Annual Plan 2026/2027

Written Feedback

Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Volume 3

April 2026

Sub #	Organisation Name	Page Number
	No organisation feedback in this volume	

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#7991

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Based on the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing a rate rise of this magnitude outstrips inflation and fails to deliver value for ratepayers who have borne substantial increases since 2010.Key concerns- The proposed 7.9% increase is effectively a 30% real rise since 2022 far beyond population growth and inflation. The breakdown shows 2% to maintain assets 1.5% for growth-related new assets and 4.4% to cover CRL operating costs. This is excessive and unsustainable for households already stretched.- Wasteful spend and backroom costs must be addressed. Council and CCOs together incur $126 million per year in consultant fees with the average consultant

earning roughly $200k. Direct operating expenditure rose 78% 2013“2023 well above inflation.- Redundancies and payroll: Council payroll stands at about $1.3 billion; six-figure staff numbers have grown and payroll costs can be trimmed through freezing non-essential roles and organisational reform. The Alliance highlights 17+ million in immediate savings from freezing vacant non-essential positions.- Specific savings targets align with the Alliance's Alternative Budget: cut new spending by $150 million (2%) cap consultants at $50 million renegotiate contracts and prioritise statutory services over discretionary grants. This would cap the rate rise to around 3%.- Targeted reductions within 'non-core' spend: cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs $36 million/year with questionable net carbon savings) and reduce spend on Māori outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) of about $10 million per year on the basis that this is not a local government core function.Additional pointsRed tape and excessive external consultancy add little value; real-world industry input should be sought directly and cost-effectively.Submission positionsAgrees: oppose the 7.9% average increase; reduce corporate/backroom expenditure; cut consultancy/professional services; cancel the Food Scraps Programme; freeze staffing/non-essential hires; cut Māori-specific spending.Closing: I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
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	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8716

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I write to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to urge a programme of meaningful expenditure restraint across the Council and CCOs.Key concerns and constructive proposals- The proposed 7.9% average increase is not aligned with inflation or prudent fiscal management. The plan breaks down as 2% to maintain existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. I support the need to fund essential services but rates should be restrained to reflect efficiency gains and to avoid overburdening households.- The Council should curb wasteful corporate and backroom spending. Annual consultant and contractor

costs total approximately $590 million with a large portion spent on six-figure salaries and non-essential functions. A reduction of personnel and consultancy expenditure should occur to fund core services rather than chasing higher rates.- I support cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and in my view emits more carbon than it saves.- A freezing of staffing and a halt on hiring for vacant non-essential roles would yield immediate savings; the submitted estimate of at least $17 million saved right away is prudent to consider.- I oppose additional spend on Māori-specific programmes such as the Ngā Mātārae (Maori Outcomes) department at about $10 million per year given the role of local government to prioritise statutory and essential services.- The Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping average rates increases to around 3% by: reducing personnel costs through organisational changes and a hiring freeze ($50m) capping consultancy spend ($50m) renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors ($30m) and prioritising statutory services ($20m). I urge the Council to consider this approach as a practical transparent path to affordable rates.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8742

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I am writing to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to urge a thorough review of Council spending to avoid rate rises that far exceed inflation.Key concerns- The proposed 7.9% increase averaging about $320 more per household is not affordable for many ratepayers. The real burden is growing: since 2022 rates have risen about 30% in real terms far outstripping general inflation.- A significant portion of the increase (4.4%) covers CRL operating costs. With other cost pressures this growth compounds the unaffordable price tag for households.- The Council should de'risk ratepayer bills by reducing wasteful corporate and backroom spending

across both the Council and CCOs and by cutting consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these lines.- The Food Scraps Programme costs about $36 million per year and according to independent analysis emits more carbon than it saves. This is not a prudent use of ratepayer funds.- Freezing staffing or reducing payroll costs by withholding hiring for non‘essential vacant roles could save at least $17 million immediately.- I urge reductions in Maori-specific spending including the $10 million per year spent on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a local-government core function.Alternative budget perspective- The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposes a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (about 2%) which would cap the average residential rate rise to around 3%. This would be achieved by: (1) a $50 million saving from personnel costs through organisational changes and a hiring freeze; (2) a $50 million reduction in consultants; (3) $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; (4) prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants ($20 million).Additional reflections- Personal experience shared by many households includes cost pressures and service delivery frustrations such as issues with the food scraps bin program. Transparent practical budgeting is essential to restore trust.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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N/A

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

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Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8745

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Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key points- The proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% equates to about $320 for the average household while rates have risen 85% since 2010. This is well above inflation and population growth and not sustainable for ratepayers.- The Council's spending priorities are out of step with financial reality. Direct operating expenditure and staff costs have risen far faster than inflation while backroom functions and consultancy expenses remain excessive.- I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance position to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) which would cap rates increases at around 3%. This plan includes: $50 million saved from personnel costs via

organisational change and hiring freezes for non-essential roles; $50 million from capping consultancy and professional services; $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; and $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Specific spending concerns and actions- Corporate and backroom office costs across the Council and CCOs are unnecessarily bloated. A targeted reduction in these functions would directly lower the ratepayer burden without compromising essential services.- Consultancy and professional services should be slowed and capped. The current trajectory of these expenses is unsustainable and diverts funds from core services.- The Food Scraps Programme costs $36 million per year and according to the Alliance briefing emits more carbon than it saves. It should be cancelled to reallocate funds to essential services.- Freezing staffing or reducing payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles could save at least $17 million immediately.- Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on Ngā Mātārae (Maori Outcomes) should be reviewed as not all functions align with the core duties of local government.ClosingI urge Council to prioritise statutory and essential services cut wasteful expenditure and implement the Alliance's proposed budget reductions to keep rates increases within inflation and growth.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8748

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Auckland CouncilPublic submissions on the proposed 2026/27 annual planI am {name redacted} residing at {address redacted}. I write to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to outline concrete steps to curb wasteful spending while maintaining essential services. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 and the proposed increase equates to about $320 per household. Since 2022 rates have risen by around 30% in real terms far above consumer price inflation.1) Oppose the 7.9% average increase- I support reducing the proposed rate rise to align with or below inflation and population growth rather than continuing a pattern of steep increases

in Council spending.2) Reducing wasteful expenditure- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- The Council should reduce spending on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these costs.- The Council should cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and based on available analysis emits more carbon than it saves.- The Council should freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that would save at least $17 million immediately.3) Alternative budget approach- I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) which would cap the average residential rates increase at around 3%. This would be achieved through: - $50 million in personnel cost reductions via organisational change and a hiring freeze - $50 million cap on consultancy spending - $30 million in contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation - $20 million prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grantsClosingI urge the Council to adopt these savings and provide a more affordable rates path for homeowners businesses and tenants. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8756

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Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key points- I oppose the 7.9% increase (about $320 for the average household) and urge a rate increase aligned with inflation not above it. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 with real increases since 2022 of 30% against 12% inflation.- The rate increase is to cover 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This level of growth in costs is unsustainable for households and should be offset by reducing wasteful spending.- I support reducing Council and CCO expenditure on corporate and backroom functions and cutting the spend on consultancy and professional services rather than

increasing these items.- I oppose the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and is claimed to emit more carbon than it saves; cancellation would free up funds for essential services.- I support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles an action that could save at least $17 million immediately.- I oppose continued or expanded Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a responsibility of local government.Alternative budgeting- I endorse the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) to cap average residential rates increases at about 3%.- Proposed savings: $50 million from personnel costs via organisational changes and hiring freezes $50 million from caps on consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI respectfully request that the Council adopt a fiscally conservative pathway align rates with inflation and implement concrete cost reductions as outlined above.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8778

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a constructive solution-focused manner to oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to advocate for reductions in wasteful Council spending.Position and rationale- Oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% (approximately $320 for the average household) as it outstrips inflation and household means. The current average residential rates bill is about $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of around 30% against 12% inflation.- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb spend on consultancy and professional services rather than allow continued

growth in these areas.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and appears to emit more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; such a measure could yield immediate savings estimated at least $17 million.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the approximately $10 million per year spent on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) given it falls outside core local government responsibilities.Alternative budget approach- I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) which would cap the average rate rise at roughly 3 percent. This would be achieved by: - Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze: $50 million - Capping spending on consultants: $50 million - Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: $30 million - Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: $20 millionClosingI request that the Council consider these savings to deliver essential and statutory services with lower rate increases while aligning spending with residents' priorities. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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- **Water service strategies**
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- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8794

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a personal and sincere tone to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for reducing wasteful Council spending.Key concerns- The proposed 7.9% average rise translates to about $320 more per household on top of a history of rising rates that have grown 85% since the 2010 Super City amalgamation well above inflation and population growth. The current average rates bill is $4069.- The breakdown shows 4.4% of the increase funds CRL operating costs with 2% for asset maintenance and 1.5% for new assets. I contend we must prioritise essential services and curb non-essential spend.- I support reducing expenditure on

corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and reducing spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continued growth in these areas.- I oppose the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and is claimed to emit more carbon than it saves.- I support freezing staffing or reducing payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.- I oppose Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) arguing this is not a local government core function. I prefer funding focused on statutory and essential services first.- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget shows a path to cap rate increases at around 3% by reducing new spending by $150 million through personnel reform capping consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising essential services.Additional pointsFocus on the basics. Do not subsidise entertainment sports or arts through ratepayer funds when essentials are at risk. Projects should affect all ratepayers not a select few.Closing I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8815

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Based on the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing this level of increase is not sustainable for households that are already bearing real rate rises well above inflation.Key points:- The proposed 7.9% increase equates to about $320 extra for the average household on top of a current average bill of $4069. Since 2022 residential rates have risen 30% in real terms far outpacing cumulative inflation.- The breakdown shows 4.4% of the rise going to CRL operating costs with 2% for existing asset maintenance and 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows. I question whether this level of annual rise is justified given the available performance data.- The Council's spending on consultants

is excessive totalling $126 million per year across the group with the average consultant earning about $200k. This is a clear area for savings.- Payroll and related costs have grown substantially with 6123 Council and CCO employees on six-figure salaries and 72 staff paid more than the mayor. Direct operating expenditure and staff costs have risen faster than inflation.Agreed positions and proposed savings:- Reduce overall Council spending on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs.- Curb consultancy and professional services expenditure rather than continuing to expand these costs.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs $36 million/year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves).- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles a measure that can save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year allocated to Ngā Mātārae prioritising statutory and essential services in line with local government roles.Additional point:- This is the worst possible time to ask homeowners for more money.I would like the opportunity to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8859

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

1. Opposition to rate increase- I oppose the average 7.9% residential rates rise. With the current average bill at $4069 and a real increase of 30% since 2022 rates are eroding household purchasing power far faster than inflation. The proposed allocation breakdown includes 4.4% for CRL operating costs which should be scrutinised for efficiency and necessity before adding further burden on ratepayers.2. Wasteful expenditure and senior cost base- Council and CCO spending on consultants and external contracts is excessive: $126 million per year across the group with the average consultant earning about $200k. I support reducing the spend on consultancy and professional

services rather than continuing to escalate these items.- Personnel costs are oversized: 6123 staff on six-figure salaries 72 staff paid more than the mayor's $306741 and payroll at $1.3 billion. I support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.3. Specific program and sector spending to reassess- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze or curtail Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) unless a clear local-government statutory need is demonstrated.4. Alternative budget approach- I support the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) cap the rate increase to around 3% by addressing personnel costs capping consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI request an opportunity to present at hearings to outline these concerns in detail. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
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- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8868

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong and direct terms to oppose the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase and to set out clear steps to reduce wasteful expenditure.1. Rates increase and spending controls- I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. The current rates bill averages $4069 with a real increase of 30 percent since 2022 while inflation has risen by about 12 percent. A rate increase of this magnitude is not justified by the return for ratepayers.- The Council must reduce wasteful backroom and corporate spending across the Council and CCOs. Direct operating expenditure has grown well ahead of inflation and personnel costs have risen

sharply. A tighter more efficient organisation is essential.2. Specific spending reductions- Cut consultancy and professional services spending which runs at about $126 million per year across Council groups with the average consultant paid around $200000. This intake is excessive and unnecessary if operating efficiency is prioritised.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling non-essential vacancies. A targeted hiring freeze could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cap and review Māori‘specific spend including the $10 million per year allocated to Ngā Mātārae (Māori Outcomes). This is not a core role for local government and should be scaled back.3. Alignment with a responsible budget- The Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget proposes reducing new Council spending by about $150 million (2%) to cap the rate increase at around 3 percent. This would be achieved through the measures above: personnel controls vendor consolidation renegotiations and prioritizing essential services over discretionary grants.Additional point- No business unless it is a monopoly like AC can afford such rate increase percentagesMy own business which is a Professional Services business cannot justify increases to or client base of 1700+ of more than 3% we have had to reduce costs which is what AC should do.Closing: I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8893

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I am writing to register my submission on the proposed 2026/27 annual plan and to oppose the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase.Key points I wish to record:- I oppose the average 7.9% rates rise (approximately $320 for the average household) and request that rates increases be kept well below inflation. The current average residential bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 while real rates increases since 2022 amount to about 30% in 2022 dollars versus 12% overall inflation. The breakdown shows 2% for maintaining assets 1.5% for new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs yet the overall burden remains heavy on households.- The Council should

reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these items.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs around $36 million per year and appears to emit more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Maori-specific spending such as the roughly $10 million per year on the Maori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local government function.These steps align with the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget which proposes a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (about 2%) to cap rates increases at roughly 3%. This would be achieved through a mix of organisational changes a hiring freeze capping consultancy spend contract renegotiations and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.I understand the importance of essential services and accountability. I urge the Council to prioritise affordability for households while maintaining core public services and to pursue the stated measures to reduce wasteful spend.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8936

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

This level of increases is not affordable when the real increase in rates since 2022 is already 30% in 2022-dollar terms against a cumulative inflation of around 12%. Some ratepayers are facing the real possibility of losing their homes due in part to higher rates and others are barely holding on. Now more than ever Auckland Council needs to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and cut all unnecessary costs.1) Expenditure reduction across the Council and CCOsThe Council should urgently reduce spending on corporate and backroom office functions. Aligning with ratepayers' interests this includes cutting consultant and professional services which total about $126 million per year across

the Council group. Slower growth in these areas will help cap rate rises. I had the opportunity last year to look over a health and safety study produced by a consultancy for Auckland Transport regarding the proposal to move some bus stops. This study was so full of holes and false assumptions you could drive a bus through it. Whatever was paid for this study was NOT ratepayer money well spent and another example of wasteful spending.2) Freeze or reduce payroll costs and staffingFreeze non-essential staffing and reduce payroll by avoiding hires for vacant roles. This measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately and contribute to limiting rate increases.3) Cancel non-essential programmes with high emissions or questionable valueCancel the Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million per year and emitting more carbon than it saves to reallocate funds to essential services. I and many other Aucklanders do not use our Food Scraps bin. This is something that was forced on Auckland ratepayers as an additional and unwanted expense. When you factor in all the actual costs of this programme and weigh them up against any actual benefits the costs vastly outweigh the benefits. Someone is getting rich off this scheme to the detriment of ratepayers.4) Reconsider Māori-specific expenditureCut Māori-focused spending including the roughly $10 million per year spent on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a function of local government and reallocate to statutory services. Auckland is one of the most multicultural and diverse cities in the world. As demonstrated by the overwhelming rejection of Auckland ratepayers to establishing Maori wards we do not want our ratepayer dollars being spent on singling out one ethnic group for support or special treatment over all others. 5) Overall package and rate pathThe Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) to cap the average residential rates increase at around 3%. This would be achieved through:- $50 million by reducing personnel costs via organisational change and hiring freezes- $50 million by capping consultancy spend- $30 million through contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation- $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grantsThese steps are from a credible well-scoped plan to deliver meaningful savings without compromising core local government duties.ClosingI urge Auckland Council to adopt a prudence-based approach prioritising essential services and responsible stewardship of ratepayer funds.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8976

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key concerns- The proposed 7.9% increase equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a real rates increase since 2022 of about 30% (vs. 12% inflation). This is fundamentally unfair to households already squeezed by cost-of-living pressures.- The breakdown shows 4.4% of the rise is for CRL operating costs with 2% for maintaining assets and 1.5% for growth. Given the scale of over-spending in staff consultants and discretionary spend this is not a justifiable price signal to ratepayers.- Council and CCO spending on consultants totals about $126 million per year; the average consultant receives around $200k. Payroll and related costs have surged with 6123 staff on

six-figure pay and 72 staff earning more than the mayor's $306741. Direct operating expenditure rose well beyond inflation from 2013“2023.- Considerable discretionary spend including $868.4 million across 18 corporate and business support functions and a payroll bill of about $1.3 billion warrants serious restraint.Agreed positions (My submissions)- Oppose the average residential rates by at least 7.9%.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase them.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles (this alone would save at least $17 million right away).- Cut Māori-specific spending including the approximately $10 million per year on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a local government core role.Additional points- The Council is not reducing its own costs and seeks higher rates to fund alleged misallocation of ratepayers' money.ClosingI request that the Council consider these reductions to bring a 3% or lower rate increase by constraining non-essential spend and outsourcing and prioritising essential statutory services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9022,337056,,Waitākere Ranges,Do not support most,I am writing to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for substantial reductions in wasteful council spending before any further rate hikes are approved. An average household would face about $320 more in rates which is disproportionate to inflation and to the modest growth in our city.I have noted that the plan allocates 7.9% as follows: 2% to maintain existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. Since 2010 rates have risen by 85% yet inflation is around 34% and population growth about 22%. Careful scrutiny of where money is spent and a focus on core statutory services is needed!.I agree with the call to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and to curb spending on consultancy and professional services. In particular I support the proposed Council-wide reductions that could lower overall costs without compromising essential services.I also support freezing staffing or reducing payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles a move that could save at least $17 million promptly. The proposed $36 million/year Food Scraps Programme should be cancelled as i inderstand that it emits more carbon than it saves and its climate benefit is not demonstrated.Further I oppose continuing high levels of Māori-specific spending beyond what is appropriate for local government. The $10 million/year spent on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) is not a necessary local government function and funds could be redirected to essential services that benefit all ratepayers.To achieve a more affordable rates outcome I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget: reduce new spending by $150 million (2%) capping average rates at about 3%. This would be achieved through personnel cost reductions capping consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9027,337051,,Waitākere Ranges,Do not support most,Based on the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing the proposed increase would add approximately $320 to the average household rates bill bringing the current average to about $4069 a real increase of 30 percent since 2022 after adjusting for inflation.Key context matters. Since the 2010 Super City amalgamation rates have risen 85 percentwell above inflation (34 percent) and population growth (22 percent). The 7.9 percent lift comprises 2 percent to maintain existing assets 1.5 percent for growth-related new assets and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs. This escalation is disproportionate to core service needs and undermines households already stretched by rising costs.In light of this I support the following positions and urge the Council to implement them to keep rates community-friendly and sustainable:- Oppose the average residential rates increase of at least 7.9 percent and seek a reduction to align with or remain closer to inflation using a fiscally responsible path.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Curb spending on consultancy and professional services; cap and review these costs rather than allowing continual growth.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and based on evidence available emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.The Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget shows that a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (a 2% cut) could cap rates at around 3 percent. Practical steps include: targeted personnel cost reductions limiting consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.I request that my submission be considered in full and I confirm I do not wish to speak at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,, 0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0 ,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9065,337007,,Waitākere Ranges,Do not support most,I submit to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and to urge a focus on reducing wasteful Council spending while protecting essential services.Key points:- The proposed 7.9% increase equates to about $320 for the average household while the current average rates bill is $4069. Since 2022 rates have risen by 30% in real terms far outpacing cumulative inflation (12%). The rate rise is therefore not affordable and is not justified by ongoing asset maintenance or growth-related costs alone.- The breakdown of the increase implies 4.4% for CRL operating costs a sizable share that warrants scrutiny and potential efficiency gains.- There is clear evidence of excessive spending on consultants (about $126 million annually across the Council group with average consultant pay around $200k) and high payroll costs (1.3 billion) alongside a rise in staff salaries and six-figure pay. This indicates room to improve efficiency through organisational change and hiring controls.- Wasteful or non-essential programmes should be reined in. In particular the Food Scraps Programme at $36 million per year warrants cancellation if it does not demonstrably reduce net emissions.- The budget should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and there should be tight control of non-essential spending including outsourcing and corporate backroom costs.Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposes an alternative budget to cap rate increases to around 3% by reducing new spending by $150 million (2%): freeze non-essential hires cap consultant spend renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors and prioritise essential services. I urge the Council to consider these measures which would deliver meaningful savings without compromising core infrastructure and services.I request that you consider these grounds when deliberating the plan and aim to demonstrate fiscal responsibility through reductions in

corporate costs payroll restraint and procurement discipline.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9069,337003,,Waitākere Ranges,Do not support most,The current environment requires restraint: rates for the average household are projected to rise by about $320 on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (vs. 12% CPI) and a rate that has grown by 85% since amalgamation.Key concerns and positions1) Rates increase and affordability- A 7.9% average increase is excessive when core operating pressures are rising in a constrained economy. I support reducing this increase to a more affordable level aligned with inflation to protect household budgets and local economic vitality.2) Expenditure priorities and backroom costs- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs.- Spending on consultants and professional services must be cut with a concrete cap on consultancy expenditure.- Direct operating expenditure and staff costs have grown faster than inflation; reforming personnel costs is essential.3) Specific programme reductions and payroll controls- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs $36 million/year) due to carbon savings not materialising as claimed.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million/year on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a function of local government.4) Alternative budget and overall framing- Adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance approach: reduce new spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the rate increase at around 3% through targeted savings: - $50 million from personnel costs via organisational changes and a hiring freeze - $50 million from capping consultancy - $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation - $20 million prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grantsClosingI urge Auckland Council to align the 2026/27 plan with prudent expenditure controls and to prioritise essential services with a much smaller rate rise than proposed.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9077,336992,,Waitākere Ranges,Do not support most,I submit in strong opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and urge a comprehensive reduction in wasteful Council spending.Key context and positions:- The suggested 7.9% rise equates to around $320 more per average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (in 2022 dollars) while cumulative inflation is ~12%. This is unsustainable for ratepayers.- The rate increase should be capped at or near 3% in line with the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget which realigns spending toward essential services and reduces backroom expenditures.- Reductions must come from corporate/backend functions and consulting. The Alliance estimates $150 million in annual saving through: halting non-essential payroll growth (freeze vacancies) capping consultant spend renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.- Specific wasteful items to cut include: $36 million/year for the Food Scraps Programme (and its carbon impacts) and Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year on the Ngā Mātārae Māori Outcomes portfolio which is beyond the remit of local government.- Other tangible savings include freezing or reducing payroll for non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately

and broader outsourcing/consultant reductions (the Council and CCOs currently incur substantial spend on consultants and professional services).- Overall personnel costs and other expenses have risen well beyond inflation (2022“2025) while operating expenditure growth outpaced inflation and population growth for a decade.I urge Auckland Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance approach: reduce new Council spending by $150 million to keep rates growth to around 3% including:- Freeze non-essential recruitment and reduce payroll costs- Cap consultancy/contractor spend and renegotiate vendor contracts- Prioritise statutory and essential services de-emphasise discretionary items such as certain grants and non-core programmes.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9173

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key points in my submission:1) Oppose the 7.9% increase. The current average residential rates bill is about $4069 and the proposed rise equates to roughly $320 more per household. Given a 30% real rate increase since 2022 (with inflation at about 12%) this is well above inflation and fails to reflect prudent budgeting.2) Reduce corporate and backroom spending. The Alliance notes consultant spend at about $126 million per year across the Council group with $60 million by the Auckland Council parent and an average consultant pay of $200k. A reduction in these costs is essential to align with ratepayer interests.3) Cut consultancy and professional services. Freeze or

cap external advisory and contractual services; redirect funds toward core services that residents rely on.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. At $36 million/year with carbon savings that are uncertain or unproven cancellation would lower operating costs without compromising essential services.5) Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs. Not hiring non-essential vacant roles could save at least $17 million immediately.6) Cut Māori-specific spending. The proposed $10 million/year for the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) is not a core local government function. Reducing this expenditure would contribute to keeping rates increases in check.7) Align with a responsible budget. The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget proposes a $150 million reduction in new spending (2%) capping increases to around 3% by addressing personnel costs consulting contract renegotiations and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.Additional notes: Direct operating expenditure and payroll costs have risen faster than inflation in recent years underscoring the need for restraint and prioritisation of essential services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9177

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge the Council to implement substantial spending reforms to keep rate increases affordable.Key concerns and positions:- The proposed 7.9% increase is excessive relative to inflation and household budgets. This rise translates to about $320 extra per average household and compounds a real rates increase since 2022 of around 30% far outpacing inflation.- Wasteful spending must be curbed. The Council should reduce corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and cut consultancy and professional services rather than perpetually expanding these costs.- Cancel non-essential

programmes that drive unnecessary expenditure. In particular the Food Scraps Programme costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves; this should be ceased.- Freeze staffing growth and reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles. A hiring freeze would save at least $17 million immediately.- Reconsider Māori-specific spending. The $10 million per year devoted to the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) is not a local government core function and should be reallocated or discontinued.Financial context and constructive alternative:- A responsible path is to align rate increases with an efficient operating model. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) delivering an average residential rates increase of around 3% through: - $50 million from personnel cost reductions via organisational change and hiring freezes - $50 million from capping consultants - $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation - $20 million by prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants- These steps would preserve essential services while avoiding excessive burden on households.I request the opportunity to present at hearings to further outline these points and the proposed budget adjustments.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9206

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong opposition to the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and urge a comprehensive reduction in wasteful Council spending to protect households from unaffordable bills.Key concerns- The proposed 7.9% increase translates to about $320 more per average household on top of a long-run trend of rising rates. Since 2010 rates have risen by 85% far exceeding cumulative inflation (about 34%) and population growth (22%). If kept this level of increase is unsustainable for households.- The Council's spending trajectory is misaligned with ratepayer interests. Consultant and professional services total about $126 million per year across

the Council group with the average consultant earning around $200000. Payroll and related costs have grown steeply while essential services compete with discretionary spend.- Specific items to curb: Food Scraps Programme costs around $36 million annually and appears to emit more carbon than it saves. Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Maori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) should be reassessed as local government costs must prioritise statutory and essential services.Proposed plan (Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget)- Reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2% cap on rate increases) achieving an average rate increase of about 3%: - Freeze/hard cap personnel costs by freezing non-essential vacancies and reviewing roles: save around $50 million. - Cap spending on consultants: save around $50 million. - Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors: save around $30 million. - Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: save around $20 million.- Specific additional leanings: remove personal and non-essential staff phone allowances or contracts during working hours.Auckland Council must align its spending with ratepayer capacity. Reducing payroll cost growth and curbing consultants will deliver meaningful relief while preserving core services.Sincerely{name redacted}{address redacted}{email redacted}I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9217

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I am writing as a ratepayer who wants responsible spending and fair taxation for our city. I oppose the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase and urge a conservative approach to Council budget growth.1) Oppose a rates increase above inflation- The proposed 7.9% average rise represents a substantial burden on households equivalent to about $320 for the average family. Since 2010 rates have risen 85% in real termsfar outpacing population growth and inflation. A more restrained approach is needed.2) Reduce non-essential and backroom spending- The Council must cut expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs including high-

cost consultancy and professional services which currently add to ratepayer costs without clear value.- Direct operating expenditure and personnel costs have grown well ahead of inflation; a disciplined review is essential to protect essential services.3) Specific cost-cutting measures aligned with the Alliance proposal- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling non-essential vacancies delivering immediate savings of at least $17 million.- Curb spend on consultants and external contractors targeting substantial reductions.- Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to achieve meaningful savings and prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.4) Programme-specific and equity considerations- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Re-evaluate Māori-specific spend including the $10 million per year attributed to the Māori outcomes function (Ngā Mātārae). If this falls outside core local government responsibilities reallocate to essential services.Additional points- The CRL may not apply to my area and I do not support funding it through general rates.- The projected $4+ billion investment for a 3km CRL section appears disproportionate and should be re-examined for value and fairness.ClosingI respectfully request that the Council adopt the proposed Budget with a targeted 3% cap on residential rates achieved through the outlined savings measures and a focus on core services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9253

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong opposition to the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase and the overall direction of spend that accompanies it. The rate rise should be restrained to reflect inflation not funded by households already stretched by prices and interest costs.I support the following positions:1) Oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9 percent. The current plan imposes about $320 more per average household while real increases since 2022 total 30 percent far exceeding inflation.2) Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. There is a need to streamline governance and non‘customer-facing costs.3)

Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services. The current pattern of high contractor use is inefficient and should be capped with a focus on internal capability.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs approximately $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves. Public funds should prioritise essential services and proven emissions reductions.5) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non‘essential roles a measure that would save at least $17 million immediately.6) Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the 'Maori outcomes' Ngā Mātārae programme on the basis that this is not a core local government function and should be redirected to statutory services.Context and expectations:- The Council must prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.- A more disciplined approach to personnel consultants and external contractors is essential to bring rate increases in line with households' ability to pay.- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget shows a pathway to cap the rate rise at around 3 percent through targeted savings.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9298

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current average rates bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 and the real increase since 2022 is around 30% far above cumulative inflation. The proposed breakdownwith 4.4% for CRL operating costs and 2% for maintaining existing assetsillustrates that spending pressures are being shifted onto ratepayers rather than restrained.I urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) which would cap the rate rise at about 3%. Specifically:- Reduce personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze: $50 million- Cap spending on consultants and professional services: $50 million-

Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors: $30 million- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: $20 millionKey areas of expenditure that must be addressed include:- Corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs which should be slimmed to reflect efficient frontline service delivery.- Consultancy and professional services which have risen disproportionately; a reduction is essential.- Food Scraps Programme ($36 million/year) should be cancelled as it costs more in emissions than it saves.- Payroll costs: freeze staffing or reduce non-essential roles to save at least $17 million immediately.- Māori-specific spending: re-evaluate the $10 million/year spent on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a local government core function.Additional practical measure: stop using large buses where smaller vehicles could perform routine town routes more efficiently and at lower cost.In conclusion I oppose the 7.9% rate rise and urge the Council to implement the outlined reductions to deliver essential services while protecting households from excessive taxation.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
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- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9316

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed 2026/27 annual plan. I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge a disciplined approach to Council expenditure that delivers essential services at sustainable cost.Key concerns- The proposed 7.9% average residential rates rise is excessive given ongoing inflation and the 30% real increase since 2022. The rates burden should not outpace inflation especially when existing operating costs are driven by expanding discretionary programmes.- A substantial portion of the increase is tied to CRL operating costs. Reducing non-essential spending is required before elevating rates on households.-

There is clear opportunity to curb wasteful spending in corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and to reduce consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these lines.Specific reform proposals- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and based on available assessments emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Curb Māori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that such functions are not responsibilities of local government at this scale.- Reduce overall personnel costs by organisational change and hiring freezes cap spending on consultants renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to align with statutory and essential services.Budget framing- I support the Ratepayers' Alliance view of reducing new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) to cap the average rate increase at 3%. This should be achieved through targeted reductions in staffing consultants contract renegotiations and prioritising core services over discretionary grants.ClosingI request that the Council consider these measures as part of a revised plan to deliver essential services while protecting ratepayers from excessive increases.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9399

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

The rate rise would amount to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 far outpacing inflation. Since the Super City began rates have risen 85% while population growth and inflation have lagged behind.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance positions to cap rate increases at around 3% by cutting non-essential and excessive expenditure. Specifically:1) Reduce personnel costs by freezing vacancies and limiting non-essential hires which could save at least $17 million immediately.2) Curb spending on consultants and professional services; the council should implement tighter procurement renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to

save about $50 million.3) Cut discretionary and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs including a $150 million reduction in new spending as proposed to keep rates closer to inflation.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million annually and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.5) Freeze or reduce Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Maori Outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) programme which I consider not a core local-government responsibility.Additional points for consideration:- The Harbour Bridge tolls imposed on North Shore residents were a burden when the bridge was built; there is precedent for user-pays mechanisms. The City Rail Link is a major project that currently serves users rather than the wider region's needs; funding and pricing should reflect actual service users.- Given payroll costs and high expenditure on consultants the council should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants to households.In closing I respectfully request that the Council seriously consider the proposed Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance framework prioritise a 3% cap and implement the stated reductions to deliver fairer more affordable rates for Auckland households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9427

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Position 1: Rate increase. I oppose the proposed average residential rates rise of 7.9 percent. With the current average residential bill at $4069 and a real increase of 30 percent since 2022 (vs. 12 percent inflation) the planned increase is not affordable for ratepayers. The breakdown indicates 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs and 2 percent for maintaining existing assets plus 1.5 percent for new assets tied to growth. A more prudent path is to constrain average rates growth to near or below inflation guiding us toward sustainable local services without a further real burden on households.Position 2: Expenditure reductions. The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate

and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb consultancy and professional services spending. Data show consultant costs of about $126 million per year across the group with the most costly staff contracts and rising payroll pressures. Cumulative increases in personnel and 'other expenses' exceed inflation while direct operating expenditure rose 78 percent from 2013 to 2023. A tighter cap on non-essential outsourcing must be a priority.Position 3: Specific savings. Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves. Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles a measure capable of saving at least $17 million immediately. Cut Māori-specific spend on Ngā Mātārae (Maori outcomes) of about $10 million per year acknowledging this is not a core local government requirement.Alternative Budget alignment. I support reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2 percent reduction) to cap the rate rise at around 3 percent achieved through the above measures and renegotiation of contracts and vendor consolidation.Closing. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9429

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current rates rise is already a real burden on households with the average residential bill now about $4069 and a real increase since 2022 of 30 percent (in 2022 dollars) well above consumer inflation.I support the following positions:1) The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. The overgrown back-office expense does not justify further rate increases on households.2) The Council must reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to lift these expenditure items. Reducing external advice and commissioning would directly slow the rate of growth in operating costs.3) Freeze

staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. Implementing a hiring freeze would save at least $17 million immediately.4) Cut Māori-specific spending such as the approximately $10 million per year spent on the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a function of local government and should be redirected to statutory and essential services.5) Accept the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping average residential rates increase at about 3 percent through targeted savings in personnel costs consultants contract renegotiations and prioritising essential services over discretionary grants.These measures are consistent with slowing rate pressure while preserving core services. Direct operating expenditure has grown well beyond inflation in recent years and the proposed 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs along with other cost drivers warrants a tighter spending approach rather than another substantial rate rise.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9435

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit this objection to the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and urge a reset of spending priorities to protect households and small businesses.The proposed 7.9% rise is not acceptable. It effectively amounts to about $320 more per average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (versus 12% CPI). I oppose any rate rise that outpaces inflation and growth while failing to deliver essential value-for-money services. The Council's breakdown shows 4.4% of the increase goes to CRL operating costs with 2% for maintaining existing assets and 1.5% for new assets. A credible case for such inflationary growth must be demonstrably linked to essential

outcomes; otherwise it is unaffordable for ratepayers.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance position to reduce wasteful Council spending. Specifically:- Reduce personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze on non-essential roles delivering at least $50 million.- Cap spending on consultants and professional services at $50 million.- Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors for savings of about $30 million.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million.These adjustments could cap the rate rise to about 3 percent ensuring affordability.I also call for immediate action on agreed reductions:- Cut back on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million annually and delivering net carbon savings that are likely overstated.- Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs by avoiding hires for vacant non-essential roles saving at least $17 million right away.- Reduce Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) arguing this is not a core local government function.Additional concerns include the perception of heavy spending on consultants and six-figure salaries which undermine public confidence. A transparent spending freeze and a publishable quarterly savings report would rebuild trust.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9443

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose a rates rise of this magnitude and advocate for a review of spending to align with Australian- and New Zealand-wide expectations for prudent local government. The proposed 7.9% average increase translates to about $320 for the average household on top of a current average bill of $4069. Since 2022 residential rates have risen by 30% in real terms well above cumulative inflation. The breakdown of the increase2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costsdemands scrutiny given the wider economic pressures on households.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance's alternative budget which

proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) thereby capping the rate rise to around 3%. This would be achieved through:- Reducing personnel costs via organisational change and a hiring freeze: $50 million- Capping spending on consultants: $50 million- Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: $30 million- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: $20 millionKey savings are achievable by curbing wasteful spending identified in the briefing:- Reducing corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Cutting consultancy and professional services expenditures rather than allowing them to escalate.- Canceling the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles a step that could save at least $17 million immediately.- Reducing Māori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae (Maori Outcomes) budget of about $10 million per year which is not a core local government responsibility.In times of economic hardship and amid global uncertainty Aucklanders deserve a measured approach that realigns spending with core statutory and essential services rather than broad growth-driven expenditure.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
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	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9453

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge the Council to cap rate rises at or near 3% by significantly reducing wasteful or non-essential expenditure. The rate rise breakdown shows 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. Since 2010 rates have risen 85% far outpacing inflation and population growth. We must reverse this trend with targeted savings rather than further automatic increases.Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposals provide a constructive path forward. Reduce new Council spending by $150 million (roughly 2%) enabling a 3% cap on residential rates. Specific

measures include:- Reduce personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze: about $50 million.- Cap spending on consultants: about $50 million.- Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors: about $30 million.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: about $20 million.Key spending items warrant scrutiny:- Consultants and contractors total $590 million; corporate and backroom functions cost $868.4 million in direct expenditure.- The Food Scraps Programme costs about $36 million per year and is claimed to emit more carbon than it saves; it should be cancelled.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Māori-specific expenditure such as the Ngā Mātārae (Māori Outcomes) budget of around $10 million per year should be reviewed for alignment with local government roles and statutory responsibilities.I request a clear focus on essential services and efficiency improvements over rate increases. The Council should prioritise core functions reduce reliance on six-figure salaries and pursue contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation to deliver value for ratepayers.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9527

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key positions- Oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% (about $320 for the average household). The current average rates bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 with a real increase of about 30% since 2022 and inflation at 12%. Rates should better reflect inflation and population needs not punitive increases.- Reduce corporate and backroom office spending across the Council and CCOs including a freeze on non-essential staffing and payroll savings from vacancies to deliver inflation-aware budgets.- Curb spend on consultancy and professional services; the current level is excessive with $126 million per year across the Council group and average consultant pay around

$200k. Instead renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to lower costs.- Cancel discretionary projects with questionable value. Specifically cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million per year which allegedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs by not filling non-essential vacancies; this would deliver immediate savings of at least $17 million.- Reduce Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is a concern of central/local government scope and should be prioritised alongside statutory duties.Context and rationaleThe rate rise proposal concentrates costs on residents while existing and future spending on consultants backroom functions and perceived 'non-essential' programmes continues to expand. The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget shows how a 2% reduction in new spending could cap rates increases to around 3% by prioritising core statutory services and eliminating waste.ClosingI request the opportunity to speak at hearings to present these concerns in more detail. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9544

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current average rates bill is $4069 and the proposed rise would add about $320 for the typical household. Since 2010 rates have risen 85% far above inflation and population growth. In truth this rate increase is not affordable for households facing rising living costs.Agreed positions- Oppose the average residential rates by at least 7.9% and seek a cap closer to 3% in line with a responsible budget that prioritises essential services.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs; a leaner organisation is essential to deliver core services without punitive rate hikes.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services; this area

should be tightened rather than expanded.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year spent on the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a responsibility of local government.Rationale- A substantial portion of the rate increase covers CRL operating costs and new asset funding while general operating costs and consultants have grown well beyond inflation. A program of governance reform and vendor consolidation can deliver significant savings.- The proposed budget should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary programmes and grants. A careful spending focus will protect basic services without imposing unsustainable costs on ratepayers.- The alternative budget approach advocated by ratepayers' groups demonstrates that a $150 million reduction in new spending could cap rates growth to about 3% preserving essential services and reducing waste.Additional points- It appears leadership decisions have driven unsustainable cost growth; accountability and a focus on value-for-money are essential going forward.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9545

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Based on the Alliance briefing this would mean roughly $320 more per household at a time when rates have already risen 85% since 2010 and inflation has outpaced rate growth. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 and real increases since 2022 exceed 30%. A rate rise of 7.9% is therefore not sustainable or acceptable for ratepayers.I urge the Council to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and to curb consultancy and professional services. The Alliance reports $126 million per year in consultant spending across the Council group with average consultants earning around $200k. Direct operating expenditure and

personnel costs have risen well above inflation while essential services and statutory duties should be protected. A reduction in these discretionary costs would help limit the rate hike.I also support the complete cancellation of the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves. This is an example of wasteful spend that should be redirected to core council services.In addition freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles would deliver immediate savingsat least $17 millionand help constrain the rate rise. The Alliance's alternative budget suggests a 2% reduction in new spending to cap rates increases at about 3%.I oppose continuing Maori-specific spending at current levels (such as the $10 million/year for the Māori Outcomes department Ngā Mātārae) arguing that this is not a local government role. A culture shift is needed so the Council recognises it works for taxpayers not as a perpetual money pit that provides fewer services over time.I support prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and renegotiating contracts to consolidate vendors where possible.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
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- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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N/A

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

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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9611

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a detailed evidence-based manner to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for meaningful reductions in wasteful Council spending. I rely on the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing for factual context.1) Rates and overall fiscal position- The proposed 7.9% average residential rates increase equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a current average bill of $4069. Since 2012 rates have risen by about 85% (vs. 34% inflation and 22% population growth) amounting to a real burden on households that outpaces growth in affordability.- The breakdown shows 4.4% of the increase going to CRL operating costs

with 2% for existing asset maintenance and 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows. This pattern warrants scrutiny and cost containment.2) Spending priorities and savings- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Spending on consultants and professional services should be reduced rather than increased; current annual consultancy expenditure is about $126 million across the Council group with the average consultant earning around $200k.- A disciplined transparent approach is required to bring payroll and operational costs in line with outcomes that matter to ratepayers.3) Specific program and staffing measures- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and according to the briefing emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which would save at least $17 million immediately.- Consider reducing Māori-focused spend such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a core local government function.4) Budget alternative and outcome- The Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) to cap rates at about 3% by: cutting personnel costs capping consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.In conclusion I urge the Council to adopt substantial savings measures and a lower rates path aligned with inflation and essential services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
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	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9642

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge immediate reduction of wasteful Council spending. The current rate path is unsustainable for households and the Council must prioritise essential services over growth in operating costs and 'backroom' functions.Position and recommendations1) Oppose the average 7.9% residential rates increase. This represents about $320 for the average household and compounds real rate rises far above inflation since 2022.2) Reduce corporate and backroom costs across the Council and CCOs. The scale of payroll and administrator functions is excessive and diverts funds from core services.3)

Cut consultancy and professional services spend. Annual consultant use of $126 million across the Council group and $60 million by the Auckland Council parent alone is unsustainable especially with an average consultant pay of about $200k.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme ($36 million/year) which reportedly emits more carbon than it saves. Reallocate funds to essential services with clearer public benefit.5) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. This could save at least $17 million immediately.6) Cut Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori outcomes' department at around $10 million/year arguing that this is not a core local government responsibility.Rationale- Since 2010 rates have risen 85% well above inflation and population growth. The current trajectory is unsustainable for ratepayers and undermines confidence in Council stewardship.- Direct operating expenditure and staffing costs have grown faster than inflation while critical services require stable funding.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance alternative logic: cap the rate rise by reducing new spending by about $150 million (2%) focusing on personnel costs consultants contracts and essential services first.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9669

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Position and context- I oppose the 7.9% average residential rate rise. The current average bill is $4069 with real increases since 2022 amounting to about 30% despite 12% inflation and rates have risen far faster than population growth.- The proposed split shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs in addition to 2% for existing assets and 1.5% for new assets. I urge Council to prioritise efficiency and restraint and to align spending with essential services and statutory duties.Alternative budget and reduction measures- The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping the average rate rise to 3%. This includes: - Reducing personnel costs

through organisational change and a hiring freeze: $50 million - Capping spending on consultants: $50 million - Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: $30 million - Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: $20 million- I support implementing these reductions to prevent further erosion of household budgets.Specific spending reductions I support- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the approximately $10 million per year on the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) consistent with my view that this is not a core local government function.Rationale- Wasteful and duplicative spending by corporate and backroom functions and high consultancy costs undermine ratepayers' value and confidence in local governance.- A leaner administration can protect essential services and deliver a more affordable rates outcome closer to inflation plus Productivity Commission expectations.Request to speakI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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N/A

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9677

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key positions- Oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. This represents roughly $320 for the average household on top of a current average bill of $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of about 30 percent. The breakdown shows 2 percent for maintaining existing assets 1.5 percent for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs; such a heavy tilt toward operating costs is unsustainable for households already bearing above-inflation rises.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb spending on consultancy and professional services. In total consultants cost about $126

million per year across the Council group with $60 million at the Council parent and average consultant pay around $200k.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the approximately $10 million per year spent on the Māori outcomes portfolio (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local government function.- Adopt a prudent budget approach by reducing new Council spending by about $150 million (2% reduction) to cap residential rates increases at about 3 percent through targeted actions: cap personnel costs restrict consultants renegotiate contracts and prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Additional commitment- No beautification non-core services infrastructure or social engineering projects in the central city for at least five years to allow the CBD to recover from disruption over the past decade.I request the chance to speak at hearings to provide further detail if possible. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9763

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 with real increases since 2022 of about 30 percent well above cumulative inflation. The proposed breakdown2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costsdoes not justify a rate rise above inflation especially given findings on Council waste and high staff and consultant costs.I support reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cutting consultancy and professional services. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance highlights annual consultant spend of $126 million across the

Council group with the average consultant earning about $200000. Direct payroll and related costs are also excessive with 6123 employees on six-figure salaries and 72 staff earning more than the mayor's salary. These figures indicate a cost base that could be slimmed to protect ratepayers.I also support canceling the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and is said to emit more carbon than it saves. Freezing staffing and/or not hiring for vacant non-essential roles would immediately save at least $17 million and I urge a broader policy to freeze non-essential vacancies to protect essential services.In addition I urge reductions in Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to Ngā Mātārae (Māori Outcomes). I recognise this is a sensitive area but local government should prioritise statutory and essential services and avoid discretionary spend that is not core to ratepayers' immediate needs.I also emphasise the importance of core services: water rubbish collection park maintenance and transport. I oppose continued funding for projects like bike lanes that restrict traffic flow and are underused and I call for a focus on demonstrable value-for-money outcomes.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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N/A

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

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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9783

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong opposition to the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase for 2026/27.Key concerns- The proposed 7.9% increase is excessive. It would amount to roughly $320 more per household on an average bill of $4069. This continues a pattern of rate increases well above inflation since the Super City amalgamation with rates up 85% since 2010 while population grew only about 22%. A more restrained path is essential.- The Council must curb wasteful backroom and corporate spending. I support reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cutting the spend on consultancy and professional

services rather than allowing these lines to rise further.- The Food Scraps Programme should be cancelled. It costs about $36 million per year and appears to emit more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. This measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately.- Reducing Māori-specific spending is appropriate where it overlaps with local-government core duties. The $10 million per year spent on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) should be reconsidered as a function of local government.Alternative budget frameworkBased on the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposal reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the average residential rates increase at about 3 percent. This would entail: $50 million via senior leadership/organisational change and a hiring freeze on non-essential roles; $50 million from capping consultancy spend; $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; and $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Additional noteWayne you stood on a platform of rates reduction. You have failed those who voted for you.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9792

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong and direct terms to oppose Auckland Council's proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to call for immediate reductions in wasteful Council spending rather than rate rises that outstrip inflation.Key concerns and positions- Oppose the 7.9% average rates increase. The proposed rise equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (in 2022 dollars) and 80-odd percent overall since the Super City amalgamation. This is not affordable for many ratepayers.- Reduce core operating costs not rates. The Council must cut back on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and reduce consultancy

and professional services rather than permit continual growth in these expense lines.- Cancel or pause costly programmes. Specifically cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costing about $36 million per year) which purportedly saves carbon but does not deliver net benefits.- Freeze staffing and payroll/salary growth. Freeze vacancies for non-essential roles and avoid hiring for non-critical positions to save at least $17 million immediately.- Reprioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants. Reduce Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local government function.- Targeted budget solution. I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping the rate rise at around 3% by: $50 million from personnel costs $50 million from consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations/vendor consolidation and $20 million from prioritising essential services over discretionary grants. This approach protects essential services while delivering meaningful rate relief.- Additional note. I also believe the Tupuna Maunga Authority and associated management should be reconsidered to reflect a balanced use of hills/mountains for all residents.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9825

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current ratepayer burden is already heavy with the average residential bill at $4069 and a real increase of 30 percent since 2022 far outstripping inflation.1. I oppose the 7.9 percent increase. The implied average rise of around $320 per household is excessive when real incomes and cost pressures are not rising at the same pace. I urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget which caps average residential rates growth at about 3 percent by saving $150 million from new spending.2. Reduce backroom and consulting costs. Council and CCOs should cut costly corporate and back-office spending and reduce consultancy and professional services rather

than continuing to grow these lines. Current data show $126 million per year spent on consultants across the Council group with average consultant payaround $200k.3. Freeze staffing and curb payrolls. I support freezing hiring for non-essential roles and reducing payroll costs which would deliver immediate savings (the Alliance calculations indicate at least $17 million right away).4. Reconsider discretionary programmes and specific spend. I call for cancelling the Food Scraps Programme (estimated $36 million/year with questionable net carbon benefit) and scrutinising non-essential discretionary grants to prioritise statutory services.5. Review targeted funding and Māori outcomes spend. The Alliance plan proposes capping or reorienting Māori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million per year on the Maori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) to focus on essential local-government functions rather than programmatic expenditure aligned with centralised priorities.In summary the Auckland Council must tighten expenditure rein in consultants and payroll and deliver a responsible inflation-conscious rates policy. The alternative budget demonstrates a credible path to maintain essential services while protecting ratepayers from a further unaffordable rise.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9840

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the proposed 7.9% average residential rates increase. The current average rates bill is $4069 and real increases since 2022 are around 30% in real terms far exceeding inflation. The breakdown shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs and 2% for existing asset maintenance with 1.5% for new assets due to growth. This level of increase is unsustainable for households and does not align with a council focus on prudent stewardship of ratepayers' money.I support reducing wasteful and discretionary Council spending. Specifically:- Cut spending on consultants and professional services rather than permitting continual growth in these items.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll

costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cancel or substantially scale back the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Limit Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) arguing this is not a core local government role.I support the Council's need to review and reform backroom and corporate functions. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing highlights $126 million per year spent on consultants across the Council group with the Council alone accounting for about $60 million and many consultants earning substantial fees. I urge a comprehensive organisational change and vendor consolidation to reduce these costs and redirect savings to essential services.Alternative budgeting indicates a feasible path: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) to cap the average rates increase to about 3%. This includes: $50 million from personnel costs $50 million from consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and $20 million prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.Closing: I request that the Council consider these measures and engage in genuine value-for-money accounting for ratepayers.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9846

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I request consideration of a constructive evidence-based approach to reduce expenditure and protect ratepayers from unaffordable rises.1) Opposition to the 7.9% increase and need for restraint- The proposed average residential rates increase is 7.9% (approximately $320 for the average household) on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 when adjusted to 2022 dollars. This surpasses inflation and population growth and places a heavier burden on households already squeezed by the cost of living.- I support reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cutting spend on consultancy and professional services rather

than permitting continual growth in these areas.2) Concrete expenditure reductions aligned with the Council's responsibilities- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs $36 million/year) which is not proven to be cost-effective or carbon-saving and redirect funds to essential services.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) recognising this is not a core local government mandate.3) Alternative budgeting approach- Apply the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposed Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping the rate rise to around 3% through targeted savings: $50 million from personnel costs $50 million from consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.- Focus on returning to the basics: efficient service delivery transparent budgeting and elimination of non-productive expenditures such as excessive cycleway vanity projects that do not deliver proportional public value.Additional points- Administrative measures and vendor consolidation will improve efficiency without compromising essential services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9858

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge a pause to rate increases above inflation funded instead by reducing wasteful Council spending.Key concerns and positions:- The proposed 7.9% average increase equates to about $320 for the typical household. Given the 30% real increase since 2022 (versus 12% headline inflation) further rises compound affordability pressures for households already stretched.- I support reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and reducing spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing growth in these areas.- I oppose continuing the Food

Scraps Programme at a cost of $36 million per year if it fails to demonstrably reduce net emissions; alternative cost-effective waste minimisation options should be pursued.- I back freezing staffing or reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- I oppose Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that local government should prioritise statutory and essential services.- The Council should adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap rates growth at around 3% by: cutting personnel costs capping consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.Additional concerns:- There is a broader concern about mismanagement of public funds nationwide. While this is not a local detail it reinforces the need for tighter controls on spending and procurement including a careful audit of consultant use procurement contracts and backroom overheads.In conclusion I urge Auckland Council to deliver real value for ratepayers by restraining the 7.9% increase and implementing the outlined reductions in non-essential spending to protect household finances and maintain essential services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9859

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit this formal submission opposing Auckland Council's proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and advocating for substantial reductions in wasteful spending.The proposed 7.9% increase is excessive equating to approximately $320 more per average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (inflation 12%). The breakdown shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs and 2% for maintaining assets with only 1.5% for new assets. This is not affordable budgeting for ratepayers.Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance highlights that Council spending has grown far faster than inflation and population growth. Notably consultants cost $126 million per year across the

Council group with the average consultant around $200000. Personnel costs and other expenses have risen more than twice the rate of inflation between 2022 and 2025. The payroll stands at $1.3 billion with 6123 staff earning six figures and 72 paid more than the mayor. Eighteen corporate and business support functions cost $868.4 million in direct expenditure.I urge the Council to implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget which caps average residential rates increase at about 3% by reducing non-essential spending by $150 million (2% cut). Specific measures include:- Freeze staffing and reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles saving at least $17 million immediately.- Curb spending on consultants and professional services by $50 million.- Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to save a further $30 million.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million.In addition I support reducing non-essential spend on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs as well as capping Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to Ngā Mātārae which I view as outside the proper remit of local government.I request that the Council consider these reductions to deliver more affordable rates while preserving essential services and maintaining fair accountable budgeting.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9904

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a constructive solution‘focused manner to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for meaningful reductions in wasteful council spending.1. Position on rates and affordability- I oppose the 7.9% average residential rates increase. The current average bill is $4069 representing a real increase of about 30% since 2022 after accounting for inflation. A rate rise above inflation places an additional burden on households particularly when combined with ongoing cost pressures.2. Spending reform and efficiency- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- There

should be a reduction in spend on consultancy and other professional services and a hiring/financing pause for non‘essential roles to freeze payroll costs. A vacant non‘essential role freeze could save at least $17 million immediately.- I support the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping the rate rise to around 3% by: - $50 million from personnel costs through organisational change and hiring freezes - $50 million from consultants and professional services - $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation - $20 million prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants3. Specific spending and priorities- Cut expenditure on Māori outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) and other non‘statutory programmes if they are not essential to core local government functions.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants to protect essential City services.- Acknowledge value found in essential safety and mobility initiatives like cycle paths and street wardens which contribute to public safety and wellbeing.4. Additional context- Since 2010 rates have increased significantly while growth in population and inflation have not kept pace. A disciplined approach to expenditure would deliver relief to ratepayers while maintaining essential services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9915

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in opposition to the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase and in favour of reducing wasteful council spending. The proposed increase is not affordable for households and its size far exceeds inflation while failing to address efficiency within the council group.Key concerns- The 7.9 percent average increase translates to about $320 for the average household on top of a real rates rise of around 30 percent since 2022 far ahead of consumer price inflation. The rate rise is allocated 4.4 percent to CRL operating costs with 2 percent for existing assets and 1.5 percent for new assets. This profile suggests that operating and backlog costs are driving the bulk

of the increase rather than measurable service improvements for ratepayers.- Wasteful expenditure must be reduced. There is clear over-reliance on consultants and backroom corporate functions with $126 million per year across the Council group and significant payroll and contractor costs. A reduction in consultants and core administration is essential before any further rate increases are considered.- The proposed plan should prioritise essential services and value for money. The council must cancel discretionary programmes with questionable public value including the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- A practical defensible path to lower rates is to implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new spending by $150 million (2 percent) to cap average residential rates at about 3 percent. This includes freezing non-essential staff hires (saving at least $17 million immediately) capping consultancy spend renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.- Specific savings proposed include: reducing personnel costs through organisational change and hiring freeze ($50 million) capping consultants ($50 million) contract renegotiations/vendor consolidation ($30 million) and prioritising essential services over discretionary grants ($20 million). Additionally cutting Māori-specific spending such as Ngā Mātārae while contentious is presented as a target for re-evaluation within a clear governance framework.ClosingI request that the Council consider these savings and limit the rate rise to a more manageable level for households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9929

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

1. The rates increase is excessive. The proposed 7.9% rise translates to about $320 for the average household on top of a real increase in rates of 30% since 2022 (well above cumulative inflation of 12%). I oppose any increase above inflation and support keeping rates affordable for households.2. Wasteful and bloated spending must be curbed. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance presents a credible case that Council and CCOs operate with excessive backroom costs. I call for a reduction in corporate and backoffice spending and a halt to growth in consultancy and professional services rather than allowing these items to rise further.3. Freeze or scale back staffing and payroll. I support

freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not filling non-essential vacancies. If vacancies are left unfilled this would save at least $17 million immediately. We must prioritise essential services over expanding payroll.4. Targeted spending reductions aligned to statutory duties. The Council should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants. I also request scrutiny of Māori-specific spending. The $10 million per year spent on the Ngā Mātārae / Māori Outcomes department is not a core local government function and I urge reconsideration of this allocation.5. Reconsider major spend items. The Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million per year should be cancelled if it emits more carbon than it saves. Reducing consultants and renegotiating contracts plus vendor consolidation would directly cut expenditure.6. Proposed alternative budget. A reduction of $150 million in new Council spending (2% cap on rates) through: $50 million from personnel costs; $50 million from consultants; $30 million from contract renegotiations; $20 million by prioritising statutory services.Additional point: Auckland Council has become an extremely bloated bureaucracy often inefficient and obstructive in dealings. Consultants account for significant spend and appear to exploit financial weakness. This must be addressed to protect ratepayers.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9937

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit as a resident concerned about high rates and wasteful spending. I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge a constructive data‘driven plan to bring rates closer to inflation and growth without compromising essential services.Key points- The proposed 7.9% average increase equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a rates base that has risen 85% since 2010. Real increases far exceed inflation and residents cannot absorb further unaffordable rises.- The Rates plan should prioritise reducing wasteful expenditure rather than increasing revenue through higher rates. In particular I support cutting back on corporate and

backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and reducing the spend on consultancy and professional services.- The Food Scraps Programme should be cancelled. It costs about $36 million per year and based on available information emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non‘essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- I oppose ongoing Māori-specific spending as currently framed including the approximately $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) department; many would argue this is not a core local government function.- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget suggests a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (2%) to cap the rate rise at around 3% by: - Reducing personnel costs through organisational changes and a hiring freeze - Capping consultancy spend - Renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors - Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grantsAdditional points- A more sustainable path is to revise and reduce rates with a focus on efficiency gains not further increases. If staff improvements are needed these should come from targeted essential roles with proper oversight.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9940

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I urge you to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to adopt stricter controls on spending that deliver genuine value to residents.Key point: the projected 7.9% increase translates to about $320 for the average household on top of a real rates rise since 2022 of around 30%. This is well above inflation and well above acceptable limits for households already stretched by the cost of living.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance position that the Council must cut wasteful expenditure and re-prioritise spending toward statutory and essential services. In particular:- Reduce personnel costs by freezing non-essential recruitment and addressing

vacancies to save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut spend on consultants and professional services ensuring every engagement is necessary with a target saving of $50 million.- Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to save a further $30 million.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants with priority given to core Council functions.Additional specific actions to align with responsible budgeting:- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and according to independent assessments emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles as noted above.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million per year spent on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) consistent with the view that local government should focus on core services.If the Council follows these steps the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget indicates average rates increases could be capped at around 3% by reducing new spending by about $150 million (2%). This would deliver tangible relief for households while still providing essential services.I request that the Council consider these measures seriously and provide transparent reporting on the effectiveness of any savings. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9954

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

This submission is made in a strong and direct tone opposing Auckland Council's proposed 7.9% average residential rates increase and calling for immediate reductions in wasteful Council spending.1. Rates and affordability- The proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% is unacceptable. It translates to about $320 more for the average household on top of a current average bill of $4069. Since 2022 rates have effectively risen 30% in real terms far exceeding the 12% cumulative inflation.- The breakdown shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs plus 2% for existing assets and 1.5% for new assets due to growth. This is not sustainable at household level and must

be constrained.2. Wasteful spending and backroom costs- Council spending on consultants is excessive: $126 million per year across the Council group with the average consultant earning around $200k. This is not good value for ratepayers.- Personnel costs have grown much faster than inflation; payroll is about $1.3 billion with 6123 staff on six-figure salaries and 72 staff paid more than the mayor.- Eighteen corporate and business support functions cost $868.4 million in direct expenditure; this level of backroom cost should be reduced.3. Specific cost-cutting and policy requests- Reduce new Council spending by $150 million to cap rates at roughly a 3% increase via: $50 million from personnel costs (hiring freeze and efficiency) $50 million from consulting $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million by prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme ($36 million/year) due to its high emissions and uncertain net carbon savings.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million/year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) recognising that this is not a core local-government role.4. Additional points- Over all cut spending on inessential items and honour the commitment to reduce waste.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9976

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

The proposed increase effectively taxes households by about $320 on the average bill (from $4069 to roughly $4389). Since 2022 rates have risen by about 30 percent in real terms with inflation running higher. A large portion of the proposed rise funds CRL operating costs (4.4%) asset maintenance (2%) and new assets for growth (1.5%). This mix does not justify a rate rise well above inflation especially given the scale of wasteful spending identified across the Council group.I urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget initiative to cap the average residential rates increase at about 3 percent by reducing overall expenditure by $150 million (2%).

Specific actions include:- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling non-essential vacant roles which can save at least $17 million immediately.- Curb spending on consultants and professional services by $50 million and cap overall consultancy costs.- Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to save a further $30 million.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million.In addition I oppose ongoing funding for non-essential programmes. Specifically:- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs around $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori outcomes' department which amounts to about $10 million per year as this is not a core local-government function.Other corroborating data shows cost pressures from payroll growth (Council and CCO employees in six-figure salaries numbered in the thousands with a significant rise since 2022) and high direct operating expenditures. A rebalanced leaner organisational structure is essential before imposing further burden on ratepayers.I request to present at hearings to elaborate on these points. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9979

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

To Auckland CouncilI am submitting in my personal capacity to oppose Auckland Council's proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase and to advocate for reductions in wasteful Council spending.1. Rates proposal and fiscal stance- I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% which equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a trend that has seen rates rise 85% since 2010. Real increases since 2022 remain well above inflation and I request the Council consider a more prudent path aligned with current financial realities for households.- The Council should prioritise essential statutory services over discretionary spending and avoid price rises that

outpace both inflation and household income growth.2. Spending priorities and reductions- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to lift these expenditure items.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Maori-specific spending including the approximately $10 million per year spent on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a direct responsibility of local government.3. Alternative budget guidance- The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) to cap average residential rates increases at about 3% by: - $50 million from personnel costs via organisational changes and a hiring freeze - $50 million from capping consultancy spend - $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation - $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grantsClosingI respectfully ask Auckland Council to consider these spending trims and the accompanying rate relief for households when finalising the 2026/27 plan. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10050

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current rate burden on households is already substantial with the average residential bill at $4069 and the real increase since 2022 at about 30 percent. The proposed distribution of the increase2% to maintain assets 1.5% for growth in new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costsadds to household cost pressures without clear evidence of proportional benefit.I agree with the Alliance's position that the Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and its CCOs and must curb the growth in consultancy and professional services. Council spending on consultants is $126 million per year across the group with the average

consultant receiving around $200000; this represents a misuse of ratepayer funds that could be redirected to essential services. Direct operating expenditure and payroll have grown well beyond inflation reflecting inefficiency in personnel and contractor costs.I also agree that the Food Scraps Programme should be cancelled given its annual cost of $36 million and its emissions profile relative to any stated savings. Freezing staffing or reducing payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles would deliver immediate savings; the Alliance estimates at least $17 million could be saved right away through a hiring freeze or similar measure.In addition I oppose continued or increased Māori-specific spending under Ngā Mātārae; the Alliance notes $10 million per year on Māori outcomes which is a jurisdictional concern for local government. The Council should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and scope savings accordingly.Wayne Brown campaigned on rate control; he should pursue reductions in expenditure consistent with these positions.I request the Council consider an alternative budget that reduces new spending by $150 million (2%) capping the average rates increase at around 3 percent by focusing on: personnel cost reductions limiting consultants renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

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We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces

work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10138

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
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This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Do not support most

Tell us why

Based on our analysis rates are already high and continuing to rise faster than inflation while core Council spending shows persistent inefficiencies. The Alliance's position is that a prudent approach is needed to protect households and taxpayers from shifting further cost burdens.Key concerns and requested actions:- The proposed 7.9% increase translates to about $320 more per average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 and a cumulative 85% since the Super City amalgamation. This is unsustainable for ratepayers especially while significant waste persists in backroom and corporate expenditure.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office

functions across the Council and CCOs and cut spend on consultancy and professional services rather than allowing these costs to continue rising.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and per assessment emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.- Curb Māori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae (Māori outcomes) department about $10 million per year which I do not view as the core responsibility of local government.A practical path to relief:- Implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping the rate rise to about 3%. This includes $50 million by reducing personnel costs via organisational change and freezes $50 million by capping consultants $30 million through contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Additionally the Council should stop implementing measures that add costs with questionable value such as speed bumps or bike lane barriers which do not serve broad ratepayer interest.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

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- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

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	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10234

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
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This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Do not support most

Tell us why

The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing shows this would add roughly $320 per household on top of a 30 percent real increase since 2022 (well above inflation). I oppose increasing rates at or above this level and urge a comprehensive reduction in wasteful Council spending to keep costs affordable for households.1) Spend minimisation and staff costs- The Council must reduce corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut high payroll costs and curb excessive salaries acknowledging the current staff

and consultant expenditure levels far outstrip inflation.2) Consultancy professional services and vendor costs- Reduce spend on consultants and professional services rather than permitting ongoing increases.- Cap spending on consultants and renegotiate contracts to pursue vendor consolidation and better value.3) Program and Māori outcomes- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze or substantially reassess non-essential Māori-focused spending including the Ngā Mātārae/'Maori outcomes' department funded at around $10 million per year as this is not a core local government function.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants to ensure core services are protected.4) Budget discipline and alternative funding approach- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget proposes a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (2%) which would cap the average rate rise to approximately 3 percent when combined with efficiencies.- Prioritise essential services asset maintenance within existing funding and responsible financial management to restore public trust.In summary the Council can keep rates more affordable by trimming wasteful spending freezing non-essential hires and restructuring procurement. These actions align with responsible stewardship of ratepayer money and avoid the burden of a near-8 percent rise on households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
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- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10242

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Do not support most

Tell us why

The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance has identified that a responsible path is to cap rate increases through substantial reductions in operating spending rather than perpetually growing rates to cover escalating costs.Key points- The proposed average rate increase is driven by high operating costs including CRL costs and significant non-essential spend. A more prudent path would involve reducing corporate and backroom expenditure across the Council and CCOs.- The Alliance' Alternative Budget suggests saving $150 million through targeted reductions in personnel costs freezing non-essential vacancies capping consultant spend renegotiating contracts and prioritising

statutory services over discretionary grants. This approach would help limit rate rises to around 3 percent.- We must address wasteful spending: consultants and contractors total high spend (approximately $590 million) and 18 corporate/business support functions cost $868.4 million in direct expenditure. Reducing these areas should be a priority.- Specific programmes and spending should be reviewed. The Food Scraps Programme costs about $36 million per year and on balance emits more carbon than it saves. I support cancelling or restructuring this programme and redirecting funds to essential services.- Staffing and payroll: freezing vacancies and reducing payroll costs would deliver immediate savings (at least $17 million). There is also concern over rising six-figure salaries and related payroll costs which should be reviewed for value-for-money.- Māori outcomes spending (Ngā Mātārae) is a significant portion of the budget. I urge clear alignment with local government responsibilities with a focus on essential services and statutory obligations.Additional points- Consider stopping pay rises for Councillors in the current period directing funds to essential services and rate relief where possible.I would like to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
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	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10246

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a strong but respectful manner to oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to call for a reduction in wasteful Council spending. The current trajectory since 2010 shows rates rising far faster than inflation and population growth and residents cannot sustain further increases without clear justified efficiency improvements.Key points for consideration:1) Rates affordability and fairness. The proposed 7.9% increase (approximately $320 for the average household) is not sustainable for households already paying an average $4069 in rates. This level is inconsistent with maintaining essential public services while delivering value for money.2)

Wasteful and excessive backroom spending. Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. Spending on consultants amounts to about $126 million per year across the Council group with the Auckland Council parent responsible for about $60 million and average consultants earning around $200000. Personnel costs have risen sharply with 6123 staff on six-figure salaries and 72 staff paid more than the mayor. Direct operating expenditure grew 78% between 2013 and 2023 far outpacing inflation.3) Targeted cost-saving measures that can fund rate relief. I support a Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) stabilising rates at around 3% by:- freezing hiring and reducing payroll through non-essential vacancy management ($50 million);- capping consulting spend ($50 million);- renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors ($30 million);- prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants ($20 million).4) Specific programme reform. I oppose continuing the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves. I also oppose expanding Maori-focused spend such as the $10 million/year allocated to the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as a local-government responsibility.5) Promises and accountability. Promises made by the Mayor must be kept; residents expect accountable budgeting and value-for-money outcomes.In summary I urge Auckland Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance approach: cut wasteful spending protect essential services and cap rates increases well below 7.9% to reflect affordability and prudent stewardship of ratepayer funds.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
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	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10303

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I welcome the opportunity to provide a formal submission on the proposed 2026/27 annual plan.I endorse the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance positions on controlling council expenditure and prioritising essential services. In particular I ask Council to pursue substantial savings by reforming internal cost structures and reducing non-essential spending. The following points reflect agreed priorities supported by this submission:1) Reduce corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. A leaner corporate footprint is necessary to curb rising costs that are ultimately borne by ratepayers.2) Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather

than permitting continued growth in these expenditure items. The current level of external advisory costs is unsustainable and should be recalibrated through stronger in-house capability and better procurement.3) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and on the Alliance analysis emits more carbon than it saves. Redirect resources to statutory and essential services with proven merit and measurable outcomes.4) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. This measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately and would demonstrate a responsible approach to wage growth.5) Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year spent on the Ngā Mātārae/Māori outcomes department. If these functions are not a proper remit for local government funding should be redirected to core council responsibilities.Additional considerations: A broader review of personnel costs vendor consolidation and project prioritisation should be undertaken to align spending with statutory requirements and public service obligations ensuring ratepayer value.I would appreciate the opportunity to present at hearings to discuss these points in more detail. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10309

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
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This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I am writing to register my submission on the proposed 2026/27 annual plan. My key concerns relate to wasteful and excessive spending within the council family and the need for prudent budgeting that protects ratepayers.I support cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves. This programme represents a high-cost policy that does not deliver a clear tangible benefit for many households especially when rate pressures are mounting. I urge the Council to reallocate these funds toward essential services that directly serve residents and support core community outcomes.The Council's overall expenditure patterns

display several areas where savings could be found without compromising essential services. The annual rate rise proposal of 7.9 percent is not affordable for many households and it compounds real rate increases well above inflation since 2022. The combination of rising payroll costs high reliance on consultants and large operating costs has contributed to a substantial growth in spending that outpaces inflation. In particular payroll and supplier costs including external consultants have grown significantly while the ratebase remains constrained. A clearer alignment of personnel costs and procurement with core statutory and essential services would help stabilise the rates burden on households.I emphasise that any budget discipline must safeguard essential services and avoid discretionary fringe projects that do not deliver direct measurable community benefits. While I recognise the need for ongoing investment in infrastructure and public transport expenditure should be prioritised to maximise public value and long-term outcomes for ratepayers.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

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- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

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We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

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	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10324

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
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This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose such an increase and urge Council to prioritise reductions in wasteful spending and to cap rate rises to align with reasonable fiscal management.Key points for consideration- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. Total back-office and non-core functions amount to about $869.4 million and this level of overhead is not sustainable if it delivers marginal public value.- Spending on consultancy and professional services should be reduced rather than continually expanded. Current estimates show substantial reliance on external advisers which inflates operating costs without delivering

commensurate service improvements.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and appears to emit more carbon than it saves. Resources should instead be directed to essential services with proven environmental and community benefits.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non‘essential roles; this measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). Local government should focus on essential services and statutory obligations rather than expanding this area of spend.Rationale and figures- The proposed 7.9 percent increase consists of 2 percent to maintain existing assets 1.5 percent for growth-related assets and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs. Given ongoing cost pressures a more modest increase is warranted if it comes with meaningful efficiencies.- Since 2010 rates have risen 85 percent well above inflation and population growth. A targeted reduction in discretionary spending is essential to prevent rates from being unaffordable for households.Alternative budgeting approach- Following the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance framework reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2 percent cap) to deliver an average rates increase of about 3 percent through: - $50 million savings from personnel costs and hiring freezes - $50 million savings from capping consultants - $30 million from renegotiations and vendor consolidation - $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grantsI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

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	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10363

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong opposition to the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and in favour of substantial reductions in wasteful Council spending. The Council must prioritise core services and operational efficiency over new or discretionary expenditure.Key points for consideration1) Rates increase: The proposed average increase of 7.9 percent equates to about $320 per household on the current average bill of $4069. This is well above inflation and represents a real burden on households. The council should instead target a 3 percent cap on rate rises by reducing wasteful spend per the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget.2) Expenditure reductions:

The Council should reduce corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and cut consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these costs. The briefing identifies $126 million per year spent on consultants across the Council group with the average consultant paid around $200k.3) Staffing and payroll: Freeze hiring for vacant non-essential roles and materially reduce payroll costs. The Alliance notes that staffing and related expenses have grown far faster than inflation with 6123 employees on six-figure salaries and 72 staff paid more than the mayor's $306741.4) Specific programme scrutiny: Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costing $36 million/year and not demonstrably saving carbon) and reassess Māori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori outcomes' allocation of about $10 million per year if not essential to statutory obligations of local government.5) Focus on core services: Prioritise essential servicesroading and transportover discretionary grants and frills. Each spending item should be justified by necessity not by preference.In addition the council should pursue contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation to unlock further savings and reallocate funds toward statutory and essential services.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Besides the 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property, the annual plan includes changes to a range of other rates, fees and charges. These include:

- **Introduction of a refuse bin/bag exchange fee**
- **Changes to the Kingsland and Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme areas**
- **Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme**
- **An Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas.**

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

Q3: Which local board(s) would you like to provide feedback on?

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Annual Plan 2026/2027?

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (Section 3 of Consultation document)

N/A

Question 5: Looking further ahead / shaping Auckland's longer-term future

We also want your feedback on longer-term priorities that will help shape the city over time.

We are planning some discussions for next year that will inform plans and strategies that will shape Auckland's future. These plans and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **Regional transport plans**
- **Water service strategies**
- **Auckland's spatial plan**
- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

We will continue to invest and deliver in all our investment areas, but we want to understand your priorities.

Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?

(Please use the boxes to rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.)

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
	Regional parks and environment – looking after Auckland's natural areas, streams, coastal zones and cultural heritage, reducing waste, and supporting community-led environmental projects
	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

Auckland's City Centre is the economic heart of our region. Overall, the city centre accounts for about a fifth of everything produced in Auckland's economy. We want to make public spaces work better for people, get more value from major investments in transport, and make sure council helps the city centre thrive as a place to live, work, study, and visit.

Q6: What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre?

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10372

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: N/A

Local Board: Waitākere Ranges

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

Our Annual Plan 2026/2027 builds on the first two years of our Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). It focuses on continuing to strengthen our finances and Auckland's physical resilience, while investing where it is needed most to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

- **Transport**
- **Water**
- **Helping local boards respond to the needs of their communities.**

This annual plan also proposes how we will pay for services and investments, including a 7.9 per cent rates increase for an average-value residential property. The increase in rates is mainly due to the $235 million yearly cost to run and own the City Rail Link, the bulk of which is interest and depreciation costs for the council's share of CRL.

Individual rates increase will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to find out the proposed rates for your property.

Q1: What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and the associated growth in operating and capital costs. The current average bill is $4069 and since 2022 rates have risen by 30% (in 2022 dollars) while overall inflation is about 12%. The proposed 7.9% split includes 4.4% for CRL operating costs which compounds affordability pressure on households.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance position to constrain rate rises by substantially reducing wasteful and non-essential spending and by slowing or freezing non-essential hiring. My positions are as follows:1) Reduce corporate and backroom spending across the Council and CCOs. The bulk of

personnel costs and 'other expenses' have grown faster than inflation with 6123 employees earning six-figure salaries and a payroll cost of about $1.3 billion alongside $590 million on consultants and contractors. A more efficient organisation is essential.2) Curb consultancy and professional services. Council spending on consultants stands at about $126 million per year across the Council group including $60 million by the Auckland Council parent. Reducing external advice and renegotiating vendor terms will lower long-run costs and improve accountability.3) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. At $36 million per year this programme costs more in emissions than it saves and should be halted pending a full evidence-based review.4) Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles. Adopting a hiring pause would save at least $17 million immediately and free funds for essential services.5) Cut Māori-specific spending such as the Māori Outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) department about $10 million per year. Local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary programmes.As a practical alternative reduce new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) to cap the average residential rates increase at 3 percent. This would involve the measures above plus contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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