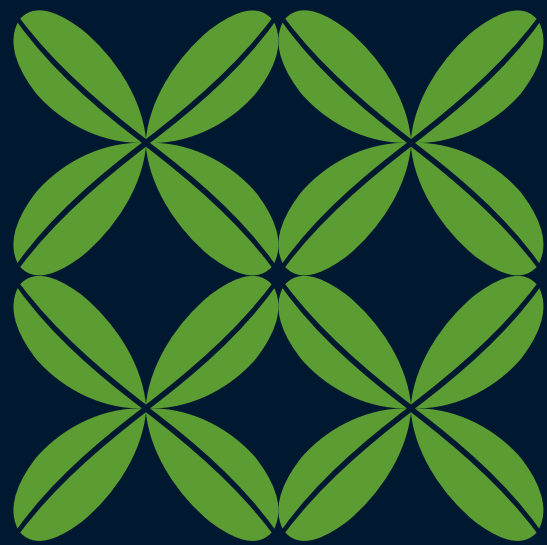
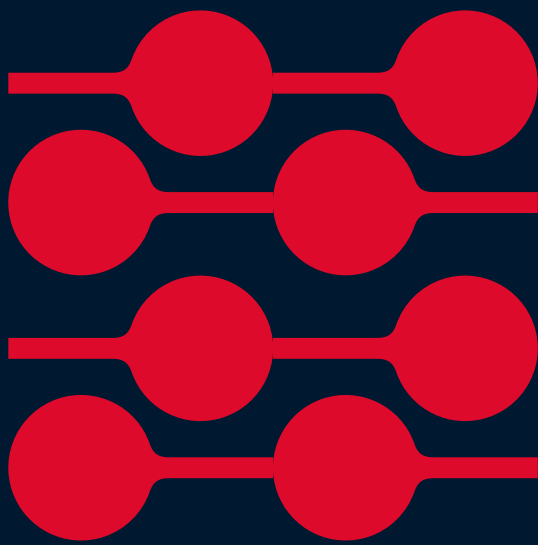




Whau Local Board Plan 2026 Summary of Feedback





Summary of feedback on the draft Whau Local Board Plan 2026

Purpose

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

Executive Summary

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

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

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

Engagement Approach

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

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

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

Support was provided to submitters including:

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

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



Māori engagement

Mana whenua

A co-ordinated approach was taken by local boards so that mana whenua were invited to engage with relevant local boards in one hui rather than receiving separate invitations from each local board. For the Whau Local Board, engagement took place through two Rangatira ki te Rangatira Governance Hui with Te Kawerau ā Maki and the three west local boards in March and July 2026.

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

Marae and mātāwaka

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

A new marae feedback form was developed specifically for marae to be able to have their say in a way that reflected their priorities.

Feedback from mātāwaka was via Te Kotahi-ā-Tāmaki and a mātāwaka hui held at Hoani Waititi Marae with the three west local boards in March, and a Mātāwaka Network of Practice hui in July 2026.

Stakeholder and community engagement

Table 1: Summary of early engagement activities

Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Huingā Rangatira – mana whenua engagement with Te Kawerau ā Maki.	Rangatira ki te Rangatira Governance Hui was held on Friday 27 March and Friday 3 July 2026 between Te Kawerau ā Maki, Henderson-Massey, Whau and Waitākere Ranges local boards.	Friday 27 March 2026 - 21 Attendees. Friday 3 July 2026 – 15 attendees.
Mātāwaka hui	Hui was held on Monday 30 March 2026 at Hoani Waititi Marae with Henderson-Massey, Whau and Waitākere Ranges local boards.	9 pieces of feedback were received during the korero.
Blockhouse Bay Christmas Festival	Early engagement pop up stall was held at the Blockhouse Bay town centre on Sunday 7 December 2025.	208 pieces of feedback received.
Waitangi @ Waititi	Early engagement pop up stall was held at Parrs Park, Oratia on Friday 6 February 2026.	493 pieces of feedback received.
Regional stakeholders hui	A regional stakeholders hui was held at Te Mānawa on 25 February 2026 with stakeholders across the north and west Auckland region.	68 participants participated in the hui.



Whau Chinese New Year Festival	Early engagement pop up stall was held at Olympic Park on Saturday 21 st February 2026.	242 pieces of feedback received.
Whau-lympics	Early engagement pop up stall held at Olympic Park on Saturday 7 th March 2026.	758 pieces of feedback received.
Te Kotahi a Tāmaki Marae Collective	An early engagement hui was held with the Collective on Tuesday 31 March.	Key priorities identified included resilience, environmental protection, wellbeing, infrastructure, and funding support.

Table 2: Summary of consultation activities during the consultation period

Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Have Your Say Event	Have Your Say drop-in session held on 11 March 2026 at the New Lynn War Memorial library. This was a publicly promoted opportunity to provide feedback or ask questions directly with an elected member.	21 participants were at the session.
Advisory Panel – Diverse Communities	This hui was held on Thursday, 2 July 2026, which brought together Auckland Council’s Demographic Advisory Panels and local board members to share perspectives on the draft plans.	These panels included Ethnic Community Advisory Panel, Pacific Peoples Advisory Panel and Rainbow Communities Advisory Panel. An elected member attended from the Whau Local Board. A summary report of the discussion was provided.
Advisory Panel – Future Auckland (youth panel)	This hui was held on Tuesday 14 July 2026, which brought together Auckland Council’s Youth Advisory Panel members and local board members to share perspectives on the draft plans.	An elected member attended from the Whau Local Board. A summary report of the discussion was provided.
Buzzly campaign	Buzzly is an online engagement platform for rangatahi (under 25) that was used to seek feedback on the draft Whau Local Board Plan. Youth participated in feedback processes via a variety of methods, and received incentives such as payment and/or prizes on offer.	5 pieces of feedback were received.
Marae and mātāwaka regional hui	Hui was held on Friday 03 July 2026 with the local board project team, local board Engagement Advisors and members of Te Kotahi-ā-Tāmaki (marae collective).	Marae and mātāwaka representatives included: • Te Mahurehure marae (Albert-Eden) • Whaataapaka marae (Franklin) • Mataatua marae (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu) • Te Awamaarahi marae (Port Waikato, closest to Franklin) • and individuals.
Community Partner events	The following community partners held events to support the consultation: • Whau Pasifika	Participant numbers varied for each event. Different methods were used to reach the different communities with content aimed at getting specific perspectives, raising

	• Whau Ethnic Collective • Age Concern/ Disha NZ • Sporthub • ZEAL • Waitakere Chinese Association • Falelalaga • Sign West	awareness and directing attendees to online or hardcopy feedback options.
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Generic submissions to all boards

29 organisations provided submissions to all local boards. Relevant content is included in the sections below.

- Aktive
- Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative New Zealand)
- Avondale Business Association
- Blockhouse Bay Business Association
- City Builders Association
- Civic Trust Auckland (CTA)
- Communities Against Alcohol Harm
- Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.
- Community Waitakere
- Falelalaga Village
- Forest & Bird
- Friends of Oakley Creek
- Gardens4Health
- Healthy Auckland Together
- I Love Avondale Charitable Trust
- Kai West Collective
- National Public Health Service – Northern Region
- Rosebank Business Association
- Tapasa Navigating Futures
- Te Kotahi a Tāmaki
- Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi Arts Regional Trust
- The Outdoor Access Commission Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa
- The Tree Council
- The Whau River Catchment Trust
- Tiki Hut Creative
- Tuia Waitākere
- West Auckland Deaf Community
- Whau Pasifika Trust
- ZEAL



Summary of feedback

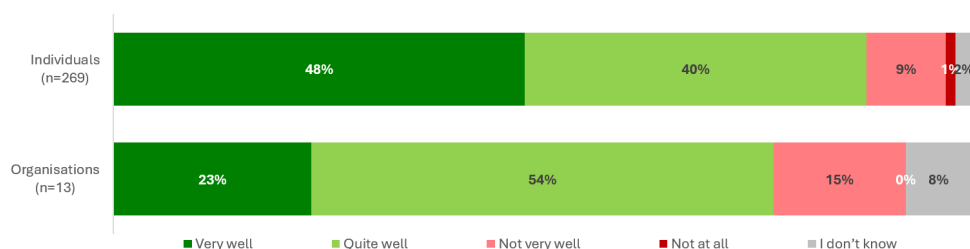
General feedback on the draft Whau Local Board Plan

The draft Whau Local Board Plan 2026 received 469 pieces of feedback across all platforms.

- 100 online submissions
- 183 hard copy forms
- 19 emails
- 167 pieces of feedback from Events (161), Buzzly (5), Unspecified (1)

There was overall support for the draft plan with 88 per cent of individuals and 77 per cent of organisations responding that the draft Plan reflected the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years. The feedback indicates broad support for the direction and values of the draft plan, especially its environmental, community and transport priorities, but want clearer actions, stronger delivery commitments, greater attention to safety and everyday local issues, more focus on youth employment, economic development and protecting important community assets such as Avondale Racecourse.

The below graph provides an overview of the responses.



Community

The Community section of the draft plan includes six objectives focussed on these areas:

- local leadership
- health and wellbeing
- Māori identity and wellbeing
- community places
- parks and open spaces
- climate change

Overall, submitters strongly supported the Community outcome and its focus on belonging, wellbeing and inclusion. Key feedback themes are:

- Strongly support community connection, belonging and inclusion through community hubs, events, multicultural initiatives and neighbourhood networks.
- Support partnerships with mana whenua, Māori identity, Te Hono, marae advocacy, portage route markers and Te Tiriti commitments.
- A minority opposed too much emphasis on Māori outcomes and wanted a broader focus across all communities.



- Improve community safety through better lighting, CCTV, police and patrol presence, crime prevention initiatives and safer town centres.
- Support vulnerable residents, people experiencing hardship, homelessness and food insecurity.
- Prioritise young people by providing safe spaces, recreation opportunities, and better access to education, employment and creative pathways.
- Strong support for community facilities, parks and recreation infrastructure, including Te Hono and Aquatic and Recreation Centre.
- Improve access to sporting facilities
- Retain Avondale Racecourse as open space.
- Ensure community facilities and recreation infrastructure meet the needs of growing communities and to incorporate universal accessibility.

Natural Environment

The Natural Environment section of the draft plan includes three objectives focussed on these areas:

- Whau River, harbours and catchment
- Biodiversity
- Kaitiaki of te taiao (guardianship of the environment).

Overall, submitters were highly supportive of the Natural Environment outcome and generally wanted the local board to do more rather than less.

Key feedback themes are:

- Continue prioritising environmental restoration and climate resilience.
- Protect green and open spaces, particularly Avondale Racecourse.
- Complete Te Whau Pathway and strengthen environmental connections.
- Support community environmental organisations and volunteers.
- Increase tree planting, while improving maintenance of existing vegetation.
- Take a stronger catchment-wide approach to improving the health of the Whau River and surrounding waterways.
- Strengthen environmental education and Māori environmental stewardship.

Built Environment

The Built Environment section of the draft plan includes three objectives focussed on these areas:

- Town centre and neighbourhoods
- Growth and planning
- Cultural heritage and identity

Overall, feedback generally supported the Built Environment direction, but residents wanted a stronger emphasis on open space protection, town centre activation, community facilities, safety, and infrastructure keeping pace with growth.

Key feedback themes are:

- Protect Avondale Racecourse and other green/open spaces.
- Improve and revitalise Avondale and New Lynn town centres.



- Deliver community facilities, particularly Te Hono and the Aquatic Centre.
- Make public spaces cleaner, safer and better maintained.
- Ensure housing growth is matched by infrastructure and services.
- Increase investment in everyday infrastructure and maintenance.

Economic Development

The Economic Development section of the draft plan includes three objectives focussed on these areas:

- Local economy
- Local jobs and training pathways
- Creative economy

Feedback generally supported the Economic Development outcome but submitters requested more specific actions, clearer outcomes and stronger support for businesses, employment and town centre vitality.

Key feedback themes are:

- Increase focus on local economic development and business growth.
- Take stronger action on youth employment and skills development.
- Support small businesses through affordable premises and business incubation.
- Create more vibrant town centres, cafés, restaurants and hospitality opportunities.
- Leverage CRL and regeneration projects to stimulate economic growth.
- Ensure infrastructure and services keep pace with population growth.
- Balance environmental and social goals with economic prosperity.

Transport

The Transport section of the draft plan includes three objectives focussed on these areas:

- Walk and bike
- Safety
- Public transport

Overall, feedback showed strong support for the Plan's focus on active transport, public transport and safer travel, particularly Te Whau Pathway and cycling improvements.

Key feedback themes are:

- Completion of Te Whau Pathway.
- More walking and cycling infrastructure.
- Better public transport connectivity and frequency.
- Improved pedestrian safety and crossings.
- More accessible bus infrastructure for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Better management of congestion and traffic impacts.
- Mixed views on traffic calming and speed humps.

Other questions asked

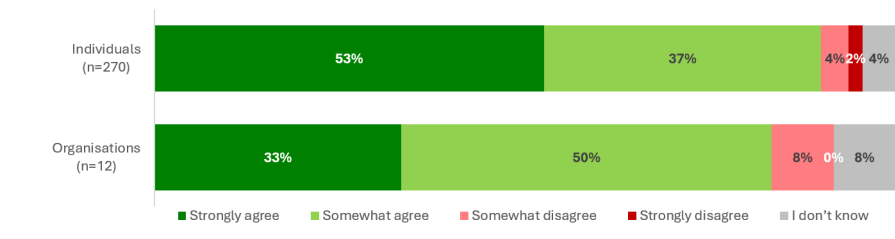
As part of the draft local board plan consultation, the following additional questions were asked.

What do you think of our proposed community safety and wellbeing initiatives?

There is majority support of the proposed approach and initiatives. The most common themes are:

- Safety in town centres, transport hubs and parks, in particular Avondale and New Lynn.
- Support for CCTV, more police presence and patrols.
- Safety should go beyond enforcement and include stronger community connections, activated public spaces and support services.
- Lighting was a major theme, but some also asked to do this responsibly and consider light pollution and impacts on wildlife.
- Older residents wanted better maintained pathways and lighting, and digital safety and literacy programmes.

The below graph provides an overview of the responses.



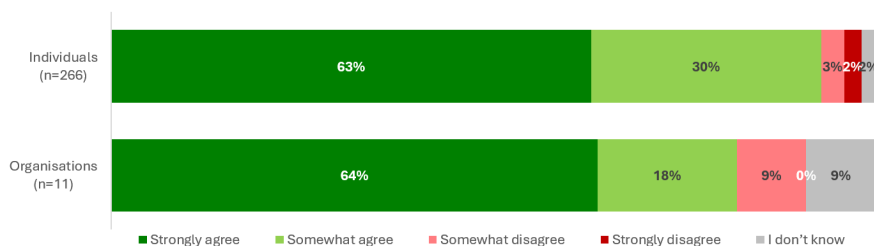
What do you think of our proposal to increase partnerships with community organisations to improve public access to facilities?

There is strong overall support for facilities such as school pools, sports fields, tennis and netball courts, community halls, church facilities, libraries and community halls, however people stressed that successful partnerships require adequate funding, clear management arrangements, maintenance support and equitable access. The key themes are:

- partnerships are a practical and cost-effective way to:
 - maximise value from public assets and ratepayer investment
 - improve access
 - better use of existing facilities
 - strengthen relationships between the between residents, schools, community organisations, churches and cultural groups.
- partnerships should complement, not replace, ongoing investment in new community infrastructure, particularly aquatic and recreation facilities within the Whau area.
- Ensure successful partnerships through:
 - clear agreements and management
 - schools should not carry additional costs
 - quality of the facility
 - accessibility and inclusion

The below graph provides an overview of the responses.





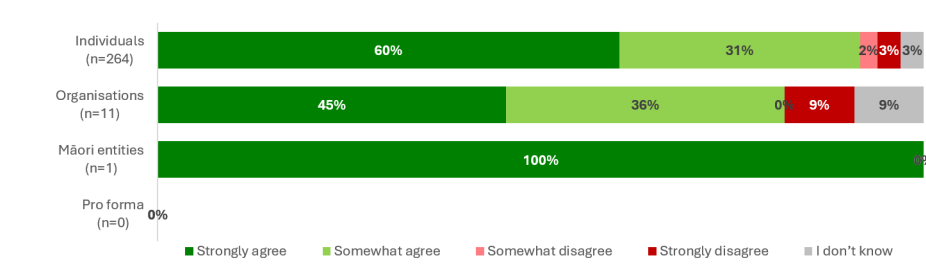
What do you think of our proposal to invest more to help grow Whau's creative economy?

There is overall support for greater investment in arts, culture, creative businesses and local talent, only if investment is balanced with core services. A small number felt this is a lower priority than other community needs.

Key feedback themes are:

- Requests for local board grants, affordable workspaces, studios, rehearsal spaces, exhibition venues and performance opportunities.
- Provide career pathways for young people.
- Link creativity, economic development and town centre revitalization.
- Lack of dedicated creative spaces.
- Provide more opportunities for people aged 50+ and seniors to earn income and remain connected.
- Request business start-up support and accelerators.
- Some felt the proposal is too focused on Avondale and New Lynn.

The below graph provides an overview of the responses.



Māori Outcomes

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

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

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

- **Community:** the draft plan proposed initiatives that strengthening Māori identity and wellbeing including strengthening its rangatira ki te rangatira relationship with Te Kawerau a Maki, partnership with Hoani Waititi Marae to increase Māori engagement, parks naming and activation, and advocacy for the Te Henga marae.



- **Natural environment:** the draft plan recognises mana whenua as kaitiaki of te taiao (guardians of the environment) and supports community-led stream restoration, education programmes, and events that celebrate the cultural and ecological significance of the Whau River. It also supports partnerships to restore the Manukau Harbour and recognises the role of Te Kawerau ā Maki in the stewardship of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.
- **Built Environment:** the draft plan aims to celebrate Māori heritage and identity through initiatives that support the ongoing regeneration of Avondale and enhancing public spaces. It also promotes the reflection of Māori heritage and identity in the design and naming of parks and places and supports the installation of physical markers recognising the historic Māori portage route between the Waitematā and Manukau Harbours via the Whau River.
- **Transport:** The draft plan includes an initiative to complete the next section of Te Whau Pathway, recognising and celebrating the significance of the historic Māori waka portage route that connected the Waitematā and Manukau Harbours via the Whau River. This project will help strengthen awareness of the area's cultural heritage while improving walking and cycling connections.

Overall, feedback demonstrated strong support for deepening partnerships with Te Kawerau ā Maki, increasing the visibility of Māori identity and culture, supporting rangatahi and marae aspirations, and embedding Māori values across environmental, community and economic development initiatives.

Key feedback themes mana whenua, marae and mataawaka are:

- Strong support for partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki, including meaningful involvement in governance, planning and decision-making, and continued advocacy for mana whenua priorities.
- Advocacy for Te Henga Marae as a key priority.
- Greater visibility of Māori identity, heritage and storytelling.
- Support for rangatahi development, youth-focused initiatives and leadership opportunities.
- Recognition of Māori values and kaitiakitanga in environmental protection, restoration and decision-making.
- Interest in economic and cultural development opportunities, including iwi-led tourism, cultural enterprises and initiatives that strengthen Māori wellbeing.

Climate outcomes

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

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

- **Community:** the draft plan recognises the growing risks of coastal erosion, flooding, and severe weather events and aims to build community resilience through emergency preparedness, a low-carbon and resilient local food system, and greater climate change awareness and education.
- **Natural Environment:** the draft plan aims to improve the health of local waterways, restore habitats and biodiversity, and strengthen resilience to flooding, climate change, and coastal hazards. Through catchment planning, flood resilience projects, stream and wetland restoration,



community-led environmental action, and investment in water infrastructure, it supports a healthier natural environment and helps communities adapt to a changing climate.

- **Built Environment:** the draft plan supports a more resilient and sustainable built environment through increased tree planting in town centres and along road corridors, sensible planning and advocacy for investment in greenspace, including securing the Avondale Racecourse site for community recreation and open space.
- **Economic Development:** the draft plan supports initiatives that encourage local businesses to reduce emissions and waste and lessen their impact on local waterways.
- **Transport:** the draft plan supports lower-emission and more climate-resilient transport by making it easier and safer for people to walk, cycle, and use public transport. Key initiatives include completing Te Whau Pathway, improving walking and cycling connections, delivering neighbourhood greenways, supporting better cycling facilities and wayfinding, and promoting climate-friendly travel through schools and community programmes.

Overall, feedback on climate and environmental matters was strongly supportive, with many submitters endorsing the plan's focus on environmental protection, climate resilience, biodiversity, waterways, tree planting, and reducing emissions.

Key feedback themes are:

- Strong support for the plan's focus on climate resilience, flood management, and preparing for the impacts of climate change.
- Recognition of the importance of protecting communities from environmental risks and severe weather events.
- Requests for a stronger emphasis on flood resilience, nature-based solutions, and catchment-wide planning approaches.
- Support for enhancing water catchment planning and initiatives, including using natural environmental assets to help mitigate flood and climate-related risks.
- Strong support for active transport, including walking, cycling, and Te Whau Pathway.
- Protection of significant green spaces, particularly Avondale Racecourse was viewed as an important climate resilience and flood mitigation asset.
- Support for local food systems and food resilience.

Equitable outcomes

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

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

- **Community:** the draft plan prioritises equitable outcomes by supporting vulnerable and priority communities, including young people, older adults, ethnic communities, and those experiencing homelessness. It includes initiatives to provide safe and welcoming spaces for youth, support older people to access information and events, strengthen community-led hubs, implement the Welcoming Whau Plan, and improve access to healthy food and community services.
- **Natural environment:** the draft plan promotes equitable access to environmental action and climate resilience by supporting community groups to help people of all backgrounds and abilities

prepare for emergencies and by providing climate change education programmes for schools and diverse communities.

- **Built Environment:** the draft plan seeks to create inclusive public spaces and neighbourhoods where people feel safe, welcome and connected. It supports investment in parks, playgrounds and recreation spaces that meet the needs of growing communities and encourages consideration of accessibility and inclusion in public places and facilities.
- **Economic Development:** the draft plan supports more equitable economic outcomes through youth-focused skills development, employment pathways, local career opportunities, and initiatives that help young people and emerging creatives access training and employment.
- **Transport:** the draft plan aims to improve equitable access to transport by supporting safer walking and cycling connections, improved public transport infrastructure and services, better access to employment and education opportunities, and transport options that are convenient and accessible for a wide range of users.



Feedback strongly supported the plan's emphasis on equitable outcomes and creating a community where everyone feels they belong. The main areas identified for further attention were youth opportunities, disability inclusion, support for older people, addressing economic hardship, and ensuring all diverse communities can access and benefit from local services, facilities, and opportunities.

Key feedback themes are:

- Strong support for creating an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming community where everyone feels they belong.
- Reduce disadvantage and improving outcomes for people experiencing hardship.
- Investing in young people through education, employment, training, recreation, and leadership opportunities.
- Support community facilities and hubs that strengthen social connections and access to services.
- Recognise the importance of supporting ethnically diverse communities and fostering multicultural connections.
- Request stronger disability inclusion, accessibility, and universal design across facilities, transport, and programmes.
- Request greater focus on older adults, including accessible transport, social connection, and age-friendly planning.
- Some submitters sought stronger recognition of women, faith-based communities, and other underrepresented groups.

Who we heard from

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



Submitters (Individuals vs Organisation)		Submission Data	Buzzly	Event	Total	%
Individual		274	5	161	440	94%
Organisation		29	0	0	29	6%
Total		303	5	161	469	100%

