Annual Plan 2026/2027

Written Feedback

Howick Local Board

Volume 8

April 2026

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9258

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: Howick

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 opposing the proposed 7.9% average residential rates increase and urging a plan to cut wasteful spending across the Council and CCOs.Key position: oppose the 7.9% rates rise. The proposed increase is disproportionate to inflation and far above residents' ability to pay. The on-budget impact is an average increase of about $320 for a typical household while the Council's own figures show a real increase since 2022 of 30% in rates versus 12% general inflation. A more affordable path is essential.I support substantial efficiency improvements and cost reductions as outlined in the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget

including a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (2%) to cap rates growth at around 3%. Specific measures I support include:- Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze for non-essential roles saving about $50 million.- Capping spending on consultants and professional services saving about $50 million.- Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation saving about $30 million.- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving about $20 million.Additional critical savings I urge include: stopping the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves; freezing staffing or reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles (this alone could save at least $17 million promptly); and cutting Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Ngā Mātārae / Māori Outcomes function which I believe falls outside the core remit of local government.I am concerned about ongoing wasteful expenditure in corporate and backroom functions and the substantial investment in consultants. The Council should also reassess capital-intensive 'upgrades' to local Reserves which in my view have been unnecessary and poorly executed as illustrated by the Pigeon Mountain project (over $2 million) resulting in unsightly and contentious changes rather than community-beneficial outcomes.In closing I request the Council to consider these savings to enable a sustainable lower-rate path and better prioritisation of 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.)

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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

#9301

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

Your feedback:

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- **Water**
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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 residential rates bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 and the real increase since 2022 is 30 percent far above overall inflation. The plan's breakdown " 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs " means ordinary households will bear a substantial burden while questions remain about the value delivered.I submit that the Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb consultancy and professional services. In addition I support cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and reportedly emits more

carbon than it saves. Freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles would deliver immediate savings (estimates suggest at least $17 million). It is also reasonable to reduce Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) given this is not a core local government function.Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance's Alternative Budget shows a feasible path to cap the rate rise at around 3 percent by reducing new spending by $150 million (2%). Specific reductions I support include:- Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze: $50 million- Capping spending on consultants and professional services: $50 million- Renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors: $30 million- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: $20 millionFocus spending on essential items first and resist sustaining wasteful or non-essential programmes that do not clearly benefit ratepayers or core local government responsibilities.I request that the Council consider these measures to achieve meaningful relief for ratepayers while maintaining essential services and accountable governance.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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- **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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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

#9302

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

Your feedback:

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

For the average household this equates to about $320 more per year at a time when rates have risen 30% in real terms since 2022 and overall living costs are pressing households hard.Key concerns1) Rates and affordability. The 7.9% increase is not consistent with keeping essential services affordable and aligned with inflation. I support capping average residential rate rises to around 3% by reducing new and ongoing expenditure.2) Wasteful spending and efficiency. The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and drastically cut spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continued growth.3)

Specific program savings. I support cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and appears to emit more carbon than it saves. Directing funds to essential services will deliver greater public benefit.4) Staffing and payroll. 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.5) Targeted spending priorities. I oppose increased spending on Māori-specific initiatives that are not a core local government function including what is framed as the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) at about $10 million per year.6) Overall budget option. The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget proposes a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (a 2% cut). This would allow a 3% rate increase while preserving essential services but reducing non-essential discretionary spending and consultants.AdditionsI oppose the use of ratepayer funds for signage promoting a woke pidgin English approach in public spaces. Mixed-language signage risks confusion and diverts funds from essential services. The heavy use of consultants also appears to perpetuate excessive costs in transport and other areas.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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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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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

#9313

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Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

Your feedback:

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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 residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for a reduction in wasteful Council spending. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of 30% against 12% inflation. The proposed 7.9% rise amounting to about $320 for the average household is inappropriate given the scale of spend that can be trimmed.I agree with the following positions and request they be incorporated into Council planning:- Oppose the average residential rates by at least 7.9% and support holding increases to around 3% through targeted savings.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom

office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spending on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these items.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year on the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local government function.To achieve these savings I support the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap rates at about 3%. This includes: $50 million from personnel costs via organisational change and hiring freezes; $50 million from cap on consultants; $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; and $20 million from prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Additional observations: Council spending on consultants is $126 million annually with high average consultant pay while payroll exceeds $1.3 billion. Direct operating expenditure rose substantially faster than inflation between 2013 and 2023. These factors undermine trust in ratepayer value for money and justify a tighter procurement-focused reset now.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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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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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

#9367

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Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

Your feedback:

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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 extra for the average household on top of a 30 percent real increase since 2022 and a 85 percent rise since the Super City change. This level of increase is not affordable for many households while inflation continues.I support reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and I oppose the continued growth in consultancy and professional services. The Council's current spend on consultantsabout $126 million per year across the Group with the average consultant earning around $200000must be reviewed and capped. The objective should be essential services first not expanding

discretionary external expertise.I also oppose continuing the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and appears to emit more carbon than it saves. Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary programmes must guide any budget decisions.A freeze on staffing and payroll costs is essential. Not hiring for vacant non-essential roles would save at least $17 million immediately. Combined with a broader reduction in personnel costs this is a prudent step to avoid ratepayer burden while protecting core services.I further oppose the current level of spend on Māori outcomes. The $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) is not a core local government function and reducing this funding should be considered in favour of maintaining core statutory responsibilities.The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget demonstrates a pathway to a 3 percent cap on average residential rates by reducing new spending by $150 million (2 percent). This is achieved through a combination of personnel cost controls capping consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising essential services over discretionary grants.I request that my submission be considered in full and that I be notified of hearings opportunities that align with my preference not to speak at a hearing. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9377

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Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

Your feedback:

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit this brief but firm objection to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27.- The 7.9% uplift is excessive. At approximately $320 more per average household this outstrips inflation and real household income growth. Since the Super City amalgamation rates have risen 85% while population grew by only 22% and inflation runs higher than claimed. The burden falls disproportionately on households north of the bridge who gain little direct benefit from projects like the City Rail Link.- Wasteful and duplicative spending must be tackled first. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance data show a pattern of rising payroll and backroom costs. Reducing

corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and capping consultancy and professional services would deliver meaningful savings without compromising core services.- Specific cuts align with fairer spending. The proposed 7.9% increase is partly driven by CRL operating costs. A responsible plan would prioritise essential statutory services over discretionary items and redirect savings toward rate relief.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. At $36 million per year it costs ratepayers more than it saves in carbon. It is not a core municipal obligation and its continuation diverts funds from essential services.- Curb staffing growth. Freezing vacancies or pausing non-essential hires would yield immediate savings; the Alliance estimates at least $17 million could be saved right away. Payroll costs are a major driver of rate increases.- Reduce Maori-specific spending. The $10 million per year for the Maori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) is not a local government core function and should be scaled back or redirected to essential services.In short the Council should reduce new spending by about $150 million to cap rates increases to around 3%. This can be achieved through faster organisational change a hiring freeze and renegotiated contracts.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

#9389

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: Howick

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 personal and sincere tone to oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to urge reductions in wasteful Council spending. On the current path rates will rise by about 7.9% (roughly $320 for the average household from a current average bill of $4069). This is a real increase well above inflation and growth since 2022.I support the following positions:1) Oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9% and advocate for capping rate rises to around 3% or lower.2) Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. The current level of payroll and corporate overhead is excessive and not aligned with

essential service delivery.3) Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these lines. The annual $126 million in consultant fees across the Council group is unsustainable and should be cut.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves until a robust business case justifies its continuation.5) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million right away.6) Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year spent on the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) consistent with the view that this is not a core local government function.7) Consider substantial efficiency gains in Auckland Transport with the overall budget re-prioritised toward essential services.I also urge a broader review of discretionary grants and vendor contracts coupled with vendor consolidation and renegotiations to deliver real savings. An alternative budget framework that reduces new spending by $150 million could cap the rate uplift to about 3 percent through targeted reductions 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

#9402

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: Howick

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 average residential rates increase by at least 7.9%. With the current average residential bill of $4069 and a real rates rise well above inflation since 2022 ratepayer burden is not being matched by commensurate gains in essential services. The proposed 7.9% split includes 4.4% for CRL operating costs 2% for maintaining existing assets and 1.5% for new assets. This level of spend growth is unsustainable for households already facing 30% real increases since 2022.I support aggressive cost reductions focused on backroom and corporate spend. The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb

consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these lines. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance's plan recommends a $150 million reduction in new Council spending to cap rates increases at around 3% achieved through targeted measures.Specific measures I support include:- 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 filling non-essential vacant roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.- Freeze or cut Maori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori outcomes' function valued at approximately $10 million per year which I believe is not a statutory local-government role.I further urge renegotiation of contracts and vendor consolidation to deliver savings in the order of tens of millions and a shift of funds toward statutory and essential services rather than discretionary grants.I request that the Council prioritise essential services and limit discretionary spending to protect households from disproportionate rate 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.

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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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	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

#9473

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: Howick

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 rate rise as proposed. The Council's cost pressures are not inevitable and the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance analysis shows clear opportunities to curb wasteful and non-essential spending while protecting essential services. The proposed 7.9 percent increase comprises 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% in real terms far outpacing inflation and population growth. A more restrained approach is warranted.Agreed positions:- 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 these items.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and per independent assessments emits more carbon than it saves.- 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.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the approximately $10 million per year on the Maori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a core local government function.- Reduce the number of council workers on the ground who are gardening and effectively not delivering value.Additional context:- The Council's payroll and contract costs have grown substantially with 6123 staff on six-figure salaries and rising numbers paid over $200000 alongside a large outsourcing bill. Direct operating expenditure has grown far faster than inflation while consultants and contractors total nearly $590 million over the period cited.- To avoid rate shock I support the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget: cap average residential rates increase to around 3% by realigning $150 million in spend reductionsthrough personnel changes freezes on non-essential roles vendor consolidation and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.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
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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.
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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

#9474

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 and direct terms to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and to call for a reset in Council spending toward essential services and prudent stewardship of ratepayers' money.Key concerns and positions:1) Rates burden and affordability. The proposed 7.9% rise translates to about $320 more per average household on top of a real-terms rates increase of 30% since 2022 against 12% consumer inflation. This is unsustainable for households already stretched by costs of living.2) Spending reform and waste reduction. The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council

and CCOs and curb consultancy and professional services rather than permitting further increases.3) Cancel non-core programmes. Specifically cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs about $36 million/year while emitting more carbon than it saves) and freeze payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles to realise immediate savings (potentially at least $17 million).4) Targeted budget reallocation. Rollover funds from non-essential programs toward essential services with a focus on accountability and value for money.5) Reduce Māori-specific expenditure. I oppose ongoing spending on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) of about $10 million per year as this should be managed within core local government responsibilities.In addition to live within our means and avoid unnecessary projects I urge:- No 1.4m footpaths with colour or lavish upgrades; pause money upgrading walking pathways that do not deliver clear benefit.- Stop replacing bus shelters and locations unless there is demonstrated demand or safety risk.- Limit kauri dieback expenditure to proportionate essential work.- Refrain from continuing the kitchen waste programme and reallocate funds to essential services.- Reign in freshwater programs and tightly control public works specifications to avoid wasteful spending.My preferred path is to implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping average residential rates at about 3%. This includes cuts to personnel costs cap on consultants renegotiate contracts and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.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

#9484

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: Howick

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 average residential rates bill is $4069 and since 2022 rates have risen by 30% in real terms far outstripping cumulative inflation. The 7.9% increase comprises 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for growth-related new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This is unacceptable when substantial efficiency gains are available.I agree with and urge the following:- Oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9% and seek restraint to align with inflation and household affordability.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce the spend on consultancy and professional services

rather than continuing to increase these items.- 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 could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the 'Maori outcomes' department Ngā Mātārae as this is not a function of local government.Additional points for consideration:Stop all unnecessary spending on large overpriced projects. Focus on tangible visible assets people use dailyparks libraries adequate parkingand prioritise essential services over discretionary grants.I propose the Council adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the rate rise at around 3% through a combination of personnel cost controls capss on consultants renegotiations and vendor consolidation while prioritising statutory 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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- **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

#9487

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: Howick

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 and direct tone to oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to urge substantial reductions in wasteful council expenditure.1) Rates increase and fiscal restraint- I oppose the average 7.9% residential rates rise which equates to about $320 for the average household. Since 2010 rates have risen 85% while population growth and inflation have not kept pace; this is unsustainable for households and undermines affordability.- The breakdown shows 2% for maintaining assets 1.5% for new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. Without real efficiency gains these increases simply compound the burden on ratepayers.2) Wasteful

spending and reform measures- Council spending on consultants is excessive: $126 million per year across the Council group with the average consultant paid around $200k. I call for reducing consultant and professional services expenditure rather than permitting further growth.- Excessive payroll and backroom costs must be tackled: 6123 employees on six-figure salaries (464 above $200k) “ a 64% rise under the current administration. The payroll is now $1.3 billion with $590 million spent on consultants and contractors.- Eighteen corporate and business support functions cost $868.4 million in direct expenditure. This level of overhead is inconsistent with the level of essential services provided to ratepayers.3) Specific policy recommendations aligned with the Alliance alternative budget- Reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping average rates increase to ~3%: - Freeze staff for non-essential roles and pursue targeted payroll reductions saving about $17 million immediately. - Cap spending on consultants by cutting contract work and renegotiating vendor terms saving about $50 million. - Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants with $20 million redirected accordingly. - Reallocate or consolidate functions to reduce backroom costs and improve efficiency.4) Additional notes- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million/year and reportedly emitting more carbon than it saves.- Freeze or reduce Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year on the Maori Outcomes function (Ngā Mātārae) arguing it is not a core local-government role.I request a hearing to present these points in person. 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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9505,336541,,Howick,Do not support most,I submit this policy submission in a constructive solution-focused manner to oppose the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase and to advocate for tightening wasteful Council spending.Key positions1) Oppose the average residential rates increase of at least 7.9 percent. The current average bill is $4069 and the real increase since 2022 is 30 percent well above inflation. A more restrained approach is needed.2) Reduce backroom and corporate expenditure across the Council and CCOs. There is a clear case to cut personnel costs contract spend and non-essential discretionary items to protect essential services.3) Curb consulting and professional services expenditure. Reducing reliance on consultants should form a core part of any alternative budget.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs $36 million/year and emits more carbon than it saves).5) Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles; estimates suggest potential savings of at least $17 million immediately.6) Cut Māori-specific spend including the $10 million/year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a local government core role.Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget guidance- Target a 3 percent cap on the average residential rates increase via a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (2 percent). - Implement a freeze on non-essential staffing cap consultant spend renegotiate contracts and prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Rationale- Since amalgamation rates have risen 85 percent far outstripping inflation and population growth. Without relief households face mounting cost burdens at a time of broader price pressures.- Reallocating funds toward core municipal functions and essential services will preserve service levels without triggering steep rate rises.ClosingI request the opportunity to present at hearings if possible. 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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9509,336537,,Howick,Do not support most,The Council's current plan would raise the average residential rates by about $320 per household on top of a real increase since 2022 of around 30 percent while inflation has been 12 percent. This is unaffordable for households already stretched by rising living costs.I support the following positions and ask Council to incorporate them into the 2026/27 plan:1) Oppose the 7.9 percent increase and cap the average rise at 3 percent by reducing new and existing spend. The Ratepayers' Alliance proposes a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (2 percent) achieved through targeted changes to personnel costs consultants and contracts plus prioritising statutory and essential services.2) Reduce personnel costs and payroll growth. Freeze non-essential vacancies and avoid hiring for roles that are not essential. This would immediately save at least $17 million and help slow future rate increases.3) Curb consultant and professional services spend. Cap and renegotiate contracts; consolidate vendors to reduce the current high reliance on external consultants which totals about $126 million annually across the Council group including $60 million by the Auckland Council parent.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. It costs $36 million per year and based on Council data emits more carbon than it saves; redirect resources to essential services.5) Cut Māori-specific spending. The $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) should be reconsidered as a core local-government function not a designated spend.6) Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants. Reallocate funds toward core duties and essential infrastructure maintenance.Additional point: many households are struggling financially; there is little room to absorb further rate increases.I request to speak at hearings to present these points in detail. 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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9546,336500,,Howick,Do not support most,I submit my strong opposition to the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase and urge a substantial reduction in wasteful council spending. The rate rise which equates to about $320 for the average household is neither affordable nor justified in light of the Council's known cost drivers and spending patterns.Key concerns- The 7.9% increase is not aligned with inflation or household cost pressures. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 representing a real increase of about 30% since 2022 (vs. 12% cumulative inflation). The breakdown shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs plus 2% to maintain existing assets and 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows. This framework compounds the burden on households.- Wasteful and opaque spend. Council spending on consultants stands at $126 million per year across the group with the average consultant about $200k. Total payroll and related costs exceed $1.3 billion while spending on consultants and contractors sits at $590 million. Eighteen corporate and business support functions alone cost $868.4 million in direct expenditure.- Targeted reductions to free up ratepayer funds. I support reducing new Council spending by at least $150 million (2%) to cap rates increases at 3% via: reducing personnel costs (freeze non-essential roles) capping consultancy spending renegotiating contracts and prioritising essential statutory services over discretionary grants. Agreed positions- Oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9%.- Reduce expenditure on corporate/backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million per year and reportedly emitting more carbon than saved.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles saving at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae department's roughly $10

million per year acknowledging it falls outside core local government responsibilities.ClosingI 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,,

9568,336478,,Howick,Do not support most,I welcome the opportunity to submit on the proposed 2026/27 annual plan. I submit in a constructive solution-focused manner and oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9%.Key concerns and constructive asks- Rates increase: The proposed 7.9% rise is excessive in the current environment. The average residential rate bill would rise by about $320 on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (against 12% cumulative inflation). I urge Council to target a maximum 3% increase aligned with a prudent savings plan.- Wasteful spending and cost containment: The Alliance briefing highlights substantial spend on backroom and corporate functions consultants and personnel costs. A targeted $150 million (2%) reduction in new spending can cap rates increases at 3%. Key steps include: freeze non-essential vacancies and reduce payroll costs cap consultant spend renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors.- Specific reductions: Cancel the Food Scraps Programme ($36 million/year) which reportedly emits more carbon than it saves; freeze vacant non-essential roles to save at least $17 million immediately; reduce Māori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori outcomes' allocation of around $10 million/year noting that this is not a function of local government.- Broader efficiency: Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants; pursue organisational change to cut personnel costs and limit outsourcing recognising that consultants and contractors cost the Council hundreds of millions annually.Alternative budget framing- Pursue a Council-wide $150 million reduction in new spending (2%) with a transparent single-year target. This would directly contribute to keeping rates increases closer to inflation and protect essential services.- Focus savings on payroll discipline vendor consolidation and renegotiations while maintaining core functions and statutory obligations.Additional pointProperty owners should not bear all costs alone; Auckland's scale means many residents benefit from services beyond those who pay rates directly. A more targeted efficiency-driven approach benefits the city as a whole.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,,

9574,336472,,Howick,Do not support most,Key position:- I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. This represents about $320 for the average household and when viewed in real terms since 2022 continues a pace of growth well above inflation. A more prudent path is needed that aligns with households' ability to pay and focuses on delivering core statutory services efficiently.Supporting measures to reduce rate increases:- The Council should right size it's aspiration to market realities. This means expenditure reduction on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and lower spend on consultancy and professional services. In particular reduce external contracts and renegotiate vendor arrangements to achieve meaningful savings. It definitely means less spend telling Aucklanders what to think eg the FIGJAM you're serving up about the CRL.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs around $36 million per year and currently emits more carbon than it saves. Redirect funds to essential services with measurable outcomes.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-

essential roles. This could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific expenditure including the roughly $10 million per year spent on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that such objectives fall within the role and responsibilities of local government to deliver broad statutory services equitably rather than as targeted spend.Supporting framework:- The Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget suggests reducing new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) thereby capping the average rate increase to around 3 percent. This would come from: (1) $50 million in personnel cost reductions through organisational changes and hiring freezes (2) $50 million by capping consultant expenditures (3) $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and (4) $20 million prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Closing:I urge the Council to adopt a more restrained budgeting approach that protects essential urban services while delivering transparent measurable savings in backroom consulting and discretionary spend.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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9578,336468,,Howick,Do not support most,I submit in strong opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent and in support of reducing wasteful Council spending. The rate rise is well above inflation and will place a heavy burden on households already stretched by cost-of-living pressures.1. Rate increase and spending priorities- I oppose the 7.9% average residential rates rise. The current average bill is $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of 30 percent far exceeding general inflation.- The breakdown shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs 2% for maintaining existing assets and 1.5% for new assets tied to growth. This mix highlights systemic cost growth that should be addressed prior to raising rates on households.2. Wasteful or non-essential spending to curb- 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 allowing continued growth in these areas.- Stop 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 which would save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the approximately $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a role of local government.3. Alternative budgeting approach- I support the Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the average rate increase at 3%: - $50 million from personnel costs through organisational change and hiring freezes - $50 million from capping consultancy spend - $30 million from contract renegotiation and vendor consolidation - $20 million from prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grantsClosingI urge Auckland Council to adopt a leaner budget prioritise essential services and implement the proposed spending reductions to achieve a 3% cap on the average residential rates increase rather than the 7.9% currently 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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9590,336456,,Howick,Do not support most,I oppose the 7.9 percent average increase. The current average residential rates bill is 4069 up from 2781 in 2022 with a real increase since 2022 of about 30 percent far outstripping cumulative inflation (12 percent). The proposed split2 percent for asset

maintenance 1.5 percent for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costshighlights spending pressures that the public does not have the means to bear without visible responsible restraint.The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget shows we can cap rate rises at around 3 percent by cutting wasteful and non-essential spend. I support this direction and call for immediate restraint in corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. In particular:- Reduce personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze on vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million right away.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these expenditures.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze or reduce Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year spent on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) which should not be a local government priority.Other cost-control measures should include contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and a thorough review of direct operating expenditure all aimed at lowering the growth in rates while maintaining core community services.Given current expenditure trendsconsultants at $126 million per year across the Council group and payroll in excess of $1.3 billionthere is room to reduce waste while protecting essential services. I request that the Council present a credible plan to deliver a 3 percent rate increase or less with transparent reporting on savings achieved.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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,

9643,336401,,Howick,Do not support most,I submit as a ratepayer who cannot accept an average 7.9% residential rates increase while basic household costs rise and Council waste persists. I ask Council to reduce expenditure and pause new spending in order to keep rates affordable.Key concerns- I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9%. This would be roughly $320 more per household on an average bill of $4069 while rates have risen 85% since the 2010 Super City reformwell ahead of inflation and population growth.- The breakdown shows 4.4% of the increase goes to CRL operating costs and 2% to maintaining existing assets; this plus new assets for growth must be funded without placing all cost on households.- The Council must curb wasteful expenditure. Spending on consultants and contractors totals hundreds of millions with high average pay for many staff. A freeze on vacant non-essential roles and a review of corporate and backroom functions are essential first steps.- I support the Ratepayers' Alliance aim to cut overall Council spending by at least $150 million to cap rates increases at around 3%. Specific measures should include: reduce personnel costs through organisational change and hiring freezes ($50m) cap consultant spend ($50m) renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors ($30m) and prioritise statutory/essential services over discretionary grants ($20m).Additional points- The Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million per year should be cancelled as it emits more carbon than it saves.- Freezing staffing levels or reducing payroll costs by not hiring for non-essential roles would provide immediate savings (at least $17 million).ClosingI request a constructive review of spending with a focus on reducing waste and delivering essential services efficiently rather than raising rates beyond inflation.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,,,

#9487

9653,336390,,Howick,Do not support most,I submit a formal objection to the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase for 2026/27 and urge the Council to prioritise restraint in spending and reform of backroom functions.Key points- Oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent which equates to about $320 for the average household given that current average rates bills are around $4069 and the real increase since 2022 is already 30 percent in 2022 dollars (well above Consumer Price Index inflation of 12 percent).- The 7.9% increase should be rejected or scaled back to align with inflation and population needs. The Council's expenditure patterns show personnel costs consultants and backroom services rising far faster than inflation with payroll and professional services consuming a large share of the budget.- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cut spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these items.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which is cited as costing about $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could deliver at least $17 million in savings immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the approximately $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is presented as not a core local government function.Ratepayers' Alliance alternativeA pathway to a 3 percent cap in average residential rates is achievable by reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2 percent) including: $50 million from personnel costs $50 million from consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million by prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI urge the Council to adopt a prudent transparent efficiency drive and reject the proposed 7.9 percent rise in its current form. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,
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9665,336378,,Howick,Do not support most,I oppose this increase and urge the Council to prioritise spending reductions to keep rates closer to inflation and protect households.Key positions- Oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9 percent. The current average residential bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 meaning real increases have already exceeded inflation by a broad margin. Since 2010 rates have risen by 85% far outpacing both inflation (34%) and population growth (22%).- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. The current structure includes substantial payroll and compliance costs with 6123 staff on six-figure salaries and 72 staff paid more than the mayor. Direct operating expenditure has grown well ahead of inflation.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services. The Alliance notes $126 million per year across the Council group including $60 million by the Auckland Council parent with average consultants earning around $200000.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs about $36 million/year) on the basis that it 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 such as the $10 million/year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) arguing this is not a local government core function.Additional points- I use AT buses regularly; many routes carry few passengers. Consider smaller buses on low-demand routes to improve efficiency.- Before introducing congestion charges promote public transport adoption by lowering fares and extending free fares for students to boost usage and reduce congestion.Alternative budget framingIf possible implement a £150 million reduction in new Council spending (2%) to cap rates increases at around 3 percent achieved through

targeted reductions described above prioritising essential statutory services over discretionary grants.ClosingI 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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9685,336358,,Howick,Do not support most,Key concerns and positions1) Rates increase: Oppose the average residential rates rise of 7.9% (approximately $320 for the average household). Since 2010 rates have risen 85% in real terms far outpacing cumulative inflation (12%) and population growth (22%) with a real increase in rates well above cost pressures. It is essential that any rate changes align with inflation and demonstrable efficiency gains.2) Expenditure reductions prioritized over further increases:- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these items.- Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; such action would save at least $17 million immediately.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and currently emits more carbon than it saves.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as these are not statutory local-government responsibilities.3) Financial efficiency framework: The Ratepayers' Alliance proposal suggests reducing new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) to cap the rate rise at around 3%. This would be achieved through organisational change hiring freezes cap on consultants contract renegotiations and prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.4) Data and accountability: The above measures address the most inflation-adjacent pressures (CRL operating costs asset maintenance and growth-funded new assets) in a way that prioritises core services and taxpayers' value for money.ClosingI urge the Council to adopt the proposed efficiency measures and to align the 2026/27 plan with inflation and essential service delivery rather than pursuing higher rates. 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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9697,336346,,Howick,Do not support most,The current average residential rates bill is about $4069 and since 2022 rates have risen by 30% in real terms (far exceeding overall inflation). The proposed 7.9% increase is not affordable for households especially given the ongoing growth in costs of living.I support the following positions:- Oppose the average residential rates by at least 7.9%.- The Council needs to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- The Council needs to reduce the spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continue to increase these expenditure items.- The Council should cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and in my view emits more carbon than it saves.- The Council should freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; that alone would save at least $17 million right away.- The Council should cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a role of local government.- Housing is a function of central government; the Council should consider selling its housing stock to Kainga Ora.I note the budgeted breakdown shows 4.4% of the increase goes to CRL operating costs with 2% for maintaining existing assets and 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows. Given these pressures a targeted saving approach is warranted: reduce payroll and consultancy by reallocating to essential services renegotiating contracts and

consolidating vendors. The alternative budget proposed by Ratepayers' Alliance suggests saving $150 million (2% reduction) enabling a cap of around 3% for rates.I request that the Council consider these savings and provide a clear plan to deliver them prior to finalising any rates resolution.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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9704,336339,,Howick,Do not support most,The expected rise (about $320 for the average household) is well above inflation and imposes a disproportionate burden on ratepayers.Key points guiding my submission1) Rate increase and spending integrity- Oppose the 7.9% average increase; rates have risen 85% since 2010 far outpacing inflation and population growth. The current plan compounds this with 2% for asset maintenance 1.5% for new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs without credible justification for continuing to outpace households' earnings.- I support reducing overall Council and CCO backroom and corporate functions and cutting consultancy and professional services which have become a dominant cost driver.2) Specific spending reductions proposed- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million per year and currently emitting more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori outcomes' programme estimated at about $10 million per year on the basis that this is not a core local-government function.- Implement a Council-wide capability review to reduce consultants and contract spend and pursue contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation to achieve $30 million in savings.3) Alternative budget framework- Adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) capping the rate rise at about 3%. This is achieved through personnel cost controls contractor caps and prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI request that Auckland Council consider these reductions seriously and revise the 2026/27 plan to align with a more affordable fit-for-purpose local government approach that protects essential services while pruning wasteful expenditure.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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9738,336304,,Howick,Do not support most,1. Rate increase and spending priorities- The proposed 7.9% average residential rates rise is excessive with an estimated $320 extra per household and a real increase far above inflation since 2022. The current average bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 reflecting an 85% rise since amalgamation well ahead of population growth and inflation.- I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance position to cap rate increases at around 3% by cutting non-essential expenditure. This requires targeted reductions in personnel costs consultants and back-office functions.2. Specific reductions and reallocations- Reduce spending on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Curb consultancy and professional services spend instead of continuing to escalate these costs.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles; this alone could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local government function.3. Alternative

budget framework- Apply a $150 million spending reduction (about 2%) to fund a more affordable rate path focusing on: - $50 million from personnel costs via organisational change and hiring freezes - $50 million from reducing consultants - $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation - $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grantsConclusionThe Council must align spending with core statutory duties and affordable rates. A disciplined reduction in staff costs consultants and non-essential programmes will enable a substantially lower rates increase while protecting essential services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.The plan would mean an average household bill rise of about $320 on top of a 30 percent real increase since 2022 (well above inflation). The rate path has grown far faster than population and needs urgent realignment.Key concerns and demands1) Expenditure on corporate and backroom functions must be reduced across the Council and CCOs. The current model relies heavily on high overheads and six-figure staff costs with payroll at about $1.3 billion and consultants/contractors at $590 million. Direct operating expenditure rose by 78 percent from 2013 to 2023 far outpacing inflation.2) Cut the spend on consultancy and professional services. Auckland Council spent roughly $126 million per year on consultants across the Council group with the average consultant earning around $200k. This is not sustainable; the proposed rate rise should fund essential services not discretionary external advice.3) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. At $36 million per year it costs more to run than it is proven to save in emissions reductions.4) Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs. Not hiring for vacant non-essential roles as a step to balance budgets would save at least $17 million immediately.5) Cut Māori-specific spending. The $10 million per year directed to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) is not a core local government function and should be re-prioritised.Alternative budget approachRatepayers' coalition proposal: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2 percent) capping average residential rates increases at about 3 percent. This would be achieved through: $50 million via personnel cost reductions $50 million via cap on consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.I urge you to adopt this fiscally responsible path and to provide a clear plan for achieving substantial savings before any further rate increases are approved.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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9755,336281,,Howick,Do not support most,My position is grounded in the need to protect households from a real-terms burden that far exceeds inflation and to insist on a focus on essential services.1. Rate increase and financial discipline- The proposed 7.9% increase would amount to about $320 extra per average household on top of a true increase in rates of 30% since 2022 in real terms while inflation has run around 12%. This is unsustainable for many ratepayers.- I support keeping rate rises aligned with or below inflation by prioritising core services and essential capital needs not expanding non-essential programmes.2. Reducing backroom and consulting expenditure- The Alliance highlights annual consultant spend of $126 million across the Council group with the average consultant paid about $200k. I urge the Council to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions and to cap consultant spend.- Personnel costs and other expenses have risen faster than inflation; freezing non-essential vacancies and cutting payroll where roles are non-critical would provide immediate relief.3. Specific programme and spending controls- 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 filling vacant non-

essential roles which could save at least $17 million promptly.- Reduce Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae (Maori Outcomes) allocation of around $10 million per year given this is not a core local government function.4. Alternative budget approach- Implement a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (2% cap) to bring the average residential rate increase to around 3% prioritising essential statutory services over discretionary grants and non-core programmes.5. Principles for ratepayer funds- Keep ratepayer monies for traditional essential services rather than funding non-essential social or perk projects.ClosingI respectfully urge Auckland Council to adopt a more restrained spending plan and to limit rate increases to inflation or below while delivering core services efficiently.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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9759,336276,,Howick,Do not support most,I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% (approximately $320 for the average household). Rates have already risen substantially since 2022 with a real increase of around 30% in 2022 dollars while inflation has been about 12%. A rates increase well above inflation is not affordable for households.2. The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. A substantial portion of the rate rise is driven by these pressurised costs not by essential service delivery. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget demonstrates that meaningful reductions are possible.3. The Council should reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these items. Current figures show high external advisory costs driving operating pressures; a freeze or cap on consultants would free funds for essential services.4. Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and according to Alliance analysis emits more carbon than it saves. Redirect funds to statutory and essential services rather than discretionary schemes with questionable climate benefits.5. Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. This measure alone would save at least $17 million immediately and helps keep rates increases in check.6. Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year spent on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). Local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over targeted programmes that fall outside core governance responsibilities.7. In line with the Alliance's plan I urge a reduction of new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) which would cap the average residential rates increase at roughly 3%. This would be achieved through: (a) $50 million from personnel costs via organisational change and hiring freezes; (b) $50 million from reduced consultancy spend; (c) $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; (d) $20 million by prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.Closing: 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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9760,336274,,Howick,Do not support most,I oppose the 7.9% average residential rates increase. The proposed rise which equates to about $320 for the average household far outstrips both inflation and household income growth while the Council continues to spend heavily on non-core activities. A disciplined approach to reducing wasteful spending is required before imposing higher rates on ratepayers.Key spending concerns and proposed reductions:1) Corporate and backroom functions: The Council and its CCOs should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office

functions across the Council group. This would lower operating costs and lessen pressure on ratepayers.2) Consultants and professional services: Reducing reliance on external consultants and professional services is essential. Capping or progressively reducing these costs would free funds for essential services.3) Food Scraps Programme: Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.4) Payroll and staffing: Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.5) Maori outcomes/funding: Reconsider Maori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million per year allocated to the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is presented as outside the core responsibilities of local government.Budgeting option to support rate relief:- I support the Ratepayers' Alliance's alternative budget approach to cap the average residential rates increase at around 3% by reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%). This includes personnel costs consultant spending contract renegotiations and prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.In addition to these points I emphasise the need for transparent reporting on how Council decisions impact core services such as roading water waste and public safety. I would like the opportunity to speak to my submission at a
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9762,336271,,Howick,Do not support most,I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% (approximately $320 for the average household) and urge Council to reduce wasteful expenditure and improve efficiency before approving any higher levy on ratepayers.Key points for consideration- The proposed 7.9% increase is not aligned with inflation or household budgets. The current average rates bill is $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of 30% versus 12% inflation. A focus on cost savings is essential before asking households to shoulder more burden.- A significant portion of the uplift is tied to CRL operating costs (4.4%). I urge a comprehensive review of these costs and associated staffing and project delivery to identify savings that do not compromise essential services.- The Council should cut back on corporate and backroom spending. Annual spending on consultants sits at $126 million across the Council group with the average consultant paid around $200k. Reducing reliance on external advisers and consolidating contracts can deliver meaningful savings.- The Food Scraps Programme costs about $36 million per year and as claimed emits more carbon than it saves. Cancelling this programme would directly reduce operating expenditure and improve overall efficiency.- A freeze or reduction in payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles could save at least $17 million immediately. Addressing staffing levels and prioritising essential functions will help to stabilise rates without compromising core services.- The Council's total personnel costs and other expenses have risen faster than inflation and direct operating expenditure has grown well beyond inflation. A targeted reform of organisational structure hiring and vendor contracts is overdue.Additional contextI recognise the need to maintain essential services and statutory responsibilities. However the scale of proposed increases in combination with current expenditure patterns suggests significant scope to trim non-essential or discretionary spending (including consulting corporate functions and certain programmes) before imposing higher rates on Auckland households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,
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9767,336266,,Howick,Do not support most,The current average residential rates bill is about $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of around 30 percent (versus 12 percent in cumulative inflation). The proposed 7.9 percent rise breaks down as 2 percent for asset maintenance 1.5 percent for new assets to accommodate growth and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs. This level of increase is unaffordable for households already stretched by rising costs.Agreed positions:- Oppose the 7.9 percent rate rise and aim to cap increases to around 3 percent or less as outlined in the Alliance's budget proposal.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs.- Slow or halt increases in consultancy and professional services spending; seek value-for-money and renegotiations where appropriate.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs about $36 million/year) on grounds of carbon not being saved as intended.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling non-essential vacancies a measure that would save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million/year allocated to the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) reflecting the view that essential local government functions should take priority over targeted support groups.Additional points:- Stop spending on unnecessary playground upgrades excessive contractor fees Rainbow Tick initiatives Pride events Rainbow crossings flags banners and related community-provider activities that do not meet core council obligations.- Traffic management and related works should be prioritised for essential safety and efficiency rather than expansive discretionary projects.In summary the Council should implement the Alliance's alternative budget approach reducing new spending by about $150 million to cap rates increases at approximately 3 percent. This requires a focus on essential statutory services departmental restructuring and vendor consolidation.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,0,,,,,,
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9771,336262,,Howick,Do not support most,1. Overall position- I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. This would amount to roughly $320 more per household on top of already high charges and sits well above household inflation. The current average residential rates bill is approximately $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of about 30 percent (in 2022 dollars) versus 12 percent cumulative inflation.2. Expenditure priorities and waste- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. A substantial portion of spending on personnel consultants and non-essential functions drives rate rises beyond what is affordable for households.- There should be a reduction in spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these items. The current level of external advisory spend contributes to rising rates without demonstrable proportional public benefit.- Implement a freeze on staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. I understand this alone could save at least $17 million immediately.3. Specific spending reductions- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the 'Māori Outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae). Local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary programmes and this area aligns more with policy aims than core council functions.4. Budget framework and outcomes- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget shows potential to cap the average rates increase at around 3 percent by reducing new spending by $150 million (2 percent). This includes targeted actions: $50 million from personnel costs $50 million from consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million from prioritising essential services over discretionary grants.5. Additional points- I note the significant growth in payroll and external contracts over

recent years; addressing these through reform is essential to protect households from continued high rate increases.ClosingI 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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9779,336253,,Howick,Do not support most,The current rate burden on households has risen significantly since 2022 with a real increase of about 30% in rates (in 2022 dollars) against cumulative inflation of around 12%. The proposed breakdown2% for maintaining assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costsdoes not reflect value-for-money or prudent fiscal management.I support the following positions:1) Oppose the 7.9% average increase and advocate for reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.2) Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than allowing continued growth in these areas.3) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.4) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.5) Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year for the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a role of local government.Additional points:- The Council should pursue zero-based reviews of all spend and prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.- There is a strong case for reducing overall personnel costs including reforms in organisational structure and capping consultants and contractors to ensure value for money.Rationale: the Council's payroll and external contracting costs have risen markedly since 2013 while service delivery pressures and population growth require efficient targeted spending. A revised budget that trims back backroom costs and re-allocates funds to core services would better reflect taxpayer expectations and align with the Ratepayers' Alliance framework for prudent governance.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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9782,336249,,Howick,Do not support most,Key concerns and positions:- I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% which equates to about $320 for the average household at a time when rates have already more than doubled since 2010 and inflation remains well below the rate of increase. The current average rates bill of $4069 is unsustainable for households and business alike.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. Direct operating expenditure and personnel costs have surged well beyond inflation while the public service must prioritise essential services first.- Spending on consultants and professional services should be cut. Council and CCOs collectively spend hundreds of millions on consultants; a freeze or substantial reduction is warranted to protect ratepayers.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and based on reported data emits more carbon than it saves. Redirect resources to core local government functions with proven benefits to residents.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles. A halt to non-essential hiring could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) given this is not a core local government function and should be prioritised within statutory and essential services.Alternative Budget proposal:- Adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance

approach to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap rates increase at about 3% achieved through: $50 million savings from personnel costs $50 million from capping consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million from prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.Closing:I urge the Council to align the budget with ratepayer interests restoring affordability and prioritising essential 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,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

9787,336244,,Howick,Do not support most,The current approach delivers a real burden on households while inflating backroom costs and off-budget items that do not serve core statutory duties.Key context and concerns- The proposed 7.9% average increase equates to about $320 for the average household against a background where the 2022“2024 period already shows a 30% real rates rise (in 2022 dollars) versus 12% overall inflation.- A substantial portion of the increase funds CRL operating costs (4.4%) asset maintenance (2%) and new assets for growth (1.5%). The alignment of these costs with tangible community benefits should be transparent and prioritised.- Notable spend pressures include $126 million per year on consultants across the Council group with high average consultant pay and payroll/contractor costs rising faster than inflation.What I urge the Council to do- Implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the rate rise at around 3% via: - Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze: save $50 million. - Capping spending on consultants: save $50 million. - Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: save $30 million. - Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: save $20 million.- Specifically oppose continued expenditure on wasteful items: - Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves. - Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. - Reduce Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) which I believe falls outside essential local government duties.Additional notes- Direct operating expenditure and personnel costs have risen well above inflation in recent years; reforming these areas should precede any rate increases.- Spending on consultants and corporate back-office functions should be reduced and rationalised.ClosingI request the Council consider these measures to stabilise rates and refocus spending on 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

#9799

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: Howick

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 Council's own data and independent briefing materials the case for restraint is compelling and I urge a sustainable path that prioritises essential services over ongoing spending growth.1. Rates and affordability- The proposed 7.9% average increase equates to about $320 per household on top of a current average bill of $4069. This is a real-terms burden that outpaces inflation and cumulative population growth eroding household living standards.2. Spending reforms needed- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Spending on consultancy and professional services should be reduced

rather than expanded.- Direct operating expenses and personnel costs have risen well beyond inflation; a more efficient operating model is required to protect ratepayers.3. Specific programme and staffing measures- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and per assessment emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants; review all programmes for value-for-money.4. Maori outcomes funding- I oppose ongoing spend on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) at about $10 million per year arguing this is not a core local government role. Funds should be redirected to essential services that benefit all ratepayers.In summary I urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance approach: reduce new spending by about $150 million to cap the rate increase at approximately 3 percent. This includes a two-percent reduction in spending with concrete actions listed above. Such measures would protect households while ensuring core services are preserved.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

#9811

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: Howick

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 average 7.9 percent residential rates increase and urge a thorough programme of efficiency and cost-cutting across the Council and CCOs.1. Rates increase and spending priorities- The proposed 7.9% average residential rates increase is excessive representing approximately $320 for the average household when inflation and productivity pressures are not being matched with commensurate value for ratepayers.- Since 2010 rates have risen 85% far outstripping cumulative inflation (‰ˆ34%) and population growth (‰ˆ22%). Public funds should not subsidise ongoing overheads while essential services are funded more

efficiently.2. Waste and inefficiency in current expenditure- Council spending on consultants is unsustainable: $126 million per year across the Council group with the parent Council alone around $60 million and an average consultant earning $200k.- Personnel costs and other expenses have grown well beyond inflation (2022“2025) while direct operating expenditure rose 78% from 2013“2023.- Six-figure salaries and payroll total about $1.3 billion with 6123 employees on six-figure pay and 72 staff earning more than the mayorindicating a payroll structure out of step with ratepayer expectations during a cost of living crisis.3. Specific reductions and policy changes proposed- Agree: Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs; reduce spend on consultancy and professional services.- Agree: Cancel the Food Scraps Programme ($36 million/year) as it is not cost-effective and emits more carbon than it saves.- Agree: 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.- Require a cap on discretionary spending and a re-prioritisation of statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.4. Māori Outcomes funding- I oppose dedicating $10 million/year to the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this role is not a core local government function; funds should be redirected to essential services.ClosingI request the Council reconsider the rate increase and adopt the proposed budget reductions to cap the rate rise to around 3 percent by cutting non-essential and consultant spending while preserving 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

#9830

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: Howick

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 submit on the proposed 2026/27 annual plan. I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge the Council to reduce wasteful expenditure and re-prioritise funding toward essential services.Key context and concerns- The proposed 7.9% average increase equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (vs. 12% overall inflation). The breakdown shows 2% for existing asset maintenance 1.5% for new assets to accommodate growth and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This level of increase is unaffordable for many households.- Since the 2010 Super City amalgamation rates have risen

85%well above inflation and population growth. Wasteful or bloated backroom costs have grown including high consultant spend and elevated staffing costs.Support for concrete spending reductions (Agrees)- Reduce council and CCO backroom/corporate expenditure and curb the spend on consultants and professional services rather than letting these items grow.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and purportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local-government function.- Implement a targeted alternative budget to cap rates growth at roughly 3%: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) including $50 million from personnel costs $50 million from consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Rationale- A more frugal efficiency-focused approach aligns with the long-term financial health of households and the Council's fiduciary duties. By trimming non-essential payroll and consultancy and by re-evaluating discretionary projects we can protect essential services while delivering fairer rates.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.
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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

#9835

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: Howick

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- The proposed 7.9% average increase is excessive. With current rates at $4069 and a real increase since 2022 of around 30% further increases should be restrained to align with inflation and essential service needs.- The Council should reduce wasteful expenditure particularly in corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb the rapid growth of consultancy and professional services.- The Food Scraps Programme costs $36 million per year and by the Alliance assessment emits more carbon than it saves; this is an area where spending should be halted or redirected.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-

essential roles; the Alliance projects at least $17 million in immediate savings from this measure.- 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.Alternative budget and impact- If Council reduces new spending by $150 million (2%) the average residential rates increase could be capped to about 3%. This would be achieved by: $50 million from personnel cost reductions and hiring freezes; $50 million from capping consultant spend; $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; and $20 million prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.- Direct operating expenditure has risen well above inflation; further growth should be managed through efficiency not rates hikes.Additional perspective- The public deserves responsible stewardship of ratepayer funds and a credible plan to return the Council's finances to a sustainable path without recurring above-inflation rates.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.)

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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

#9839

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: Howick

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

I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% which equates to approximately $320 for the average household. This level of increase far exceeds inflation and undermines households' ability to meet rising living costs. I note the real increase in rates since 2022 is 30% in 2022 dollars far outpacing cumulative inflation of 12%.In support of more responsible budgeting I urge the Council to implement the Ratepayers' Alliance's proposed path to cap the rate rise at around 3% by reducing new and existing spending without compromising essential services. Specific areas for savings include:1) Reduce personnel costs through organisational change and a

hiring freeze on vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.2) Curb spending on consultants and professional services; the current pattern is unsustainable and not delivering commensurate value. Target a substantial reduction in external advice and contract work.3) Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to drive efficiency and lower operating costs.4) Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants reducing non-essential transfers.I also request the Council to:- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze or substantially reduce spending on Māori-specific initiatives such as the Ngā Mātārae (Māori Outcomes) department cited as about $10 million per year unless clear statutory duties and measurable benefits are demonstrated as appropriate for local government.The Council's current expenditure on consultants contractors and backroom functions appears disproportionately high relative to core service delivery. Reducing these costs along with the proposed payroll and back-office reforms would enable a more affordable rate path for residents.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):

- **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

#9860

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: Howick

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 my opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and urge a program of significant spending restraint across the Council and CCOs.1) Oppose the 7.9% rate rise. The proposed increase equates to roughly $320 per average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 and 85% since the Super City amalgamation. These increases far outpace both inflation (12% since 2022) and population growth (22%) and are not affordable for ratepayers.2) Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions. The Council should cut spend on consultants and professional services and pursue organisational changes that shrink

payroll and overhead costs. The Alliance data suggests such reductions are achievable without harming essential services.3) Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs. Stop hiring for vacant non-essential roles and review existing payroll structures to achieve immediate savingsthis alone could save at least $17 million.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. The programme costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves; discontinue it to reallocate funds to essential services.5) Cut Māori-specific spending. The $10 million per year on the Māori Outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) function should be reconsidered as a local government responsibility and redirected to statutory services.6) Target a responsible budget through an Alternative Budget. I support reducing new expenditure by $150 million (2%) to cap the rate increase at 3%. This should be achieved by: $50 million from personnel costs through reform and hiring freezes; $50 million from consultants; $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; $20 million prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.7) Stop 'useless projects.' Scrutinise all discretionary items and ensure every programme delivers tangible public value.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

#9869

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 submission to oppose the proposed 7.9% average residential rates increase and to urge a substantial reduction in wasteful Council spending. Based on the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing the case against the planned rise rests on both affordability for households and the need to tighten non-essential expenditure.1) Rates impact and affordability- Proposed average residential rates increase: 7.9% equating to about $320 for the average household. The current average rates bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022. The real increase since 2022 is 30% (in 2022 dollars) versus 12% cumulative inflation. A rate rise of this magnitude outpaces household incomes

and is unacceptable.2) Spending reform to fund essential services- Agreed: reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Agreed: reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than allowing these costs to continue rising.- Agreed: cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Agreed: 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.- Agreed: cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) which is not a function of local government.3) An alternative to the current plan- A targeted cost-cutting approach shows that a 3% rate increase is feasible if the Council trims wasteful spending by about $150 million (2% of the budget). This includes reductions in personnel costs capping consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI urge Auckland Council to prioritise value-for-money and restraint on expenditure so that any rate increases are fair and aligned with inflation and household budgets.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

#9885

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 write to oppose the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase and to advocate for substantial restraint on wasteful Council spending.Key points- The proposed 7.9% average increase is excessive in an environment where rates have already risen 30% in real terms since 2022 and council spending has outpaced inflation for many years. The breakdown shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs 2% to maintain existing assets and 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows. A more prudent pathway is needed.- The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) capping rates increases at around 3%

by: reducing personnel costs through organisational changes and a hiring freeze ($50 million) capping spending on consultants ($50 million) renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors ($30 million) and prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants ($20 million).- I oppose continued growth in corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. Spending on consultants and professional services should be reduced rather than increased.- The Food Scraps Programme costs $36 million per year and is claimed to emit more carbon than it saves; I support cancelling this programme.- Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- I support reducing Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local-government function.Additional context- Given the current financial pressures on households it is prudent to prioritise statutory and essential services and to tighten non-essential expenditure. The city has experienced significant cost growth across payroll consultants and other expenses; a disciplined approach is required to bring rates increases in line with inflation and household affordability.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.
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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

#9889

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 and direct terms to oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to urge immediate restraint on wasteful Council spending.1. Rates increase and affordability- The proposed average increase of 7.9% equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (inflation-adjusted) while population growth has outpaced ratepayer gains. This level is unsustainable for households already feeling financial pressure.2. Spending reductions are essential- 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 escalate these costs.- Direct operating expenditure and staff costs have risen far faster than inflation; a reallocation toward essential services is warranted.3. Specific policy asks aligned to the ratepayer alternative budget- Freeze or substantially reduce payroll by not filling non-essential vacant roles; this alone would save at least $17 million.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze or markedly reduce Māori-focused spending including the $10 million per year on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) given local government responsibilities and statutory priorities.4. Budgeting discipline and outcomes- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) enabling a cap of 3% on average residential rates.- This would be achieved via: personnel cost controls capping consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.5. Closing appeal- I urge the Council to adopt a leaner spending profile prioritise core services and hold rates increases to the lowest feasible level consistent with essential function and debt management.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

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

#9910

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 context and concerns- The proposed 7.9% rise translates to about $320 more per average household on top of an already high average residential bill of $4069. Since 2022 residential rates have risen by ~30% in real terms far exceeding general inflation (12%). This is unsustainable for ratepayers.- The breakdown shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs with 2% for maintaining existing assets and 1.5% for growth-related new assets. Without aggressive efficiency there is little justification for a further large uplift.- Since the 2010 Super City amalgamation rates have increased 85%well above inflation and population growth. This pattern must be reversed through prudent

spending controls.Agreed positions and requested actions- Oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9%. Cap rates growth aiming for no more than inflation-aligned increases.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spending on consultancy and professional services; halt or suspend new contracts unless essential.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme ($36 million/year) which costs more in emissions and has uncertain net carbon benefits.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles; this could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae department (Maori Outcomes) currently cited at around $10 million/year arguing this is not a core local government function.Additional pointsRates must be capped; it is ludicrous to expect ratepayers to bear continual increases. Staff numbers are high yet contractor expenditure continues to rise. What is the purpose of staff if contractors dominate delivery? Full your duties to the ratepayer or get out.ClosingI request the opportunity to speak at hearings if possible but 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**
- **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.)

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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

#9918

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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

The current average rates bill is $4069 and the real increase since 2022 is 30% in 2022 dollars well above general inflation. I urge the Council to cap rate increases at or near 3% by reducing wasteful and non-essential spending consistent with the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget.Key points supporting this position1) Expenditure priorities and backroom costs: Council spending on consultants amounts to $126 million per year across the group with an average consultant receiving $200k; the Auckland Council parent accounts for $60 million. Personnel costs and other expenses rose far faster than inflation between 2022 and 2025 and payroll alone is roughly

$1.3 billion. It is reasonable to rebalance spending toward core services rather than expanding backroom functions.2) Wasteful or non-essential programmes: Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves before further rate increases are approved.3) Staffing and procurement reforms: Freeze non-essential hiring and reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. Cap spending on consultants and pursue contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation to realise substantial savings.4) Māori outcomes budget: Reduce Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) given that this is not a formal local government obligation.Policy alternative- Implement the Ratepayers' Alliance plan: reduce new Council spending by about $150 million (2%) enabling an average rates increase of roughly 3%.- Reallocate funds to essential statutory services and limit discretionary grants while pursuing organisational efficiency and procurement reforms.ConclusionI request that Auckland Council prioritise fiscally responsible budgeting reduce wasteful and non-essential spend and avoid an inflation-busting rates hike. 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

#9926

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: Howick

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

ONLY spend on core infrastructure. No more cultural nonsense no more vanity projects NOT ONE MORE SPEED BUMP. No-one can afford $100 a week for rates; ours is now around $120 a week and who knows what it will be after the next increase? You're killing ratepayers. I write as a ratepayer to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent for 2026/27. With the current average residential bill at $4069 and a real increase since 2022 of 30 percent this uplift is unaffordable for many households. I urge the Council to prioritise core infrastructure and reduce wasteful spending before imposing higher rates.Agreed positions- Oppose the average residential

rates by at least 7.9 percent. A more affordable path is needed.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- The Council must reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these 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 Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year spent on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local government function.Rationale- Since 2010 rates have risen 85% outpacing inflation and population growth. A reversal requires disciplined cost control.- The proposed 4.4% for CRL operating costs plus 2% for existing assets and 1.5% for growth assets compounds the burden without clear evidence of commensurate service benefits.- Programmes with questionable value such as large consultancy contracts and non-core administration should be reallocated to essential services.ClosingI request future consideration of more targeted cost reductions 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

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

#9935

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: Howick

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 any rates rise above inflation and urge the Council to implement a reduced expenditure path that recognises financial pressures on households. The current proposal would add roughly $320 per average household while the real rate burden since 2022 has already risen by about 30 percent in real terms. The breakdown of the 7.9% increase2% to maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costsdemonstrates that significant cost pressures remain that could be addressed through efficiency.To achieve a materially lower rates increase I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance plan to reduce new Council spending by $150 million

(about 2%) aiming for an average rates increase of around 3 percent. Practical steps include:- Reducing personnel costs by freezing non-essential new hires and reviewing vacancies potentially saving at least $17 million immediately.- Capping spending on consultants and professional services at $50 million while renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors to remove duplicative spend.- Streamlining corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs where current expenditure is excessive.- Cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freezing staffing and controlling payroll costs to prevent further wage growth not tied to essential service delivery.- Cutting Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) where unnecessary in the local-government context.In addition I urge prioritisation of statutory and essential services over discretionary grants to ensure core functions are funded without imposing heavy rate shocks on households.Please consider these measures as a responsible path to affordability and better 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:

- **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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	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

#9943

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: Howick

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 formal opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and advocate for significant reductions in wasteful Council spending. The proposed rise would amount to about $320 for the average household on top of a real rate increase of roughly 30% since 2012 while inflation has grown by around 12%. This is unsustainable for ratepayers.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance's position that the Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom Office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb the spend on consultants and professional services. Current data show consultant spending at about $126 million per year across

the group with the average consultant earnings around $200000 and a substantial payroll and contractor footprint. Curbing these costs is a direct immediate lever to keep rate increases lower.I also urge the Council to cancel the Food Scraps Programme at a cost of about $36 million per year which reportedly emits more carbon than it saves. This is not aligned with prudent budget management or cost-effective environmental policy.Furthermore I request a freeze on staffing and/or a reduction in payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles. Based on Alliance figures this could save at least $17 million right away. In addition I ask the Council to scrutinise and reduce Māori-specific spending such as the roughly $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). Local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary programmes.An alternative budget approach is essential. Reducing new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) can cap average residential rates increases at about 3%. This can be achieved through: (1) organisational change and hiring freezes; (2) capping consultancy spending; (3) renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors; (4) prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.I appreciate the Council's consideration of these points and request that the hearings reflect these concerns.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

#9947

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: Howick

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- I oppose any average rates rise above inflation. The proposed 7.9 percent increase equates to about $320 extra per average household on top of a 30 percent real increase since 2022 and a 85 percent increase since the Super City amalgamation. This is not acceptable when inflation has been only around 12 percent over the same period.- Wasteful spending must be cut. The Alliance's briefing identifies substantial spend in corporate and backroom functions consultants and contractors with payroll and other expenses rising faster than inflation. I support reducing personnel costs by freezing non-essential hires and cutting consultancy spend in line with the

Alliance's proposed targets.- Implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget. Cap the rate rise at 3 percent by: reducing new spending by $150 million (2%) cutting consultants by $50 million renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors for $30 million and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants for $20 million. This reflects a prudent use of ratepayer funds and aligns with evidence of wasteful spend.- Specific reductions I support include: cancelling the Food Scraps Programme (costs about $36 million/year and appears to emit more carbon than it saves); freezing staffing and reducing payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles (potentially saving at least $17 million immediately); and cutting Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) which I do not view as a local government priority.- Questions for the council: Why are six-figure staff and consultant costs allowed to rise when ratepayers are asked to shoulder higher bills? Why is CRL operating cost growth not managed more aggressively?Additional pointMayor Wayne Brown promised to cap rates; however the escalation in spending and the approach to funding sources contradict that pledge. Rate payers deserve a credible plan to curb spending and to prioritise 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
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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

#9949

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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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- **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

The proposed rise would amount to about $320 extra per average household and when measured against inflation and population growth since 2010 is unsustainable for local families.Key concerns and positions- Oppose the 7.9% increase and support a targeted fiscally responsible path. The current burden on ratepayers is already substantial with real increases well above inflation over the past decade.- Reduce corporate and backroom spending across the Council and CCOs. The scale of overheads consultants and six-figure salaries is out of step with households funding essential services.- Cut consultancy and professional services. Spending on consultants is excessive and

growing without clear proven outcomes.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and has not demonstrated net carbon savings.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- 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 direct local government core function.Rationale and additional context- The proposed 7.9% includes allocations for asset maintenance new assets for growth and CRL operating costs. A re-prioritisation is needed to protect core services while trimming non-essential or non-statutory programmes.- The Council's own spending patternssignificant payroll consultant fees and corporate overheadsexceed reasonable thresholds for a city recovering from rapid growth and inflation. A transparent prioritised programme of savings should be delivered before further rate increases are contemplated.Alternative approach- Adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance proposed budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping average residential rates increase to about 3% through targeted reductions in personnel consultancy contract renegotiation and prioritising statutory 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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- **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

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

#9950

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: Howick

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 and solution-focused manner to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for substantial reductions in wasteful Council spending.1) Core position- I oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9% and seek a cap closer to 3% through targeted efficiency gains.- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cut spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continue to trend upward.- The Food Scraps Programme should be cancelled as it costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze

staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately.- Freezing or reducing Māori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million per year for the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) is appropriate where such roles fall outside core local-government responsibilities.2) Evidence-based rationale- Since 2010 rates have risen 85% far outpacing inflation and population growth. The 7.9% split comprises 2% to maintain assets 1.5% for growth and 4.4% for CRL operating costs which in my view does not justify corresponding service delivery gains for ratepayers.- Significant discretionary spending such as $126 million annually on consultants across the Council group and payroll and consultancy costs that have risen faster than inflation indicate scope for meaningful savings without compromising essential services.3) Alternative budget focus- The Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) would cap rates increases at around 3% by: - Reducing personnel costs via organisational change and a hiring freeze: $50 million - Capping consultancy spend: $50 million - Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: $30 million - Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: $20 millionClosingI urge the Council to adopt a prudent efficiency-first approach that protects essential services while delivering tangible ratepayer 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.

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

#9967

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 impact on households already facing a real increase of 30 percent since 2022 (well above inflation) is unsustainable. The current average rates bill is about $4069 and the proposed rise would add roughly $320 per household. This level of increase is unacceptable while evidence shows council expenditure has grown far faster than inflation and population.My positions based on the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing are as follows:- Oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9 percent.- The Council needs to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- The Council needs to reduce the spend on

consultancy and professional services rather than continue to increase these expenditure items (external advisers are not a substitute for prudent in-house reform).- 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 which would save at least $17 million right away.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year spent on the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local government function.In addition I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget proposal to cap rate rises at around 3 percent by reducing new Council spending by $150 million including: $50 million from personnel costs $50 million from consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.I respectfully ask the Council to prioritise efficiency and essential services ensuring ratepayer value and restraint in non-core spending before approving any additional rate 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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	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

#9977

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: Howick

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 7.9% uplift is too high. With the current average residential bill at $4069 and a real rate increase of 30% since 2022 (vs. 12% inflation) a further average rise of 7.9% is not sustainable for households. The breakdown shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs 2% for maintaining existing assets and 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows. I request the council explain how these costs will deliver tangible value-for-money outcomes for ordinary ratepayers.2. Reduce corporate and backroom spending. The council group spends about $126 million per year on consultants with the Auckland Council parent accounting for roughly $60 million. There are many high-paid roles and non-essential

costs that should be reviewed before increasing rates further.3. Curb consultancy and professional services. The current trajectory shows significant reliance on external expertise. I urge a freeze or reduction in external contracts where possible and a shift toward core in-house capability.4. Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. The proposal to spend $36 million per year on this programme should be reconsidered as it emits more carbon than it saves and diverts funds from essential services.5. Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs. Not filling vacant non-essential roles or delaying hires would save at least $17 million immediately directly reducing pressure on ratepayers.6. Trim Māori-specific spending. The $10 million per year allocated to the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) should be reassessed as this is not a core local government function. Targeted statutory services must take precedence over discretionary expenditure.7. Alternative budget alignment. I support reducing new council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the rate rise at around 3% achieved through personnel cost controls capping consultancy spend renegotiating contracts and prioritising 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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	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

#10014

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: Howick

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 I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and request a careful evidence-based reassessment of Council spending to bring bills in line with inflation and residents' ability to pay.Key concerns and requested actions:1) Rates growth and affordability. The proposed 7.9% increase translates to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (in 2022 dollars) and 12% cumulative inflation. Rates have risen 85% since the Super City amalgamation well above inflation and population growth. A rate rise this high is unsustainable for many households and risks dampening growth and

wellbeing across the city.2) Reducing backroom and personnel costs. The Alliance proposes capping overall new Council spending to deliver a maximum 3% rate rise by reducing personnel costs (including a hiring freeze for non-essential roles) and limiting consultants and professional services. Specifically freeze or reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential positions which could save at least $17 million immediately and reduce consultants by $50 million.3) Containment of consultancy and professional services. Annual spend on consultants is approximately $126 million across the Council group with the parent alone about $60 million and typical consultants earning around $200k. The Council should reduce these expenditures rather than continuing to escalate them.4) Discretionary programmes and sector spending. I urge cancelling the Food Scraps Programme estimated at $36 million per year given its carbon emissions and limited net savings. Additionally reconsider and scale back non-core initiatives such as Māori outcomes funding of about $10 million per year recognising the role and responsibilities of local government.5) Prioritising essential services. Rebalance budgets to prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and seek contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation to achieve savings of about $30 million.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.
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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.
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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

#10032

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: Howick

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 oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge a reallocation of Council spending to protect households and essential services.- The proposed increase is excessive relative to inflation and household budgets. The 7.9% rise equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a real increase in rates since 2022 of 30% (vs. 12% inflation). The breakdown shows 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This warrants scrutiny and restraint.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and cut consultancy and professional services rather than permit

ongoing increases in these areas. Current spending on consultants totals $126 million per year across the group with the average consultant paid around $200000.- The Food Scraps Programme should be canceled given its cost of $36 million per year and the evidence that it emits more carbon than it saves.- Staffing costs must be controlled. Freezing hiring for non-essential roles or reducing payroll costs would deliver immediate savings; the submitter estimates at least $17 million saved right away.- I support reducing Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that such matters fall outside core local-government responsibilities.In line with the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget I urge reducing new Council spend by at least $150 million (2%) thereby capping rates increases to around 3%. This should be achieved by:- Implementing organisational changes and a hiring freeze to save $50 million;- Capping spending on consultants at $50 million;- Renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors for $30 million;- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants for $20 million.Closing: I respectfully request the Council consider these measures to avoid higher-than-inflation rate rises and to reinvest in essential services that benefit Aucklanders.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.)

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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.
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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

#10040

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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

Since 2010 rates have risen 85% while inflation and population growth have been far lower. A more modest rate path is both fair and prudent given these pressures and the need to prioritise core services.I urge the Council to adopt the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance position to reduce waste and inefficiency. Key areas for immediate action include:1) Reduce personnel costs and freeze non-essential hires. Halting vacancies and limiting non-critical payroll growth would save at least $17 million right away.2) Cut spending on consultants and professional services. The Alliance proposes a cap on consultancy to deliver substantial ongoing savings.3) Cut back on corporate and backroom

functions across the Council and CCOs. Targeted reductions can lower overhead without compromising essential services.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.5) Freeze or slow discretionary non-core programmes and reduce Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae 'Maori outcomes' function (about $10 million per year). Local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary targets.6) Consider the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) keeping rates closer to inflation and delivering a more affordable path for households.Raising rates above inflation without demonstrable savings in these areas undermines public trust. Directing savings toward essential services and debt reduction is both responsible and fair to residents who face cost-of-living pressures.I request that the Council publish a transparent plan showing how these savings would be achieved and the impact on service levels before any final decision on the rates. I would like to speak at hearings to expand on these points.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.1) Oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9%. This rise translates to about $320 for the average household and is well above inflation. Since the 2010 Super City reform rates have risen 85% while inflation ran about 34% and population growth about 22%. The current plan fails to recognise that ratepayers face tight budgets while Council continues expanding non-core spend.2) Wasteful and avoidable spend must be cut. The Council and CCOs have substantial backroom costs including:- Consultants: $126 million per year across the Council group with the average consultant paid around $200k.- Corporate and support functions: 18 functions cost $868.4 million in direct expenditure.- Payroll and contractor costs: payroll of $1.3 billion and contractors $590 million.A prudent locking down of these expenditure items is essential prior to any rate increase.3) Specific program and staffing cuts aligned with ratepayer interests:- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million per year and reportedly emitting more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles which can save at least $17 million immediately.- Reduce Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) which is not a core local government function.4) Alternative budget approach. I support the Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to cap the average residential rates increase at around 3% by reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%):- $50 million via personnel cost reductions and a hiring freeze- $50 million via cap on consultants- $30 million via contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation- $20 million via prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants5) Accountability and timing. A thorough review of ongoing projects benefits and alternatives is needed before any further rate increases are approved.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

#10041

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: Howick

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) Position on rates and spending- I oppose the 7.9% average increase and support a cap on rates growth to around 3% through practical savings. The proposed 7.9% breakdown includes 4.4% for CRL operating costs which should be scrutinised and funded through more efficient delivery rather than recurrent rate rises.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb spending on consultants and professional services. Current levels are unsustainable and contribute to higher rates without proportional service improvements.- Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles.

This measure alone could save at least $17 million immediately and help keep rates affordable for households.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). I believe local government should prioritise statutory and essential services with discretionary programmes assessed for value for ratepayers.2) Alternative budget and outcomes- The Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) enabling a rate increase closer to 3%. This would be achieved through: $50 million savings from personnel costs 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.3) Why this matters- Since 2010 rates have risen 85% while inflation has increased 34% and population growth 22% indicating a need for efficiency before ratepayer pain is further compounded.- Direct operating expenditure and personnel costs have grown far faster than inflation underscoring the case for tighter controls on payroll and external services.I respectfully request consideration of these measures and a revised plan that prioritises affordability and core services over new or expanded non-essential 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

#10062

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: Howick

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 residential rates increase of 7.9 percent for 2026/27 and in support of disciplined targeted reductions in Council spending.Paragraph 1The proposed 7.9 percent increase equating to approximately $320 for the average household is not justified when measured against the Council's own spending trajectory. Since 2010 rates have risen by 85 percent in real terms far outstripping both inflation (about 12 percent) and population growth (approximately 22 percent). The breakdown of the increase2 percent for maintaining existing assets 1.5 percent for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costshighlights a

structural cost burden that is not acceptable to ratepayers without meaningful efficiency gains.Paragraph 2I urges the Council to implement substantial savings rather than raises that erode household budgets. Specifically:- Reduce personnel costs by freezing non-essential hires and pursuing organisational efficiency which the Ratepayers' Alliance estimates could save at least $17 million immediately.- Curb the spend on consultants and professional services and cap contractor and outsourcing costs which currently amount to hundreds of millions across the Council group.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which is reported to cost $36 million per year and purportedly delivers greater carbon emissions than savings.- Freeze or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles again a source of immediate savings.- Reconsider Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae 'Maori outcomes' operations cited as roughly $10 million per year arguing for local-government functions to prioritise statutory and essential services.Additional pointsI request a comprehensive review of discretionary programmes including the proposed removal of the PR department and the closure of alternative Transport Units within AT to redirect resources toward core services that benefit all ratepayers. A more restrained approach to corporate and backroom functions would align expenditure with needs and inflation.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.
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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

#10076

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: Howick

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 latest numbers show the average household faces around a $320 rise on top of a cumulative real increase since 2022 of 30%. This level of increase is not affordable for households already stretched by inflation and cost of living pressures.I urge the Council to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and to curb consultancy and professional services which continue to grow while essential services are strained. The {address redacted} Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget demonstrates that a disciplined approach can cap the rate rise at about 3% by saving $150 million from reductions in non-essential spend: - Freeze

staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles delivering at least $17 million in immediate savings. - Cap spending on consultants and professional services at $50 million. - Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to save $30 million. - Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million. - Reduce personnel costs through organisational change saving $50 million.I also call for cancelling the Food Scraps Programme valued at $36 million per year which this submission believes emits more carbon than it saves. Further I oppose ongoing Maori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) which is not a role of local government.In total these measures would reduce new Council spending and keep rate increases within the broader public-interest framework avoiding unnecessary burdens on households. The goal must be responsible stewardship of ratepayers' funds while ensuring essential services are protected.Additional context: since the Super City amalgamation rates have risen by 85% while population growth and inflation have not kept pace. This pattern makes the current increase untenable and calls for urgent efficiency and prioritisation reforms.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?

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Rank	Area
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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.
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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

#10092

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 submit in strong opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 which equates to about $320 for the average household. This jump is well above inflation and far beyond what households can sustainably bear.Key concerns:- The 7.9% increase is not justified by existing needs. The breakdown shows 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new growth-related assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This structure embeds higher operating costs and ongoing commitments while delivering limited demonstrable benefit to ratepayers.- Rates since 2010 have risen by 85% far outstripping inflation (34%) and population growth (22%). The current

trajectory is unsustainable for households and undermines public trust in council stewardship.I urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the rate rise at about 3%. Specific actions include:- Freeze or reduce payroll by stopping non-essential new hires and addressing staffing levels which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cap spending on consultants and professional services at $50 million and pursue contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation for a further $30 million.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants to maintain core services without ballooning costs.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs $36 million/year) and pause or re-evaluate programmes with high emissions or questionable value.- Reduce Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) arguing this falls outside core local government responsibilities.Additional point:- Consider targeted infrastructure investments on the Hibiscus Coast within a broader sustainable funding framework to deliver value where it is most needed.I request opportunities to present at hearings to provide further context and answer questions. 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**
- **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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- **Regional transport plans**
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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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	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

#10097

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 is well above inflation and public expectations for value-for-money in local government. The average rate rise would be about $320 for the typical household on top of a rates bill that has grown from $2781 in 2022 to $4069 todaya 30% real increase in five years far outpacing inflation.I advocate that the Council reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cut spending on consultancy and professional services. Spending on consultants now totals about $126 million per year across the Council group with the Auckland Council parent alone accounting for around $60 million. Direct operating expenditure and staff

costs have risen well ahead of inflation with payroll at $1.3 billion and consultants/contractors at $590 million.I support the Ratepayers' Alliance's Alternative Budget which caps the rate rise by reducing new spending by $150 million (2%) and targeting the following: $50 million saved from personnel costs via organisational change and a hiring freeze for non-essential roles; $50 million from capping consultancy spend; $30 million through contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; and $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants. Under this plan the average residential rates increase could be limited to about 3%.Other concrete reductions I seek include cancelling the Food Scraps Programme costing about $36 million per year which Treasury analysis indicates emits more carbon than it saves; freezing staffing or reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles (a step that could save at least $17 million immediately); and reducing Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) which I believe is not a core local-government function.In addition a concrete example of waste at the local level is evident in traffic management on East Coast Road where excessive roadworks and multiple safety vehicles cause delays and waste scarce resources.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

#10107

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: Howick

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 rates increase and note that the current average residential rates bill is $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of around 30 percent far exceeding cumulative inflation. The proposed 7.9 percent increase comprises 2% to maintain existing assets 1.5% for new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. Given Council has already grown expenditure well beyond inflation I support a substantial restraint on rate rises and a focus on value for money.I therefore support as a matter of principle reductions in discretionary and backroom spending to bring the rate increase closer to 3 percent consistent with a responsible alternative budget. Specifically I urge:- Reducing

personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze for non-essential roles targeting at least $17 million saved immediately.- Capping spending on consultants and professional services with a view to reducing annual expenditure by about $50 million.- Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation to achieve a further $30 million in savings.- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants along with cancelling non-core programmes such as the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Cutting Māori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae (Maori Outcomes) allocation of about $10 million per year noting that many consider this to be a responsibility outside local government purview.These measures would justify capping the average residential rate increase at roughly 3 percent. In addition I respectfully request that the Mayor and Council consider fairer governance of ratepayer resources and demand that major transport projects be funded through appropriate value-for-money and user-funding where applicable without unnecessary cost overruns borne by households.I do not have time to speak to my submission at a hearing but I trust it will be taken seriously.

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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	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

#10118

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: Howick

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) Rates increase and fiscal responsibility- I oppose the 7.9% average residential rates rise which equates to roughly $320 for the average household. This level is not affordable given the real increase in rates since 2022 and broader cost pressures on households. The Council should align rate increases with inflation and essential service needs not escalate charges to fund ongoing growth and operating costs.2) Wasteful corporate and backroom spending- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. Direct operating costs and staff remuneration have risen well beyond inflation and savings are achievable

without compromising core services.3) Consultancy and professional services- The spend on consultants and external contractors should be cut. The briefing highlights $126 million per year across the Council group with extensive consultant pay. A credible reduction is necessary to curb waste and rebalance priorities toward ratepayers.4) Specific programme and staffing savings- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs about $36 million/year) on the basis that it delivers higher emissions than savings. Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. Consider capping or reviewing Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) given concerns about the appropriate role of local government in this area.5) Overall fiscal approach- The Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping consultancy spend renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory services. A 3% rate rise cap is more acceptable to households if paired with strong cost containment and a focus on essential services.Additional point: I support a 15% overall cut to discretionary expenditure to demonstrate fiscal responsibility.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**
- **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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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

#10121

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 a detailed evidence-based note opposing the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase for 2026/27 and urging a reduction in wasteful Council spending.Key points- The proposed 7.9 percent increase would add approximately $320 to the average residential rates bill on top of a real 30 percent rates increase since 2022 (against 12 percent inflation). This is financially unsustainable for households especially given the Council's growing payroll and contractor costs.- The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget demonstrates a feasible path to cap the rate rise to about 3 percent by saving $150 million through targeted spending reductions. I support this

approach.Agreed positions (my submission includes these):- Oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9 percent; seek a reduction to around 3 percent or less.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- The Council should reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these costs.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme with a stated cost of $36 million per year due to its carbon emissions and questionable net savings.- 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 such as the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a core local government role.Additional context- Reducing personnel costs capping consulting and renegotiating vendor contracts are sensible steps that align with responsible stewardship of ratepayer funds.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants to ensure core community needs are funded.I request the Council consider rebalancing the 2026/27 plan toward efficiency gains as outlined above and engage with ratepayers on a sustainable path forward.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?

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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	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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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

#10162

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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

This would impose an approximate $320 rise for the average household on top of a real rates increase since 2022 of around 30 percent while inflation has risen by about 12 percent over the same period. I oppose a rate rise at or above 7.9 percent and urge the Council to align costs with inflation and population growth through targeted savings.Agreed positions- Oppose the 7.9% average residential rates increase and urge a cap closer to 3% in line with the Ratepayers' Alliance plan to reduce new spending and slow the growth of rates.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cut spend on

consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these areas.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and based on oversight emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a step that could save at least $17 million immediately.- Curb Māori-specific spending by reducing Ngā Mātārae (Māori outcomes) funding such as the $10 million per year allocated to that department on the premise that this is not a core local government function.Context and rationale- Since the 2010 Super City amalgamation rates have risen by 85% outpacing inflation and population growth. Given this trajectory further increases should be restrained while councils review core functions and efficiencies.- The proposed cost burdens are concentrated in CRL operating costs and a high baseline cost of personnel and consultants. A focused reduction in personnel costs vendor consolidations and renegotiations would directly support a lower rates outcome.- A targeted savings approach aligns with prudent governance ensuring essential statutory services are maintained while removing non-essential or duplicative expenditures.Additional points- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget illustrates how a $150 million reduction in new spending could cap the rate rise to around 3%.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
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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

#10176

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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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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% which equates to about $320 for the average household. Coupled with a current average rates bill of $4069 and a real increase since 2022 of 30% this places a disproportionate burden on households while inflation has run at about 12%. The breakdown shows 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This rate path is untenable for ratepayers already stretched by rising living costs and stagnant household incomes.I also urge the Council to seriously scrutinise and reduce wasteful spending. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing highlights that

consultants cost $126 million per year across the Council group with the average consultant earning about $200k and staff costs have risen sharplypersonnel costs and other expenses growing faster than inflation. I request a comprehensive review that prioritises essential statutory services over discretionary grants and a reallocation away from backroom functions toward core services.Specific savings and policy changes I support include:- Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze on non-essential vacancies which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Capping spending on consultants and professional services at $50 million with a focus on contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation to achieve savings.- Cancelling non-essential programmes such as the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freezing or reducing payroll where possible and avoiding increases in six-figure backroom staff across Council and CCOs.- Reframing Māori-focused expenditure including the $10 million/year allocated to the Maori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) to ensure funding aligns with core local government duties and statutory responsibilities.These measures would help cap the rate rise to around 3 percent if implemented rather than the proposed 7.9 percent and would align spending with residents' priorities rather than expanding overhead.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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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

#10178

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 write to oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to outline a clearer path to affordable prudent local governance. The rate rise is proposed as 7.9 percent with the average household bill rising by about $320 while total operating costs and asset maintenance continue to outpace inflation. I support a measurable reduction in wasteful spending to bring rates growth back to more affordable levels.Agreed positions- The Council needs to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- The Council needs to reduce the spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continue to increase these

expenditure items.- The Council should cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- The Council should freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; that change alone would save at least $17 million right away.- The Council should cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year spent on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a role of local government.Rationale and alternative funding approach- The Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget shows that reducing new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) can cap the average residential rates increase at about 3 percent. This aligns with keeping rates closer to inflation and avoids compounding financial hardship for households.- Since 2010 rates have risen 85% outpacing inflation and population growth by a wide margin. It is essential to recalibrate priorities toward statutory and essential services rather than discretionary programmes and excessive personnel costs.Additional points- Direct operating expenditure and staff costs have risen much faster than inflation in recent years; a disciplined cost-control programme is warranted.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

#10227

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: Howick

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 on the basis of strong concern about the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase for 2026/27 and the underlying spending patterns of the Council and its CCOs.The proposed 7.9% increase is not acceptable. It represents a real and unnecessary rise in living costs for households already stretched by inflation. The rate rise should be aligned with real household income growth not used to fund expanding non‘essential functions or high-cost backroom operations. The Council must instead deliver a responsible budget that prioritises statutory and essential services.Agreed positions1) The Council needs to reduce expenditure on corporate and

backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.2) The Council needs to reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these items.3) The Council should cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.4) The Council should freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non‘essential roles as this alone would save at least $17 million right away.5) The Council should cut Māori‘specific spending “ such as the $10 million per year spent on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) “ as this is not a role of local government.Disagrees- I do not support increasing average residential rates by 7.9% or any further escalation beyond inflation; that stance is not acceptable to households facing rising living costs.Alternative budget and savings to achieve a prudent rates outcomeBased on the Ratepayers' Alliance briefing I support reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) which would cap the average residential rates increase at around 3%. This should 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 million.ClosingI respectfully request that the Council consider these points and adopt a rates plan that prioritises essential services reduces wasteful spending and caps rate increases to around 3%.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

#10228

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: Howick

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 petition in strong opposition to the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and in the interest of fiscal responsibility for our city.The Council must curb wasteful expenditure before asking households to pay more. The current plan embeds a significant uplift in operating costs that do not reflect value to residents. In particular the large spend on consultants and backroom corporate functions is excessive and unsustainable. Reducing personnel costs restricting hiring for non-essential roles and freezing vacancies would deliver immediate savings and help bring rates increases in line with inflation.I support a disciplined approach to reduce

consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these expenses. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance modelling shows potential to trim at least $50 million from consultant spend and $50 million from vendor contracts which would materially lower the rate rise.I also call for scrapping the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and is argued to emit more carbon than it saves. Redirecting those funds to essential services is a prudent use of ratepayer money.A critical step is freezing staffing and halting non-essential recruitment. Not hiring for vacant non-essential roles would provide at least $17 million in immediate savings and reduce ongoing payroll pressures.I disagree with increasing Māori-specific spend beyond the core statutory requirements of local government. The $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) should be reassessed to ensure funds are used for essential services that benefit all residents with a focus on statutory obligations and core service delivery.A Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget demonstrates a feasible path to cap the average residential rates increase to around 3 percent by cutting spend: £50 million on personnel costs £50 million on consultants £30 million on contract renegotiations and £20 million on prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants. This approach better serves ratepayers while ensuring essential city functions continue.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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	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

#10232

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: Howick

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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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 formal respectful manner to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and to advocate for substantial reductions in wasteful council spending. In current terms the average rates rise would be roughly $320 for the typical household on top of a rate bill that has grown from $2781 in 2022 to $4069 todaya 30% real increase in four years outpacing both inflation and population growth.Key positions- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. A leaner organisational footprint is essential if we are to moderate rate increases.- Spend on consultancy and professional services

should be capped and reduced rather than allowing ongoing growth in these items.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing about $36 million per year which reportedly 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 approximately $10 million per year allocated to the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local-government function.Additional context- The proposed 7.9% increase comprises 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. The pace of total expenditure growthespecially in payroll consultants and non-essential programmeshas outstripped inflation by a wide margin in recent years which warrants a reset in priorities.- The alternative budget proposed by Ratepayers' Alliance demonstrates a pathway to cap the rate rise at around 3% by saving $150 million through personnel controls consultant capping renegotiations and prioritising 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
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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

#10236

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: Howick

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 plan places an outsized burden on households already facing rising costs while data show substantial room to reduce non-essential spend.Key points supporting this submission:1) Ratepayer burden and growth context: The proposed increase equates to approximately $320 for the average household on top of a 30 percent real increase since 2022 (inflation-adjusted) and an 85 percent rise since the 2010 amalgamation. This outpaces population growth and erodes household discretionary income.2) Spending and cost drivers: The CRL operating costs drive a large portion of the proposed increase (4.4%) while asset maintenance (2%) and new asset spending

(1.5%) do not address efficiency concerns. There is extensive evidence of rising personnel costs and high consultancy expenditure across the Council group including six-figure salaries and substantial use of consultants.3) Agreed measures for saving at least $150 million to cap rates growth at around 3%: The Council should implement the Ratepayers' Alliance plan to reduce new spending by $150 million including a hiring freeze/no vacancy fill for non-essential roles capping consultancy spend contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation plus prioritising essential services.4) Specific program cuts and governance changes we support: Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs $36 million/year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves). Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll by not filling non-essential vacancies (this is estimated to save at least $17 million immediately). Cut Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori outcomes' department (about $10 million/year) arguing this is not a core local government remit.In addition I urge the Council to prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and to pursue tighter control of direct operating expenditure and corporate backroom costs. A leaner more targeted budget will deliver stable sustainable services while protecting households from excessive rates 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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	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

#10241

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: Howick

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 request a program of significant savings to bring rates in line with inflation and affordable governance.Key concerns- The 7.9% rise is driven by 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs yet evidence shows council spending has risen far faster than inflation and population growth since 2010. This cannot be justified to ratepayers.- Council spending on consultants and backroom functions is excessive. Current estimates show $126 million per year across the Council group including $60 million by the Auckland Council parent with average

consultant pay around $200k.- Payroll and personnel costs have grown disproportionately. The Council payroll exceeds $1.3 billion with thousands of six-figure salaries including dozens paid above the mayor's level. Direct operating expenditure rose well above inflation between 2022 and 2025.- Wasteful or non-core programs erode value for ratepayers. I call for cancellation of the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves. I also oppose discretionary Maori outcomes spending; the proposed $10 million per year for Ngā Mātārae is not a core function of local government.Position and proposed savings- Accept the Alliance's Alternative Budget principle: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (about 2% of total spend) to cap average residential rates increase at 3% 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 million- Specific actions I support (Agrees): reduce corporate and back-office spending; curb consultancy and professional services; cancel Food Scraps Programme; freeze staffing or cancel non-essential hires to save at least $17 million immediately; cut Māori-specific spending such as Ngā Mātārae.I appreciate the opportunity to comment and urge Council to prioritise responsible stewardship of ratepayer funds delivering essential services efficiently while containing the proposed increase.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

#10255

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: Howick

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 understand this is planned against a backdrop of rising costs but I believe it is essential to curb wasteful expenditure and refocus money on core statutory services.Key points for consideration:- The proposed increase effectively spends more on CRL operating costs (4.4%) while other drivers consume a large portion of ratepayer funds. The overall rise is not matching the community's ability to pay.- Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance material shows substantial waste in non-core spending. Council should urgently reduce corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and reduce consultancy and professional services rather than permitting steady growth in

these areas.- The Food Scraps Programme is a poor use of funds at $36 million per year and appears to emit more carbon than it saves. Canceling this programme would free resources for essential services.- I support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could yield immediate savings of at least $17 million.- Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year for the 'Maori outcomes' (Ngā Mātārae) department should be re-evaluated as a local government function. Prioritising statutory duties over discretionary allocations will better reflect ratepayer expectations.In addition I note that total operating expenditure has grown faster than both inflation and population while staff costs and other expenses have risen markedly. A more disciplined approach to personnel costscoupled with renegotiated contracts and vendor consolidationcould deliver meaningful restraint.The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposes an alternative budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping the rate rise to around 3 percent. This includes: $50 million by trimming personnel costs $50 million by capping consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million by prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.I urge the Council to consider these savings as a path to fairer rates while maintaining essential services for residents.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

#10271

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: Howick

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 plan would see Auckland households face a substantial real rate rise at a time when costs are already stretched and general inflation remains elevated. The proposed 7.9% increase consists of 2% to maintain existing assets 1.5% for growth in new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs; this structure is not affordable for many ratepayers.I urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget which aims to cap the average residential rates increase at around 3 percent by reducing overall expenditure. Specifically I support the following positions as part of the submission:1) Reduce personnel costs by implementing organisational change and a

hiring freeze on non-essential roles saving at least $17 million immediately.2) Cap spending on consultants and professional services reducing a major driver of cost growth across the Council and CCOs.3) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.4) Freeze or substantially reduce staffing levels and payroll costs including not filling vacant non-essential roles.5) Cut Māori-specific spending including the approximately $10 million per year spent on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a function of local government.Additional context from the Alliance data shows that since 2010 rates have risen by 85% versus 34% inflation and 22% population growth indicating governance choices have outpaced affordability and efficiency. Direct operating expenditure has grown well ahead of inflation over the past decade and consultant/contractor costs remain high. A more disciplined budget focusing on statutory and essential services with prioritisation of core Council functions would better protect ratepayers.In closing I respectfully request that no further increases beyond a modest inflation-aligned level be approved until these reductions are implemented.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**
- **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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	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

#10278

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: Howick

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 program of targeted cost reductions that protect essential services while delivering responsible financial management.Key rationale- The current 7.9% increase is excessive in the context of inflation and the Council's own expenditure patterns. The agreed approach should prioritise keeping rates as close to inflation as possible with a focus on efficiency and core services.- There is clear scope to reduce wasteful backroom and consultancy spend which would ease rate pressures without compromising service delivery or community outcomes.Agreed positions and proposed actions-

The Council needs to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- The Council needs to reduce the spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continue to increase these expenditure items.- The Council should cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- The Council should freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million right away.- The Council should cut Māori-specific spending including the roughly $10 million per year spent on the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a function of local government.Budget framework and impact- Ratepayers' Alliance proposes a balanced alternative budget that reduces new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) to cap average residential rates increases at about 3%. This would be achieved through organisational change a hiring freeze caps on consultants contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation while prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI request that the Council implement these efficiency measures and reject the proposed 7.9% increase pursuing the measures above to protect households and ensure prudent stewardship of public resources.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.)

Rank	Area
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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

#10314

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 trajectory shows rates rising well ahead of inflation and population growth while existing expenditure patterns remain bloated.The Council should prioritise responsible budgeting by cutting wasteful spend rather than raising rates. I support the following concrete measures:1) Reduce consultancy and professional services expenditure. Council and CCOs collectively spend about $126 million per year on consultants with the average consultant earning approximately $200k. A substantial reduction in this area is essential.2) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing about $36 million per year which emits more carbon than it saves.3) Freeze staffing and/or

reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which would save at least $17 million immediately.4) 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 function.In addition Auckland needs to live within its means and remove unnecessary bureaucracy. Cutting the number of bureaucrats and consultants in half would not compromise service delivery given the current responsibilities of the Council and CCOs.I also urge consideration of the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget which demonstrates that reducing new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% cut) can cap the average residential rates increase at around 3 percent. This includes targeted savings from personnel costs contractor and consultant caps contract renegotiations and prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Closing I request that the Council adopt a leaner more value-for-money approach to budgeting and reject further rate hikes beyond inflation without delivering substantial efficiency gains.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge a prudent value-for-money approach to council budgeting.Key concerns and preferred direction- Rates: Oppose the 7.9% average increase. With a current average residential bill of $4069 and a real rate increase of 30% since 2022 (vs. 12% consumer inflation) further increases simply compound cost of living pressures for Auckland households.- Spending restraint: The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than allow those costs to rise.- Specific programmes: Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Payroll and staffing: Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Māori-specific spending: Cut Māori outcomes spending such as the Ngā Mātārae department (~$10 million per year) as this is not a function of local government.Rationale and alternative approach- The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget suggests reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the rate rise at around 3%. This would be achieved by prioritising essential services capping consultants renegotiating contracts and tightening discretionary grants.- Between 2010 and today rates have risen substantially (85%) while inflation and population growth have not kept pace; a restrained budget would better reflect the current economic reality facing households.Additional points- Many households are already struggling with higher prices. A sensible basic council budget with trims to non-essential spend would better serve ratepayers while safeguarding 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):

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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
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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

#10328

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 personal and sincere capacity to oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to advocate for meaningful reductions in wasteful Council spending. The current trajectory of rate rises far outstrips inflation and population growth and I urge a rebalancing toward core essential services rather than new expenditure.Key points guiding my submission:- The proposed 7.9% increase is excessive. The breakdown shows 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for growth-related assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. At a time of pressure on households this level of increase cannot be justified without substantial savings elsewhere.- There is clear scope

to reduce corporate and backroom spending across the Council and CCOs. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance highlights that consultants cost about $126 million per year across the Council group with the average consultant earning around $200k. A focused reduction in personnel costs and consultancy would deliver immediate relief to ratepayers.- By freezing staffing and not hiring for vacant non-essential roles the Council could save at least $17 million now directly impacting the size of the rate increase.- The Food Scraps Programme is costly ($36 million per year) and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves; cancelling this programme should be among top savings considered.- Māori-specific spending including the $10 million/year allocated to the Māori outcomes department is a function some ratepayers question as being within local government's core role. A re-prioritisation toward statutory and essential services should be pursued.- The Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget demonstrates a path to cap the average residential rates increase at about 3% by saving approximately $150 million through: reducing personnel costs capping consultancy spend renegotiating contracts and prioritising essential services over discretionary grants.In summary I urge the Council to adopt a program of substantial spending restraint and targeted savings (as outlined above) to align rate increases 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

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

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

#10333

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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

A responsible council should focus on core services and ensure ratepayer funds are used efficiently.I support the following positions to reform spending and protect household budgets:- The Council needs to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- The Council should reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these items.- The Council should cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and 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.- The Council should cut Māori-specific spending such as the roughly $10 million per year spent on the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a function of local government.I also emphasise a broader principle: households must manage within their means. The Council should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and avoid plundering citizens due to ongoing fiscal discipline failures.Additional context from ratepayer advocacy highlights that reducing personnel costs through structural changes capping consultancy spend and renegotiating contracts can significantly ease rate pressures. A disciplined approach to procurement and organisation would better align with inflation and population realities while safeguarding essential community services.In closing I request that the Council consider these reductions as alternatives to widespread rate increases and set a sustainable path for Auckland's finances.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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10343

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 average 7.9% residential rates increase places a greater burden on households at a time when the Council should prioritise core statutory and essential services while eliminating wasteful expenditure. The Alliance briefing shows a long-term pattern of rising costs driven by consultancies backroom functions and payroll growth; it is reasonable to expect the Council to better align spending with outcomes.I agree with the following which should guide any budget revision:- Reduce personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze for vacant non-essential roles which would deliver immediate savings and reduce the ratepayer burden.- Curb

spending on consultants and professional services rather than perpetually expanding these expenditure items.- Cancel discretionary initiatives with questionable value including the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and on the Alliance's reporting emits more carbon than it saves.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants to households and communities.In addition I support targeted reductions to achieve affordability:- Freeze or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential positions; this has the potential to save at least $17 million promptly.- Cap and renegotiate vendor contracts with a focus on consolidating spend and improving procurement outcomes.- Reevaluate Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae department's budget to ensure alignment with the core responsibilities of local government and avoid mission creep.These measures would enable the Council to reduce the current rate of growth in expenditure while maintaining service levels that residents rely on. If pursued they could help cap the average residential rates increase and keep Council fiscally responsible 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):

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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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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

#10357

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 write as a ratepayer who wants responsible transparent budgeting and sustainable local government. I oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge a focus on reducing wasteful spending to protect households from unaffordable bills.Key concerns- The proposed 7.9% increase is not affordable for many households and is not justified by the scale of growth since 2022. The real increase in rates since 2022 is about 30% (in 2022 dollars) against 12% cumulative inflation while essential services must be maintained.- A substantial portion of the rise is driven by CRL operating costs (4.4%) with only modest gains from asset maintenance (2%) and

growth-related assets (1.5%). A more prudent review of operating costs is essential before approving further hikes.- Wasteful expenditure should be addressed first. The Council should reduce corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs; reduce the spend on consultancy and professional services; and prioritise essential services over discretionary grants.Proposed savings and alternatives- Implement Ratepayers' Alliance's Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2% reduction) to cap average residential rates increase at 3%. - Freeze hiring for non-essential roles and reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant positions potentially saving at least $17 million immediately. - Cap spending on consultants and professional services aiming for at least $50 million in savings. - Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors targeting about $30 million in savings. - Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants directing resources to core functions.- This approach would require capping non-core initiatives including removing or deferring programmes like the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Consider reductions in Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae department currently estimated at about $10 million per year by refocusing on core local-government responsibilities.I request consideration for speaking at hearings to explain these points further. 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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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

#10364

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Howick

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 in a strong and direct manner to oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to demand a clear focus on reducing wasteful Council spending.Key concerns and positions:- The current proposal funds CRL operating costs at 4.4 percent plus 2 percent for maintaining existing assets and 1.5 percent for new assets. This structure delivers a real increase in rates well above inflation with the average household facing approximately $320 more per year while the Council pursues expansionist projects rather than essentials.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. The size of

corporate and support costs alongside contractor-heavy spending is unsustainable if we want to keep rates growth reasonable.- I join the call to reduce consultancy and professional services spend rather than allowing further increases. The Alliance notes $126 million per year in consultant costs and a typical consultant salary of around $200k. This is a clear opportunity to save.- The Food Scraps Programme should be cancelled as it costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves; redirect those funds to essential services.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. Even a conservative freeze would save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae department's $10 million per year arguing that local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary programmes.Additional focus:- Stop wasting money on unnecessary items; return to basics and ensure essential services such as roading water waste services and public safety are properly funded without inflated leadership and consultancy costs.- The Alternative Budget approachreducing new Council spending by $150 million (2 percent) to cap rates increases at about 3 percentshould be seriously considered.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

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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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