Annual Plan 2026/2027

Written Feedback

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

Volume 4

April 2026

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8817

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 in a personal and sincere tone to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to urge a rethink of expenditure to protect households struggling with rising living costs.1) Rates and affordability- I oppose the proposed 7.9% average residential rates increase which equates to about $320 for the average household. With rates bills already at $4069 on average (up from $2781 in 2022) the real increase since 2022 is 30% far above 12% cumulative inflation. Rates should not outpace inflation or household budgets.2) Spending reform and expenditure priorities- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office

functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce consultancy and professional services spending rather than allowing it to rise.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cancel or scale back non-essential programmes such as the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and has questionable carbon savings.3) Specific areas identified for savings- Cap spending on consultants and renegotiate contracts to achieve significant savings.- Reconsider Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) aligning with the view that this is not a core local government role.4) Additional context and responsibility to ratepayers- Ratepayers are not an unlimited source of funds. When households are budgeting to cover essential costs the Council should prioritise essential services and restraint in discretionary spending including capital or cultural projects with questionable utility.- Stop expanding non-essential items such as art installations and other discretionary items that do not directly support core community needs.ClosingI respectfully urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget approach to reduce new spending by about $150 million (2%) capping the rate rise at around 3% by:- Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and hiring freeze- Capping consultancy spend- Renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grantsI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

#8820

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent for 2026/27 which would add approximately $320 to the average household bill (currently about $4069). This rate rise far exceeds inflation and rises at a time when ratepayers face sustained cost pressures.The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing shows that 7.9 percent comprises 2 percent to maintain existing assets 1.5 percent for new assets as the city grows and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs. Since 2010 rates have risen 85 percent well above inflation and population growth. To protect households I urge a reallocation of spending away from wasteful or non-essential items

toward core services.I support the Council's need to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and to curb spend on consultancy and professional services. In particular the Business Case for a leaner organisation is clear: total payroll costs and related expenses have surged with consultants and contractors totalling hundreds of millions of dollars and six-figure salaries widespread. Curbing these costs would directly lower the required rates rise.I further advocate cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which reportedly costs $36 million per year and according to the Alliance emits more carbon than it saves. This is a high-priority area for saving given the Council's broader carbon and cost pressures.I support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. I also urge cutting Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to the 'Maori outcomes' department Ngā Mātārae as this is not a core local-government function.To keep rates increases within a more affordable range I back the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) cap average residential rates increases to 3% by cutting personnel costs consultants and renegotiating 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**
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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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- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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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

#8849

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Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit this formal objection to the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase for 2026/27 and call for substantial reductions in wasteful Council spending. The proposed uplift which equates to about $320 for the average household is not justified by the public value delivered and would outpace both inflation and household budgetary capability.Key concerns and requested actions:- Oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% and support capping rate rises to around 3% by implementing the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance plan to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%). This includes targeted reductions to keep the rates increase below

inflation and protect essential services.- Reduce spending on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. A leaner administration will deliver savings without compromising core services.- Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which would save at least $17 million immediately.- Curb spending on consultancy and professional services. The current level is excessive and should be capped with priority given to in-house capability and critical outcome-focused engagements.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing approximately $36 million per year on the basis that it emits more carbon than it saves and is not a core local government obligation.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae 'Maori outcomes' department at about $10 million per year since this is not a direct local government remit.These measures would preserve essential services while delivering meaningful reductions in operating costs. Direct operating expenditure and staff costs have grown well beyond inflation in recent years and the proposed 7.9% increase compounds the burden on households. A redirected disciplined budget would better reflect community priorities and the statutory duties of Auckland Council.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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N/A

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

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Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8850

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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 personal and sincere capacity to oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to advocate for substantial reductions in wasteful Council spending.I note the proposed 7.9% average increase equates to roughly $320 per household on top of a real rates rise of 30% since 2022 (after adjusting for inflation). The breakdownâ€2% to maintain existing assets 1.5% for growth and 4.4% for CRL operating costsâ€demonstrates a high cost of doing business that must be trimmed. The Council should prioritise core statutory services over discretionary expenditure and seek substantial efficiency.I support a targeted reduction in expenditure in several

areas:- Reduce personnel costs by freezing non-essential hires and vacancies to save at least $17 million immediately.- Curb spending on consultants and professional services; cut the current level rather than continuing to increase these costs.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze or reduce payroll costs through organisational change while protecting essential services.- Reconsider Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year attributed to Ngā Mātārae given that this is not a core local government function.The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget demonstrates that a 3% cap on rates could be achieved with about a $150 million reduction in new Council spending achieved through the measures above and by contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation. These changes would still allow essential services to be funded while delivering fairer outcomes for ratepayers who have faced a substantial cumulative rise in costs since 2010.I urge the Council to focus on prudent governance stronger financial discipline and a realignment of expenditure toward essential services. It is reasonable to expect that rates increases stay in line with or below inflation while Council savings are reinvested in services that matter to Auckland ratepayers.I would like the opportunity to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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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

#8865

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Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

My understanding based on the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing is that the proposed rise equates to about $320 for the average household taking the current average rates bill to around $4069. Since 2010 rates have risen 85% far outstripping inflation and population growth. I oppose an increase of 7.9% when there are tangible areas to economise without compromising essential services.Key points- I agree with capping the rates increase by reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs. Direct operating expenditure and personnel costs have grown well above inflation and a more efficient structure is essential.- I agree the Council

should curb consultancy and professional services spending which sits at unsustainable levels and diverts funds from core services.- I agree the Food Scraps Programme should be cancelled given its $36 million annual cost and the claim that it emits more carbon than it saves.- I agree to freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles; quotes in the briefing indicate that freezing vacancies could save at least $17 million immediately.- I disagree with ongoing spend on Māori-specific programmes such as the Ngā Mātārae department (Maori outcomes) which the briefing notes amounts to about $10 million per year; this function is not a core local government role.Alternative BudgetIf a 3% cap is pursued I support the Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) allocated as follows: $50 million from personnel costs $50 million from consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI request that the Council seriously consider these efficiency measures and reconsider the proposed rate rise in favour of a more sustainable council-wide savings plan.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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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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Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8867

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Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current approach risks placing an unfair burden on households while continuing to fund wasteful backroom and discretionary programmes.Key concerns and positions:1) Rates increase and affordability- I oppose the average 7.9% increase which equates to about $320 for the average household and reflects a real increase well above inflation.- Since 2010 rates have risen by 85% far outpacing inflation (34%) and population growth (22%). A more disciplined approach is required to keep rates in line with actual demand and essential service delivery.2) Wasteful spending and cost reductions- I support reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the

Council and CCOs and reducing spend on consultancy and professional services.- The Food Scraps Programme should be cancelled as it costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- I oppose continued or expanding funding for discretionary programmes such as Māori-focused spending beyond what is necessary for core local government functions. The $10 million/year spent on the Māori outcomes area (Ngā Mātārae) should be reassessed in the context of local government roles and statutory responsibilities.3) Alternative budget approach- I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposal to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping average residential rates increases at about 3%. This would involve: $50 million from personnel cost reductions and hiring freezes $50 million from capping consultancy spend $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million from prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.Additional remarksI am disgusted by this rates hike and the lack of visible credible savings plans. A transparent credible plan to trim non-core spending is essential before asking households to shoulder higher bills.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

#8880

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 support a more disciplined approach to Council spending that would keep rate rises at or near 3% or lower. The current rate rise would amount to about $320 for the average household on a bill already rising faster than inflation. Since 2010 rates have increased by 85% well above inflation and population growth and this trajectory is unsustainable for households.To achieve meaningful restraint I urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance plan to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) enabling a 3% cap on the average rate increase. Key measures include:- Reducing personnel costs

through organisational change and a hiring freeze for vacant non-essential roles saving at least $17 million immediately.- Capping spending on consultants and professional services saving $50 million.- Renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors to reduce costs by $30 million.- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million.These steps would align expenditures with real growth in services and population and avoid placing an excessive burden on households.Specific spending concerns to be addressed:- Corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs require reduction to improve efficiency.- Spending on consultancy and professional services should be curbed rather than continually rising.- The Food Scraps Programme costing around $36 million per year should be cancelled given its carbon impact relative to savings.- Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to Ngā Mātārae should be reassessed as a function not inherent to local government duties.Transparency and prioritisation are essential. The Council must focus on statutory obligations and essential services with discretionary activities scrutinised and scaled back to protect households from unaffordable 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.)

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8891

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 of 7.9% and urge the Council to prioritise value for money and core statutory services over growth in backroom and discretionary spending.Key points- The proposed 7.9% increase translates to about $320 for the average household on top of a steadily rising rates bill (now $4069). Since 2010 rates have increased 85%â€well above inflation and population growth. The Council must curb this trajectory.- A responsible path is to cap the rate rise at around 3% by cutting unnecessary expenditure. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance's plan identifies $150 million in annual savings achieved by: - Reducing personnel costs through

organisational change and a hiring freeze for non-essential roles. - Capping spending on consultants and professional services. - Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation. - Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.- Specific reductions I support: - Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing about $36 million per year which purportedly emits more carbon than it saves. - Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles a move that would save at least $17 million immediately. - Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) which is not a core local government function.- Other savings include scaling back six-figure salaries where possible and slowing or re-scoping spending on corporate functions back-office costs and consultancy services.Rationale- The current cost structure shows personnel costs consultants and 'other expenses' growing faster than inflation. A reallocation toward essential services and prudent governance is needed to restore financial discipline and public trust.- A transparent evidence-based approach should be adopted with explicit milestones and quarterly reporting on savings from these reforms.ClosingI request to speak 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

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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	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

#8896

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Based on Council data this would equate to approximately $320 extra per average household on top of a rate bill that has risen from $2781 in 2022 to $4069 today. The real increase since 2022 is already about 30% with inflation at roughly 12% and rates have risen 85% since the 2010 amalgamation. I request a more prudent approach that caps rate rises and prioritises core services over discretionary spending.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance plan to reduce overall Council spending and specifically to bring the average residential rates increase down to around 3% by cutting wasteful expenditure. I propose the following measures:1) Reduce personnel costs and

freeze hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could deliver substantial immediate savings (at least $17 million).2) Reduce spend on consultants and professional services which currently totals about $126 million per year across the Council group with the parent alone spending heavily and many consultants averaging around $200000.3) Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to achieve meaningful savings (target $30 million).4) Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and pause non-core initiatives.I also urge reassessment of major programme costs. In particular:- The Food Scraps Programme estimated at $36 million per year and claimed to emit more carbon than it saves should be cancelled.- Maori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori outcomes' department currently about $10 million per year should be reviewed to ensure alignment with the core roles of local government.Additional context: current operating expenditure and payroll costs have risen substantially in recent years and the Council's emphasis on new assets and CRL operating costs compounds the pressure on ratepayers. A targeted reduction in corporate and backroom spending across the Council and CCOs will help stabilise rates and preserve 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:

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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**
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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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	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

#8934

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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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 7.9% increase and request the Council to reduce expenditure across corporate and backroom office functions within the Council and CCOs. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing shows significant growth in payroll and support costs and a reliance on consultants and contractors that has driven rates higher than inflation. A tighter accountable approach to overheads is essential to avoid placing an unfair burden on households.I urge the Council to reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to lift these expense items. Our ratepayers' funds should prioritise core municipal obligations and statutory services over discretionary external

advisory costs that do not demonstrably deliver public value.I further call for cancellation of the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and according to the Alliance briefing emits more carbon than it saves. This is a clear example of a non-essential programme that should be deferred or terminated to free resources for essential services.The Council should freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that would deliver at least $17 million in immediate savings. This is a practical step in aligning payroll with real service needs and avoiding unnecessary ratepayer cost growth.Additionally I oppose continuing or expanding Māori-specific spending beyond what is necessary for core local-government functions. The briefing indicates a substantial amount ($10 million per year on the Maori outcomes department Ngā Mātārae). In a ratepayer context this is not a core local-government role and should be scaled back to more closely reflect statutory responsibilities.If possible I support the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget approach: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping average residential rates at around 3% through targeted savings in personnel consultants vendor negotiations 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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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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

#8952

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

The current average residential rates bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022; the real increase since 2022 is already around 30% versus cumulative inflation of roughly 12%. The proposed breakdownâ€2% to maintain assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costsâ€appears unsupportable given historic spending growth and the scale of benefit to residents.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance positions to reduce total Council expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and to curb consultancy and professional services spending. Major reform is needed: personnel costs and related expenses have

risen well above inflation in recent years and outsourcing to consultants has grown unsustainably. The proposed plan relies on high operating costs rather than delivering core essential services efficiently.I also urge the Council to cancel or reassess discretionary programmes that do not clearly advance statutory responsibilities. In particular:- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costing about $36 million per year) if evidence shows it emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze hiring and reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could deliver immediate savings of at least $17 million.- Reduce Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae (Māori outcomes) portfolio where about $10 million per year is allocated to align with the responsibilities of local government.The Alliance's alternative budget demonstrates a viable path: a $150 million reduction in new spending (about 2%) delivering an average rate increase closer to 3% by:- Reducing personnel costs via organisational changes and hiring freezes ($50 million);- Capping consultancy spending ($50 million);- Renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors ($30 million);- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants ($20 million).I request the opportunity to speak at hearings to elaborate these points but 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.

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

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

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

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	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

#8954

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: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit this formal submission to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for significant reductions in wasteful Council spending. Key points:1) The proposed 7.9% average residential increase equates to roughly $320 for the average household. This is well above inflation and insufficiently tied to demonstrable improvements in essential services. Since the 2010 amalgamation rates have risen 85% far outstripping both inflation (34%) and population growth (22%). The burden is not sustainable for households.2) The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs. Current data show

high payroll and administrative costs driving expenditure beyond prudent levels including substantial spend on consultants and six-figure salaries. A focus on core statutory services rather than discretionary spends is essential.3) A reduction in consultancy and professional services is required. The Alliance documents indicate $126 million per year across the Council group on consultants with high average contractor costs. Freeing these funds would directly lower rate increases and improve value for money.4) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. The submission notes that freezing vacancies could save at least $17 million immediately contributing to a much more affordable rates outcome.5) Cut Maori-specific spending such as the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) currently estimated at around $10 million per year. While recognising community aspirations this is a function not strictly required of local government and should be prioritised within statutory responsibilities.Alternative budget approach:Adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance plan to reduce new spending by $150 million (2%) capping the average rates increase to around 3% by prioritising essential services and renegotiating contracts consolidating vendors and restraining 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
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
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	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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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

#8957

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 of 7.9% and urge the Council to pursue substantial containment of operating costs and a reduction in non-essential spend.Key context and concerns- The proposed 7.9% average increase translates to about $320 more per household on top of a current average rates bill of $4069. Since 2012 rates have risen 85% far outstripping inflation (34%) and population growth (22%). The burden on households is unsustainable if driven by operating costs rather than essential service delivery.- The 7.9% increase is partly allocated to CRL operating costs (4.4%) with ongoing needs for asset maintenance (2%) and new assets for growth (1.5%).

There is a clear opportunity to re-prioritise expenditure and align with statutory and essential services.Agreed positions and concrete actions- Oppose the 7.9% residential rates increase and advocate for a cap of around 3% by reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2% reduction) through targeted measures: - Reducing personnel costs via organisational change and a hiring freeze for non-essential roles estimated to save $50 million. - Capping spending on consultants and professional services at $50 million. - Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation saving $30 million. - Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million.- 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 continue 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 which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year spent on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a role of local government.ClosingI request consideration of the above reform options and prefer a hearing submission if invited. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#8963

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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

My position is grounded in affordability for households and a need to prioritise essential services over discretionary spending.1) Rates increase and affordabilityI oppose the proposed average 7.9 percent rates rise. With the current average residential bill at $4069 and the real increase since 2022 already at 30 percent (vs. 12 percent inflation) further above-inflation rises threaten housing stability and local living costs. Rate bill increases must be restrained to align with inflation and real income growth not escalate pressure on households.2) Expenditure reductions and reform- The Council should 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.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which would save at least $17 million right away.3) Budget reallocation to essential servicesRatepayer interests demand prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants. The current spending profile including high consultancy costs and large back-office payroll indicates room to reallocate toward core services that directly benefit residents.Supporting data from the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing shows that personnel costs consultants and other expenses have grown rapidly outpacing inflation and population growth. A disciplined savings-focused approach is required to cap rate increases and protect households from further financial strain.Additional pointsIncreasing rate bills during a period of broad cost rises risks pushing homeowners to sell or rent levels to unaffordable levels potentially increasing homelessness or out-migration. This is not sustainable.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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- **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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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

#8964

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

The Alliance's data shows a 7.9% rise translates to around $320 for the average household on top of a real rates increase since 2022 of approximately 30% in 2022 dollars (vs 12% overall inflation). I oppose this increase and urge a substantial reduction in expenditure focusing on wasteful backroom and consultancy spend.Key positions:- Oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9% and demand limits on the rate rise.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs including reforms to lower payroll and non-essential costs.- Freeze staffing growth and reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles;

this reform alone could save at least $17 million immediately.- Curb spend on consultancy and professional services; the Alliance notes annual consultancy costs of about $126 million across the Council group with the average consultant earning roughly $200k.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (approx. $36 million/year) on carbon-saving grounds given emissions that exceed its purported benefits.- Reconsider Māori-specific spending including the $10 million/year on the Māori outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) function which is not a core local government role.- Prioritise essential statutory services over discretionary grants and push for vendor consolidation and contract renegotiation to save hundreds of millions in the longer term.Additional observations:Spending on consultants six-figure salaries and a broad payroll cost of about $1.3 billion with contractors totalling $590 million suggests scope for fundamental efficiency gains. The proposal for a 7.9% increase when combined with historic spending growth (Council payroll up 64% since 2010 operating expenditure outpacing inflation) is unacceptable to ratepayers facing their own tightening budgets. A targeted $150 million reduction in new Council spending (2% cap) aligns with the alternative budget: cap rate increases at around 3% by cutting personnel consultants contract costs and prioritising core services.Closing:l 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.

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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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

#8965

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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

Based on the Alliance briefing this uplift equates to about $320 more per average household on top of a long-term trend of rising costs that far exceeds general inflation. Since 2010 rates have increased by 85% while inflation over the same period ran around 34% and population growth about 22%. I urge Council to recognise that ratepayers cannot absorb further above-inflation increases without meaningful restraint on operating and capital spending.Key points for consideration:1) Expenditure reductions necessary to curb rate rises. The Council should reduce corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb consultancy and professional

services spend rather than continuing to grow these items. Current data show consultant spending at about $126 million per year across the Council group with $60 million by the Auckland Council parent and average consultants earning around $200k. A targeted reduction in these areas is consistent with responsible stewardship of ratepayer funds.2) Spending on discretionary programmes. The Food Scraps Programme costs $36 million per year and according to the Alliance briefing emits more carbon than it saves. Given this outcome I support cancelling the programme to reallocate funds to essential services.3) Staffing and payroll controls. Freeze staff recruitment for vacant non-essential roles and reduce payroll costs where non-critical positions remain unfilled. The briefing indicates potential immediate savings of at least $17 million through such measures.4) Targeted reductions in statutory and essential services vs discretionary grants. The Alliance's alternative budget proposes a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (2%) to cap rates increases at around 3% prioritising statutory functions over discretionary activities. I support this approach and urge its consideration.I request Council prioritise a sustainable values-based budget that respects ratepayers' ability to pay while preserving essential local government functions.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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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	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

#8967

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

The proposed rise which equates to about $320 for the average household is not affordable for many ratepayers and is not justified by the current value received. Since 2010 the rates burden has grown by 85 percent well ahead of inflation and population growth and residents deserve a more disciplined approach to spending.I oppose the 7.9 percent increase and urge the Council to consider substantial spending reductions to cap rates increases closer to 3 percent. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance outlines a plan to reduce new spending by $150 million (2 percent) through concrete changes:- Reduce personnel costs via organisational change and a hiring freeze for non-

essential roles saving at least $50 million.- 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.Specific spending that should be halted or reduced includes:- The Food Scraps Programme costing about $36 million per year which emits more carbon than it saves and is not essential to core council services.- Māori-specific spending including the Ngā Mātārae/Māori Outcomes portfolio reported as about $10 million per year which I contend is not a core local-government function.I also request the Council to freeze staffing and payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. In addition the broader payroll and consultant costs appear to be rising at rates well above inflation; reform in these areas is essential to restore value for residents.In summary I urge the Council to adopt a responsible budget that reduces wasteful back-office and consultancy spending eliminates non-core programmes like Food Scraps and keeps rate increases in line 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.
	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

#8984

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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% for 2026/27 and urge a reallocation of Council spending to halt wasteful growth in backroom and discretionary costs.Key points:- The proposed 7.9% increase translates to about $320 extra per average household on top of an inflationary environment that has already driven rates up 30% in real terms since 2022. I cannot support increases that outpace inflation and population needs.- The breakdown shows 4.4% earmarked for CRL operating costs with 2% for maintaining existing assets and 1.5% for new assets. This structure reinforces a rate burden without delivering commensurate

timely value for ratepayers.- Significant waste in current spending must be addressed. Council and CCO payroll six-figure salaries and high consultant/contractor costs have grown far faster than inflation and population growth. Consultants cost the Council group roughly $126 million per year with the average consultant earning around $200000.- The Food Scraps Programme costs $36 million per year and per independent assessment emits more carbon than it saves. This is a clear area for suspension or cancellation.- I support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not filling non-essential vacancies which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Reducing Māori-specific spending such as the roughly $10 million per year on Ngā Mātārae (Maori Outcomes) should be reviewed for alignment with the statutory roles of local government.Alternative budget proposal:- Implement a targeted $150 million reduction in new Council spending (about 2%) to cap average residential rates increases at around 3%. This would be achieved by: (i) reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze; (ii) capping consultant spending; (iii) renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors; (iv) prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Conclusion:I urge the Council to prioritise core statutory services and deliver observable efficiency gains before increasing rates. A disciplined reduction in backroom costs and consulting alongside suspending non-core programmes will better serve Auckland households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

#8990

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 evidence-based submission in opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and in support of reducing wasteful Council spending.Key concerns- The proposed 7.9% increase is excessive given the real growth in rates since 2022 (approximately 30% in 2022 dollars) and inflation of about 12%. The 7.9% breakdown includes 4.4% for CRL operating costs which should be subject to rigorous scrutiny and potential savings.- Council spending on consultants is high: $126 million per year across the Council group with the average consultant at around $200k and significant spend by the Auckland Council parent. This cash-to-

people arid approach is inconsistent with a tight fiscal stance.- Payroll and related expenses are high: 6123 Council and CCO employees on six-figure salaries 72 staff paid more than the mayor and overall payroll of $1.3 billion. Direct operating expenditure rose 78% from 2013 to 2023 well above inflation.- There is substantial discretionary spend in corporate and backroom functions and professional services that should be tightened. The 'other expenses' grew at twice the rate of inflation between 2022 and 2025.- Alternative budgeting shows a possible path to keeping rates closer to 3% if waste is cut: reduce new spending by $150 million (2%) by freezing non-essential roles capping consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising essential statutory services over discretionary grants.Agreed positions (what I support)- Oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9%.- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these items.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme ($36 million/year) which is not cost-effective and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million/year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) which is not a core local government role.ClosingI request that Auckland Council consider these reductions to deliver essential services while keeping rate rises modest and sustainable. 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

#9041

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: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I am writing to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and to call for urgent reductions in wasteful Council spending.I understand the plan allocates 2% to maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. Even if these components are necessary the overall impact on households is steep. The proposed increase would raise the average residential rates bill by about $320 on top of the cumulative effect since 2012 which my family and many others simply cannot sustain. As a pensioner affordability is a primary concern and the rate rise is unaffordable for many ratepayers

like me.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance position to reduce Council spending on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and to scale back consultancy and professional services. The briefing shows annual consultant costs of about $126 million across the Council group and a payroll and consultant footprint that has grown substantially since 2010. Cutting these discretionary costs would help bring the rate rise below the inflation rate while preserving essential services.I also support the suggestion to freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. Additionally renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors could save tens of millions and prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants is prudent.Specific programmes should be re-evaluated. The Food Scraps Programme at approximately $36 million per year has not demonstrated net savings in carbon or cost-benefit in this timeframe and should be paused pending independent review. Māori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae department's current level should be reassessed as some argue it falls outside local government's core remit.I request the Council consider this alternative budget approach: reduce new spending by $150 million (2%) capping the average rates increase to about 3% through targeted savings in personnel consultants contracts 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.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth – planning how and where Auckland grows, rebuilding urban centres, improving infrastructure, and coordinating land-use with public services.
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	Transport – roads, public transport, walking and cycling, and making it easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around
	Flood resilience – reducing flood risks, upgrading stormwater systems and protecting waterways.

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9048

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 increase translates to about $320 for the average household on top of an already high rates burden. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 migrated from $2781 in 2022 and the real increase since 2022 is about 30% (in 2022 dollars) versus 12% cumulative inflation. I oppose rate increases above inflation and urge a reduction in wasteful Council spending before any further increases are approved.Key concerns and positions1) Rate increase and allocation: The proposed 7.9% increase is composed of 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets to accommodate growth and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. Given the scale of increases since

amalgamation the Council should prioritise essential services and avoid compounding ratepayer burdens unless savings are realised from more efficient operations.2) Wasteful spending and backroom waste: The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. Direct operating expenditure rose 78% from 2013 to 2023 against 29% inflation and personnel costs grew faster than inflation between 2022 and 2025. The payroll reaches $1.3 billion with $590 million spent on consultants and contractors. Eighteen corporate and business support functions cost $868.4 million in direct expenditure. These figures warrant substantial costs being cut.3) Targeted cost-saving measures: I support reducing consultancy and professional services expenditure cancelling discretionary items such as the Food Scraps Programme (costing $36 million per year and reportedly emitting more carbon than it saves) and freezing staffing or cancelling vacancies in non-essential roles to deliver immediate savings. The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget recommends a $150 million cut in new Council spending (2%) enabling a cap of around 3% on average residential rates. This would be achieved by: $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 Auckland Council to adopt cost-saving measures that align with inflation trends and prudent budgeting and to implement the proposed reductions in non-essential spending before approving any higher 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

#9078

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

The proposed rise translates to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30 percent real increase since 2022 and well above inflation. Rates have risen 85 percent since the 2010 amalgamation far exceeding population growth and inflation. A rates increase of 7.9% is not acceptable without demonstrable substantial efficiency gains.I urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget approach reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the increase at around 3 percent. This can be achieved by:- 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 at $50 million.- Renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors to save $30 million.- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million.Key areas of savings and reforms I seek include:- Corporate and backroom office functions: significantly reduce expenditure across the Council and CCOs as current payroll and outsourced services drive unaffordable costs.- Consultancy and professional services: halt steady growth and align with essential needs rather than ongoing expansion.- Food Scraps Programme: cancel the $36 million/year programme which reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Staffing: freeze vacancies and avoid hiring for non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Maori outcomes spending: review and reduce the $10 million/year allocated to Ngā Mātārae arguing that such specific programmes fall outside core local government responsibilities.These measures would address waste and inefficiency while delivering essential services. I ask that you provide transparent reporting on where savings are made and how ratepayers' money is spent.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.)

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
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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

#9085

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 detailed and evidence-based manner to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for reductions in wasteful Council spending and backroom costs.Key points- The proposed 7.9% average residential rates increase translates to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30% real increase in rates since 2022 (in 2022 dollars) amid 12% cumulative inflation. This is a substantial deterioration in affordability for Auckland households.- The breakdown shows 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as the city grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. Overall rates continues to outpace inflation and

population growth underscoring the need for restraint.Position- I oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9% and urge a disciplined value-for-money approach to budgeting.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb spend on consultancy and professional services rather than permitting ongoing growth in these areas.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Maori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to the Maori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) arguing that this is not a core local government function.- Implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2% reduction) to cap the rate rise at around 3%: - $50 million from personnel costs via organisational change and a hiring freeze - $50 million from cap on consultants - $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation - $20 million prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grantsAdditional points- Direct operating expenditure has risen well beyond inflation; achieving savings in corporate services and consultancy is a credible path to protect essential services while restraining rates growth.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

#9104

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 percent. This would amount to about $320 for the average household in a period where rates have already risen 30 percent in real terms since 2022 and costs continue to outpace inflation. The current average rates bill is $4069 with a breakdown that shows 4.4 percent of the increase going to CRL operating costs and 2 percent for maintaining existing assets. In my view the council must focus on delivering essential services more efficiently before lifting rates further.I urge the Council to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and to curb spending on consultancy and

professional services. Data from the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance highlights $126 million per year spent on consultants across the Council group with the average consultant earning around $200000. A structural review should prioritise core statutory services and essential functions over discretionary expenditure.Specific actions I support:1) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and is claimed to emit more carbon than it saves.2) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.3) Cut Māori-specific spending such as the roughly $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) on the basis that this is not a core local government function.I also support an alternative budget approach that reduces new Council spending by about $150 million (2 percent) to cap the rates increase at around 3 percent achieved through personnel cost controls cap on consultancy spending contract renegotiations and prioritising statutory/essential 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**
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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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	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

#9118

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I am writing to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and to urge a focused reduction in wasteful Council spending. With households already paying about $4069 on average a real-terms increase of 30% since 2012 alongside inflation further rate rises are unsustainable for families.1) Core positions- Oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9%. In plain terms this is a significant burden while essential services are strained.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to

grow these lines.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and in my view emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the approximately $10 million per year spent on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local-government role.- Focus on universally beneficial maintenance and practical service delivery ensuring contractors perform to standard without excessive overheads.2) Additional points- The proposed budget must address wasteful spending such as consultants and backroom costs as these are recurring and inflate rates beyond what households can bear.- Practical frontline work that benefits all Aucklanders (like essential maintenance) should be prioritised over 'pet projects' with limited broad benefit.- If necessary pursue organisational change and a hiring freeze to realise savings across payroll and consultancy aligning with the goal of keeping rates rises to a more affordable level.I request alternative budgeting that caps the rate rise to around 3% by trimming non-essential spending and refocusing 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:

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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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

#9191

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% and urge the Council to pursue significant cost reductions before asking households to bear higher bills.Key concerns and constructive proposals:- The proposed 7.9% increase sums to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (well above general inflation). The rate increase should be aligned with inflation not funded by ratepayers alone.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cut spending on consultancy and professional services. The current levels are excessive relative to essential services.- The Food

Scraps Programme is a discretionary cost of $36 million per year and according to the Alliance briefing emits more carbon than it saves. It should be cancelled or replaced with higher-practor initiatives.- 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.- Maori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to Ngā Mātārae (Maori Outcomes) should be reconsidered as a core local government responsibility; limiting this spend will help prevent rate rises that burden households.The Alliance's alternative budget suggests reducing new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) enabling a cap of roughly a 3% rates rise. Specific savings would come from:- $50 million reduction in personnel costs via organisational change and hiring freezes.- $50 million cap on consultant spending.- $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation.- $20 million prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.I request that the Council prioritise essential services pursue these savings and present a transparent plan showing how a more modest rates outcome can be achieved without sacrificing core infrastructure and community services.Closing:I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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	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

#9194

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 points1) I oppose the 7.9% average residential rates increase. The proposed increase translates to about $320 for the average household on top of a history of rising costs since 2010 where rates have increased 85% against a background of only 34% inflation and 22% population growth. A rate rise well above inflation is not justified by current performance.2) The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cut spending on consultancy and professional services instead of continuing to increase these items.3) The Food Scraps Programme should be cancelled. It 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 would save at least $17 million immediately.5) Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year spent on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a role of local government.Alternative budget approachRatepayers' Alliance proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (a 2% reduction) to cap the average residential rates increase at about 3%. This would be achieved by:- $50 million from personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze- $50 million by capping spending on consultants- $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation- $20 million by prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grantsClosingI urge the Council to adopt a more accountable cost-conscious budget that protects essential services while preserving affordability for households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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	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

#9200

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to urge a substantial reduction in wasteful Council spending. The current ratepayers are already bearing a real increase in costs while inflation has outpaced Council efficiency gains.Key concerns:- The 7.9% average increase translates to about $320 more for the average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 (in 2022 dollars) and a cumulative inflation of around 12%. This is unsustainable for ratepayers and inconsistent with responsible budgeting.- The proposed breakdown shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs. I support prioritising essential services and reducing non-essential

expenditure to cap rate rises.- The Council has spent heavily on consultants and backroom functions: $126 million per year across the group with an average consultant pay of about $200k plus high payroll costs and a large number of six-figure salaries. I call for a freeze on non-essential hires and a reduction in personnel and contractor costs to avoid wasteful spending.- I oppose ongoing Māori-specific spend such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Maori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). Local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary programmes.- The Food Scraps Programme costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves. I urge cancellation of this programme as a more efficient use of ratepayer funds.Proposed alternative budget (aligning with ratepayer interests):- Reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping the average rate rise to about 3%: - Freeze non-essential staffing and cut payroll costs. - Cap consultant spending and renegotiate contracts. - Consolidate vendors and focus on essential services over discretionary grants.Additional points:We were told the rates would rise by 7.9%. If this is the outcome I believe Council leadership should resign for failing to honour community expectations.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

#9202

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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. Overall rate proposalI oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. This level is above inflation and effectively a real tax grab on households with the typical household facing an increase of about $320 per year. Rates have risen 85 percent since the 2010 amalgamation far outstripping inflation and population growth; Aucklanders deserve restraint and better value for money.2. Expenditure reductions to enable a lower rates increaseThe Council must reduce wasteful spending in corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs. There is an urgent need to slow the growth of personnel costs and to limit consultancy and professional services which

have surged while delivering unclear public value. The Council should pursue organisational change a hiring freeze for non-essential roles and reductions in external advies and contractor use.3. Specific program and spending reformsI oppose continuing the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves. Aligning with this I support freezing staff recruitment for non-essential vacancies and cutting back payroll costs so that savings can be redirected to essential services rather than expanding overheads.4. Māori Outcomes spendingI oppose allocating around $10 million per year to the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as a non-core local government function. This money should be redirected to statutory and essential services within Auckland Council's core mandate.5. Alternative budgeting to meet a lower rate outcomeThe Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap rates increases at about 3%:- $50 million from personnel costs via organisational changes and a hiring freeze- $50 million from capped consultancy spend- $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation- $20 million from prioritising statutory services over discretionary grantsClosingI urge the Council to adopt these prudent efficiency measures and re-budget toward essential services thereby keeping rates sustainable for households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	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

#9216

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: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong opposition to the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and in support of meaningful spending restraint across council and CCOs.Key positions1) Oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% (approximately $320 for the average household). This is not affordable when the real increase since 2022 already stands at about 30% in 2022 dollars far outpacing cumulative inflation (about 12%). Rates have risen 85% since the 2010 Super City amalgamation with growth outstripping population increases and inflation.2) Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and cut consultancy and

professional services. The Alliance highlights annual consultant spend of $126 million across the group and payroll/contractor costs that have grown well beyond inflation; this is an area ripe for restraint.3) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme estimated at $36 million per year which emits more carbon than it saves. This aligns with prioritising essential statutory services over discretionary initiatives.4) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. The Council should cap staffing growth if it cannot demonstrate essential public benefit.5) Cut Māori-specific spending including the stated $10 million per year for the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) arguing that this is not a local government core responsibility.Additional pointsAs a rural ratepayer I bear extraordinary costs with limited benefits: potholes insufficient roading lack of footpaths street lighting drains and sewerage in many areas. I am willing to pay for what I use but not for perceived incompetence or misallocation of funds. Accountability for poor decisions and lost money must improve; in any other sector customers can choose not to support wasteful practices.Recommended budget approachThe Alliance suggests reducing new council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap rates at around 3% by prioritising essential services and curbing discretionary expenditure.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
	Local parks, community and recreation services – local parks, sports fields and other physical recreation services, libraries, community centres and services, and funding community-led initiatives.
	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

#9237

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 of 7.9 percent. A rise of this level is not affordable for many households and represents a real increase well beyond inflation. The current average rates bill is already $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 a 30 percent increase in real terms since 2022 while inflation has risen about 12 percent. The proposed 7.9 percent breakdownâ€2 percent for maintaining assets 1.5 percent for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4 percent for CRL operating costsâ€reads as a continuing unaffordable squeeze on households.I urge the Council to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and to cut

spend on consultancy and professional services. The Alliance briefing shows consultant spending at about $126 million per year across the Council group with the average consultant earning around $200k. Direct payroll costs are high and personnel costs and other expenses have grown faster than inflation. A real pause and reset on non-essential spending is warranted.I support cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and purportedly saves carbon but the net impact appears uncertain. I also support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. Additionally I advocate cutting Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on Ngā Mātārae (Maori Outcomes) noting it is not a core local government function.To align with a more efficient taxpayer-focused approach I support the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap rates at around 3 percent. This would come from reducing personnel costs capping consultants renegotiating contracts consolidating vendors and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.Last year my rates rose 39% and now you propose another 7â€9% increase. When will promises made before the last Local Body elections be honoured?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

#9245

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: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

This submission is made in a strong and direct tone opposing the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and calling for decisive reductions in wasteful Council spending.I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of 30 percent well above cumulative inflation. The proposed 7.9 percent increase comprises 2% to maintain assets 1.5% for growth in new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This level of growth is unsustainable for households already facing above-inflation rises.The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions

across the Council and CCOs and cut spend on consultancy and professional services. Annual consultant spend is $126 million across the Council group with the average consultant earning about $200000. Direct payroll and contractor costs total about $1.9 billion in staff and external services while core operating expenditure rose at twice the rate of inflation from 2022 to 2025. These patterns indicate room to improve efficiency before asking ratepayers to shoulder higher bills.I support the proposed Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping average residential rates increase at 3 percent. This should be achieved by: (i) freezing non-essential hires and reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant roles; (ii) capping consultancy spend; (iii) renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors; (iv) prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.I also oppose several discretionary programmes that inflate costs. Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (approximately $36 million/year) and the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) spending of about $10 million/year as these are not proper local government responsibilities. Stop redesigning streets stop eliminating on-street car parking and remove unnecessary speed bumps.Closing: I request that Council adopt substantial spending restraint and avoid further ratepayer burden favouring core services and prudent budgeting. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9270

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 consultation response to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for substantial reductions in wasteful Council spending while protecting core statutory services.Key position- Oppose the 7.9% average residential rates increase and instead support limiting rate rises to around 3% by cutting non-core and discretionary spending. The current average residential bill is $4069 and since 2012 rates have risen by about 85% in real terms far outstripping inflation and population growth. The 7.9% proposal represents another step in this unsustainable trajectory.Supporting reforms- Reduce corporate and backroom expenditure across

the Council and CCOs to restore value-for-money.- Curb spending on consultancy and professional services; freeze or cap these costs rather than continuing a growth trend.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and in our assessment emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could deliver immediate savings of at least $17 million.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year on the Māori Outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) portfolio on the basis that this is not a core local government function.- Implement the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap rate increases at about 3% by prioritising essential services renegotiating contracts consolidating vendors and avoiding duplicative roles.Additional perspectiveSaving a few million here and there will not fix the budget. Until we fully restructure the entity remove non-core services and stop duplications across CCOs we are merely applying bandâ€‘aid solutions to a broken system. A leaner better-targeted organisation will better serve residents and restore public trust.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

#9289

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 of 7.9 percent (about $320 for the average household). Since 2022 residential rates have already risen by 30 percent in real terms versus 12 percent inflation so this is completely unacceptable. The proposed breakdown shows 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs and 2 percent for maintaining existing assets with 1.5 percent for new assets as {address redacted} grows. This is excessive given the Council's track record on wasteful non-logical spending.I urge the Council to reduce the currently excessive expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and to curb consultancy and professional

services. The Alliance highlights annual consultancy spending of $126 million across the Council group including $60 million by the {address redacted} Council itself with average consultants earning around $200000. THis consultancy spending often leads to no positive outcome for {address redacted} residents anyway.Direct operating expenditure has grown 78 percent from 2013 to 2023 well above inflation while staff costs and 'other expenses' have risen faster than inflation since 2022. Payroll alone is $1.3 billion with $590 million spent on consultants and contractors and 18 corporate and business support functions costing $868.4 million in direct expenditure. These are unacceptable drivers leading to an unfair rates outcome.I support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which should save at least $17 million immediately. I also support capping spending on consultants at $50 million and substantial contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation to save a further $30 million. Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants is essential.I oppose continued or expanded spending on Māori-specific programs such as the Ngā Mātārae (Māori outcomes) allocation of roughly $10 million per year arguing this is not a function of local government. Noting this kind of spending benefits the few as opposed the many.In addition I want any discretionary expenditure in areas like marina programs and underwater hull inspections reviewed for jurisdiction legitimacy. I do not wish to speak 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

#9292

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 evidence-based submission to oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to urge that wasteful spending be cut.Key points- The proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% is well above both inflation and population-driven needs. For the average household this equates to about $320 more per year on top of a 30% real increase since 2022 when accounting for inflation.- The rate rise is currently allocated as: 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. There is little evidence in these figures that either debt or operating efficiency has been prioritised over

ratepayer relief.Position and supporting arguments- I support reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance reports annual consultant spending of $126 million across the Council group with the average consultant earning around $200k plus payroll costs of $1.3 billion and $590 million in consultants and contractors. This is not a shrinking-into-balance model for residents.- I oppose continued growth in consultancy and professional services. The spend growth has outstripped both inflation and population growth and must be halted or reversed as a first step to rate relief.- I oppose the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and is claimed to save carbon. If the programme is not delivering net savings it should be cancelled to free funds for essential services.- I support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- I oppose ongoing Māori-specific spend such as the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). Local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary programmes.Alternative budget proposal- Reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the average rate increase at around 3% by: cutting personnel costs freezing non-essential hires; capping consultants; renegotiating contracts and consolidating vendors; and prioritising essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI request to speak at hearings to present these points in more detail. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rank	Area
	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

#9409

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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% and in support of cost reductions across the Council group to avoid rate increases above inflation.Key points- The proposed 7.9% increase equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30% real increase since 2022. This is unaffordable for many households and does not reflect restrained household budgets or the need for value for money.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and cut spend on consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to grow these items.- The Food Scraps Programme

should be cancelled. At $36 million per year it costs substantial money and reportedly 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.- Māori-specific spending should be rebalanced; the $10 million per year spent on the 'Maori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) is not a function of local government and should be reduced.From the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing a prudent approach is to implement a targeted reduction in new spending of around $150 million which would cap the average rate rise to about 3%:- $50 million from personnel costs via organisational change and a hiring freeze.- $50 million from capping consultancy and professional services.- $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation.- $20 million from prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.I urge the Council to adopt this fiscally responsible approach rather than pressing ahead with a near-8% increase. The cases for reform are strong: personnel costs rising outsourcing and consultancy costs escalating and non-core programmes consuming substantial funds. A leaner more efficient Council will deliver better value for ratepayers.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

- **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
	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

#9410

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 views on the proposed 2026/27 annual plan and the around 7.9% average residential rates increase.I oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% and request that council prioritise responsible budgeting to keep rates closer to inflation or below. The current plan would add roughly $320 per household on top of rapid long-run cost growth. Since 2010 rates have risen 85% far outpacing inflation and population growth. A significant portion of the proposed rise funds existing asset maintenance (2%) new assets (1.5%) and CRL operating costs (4.4%). Given this I support reallocating funding toward essential services and sound financial management rather than

sustained growth in rates.I agree that the Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions and cut the spend on consultancy and professional services. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance figures show consultant costs of about $126 million per year across the Council group and $590 million spent on consultants and contractors with many six-figure salaries. A freeze on non-essential roles and an immediate reduction of payroll costs would yield tangible savings. I support capping consultancy expenditure and pursuing supplier and vendor consolidation to improve value for ratepayers.In place of price rises I support the Ratepayers' Alliance plan to curb spending by about $150 million (2%) delivering a cap of around 3% on the average rates increase. This includes: 1) freezing non-essential vacancies; 2) reducing payroll costs; 3) renegotiating contracts; and 4) prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants. I also oppose Māori-specific spending such as the $171 million allocated over 10 years to the Māori Outcomes department arguing that this is not a core local government function.I note additional concerns about expenditure that seems unproductive such as cameras on temporary lanes and reinstalled artwork on the Eastern Busway which appear to be vanity projects or non-essential spend.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
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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

#9437

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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. This represents approximately $320 for the average household and when viewed in real terms since 2022 these increases have significantly outpaced inflation while failing to deliver commensurate value.Key concerns and positions:- The proposed 7.9% increase is not affordable. The 2022â€2026 period has seen the real rate rise of about 30% (in 2022 dollars) versus 12% inflation a clear misalignment with household budgets and the needs of ratepayers.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb the

growth of consultancy and professional services instead of persistently increasing these items.- I support cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and according to independent assessments emits more carbon than it saves.- Staff costs must be restrained. Freeze hiring for vacant non-essential roles to save at least $17 million immediately; and seek substantial reductions in payroll costs where possible.- Reallocate resources away from discretionary programmes toward essential statutory services. In particular the current level of spending on Māori outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) at around $10 million per year is not a core local government responsibility and should be reconsidered.- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget suggests reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) thereby capping the rate rise to around 3% through targeted reductions: personnel costs cap on consultants contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.You were elected on a promise to cut waste and control spending. Please stick to that.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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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

#9441

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key concerns- The proposed average 7.9% increase is excessive. With the current average residential bill at $4069 and a real rise since 2022 of 30% ratepayers cannot shoulder further inflationary pressure. The breakdown shows 4.4% allocated to CRL operating costs on top of 2% for assets and 1.5% for growth.- Expenditure at the wrong end of the budget. Council spending on consultants is $126 million per year across the group with the Auckland Council parent accounting for $60 million and an average consultant paid around $200000. Direct operating expenditure and staff costs have grown far faster than inflation while payroll remains excessive.- Wasteful backroom

spending and non-core programmes. I oppose continuing to fund discretionary items over essential services. The aggressive growth in corporate and business support functions and the sheer scale of consultant and contractor use must be curbed.Proposed savings and policy changes- Ratepayer relief: adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance option to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) capping average residential rates at about 3% through targeted cuts.- Freeze or reduce payroll: halt non-essential hires and freeze vacancies to save at least $17 million immediately.- Reduce consultancy and professional services: cap and renegotiate contracts; consolidate vendors to save around $50 million.- Reprioritise budgets: cut discretionary grants in favour of statutory and essential services; reallocate funds away from non-core programmes including the proposed Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year.- Targeted reductions: suspend or scale back Māori-focused spending such as the $10 million per year on the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori Outcomes' department noting that this is not a primary local government function.Additional pointsWayne Brown's administration has coincided with increased staff salaries and outsourcingâ€these trends must reverse to restore ratepayer trust. The CRL project and related costs must be scrutinised and ratepayers should not bear unfunded projects.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

#9442

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 of 7.9% and urge cuts to wasteful Council spending to protect households from a continued real-terms rate burden.Key concerns and recommendations- The proposed 7.9% increase translates to about $320 for the average household on top of a 30% real rates rise since 2022 (in 2022 dollars) far outpacing cumulative inflation. I cannot support rate rises at this level when core financial drivers favour expenditure restraint.- A substantial portion of the cost rise is tied to CRL operating costs (4.4%) new asset funding (1.5%) and maintenance of existing assets (2%). A more prudent approach would prioritise essential

services and efficiency before increasing rates.- The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance proposes a targeted $150 million reduction in new Council spending (about 2%) to cap the rate rise at 3%. This includes: - Reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze: $50 million - Capping spending on consultants and professional services: $50 million - Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: $30 million - Prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants: $20 million- Specific reductions I support include: - Reducing corporate and backroom/CCO functions and cutting consultant spend to address escalating costs. - Cancelling the Food Scraps Programme costing about $36 million/year and reportedly delivering limited net carbon savings. - Freezing staffing or reducing payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. - Cutting Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) where local government roles may be unnecessary.Additional observation- Return to core priorities and restraint on non-essential initiatives as promised by leadership with a broad approach to achieve at least a 20% cost reduction across the board to improve organisational culture and affordability.I urge the Council to prioritise responsible stewardship of ratepayer funds and undertake a transparent targeted spend reduction before seeking higher 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.)

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

#9444

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 percent. The average household would see about $320 more per year on top of a real rates increase of 30 percent since 2022 (in 2022 dollars) while cumulative inflation has been 12 percent. Given this and the lack of evidence that such increased revenue is being matched by commensurate efficiency gains I urge a rethink towards substantial savings and a lower rate rise.I urge the Council to implement meaningful reductions in expenditure across corporate and backroom functions for both the Council and CCOs. In particular I support reducing spend on consultants and professional services and pursuing

stronger contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation. The current level of spending on consultants payroll costs and related 'other expenses' has grown well beyond inflation and a disciplined cost-reduction program is essential.I support cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and in my view emits more carbon than it saves. I also support freezing staffing and/or not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants should guide budget decisions.I oppose further growth in Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae); I do not see a clear local-government mandate for this spend and funds could instead stabilise essential services.Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget aligns with these aims by proposing a $150 million reduction in new Council spending (2%) capping average rates increases at around 3 percent. This includes targeted personnel cost reductions consultant caps and vendor consolidations.In summary I request a lower rates increase and a program of targeted efficiency measures to restore affordability and ensure core services are protected.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

#9481

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 voice opposing the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and urging decisive restraint on wasteful Council spending.1. Rates and value for moneyThe proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% is well above acceptable limits. The current average rates bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 representing a real increase of 30% since 2022 far exceeding overall inflation (about 12%). While some costs are for essential assets and growth 4.4% of the increase covers CRL operating costs and the remaining 3.5% reflects asset maintenance and new assets. A tighter services-focused approach is required.2. Spend efficiency and backroom

costsThe Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. Spending on consultants runs at about $126 million per year across the group with the Auckland Council parent accounting for $60 million and an average consultant pay of around $200k. Direct operating expenditure has risen far faster than inflation (78% 2013â€2023). It is essential to cut personnel costs and backroom expenditure to stabilise rates.3. Specific programme and payroll reforms- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles; this alone 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.4. Alternative budget and prioritiesAdopt the Ratepayers' Alliance approach: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) cap average rates to about 3% through targeted reductions in personnel costs consultant spend contract renegotiations and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.ClosingI urge the Council to adopt a disciplined value-for-money approach prioritising essential services and reducing wasteful spending to protect households from unaffordable 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.)

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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

#9490

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 write to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and to advocate for reducing wasteful Council spending. The proposed rise would amount to about $320 for the average household on top of an already high bill of $4069 with a real increase of 30% since 2022 in the face of only 12% cumulative inflation. I urge a different path that protects basic services while eliminating waste.I agree with and request that the Council:1) Oppose the 7.9% increase; aim for a far lower rise by cutting non-essential costs.2) Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.3) Cut the spend on consultancy and professional

services rather than permitting continual growth in these items.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.5) Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.6) Cut Māori-specific spend including the roughly $10 million per year on the Maori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) arguing that this is not a local-government core function.In addition the Council should deliver a credible alternative budget aligned with the Ratepayers' Alliance plan: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) thereby capping the rates rise at around 3%. This includes $50 million saved from personnel costs via organisational change and hiring freezes $50 million from capping consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million by prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.Given the current economic pressures on households rates rises must be restrained to preserve home ownership prospects and the overall affordability of living in Auckland. The Council should demonstrate fiscal prudence deliver core services efficiently and stop funding measures that do not align with statutory responsibilities.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

#9499

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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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

I submit to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent and to set out a path for reducing wasteful Council spending.- The proposed rate rise is excessive. The 7.9% increase translates to about $320 for the average household on top of a real increase in rates since 2022 of 30 percent (versus 12 percent headline inflation). I oppose an annual increase above inflation and urge Council to target more affordable essential services.- Reduce corporate and backroom costs. The Council group's high spend on corporate and backroom functions should be cut. A leaner organisation will deliver core services more efficiently and reduce the need for rates increases.- Cut

consultancy and professional services. Spending on consultants and contractors is excessive and unsustainable. Capping these costs and prioritising in-house capability will help stabilise rates.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. The programme costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves; it should be stopped.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs. Not hiring for vacant non-essential roles would immediately save at least $17 million and slow ongoing payroll growth.- Cut Māori-specific spending. The $10 million annually on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) should not be an ongoing local-government expense given the core statutory duties of council.Alternative budget context: The Ratepayers' Alliance proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) which would cap the average rate rise at roughly 3% by focusing on: $50 million savings from personnel costs via organisational changes and hiring freezes; $50 million from consultant spend; $30 million through contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; and $20 million by prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants. These steps would meaningfully restrain rate rises while preserving essential functions.I request that Council consider these measures seriously and reflect them in the final plan ensuring affordability for households and taxpayers.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

#9507

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: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a personal and sincere capacity to oppose the proposed average 7.9 percent residential rates increase and to advocate for practical reductions in wasteful Council spending. The proposed rise would add about $320 per household and comes on the back of a long trend of rising costs that outpace inflation.Key concerns and asks- oppose the average residential rates increase by at least 7.9 percent. The current trajectory since the 2010 amalgamation has seen rates rise 85 percent well above inflation and population growth. I urge a rates plan aligned with inflation and local needs not a continued budgetary drag on households.- reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office

functions across the Council and CCOs. There is an opportunity to slim non-core spending without harming essential services.- reduce spend on consultancy and professional services. I support capping or trimming these costs to deliver essential services more efficiently and to avoid perpetually rising headcount and contractor use.- cancel the Food Scraps Programme which is reportedly $36 million per year and emissions-heavy relative to its savings. Prioritise proven cost-effective waste management options that deliver tangible benefits to residents.- freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles. This could save at least $17 million right away and contribute to a more sustainable long-term budget.- cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae). Local government must prioritise statutory and essential services and avoid unnecessary expenditure that targets specific groups rather than the whole community.Additional notesThese financial pressures affect everyone especially seniors on fixed incomes. Many long-time homeowners face affordability challenges and care for well-being must be central to budget choices.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9540

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 as a ratepayer who is concerned about the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase. I oppose an increase of this magnitude and urge the Council to reduce expenditure so that rates do not keep rising faster than inflation.Key points for consideration:- The proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% would add about $320 to the typical household bill on top of a 30% real increase since 2022. This level is unsustainable for many households and should be curbed.- The Council should reduce spending on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and halt the ongoing rise in consultancy and professional services. The

current level of consultant spend is excessive and wastes ratepayer funds.- I support cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and in my view 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.- I oppose further Māori-specific expenditure such as the $10 million per year on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) given that this is not a direct responsibility of local government.In line with the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget I urge the Council to reduce new spending by at least $150 million (a 2% reduction) to cap the average rate rise to around 3%. Specifically:- Reduce personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze.- Cap spending on consultants and professional services.- Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to achieve better value.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance data show that personnel costs consultants and other expenses have grown faster than inflation and population growth. A disciplined approach to spending is needed to protect households and deliver core services effectively.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

(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

#9542

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% and call for a substantial tightening of Council spending before any rate rise is accepted.Key points- The 7.9% rise equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a current average bill of $4069. Since 2022 rates have risen 30% in real terms while overall inflation is around 12% well outpacing residents' ability to pay.- The increase is broken down as 2% to maintain existing assets 1.5% for new assets as the city grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This structure warrants scrutiny given the Council's large persistent cost escalations.- Spending on consultants remains excessive: $126 million per year across the

Council group with the average consultant around $200k. Payroll and related staff costs have ballooned while efficiency gains appear insufficient.- There is a strong case to curb backroom and corporate functions across the Council and CCOs as well as to cap consultancy spend and renegotiate vendor contracts. The current trajectory is unsustainable for ratepayers.- The proposed alternative budget from the Ratepayers' Alliance suggests trimming $150 million in new Council spending to cap rates at around 3%: $50m saved from personnel costs via freeze or restructuring $50m from consultants $30m from contract renegotiations and $20m from prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.- It is inappropriate to continue high Māori-specific spending (such as the $10m/year on Ngā Mātārae) when local government obligations do not justify such expenditure.- An additional note: there has been no corresponding increase in superannuation to compensate for these changes so far.Agrees and asks- Oppose the 7.9% rate rise and demand substantial reductions in wasteful expenditure before any increase is approved.- Freeze non-essential hires to save at least $17 million immediately.- Reduce personnel consultants and backroom costs; renegotiate contracts; consolidate vendors.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.I submit this formal submission to oppose the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to advocate for substantial cuts to wasteful Council spending. The Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing shows that ratepayers are bearing far more than inflation while Council spending has grown substantially in areas that do not deliver essential services proportionate to the cost.Key points1) Rates increase and affordability- Proposed average residential rates increase: 7.9 percent (roughly $320 for the average household). The current average bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022. This represents a real increase of about 30 percent since 2022 versus 12 percent general inflation. I oppose an increase above inflation and urge a cap aligned with the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative.2) Spending reform to fund lower rates- Oppose further increases without decisive expenditure reform. The proposed 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs should be accompanied by real productivity gains and cost containment.- The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and reduce spend on consultancy and professional services.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- 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.3) Budget reframing- The Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2% reduction) to cap average residential rates increase at 3 percent. This is achievable through: $50 million from personnel costs via organisational changes and freezes; $50 million from limiting consultants; $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; and $20 million by prioritising statutory/essential services over discretionary grants.ClosingI urge Council to adopt a plan that prioritises essential services and real efficiency delivering meaningful rate relief to households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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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)

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

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Q5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term?
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Q5 Comment: What specific council activities or services do you most want us to prioritise, and why?

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9580

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a personal and sincere tone to express opposition to the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and to urge a realignment of Council spending towards essential services and value for money.1) Oppose the 7.9% average rates rise- The proposed increase translates to about $320 more per average household and represents a real-terms net rise well above inflation. Since 2012 rates have risen 85% far outpacing inflation and population growth. This level of increase is unjustified given the current fiscal pressures on households and small businesses.2) Reduce wasteful and non-core spending- I support reducing expenditure on corporate and backroom office

functions across the Council and CCOs.- I oppose rising spend on consultancy and professional services; these costs should be capped and outcomes clearly demonstrated.- I support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.3) Reconsider discretionary and targeted programmes- I support cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- I oppose taxpayer funding of Māori-specific programmes such as the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori outcomes' department at about $10 million per year arguing that these are not functions of local government.4) Additional context- New housing and development revenue should relieve rate pressure not necessitate further increases. It would be informative to know the additional rates collected after occupancies commence on new developments.5) Alternative budget approach- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget aligns with the above: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap rates at around 3% by cutting personnel costs capping consultants renegotiating contracts and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.ClosingI request that Auckland Council consider these savings measures and revise the proposed increase accordingly to protect households and business viability.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?

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Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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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

#9673

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 points1) Oppose the average 7.9% increase. This equates to roughly $320 more per household on top of a 30 percent real increase since 2022 (well above inflation). I cannot support rate rises that far outpace actual needs or growth.2) Scrutinise and reduce non-core spending. The Council must cut back on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and reduce consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to expand these line items. Current figures show $126 million per year in consultancy across the group including substantial fees to external advisers.3) Reconsider service delivery choices. Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which

costs about $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves. Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and boutique initiatives.4) Freeze staffing and cut payroll where possible. Halt non-essential hires and freeze vacancies to save money immediatelyâ€this aligns with the goal of saving at least $17 million right away.5) Rebalance funding away from specific programmes without clear local government mandate. The Council should cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year spent on the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) arguing that this is not a proper local government remit.6) About households' real pressures. Many families are already struggling to feed themselves and keep warm in winter; rate increases of this magnitude aggravate hardship.Alternative budget perspectiveThe Ratepayers' Alliance proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap the average residential rates increase at 3 percent. This would be achieved by: $50 million in personnel cost reductions through organisational change and a hiring freeze $50 million cap on consultants $30 million via contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million prioritising statutory and essential services.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.I submit in a detailed and evidence-based manner to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% and to advocate for reductions in wasteful Council spending.Key points1) Rates affordability and fairness. 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% cumulative inflation). This burden is not sustainable for households already struggling with cost of living pressures.2) Wasteful spend and backroom costs. The Council needs to reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and curb consultancy and professional services rather than allowing these items to rise further. Direct operating expenditure and staff costs have grown far faster than inflation with payroll reaching about $1.3 billion and consultants $590 million.3) Specific cost-saving measures aligned to the submitter's positions. - Cancel the Food Scraps Programme (costs about $36 million/year and reportedly 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 such as the $10 million/year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a function of local government.- Cancel or scale back unnecessary outsourced services and renegotiate contracts with vendor consolidation to achieve savings.4) Alternative budget alignment. I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance view to reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2% reduction) thereby capping average residential rates increases at around 3%. This would be achieved through the measures above plus prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.Supporting considerations- Higher rates exacerbate hardship including risk to health if households forego essentials like dental and medical care.- A more disciplined needs-based budget better serves Auckland's growth and climate obligations without disproportionately burdening ratepayers.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

- **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

#9700

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 rates bill is around $4069 and since 2022 rates have risen by about 30% in real terms far outpacing ordinary inflation. A 7.9% increase is unreasonable when current Council spending shows clear opportunities to cut waste and refocus spending on essential services.I support the following positions:- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs.- Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services rather than permitting continual increases.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs around $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 could save at least $17 million right away.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million/year allocated to the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a core local government function.In line with these points the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) to cap the average residential rates increase at 3%. This would be achieved by:- $50 million savings from personnel costs through organisational changes and a hiring freeze.- $50 million savings from capping consultancy and professional services.- $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation.- $20 million from prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.The proposed 7.9% increase with 4.4% for CRL operating costs and other allocations exacerbates a long trend of rate increases well above inflation and population growth since 2010. There should be a clear evidence-based reallocation of resources to protect essential services while avoiding wasteful spend.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rank	Area
	Economic development and events – growing Auckland's economy and supporting events, tourism and creative industries.
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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

#9705

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 burden on households already reflects a substantial real increase since 2022 and rates have risen 85% since the Super City amalgamation far outpacing both inflation and population growth.Key points- The proposed 7.9% rise translates to about $320 extra per average household on top of a current average bill of $4069. This represents a real squeeze on households that cannot be ignored.- A substantial portion of the increase is driven by operating costs for the CRL and by growth-related spending. The Council should prioritise core statutory and essential services over discretionary or back-office costs.- I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance plan to cap rates

increases by reducing new and ongoing expenditure by at least $150 million across the Council and CCOs delivering: - $50 million savings from freezing/hiring limits to non-essential roles and organisational changes. - $50 million from capping consulting and professional services. - $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation. - $20 million from prioritising essential services over discretionary grants.- There are clear opportunities to reduce wasteful spending: - Cut spending on consultants and back-office functions. - Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing about $36 million per year and emitting more carbon than it saves. - Freeze staffing or reduce payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles (estimated immediate savings of at least $17 million). - Reduce Māori-specific spending such as the roughly $10 million/year on Ngā Mātārae which should be a local government priority only if aligned with statutory obligations.- Other structural pressuresâ€such as personnel costs and 'other expenses' rising well ahead of inflationâ€underscore the need for organisational change now not higher rates.Additional point- The amount I currently pay is around $9k; I expect better value from Council for that expenditure and reject any further rate increases without meaningful reform.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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- **Our 2027–2037 long-term plan, which will set funding priorities for regional and local priorities listed below.**

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9711

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

Key points:- The proposed 7.9% increase represents about $320 more per average household on top of a current average bill of $4069. This is a real burden for households especially retirees and families on modest incomes.- The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and scale back consultancy and professional services rather than continuing to increase these line items.- The Food Scraps Programme costing $36 million per year should be cancelled as it does not deliver net carbon savings and adds to costs borne by ratepayers.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential

roles; this alone could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) a function I do not view as the role of local government.- The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget suggests reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2% reduction) capping the rate increase to around 3% by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and by revising vendor contracts and consolidating services.Additional context:- Since 2010 rates have risen 85% while population grew about 22% and inflation around 34%â€a trajectory that risks unaffordability for many residents.- Personnel costs consultants and other expenses have grown well ahead of inflation indicating a need for smarter cost management and prioritisation.The first priority must be affordability. KEEP YOUR PROMISE to keep rates from becoming unaffordable for households across Te Atatu Peninsula and greater Auckland.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)

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9719

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in a personal and sincere tone to oppose the proposed 7.9% average residential rates increase and to urge a focused reduction in wasteful spending.I oppose the average 7.9% rates increase which equates to about $320 extra for the average household. I note that the current average bill is $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of 30% while general inflation runs around 12%. I request the Council to cap rate rises at or near 3% by implementing meaningful savings.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget and ask the Council to implement these savings immediately:1) Reduce personnel costs by freezing non-essential hiring and trimming

payroll saving at least $17 million.2) Cap spending on consultants and professional services saving about $50 million.3) Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to achieve a further $30 million in savings.4) Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million.In addition I urge the immediate cancellation of the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and is claimed to emit more carbon than it saves. I also call for a reduction in corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs where current spending is excessive relative to outcomes. The proposal to spend $10 million per year on Māori outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) should be reconsidered given the argument that this is not a core local-government function.I acknowledge the broader context of rate increases since amalgamation and the need to fund essential projects while avoiding waste. If more sustainable funding for residents is achievable through these reforms I favour it.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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	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

#9748

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong opposition to the proposed 7.9 percent average residential rates increase and urge decisive reductions in wasteful Council spending to protect households during a cost of living and fuel crisis.I oppose the proposed 7.9% average increase. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 up from $2781 in 2022 with a real increase since 2022 of 30% against 12% inflation. The breakdown shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs 2% for maintaining assets and 1.5% for new assets. This rate rise is therefore not justifiable as a simple inflation adjustment. We must prioritise efficiency before asking residents to fund government growth.The Council must reduce wasteful

spending especially in corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs including consultants and contractors. Auckland's annual consultant spend sits at $126 million across the Council group with the average consultant receiving around $200k. Direct operating expenditure and personnel costs have risen well ahead of inflation while payroll and contractor costs remain a major burden. We should reinvest in essential services not bloated administrative layers.I support cancelling wasteful programmes such as the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and has questionable carbon savings. I also support freezing staffing or reducing payroll by not filling non-essential vacancies which could save at least $17 million immediately. We must curb discretionary and Māori-specific spending; for example the $10 million/year allocated to the Maori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) should be reassessed as a local government function.I urge a prudent 'go back to basics' approach: restructure to improve efficiency halt unnecessary headcount growth renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to save significant sums. Wayne Brown promised to keep rates down; residents voted to trust that promise. It is time to deliver by cutting waste and reining in spending not by raising rates again.I would also urge the Council to prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and to cap the rate rise to a more sustainable level shaped by real cost drivers.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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N/A

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

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

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

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

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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

#9798

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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 an already high current average bill of $4069 and a real increase since 2022 of about 30 percent rates need to be restrained to reflect actual value and affordability for households. The proposed breakdownâ€2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costsâ€does not address the urgency of household cost pressure.The Council must reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and reduce spend on consultancy and professional services. Data shows $126 million per year on consultants

across the group with the average consultant earning around $200000. Direct operating expenditure and personnel costs have risen far faster than inflation which is unsustainable for ratepayers.I also urge cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves. In addition freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately. We must prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants and non-core programmes.Furthermore cut Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae); this is not a core local government function and funds should be redirected to essential services that benefit all residents.A responsible alternative budget approach is needed. Reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) could cap the rate rise at around 3 percent by: $50 million from personnel costs through sensible organisational changes and hiring freezes; $50 million from consultants; $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; and $20 million by prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.It's simply not possible to continue to hike rates; households are squeezed as it is.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

#9872

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 to oppose the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9 percent and to urge a substantial reduction in wasteful Council spending. The current average residential rates bill is $4069 with real increases since 2022 of about 30 percentâ€well above the 12 percent cumulative inflation. The proposed 7.9 percent rise is not acceptable in these circumstances.Clearly the ratepayer burden can be lowered without compromising essential services. The Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget provides a practical path: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2 percent) to cap residential rate increases at around 3 percent. This would be achieved by:-

Reducing personnel costs through organisational changes and a hiring freeze: $50 million- Capping spending on consultants: $50 million- Contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation: $30 million- Prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants: $20 millionKey concerns and suggested actions include:- Oppose the 7.9 percent increase with stronger emphasis on controlling backroom and corporate functions. Spending on consultants and contractors is $590 million while personnel costs are a major driver of rising operating costs. The payroll burden (1.3 billion) and six-figure salaries for many staff remain unsustainable in the context of ratepayer pain.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and reduce payroll by not filling non-essential vacancies which would deliver immediate savings of at least $17 million.- Reconsider Māori-focused spend such as the Ngā Mātārae (Māori outcomes) department reportedly around $10 million per year as this is not a core local government function.- Reduce the spend on consultants and professional services which have risen rapidly and do not consistently demonstrate value for money.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary projects to align with ratepayer interests.I request that these considerations be reflected in the council's final plan and that the council provide a transparent accounting of savings identified and retained in any revised budget.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

#9897

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I request the Council to prioritise prudent budgeting over rate hikes that outpace inflation and burden households.Key concerns and positions1) Rates increase: The proposed average rise of 7.9% equates to about $320 for the average household on top of a current average bill of $4069. The real increase since 2022 is 30% (in 2022 dollars) while overall inflation is around 12%. This is unaffordable for many ratepayers and undermines confidence in Council fiscal stewardship. I support capping the rate rise to around 3% through aggressive cost reductions.2) Wasteful and outsized spend: The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions

across the Council and CCOs and curb consultancy and professional services instead of continuing to grow these lines. Spending on consultants is about $126 million per year across the Council group with the average consultant around $200k. Direct operating expenditure and payroll costs have risen far faster than inflation in recent years.3) Specific program and staffing reforms: I support cancelling non-essential programs that do not align with core statutory responsibilities such as the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves. I also support freezing staffing or reducing payroll by not filling vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.4) Prioritisation and Māori outcomes spend: I oppose further expansion of discretionary Māori-specific spending such as the Ngā Mātārae/'Māori outcomes' budget of about $10 million per year arguing it is not a core local government function when considering statutory and essential services.Alternative budget framingRatepayer relief can be achieved by reducing new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) including: $50 million by personnel cost reductions through organisational changes and a hiring freeze; $50 million by capping consultants; $30 million through contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; and $20 million by prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.ClosingI urge the Council to adopt a disciplined budget that protects essential services while reducing waste and non-essential spending and to set a realistic affordable rates path for Auckland households.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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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.
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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

#9901

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: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I note the Council's plan implies an average rates rise of about $320 for the typical household on a current average bill of $4069. Since 2022 the real increase is 30% in rates far outpacing cumulative inflation. The proposed 7.9% increase comprises 2% to maintain existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This level of spend growth is out of step with residents' finances and warrants substantial restraint.I support the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance's call to reduce wasteful Council expenditure. Specifically:- Reduce personnel costs by freezing vacancies and not hiring for non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.-

Cut spending on consultants and professional services which total approximately $126 million across the Council group with the Auckland Council parent accounting for about $60 million; the average consultant cost is around $200k.- Reduce corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs and renegotiate contracts to curb outsourcing and vendor fragmentation.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme cited as costing $36 million per year while delivering limited net carbon savings.- Freeze or reduce Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year on the Māori Outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) noting this is not a typical local-government mandate.- Rebalance priorities to prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.The Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget suggests reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) thereby capping the average residential rates increase at about 3%. This includes the savings measures above and a focus on efficiency rather than expanding overheads.I request that the Council consider a more incremental and evidence-based approach to rate setting prioritising core services and delivering value to ratepayers before approving any increase approaching 8% on average.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?

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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

#9906

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 proposed 7.9% increase effectively amounts to roughly $320 extra for the average household on top of a real increase in rates since 2022 of about 30% (compared with 12% inflation). The breakdown shows 2% for maintaining existing assets 1.5% for new assets as Auckland grows and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. This is insufficient justification for a rate rise that far outstrips inflation.I Agrees with the following measures:- Oppose the 7.9% average residential rates increase; aim to keep increases below inflation and where possible closer to 3% overall as proposed by ratepayers' advocates.- 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 allow continual growth of these items.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and in my view emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year spent on the 'Māori outcomes' department (Ngā Mātārae) as this is not a function of local government.Additional points:- The rate increase should be below inflation with a clear measure of productivity improvements against stakeholder investment.- The Council should present verifiable productivity metrics to justify any ongoing expenditure.In closing I request consideration of the above cost-saving measures and a revised budget plan that prioritises essential services with a lower rate impact on households.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.

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#9925

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

This submission reflects the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance briefing and my own views.1. Rates increase and outturn- Oppose the average residential rates increase of 7.9% which equates to about $320 for the average household given that the current average rates bill is $4069 and real increases since 2022 have reached 30 percent (in 2022 dollars) against 12 percent cumulative inflation.- The breakdown shows 4.4% for CRL operating costs alongside 2% for maintaining existing assets and 1.5% for new assets. This level of overall growth is unsustainable for households already facing cost-of-living pressures.2. Wasteful spending and cost control- The Alliance's analysis highlights $126

million per year on consultants across the Council group with the average consultant earning around $200k and personnel costs rising faster than inflation. I support reducing spending on corporate and backroom office functions and capping consultant spend.- Payroll and other operating costs have increased sharply since 2022; direct operating expenditure grew 78% between 2013 and 2023 far exceeding cumulative inflation. I urge a rigorous review of payroll non-essential hires and discretionary expenditure.3. Specific spending reductions- Freeze non-essential hiring and review vacant roles not tied to frontline delivery; target immediate savings of at least $17 million.- Cap consultant and professional services expenditure; pursue contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation to save about $50 million.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants with a focus on reducing non-core spending including moderate reforms in targeted departments.4. Program review- I oppose ongoing expenditure on programmes that do not clearly demonstrate net benefits including the Food Scraps Programme and iwi handouts and advocate for prioritising core municipal functions.ClosingI request to speak at hearings to present these points in more detail. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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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

#9972

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 rise of 7.9 percent. With an average current bill of $4069 and a real increase since 2022 of 30 percent (versus 12 percent inflation) rate increases above inflation are unsustainable for households. The stated 7.9 percent includes 4.4 percent for CRL operating costs and 2 percent for maintaining assets plus 1.5 percent for new assets tied to growth. This allocation prioritises ongoing cost pressures over prudent restraint.I call for significant reductions in expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. The current structure shows 6123 staff on six-figure salaries with many positions paid well above the

mayor's level and a payroll approaching $1.3 billion alongside $590 million on consultants and contractors. Direct operating expenditure rose 78 percent from 2013 to 2023 far outpacing inflation. A leaner organisation is essential to curb rate rises.I further urge reducing consultancy and professional services. The Council spends about $126 million annually on consultants across the group with the Auckland Council parent accounting for a substantial share and typical consultant pay around $200000. A freeze or cap on external advice will help restore prudent budgeting.I support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately. This aligns with the need to prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary expenditure.I oppose continuing or expanding Māori-specific spending such as the $10 million per year allocated to the Māori Outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) department which I view as outside the core remit of local government.I acknowledge the proposal to avoid the Food Scraps programme is not a position I support; however my submission focuses on the above measures to achieve a 3 percent cap based on the Ratepayers' Alliance alternative budget.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

#9973

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: Devonport-Takapuna

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 of 7.9% and urge a program of reduced total expenditure aligned with Council's statutory duties and essential services only.Key positions1) Oppose the 7.9% rate rise. The rise comprises 2% to maintain existing assets 1.5% for growth-related assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. Since 2010 rates have risen by 85% outstripping inflation and population growth. A more modest increase is warranted.2) Reduce corporate and backroom spending. The Council and CCOs should scale down corporate and back-office functions to lower overall costs.3) Reduce consultancy and professional services. Freeze or cap spending on

consultants to curb discretionary spending that does not deliver essential public value.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. At $36 million per year it imposes emissions that exceed its savings; the programme should be halted.5) Freeze staffing and payroll costs. Freeze hiring for non-essential vacancies to save at least $17 million immediately.6) Cut Māori-specific spending. The $10 million/year allocated to the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) is not a local government core role and should be reviewed.Additional measures- Implement an immediate 10% reduction across all community boards and freeze all expenditure in nominal terms for the next three years to stabilise rates.Budgeting alternativeThe Ratepayers' Alliance proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) enabling a cap of ~3% on average residential rates. This includes: $50 million from personnel costs $50 million from consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations/vendor consolidation and $20 million by prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.I submit these points in a constructive solutions-focused manner and request careful consideration in the final plan.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

- **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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- **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

#9989

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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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 well above cumulative inflation. The proposed 7.9 percent splitâ€2% for existing assets 1.5% for new assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costsâ€fails to address wasteful spending and outsized payroll and consultancy commitments that drive up costs for households.I urge the Council to implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (about 2%) capping the average residential rates increase at 3 percent. This requires stronger action on: reducing personnel costs through organisational change and a freezing of non-

essential vacancies ($50 million); capping spending on consultants ($50 million); contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation ($30 million); and prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants ($20 million).Specific prudent reductions I endorse include:- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme costing about $36 million per year which emits more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs by not filling 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 allocated to the Māori outcomes department Ngā Mātārae as this is not a core local government function.Given the Council's personnel and consultant spend and the growth in operating costs since 2013 there is clear justification to reallocate funds toward essential services and infrastructure maintenance rather than expanding backroom operations and advisory contracts. The Council's payroll alone totals around $1.3 billion with substantial six-figure salaries and consultancy costs contributing to the rate burden on households.I request that the Council adopt a leaner budget and align rates growth 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:

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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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

#10013

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 reduction in wasteful and non-essential spend before any rate rises are approved. The current context shows rates have risen 85% since 2010 far above inflation while essential services face ongoing pressure. A more prudent path is needed.My positions are as follows:1) Oppose the 7.9% rate increase. The proposed rise is unsustainable for households already stretched by high living costs. I support reducing new Council spending and keeping rates closer to inflation with a target around 3% if possible.2) Reduce backroom and corporate spending. The Council should cut expenditure on corporate and backroom

functions across the Council and CCOs and urgently review staff structures to lower overheads.3) Cut consultancy and professional services. Freeze or sharply reduce spending on consultants and external contractors not perpetuating a budget cycle of rising external advice.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. There is a case to discontinue this project if it costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves.5) Freeze staffing or reduce payroll costs. Do not fill vacant non-essential roles; savings from this measure would be meaningful and immediate.6) Cut Māori-specific spending. I oppose continuing the $10 million/year spent on the Māori outcomes department (Ngā Mātārae) as a function of local government and I request clear justification for this spend within core statutory responsibilities.7) Alternative budget approach. I support reducing total Council spending by about $150 million (2%) enabling an average residential rate cap near 3% by reallocating funds toward essential services and statutory duties.Additional context: Direct operating expenditure rose well ahead of inflation while payroll and professional services grew disproportionately. A tighter control of personnel vendors and discretionary grants is warranted.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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	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

#10043

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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

My positions and requests:1) Oppose the 7.9% average increase. The current rates bill is $4069 and real increases since 2022 have reached 30% in 2022 dollars far exceeding inflation (12%). The proposed 7.9% rise is not affordable for households and fails to reflect prudent stewardship of ratepayer funds.2) Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs. The scope of staff and contractor costsâ€$1.3 billion payroll and $590 million on consultantsâ€drives unaffordable rates growth. Spending on six-figure salaries and high contractor fees must be reviewed.3) Cap and reduce consultancy and professional services. Council and CCOs

spent roughly $126 million annually on consultants; the average consultant receives about $200000. A targeted reduction is needed to curb ratepayer burden.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme. The programme costs $36 million per year and per independent analysis emits more carbon than it saves. Redirect funds to essential services with clear outcomes.5) Freeze staffing and reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles. A payroll freeze would save at least $17 million immediately and improve controllability of costs.6) Cut Māori-specific spending such as the Māori Outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) budget of about $10 million per year. This is not a core local government function and should be redirected toward statutory and essential services.7) Implement the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget approach. Reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) to cap average residential rates at about 3% through: organisational changes hiring freezes cap on consultants contract renegotiations vendor consolidation and prioritising statutory services over discretionary grants.Closing:I request the opportunity to present at hearings to speak to these points. I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10056

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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- **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 advocate for reductions in wasteful Council spending.I oppose the average residential rates rise of 7.9 percent which equates to roughly $320 for the average household on top of a long history of rate increases that have far outpaced inflation. Since 2010 rates have risen about 85% while population growth and inflation have been far slower. I urge the Council to instead adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance plan to cap rates at about 3 percent by reducing new and existing spending.The Council should reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions

across the Council and CCOs and cut consultancy and professional services spending. The current level of consultants costs and related staff funding appears excessive and unsustainable. A disciplined approach to procurement and vendor consolidation must be pursued with strict controls on non-essential external advice.I support cancelling the Food Scraps Programme which purportedly costs $36 million per year and emits more carbon than it saves. Funds should be redirected to essential services and to measures with proven benefits to Council taxpayers.I also support freezing staffing and/or reducing payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles which could save at least $17 million immediately and broader payroll restraint to protect essential front-line services.Regarding Maori-specific spending I propose capping or reassessing the $10 million per year spent on the Maori outcomes (Ngā Mātārae) department. Local government should prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants; this spending does not seem essential to core council duties.To achieve these aims I support the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget: reduce new Council spending by $150 million (2%) with targeted reductions in personnel costs consultants contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation 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

#10065

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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

At an average increase of about $320 per household this level places a disproportionate burden on ratepayers especially given the real increase in rates since 2022 already stands at around 30 percent in 2022 dollars with inflation at about 12 percent over the same period.I note the breakdown of the proposed increase: 2% to maintain existing assets 1.5% for new assets to support growth and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. While some growth and asset maintenance are reasonable the overall rate path since the Super City amalgamation has far outpaced inflation and population growth. Ratepayers deserve a credible plan to control costs and to target spending toward essential

services rather than expanding backroom and consultancy budgets.I urge the Council to adopt the Ratepayers' Alliance Alternative Budget which caps average residential rates increases at 3 percent by saving at least $150 million in new spending. Specific measures include:- Reduce personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze on non-essential roles saving $50 million.- Cap spending on consultants and professional services at $50 million.- Renegotiate contracts and consolidate vendors to save a further $30 million.- Prioritise statutory and essential services over discretionary grants saving $20 million.You must also reduce wasteful expenditure in corporate and backroom functions across the Council and CCOs and cut spend on consultancy and professional services rather than permitting continued growth in these areas. Payroll costs are consuming a large share of resources and freezing or trimming staffing in non-essential areas would deliver immediate relief â€ a targeted saving of at least $17 million if vacancies are not filled.I further request that Māori-specific spend such as the $10 million per year allocated to Ngā Mātārae be reassessed in light of local government responsibilities and accountability to residents.Many residents including the elderly and those with disabilities will struggle with sustained higher costs from rates increases. A prudent restraint-based budget is essential to protect households while maintaining core services.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10126

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

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 rates bill is $4069 and the real increase since 2022 is 30 percent far above ordinary inflation. I expect Council to prioritise necessary services and reduce wasteful expenditure instead of levelling up rates on households already doing more than their fair share.Agreed positions and requested actions1) Oppose the 7.9 percent average residential rates increase. The rate rise should be capped well below inflation with a path to affordability for ordinary households.2) Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs. The current structure includes substantial corporate costs that do not reflect direct

service delivery to ratepayers.3) Reduce spend on consultancy and professional services. Council's heavy reliance on external advisers has not demonstrably translated into proportionate service benefits.4) Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs $36 million per year and reportedly emits more carbon than it saves. Redirect funds to essential services with clearer environmental and community benefits.5) Freeze staffing or materially reduce payroll costs by not filling vacant non-essential roles. This alone could save at least $17 million immediately.6) 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 or policy-specific spend.7) Implement a targeted $150 million reduction in new Council spending (about 2 percent) to cap rate increases around 3 percent. Proposed measures include: organisational change and hiring freezes cap on consultants contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation; prioritise statutory services over discretionary grants.8) Get control of spending we can't cope with any longer. Immediate verifiable cost-saving actions are essential.ClosingI do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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

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

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#10173

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

I submit in strong opposition to the proposed average residential rates increase of 7.9% for 2026/27 and a call to rein in wasteful Council spending. The impact on households is real: the average residential rates bill is currently about $4069 with a real increase since 2022 of 30% (versus 12% general inflation). A blanket 7.9% rise is not acceptable given the Council's expenditure patterns.I urge the Council to cap rate increases by cutting wasteful spending and re-prioritising funds to essential services. My positions are as follows:- Oppose the 7.9% average residential rates increase; seek no increase above inflation and preferably a reduction.- Redirect focus from corporate and

backroom office functions to essential services reducing overall expenditure across the Council and CCOs.- Cut consultancy and professional services spend; reduce reliance on external advisors rather than growing these costs.- Cancel the Food Scraps Programme which costs about $36 million per year and appears to emit more carbon than it saves.- Freeze staffing and/or reduce payroll costs by not hiring for vacant non-essential roles which would save at least $17 million immediately.- Freeze or reduce 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.Key data to consider: the 7.9% uplift is breakdowned into 2% for existing asset maintenance 1.5% for growth-related assets and 4.4% for CRL operating costs. Since the Super City amalgamation rates have risen 85% while population grew 22% and inflation was 34%. A tighter approach to spending would deliver a more affordable rates path and ensure funds are used for 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

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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	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

#10250

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Devonport-Takapuna

Your feedback:

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed increases to rates

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

In 2026/2027 that includes prioritising investment in:

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

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

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

Do not support most

Tell us why

A rate rise of this level is not affordable for many households and current data shows a real increase since 2022 of 30 percent in rates versus 12 percent overall inflation. The proposed breakdown (2% for existing assets 1.5% for new assets as the city grows 4.4% for CRL operating costs) concentrates cost on ratepayers rather than delivering value for money.I support the {address redacted} Ratepayers' Alliance's position to reduce wasteful and non-essential Council spending to bring the increase down. My key points are as follows:- Reduce expenditure on corporate and backroom office functions across the Council and CCOs which drives up operating costs without proportionate

citizen benefits.- Reduce the 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 a measure that could save at least $17 million immediately.- Cut Māori-specific spending including the $10 million per year allocated to the Ngā Mātārae 'Māori outcomes' department as this is not a core local government role and should be reprioritised to essential statutory services.These measures align with the alternative budget framework that proposes reducing new Council spending by $150 million (2%) thereby capping the average residential rate increase at around 3 percent. Specific targeting includes: $50 million from personnel costs through organisational change and a hiring freeze $50 million from capped consultants $30 million from contract renegotiations and vendor consolidation and $20 million prioritising statutory and essential services over discretionary grants.In summary I urge the Council to consider revising the plan to reflect lower rates growth and a leaner more efficient cost base that prioritises core services for ratepayers.I do not wish to speak to my submission at a hearing.

Question 2: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

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

Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

N/A

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

N/A

Question 4: Other feedback

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

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N/A

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

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

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

N/A

Question 6: City centre

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