



Proposed statue at Barrys Point Reserve, Takapuna

**Summary of feedback received during
Auckland Council's public consultation
from 7 to 23 January 2026**



PROPOSED STATUE AT BARRYS POINT RESERVE, TAKAPUNA



Te take mō te pūrongo | Purpose of the report

This report summarises feedback received during the consultation period of 7 to 23 January 2026 seeking feedback on a proposal from the Korean Garden Trust to install a peace statue in the Korean Garden at Barrys Point Reserve in Takapuna.

This report does not include any advice or recommendations for decision making.

Whakarāpopototanga matua | Executive summary

The proposed peace statue was gifted to New Zealand by the Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance. The statue commemorates survivors of wartime sexual violence. It recognises women who were enslaved by the Japanese military during World War II.

The statue and accompanying plaque are to:

- honour the courage and resilience of survivors
- promote peace and remembrance
- support human rights education.

The first peace statue was unveiled in Seoul, South Korea in 2011. It was designed by artists Kim Seo Kyung and Kim Un Seang in collaboration with the Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance.

We asked the community what they thought about installing the peace statue at the reserve, including a plaque to explain the statue's cultural and historical context.

The proposal was promoted through Auckland Council's online consultation platform, social media, and direct engagement with residents.

We received a total of 672 submissions, including 20 submissions from organisations, with strong engagement from the Japanese (36 per cent) and Korean (34 per cent) communities.

Overall, 57 per cent of individuals and 15 of the 20 organisations opposed the proposal, while 43 per cent of individuals and five of the 20 organisations supported the proposal.

Submitters who opposed the proposal most often raised concerns about community tension, political interpretation of this history, and whether the statue is appropriate or relevant in a New Zealand setting. Many also questioned the suitability of Barrys Point Reserve as a location and noted the risk of disagreement or division within and between communities.

Supporters commonly described the statue as an opportunity to promote reflection, acknowledge historical harm, and strengthen education and shared values. They saw potential for the installation to encourage understanding, remembrance, and cultural connection.

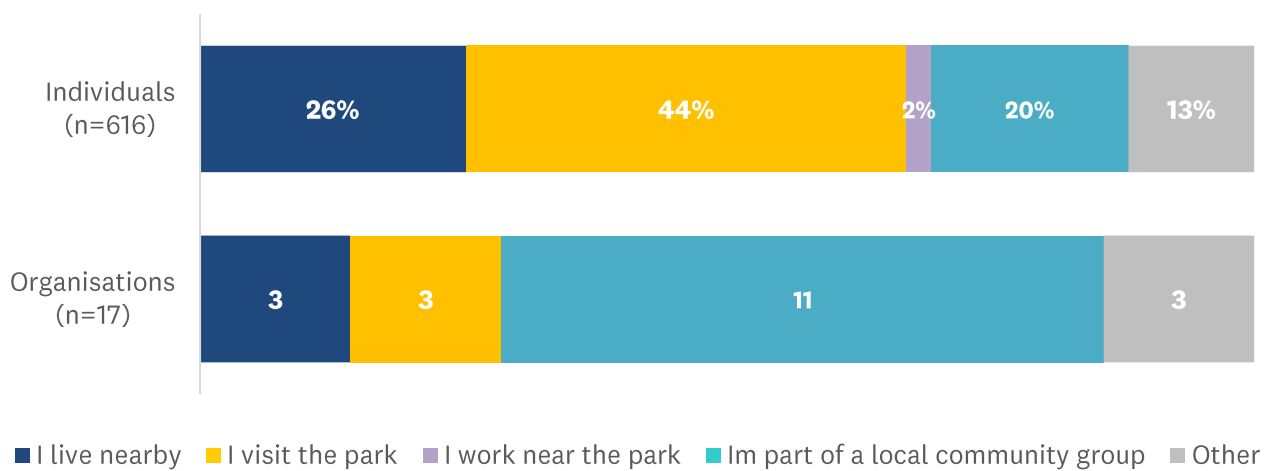
Urupare | Feedback

The following summary presents submissions from individuals and organisations separately. Feedback from organisations may represent the views of numerous individuals and/or expert views. As such, the two groups are presented separately to assist decision makers in their consideration of feedback.

Overall, we received 672 submissions. Analysis is presented for each of the consultation questions, beginning with the question and the response options available to submitters to select.

1. What is your connection to Barry's Point Reserve?

Multi select question | 632 responses (94 per cent of all submitters)



Response	Individuals	Organisations
Live nearby	163	3
Visit the park	270	3
Work near the park	15	0
Part of a local community group	121	11
Other	77	3
TOTAL	616	16

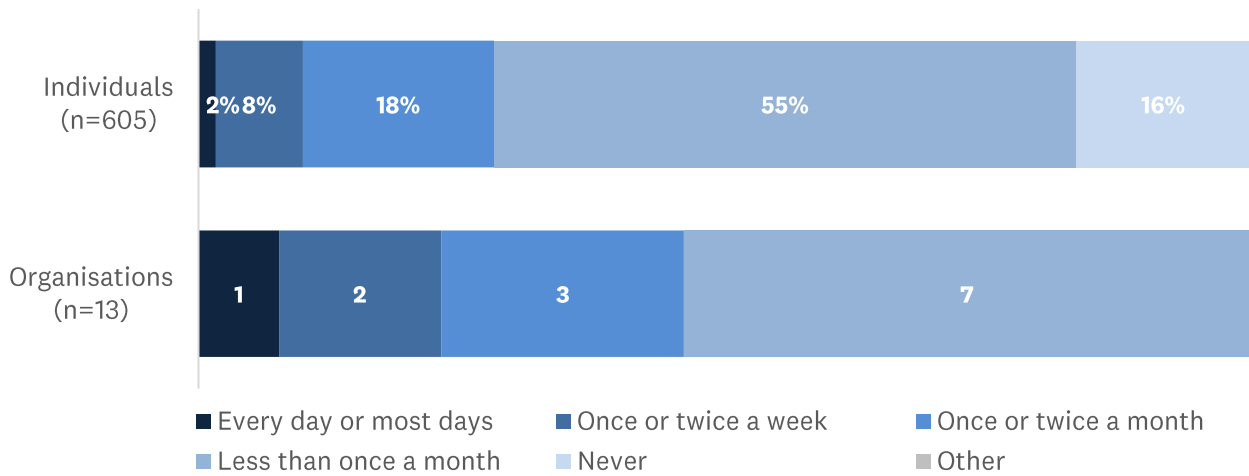
Other

Respondents who selected 'Other' described a broad mix of connections to Barry Point Reserve. Most commonly, people identified themselves as Auckland residents or ratepayers, while others mentioned having friends or family living nearby or having grown up in the area.

Several respondents participated despite living outside Auckland or overseas, engaging due to cultural, historical, or public-interest reasons. A notable number also referenced involvement in Korean community and cultural groups. Overall, these responses show that interest in the reserve extends beyond direct local users.

2. How often do you visit Barry's Point Reserve?

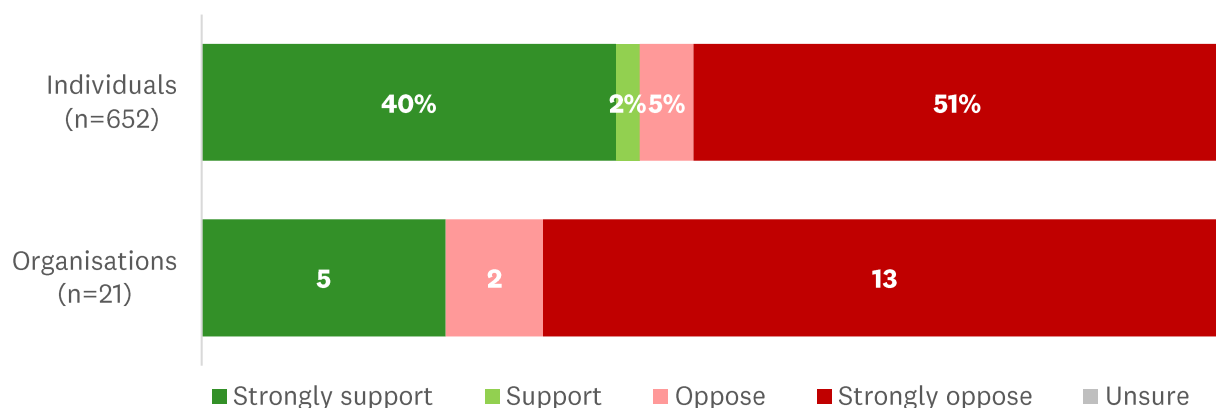
Single select question | 618 responses (92 per cent of all submitters)



Response	Individuals	Organisations
Every day or most days	10	1
Once or twice a week	50	2
Once or twice a month	110	3
Less than once a month	335	7
Never	99	0
Other	1	0
TOTAL	605	13

3. Overall, how do you feel about installing a Peace Statue in the Korean Garden at Barry's Point Reserve?

Single select question | 672 responses (100 per cent of all submitters)



Response	Individuals	Organisations
Strongly support	263	5
Support	15	0
Oppose	34	2
Strongly oppose	335	13
Unsure	3	0
TOTAL	652	20

Tell us why

Feedback from individuals

The responses showed clear differences between supporters and opponents of the statue, with each group emphasising distinct concerns and priorities in their additional comments.

Strongly oppose / Oppose

Opponents consistently expressed concern about social impact, political interpretation and relevance to New Zealand. Their most common themes were:

- **Community conflict/division**

Many opponents felt importing an overseas dispute into a peaceful local setting could heighten tension or cause discomfort within the community, particularly given differing interpretations of the history of events. They believed it would disrupt harmonious relationships, increase tension and resentment, and undermine social cohesion in a multicultural city.

(160 comments – 59 per cent of opponents that made comment)

- **Not relevant to New Zealand**

A significant number questioned whether the topic has enough relevance to Aotearoa New Zealand to justify installation in a local public space.

(92 comments – 34 per cent per cent of opponents that made comment)

- **Political agenda concerns**

A large group believed the statue could be interpreted as politically motivated or one-sided, rather than a neutral or educational installation.

(86 comments – 32 per cent of opponents that made comment)

- **Inappropriate location**

Many argued that the site is meant to be a peaceful cultural space, not a location for a politically charged or internationally disputed monument. They believed the statue would change the intended purpose of the garden, introduce an issue unrelated to New Zealand, and make a public reserve feel less neutral and welcoming.

(83 Comments – 31 per cent of opponents that made comment)

Other themes included people highlighting their concerns around historical accuracy, the potential disruption to the park's aesthetics, and possible international implications. Several participants also emphasised that Auckland Council should remain neutral.

Strongly support / Support

Supporters most often focused on the purpose and meaning of the statue and how it aligns with shared values. Their most common themes were:

- **Important reminder**

Many supporters highlighted the statue's value as a reminder of dignity, learning and historical awareness, emphasising that its purpose should be clearly conveyed.

(69 comments – 57 per cent of supporters that made comment)

- **Support the installation**

A significant group used this question to restate their overall support for the project, reflecting ongoing backing for the statue's cultural and commemorative role.

(67 comments – 55 per cent of supporters that made comment)

- **Consistent with NZ values**

Several supporters felt the statue aligns with New Zealand's values of respect, compassion and acknowledgement of past harm and human rights generally, reinforcing its appropriateness.

(31 comments – 25 per cent of supporters that made comment)

Other themes included ideas relating to Korean identity and belonging. A few also addressed the aesthetic qualities of the installation and its potential to enhance or influence the character of the space. Some people offered practical suggestions to support the project and noted opportunities to include educational tools to deepen public understanding.

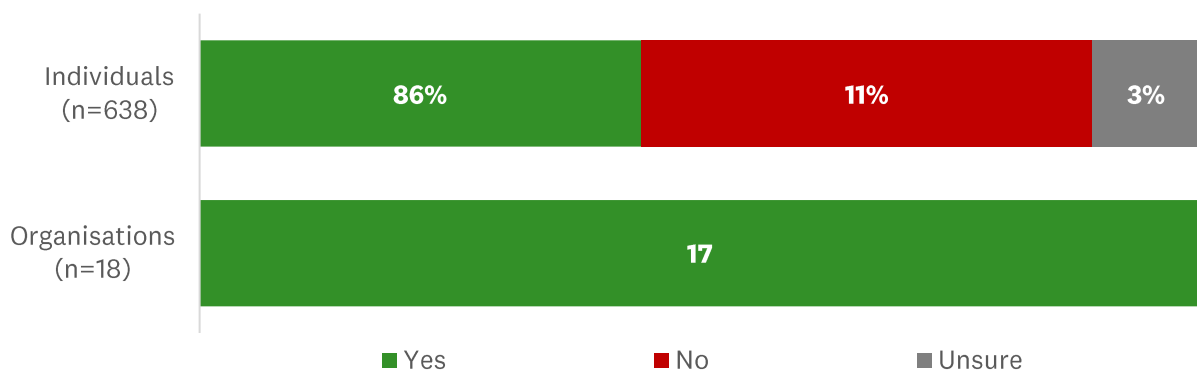
Feedback from organisations

Of the 11 organisations that opposed the proposal, eight raised concerns about how the statue could affect community relationships, with the potential for tension or division noted most frequently. Some also questioned whether Barrys Point Reserve is an appropriate location, expressed caution that the installation could be perceived as politically motivated if not framed carefully, or questioned the historical accuracy of the events (five each).

All five organisations that supported the proposal thought the statue would be an important reminder of dignity, learning and historical awareness.

4. Before reading about this proposal, were you aware of the historical context of the Peace Statue?

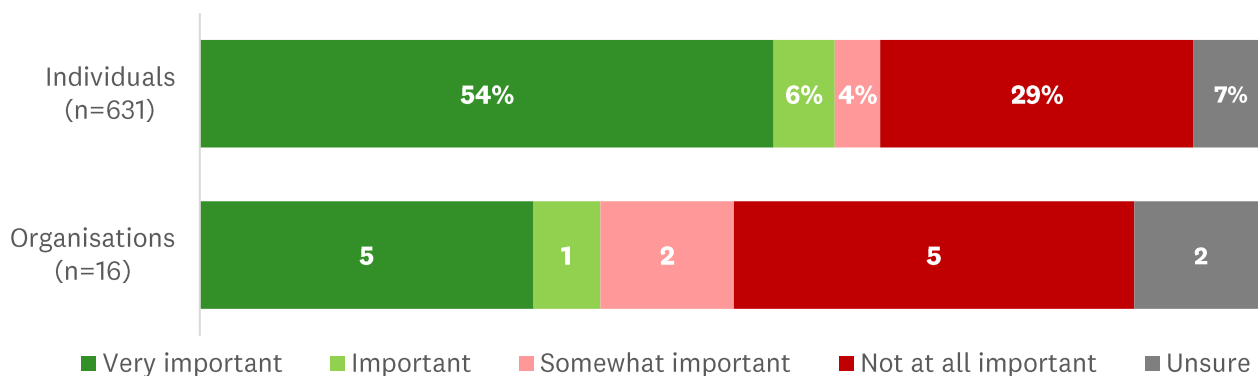
Single select question | 655 responses (97 per cent of all submitters)



Response	Individuals	Organisations
Yes	549	17
No	72	0
Unsure	17	0
TOTAL	638	17

5. The proposed statue relates to historical events involving 'comfort women' during World War II. If installed, how important is it to you that this context is clearly explained on-site?

Single select question | 646 responses (96 per cent of all submitters)



Response	Individuals	Organisations
Very important	339	5
Important	36	1
Somewhat important	27	2
Not at all important	185	5
Unsure	44	2
TOTAL	631	15

6. Do you have any suggestions for how the statue and its historical context could be presented in a way that is respectful and informative?

Open question | 466 responses (69 per cent of all submitters)

Feedback from individuals

Of the 452 individuals who commented, most focused on how the statue and its historical context should be presented if the project proceeds. Their comments centred on themes of sensitivity, factual clarity and the wider community impact

Most common themes overall

- Community conflict/division** – people were concerned that installing the statue could lead to tension within the community, noting that differing interpretations of its meaning may strain relationships or make the space feel less welcoming.
(107 comments – 24 per cent of those that made a comment)
- Political agenda concerns** – people cautioned the statue could be perceived as advancing a political position rather than being purely educational or commemorative. These comments often suggested their perceived importance for council to remain political neutral on the issue.
(84 comments – 19 per cent of those that made a comment)

- **Not relevant to New Zealand** – Many submitters questioned whether the subject has sufficient relevance to Aotearoa New Zealand and raised concerns about importing overseas disputes.
(75 comments – 17 per cent of those that made a comment)
- **Balanced narrative** – Respondents recommended acknowledging differing viewpoints and avoiding a single definitive narrative.
(57 comments – 13 per cent of those that made a comment)
- **Important reminder** – Many felt the presentation should emphasise why remembrance matters and support reflection.
(56 comments – 12 per cent of those that made a comment)

People also raised a range of practical ideas about how the information should be delivered, including clearer educational tools, neutral language aligned with New Zealand values, and design considerations such as placement and integration with the reserve. Others commented that alternative locations may support more appropriate interpretation.

Feedback by importance placed on historical context

Feedback varied depending on how important respondents felt the context is clearly explained on-site. Those who see value in the project want it presented with balance, educational clarity, and survivor respect, while those who do not consider it important focus on concerns about accuracy, appropriateness, location, and international relationships.

Very important / Important

232 (57 per cent) of submitters that responded to the importance of explaining the historical context on-site followed up with a comment. The most common themes included expressing that the statue acts as an important reminder of why history matters (21 per cent), requesting accessible educational tools such as plaques or digital links (20 per cent), a balanced narrative acknowledging multiple perspectives (19 per cent), and concerns that if not handled properly it could lead to community conflict or division (17 per cent). Others focused on value-aligned wording, neutral tone, and practical layout.

Somewhat important / Not at all important

173 (43 per cent) of submitters that responded to the importance of explaining the historical context on-site followed up with a comment. The most common themes included concern that the interpretation could reinforce political perceptions or increase social tension (27 per cent). Others questioned the relevance of the subject matter to New Zealand (26 per cent), with additional feedback on historical accuracy, and the suitability of the reserve as a location for an issue that is too complex and politically charged to explain on one plaque.

Feedback based on ethnicity

Korean ethnicity

117 Korean submitters commented in response to this question.

Around two thirds of Korean submitters felt explaining the historical context on-site was important. Comments most commonly included emphasising a need for educational tools to support the installation, the importance of commemorating the issue, and presenting the information respectfully.

Nearly a third of Korean submitters did not feel explaining the historical context on-site was important. Comments often included concerns around a political agenda behind the interpretation of the historical context, and that the statue is a reminder of a shameful history and Japan's colonial legacy. Some also expressed concerns that the statue is not the best way to showcase Korean culture in what is a Korean garden.

Japanese ethnicity

173 Japanese submitters commented in response to this question.

Around half of Japanese submitters felt explaining the historical context on-site was important. Comments most included concerns about community conflict or division, concerned the statue could appear to support an anti-Japanese narrative and questioned its relevance to New Zealand.

Around a third of Japanese submitters did not feel explaining the historical context on-site was important. Comments most expressed general opposition to the statue being installed at all, regarding it as inherently anti-Japanese

Other comments in smaller numbers related to historical interpretation, neutrality and placement.

European and Māori ethnicities

A strong majority of European and Māori submitters highlighted the importance of reflective, thoughtful explanation, involvement of affected communities and respectful presentation. Some also connected the proposal to what they perceive as New Zealand's commitment to acknowledging history and supporting survivors of wartime sexual violence.

Feedback from organisations

Submissions from organisations commented on community impacts concern that the statue could create tension if not handled sensitively, which may be hard to do given how contested the history appears to be. Some therefore questioned whether the proposed site was appropriate, suggesting a museum or interpretive venue may be more suitable. Others stressed balanced, respectful language and clarity in how this history is presented.

7. Do you have any other feedback regarding the proposed Peace Statue?

Open question | 453 responses (67 per cent of all submitters)

Feedback raised under this question was incorporated into the analysis of people's overall opinion of the proposal, therefore common themes are addressed under Question 3.

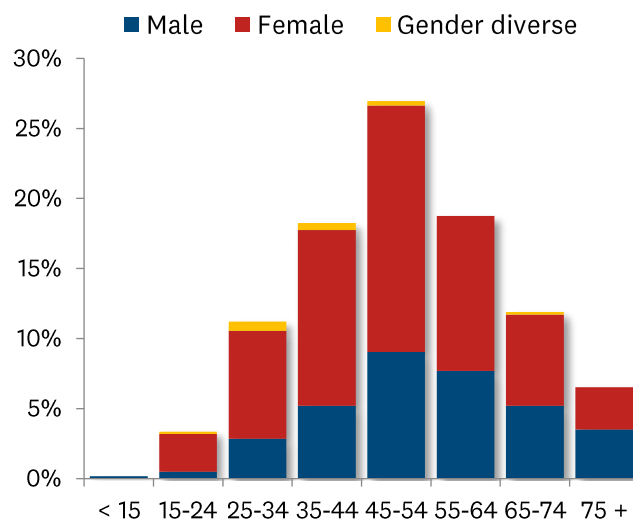
APPENDIX I

Who we heard from

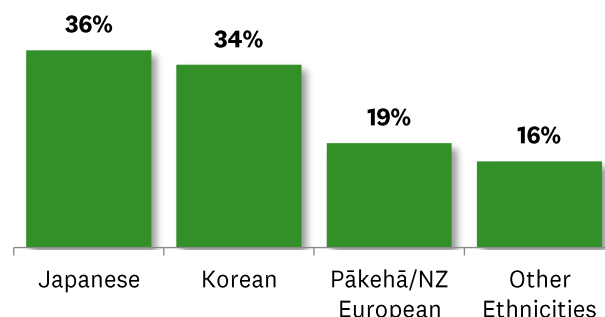
Overall, we received 672 submissions – 652 individuals and 20 organisations. Most feedback came via online form (620 submissions), though we also received feedback via physical feedback forms (52).

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

Age	Male	Female	Other	Total	%Total
Under 15	1	0	0	1	0%
15-24	3	16	1	20	3%
25-34	17	46	4	73	12%
35-44	31	75	3	114	19%
45-54	54	105	2	164	27%
55-64	46	66	0	113	19%
65-74	31	39	1	73	12%
75+	21	18	0	39	7%
TOTAL	204	365	11	204	365



ETHNICITY	#	%
Japanese	204	36%
Korean	189	34%
Pākehā/NZ European	108	19%
Other Ethnicities	91	16%
TOTAL (submitters responded)	561	NA*



*Note: percentages add to more than 100 per cent because people could select more than one ethnicity.

The table below indicates the submissions received by the local board submitters live in.

LOCAL BOARD	#	%
Devonport-Takapuna	102	16%
Kaipātiki	73	11%
Other LBs	390	64%
Outside Auckland	63	10%
Not provided	24	4%
TOTAL (submitters responded)	672	100%

APPENDIX II

Individual responses by local board area

1. What is your connection to Barry's Point Reserve?

Response	Devonport-Takapuna	Kaipātiki	Other
Live nearby	64%	40%	14%
Visit the park	20%	32%	48%
Work near the park	3%	0%	3%
Part of a local community group	10%	22%	20%
Other	2%	6%	15%
TOTAL	98	82	466

2. How often do you visit Barry's Point Reserve?

Response	Devonport-Takapuna	Kaipātiki	Other
Every day or most days	5%	2%	1%
Once or twice a week	28%	10%	5%
Once or twice a month	28%	17%	21%
Less than once a month	39%	71%	70%
Never	0%	0%	2%
Other	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	85	63	365

3. Overall, how do you feel about installing a Peace Statue in the Korean Garden at Barry's Point Reserve?

Response	Devonport-Takapuna	Kaipātiki	Other
Strongly support	35%	44%	41%
Support	3%	5%	2%
Oppose	7%	4%	5%
Strongly oppose	55%	47%	52%
Unsure	0%	0%	1%
TOTAL	102	73	475

4. Before reading about this proposal, were you aware of the historical context of the Peace Statue?

Response	Devonport-Takapuna	Kaipātiki	Other
Yes	84%	87%	86%
No	13%	12%	11%
Unsure	3%	1%	3%
TOTAL	99	69	470

5. The proposed statue relates to historical events involving 'comfort women' during World War II. If installed, how important is it to you that this context is clearly explained on-site?

Response	Devonport-Takapuna	Kaipātiki	Other
Very important	50%	52%	55%
Important	3%	6%	6%
Somewhat important	8%	1%	4%
Not at all important	28%	38%	28%
Unsure	11%	3%	7%
TOTAL	100	69	462