver the Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy to increase urban ngahere in parks and open spaces.

Advocacy

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

-

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

-

Increased regional funding for biodiversity, air, freshwater and coastal water quality monitoring across the local board area - to Governing Body.

-

Reinstatement of general tree protection legislation - to Central Government.

-

Ongoing, dedicated grant funding for the community environmental groups already carrying out restoration and pest control work across this board's area - to Governing Body.

-

Continued Natural Environment Targeted Rate funding to maintain and grow current investment in pest control, kauri dieback management and biodiversity restoration across Tāmaki Makaurau - to Governing Body.

-

That conservation remain the primary purpose for any public conservation land within the board area - to Central Government.

-

Raise awareness of and advocate for dark sky areas and reduced light pollution to protect our indigenous seabirds - to Governing Body.

Commentary

Protecting nature is about more than restoring isolated sites, it also requires reducing the pressures that continue to degrade ecosystems. For native biodiversity to thrive and withstand the pressures of climate change, healthy, connected habitats are needed at a landscape scale, supported by partnership with mana whenua and community groups.

Freshwater deserves particular attention. Healthy streams, wetlands and estuaries underpin biodiversity, reduce flood risk and improve the health of the wider catchment, yet they remain vulnerable to sediment, stormwater and other contaminants. Delivering local restoration and catchment programmes in full and resourcing the monitoring that keeps consented environmental outcomes in place, is what turns commitment into results.

As the more obvious threats of pest plants and animals become increasingly managed, consideration should be given to threats that remain unaddressed. Responsible pet management, dark sky protection and ecological hygiene measures all protect the gains that years of restoration investment, by community groups, volunteers and Council, are achieving, before other pressures quietly undo them.

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Built Environment.

Advocacy

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

-

Funding for construction and demolition waste compliance and education - to Governing Body.

-

Increased funding to actively monitor and enforce compliance with green infrastructure and canopy requirements attached to resource consents, so that planting and green space required at the time of consent is not lost - to Governing Body.

-

Advocate that infrastructure capacity be confirmed before new housing and town centre development proceeds, and that intensification not be enabled within Significant Ecological Areas - to Governing Body and Central Government.

Commentary

As Auckland continues to grow and intensify, new development needs to protect the qualities that make an area a desirable place to live. Green infrastructure functions as essential infrastructure. Indigenous canopy, rain gardens, swales and other nature-based stormwater measures reduce flooding, improve water quality, support biodiversity and create healthier neighbourhoods. These benefits are only realised if they are designed into development from the outset and Council has the resources to monitor and enforce them once consent is granted.

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Economic Development. We support all the current advocacy points under Economic Development and provide the below to consider.

Objectives

Key Initiatives

Sustainable economic activity

Support projects that engage, advise, educate and assist local businesses and residents to minimise waste and build a circular economy.

Advocacy

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

-

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

-

Council procurement policies that favour local and ecologically sustainable suppliers - to Governing Body.

Commentary

A resilient local economy depends on healthy communities and healthy ecosystems. Forest & Bird encourages greater emphasis on the opportunities presented by a circular economy. Community recycling and resource recovery capacity, and support for local businesses minimising waste, add real economic value alongside the environmental benefit, while reducing pressure on natural resources.

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

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

Objectives

Priorities

A low-emissions, climate-ready transport system with real travel choices

Prioritise native tree canopy along cycleway and shared path routes with nature sensitive design

Prioritise permeable surfacing on new or renewed parking areas.

Advocacy

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

-

Retain the Local Board Transport Capital Fund across the Board's whole area, so the Board can keep delivering local walkway and cycleway connections with native planting components - to Governing Body.

-

Deliver projects that align with the Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway (TERP), the key strategy to decarbonise Auckland's transport system - to Auckland Transport.

-

Improved cycle and pathway safety, including lighting, physical traffic barriers, accessibility and proactive maintenance to prevent problems - to Auckland Transport.

-

More local initiatives to contribute to decarbonisation by encouraging more use of public transport, such as electric on-demand public transport options or better bike storage at transport hubs - to Auckland Transport.

-

Improved weed management on motorways and road reserves - to Waka Kotahi (NZTA).

-

Long-term planning to provide low-emission infrastructure for e-scooters, e-bikes and electric cars, such as electric vehicle charging stations, in larger development areas - to Governing Body.

Commentary

We support the Board's commitment to active and public transport. Our additions build on this by prioritising native tree canopy along cycleway and shared path routes, and permeable surfacing on new or renewed parking areas.

The Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Act 2026 gives the Board direct decision-making over local and collector roads, including cycleways and parking. This gives the Board a direct route to deliver street trees and permeable surfacing as part of footpath and cycleway renewals, through its own decision-making.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

Forest & Bird appreciates the positive direction reflected throughout this draft plan.

While our recommendations are relatively minor, we hope they help guide continued progress towards thriving communities, thriving nature, and a more climate-resilient future.

Thank you for considering our submission.

To: Auckland Council
Resource Consents
Private Bag 92300
Auckland 1142



Submission on Waiheke Local Board Plan

23 July 2026

➤ Emailed to: Waihekelocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

1. Submitter details

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc. (Forest & Bird)
North Shore Branch

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2. Trade competition declaration

Forest & Bird would not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

3. Hearing options

We may wish to be heard in support of this submission

Introduction

Forest & Bird is the largest and longest-serving independent conservation organisation in Aotearoa. Its mission is to be a voice for nature, on land, in fresh water, and at sea, on behalf of its members and supporters. Volunteers in 44 branches throughout Aotearoa carry out community conservation projects and advocate for nature. Forest & Bird has seven branches and two nationally coordinated projects in the Auckland region alone, all of them run entirely by volunteers.

In support of the society's objectives, Forest & Bird is involved in resource management processes at the national, regional and district level. It routinely submits on regional and district plan provisions and some resource consents, and advocates in the Environment Court in relation to biodiversity, landscape and natural character. It is particularly committed to ensuring that the environmental bottom lines established in national policy statements, in order to give substance to the protective element of Part 2 of the Resource Management Act, are given effect to in regional and district plans and achieved through decisions on resource consents.

The Hauraki Islands Branch is entirely volunteer-run and covers the wider Hauraki Gulf, including Waiheke Island, where it manages three reserves, and the outer islands of the Gulf, including Aotea / Great Barrier. The branch is committed to the protection and enhancement of the Hauraki Gulf as a whole.

Our Approach

This submission responds to the Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026. We are structuring our submission to include Objectives, Key Initiatives, and Advocacy items, just as they appear in the draft Local Board Plan, along with commentary on some items and localised specifics.

Te hāpori / Community

We agree with the draft objectives and key initiatives in the Community section and would like to add the following key initiatives for consideration:

Objective	Key initiatives
Our communities are resilient with strong connections to their neighbourhoods and natural environment	Provide grants to local groups for projects or actions with a positive impact on community resilience, including those maintaining or creating carbon sinks, or nature-based solutions such as restoring wetlands, creating room for streams to flow naturally, and protecting sand dunes and mangroves. Support community-led food initiatives such as community gardens, education on growing and preparing food, reducing food waste, and sharing produce. Support initiatives that build community networks and connections which help communities respond to emergencies and the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.
Our parks and open space meet the needs of our changing population	Invest in natural solutions that improve parks and public spaces, including native plantings, large shade trees, rain

Objective	Key initiatives
	gardens, swales and daylighted streams, in local parks and open spaces, including wetlands or floodable areas in larger sites.
Council maintenance, projects and community investment decisions maximise net benefit to nature and climate resilience.	Consider and evaluate the environmental and climate impact of all local board projects and improve climate impact statements in council reports to cover net emissions, biodiversity loss, impermeable surfaces and stormwater effects, and scarce resource use and recovery.

Advocacy

We would like to suggest the below additional advocacy points under Community:

- Adopt long-term (50 to 100 year) risk scenario planning for climate change impacts across council asset and infrastructure planning - to Governing Body.
- Fund non-potable water reuse for irrigation and operation of sports, aquatic and recreation facilities - to Watercare.
- Greater public understanding of infrastructure maintenance and fault-reporting policies - to Governing Body, Auckland Transport and Watercare.
- Ensure an adequate level of renewals funding to keep existing community assets well maintained and adapted to be resilient to climate change - to Governing Body.
- Ongoing, multi-year, dedicated grant funding for community environmental and restoration groups, so they can plan and deliver programmes across multiple seasons rather than one funding cycle at a time - to Governing Body.

Commentary

Climate resilience and healthy communities are not separate outcomes. A community's ability to withstand climate impacts depends as much on its social networks, local food security and access to nature-based solutions as it does on physical infrastructure. Supporting kai resilience, through initiatives such as community gardens and food-sharing networks, reduces both the environmental and financial cost of how communities feed themselves, cutting food miles while easing pressure on household budgets.

Embedding climate resilience, restoration that creates carbon sinks, and nature-based solutions within the Community outcome helps ensure these considerations are reflected in the everyday work of community development, rather than being left solely to environmental work programmes.

We agree the draft objectives and key initiatives under Natural Environment and would like to suggest the below for consideration:

Objectives	Key Initiatives
Our native biodiversity and supporting ecological areas (whether on public or private land) are protected, restored and enhanced	Partner with community groups and mana whenua to implement projects focusing on education, planting, weed management, water quality, pest management, and indigenous biodiversity protection and restoration initiatives across public and private land. Identify and prioritise restoration planting opportunities, for community and council projects, that create ecological connections by retiring hard-to-maintain areas within existing parks and reserves. Support responsible cat ownership through desexing and containment encouragement, and work with neighbouring boards on control of feral and stray cats in areas of high biodiversity value. Ensure monitoring and compliance of dog access rules keep high-value conservation areas free of dogs while providing space for responsible pet ownership elsewhere
Streams and wetlands are healthy, restored, and better able to support natural flood processes and native biodiversity	Deliver a local freshwater stream quality programme to identify and mitigate pollution sources and protect coastal waters. Prioritise the restoration of wetlands where they exist or can be re-established. Prioritise ecological maintenance projects that protect and enhance identified potential inanga spawning sites through bank stabilisation, pest plant control, sediment control and pest animal control. Work with Healthy Waters to provide education and support that ensures commercial and industrial sites upgrade their on-site stormwater management to prevent contamination at the source.
We understand climate change risks, take action to reduce climate impacts, and prepare to adapt and respond to future events	Support and engage with communities on shoreline and flood risk adaptation planning related to council assets, favouring nature-based solutions where practicable, in line with the local Shoreline Adaptation Plan Plant more trees for shade in public spaces to mitigate the causes and consequences of climate change. Deliver the Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy to increase urban ngahere in parks and open spaces.

Advocacy

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

- Stronger monitoring of activities that cause sediment runoff into streams and harbour margins, and stronger penalties for those who knowingly cause harmful sedimentation - to Governing Body.
- Increased regional funding for biodiversity, air, freshwater and coastal water quality monitoring across the local board area - to Governing Body.
- Reinstatement of general tree protection legislation - to Central Government.
- Ongoing, dedicated grant funding for the community environmental groups already carrying out restoration and pest control work across this board's area - to Governing Body.
- Continued Natural Environment Targeted Rate funding to maintain and grow current investment in pest control, kauri dieback management and biodiversity restoration across Tāmaki Makaurau - to Governing Body.
- That conservation remain the primary purpose for any public conservation land within the board area - to Central Government.
- Raise awareness of and advocate for dark sky areas and reduced light pollution to protect our indigenous seabirds - to Governing Body.

Commentary

Protecting nature is about more than restoring isolated sites, it also requires reducing the pressures that continue to degrade ecosystems. For native biodiversity to thrive and withstand the pressures of climate change, healthy, connected habitats are needed at a landscape scale, supported by partnership with mana whenua and community groups.

Freshwater deserves particular attention. Healthy streams, wetlands and estuaries underpin biodiversity, reduce flood risk and improve the health of the wider catchment, yet they remain vulnerable to sediment, stormwater and other contaminants. Delivering local restoration and catchment programmes in full and resourcing the monitoring that keeps consented environmental outcomes in place, is what turns commitment into results.

As the more obvious threats of pest plants and animals become increasingly managed, consideration should be given to threats that remain unaddressed. Responsible pet management, dark sky protection and ecological hygiene measures all protect the gains that years of restoration investment, by community groups, volunteers and Council, are achieving, before other pressures quietly undo them.

Te taiao kua hangaia / Built Environment

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Built Environment.

Advocacy

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

- Funding for construction and demolition waste compliance and education - to Governing Body.
- Increased funding to actively monitor and enforce compliance with green infrastructure and canopy requirements attached to resource consents, so that planting and green space required at the time of consent is not lost - to Governing Body.
- Advocate that infrastructure capacity be confirmed before new housing and town centre development proceeds, and that intensification not be enabled within Significant Ecological Areas - to Governing Body and Central Government.

Commentary

As Auckland continues to grow and intensify, new development needs to protect the qualities that make an area a desirable place to live. Green infrastructure functions as essential infrastructure. Indigenous canopy, rain gardens, swales and other nature-based stormwater measures reduce flooding, improve water quality, support biodiversity and create healthier neighbourhoods. These benefits are only realised if they are designed into development from the outset and Council has the resources to monitor and enforce them once consent is granted.

Te whanaketanga ā ōhanga / Economic Development

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Economic Development. We support all the current advocacy points under Economic Development and provide the below to consider.

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

Advocacy

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

- Funding for the expansion of community recycling and resource recovery facilities serving this local board area - to Governing Body.
- Council procurement policies that favour local and ecologically sustainable suppliers - to Governing Body.

Commentary

A resilient local economy depends on healthy communities and healthy ecosystems. Forest & Bird encourages greater emphasis on the opportunities presented by a circular economy. Community recycling and resource recovery capacity, and support for local businesses minimising waste, add real economic value alongside the environmental benefit, while reducing pressure on natural resources.

Tūnuku/ Transport.

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

Objectives	Priorities
A low-emissions, climate-ready transport system with real travel choices	Prioritise native tree canopy along cycleway and shared path routes with nature sensitive design Prioritise permeable surfacing on new or renewed parking areas.

Advocacy

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

- Retain the Local Board Transport Capital Fund across the Board's whole area, so the Board can keep delivering local walkway and cycleway connections with native planting components - to Governing Body.
- Deliver projects that align with the Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway (TERP), the key strategy to decarbonise Auckland's transport system - to Auckland Transport.
- Improved cycle and pathway safety, including lighting, physical traffic barriers, accessibility and proactive maintenance to prevent problems - to Auckland Transport.
- More local initiatives to contribute to decarbonisation by encouraging more use of public transport, such as electric on-demand public transport options or better bike storage at transport hubs - to Auckland Transport.
- Improved weed management on motorways and road reserves - to Waka Kotahi (NZTA).
- Long-term planning to provide low-emission infrastructure for e-scooters, e-bikes and electric cars, such as electric vehicle charging stations, in larger development areas - to Governing Body.

Commentary

We support the Board's commitment to active and public transport. Our additions build on this by prioritising native tree canopy along cycleway and shared path routes, and permeable surfacing on new or renewed parking areas.

The Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Act 2026 gives the Board direct decision-making over local and collector roads, including cycleways and parking. This gives the Board a direct route to deliver street trees and permeable surfacing as part of footpath and cycleway renewals, through its own decision-making.

Conclusion

Forest & Bird appreciates the positive direction reflected throughout this draft plan.

While our recommendations are relatively minor, we hope they help guide continued progress towards thriving communities, thriving nature, and a more climate-resilient future.

Thank you for considering our submission.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#70

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: Rugby club and Dirt track

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

Sports and recreation don't seem to be a focus

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? *Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.***

Sports and recreation are essential for wellbeing and social interaction within the community. This seems to be lacking in the plan.

Developing lighting at Onetangi sports park would assist 100's of players to train safely at night and without overloading and damaging field surfaces.

On a separate topic, handling of flood waters in the valley of Obrien road out to sea is poor. Auckland transport, council, local board, healthy eaters all shy away from action apart from unfairly laying the blame on a small community group at the bottom of the valley at 2 Obrien rd.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#102

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Sport Auckland

Local Board: Waiheke

Your feedback:

1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?

Very well

Tell us why

2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?**

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?**

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? *Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.***

Please find attached our submissions to the draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026



*Inspiring Our Communities To Live
Healthy And Active Lifestyles*

Sport Auckland House
PO Box 26 599
Epsom
Auckland 1344

Tel (09) 623 7900
www.sportauckland.co.nz

Submission on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

Sport Auckland appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026.

Sport Auckland is a charitable trust that works closely with our Local Boards, Auckland Council, Active, sports organisations and community partners across Tāmaki Makaurau. Our vision is **Active Lives, Connected Communities, Healthier Brighter Futures**. Our purpose is to empower and connect communities to engage in sport and physical activity.

We see strong alignment between Sport Auckland's strategic direction and the Local Board's priorities and advocacy initiatives. We commend the vision of Waiheke residents being proud of their strong sense of identity and actively participating in your community to enhance whanaungatanga and hauora.

Sport Auckland's guiding principles focus on equity, strengthening the sport and physical activity sector, partnering with local communities, and embracing diverse ways of being active. These principles strongly align with the priorities outlined in the Draft Local Board Plan, and we welcome any relevant opportunities to partner with the Local Board to help achieve the outcomes in your plan.

We offer the following comments on specific objectives.

Te hapori - Community

Sport Auckland strongly supports the objective - *A resilient, connected and compassionate community.* Under this objective we strongly support the initiatives:

- Support local initiatives including volunteer groups, that enhance connection and diversity, reduce isolation and promote community development
- Collaborate with residents' associations and community lease holders to resource community emergency hubs and set up a localised New Zealand Emergency Response team
- Maintain and embed the Waiheke Local Board Emergency Readiness and Response Plan
- Support development of community hubs and residents association networks
- Support the vision of the Waiheke Food Charter, to work toward a sustainable local food system.

We strongly support the objective - *A healthy and supportive society where people feel there is care, respect and all people are valued.* Of note we support these initiatives under this objective being: -

- Support the aspirations of health providers on Waiheke to provide integrated island-based health and community services
- Support actions and policies aimed at reducing harm caused by alcohol, nicotine, drugs and gambling



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Auckland 1344

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- Partner with and empower our diverse communities by providing them with opportunities to engage with the local board
- Partner with health organisations to ensure mental health and disability support for tangata whaiora (a person seeking wellness) is accessible for all members of our community

Sport Auckland would like to promote our Health & Wellness programmes to the Local Board, specifically our Green Prescription and Active Families initiatives. We see strong alignment between our initiatives and the Local Board's initiatives outlined above.

We strongly support the objective - *Strengthen collaboration and partnership with Māori*. Under this objective we support the initiatives:

- Develop mana whenua relationships to advance partnership and support mana whenua aspirations.
- Create opportunities for effective Māori participation and influence in decision making.
- Support te reo Māori to be seen, heard, spoken and learned throughout the places and spaces of Waiheke.

We strongly support the objective - *Children and youth feel valued, and that they have diverse opportunities to thrive*. Under this objective we support the initiatives:

- Support community-led youth initiatives and implement recommendations of the 2024 Rangatahi / Youth Needs Assessment
- Foster partnerships that mentor and support rangatahi, particularly those transitioning from school to work
- Support community led initiatives that enable tamariki and whānau to develop confidence, skills and connections
- Continue to invest in play beyond traditional playgrounds and promote play as 'an everywhere activity' through implementing the Waiheke Play Plan work programme

We suggest that the Local Board could consider trialling Play on the Way where there could be playful elements along school routes such as footpath stencils, murals and playful signage.

Sport Auckland strongly supports the Objective to '*Strengthen collaboration and partnership with Māori*' and the key initiatives:

- Develop mana whenua relationships to advance partnership and support mana whenua aspirations.
- Create opportunities for effective Māori participation and influence in decision making.
- Support te reo Māori to be seen, heard, spoken and learned throughout the places and spaces of Waiheke.



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Sport Auckland House
PO Box 26 599
Epsom
Auckland 1344

Tel (09) 623 7900
www.sportauckland.co.nz

Te taiao kua hangaia - Built environment

Sport Auckland strongly supports the objective *improve our community's wellbeing by providing quality arts, recreational and community facilities*. Under that objective Sport Auckland supports the following initiatives:

- Continue to support local organisations with the development of a community swimming pool and consider consulting our community on a targeted rate if required
- Upgrade community halls and facilities in line with the Waiheke Local Climate Action Plan and lighting with Dark Sky criteria
- Plan for future redevelopment of arts and culture facilities
- Continue to work with partners and investigate options for future provision of community equestrian facilities
- Make sure we prioritise accessibility and inclusivity when we renew our playgrounds and facilities in line with the 'Waiheke Be Accessible' plan
- Progress recommended actions within the updated Waiheke Active Sport and Recreation Plan
- Review and assess what water infrastructure and resources are needed to best support and set up sport and recreation groups
- Explore the provision of all-age fitness equipment at well-used and visible sites to reflect play elements and principles in our open spaces where appropriate.

Sport Auckland strongly supports the objective *Embrace Waiheke's rich Māori identity and cultural history* and the key initiatives to:

- Invest in and support local, community-led initiatives that celebrate Māori identity and culture including: ▪ Te Kete Rukuruku (te reo naming and dual naming of parks).
- implementation of Te Aranga Design principles in park, playground, and green space upgrades.
- Create connection to place and heritage through the installation of historical and cultural markers in our open spaces.

Sport Auckland strongly supports the objective *Improve the open space network on the island*. Under that objective Sport Auckland supports the following initiatives:

- Progress recommended actions within the Waiheke Local Parks Management Plan and the Rangihoua Reserve and Onetangi Sports Park Reserve Management Plan
- Upgrade existing walking tracks including resurfacing, boardwalk construction, drainage improvements and realignment to better protect bush/coastal environments, while improving safety and walkability.



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We strongly recommend the Local Board considers play elements and principles in your open spaces and where appropriate.

Tūnuku -Transport

Sport Auckland strongly supports the objective *Our community feels empowered to use active modes of transport where safely possible*. Under that objective Sport Auckland supports the following initiatives:

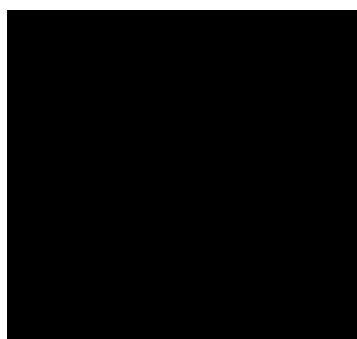
- Continue to deliver prioritised pedestrian and cycle links, guided by the Waiheke Pathways Plan
- Support the work of Cycle Action Waiheke and other local organisations that encourage and promote use of active modes.

Sport Auckland strongly supports the objective *A safe roading network that meets the needs of all road users and supports the special character of Waiheke*. Under that objective Sport Auckland supports the following initiatives:

- Support implementation of the refreshed Waiheke 10-Year Transport Plan
- Support work toward ensuring routes to all Waiheke schools are safe for walking and cycling
- Investigate local event traffic management planning solutions
- Implement speed calming measures in areas where speeding risk is found to be high
- Consider the accessibility needs of all road users when we upgrade our transport infrastructure
- Review the transport layout in Ostend village and surrounds to create a safer environment

We would like to thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026. We appreciate the Board's continued commitment to supporting active, connected and thriving communities.

Yours sincerely,





Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#152

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Te Kotahi a Tāmaki

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Tell us why

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?
Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.

See attached

Te Kotahi a Tāmaki – Marae Collective

Submission from the TKAT - Marae Collective on the Draft Local Board Plans 2026–2029

Purpose

This submission reflects the aspirations and priorities shared by marae representatives across two regional hui facilitated by Auckland Council on 31 March 2026 and 6th July 2026 as part of the development of the Draft Local Board Plans 2026–2029 through community partnership agreement.

The first hui, held on 31 March 2026, focused on understanding the aspirations, challenges and support needs of marae across Tāmaki Makaurau. The second hui, held during the Draft Local Board Plans consultation on 6th July 2026, provided an opportunity for marae to review the draft plans, discuss local priorities and identify opportunities to strengthen partnerships between marae, local boards and Auckland Council.

Together, these discussions highlighted a shared vision for stronger partnerships, meaningful engagement, investment in marae capability, and greater recognition of marae as trusted community leaders and connectors.

Marae play a vital role in supporting whānau, preserving te ao Māori, strengthening communities and responding to local needs. They provide cultural leadership, social support, emergency response, and opportunities for whānau to connect, learn and thrive.

We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Draft Local Board Plans and encourage all 21 Local Boards to continue strengthening their partnerships with marae over the next three years.

Our Recommendations

1. Build enduring partnerships with marae

We encourage all Local Boards to move beyond one-off consultation and establish ongoing relationships with marae throughout the work programme. Early and meaningful engagement enables better decision-making and ensures Māori voices help shape local priorities from the outset.

We also encourage more opportunities for elected members to meet directly with marae through regular hui, site visits and community-led conversations.

2. Recognise marae as trusted community partners

Whānau who may experience barriers to participation, and communities who are less likely to engage through formal consultation.

Local Boards should continue working alongside marae to reach these communities and support more inclusive engagement across Tāmaki Makaurau.

3. Invest in strong, sustainable marae

Marae require ongoing investment to continue delivering for their communities.

We encourage Local Boards to advocate for initiatives that strengthen:

- governance capability
- operational sustainability
- legal and compliance knowledge
- tikanga leadership
- community engagement capability
- emergency preparedness and resilience.

Clearer information about Council funding opportunities, criteria and application timeframes would also help marae plan more effectively.

4. Support rangatahi and whānau wellbeing

Rangatahi should remain a key priority across all Local Board Plans.

We encourage Local Boards to support initiatives that:

- strengthen cultural identity and belonging
- improve access to sport, recreation and wellbeing programmes
- provide wraparound support for tamariki and rangatahi
- create more opportunities for rangatahi leadership and participation in local decision-making.

5. Strengthen Te Tiriti partnerships

We acknowledge the distinct roles of both mana whenua and mātāwaka and encourage Local Boards to continue honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi through meaningful partnership, early engagement and opportunities to contribute to decision-making where appropriate.

Planning processes should also recognise that whakapapa and iwi relationships extend beyond Local Board boundaries, allowing marae and iwi to contribute to multiple Local Board Plans where relevant.

6. Encourage collaboration across Tāmaki Makaurau

There is significant value in creating opportunities for marae to connect with one another, local boards and Council staff.

Regional hui, expos and networking opportunities would support collaboration, knowledge sharing and stronger relationships between Māori organisations and Auckland Council.

Summay

The Marae Collective welcomes the positive relationships that continue to develop with Auckland Council and Local Boards.

We look forward to working in partnership to ensure Local Board Plans deliver meaningful outcomes for Māori communities and reflect the aspirations of whānau across Tāmaki Makaurau.

By investing in long-term relationships, recognising marae as trusted community partners and engaging early in decision-making, Local Boards can strengthen outcomes not only for Māori, but for the wider communities they serve.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#58

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi Arts Regional Trust

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?

Tell us why

2. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

3. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

- 7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan? Including how we could better meet our *climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations*.**

As the regional arts trust for Tāmaki Makaurau, Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi appreciates the investment by the Waiheke Local Board in supporting local arts, culture and creativity events and programmes through support for performing arts spaces, grants, festivals and mentorship projects like E Tipu E Rea.

It is good to see this commitment reflected in the local plan in your goals to maintain a flourishing arts sector, celebrate Māori identity, provide quality arts facilities and build recognition of Waiheke as an arts destination.

As one of several local boards that serves both a local community and draws in many people from the wider region as well as visitors to the region, Waiheke provides an inspiring example of how arts, culture and creativity can enrich and inspire a community and support local businesses.

Rawe!



Have Your Say on the Draft Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

#101

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: The Tree Council

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our islands for the next three years?**

Tell us why

2. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Community* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

3. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Natural Environment* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

4. **How well do you think we captured the needs and priorities of our *Built Environment* in this section?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

5. How well do you think we captured our *Economic Development* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

6. How well do you think we captured our *Transport* needs and priorities in this section?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

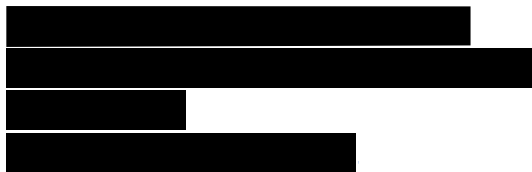
7. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?
Including how we could better meet our climate change goals or Māori outcomes aspirations.



Submission – Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026

by The Tree Council 18 July 2026

From: The Tree Council



Thank you for the opportunity to present The Tree Council's submission on the proposed **Waiheke Local Board Plan 2026**.

This submission is made by The Tree Council, an independent, voluntary organisation, a non-profit incorporated charitable society which has been serving the Auckland community since 1986 in the protection of trees and as advocates for the significant benefits and services that our trees and green spaces provide.

Your draft plan states that over the next 3 years, as kaitiaki (guardians) you want to protect, maintain and enhance your unique island's land, coastline, bush, wetland and marine environments for future generations in partnership with your community.

The Tree Council applauds these initiatives and intentions and provides the following comment and recommendations.

Maori Outcomes

The Tree Council comment:

- *We commend you for placing mana whenua at the centre of all your planning and decision making and recognising that what is good for mana whenua is good for the whole island and its community.*

Our Environment

- *We are delighted to see your support for initiatives which protect, restore, and enhance the island's indigenous biodiversity including sand dune restoration and planting.*
- *We recognise, like you, that your island's Ngāhere is a form of climate resilience, and support your work to protect and grow your native canopy cover.*
- *We are delighted to see recognition of and your support for the important role mana whenua and community groups play in working to enhance biodiversity and undertake tree planting.*
- *We acknowledge your environmental work in weed management and the regeneration of your reserves and green spaces.*
- *We urge you to oppose all consents proposing to remove trees in Significant Ecological Areas and Scheduled Notable Trees on both private and public land as these are so important to retain for future generations.*
- *We appreciate that up to now Waiheke has been determined to be kauri dieback free, but we urge you not to be complacent about this. It only takes one visitor with dirty shoes to introduce it to the island. There needs to be a high degree of biosecurity vigilance and education of both residents and visitors to ensure this does not happen. We are disappointed not to see any mention of this issue in your plan.*
- *Where you have kauri in any of your local native bush reserves, we strongly urge you to get them tested for kauri dieback as soon as possible and if found to be positive then you should consider getting them treated with phosphite to keep them alive. Kauri dieback has an almost 100% mortality rate so all infected trees will die without treatment.*
- *We recommend you work with the Kauri Rescue Trust for the best way to approach this problem. There is an urgency as trees in which the disease has progressed too far will*

not survive even after treatment, so the earlier this happens the better. Kauri are carbon sinks, we need to keep these trees alive as long as possible. Kauri Rescue has already been working to treat trees in local parks, and this work can be expanded with the support of local boards.

- *We are greatly encouraged by your commitment in your draft plan to support local initiatives including volunteer groups, that enhance connection and diversity, reduce isolation and promote community development. Providing space for these community groups to grow fruit trees on public land would be an important source of food for all local communities.*
- *The growing of fruit in suburban gardens has gone out of fashion in recent years and with intensification the space to do so will soon be unavailable to most people living in Auckland. Therefore, having the opportunity to grow fruit in public spaces (parks, reserves, streets) is something that people value highly. Public consultations on the type of trees desired for public planting often results in suggestions for fruit trees.*
- *Having public collections of different types of fruit trees would enable educational opportunities to take place that could include for example daily care, pruning, propagation, grafting, cookery, heritage and history etc. This could involve schools as well as public workshops, adoption by community or friends' groups.*
- *The public collections on public land in local parks and streets could be localised to reflect the fact that some varieties of fruit trees are better suited to grow in specific areas of Auckland.*
- *We suggest that you reach out to the public to identify fruit trees on private land that could provide the basis for the collection via propagation &/or transplanting. Support for this project can be enhanced by working with NZ Tree Crops Association, The Tree Council and local groups in your area.*

Advocacy

- *We support your plan to advocate to the Governing Body for regionally led flood resilience and blue-green network programmes to be delivered on Waiheke.*
- *We support your plan to advocate to Central Government to ban the sale and use of fireworks in Aotearoa.*

In addition, we would like to see specific support, including financial support, for the following initiatives to protect and enhance existing tree cover:

- *Practical support and (for eg legal) advice for private landowners wishing to provide permanent protection for their trees eg via covenants &/or scheduling to enable protection of existing tree cover on private land to be optimised as most of the mature trees in Auckland are on private land with no legal protection.*

- *Grants for private landowners to maintain Scheduled Notable Trees on their property*
- *Provide permanent and visible physical labels for all Scheduled Notable Trees in the local board area to enable the public to see that this tree is legally protected and tell the stories of our natural heritage.*
- *Look for opportunities to schedule additional mature trees and encourage Council to undertake Plan Changes to the Unitary Plan to regularly add new trees to Schedule 10 (Notable Trees).*
- *Look for opportunities to raise awareness of the value of Scheduled Notable Trees by organising events to celebrate them such as guided walks, community picnics, heritage talks.*
- *We would like to see specific support, including financial support, for mana whenua, local communities and groups undertaking the following types of initiatives within the local board area:*
 - *water quality testing*
 - *monitoring of beaches*
 - *treatment of diseased kauri trees on local parks and private land*
 - *monitoring for myrtle rust*
 - *weed control*
 - *pest control*
 - *protection of rare birds eg dotterel*
 - *restoration planting*
- *Public education on issues affecting biodiversity such as:*
 - *kauri dieback, myrtle rust*
 - *weeds*
 - *animal and insect pests*
 - *other biosecurity threats*
 - *control of dogs in sensitive areas*
 - *conflicting uses eg vehicles on beaches*
 - *rules for marine reserves*