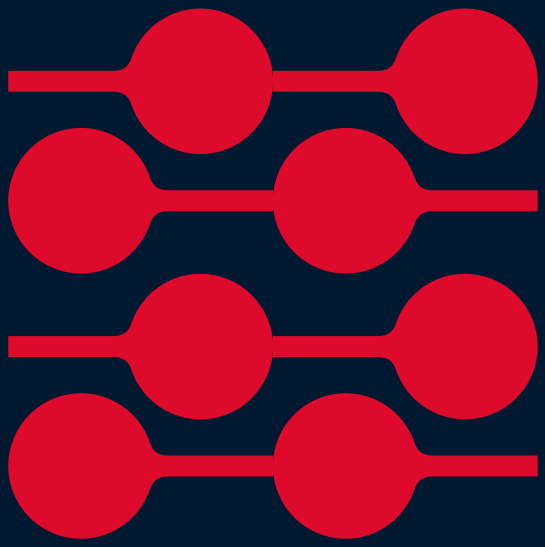
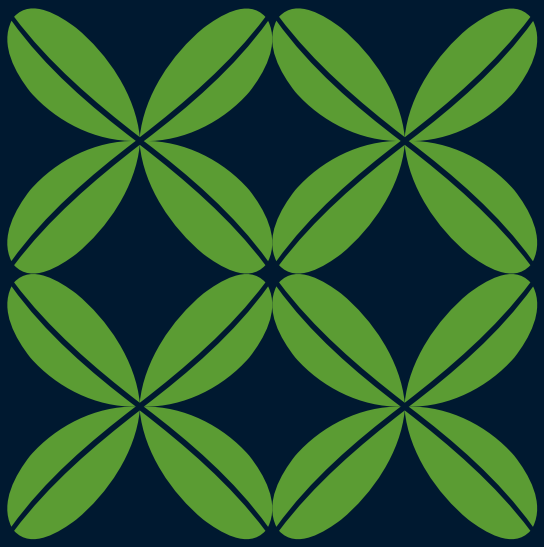






Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2026

Summary of Feedback

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Summary of feedback on the draft Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2026

Purpose

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

Executive Summary

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

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

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

Engagement Approach

The draft Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2026 was developed using feedback received from public engagement carried out between November 2025 and April 2026. Feedback previously heard from the community on a wide range of topics was also considered.

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

- Have Your Say events
- community and partnership initiatives
- written submissions including online and hard copy forms
- emails
- face to face engagement

Support was provided to submitters including:

- Information at Auckland Council libraries
- Online webinars and information available on the AK Have Your Say hub page.

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

Māori engagement

Mana whenua

A co-ordinated approach was taken by local boards so that mana whenua were invited to engage with relevant local boards in one hui rather than receiving separate invitations from each local board. For the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board, face to face engagement took place with Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust through two hui on 20 February 2026 and 26 June 2026.

Mana whenua were sent a copy of the draft local board plan in June 2026 and encouraged to provide written feedback through multiple options including through a new iwi feedback form developed specifically for mana whenua to be able to have their say across multiple local boards within their rohe (area of interest). Feedback was received from these mana whenua entities:

- Ngāti Manuhiri (submission via iwi feedback form)

Marae and mātāwaka

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

Like the new iwi feedback form, a new marae feedback form developed specifically for marae to be able to have their say in a way that reflected their priorities. Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board received no submissions from marae or mātāwaka groups.

Stakeholder, mana whenua and community engagement

Table 1: Summary of early engagement activities

Activity	Who was involved	Details
Huingā Rangatira – mana whenua engagement with Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea on 22 October 2025	Ngā Mātārae Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea	Feedback focused on the environment: Hauraki Gulf, Caulerpa, biodiversity
New Year's Picnic pop-up – 2 January 2026	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board & staff Community	Informal engagement with residents and visitors to raise awareness of the Local Board Plan and gather early feedback on priorities for Aotea
Iwi hui – 20 February 2026	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board and staff Ngā Mātārae Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea	Hui focused on mana whenua aspirations and priorities for the draft plan, including housing and infrastructure, employment and opportunities for whānau, marae, education, te reo Māori, wāhi tapu and environmental issues
Community organisations – 26 February 2026	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board and staff Representatives from community organisations	Feedback covered housing, health and social services, support for older people, community facilities, funding and organisational capacity, youth opportunities, transport and strengthening connections between community organisations
Environmental groups – 4 March 2026	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board and staff Representatives from environmental organisations	Feedback focused on pest management, biodiversity and restoration, marine and freshwater health, waste, food resilience and supporting community-led environmental work

Operators & stakeholders – 9 March 2026	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board and staff Local businesses, operators and stakeholders	Feedback focused on the local economy, tourism, transport and freight, affordability, local employment and contracting, housing for workers and supporting sustainable local businesses
Youth BBQ – 11 March 2026	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board and staff Rangatahi and staff from Te Whare Ako	Youth-focused engagement using informal and interactive activities. Feedback included recreation and facilities, transport and safe ways to get around, employment and future opportunities, and what rangatahi value about living on Aotea
Medlands community BBQ – 14 March 2026	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board and staff Medlands and surrounding community	Informal place-based engagement to hear community priorities and issues, including local facilities and open spaces, transport and access, environmental protection and community resilience
Mulberry Grove community BBQ – 14 March 2026	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board and staff Mulberry Grove and surrounding community	Informal place-based engagement to hear priorities from the southern community, including local facilities, transport and access, housing, affordability and community wellbeing
Fitzroy Boat Club community engagement – 21 March 2026	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board and staff Port Fitzroy and northern community	Feedback included transport and wharf access, infrastructure and resilience, local facilities and services, environmental issues and the needs of geographically isolated northern communities
Okupu community BBQ – 21 March 2026	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board and staff Okupu and surrounding community	Informal place-based engagement on priorities including local facilities and open spaces, road and track access, environmental protection, affordability and maintaining Aotea's character

Table 2: Summary of consultation activities during the consultation period

Activity	Who was involved	Details
Youth engagement – 25 June 2026	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board and staff Rangatahi and staff from Te Whare Ako	10 rangatahi participated in a targeted 30-minute session. Participants rotated through three outcome stations and provided feedback on the draft plan.
Neighbours' Night at Orama – 25 June 2026	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board and staff Orama and wider community	Local Board Plan engagement was incorporated into an existing community event.
Mana whenua engagement – 26 June 2026	Local Board Chair Izzy Fordham Fletcher Beazley, Chair of Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust	Chair-to-Chair kōrero on the draft plan. Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea was generally supportive of the plan and its incorporation of iwi strategic priorities and existing projects.
Stonewall Store pop up – 27 June 2026	Local Board members and staff Community	Pop-up engagement began at Stonewall Store and later moved to the Mulberry

		Grove School car boot sale to reach more people.
Have Your Say at the Claris Market Day – 4 July 2026	Local Board members and staff Market attendees, including children and families	Interactive market activation using displays, feedback forms and the engagement wheel.
Online Info Session (webinar) – 16 July 2026	Local Board members and staff Community participants	Online session providing an overview of the draft Local Board Plan and an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.
Kaitoke School visit – 29 July 2026 *[Note: this follow up session took place outside the SCP timeframe however the students made their submissions before consultation closed]*	Local Board members and staff Kaitoke School students and teachers	Local Board members visited the school to discuss the draft plan, answer students' questions and explain the role of local government and elected members. Years 4–6 students used the draft plan as part of their classroom learning and completed feedback forms.

Generic submissions to all boards

Five organisations provided submissions to all local boards.

- Gardens 4 Health
- Healthy Auckland Together
- Sport Auckland
- Te Whatu Ora
- The Tree Council

Relevant content is included in the sections below.

Summary of feedback

General feedback on the draft Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan

Quantitative feedback

"Overall, do you think the draft Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?"

Source	Yes, strongly agree	Yes, somewhat agree	No, somewhat disagree	No, strongly disagree	I don't know	TOTAL
Individuals (n=69)	35	32	0	1	1	69
Organisations (n=7)	3	3	0	0	1	7

Qualitative feedback

"Tell us what we've got right, what we've missed, or what you would change."

Key themes from the feedback included:

- There was strong overall support for the draft plan and its direction. Feedback indicated that the plan generally reflects the needs and aspirations of the Aotea community, with most suggestions focused on strengthening or refining existing priorities rather than making significant changes.
- Protecting Aotea's environment and unique way of life was strongly supported. Feedback highlighted the importance of balancing environmental protection with opportunities for local employment, businesses and a sustainable visitor economy.
- Transport remained a key concern. Feedback highlighted the affordability and reliability of passenger and freight services, alongside road maintenance, safety, resilience and access around the island.
- Community resilience and local delivery were important themes. Feedback recognised the role of mana whenua, community organisations, volunteers and local businesses in supporting community wellbeing and delivering initiatives on Aotea.
- Housing, opportunities for rangatahi and local economic resilience were also raised. Feedback highlighted the importance of enabling people to live, work and remain on Aotea, while maintaining the character and values of the island.
- Overall, feedback largely reinforced the priorities identified through earlier engagement. While submitters identified areas where greater emphasis or more specific action could be considered, there was broad support for the overall direction of the draft plan.

Community

We see a future where mana whenua aspirations are upheld, their role as kaitiaki is recognised and relationships are strong. A place where our community can look after one another, access the services they need to stay well and where our shared spaces are welcoming, fit for the future and connected.

Objectives

- Thriving mana whenua
- Resilient community services
- Flourishing island culture
- Sustainable facilities
- Well-used open spaces

Advocacy priorities

- Advocate to keep costs affordable for resource and building consents, and compliance and biosecurity requirements.
- Advocate to improve internet connections and digital connectivity services across the island network.

Quantitative feedback

"Are we on the right track with our **Community** priorities?"

Source	I support all priorities	I support most priorities	I do not support most priorities	I do not support any priorities	I don't know	TOTAL
Individuals (n=63)	34	25	0	0	4	63
Organisations (n=7)	3	4	0	0	0	7

Qualitative feedback

"Tell us what we've got right, what we've missed, or what you would change."

Key themes from the feedback included:

- There was strong overall support for the Community outcome and its priorities. Feedback generally supported the proposed direction, while identifying areas where existing priorities could be strengthened or given greater emphasis.
- Housing was a recurring theme, with support for the plan's existing focus on housing. Feedback highlighted barriers to providing appropriate and affordable housing on Aotea, including planning and consenting processes, and opportunities to enable smaller or additional dwellings.
- Rangatahi and children were a recurring focus. Feedback highlighted the importance of opportunities, activities and facilities for young people, as well as employment and other pathways that enable rangatahi to remain connected to Aotea. Feedback from children also highlighted the importance of playgrounds and spaces that meet their needs.
- Community resilience and self-sufficiency were strongly supported. This included support for strengthening local food resilience through local food production and community-led food initiatives.

- Community-led delivery and partnerships were strongly supported. Feedback recognised the important role of local organisations, volunteers and mana whenua in delivering services, strengthening community connections and supporting community wellbeing.

Environment

We see a future where our community works together to manage pests and protect our native species, where our food and water are secure and our waterways are healthy and drain freely. A place that protects and celebrates its night sky and where we reduce waste and lower our impact on the environment. An island where our whenua is restored and thriving and our moana is protected, healthy and full of life.

Objectives

- Treasured and enriched whenua
- Abundant and protected moana
- Clean and secure wai
- Celebrated and preserved rangi

Advocacy priorities

- Advocate to stop bottom trawling and dredging in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and encourage sustainable fishing.
- Advocate for more investment to monitor new and current invasive marine species, such as exotic Caulerpa, Asian paddle crab, sea squirt and Mediterranean fanworm.
- Advocate for increased and aligned investment in the 'Making Space for Water' programme to improve our waterways and drainage, reduce flood and erosion risks and improve partnerships with local landowners.
- Advocate to protect kauri on Aotea and support continued monitoring and treatment of kauri dieback disease.
- Advocate for continued council investment into 'dark sky' lighting requirements on Aotea and around the Gulf, such as lower lumens and downward-facing lighting, to make sure we protect our Dark Sky Sanctuary status.
- Advocate for stronger product stewardship initiatives including takeback schemes, sustainable packaging, and 'right-to-repair' legislation to support zero waste.
- Advocate to reduce council's chemical footprint across Aotea.

Quantitative feedback

"Are we on the right track with our **Environment** priorities?"

Source	I support all priorities	I support most priorities	I do not support most priorities	I do not support any priorities	I don't know	TOTAL
Individuals (n=65)	42	21	0	0	2	65
Organisations (n=6)	4	2	0	0	0	6

Qualitative feedback

"Tell us what we've got right, what we've missed, or what you would change."

Key themes from the feedback included:

- There was very strong overall support for the Environment outcome and its priorities. Of the 65 individual respondents who answered this question, 63 supported all or most of the priorities. All six organisations that responded also supported all or most of the priorities.
- Pest management was a key recurring theme. There was strong support for the plan's pest-free direction, alongside suggestions for further action. Feral cats were raised most frequently, including suggestions relating to domestic cats being brought to Aotea. Other feedback included pigs, wild cattle, rats, trapping methods and greater promotion of the Aotea Trap Library.
- Protection of the moana was another recurring theme. Feedback called for continued or strengthened marine protection, alongside action to manage Caulerpa and support marine research and monitoring.
- Community-led conservation received strong support. Feedback recognised the important role of local environmental groups and mana whenua in protecting and restoring Aotea's natural environment and supported continued Local Board investment in and partnership with this work.
- Freshwater health and waterways were also raised. Feedback included protection and restoration of waterways and wetlands, with specific references to Awana and Medlands. Some feedback also identified barriers to accessing funding for waterway protection initiatives.

Economy

We see a future where local businesses thrive, an island where people can make a living locally and afford to live well, and a place that continues to attract visitors in a way that supports our way of life.

Objectives

- Strong local economy
- Sustainable destination management

Advocacy priorities

- Advocate for regulations that recognise our rural island difference rather than applying regulations designed for urban areas that can make it harder for our local businesses to operate.

Quantitative feedback

"Are we on the right track with our **Economy** priorities?"

Source	I support all priorities	I support most priorities	I do not support most priorities	I do not support any priorities	I don't know	TOTAL
Individuals (n=54)	27	21	2	0	4	54

Organisations (n=5)	2	3	0	0	0	5

Qualitative feedback

"Tell us what we've got right, what we've missed, or what you would change."

Key themes from the feedback included:

- There was strong overall support for the Economy outcome and its priorities. Of the 54 individual respondents who answered this question, 48 supported all or most of the priorities. All five organisations that responded also supported all or most of the priorities.
- Tourism was a key recurring theme. Feedback supported attracting visitors to Aotea, particularly outside the peak summer period, with an emphasis on sustainable tourism, eco-tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Feedback highlighted the relationship between the economy and the natural environment. Aotea's conservation and biodiversity values were recognised as assets that can support a sustainable visitor economy while protecting the qualities that make the island distinctive.
- Supporting local businesses and employment opportunities was strongly supported. Feedback included support for keeping contracting opportunities on-island and creating opportunities for local businesses and enterprises. Local food production and the arts were also identified as areas with economic potential.
- Affordability was identified as an ongoing challenge for the local economy. Transport costs were frequently raised in relation to the visitor economy and the cost of doing business on Aotea. Some feedback also sought greater competition and affordability in essential services, including fuel and gas.

Transport

We see a future where our transport network is resilient and able to support connection to and from the island, where our wharves and airfields are reliable and meet our needs, and where our roads are safe, well maintained, and shared.

Objectives

- Resilient transport network
- Safe local roads

Quantitative feedback

"Are we on the right track with our **Transport** priorities?"

Source	I support all priorities	I support most priorities	I do not support most priorities	I do not support any priorities	I don't know	TOTAL
Individuals (n=64)	34	23	4	1	2	64

Organisations (n=6)	3	3	0	0	0	6

Qualitative feedback

Key themes from the feedback included:

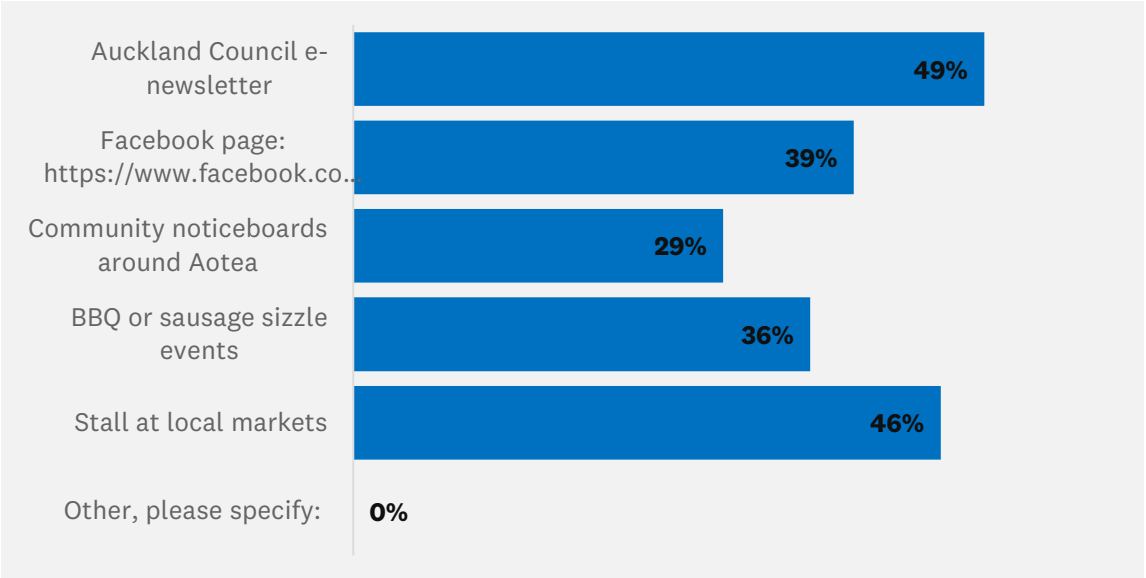
- There was strong overall support for the Transport outcome and its priorities. Of the 64 individual respondents who answered this question, 57 supported all or most of the priorities. Five respondents did not support most or any of the priorities. All six organisations that responded supported all or most of the priorities.
- Transport and freight affordability was a key recurring theme. Feedback highlighted rising costs and limited choice of providers, with affordability linked to Aotea's isolation, retaining residents, the visitor economy and the cost of doing business. Feedback also called for continued or strengthened advocacy with transport providers and central government.
- Safe walking and cycling connections were strongly supported. Feedback included requests for footpaths, cycleways and off-road connections, particularly around Claris, Kaitoke and Medlands. Feedback from young people also highlighted the importance of being able to walk and cycle safely to places such as school and the library.
- Unformed legal roads were another recurring theme. Feedback suggested exploring opportunities to use existing legal road corridors for walking and cycling connections, improving network resilience and providing alternative access where formed roads are disrupted. This theme was also raised in feedback relating to the other outcome areas.
- Road maintenance, safety and resilience were frequently raised. Feedback included drainage, slips, roadside vegetation, road markings and speeding, as well as concerns about communities becoming isolated when road access is disrupted. Improved access to the marae, including suggestions for sealing the road, was also raised.
- Community passenger transport received support. Suggestions included connections between different parts of the island, particularly to improve access and independence for young people and older residents.

Other questions asked

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

Quantitative feedback

"How would you prefer to hear from us?"



Qualitative feedback

"Do you have any other feedback on the draft Aotea/ Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2026?"

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Additional feedback generally reinforced themes raised elsewhere in the consultation. Comments largely focused on strengthening or providing greater emphasis to priorities already included in the draft plan, rather than proposing a substantially different direction.
- Protecting Aotea's environment and character remained important. Additional comments reflected support for conservation, pest management, protection of the moana and ensuring future development is appropriate for the island.
- Transport, access and connectivity continued to be raised. Feedback included the affordability and reliability of transport and freight, road and track access, and opportunities to improve walking and cycling connections.
- Community resilience and supporting local people and organisations were also highlighted. Feedback reflected the importance of local capability, community-led initiatives and enabling people to live, work and participate in life on Aotea.
- Some feedback sought greater clarity or ambition in the final plan. This included suggestions for more specific actions, stronger advocacy and clearer recognition of particular issues or opportunities facing Aotea.

Māori Outcomes

Delivering outcomes for Māori is an important feature of the draft Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan.

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

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

- Community: The draft plan proposed supporting mana whenua aspirations and rangatiratanga through partnership, investment in by-Māori-for-Māori initiatives and capacity building. It also included support for papakāinga and housing solutions, marae resilience, protection and sharing of te reo, cultural narratives and wāhi tapu, and working with mana whenua on Aotea's long-term vision and track networks.

- Environment: The draft plan proposed partnering with mana whenua and community organisations to restore and protect Aotea's whenua, moana, waterways and ecosystems. This included support for large-scale restoration and marine wellbeing initiatives, local food resilience, protection of marine and taonga species, and improving freshwater and wetland health through local knowledge and cultural stewardship.

- Economy: The draft plan proposed working with mana whenua and the community to provide a visitor information centre and share visitor information on digital platforms and at main entry ports to the island.

- Transport: The draft plan's transport objectives and priorities are designed to benefit the whole Aotea community, with no transport initiatives identified as specifically supporting Māori outcomes.

Qualitative feedback

Key themes from the feedback included:

Mana whenua feedback

Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotea was generally supportive of the direction of the draft plan, including the way its strategic priorities and existing projects had been incorporated. Feedback highlighted access to capacity funding, opportunities for mana whenua involvement in pest management contracts and environmental projects, and action to address Caulerpa.

Ngāti Manuhiri sought stronger recognition of its interests and relationship with Aotea, including formal acknowledgement of the Mana ki te Mana relationship and joint kaitiakitanga of the shared moana. Feedback also sought coordination on marine biosecurity and pests, stronger advocacy for iwi-led marine protection, and formalised cross-boundary coordination in relation to Hauturu.

Stakeholder and community feedback

Wider feedback supported the role of mana whenua in environmental restoration and community-led delivery, including continued Local Board support for mana whenua and groups undertaking work on the ground.

Feedback on environmental outcomes included support for community and mana whenua-led conservation, alongside stronger protection of the moana, action on Caulerpa and continued restoration work.

Climate outcomes

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

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

- Community: The draft plan proposed strengthening community resilience and self-sufficiency through resilient community facilities, local housing solutions and support for community-led services and initiatives.

- Environment: The draft plan proposed strengthening the resilience of Aotea's natural environment through restoration and protection of whenua, moana, waterways and wetlands, alongside improving local food and water resilience and supporting initiatives to reduce, reuse, compost and recycle waste.

- Economy: The draft plan proposed supporting a more sustainable and resilient local economy through local employment and sourcing, innovative energy and waste-reduction initiatives, and sustainable and regenerative tourism.

- Transport: The draft plan proposed building a more resilient, lower-emissions transport network through climate-resilient roads, wharves and airfields, alternative routes, electric vehicle charging and community passenger transport, alongside supporting microgrid infrastructure to reduce reliance on diesel.

Qualitative feedback

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Feedback supported protecting and restoring Aotea's natural environment, including marine and freshwater ecosystems, wetlands and biodiversity. Marine protection, freshwater protection and biodiversity were recurring environmental themes.
- Community resilience and self-sufficiency were supported, including local food production and community-led food resilience initiatives.
- Transport network resilience was a recurring theme. Feedback raised drainage, slips and the risk of communities becoming isolated when roads are disrupted. Unformed legal roads were also identified as potential alternative connections when formed roads are blocked.
- Freshwater and wetland health were raised in several comments, including restoration of waterways and wetlands and protection of areas such as Awana and Medlands.
- Climate change was not a dominant standalone theme in consultation. Much of the feedback relevant to climate outcomes was expressed through broader concerns about environmental protection, community resilience and the resilience of Aotea's infrastructure and transport network.

Equitable outcomes

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

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

- Community: The draft plan proposed supporting equitable access to health, wellbeing and education services, particularly for seniors, youth and vulnerable communities. It also included strengthening the capacity of local organisations, supporting housing solutions for kaumātua, pensioners, papakāinga and workers, and advocating for affordable consenting, compliance and biosecurity costs.

- Environment: The draft plan proposed improving access to affordable, healthy locally produced food and strengthening freshwater, wetland, water supply and flood resilience through mana whenua and community-led initiatives.

- Economy: The draft plan proposed supporting equitable access to local employment, skills development and opportunities for local businesses, helping residents earn and spend locally. It also supported an inclusive visitor economy and advocacy for regulations that recognise Aotea's rural island context and reduce barriers for local businesses.

- Transport: The draft plan proposed improving equitable access to transport through a community passenger service, accessible and resilient wharves and airfields, and safer walking and cycling connections. It also included advocacy to address the high costs of fuel, transport and freight, which disproportionately affect an isolated island community.

Qualitative feedback

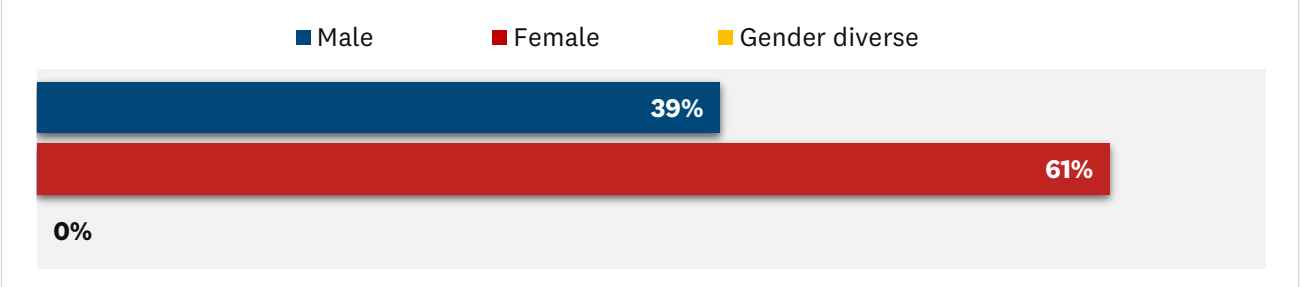
Key themes from the feedback included:

- Feedback relating to equitable outcomes focused strongly on affordability and access to essential services and opportunities.
- Housing was a recurring theme, including the availability of affordable and appropriate housing and barriers created by planning and consenting processes.
- Feedback also highlighted access to health and welfare services, support for older people and rangatahi, food resilience, local employment opportunities and the high cost of transport and freight.
- Community passenger transport and safer walking and cycling connections were supported as ways to improve access and independence, particularly for young and older residents.

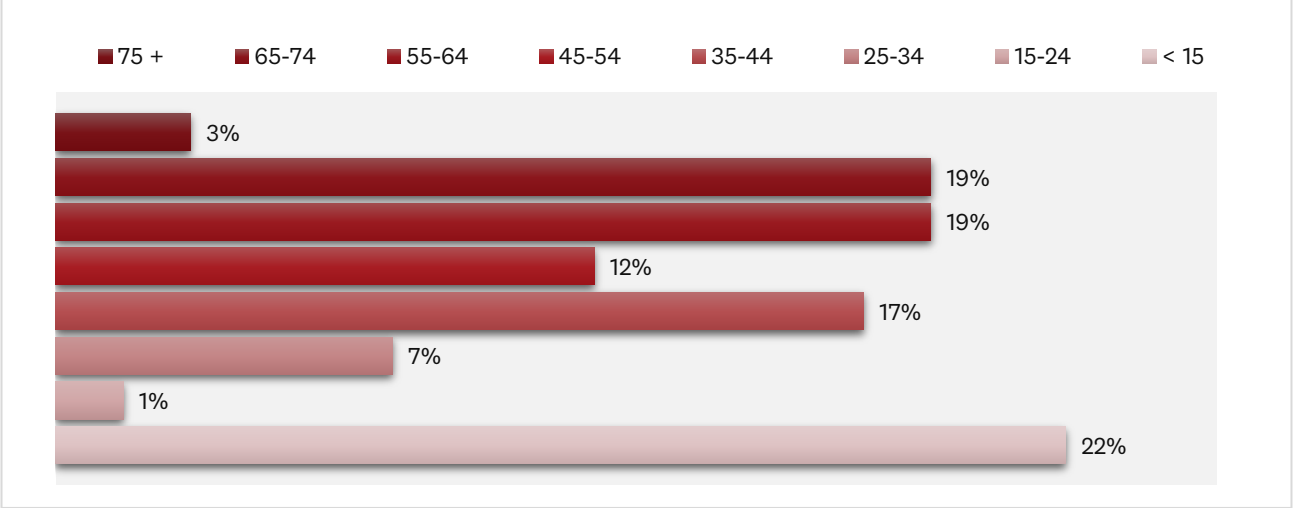
Who we heard from

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

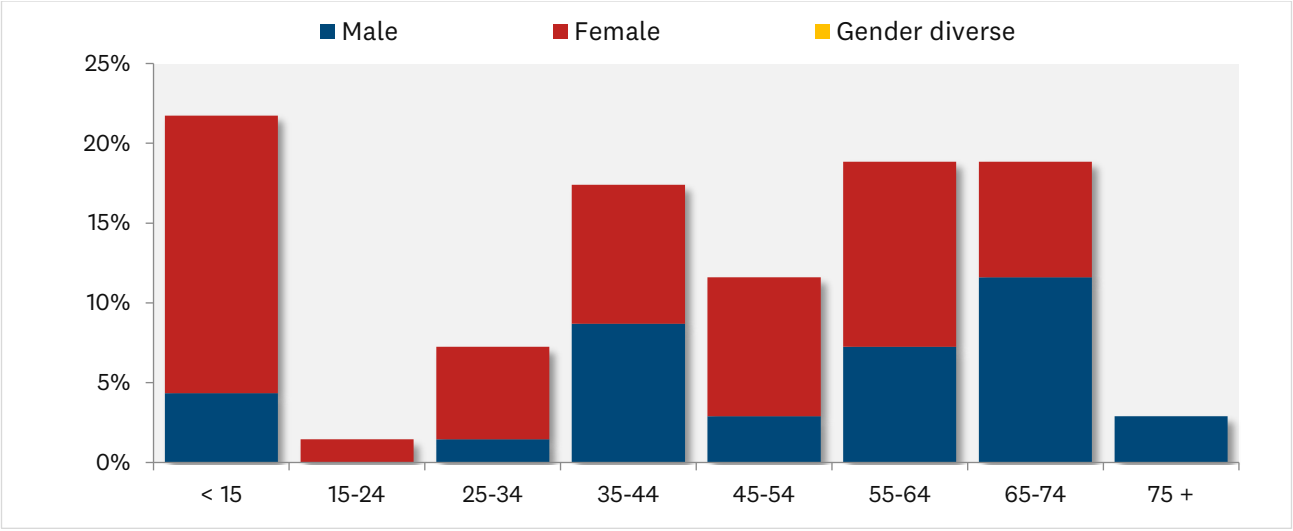
Gender (49% answered)



Age (47% answered)



Gender by age



Ethnicity (46% answered)

