Consultation on the draft Local Board Plans 2026

Iwi Feedback

Aotea / Great Barrier

23 June 2026 to 23 July 2026

Have Your Say on the Draft Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2026

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:

Iwi: Ngāti Manuhiri

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think the draft Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board plan reflects the priorities, aspirations and outcomes previously shared by Ngāti Manuhiri?**

   The draft plan reflects Ngāti Manuhiri's position only partially, and largely by omission rather than active engagement. Ngāti Manuhiri is named once in the document, within the list of ten iwi and hapū with interests in Aotea (page 9). No other section identifies Ngāti Manuhiri specifically, references their previously stated aspirations, or distinguishes their interests from those of Ngāti Rehua, who are presented throughout as the primary mana whenua partner for community, environment and cultural initiatives.

   This framing is broadly consistent with Ngāti Manuhiri's own Treaty settlement position. The Statement of Association attached to the Ngāti Manuhiri Claims Settlement Act 2012 records that Ngāti Manuhiri hold shared ancestral interests in Aotea but formally acknowledge Ngāti Rehua as the primary kaitiaki for that area. On that basis, the plan's emphasis on Ngāti Rehua as the resident decision-making partner is defensible rather than an oversight.

   That said, several outcomes Ngāti Manuhiri has actively pursued in the wider Hauraki Gulf — control of invasive marine species including exotic Caulerpa, restrictions on anchoring and vessel activity near sensitive marine environments, and protection of the health of Te Moana Nui a Toi — align thematically with objectives in the plan's Environment section, particularly the "Abundant and protected moana" goal and the advocacy items on invasive marine species monitoring and opposition to bottom trawling and dredging in the Hauraki Gulf. None of these sections credit or reference Ngāti Manuhiri's specific initiatives in this space, despite the substantive overlap.

   It is also relevant that Hauturu / Little Barrier Island, where Ngāti Manuhiri's most visible recent kaitiaki activity is concentrated, falls outside the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board's area, which limits the plan's scope to address it directly. Ngāti Manuhiri is recorded as a participant in hui for the Aotea Great Barrier Shoreline Adaptation Plan (2024–2025), but the draft Local Board Plan does not draw on or reference that engagement, nor is there a distinct, identifiable Ngāti Manuhiri submission informing this plan comparable to their documented engagement on matters in the Rodney and Hibiscus Coast areas.

2. **How could we strengthen the draft Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board plan to better reflect and give effect to the priorities, aspirations and outcomes shared by you previously?** (please note which area you are talking about by naming the focus area or the page number)

Recommendations to strengthen the draft plan's reflection of Ngāti Manuhiri's priorities and outcomes:

Add explicit acknowledgement text. The "Local insights for Māori outcomes" section (page 9) lists Ngāti Manuhiri among ten iwi/hapū with interests in the island but does not describe the nature of that interest. Recommend adding a short paragraph, consistent with the Statement of Association in the Ngāti Manuhiri Claims Settlement Act 2012, noting their shared ancestral interest in Aotea and its surrounding moana, alongside the existing acknowledgement of Ngāti Rehua's primary kaitiaki role. This mirrors how statutory acknowledgements are already handled elsewhere in Auckland Council planning documents and would make the iwi relationship accurate rather than implied.

Extend "Mana ki te Mana" engagement commitments beyond Ngāti Rehua. The plan commits to Mana ki te Mana engagement between the local board and mana whenua generally (page 9). Recommend the final plan specify that this engagement includes Ngāti Manuhiri directly on matters affecting their shared interests, particularly marine and environmental issues, rather than leaving "mana whenua" undifferentiated throughout the document.

Name Ngāti Manuhiri in the marine and environmental objectives. The "Abundant and protected moana" and "Treasured and enriched whenua" objectives (pages 18–19), and the advocacy items on invasive marine species monitoring and opposition to bottom trawling and dredging in the Hauraki Gulf (page 19), align directly with work Ngāti Manuhiri has led at Hauturu and in Te Moana Nui a Toi, including the exotic Caulerpa rapid response and anchoring restrictions. Recommend these sections credit Ngāti Manuhiri's active role in gulf-wide marine protection, not only Ngāti Rehua's island-based restoration work.

Address cross-boundary coordination. Hauturu / Little Barrier Island sits outside the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board area but is ecologically and culturally connected to it, and is central to Ngāti Manuhiri's current kaitiaki activity. Recommend the plan include a statement of intent to coordinate with the neighbouring local board(s) and with Ngāti Manuhiri on shared marine health and biosecurity issues that cross this boundary, such as Caulerpa spread and vessel anchoring in adjoining waters.

Strengthen the advocacy table. Recommend adding an advocacy item supporting continued investment in, and recognition of, iwi-led marine protection measures such as anchoring restrictions and rāhui in the wider gulf, in addition to the existing biosecurity and Hauraki Gulf advocacy points.

Document consultation with Ngāti Manuhiri specifically. The "How this plan was developed" section (page 6) lists engagement events and hui but does not indicate whether Ngāti Manuhiri was separately invited or consulted. Recommend the local board confirm and record Ngāti Manuhiri's participation (or the outreach attempted) ahead of plan adoption in October, so their input is traceable rather than assumed under general mana whenua engagement.

Evidence the governance-level statement. The local governance level of service commitment to "respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua and Māori communities" (page 27) is currently a generic statement. Recommend it be supported with iwi-specific detail, including how the board intends to respond to Ngāti Manuhiri's stated priorities where they differ from or add to Ngāti Rehua's.

3. Tell us what kind of kaupapa you would like to engage with the Local Board on.

(please note frequency, and what kinds of topics or projects you would like to engage with the Local Board on).

Kaupapa to raise for direct engagement with the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board:

Formal recognition of Ngāti Manuhiri's shared ancestral interest in Aotea. Seek explicit acknowledgement in the Local Board Plan and related planning documents, consistent with the Statement of Association in the Ngāti Manuhiri Claims Settlement Act 2012, distinguishing this shared interest from Ngāti Rehua's role as primary kaitiaki.

A direct Mana ki te Mana relationship with the board. Establish an engagement pathway between Ngāti Manuhiri and the local board that is not mediated solely through Ngāti Rehua, including confirmed hui invitations for future plan development, annual plan rounds and relevant work programmes.

Joint kaitiakitanga over shared moana — Te Moana Nui a Toi. Align the board's "Abundant and protected moana" and "Clean and secure wai" objectives with Ngāti Manuhiri's active marine protection work, including Ahu Moana, water quality monitoring, and coastal health initiatives that span both Aotea and adjoining waters.

Biosecurity coordination on exotic Caulerpa and other invasive marine species. Bring Ngāti Manuhiri's rapid-response experience at Hauturu into the board's environmental monitoring and advocacy work, and seek joint advocacy to Central Government and the Governing Body for sustained biosecurity investment across the wider gulf.

Cross-boundary coordination with the neighbouring local board covering Hauturu / Little Barrier Island. Raise the need for the Aotea / Great Barrier board to formally coordinate with that board and with Ngāti Manuhiri on matters affecting shared waters and ecological corridors, including vessel anchoring restrictions and whale migration routes.