

Annual Plan 2026/2027

Written Feedback

Regional Organisations

Volume 3

April 2026

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Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5113

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: Touch Compass

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Support most

Tell us why

Touch Compass acknowledges the financial discipline demonstrated in this Plan, particularly the focus on delivering the $100+ million savings target and the significant investment in the City Rail Link (CRL).We support the Council's commitment to value for money and asset optimisation.However, we cannot fully support a plan that continues to exclude disability outcomes from its core investment framework. While the Plan commits $16 million to Māori outcomes (Page 10), there is no equivalent dedicated funding stream for disability-led culture within the $210 million Economic and Cultural Development budget. This creates an equity gap inconsistent with the

Council's vision to honour the small and the great, for one and for all Mihi, Page 1.Our identified gaps:No accessibility mandates: While Hibiscus and Bays Local Board references inclusive design (Page 27), there is no region-wide requirement for universal design in funded venues.No disability co-governance: Mana Whenua engagement structures are detailed (Page 51), and a Disability Advisory Group has been a feature of Council engagement, but disabled leadership continues to not be representative in decision-making, contrary to UNCRPD Article 4(3).Process vs. system access: NZSL and EasyRead consultation materials (Page 4) are welcomed, but do not equate to accessible venues, programmes, or employment pathways.We urge the Council to embed disability equity as a condition of investment, not an optional add-on.

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?

Touch Compass acknowledges the financial discipline demonstrated in this Plan, particularly the focus on delivering the $100+ million savings target and the significant investment in the City Rail Link (CRL).We support the Council's commitment to value for money and asset optimisation.However, we cannot fully support a plan that continues to exclude disability outcomes from its core investment framework. While the Plan commits $16 million to Māori outcomes (Page 10), there is no equivalent dedicated funding stream for disability-led culture within the $210 million Economic and Cultural Development budget. This creates an equity gap inconsistent with the Council's vision to honour the small and the great, for one and for all Mihi, Page 1.Our identified gaps:No accessibility mandates: While Hibiscus and Bays Local Board references inclusive design (Page 27), there is no region-wide requirement for universal design in funded venues.No disability co-governance: Mana Whenua engagement structures are detailed (Page 51), and a Disability Advisory Group has been a feature of Council engagement, but disabled leadership continues to not be representative in decision-making, contrary to UNCRPD Article 4(3).Process vs. system access: NZSL and EasyRead consultation materials (Page 4) are welcomed, but do not equate to accessible venues, programmes, or employment pathways.We urge the Council to embed disability equity as a condition of investment, not an optional add-on.

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)

We support local board autonomy to respond to community needs. However, accessibility standards must be regionally consistent to avoid a postcode lottery where disabled people can access services in one board area but not another.Positive precedent: Hibiscus and Bays Local Board's focus on inclusive design, so it is accessible and usable for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds (Page 27) demonstrates that accessibility can be embedded within existing budgets. We recommend scaling this approach region-wide.Risk: Local boards facing cost pressures (e.g., Devonport-Takapuna, Henderson-Massey, Kaipātiki) are considering reduced maintenance, library hours, or grant funding. Without accessibility safeguards, these cuts may disproportionately impact disabled community members who rely on these services.We propose that any local board service reduction be assessed through a disability impact lens, and that the fairer funding model (Page 19) explicitly include accessibility as a factor in equitable allocation.See attachment for full submission

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?

Accessible public transport is foundational to disabled people's participation in cultural, economic, and social life (UNCRPD Article 30). CRL must be fully accessible; busway and ferry investments must include universal design.Libraries, community centres, and arts facilities are primary sites of cultural participation. These must be universally designed and programmatically inclusive.Disability-led arts contribute to the creative economy. Events like Pasifika and Diwali (Page 10) must include accessibility requirements to realise their full economic and social benefit.Inclusive design must be embedded in urban development from the outset, not retrofitted. Drury, Northcote, and other growth areas present opportunities to model best practice.Natural spaces are vital for wellbeing. Disabled tāngata whenua and tauiwi must be able to access and care for these places.Disabled people are disproportionately impacted by climate events. Resilience planning must include disability perspectives in evacuation, communication, and recovery.Ring-fence 5% of the $210m cultural budget ($10.5m) for disability-led arts: This aligns with the equity benchmark set by the $16m Māori outcomes investment (Page 10) and ensures disability culture is resourced as a distinct contribution to arts, culture and society in Tāmaki Makaurau.Create an Accessibility retrofit fund: Sourced from asset recycling proceeds (Page 10), this would enable venues to meet universal design standards without competing with core programming budgets.Embed disability co-design in all cultural strategy development: Consistent with UNCRPD Article 4(3), disabled people must be involved in decisions that affect them; and have full participation not just advisory in decisions made about them. Nothing about us, without us,

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?

Feedback form – Touch Compass

Our details

First name: TOUCH COMPASS DANCE TRUST T/A “TOUCH COMPASS”

Email or postal address: [redacted]

Your local board or suburb: Albert-Eden, Henderson-Massey, Waitemata

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Please choose the option that applies to you.

The feedback I am giving is:

☒ feedback as the official representative of an organisation

Organisation name: TOUCH COMPASS

These optional questions help us understand who is engaging with us.

Which gender are you?

N/A

What is your age group?

N/A

Which ethnic group(s) do you feel you belong to? (Please select as many as apply)

N/A

Important privacy information

The personal information that you provide in this form will be held and protected by Auckland Council in accordance with our privacy policy (available at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy and with the Privacy Act 2020. The privacy policy explains how we can use and share your personal information in relation to any interaction you have with the council, and how you can access and correct that information. You should familiarise yourself with this policy before submitting this form.

Your feedback

(All questions are optional – you can answer all or any)

Question 1: Our overall plan and proposed rates increases

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 increases will vary by property type and value. Use our online rates guide to see your property.

What do you think of the proposed annual plan?

☒ Support most

Tell us why

Touch Compass acknowledges the financial discipline demonstrated in this Plan, particularly the focus on delivering the $100+ million savings target and the significant investment in the City Rail Link (CRL).

We support the Council's commitment to "value for money" and asset optimisation.

However, we cannot fully support a plan that continues to exclude disability outcomes from its core investment framework. While the Plan commits $16 million to Māori outcomes (Page 10), there is no equivalent dedicated funding stream for disability-led culture within the $210 million Economic and Cultural Development budget. This creates an equity gap inconsistent with the Council's vision to honour "the small and the great, for one and for all" Mihi, Page 1.

Our identified gaps:

No accessibility mandates: While Hibiscus and Bays Local Board references "inclusive design" (Page 27), there is no region-wide requirement for universal design in funded venues.

No disability co-governance: Mana Whenua engagement structures are detailed (Page 51), and a Disability Advisory Group has been a feature of Council engagement, but disabled leadership continues to not be representative in decision-making, contrary to UNCRPD Article 4(3).

Process vs. system access: NZSL and EasyRead consultation materials (Page 4) are welcomed, but do not equate to accessible venues, programmes, or employment pathways.

We urge the Council to embed disability equity as a condition of investment, not an optional add-on.

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 BID programme areas, Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme, and an Auckland Transport proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in specific areas. Refer to pages **Error! Bookmark not defined.-Error! Bookmark not defined.** of the consultation document for information about proposed changes to rates, fees and charges.

What do you think about these proposed changes? (Please let us know the specific changes to other rates, fees and charges you are commenting on)

Tell us why

We support the principle of local boards having flexibility to address cost pressures. However, we have specific concerns regarding:

Pool and leisure facility fee increases (proposed in multiple local boards): Fee increases without parallel investment in accessibility (e.g., hoists, accessible changing, sensory sessions) risk compounding exclusion for disabled Aucklanders who already face higher living costs.

Local Services Targeted Rates (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe): We support additional funding for local services if a portion is explicitly allocated to accessibility improvements (e.g., venue retrofits, NZSL interpretation, accessible programming). Without this, targeted rates may perpetuate inaccessible services.

Waitākere Rural Sewerage Scheme consultation: We support ending overlapping schemes for efficiency. However, any transition must ensure disabled ratepayers are not disadvantaged in arranging private alternatives.

Accessibility is not a luxury; it is a precondition for participation. Fee increases that are not paired with accessibility improvements create compound barriers. Targeted rates present an opportunity to fund inclusive local services but only if accessibility is explicitly included in their scope.

Question 3: Local board priorities

For more information, read pages **Error! Bookmark not defined.-Error! Bookmark not defined.** of the consultation document.

You can find your local board on the Auckland Council website

3A. Which local board does your feedback relate to?

Region-wide (Touch Compass operates across Tāmaki Makaurau with partnerships in multiple local board areas.

3B. What do you think of the options for your local board area in 2026/2027?

☐ Support most

Tell us why

We support local board autonomy to respond to community needs. However, accessibility standards must be regionally consistent to avoid a "postcode lottery" where disabled people can access services in one board area but not another.

Positive precedent: Hibiscus and Bays Local Board's focus on "inclusive design, so it is accessible and usable for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds" (Page 27) demonstrates that accessibility can be embedded within existing budgets. We recommend scaling this approach region-wide.

Risk: Local boards facing cost pressures (e.g., Devonport-Takapuna, Henderson-Massey, Kaipātiki) are considering reduced maintenance, library hours, or grant funding. Without accessibility safeguards, these cuts may disproportionately impact disabled community members who rely on these services.

We propose that any local board service reduction be assessed through a disability impact lens, and that the "fairer funding" model (Page 19) explicitly include accessibility as a factor in equitable allocation.

Question 4: Other feedback

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

Including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2026/2027 (page **Error! Bookmark not defined.** of the consultation document)?

Please see full Touch Compass submission document attached for our further commentary and feedback

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

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

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

- regional transport plans
- water service strategies
- Auckland's spatial plan
- our 2027–2037 Long-term Plan, which sets funding 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.

Question 5: Which areas are most important to you over the long term? Please rank these areas from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)

Rank	Priority area	Our rationale
1	Transport	Accessible public transport is foundational to disabled people's participation in cultural, economic, and social life (UNCRPD Article 30).

		CRL must be fully accessible; busway and ferry investments must include universal design.
2	Local parks, community and recreation services	Libraries, community centres, and arts facilities are primary sites of cultural participation. These must be universally designed and programmatically inclusive.
3	Economic development and events	Disability-led arts contribute to the creative economy. Events like Pasifika and Diwali (Page 10) must include accessibility requirements to realise their full economic and social benefit.
4	Planning and infrastructure to manage growth	Inclusive design must be embedded in urban development from the outset, not retrofitted. Drury, Northcote, and other growth areas present opportunities to model best practice.
5	Regional parks and environment	Natural spaces are vital for wellbeing. Disabled tāngata whenua and tauiwi must be able to access and care for these places.
6	Flood resilience	Disabled people are disproportionately impacted by climate events. Resilience planning must include disability perspectives in evacuation, communication, and recovery.

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

Ring-fence 5% of the $210m cultural budget ($10.5m) for disability-led arts: This aligns with the equity benchmark set by the $16m Māori outcomes investment (Page 10) and ensures disability culture is resourced as a distinct contribution to arts, culture and society in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Create an Accessibility retrofit fund: Sourced from asset recycling proceeds (Page 10), this would enable venues to meet universal design standards without competing with core programming budgets.

Embed disability co-design in all cultural strategy development: Consistent with UNCRPD Article 4(3), disabled people must be involved in decisions that affect them; and have full participation not just advisory in decisions made about them. Nothing about us, without us,

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.

What improvements do you think we should prioritise in the city centre? (Select up to 4)

☒ **Better connections** – improve links between the city centre, the waterfront and nearby neighbourhoods.

☒ **Events and city life** – attract people to the city centre through events, culture and a strong sense of place.

☐ **Getting around** – make it easier to walk, drive, cycle and use public transport in the city centre and from east to west, including better traffic flow.

☒ **Māori identity and culture** – reflect and celebrate Māori identity and culture throughout the city centre.

☒ **Safety** – a safer and more welcoming city centre, both day and night, for residents, workers and visitors.

☒ **Streets and public spaces** – improve streets, parks and public spaces so the city centre is a great place to live and spend time in.

☐ **Supporting businesses** – help businesses succeed by making them easier to access and attract more visitors to the city with well-designed streets and public spaces.

☒ **Other** (please specify):

In our opinion; **Events and city life** are symbiotic with **streets and public spaces**. We do not see these two priorities as independent; they are interdependent. Much the same as you cannot put on a theatre show

without the theatre venue, you cannot cultivate a vibrant "city life" without accessible, high-quality public spaces to host it. The Consultation Document notes that the City Rail Link will bring "improvements to the city centre's public spaces" (Page 14) and the Waitematā Local Board aims to deliver a "vibrant, accessible and inclusive city centre" via the City Centre Masterplan (Page 42). However, investment in "Events and city life" (Page 10) must be matched by investment in the physical "venue" (streets and spaces) to ensure equitable participation.

From our Touch Compass perspective, this means a commitment to access:

Physical access: Public spaces (the venue) must meet universal design standards so disabled people can participate in events and city life (the show).

Cultural access: Spaces must honour Te Ao Māori, aligning with the vision of Tāmaki as "Herenga Wawata" (the mooring place of aspirations) (Page 1).

Connected access: Better connections (Page 14) must include accessible pathways between transport hubs and event spaces.

Safety access: Disabled people experience heightened vulnerability to harassment and barriers especially in emergencies. Safety initiatives should include disability perspectives: adequate lighting, clear sightlines, accessible emergency evacuation plans, and trained staff.

So, in our view, the tickbox exercise of prioritising one without the other risks creating exclusion, or spaces that remain empty. We urge the Council to fund these as a single ecosystem rather than separate line items.

Have more to say? You can attach extra pages.

Touch Compass Dance Trust Submission on the Auckland Annual Plan 2026/2027

A Disability-Led Arts Sector Response

We are a Strategic Relationship Partner, Auckland Council Regional Arts and Culture

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1. Honours the place of all

Touch Compass Dance Trust submits this response as a disability-led arts organisation with national standing and a strong history of impact in Tāmaki Makaurau. We value our strategic relationship with Auckland Council's Regional Arts and Culture programme and offer this feedback to strengthen the Plan's delivery for **all** Aucklanders.

The Consultation Document opens with a Mihi that asks: "For whom does this land offer its care?" The answer provided is: "For the small and the great, For one and for all, For all of us, for the people." (Page 1).

Our vision aligns with this. However, true equity requires that "all" explicitly includes disabled people. While we acknowledge the financial discipline required to manage the **7.9% rates increase** and the **$235 million annual cost of the City Rail Link (CRL)** (Page 14), this Annual Plan misses a critical opportunity to embed disability equity. Without explicit strategy, funding, or targets, disability inclusion remains optional rather than foundational.

2. Financial discipline and Equity

We understand the Council is operating within tight constraints. The Plan outlines a total operating budget of **$5.279 billion** (excluding depreciation) and a capital investment of **$3.94 billion** (Page 10). We note the commitment to deliver a **$106 million savings target** (Page 5) and the focus on "value for money."

Our submission argues that accessibility is not a cost burden but a mechanism for **value creation**. Excluding disabled audiences limits the economic return on cultural investment. Accessibility is market expansion.

The Equity benchmark

The Plan commits **$16 million into Māori outcomes**, including the Marae Infrastructure Programme and capacity building for mana whenua engagement (Page 10). This demonstrates the Council's ability to ring-fence funding for equity outcomes.

Observation: There is no equivalent dedicated funding stream for disability outcomes within the **$210 million Economic and Cultural Development** budget (Page 10).

Implication: While Māori are positioned as partners through specific investment, disabled people remain positioned as service users without dedicated resource parity.

3. System-level gaps: Evidence from the document

3.1 Accessibility is localised, Not regional

The Document highlights that the **Hibiscus and Bays Local Board** is increasing focus on "inclusive design, so it is accessible and usable for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds" (Page 27).

Insight: This proves the concept is viable within the current funding model. However, relying on local board discretion creates a "postcode lottery" for access. **Risk:** A theatre can receive public funding in one board area and still exclude disabled audiences in another. This fails **UNCRPD Article 9** (Access to environments and services).

3.2 Governance structures

The Plan details engagement structures for Mana Whenua, including the **Tāmaki Makaurau - Mana Whenua Forum** (Page 51).

Observation: There is no equivalent formal governance structure for disabled people within the "Well-managed local government" section (Page 10). **Implication:** This is inconsistent with **UNCRPD Article 4(3)** (obligation to involve disabled people in decisions) and New Zealand's Disability Strategy.

3.3 Process access versus system sccess

We acknowledge the availability of **New Zealand Sign Language videos and EasyRead documents** for this consultation (Page 4).

Critique: This is process access. It does not equate to system access. There are no universal design requirements for funded venues or accessibility compliance tied to grants listed in the **Community ($967m)** or **Cultural ($210m)** budgets (Page 10).

4. Recommendations: A reset for 2026–2029

We propose solutions that align with the Council's focus on efficiency, asset optimisation, and equity.

4.1 Establish parity in outcomes funding

Recommendation: Align disability outcomes funding with the Māori outcomes benchmark. **Proposal:** Ring-fence a portion of the **$16 million Māori outcomes fund** logic for disability, or allocate **5% of the $210m cultural budget** ($10.5 million annually). **Rationale:** Ensures equitable distribution of existing resources without necessarily increasing the total rates burden. **Source:** Page 10 (Māori outcomes investment).

4.2 Scale Inclusive design regionally

Recommendation: Adopt the Hibiscus and Bays "inclusive design" approach as a regional mandate. **Proposal:** 100% of council-funded arts venues must meet universal design standards within 5 years. **Funding Source:** Utilise the **$106 million savings target** to fund efficiency improvements that include accessibility retrofits (Page 5). **Source:** Page 27 (Hibiscus and Bays Local Board plan).

4.3 Leverage asset recycling

Recommendation: Fund a Flagship Disability Arts Hub via asset optimisation. **Proposal:** Repurpose lesser-used council buildings to create a fully accessible, disability-led cultural space. **Funding Source: Asset recycling targets**, which involve selling or leasing lesser-used assets to help pay for new ones (Page 10). **Capital Estimate:** $5–7 million (aligns with local board capital budgets ranging from $1.6m to $39.1m, Pages 23-43).

4.4 Establish Disability co-governance

Recommendation: Create a Disability Arts and Culture Advisory Board. **Proposal:** Majority disabled membership, modelled on the Mana Whenua engagement forums. **Budget:** $500,000 annually

(drawn from Corporate Support/Well-managed local government budget). **Source:** Page 51 (Māori engagement structures).

5. Strategic Insight: Optimising people, not just assets

The Mayor's message emphasises: "Deliver smarter services, maintain what we have, and get more from every asset." (Page 5).

Our insight: You cannot get more from an asset if a portion of the population cannot enter it.

Infrastructure is guaranteed funding (Page 10).

Participation is conditional.

Under the UNCRPD, that hierarchy is inconsistent with human rights obligations. The Plan optimises assets (CRL, Watercare) but risks leaving people behind.

6. Conclusion: For the small and the great

The Annual Plan 2026/2027 is financially disciplined and strategically focused on infrastructure. However, it risks repeating structural exclusion.

Touch Compass calls for a reset, from access as an afterthought to access as a condition of investment. We urge the Council to honour the Mihi vision: *"Mō te iti, mō te rahi... For the small and the great."* (Page 1).

Disabled people are part of the "all" who deserve care from this land.

Fix the structure. The outcomes will follow.

Ngā mihi maioha,

TOUCH COMPASS

March 2026

Auckland Plan 2026/27
Review and response

Access - the missing line item

Presented on behalf by Touch Compass

Content and Context

Review of the Auckland Annual Plan 2026/2027

- **Touch Compass, a Disability-Led Arts and Culture organisation from Tāmaki Makaurau**
- **Engaged over 12000 artists, cultural practitioners and public participants within its mainstream and disability specialist arts programming over the past 5 years.**
- **64% identify with a lived experience of disability.**
- **In total over 25200 people across Aotearoa have been engaged through Touch Compass programming since 2021.**
- **100% of it’s artistic and cultural programming is led by persons with lived experience.**
- **Disability leadership is at every strata of the org from Board to personnel.**

Touch Compass Dance Trust T/A Touch Compass is a strategic relationship partner of Auckland Council Regional Arts and Culture Funding Programme.

Our perspective? Disability-Led

We evaluate Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2026/27 through the lens lived experience, and in particular the obligations of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which New Zealand and its constituent bodies is a signatory;
and the principles of:
Enabling Good Lives (EGL) and Te Tiriti o Waitangi - self determination, protection, partnership, equity.

About

Touch Compass, founded in 1997 by Catherine Chappell MNZM, was New Zealand's first and leading disability-integrated dance company.

In 2021 the organisation began a multi-year transformation to a Disability-Led Arts organisation. In recent years the focus has been to champion the voices of the marginalised, in particular foregrounding Māori, Pasifika and intersectional d/Deaf and Disability professional performing arts, and education programming that champions genuine access.

Accessibility to places and spaces is a priority for this organisation, as is the acknowledgement of identity, culture and the basic human rights of people with a lived experience of disability. Touch Compass are art makers and advocates with and by this community of people and practice.

We support the direction of this Annual Plan





COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE



CULTURAL ACTIVITY



REGIONAL IDENTITY

THERE'S A GAP

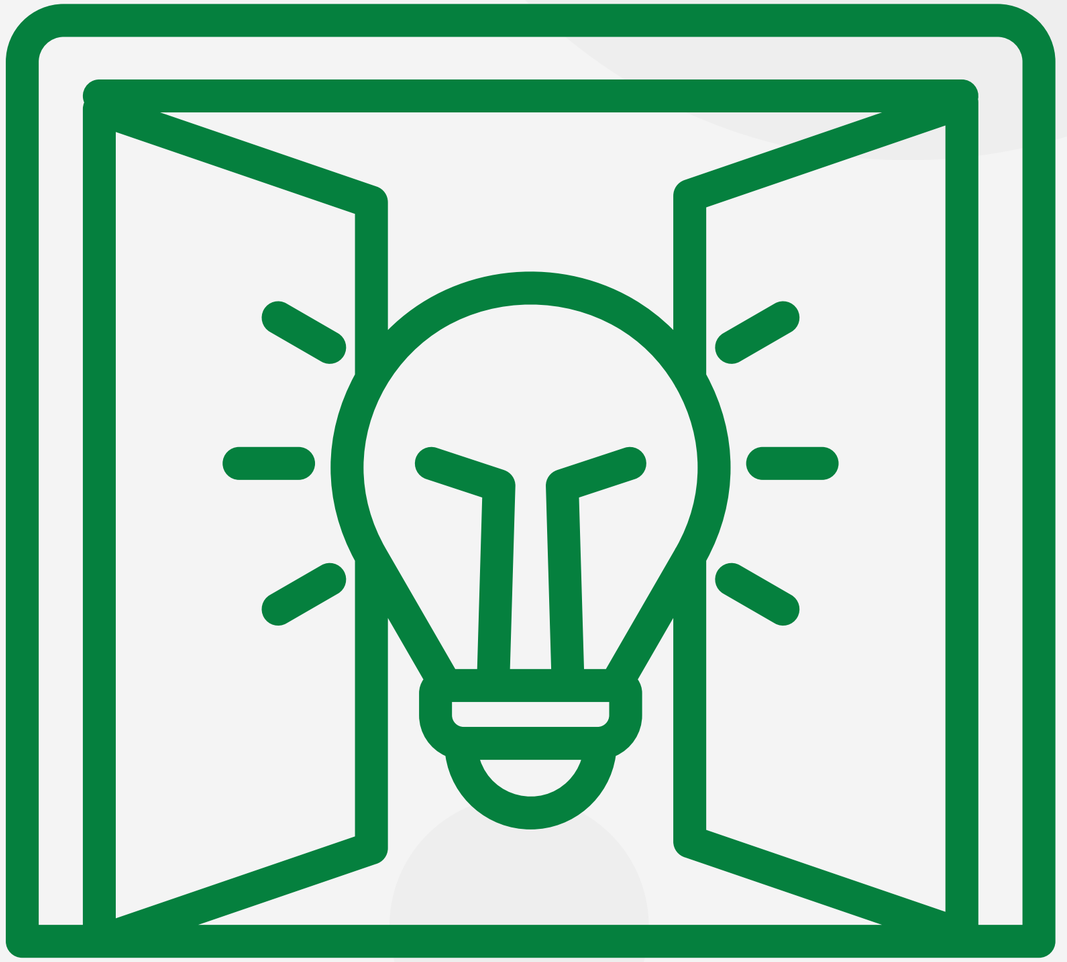


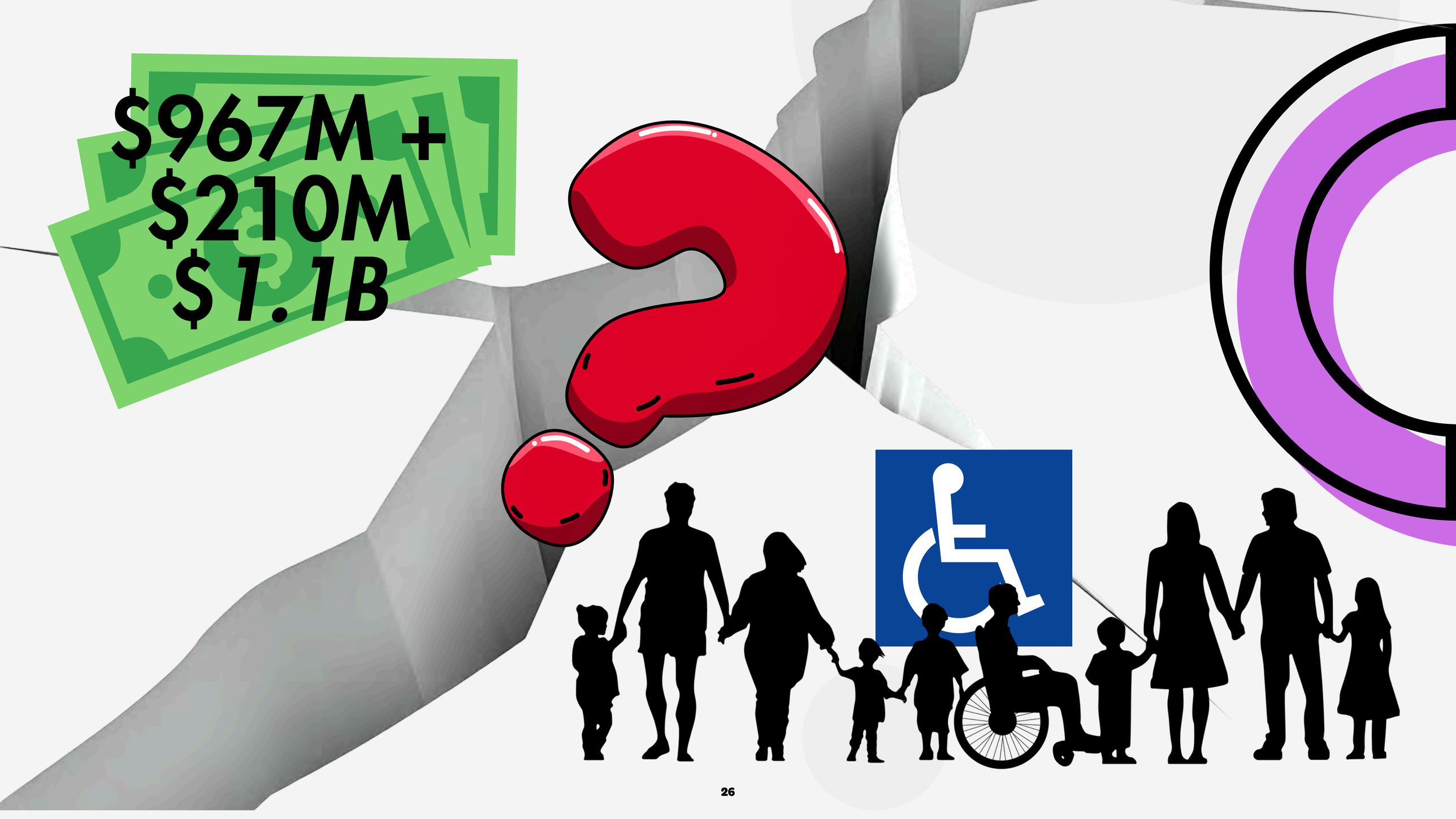


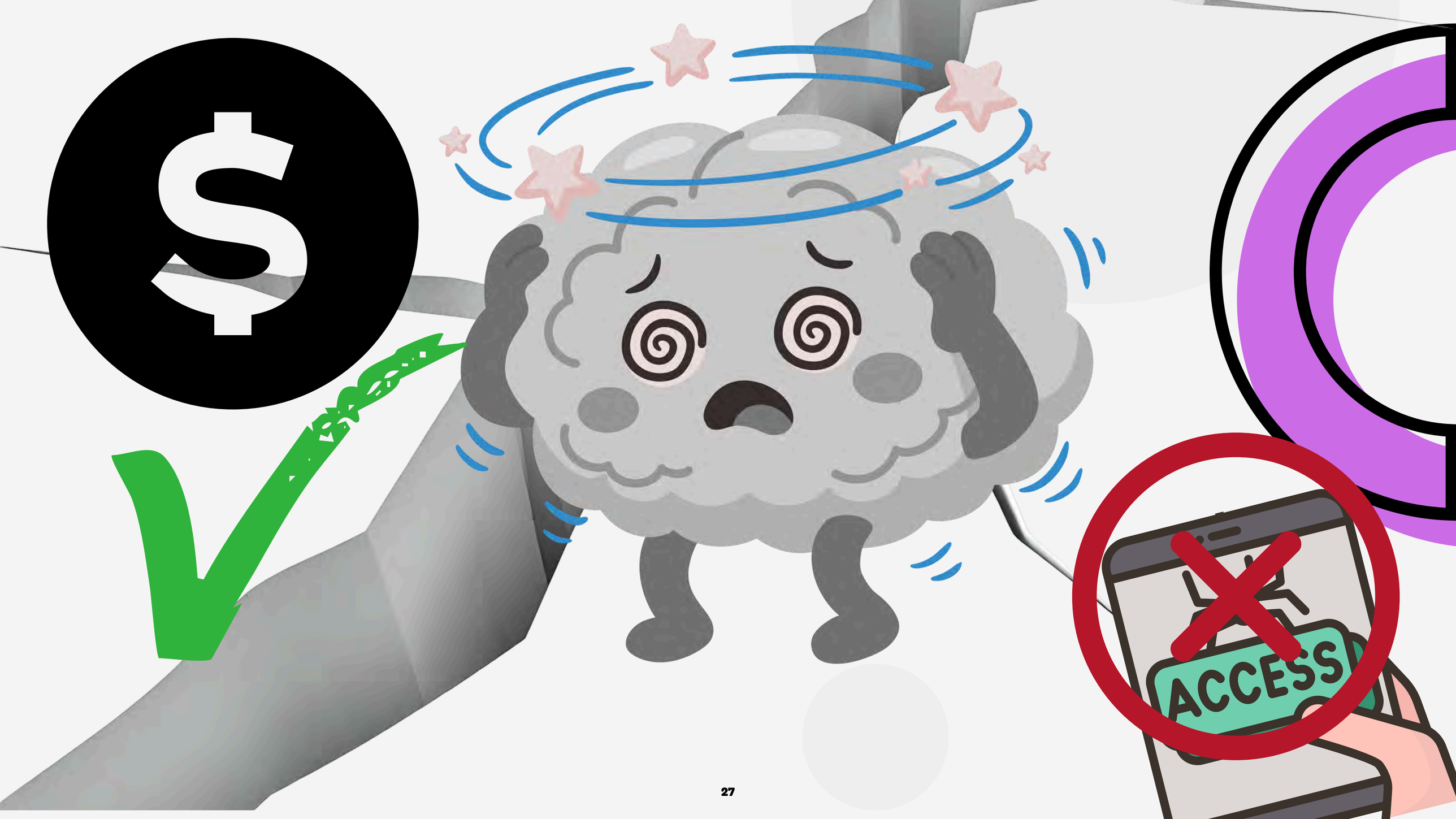


Criticism

OPPORTUNITY




$967M +
$210M
$1.1B


ACCESS

WHY THIS MATTERS

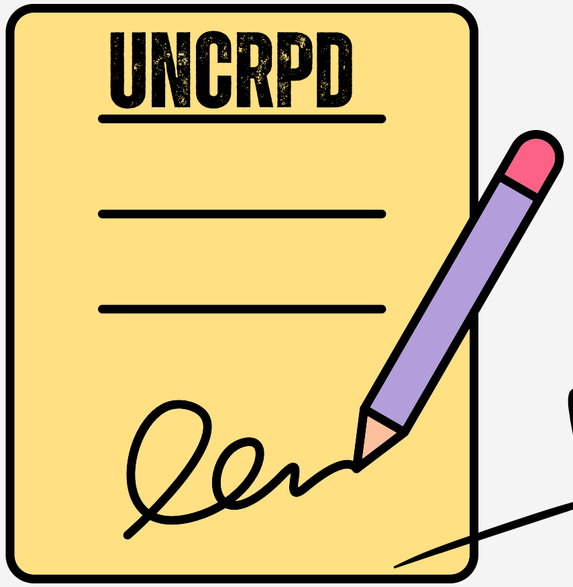


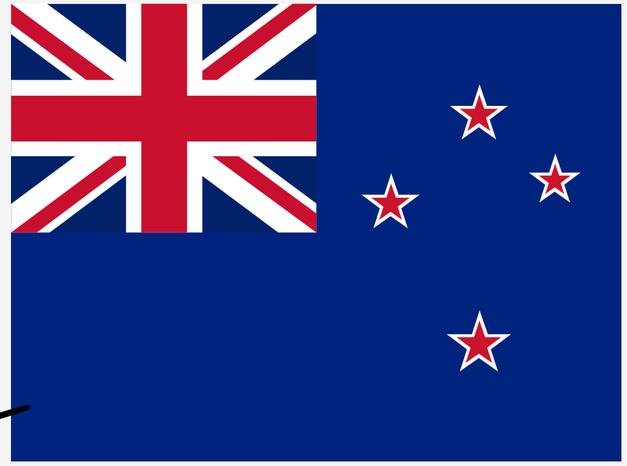
WHY THIS MATTERS

RIGHTS *issue!*



WHY THIS MATTERS





signatory



ARTICLE 30: THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN CULTURAL LIFE

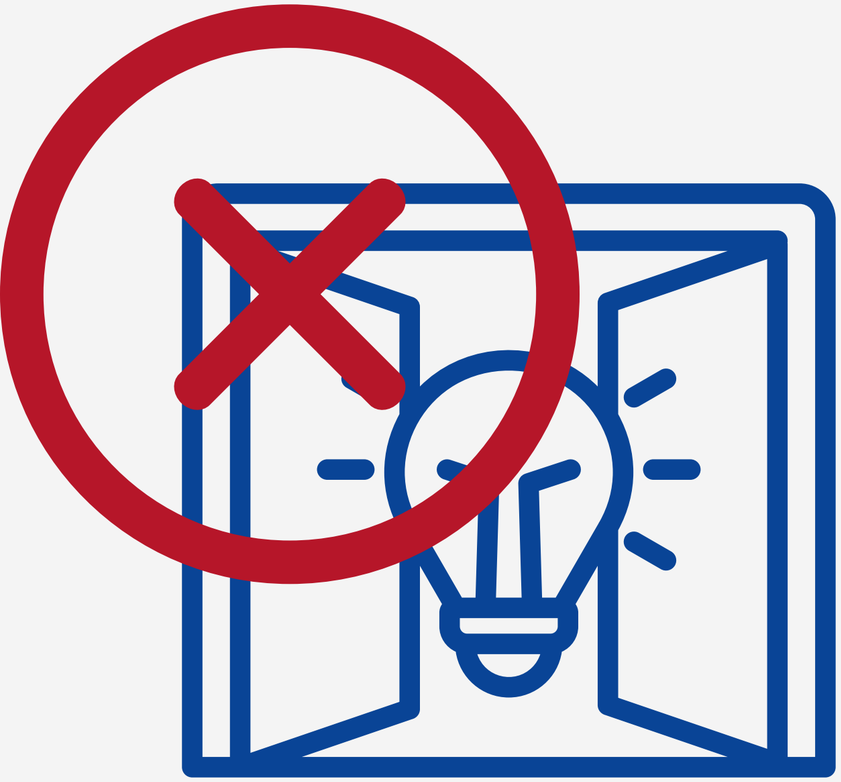


ARTICLE 9: ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTS AND SERVICES



ARTICLE 4: INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

WHAT WE'RE WITNESSING



Accessibility costs are inconsistently supported

Publicly funded venues are not uniformly accessible

There is no dedicated mechanism for disability-led arts and culture input

Disabled artists face barriers to funding pathways



START FROM SCRATCH?



TARGETED ADJUSTMENTS

DISABILITY ARTS INVESTMENT BASELINE

DEDICATED ACCESSIBILITY FUND

DISABILITY CO-DESIGN INTO GOVERNANCE

GET THIS RIGHT … AND

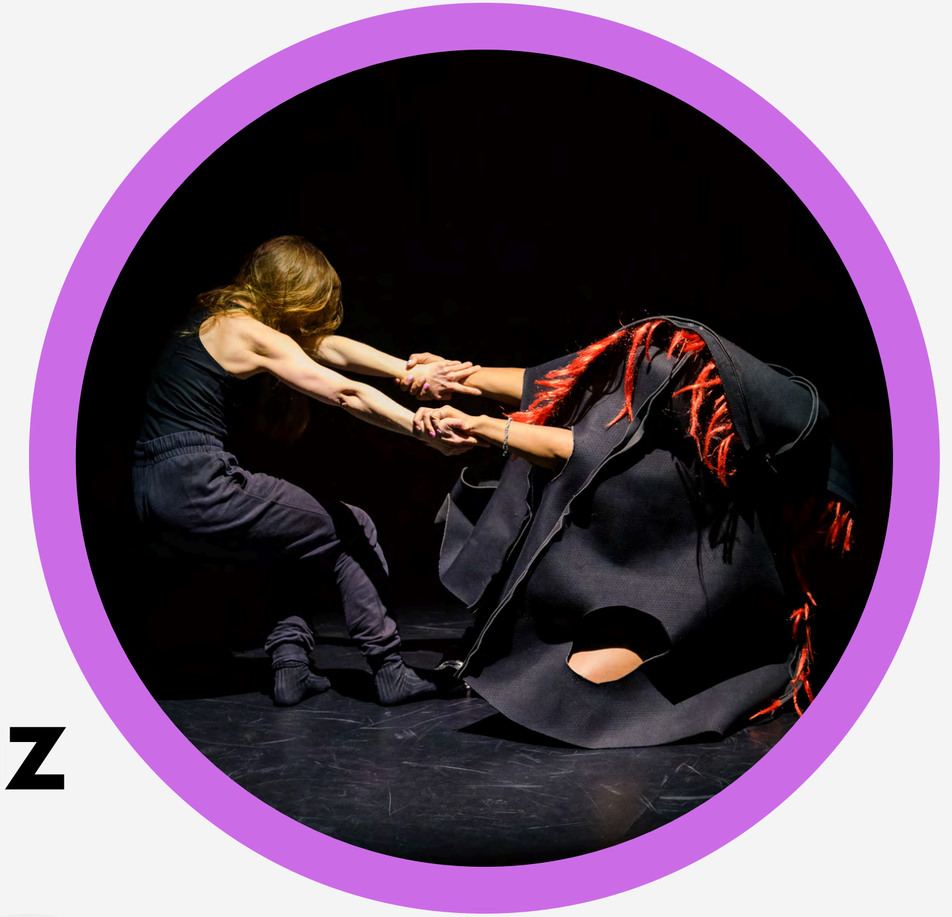


- Participation increases
- Creative output diversifies
- Public investment reaches more people
- And Auckland strengthens its position as a leading cultural city

Ngā mihi

Touch Compass

www.touchcompass.org.nz



Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5120

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Submitter details:

Organisation: New Zealand Opera

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why

Given our commitment to enhancing Auckland's creative arts sector, we look forward to supporting the goals of the 2026/27 annual plan through all our continued efforts – be they creative, artistic, community, collaborative or innovative endeavours.We note in particular:• Our focus on community aligns with the Auckland Council's long-term plan and its arts strategy.• Growing Auckland's economy through events, tourism and creative industries is strengthened through stability of funding for major arts entities, allowing for the long-term artistic planning required to deliver the world class performances andproductions, Aucklanders and tourists will attend. In turn this will

also enhance use of critical infrastructure including the new CRL.See attachment for full submission.

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?

Given our commitment to enhancing Auckland's creative arts sector, we look forward to supporting the goals of the 2026/27 annual plan through all our continued efforts – be they creative, artistic, community, collaborative or innovative endeavours.We note in particular:• Our focus on community aligns with the Auckland Council's long-term plan and its arts strategy.• Growing Auckland's economy through events, tourism and creative industries is strengthened through stability of funding for major arts entities, allowing for the long-term artistic planning required to deliver the world class performances andproductions, Aucklanders and tourists will attend. In turn this will also enhance use of critical infrastructure including the new CRL.See attachment for full submission.

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)

Given our commitment to enhancing Auckland's creative arts sector, we look forward to supporting the goals of the 2026/27 annual plan through all our continued efforts – be they creative, artistic, community, collaborative or innovative endeavours.We note in particular:• Our focus on community aligns with the Auckland Council's long-term plan and its arts strategy.• Growing Auckland's economy through events, tourism and creative industries is strengthened through stability of funding for major arts entities, allowing for the long-term artistic planning required to deliver the world class performances andproductions, Aucklanders and tourists will attend. In turn this will also enhance use of critical infrastructure including the new CRL.See attachment for full submission.

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?

NZ OPERA

#5120

Response to Auckland Council 2026/27 Annual Plan

New Zealand Opera (NZ Opera) is a flagship opera company, based in Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland, with international connections and recognition, presenting world-class opera and playing a unique leadership role within the arts ecosystem. Born out of Auckland Opera Company, Tāmaki Makaurau is our home, we rehearse in Auckland, and our biggest audiences are in Auckland. In this regard, we stand alongside other national opera companies around the world basing themselves in the biggest city.

NZ Opera models a contemporary opera practice of telling stories though the power of the human singing voice; combining mainstage operatic productions with a focus on community, and popular repertoire combined with innovative projects. This contemporary approach means that our mainstage opera productions are essentially the tip of the iceberg of what we do.

Our commitment to community is in part showcased through our first community opera *The Monster in the Maze*. This 2025 production involved approximately 150 community singers and musicians taking to stage in the Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, alongside NZ Opera professionals. It introduced opera to a new audience. Another example is our commitment to take opera outside the theatre every year, to where people are, working with Auckland Council and Auckland Live to deliver Opera in The Park and now also Morning Melodies, with NZ Opera opening the 2026 series to a full house.

Through all our work, from mainstage, to schools and the community, NZ Opera enriches the cultural lives of Aucklanders and brings economic benefits to the city.

Given our commitment to enhancing Auckland's creative arts sector, we look forward to supporting the goals of the 2026/27 annual plan through all our continued efforts – be they creative, artistic, community, collaborative or innovative endeavours.

We note in particular:

- Our focus on community aligns with the Auckland Council's long-term plan and its arts strategy.
- Growing Auckland's economy through events, tourism and creative industries is strengthened through stability of funding for major arts entities, allowing for the long-term artistic planning required to deliver the world class performances and

productions, Aucklanders and tourists will attend. In turn this will also enhance use of critical infrastructure including the new CRL.

Please contact me should you have any questions or require additional information.

Nāku noa, nā

[redacted]

New Zealand Opera

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5123

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: The Selwyn Foundation

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why

Council can be a powerful force for creating an environment where everyone can age well. The availability of accessible, affordable and quality housing for seniors will be critical in this. In Council's long-term priorities for its spatial plan, we would recommend that the following are considered:- age-friendly housing close to transport and essential services- protect and expand existing senior housing- deliver kaumatua housing- universal design in council supported housing- lift the cap on income-related rent subsidy-accessible home modifications in council managed units-warm, safe, healthy homesCities that work for older people, work for everyone. Council can

play a fundamental role in enabling Auckland to be a liveable, age-friendly city and in optimising policies and resources to build vibrant, inclusive communities where all New Zealanders can age well, now and into the future.Our final point relates to the proposed changes to rates, fees and charges: in view of the rapid increases in the overall cost-of-living, we would urge Council to consider the financial challenges faced by increasing numbers of older people who are on a fixed income and are already experiencing incredible hardship. Meeting the rising costs of housing, heating, food, fuel, etc, is a daily struggle for significant numbers of seniors living on Superannuation alone and who have no other source of income. Any general increases in 2026/27 will therefore make life even more difficult for many older people who are among the most vulnerable in society.See attachment for full submission.

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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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Q2: What do you think about these proposed changes?

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

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

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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?

The Selwyn Foundation
43 Target Street, Point Chevalier, Auckland 1022
P.O. Box 44-106, Point Chevalier, Auckland 1246
P: (09) 846 0119 **E:** admin@selwynfoundation.org.nz
www.selwynfoundation.org.nz

29 March 2026

Annual Plan
Auckland Council

By email to: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Kia ora koutou

Auckland's Annual Plan 2026/27 – feedback from The Selwyn Foundation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland's Annual Plan 2026/27. On behalf of The Selwyn Foundation, as Chief Executive, I am pleased to make the following submission for your consideration.

To provide some background, The Selwyn Foundation (Selwyn) is an independent, New Zealand-based charity with over 70 years' experience of providing services and support to older people/kaumātua and to seniors who are vulnerable. As a social impact funder and co-investor – and inspired by our vision of Respectful Ageing for all, within communities that thrive, Oranga Mātua/Oranga Tangata – we partner with a wide range of public and private organisations, Iwi, NGOs and The Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia to deliver social impact at scale for older people living in the community who need it most. Additionally, our investment in research helps inform best practice in the delivery of support services to seniors experiencing disadvantage or whose circumstances otherwise render them vulnerable. We also partner in a joint venture with you, Auckland Council, in specialist community housing provider Haumaru Housing to provide safe and affordable rental housing to older people across 63 village communities in Auckland.

Selwyn is a founding member and Chair of The Aotearoa New Zealand National Forum for the Decade of Healthy Ageing | He Oranga Kaumātua, He Oranga Tangata, established in 2023 in association with the Office for Seniors and Age Concern New Zealand in response to the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing currently underway. The National Forum brings together leading cross-sectoral organisations to carry out stakeholder engagement at a national policy level and raise awareness of the need for government, business and communities to prepare for the complex impact of population ageing. It works collaboratively to provide a platform for initiatives at local level that will improve the experience of ageing and enable older New Zealanders to age connected to culture, whānau, community and care.

In terms of planning for the future of Auckland, firstly we commend Council for its leadership as an Age Friendly Community – noting we have just joined Council's Age Friendly Community Roopū. We also commend Council for its work on segmenting age data in its 2025 'Older Aucklanders: Results from the 2023 Census'. This is a key goal of the National Forum as too often everyone aged over 65 is simply considered together as one homogenous cohort. Auckland is a demographically diverse city and will experience the impacts of the structural ageing of the population earlier and with more intensity.

We agree with Council's goals to make public spaces work better for people, to 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.

However, while recognising that Council will have competing priorities in terms of meeting the diverse needs of communities, we would like the Annual (and Long-Term) Plan to more intentionally respond to

Auckland's rapidly ageing population so we can meet the needs of older Aucklanders, improve their quality of life, and support their ability to age-in-place and live safely at home for longer. As per the intent of Council's Tāmaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumātua (the Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan), we must work to ensure that the city is age-friendly and inclusive for older generations now and in the future.

Council can be a powerful force for creating an environment where everyone can age well. The availability of accessible, affordable and quality housing for seniors will be critical in this. In Council's long-term priorities for its spatial plan, we would recommend that the following are considered:

- Unlocking Council land for age-friendly housing that is close to transport and essential services, enabling hyperlocal communities (becoming a '15-minute' city).
- Protecting and expanding existing senior housing, committing to no net loss of units.
- Partnering with Iwi and community housing providers to deliver kaumātua housing.
- Embedding universal design in all new Council-supported housing.
- Leveraging Council's influence to advocate to central government to lift the cap on the Income-Related Rent Subsidy, ensuring affordability for older tenants.
- Prioritising accessible home modifications in Council-managed units.
- Working with landlords, community housing providers and Kāinga Ora to ensure older people live in warm, safe and healthy homes.

Planning for this now is imperative. Rather than seeing it as an escalating cost burden, however, the social return on investment of helping older people age well for longer in their communities will lead to their enhanced wellbeing and increased ability to continue contributing and participating in society.

Cities that work for older people, work for everyone. Council can play a fundamental role in enabling Auckland to be a liveable, age-friendly city and in optimising policies and resources to build vibrant, inclusive communities where all New Zealanders can age well, now and into the future.

Our final point relates to the proposed changes to rates, fees and charges: in view of the rapid increases in the overall cost-of-living, we would urge Council to consider the financial challenges faced by increasing numbers of older people who are on a fixed income and are already experiencing incredible hardship. Meeting the rising costs of housing, heating, food, fuel, etc, is a daily struggle for significant numbers of seniors living on Superannuation alone and who have no other source of income. Any general increases in 2026/27 will therefore make life even more difficult for many older people who are among the most vulnerable in society.

I trust you will find our comments of value. In due course, should Council seek future input or support for new initiatives relating to older people's needs, Selwyn would be pleased to participate in any collective discussions that might ensure they are properly supported to remain independent for longer in the communities they know and love.

Ngā mihi

[redacted]

[redacted]

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5124

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Submitter details:

Organisation: Urban Development Institute of New Zealand

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why

UDINZ has reviewed Auckland Council's Annual Plan through the lens of urban development outcomes and the practical delivery of growth, housing and city shaping investment. Overall, the Plan reflects a clear intent to maintain core services in a constrained fiscal environment. UDINZ recognises the difficulty of this balancing act. However, from an urban development and city building perspective, the Plan is only moderately development centric and, in several areas, risks reinforcing short term cost containment over long term urban outcomes. In its current form, the Plan largely protects the existing system rather than actively reshaping it to support delivery at

pace and scale. This caution may be misplaced at a time when Auckland arguably needs stronger signals to unlock development confidence and investment.Consistent with recent UDINZ submissions, we would encourage Council to use the Annual Plan more deliberately as a tool to enable delivery by:•Being explicit about where and how development will be enabled, not just managed.•Treating urban development as a core productivity, resilience and wellbeing investment, rather than a secondary by product of service delivery.•Strengthening alignment between funding decisions, spatial priorities and consenting performance so growth strategies translate into real world outcomes.•Sending a clearer signal that Auckland is open for development and prepared to partner with the sector to deliver quality urban growth.See attachment for full submission.

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Question 4: Other feedback

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

N/A

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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?

Auckland Council Annual Plan

"Have Your Say"

23 March 2026

NOTES



#5124

UDINZ

Urban Development Institute of New Zealand Incorporated

Introductions

#5124

UDINZ

Urban Development Institute of New Zealand Incorporated

- [redacted]
  CEO, Urban Development Institute of New Zealand
- [redacted]
  General Manager - Planning & Urban Design, Woods & Regional Chapter Chapter Chair, UDINZ

#5124

UDINZ

Urban Development Institute of New Zealand Incorporated

About UDINZ

UDINZ represents the full urban development ecosystem, delivering housing, infrastructure and city-shaping projects across Aotearoa.

Urban outcomes are not delivered by a single policy lever or actor. They are the product of interdependent systems — planning, infrastructure, finance, market demand, community aspirations, environmental limits and, critically, the people who design, fund and build our cities.

We see ourselves as actively shaping the system to improve outcomes, address unintended consequences and break down barriers to the public and private sector working together.

Why comment on the Annual plan?

#5124

UDINZ

Urban Development Institute of New Zealand Incorporated

- The Annual Plan is a key signal to the market, not just a financial document, and we're at a key juncture.
- Council decisions directly shape development feasibility, infrastructure location, prioritisation and sequencing.
- Delivery at pace and scale depends on alignment between policy, funding and operational performance.
- We've heard the speeches about receptiveness to development and now we need to see that play out in behaviour.

Our review lenses

UDINZ has reviewed the Annual Plan through the lens of:

- Urban development outcomes
- Practical delivery of growth and housing
- Infrastructure sequencing and readiness
- Development confidence and investment signals

We recognise:

- The fiscal constraints Council is operating under
- The challenge of maintaining services while managing debt and affordability performance

Overall Assessment



The Plan reflects a clear intent to maintain core services

BUT it is only moderately development-centric

In several areas, it risks reinforcing short-term cost containment over long-term urban outcomes

Key concern:
The Plan largely protects the existing system, rather than actively reshaping it to enable delivery at pace and scale — and without development delivery, the infrastructure funding challenge becomes harder, not easier. Development, when it occurs, helps fund infrastructure and unblock constraints.

A Missed Opportunity



The Annual Plan could do more to:

- Signal that Auckland is open for development
- Actively encourage private sector investment and partnership
- Translate growth strategies into real-world delivery outcomes

Without this:

- Investment decisions remain deferred
- Delivery risk stays high
- Housing and infrastructure outcomes will lag policy intent

UDINZ sees a real opportunity for Council to sharpen its focus on delivery, certainty and long-term urban value and to use the Plan more confidently as a signal of Auckland's readiness to grow well.

Infrastructure & Enabling Investment



We see significant ongoing investment in transport, water and resilience, but limited clarity on prioritisation areas or even what will survive “reassessment” in previously identified growth area.

Theres also an apparent disconnect on how that investment is funded. Development is what ultimately pays for infrastructure — through, development contributions/levies, increasing rate payer base and economic uplift.

A lack of clarity around location and timing of Infrastructure is which is critical to delivery certainty.

Infrastructure & Enabling Investment CONT



Recent UDINZ submissions have consistently highlighted the importance of infrastructure sequencing and spatial prioritisation.

Without this clarity, uncertainty persists for both public and private sector partners, weakening confidence that planned capacity will translate into actual housing and employment delivery.

Housing Supply & intensification



The Plan continues to reference housing supply and intensification, but largely as outcomes of existing strategies rather than as an actively driven programme.

There is limited emphasis on removing delivery barriers such as consenting certainty, infrastructure constraints optimising council property portfolio to release sites of scale to the sector. UDINZ has previously emphasised that without tackling these practical constraints, policy intent alone will not result in materially higher delivery or the desired intensification.

Development certainty & confidence



Signals around **fees, charges and regulatory costs are cautious**, but they are not framed in terms of their **cumulative impact** on development viability.

For a city facing acute housing and affordability pressures that needs the support of the development sector to help it **fund and deliver infrastructure**, greater acknowledgement of **development economics, delivery risk and capital sensitivity** would strengthen the Plan's credibility and its effectiveness as an investment signal.

City-shaping & quality outcomes



The Plan speaks to liveability, climate response and equity, but these ambitions are not clearly connected to a coherent urban development narrative.

There is an opportunity to more explicitly champion good urban design, density done well and place-based investment as productivity and wellbeing enablers, rather than discretionary extras.

This aligns closely with UDINZ's consistent advocacy for quality outcomes alongside increased scale and pace of development.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5127

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: What the Whau

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why

2.Auckland Council needs to allocate funding from the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 for physical stream works to mitigate flooding within the Whau River Catchment. Long term solutions require long term funding. It allows Healthy Waters to action solutions and for the communities to not be vulnerable. 3.Currently, the Whau stream is an unfunded portion of the Blue-Green Network with potential options identified. Local and/or Regional Funding is required to support those areas that are VERY HIGH Risk of a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event. It is important that Council

pursues funding from the Blue-green Network for the entire Whau River Catchment.See attachment for full submission.

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?

2. Auckland Council needs to allocate funding from the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 for physical stream works to mitigate flooding within the Whau River Catchment. Long term solutions require long term funding. It allows Healthy Waters to action solutions and for the communities to not be vulnerable.3. Currently, the Whau stream is an unfunded portion of the Blue-Green Network with potential options identified. Local and/or Regional Funding is required to support those areas that are VERY HIGH Risk of a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event. It is important that Council pursues funding from the Blue-green Network for the entire Whau River Catchment.See attachment for full submission.

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

Puketāpapa,Whau

Tell us why

What the Whau! is a community-led group of neighbours who live within the Whau River catchment. Together, we are calling for urgent, coordinated action from Auckland Council, Healthy Waters, and the Puketāpapa and Whau Local Boards to protect our homes, restore our environment, and build resilience for the future.

We are not asking for promises - we are asking for practical action, step by step and for our Local Boards, Auckland Council and Healthy Waters to commit to taking action.

1. Develop Stormwater Retention Areas near the YMCA Low-lying soggy land near the YMCA could become a natural stormwater retention zone. By daylighting streams and creating wetlands, these areas could absorb floodwaters while providing community green space, wildlife habitat, and natural beauty like Freeland or Molley Green Reserves.

2. Establish Regular Waterway Maintenance The Whau River needs consistent, proactive maintenance, not crisis clean-ups. Regular debris removal, vegetation control, and drain inspections are essential to keep the river flowing and reduce blockages that increase flood risk.

3. Revitalise Reserves along the Whau River Transforming neglected or overgrown reserves such as Margaret Griffen Park, Haycock Reserve, Boundary Reserve, and Miranda Reserve into native floodplains and greenways would both protect homes and strengthen biodiversity. Let's turn high-maintenance lawns into living flood buffers.

4. Address Capacity Issues in the Whau River The Whau River is already at near-capacity during regular rainfall, let alone major weather events. Ageing infrastructure, poor coordination between boards, and lack of maintenance make this worse. We want transparent planning and investment to improve flow management including options such as widening or deepening the river or diverting excess flow via the Wairaki Stream.

5. Upgrade Wastewater Infrastructure on Battersby Road A single low-lying wastewater pipe currently serves multiple streets and acts as a choke point in the Whau. Upgrading this system is critical to prevent blockages, backups, and contamination during storm events.

6. Remove or Redesign the "Lawnmower Bridge" This low-lying maintenance bridge in Haycock Reserve regularly blocks river flow during storms, worsening upstream flooding. We propose redesigning or removing it to restore natural water movement and reduce flood risk.

See attachment for full submission.

Whau Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

What the Whau! is a community-led group of neighbours who live within the Whau River catchment. Together, we are calling for urgent, coordinated action from Auckland Council, Healthy Waters, and the Puketāpapa and Whau Local Boards to protect our homes, restore our environment, and build resilience for the future.

We are not asking for promises - we are asking for practical action, step by step and for our Local Boards, Auckland Council and Healthy Waters to commit to taking action.

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6. Remove or Redesign the Lawnmower Bridge This low-lying maintenance bridge in Haycock Reserve regularly blocks river flow during storms, worsening upstream flooding. We propose redesigning or removing it to restore natural water movement and reduce flood risk.

See attachment for full submission.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment?

A. Design and build a new destination playground at Avondale Central Reserve.

B. Promote community identity and diversity by funding a coordinator for Welcoming Communities, supporting the PAN African Hub, and refreshing the Whau Ethnic Peoples Plan.

C. Engage and respond to youth needs, and co-design initiatives to address opportunities and gaps.

D. Improve water quality and flood resilience of Whau streams and rivers through collaboration with volunteers, local schools, community hubs, organisations, and neighbouring local boards.

E. Prioritise projects identified through the Whau Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan and leverage partnerships to provide a local facility network for the community.

F. Develop a Local Parks Management Plan to guide decisions on managing use, development, and protection of all 146 parks, reserves and open space within the Whau.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

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)

The Annual Plan should require local boards to have a plan to deal with flooding on an overall Catchment level. The Annual Plan should allocate funding for a detailed design and consenting for the Whau River Catchment. The Annual Plan should allocate increased funding for maintenance of the waterways and stormwater networks. In conclusion, the Annual Plan fails to acknowledge and apply funding to the flooding concerns within the community. It fails to address any cohesion between local boards working together and to promote community-led solutions. Instead, we rely on local boards with differentiating views on the flooding concerns in the community and council-led solutions. The community is left in silence as different local boards try to work out who does what, meanwhile we get flooded. See attachment for full submission.

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?

What the Whau!

A Call for Action from concerned residents of Mt Roskill living along the Whau stream.

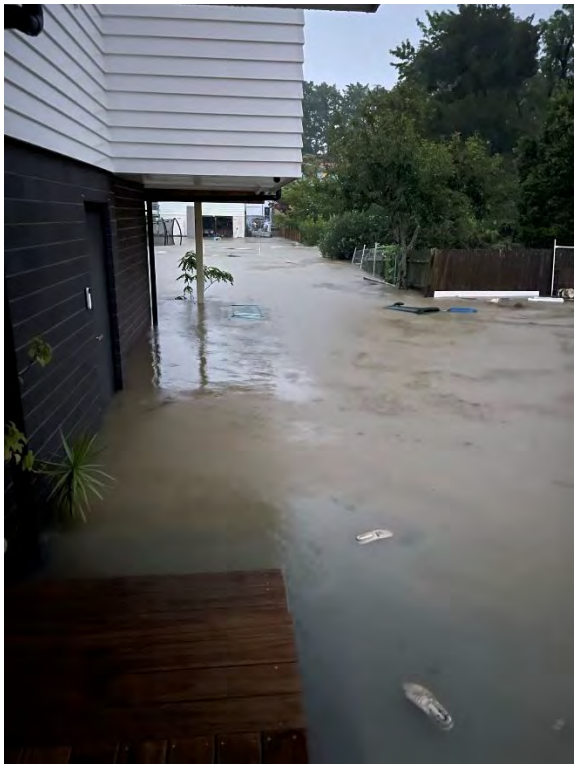
Our Story

The Whau River catchment has long been home to a strong, diverse community in Puketāpapa and Mt Roskill. But since the Auckland Anniversary floods of 2023, and again during Easter 2025, we have lived in fear. Homes and streets repeatedly flooded, backyards became ponds, and families were left anxious every time heavy rain begins.

Personal Impact: Bip – I have lived in Haycock for the past 40 years and over the past 5 years the Whau River capacity has been a constant concern every time it rains.

Two years on, many residents are still living with damage, uncertainty, and stress. While some progress has been made it is very little and the core issues remain unresolved and residents are determined not to be forgotten again.







Personal Story – [redacted] I lived and grew up at Haycock Ave for my entire life surrounded by a diverse Puketāpapa community. I attended the local schools, visited the local shops/markets and know all the nearby streets. But almost every rainfall after 2023, I am afraid. I am looking at cameras, recent rain radars and pointing flashlights at the backyard just to see if we are going to flood. No one should ever live in fear like we do.

Our Group

What the Whau! is a community-led group of neighbours who live within the Whau River catchment. Together, we are calling for urgent, coordinated action from Auckland Council, Healthy Waters, and the Puketāpapa and Whau Local Boards to protect our homes, restore our environment, and build resilience for the future.

We are not asking for promises - we are asking for practical action, step by step and for our Local Boards, Auckland Council and Healthy Waters to commit to taking action

Our Six Asks for the Whau River Catchment

1. Develop Stormwater Retention Areas near the YMCA

Low-lying soggy land near the YMCA could become a natural stormwater retention zone. By daylighting streams and creating wetlands, these areas could absorb floodwaters while providing community green space, wildlife habitat, and natural beauty like Freeland or Molley Green Reserves.





2. Establish Regular Waterway Maintenance

The Whau River needs consistent, proactive maintenance, not crisis clean-ups. Regular debris removal, vegetation control, and drain inspections are essential to keep the river flowing and reduce blockages that increase flood risk.



3. Revitalise Reserves along the Whau River

Transforming neglected or overgrown reserves such as Margaret Griffen Park, Haycock Reserve, Boundary Reserve, and Miranda Reserve into native floodplains and greenways would both protect homes and strengthen biodiversity. Let's turn high-maintenance lawns into living flood buffers.





4. Address Capacity Issues in the Whau River

The Whau River is already at near-capacity during regular rainfall, let alone major weather events. Ageing infrastructure, poor coordination between boards, and lack of maintenance make this worse. We want transparent planning and investment to improve flow management including options such as widening or deepening the river or diverting excess flow via the Wairaki Stream.



Observation: [redacted] – With just 15-20mm of rainfall the Whau River rises faster in minutes and creates this unnatural waterflow flowing onto properties.

5. Upgrade Wastewater Infrastructure on Battersby Road

A single low-lying wastewater pipe currently serves multiple streets and acts as a choke point in the Whau. Upgrading this system is critical to prevent blockages, backups, and contamination during storm events.

6. Remove or Redesign the "Lawnmower Bridge"

This low-lying maintenance bridge in Haycock Reserve regularly blocks river flow during

storms, worsening upstream flooding. We propose redesigning or removing it to restore natural water movement and reduce flood risk.



Our Commitment

Residents of the ***What the Whau!*** group are united in their call for a safer, healthier catchment. Every home deserves protection, and every voice deserves to be heard.

We are ready to collaborate with Council, Local Boards, and Healthy Waters to co-design practical solutions that will reduce flood risk, restore trust, and make the Whau a place where families can live without fear.

What the Whau! - because our community refuses to be flooded, ignored, or forgotten again.

What the Whau!!! – Recording of Past Events

October 2025

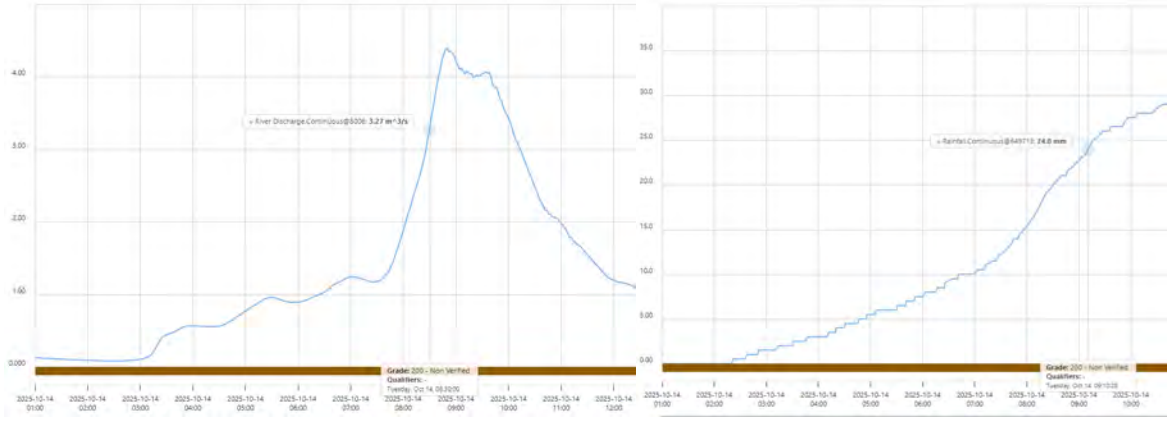
14/10/2025 8.20-11.00am NZDT

8.23am: River Rise (about 2.79m3 of river discharge)



8.50am: 4.39m/3 peak river discharge reported

8.52am: Capacity went from 1.17m3 to 3.27 m3 in one hour (around 50% capacity) and around 7 to 10mm/hr rainfall:



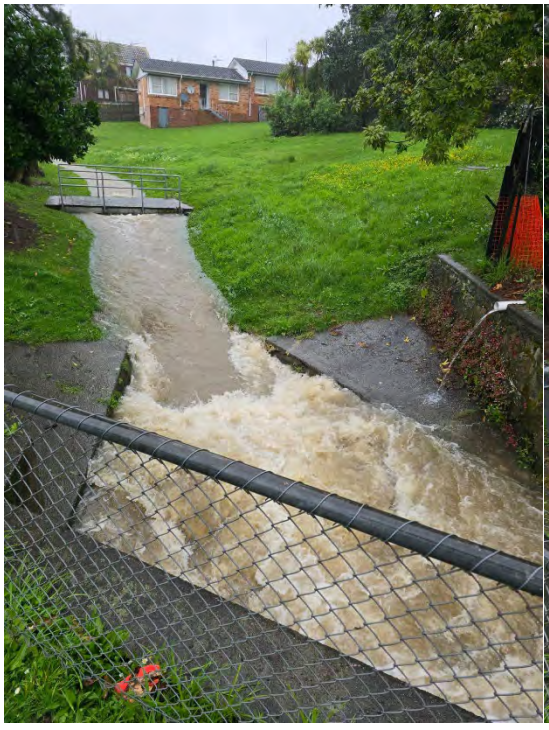
9.01am: River still rising

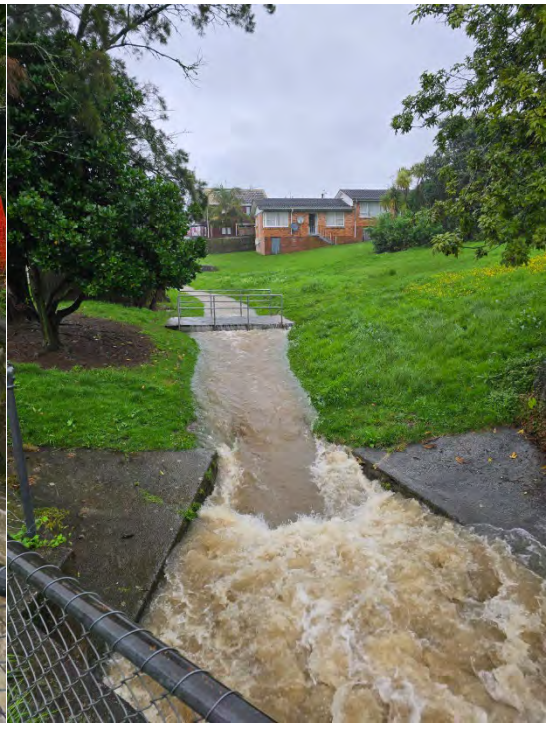


9.03am: River is 1 ½ blocks from the sections (peak 4.38m3 river discharge)



9.12 am: Images from Battersby Road Covert, bridge causing increase river width.





10:18am: River decreasing (2.85m3 river discharge)



11.09am: River receding (1.79m3 river discharge)

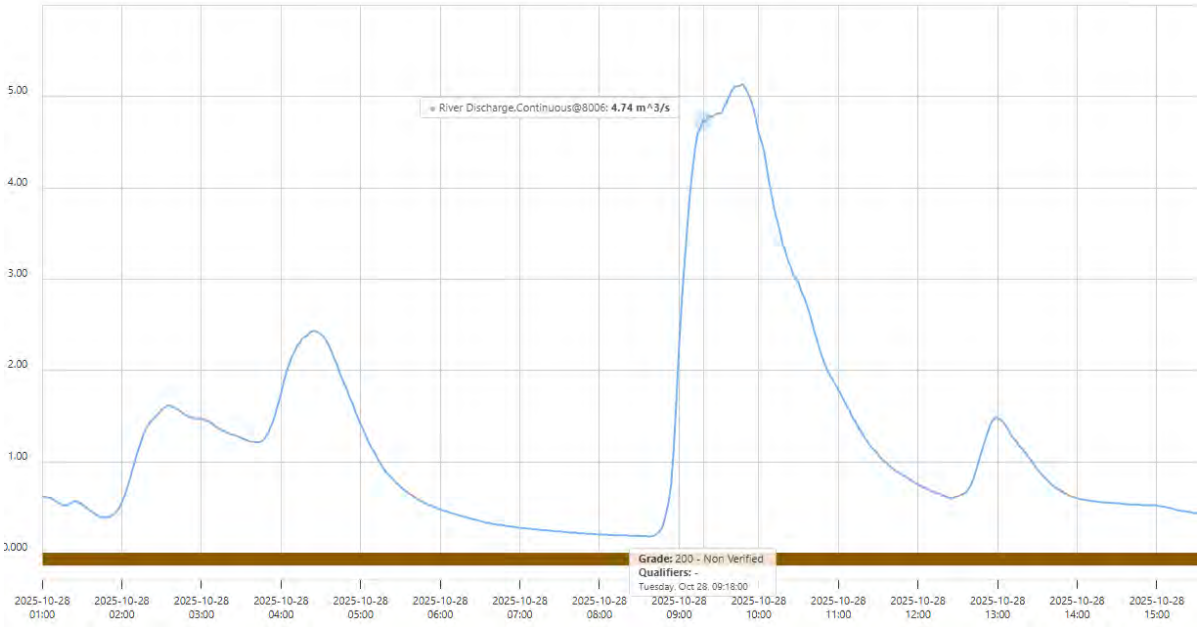


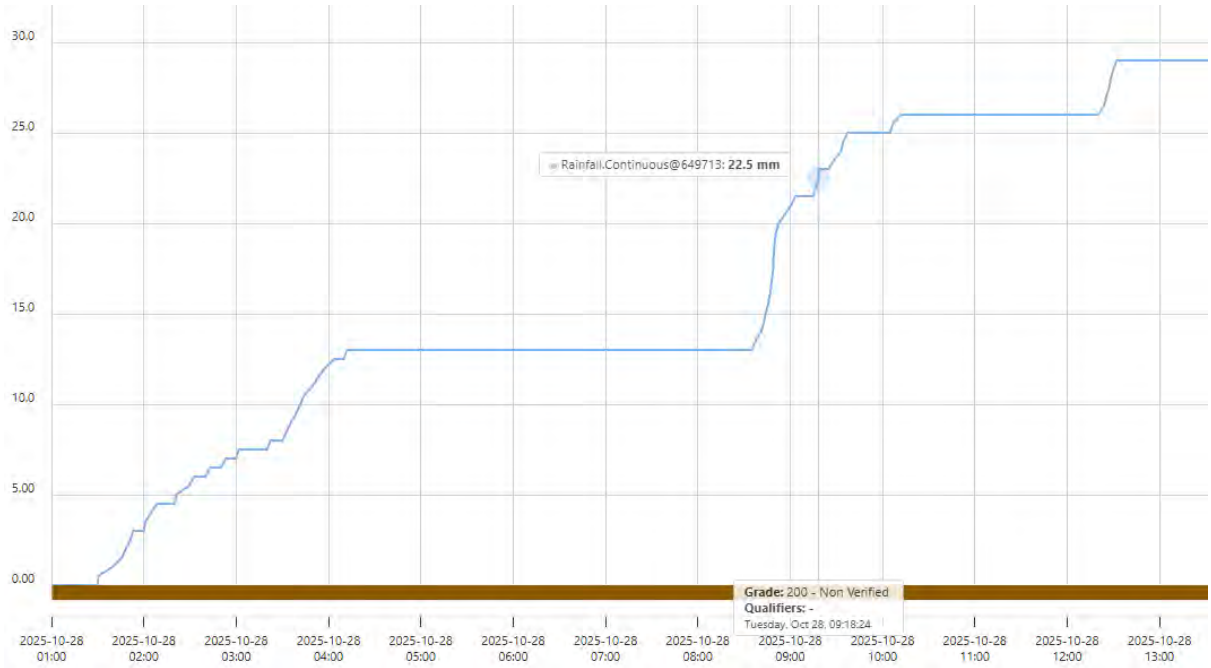
28/10/2025 9.18 am NZDT

9.18 am: River Rise (15mm Rainfall/hr and 4.74m3 River discharge)



9.48am: Peaked river discharge 5.13m3 | 13 to 21.5 mm of rainfall from 8.30 to 9:10 am





November 2025

18/11/2025 around 10 pm – 12 am NZDT

6.58pm: River rise (10mm rainfall from 5pm to 7pm and 2.47 m3 river discharge)



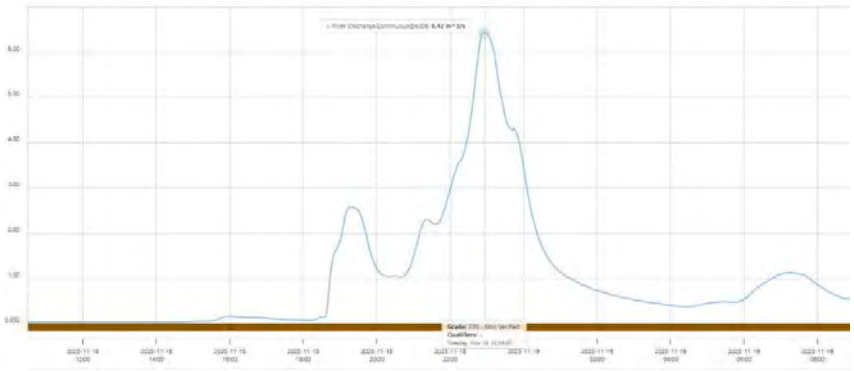
Stats over the night:

- 17mm of rainfall in 2 hrs after 10 pm

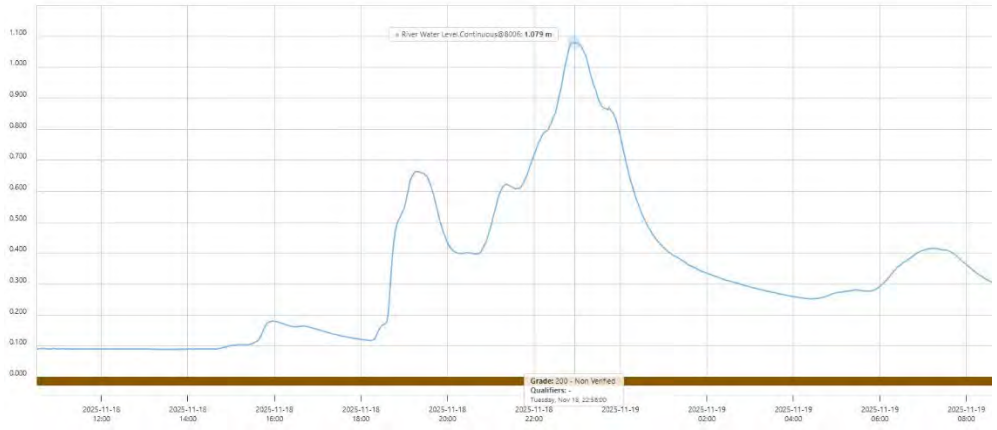
Statistics

Rainfall - 01Hr	0 mm
Rainfall - 06Hr	6 mm
Rainfall - 12Hr	17 mm
Rainfall - 24Hr	50 mm

- Peaked river discharge 6.42m3 | 13 to 21.5 mm of rainfall from 8.30 to 9:10



Water level reached 1m in the sensor



30/11/2025 around 10 pm – 12 am NZDT

4.05 pm: River Rise (10mm/hr rainfall and 2.75 m3 river discharge)



4.20 pm: River overflowing onto property



4.21pm: River shows increased flooding (10mm in 30 min and 6.96 m3 River Discharge)



4.28 pm: Section flooded and river still rising



4.30 pm: Water rising (total 31 mm rainfall over 2 hrs and 8.46 m3 River Discharge)



5.02 m: Upstream river is higher, downstream properties are affected

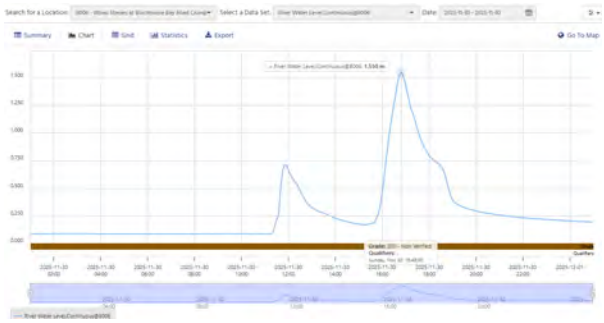


Stats over the night:

Peaked river discharge 12.1m3 | 12 to 43.5 mm of rainfall from 3.00 to 8:00pm



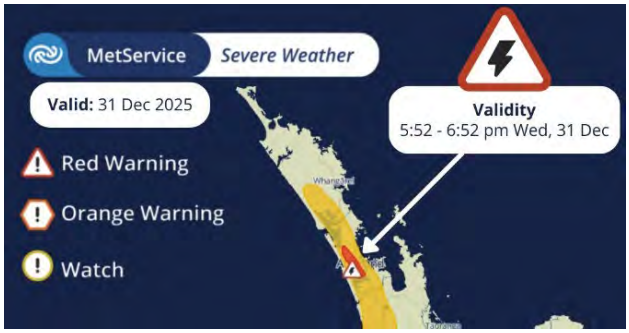
Water level reached 1.55m in the sensor



December 2025

31/12/2025 around 6-7 pm NZDT

6.25pm – Red thunderstorm passing over us over the next 30 min



6.59pm – River Rise (13mm rainfall from 6.20 to 7.00pm and 4.7 m3 river discharge)



January 2026

15/1/2026 around 8-9pm NZDT

8.55pm: River Rise (3.5 to 27 mm rainfall from 3-6pm and 4.93 m3 river discharge)



21/1/2026 around 3-pm NZDT

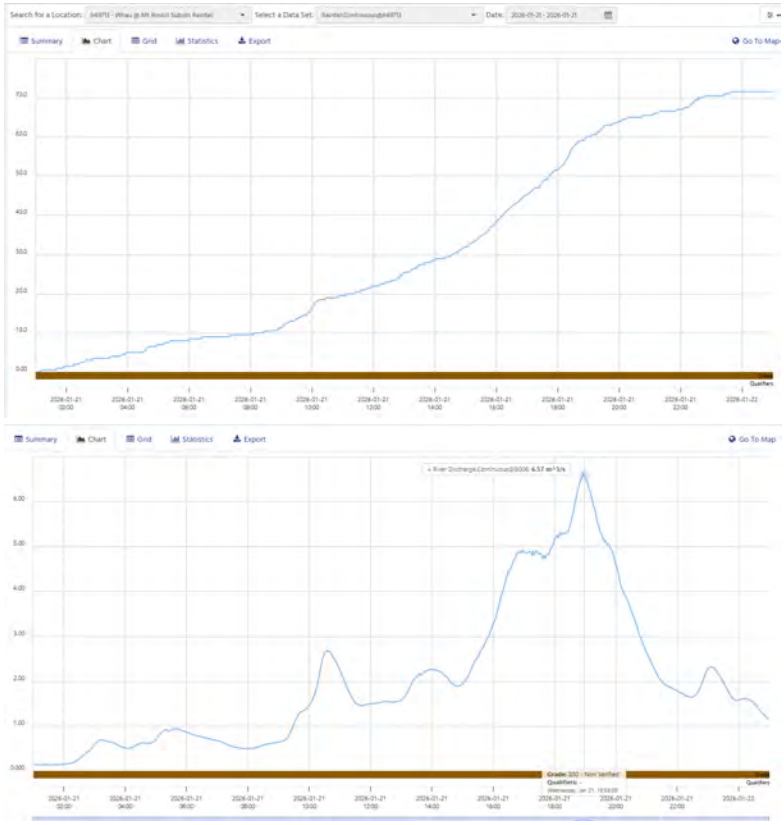
3.50pm: River Rise (5mm/hr rainfall and 2.99 m3 River Discharge)



6.40 pm: River Rising (10mm/hr rainfall and 5.97 m3 River Discharge)



Stats – steady light rainfall over the day, but capacity peaked at 7pm



Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5128

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: Disabled Persons Assembly New Zealand Inc

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why

During the cost-of-living and fuel crisis, continuing severe weather events and geopolitically generated economic turmoil, DPA urges Auckland Council to focus on providing equity for disabled people across all services and maintaining core services for all residents, including disabled people.The current overall rates increase of 7.9% was indicated in the LTP. DPA recognises that this increase will place pressure on many household budgets, especially given the cost-of-living increases expected due to petrol price rises caused by the Iran War and that this will disproportionately impact lower income households, many of whom would have disabled people

living within them. DPA asks that the Council promote, including in accessible formats, the availability of rates assistance funded through the Department of Internal Affairs to offset rates bills for low-income households.Accessibility to the physical and built environment is vital, especially with many housing plans for new suburbs neglecting accessibility in housing design. DPA strongly supports central government opening more financial tools for local government to access including, for example, returning revenue gathered from GST paid on rates to local councils and co-funding of three waters projects.DPA recommends that maintenance and repairs of the CRL lift system are prioritised in this year's transport budget. DPA asks that disabled people who are high users of public transport are fully considered in all transport system changes.See attachment for full submission.

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?

During the cost-of-living and fuel crisis, continuing severe weather events and geopolitically generated economic turmoil, DPA urges Auckland Council to focus on providing equity for disabled people across all services and maintaining core services for all residents, including disabled people.The current overall rates increase of 7.9% was indicated in the LTP. DPA recognises that this increase will place pressure on many household budgets, especially given the cost-of-living increases expected due to petrol price rises caused by the Iran War and that this will disproportionately impact lower income households, many of whom would have disabled people living within them.DPA asks that the Council promote, including in accessible formats, the availability of rates assistance funded through the Department of Internal Affairs to offset rates bills for low-income households.Accessibility to the physical and built environment is vital, especially with many housing plans for new suburbs neglecting accessibility in housing design. DPA strongly supports central government opening more financial tools for local government to access including, for example, returning revenue gathered from GST paid on rates to local councils and co-funding of three waters projects.DPA recommends that maintenance and repairs of the CRL lift system are prioritised in this year's transport budget. DPA asks that disabled people who are high users of public transport are fully considered in all transport system changes.See attachment for full submission.

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)

DPA commends Auckland Council for working collaboratively with disabled Aucklanders on the Disability Action Plan outlining practical, achievable actions that the Council can deliver to create a more inclusive and accessible city. DPA recommends that the following issues are considered for inclusion in the annual plan:• The inclusion of a disability lens to shape Council investment decisions, especially around improving the accessibility of council services, transport, information, events, building consent services and infrastructure.Total Mobility review - DPA asks that Auckland Council retain the current maximum fare cap of $80.. DPA asks that Council works with Business Improvement Districts and local business groups to improve accessibility for disabled people.DPA asks that flooding alert systems are accessible for D/deaf and disabled people.See attachment for full submission.

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?



March 2026

Ki Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau / To Auckland City Council

Please find attached our submission on the Te Mahere ā-Tau 2026/2027 Annual Plan 2026/2027

For any further inquiries, please contact:

[redacted]
Policy Advisor – Auckland & Northland
[redacted]

Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

We work on systemic change for the equity of disabled people

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a not-for-profit pan-impairment Disabled People's Organisation run by and for disabled people.

We recognise:

- Māori as Tangata Whenua and Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand;
- disabled people as experts on their own lives;
- the Social Model of Disability as the guiding principle for interpreting disability and impairment;
- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as the basis for disabled people's relationship with the State;
- the New Zealand Disability Strategy as Government agencies' guide on disability issues; and
- the Enabling Good Lives Principles and the Atoatoali'o National Pacific Disability Approach as avenues to disabled people gaining greater choice and control over their lives and supports.

We drive systemic change through:

Rangatiratanga / Leadership: reflecting the collective voice of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally.

Pārongo me te tohutohu / Information and advice: informing and advising on policies impacting on the lives of disabled people.

Kōkiri / Advocacy: supporting disabled people to have a voice, including a collective voice, in society.

Aroturuki / Monitoring: monitoring and giving feedback on existing laws, policies and practices about and relevant to disabled people.

The Submission

Introduction

DPA welcomes the opportunity to engage with Auckland Council on the Annual Plan 2026 - 2027.

During the cost-of-living and fuel crisis, continuing severe weather events and geopolitically generated economic turmoil, DPA urges Auckland Council to focus on providing equity for disabled people across all services and maintaining core services for all residents, including disabled people.

In Statistics NZ's 2023 Disability Survey, Auckland had a disability population rate of 14 percent[1] indicating that at least 280,000 disabled people are currently residing within the city's boundaries.[2]

Accessibility to the physical and built environment is vital, especially with many housing plans for new suburbs neglecting accessibility in housing design.

DPA notes that council collaborates with Kāingā Ora and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to progress infrastructure investments in the Auckland Housing Programme areas, so the Council's commitment to universal design is definitely there.

DPA commends Auckland Council for working with disabled people to support disabled people-led climate mitigation projects. A major positive is the Auckland disability community being involved in the implementation and education process of our own community through disability led climate adaptation projects.[3]

DPA asks that future annual plans include disability impact assessments developed in partnership with the Council's Disability Advisory Panel.

[1] https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/news/news/17-percent-of-new-zealanders-are-disabled
[2] https://www.stats.govt.nz/news/auckland-population-may-hit-2-million-in-early-2030s/
[3] shttps://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/DLCAP

In our previous submission on the LTP, we addressed several areas that we would like highlight again around the annual plan's focus on water, transport and local boards:

- Ensuring affordable, accessible, active public transport including essential road safety, walking and cycling improvements especially with the introduction of the City Rail Link.
- Building and sustaining accessible, connected communities where everyone can live without barriers to their participation in terms of good housing, infrastructure, community facilities and parks.
- Developing a climate resilient, environmentally friendly city that can withstand the challenges of climate change and contribute to its reversal through the new climate disruption project.
- Enabling the participation of disabled people in the economic life of the city as workers, consumers and entrepreneurs. With high levels of unemployment, this is key to the further economic participation of disabled people living in Auckland.
- Enabling the participation of disabled people in the artistic, cultural, sporting, recreational and social life of the city.
- Ensuring that the voices of disabled people can be heard in all decisions, especially those that impact on our disabled communities across Tāmaki Makaurau.

Overall, this is a good annual plan, but we do still have some concerns.

In this submission, we make recommendations around addressing the needs of the city's disabled population as part of this year's budget.

Disability Action Plan priorities

DPA commends Auckland Council for working collaboratively with disabled Aucklanders on the Disability Action Plan outlining practical, achievable actions that the Council can deliver to create a more inclusive and accessible city.[4]

DPA recommends that the following issues are considered for inclusion in the annual plan:

- The inclusion of a disability lens to shape Council investment decisions, especially around improving the accessibility of council services, transport, information, events, building consent services and infrastructure.
- The plan discusses aligning to the Māori plan for Whānau Hauā/Disabled Māori which includes:
    - Council collaboration with Māori disabled people's organisations who are mana whenua under Te Tiriti. An example is the development of a sustainable accessible marae in the South Auckland region as part of the Marae Infrastructure Programme
    - Partnership with Māori disabled in the space of mana whenua and kaitiakitanga is also key in landscape initiatives, public transport roads and footpaths, pest management, water wastewater treatment, community engagement, climate action, waste management, economic development, regional facilities and urban regeneration.

Rates

The current overall rates increase of 7.9% was indicated in the LTP. DPA recognises that this increase will place pressure on many household budgets, especially given the cost-of-living increases expected due to petrol price rises caused by the Iran War and that this will disproportionately impact lower income households, many of whom would have disabled people living within them.

[4] https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/content/dam/ac/docs/about-council/ac-disability-action-plan.pdf

DPA asks that the Council promote, including in accessible formats, the availability of rates assistance funded through the Department of Internal Affairs to offset rates bills for low-income households.

Any rates rise will be difficult but still necessary if council capital spending programmes, services and activities are to be maintained even in these difficult times.

However, DPA has concerns imposing a rates cap as that we know that this will restrict the ability of councils to properly resource the delivery of local services and projects, leading to significant downstream impacts and costs to ratepayers in other areas including increased user charges for existing council services including, for example, dog registration and swimming pool/recreational centre fees, increased rents for council provided social housing, all of which would disproportionately impact disabled people.

We are particularly concerned that a rates cap would also lead to significant reductions in council spending on infrastructure and services around the country, affecting services including public libraries, community centres, museums and swimming pools – all services that residents, especially disabled residents, rely on for community connection, inclusion and wellbeing.

DPA strongly supports central government opening more financial tools for local government to access including, for example, returning revenue gathered from GST paid on rates to local councils and co-funding of three waters projects.

We believe that central government should also fully fund the cost of activities provided by local councils on its behalf (known as unfunded mandates), for example, liquor licensing and public health inspections.

The creation of more funding pathways for local government, will help contain rates rises much better than any rates cap could.

Transport

The provision of public transport services is important for disabled Aucklanders in terms of the ability to undertake social connection, inclusion and participation in their communities.

The City Rail Link (CRL) opened in 2026 with accessibility features including step-free access, lifts to deep underground platforms, and modernised stations. It integrates with electric trains featuring automatic ramps, improved platform markings, and frequent, reliable services to enhance mobility for all commuters, including wheelchair users.

However, DPA is concerned that changes in the transport space can cause disruptions on different levels given that Auckland Transport has shifted its focus to becoming solely a public transport service provider in the wake of having its governance functions transferred to Auckland Council.

DPA asks that disabled people who are high users of public transport are fully considered in all transport system changes.

Some disabled people have shared with us their experiences of arriving at stations to find lifts not working and being unable to use elevators safely.

DPA recommends that maintenance and repairs of the CRL lift system are prioritised in this year's transport budget.

Overall, CRL accessibility looks good with ensuring hop gates are clear, entry points are accessible, surfaces are safe to traverse for disabled people and passenger information displays are modern.[5] [6] Additional benefits are the reduction of carbon emissions benefitting our environment through the ability to mitigate climate change.

Total Mobility (TM) review

Total Mobility (TM) is a key component of the public transport system for many disabled Aucklanders as it supports participation in community life.

[5] https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/accessible-travel/train-accessibility-information
[6] https://at.govt.nz/projects-initiatives/city-centre-projects-and-initiatives/city-rail-link-auckland-s-new-network-in-2026

However, Government's recently announced changes to the Total Mobility (TM) scheme, due to come into effect on July 1, are very concerning to our community.

DPA recently submitted to the Ministry of Transport's consultation on TM against the most harmful changes including lower fare subsidies with a reduction from 75% to 65% on all trips meaning users will be required to pay an increased fare for each trip when the discount moves from being 25% (as it is currently) to 35%.

Another proposal to cap the number of trips disabled people can take using TM was also opposed on the basis that it will severely limit disabled people's ability to use taxis and other small passenger services covered by the scheme.

A practical example of the impact these restrictions will have is that if a disabled TM user takes 30x trips per month on average, then that will amount to them only being able to take 15x return trips per month in total.

DPA is also concerned about the implications of these changes on TM maximum regional fare caps which vary across the country.

DPA asks that Auckland Council mitigate the impacts of the proposed TM changes on disabled people by retaining the current maximum fare cap for TM users in Auckland of $80. The effect of the fare cap is to restrict the distance travelled which is already being restricted as the fuel crisis.

DPA asks that Auckland Council retain the current maximum fare cap of $80.

In our submission to the Transport Ministry's TM review – considering the current fuel crisis and generally inequitable nature of the proposals outlined - we called for the forthcoming July 1 changes to the scheme to be permanently scrapped.

DPA recommends that, to retain the current maximum trip fare cap, Council adequately funds its share of TM as part of efforts to maintain affordable transport for disabled people and people with health conditions who are members of the scheme in these difficult times.

Local boards

Local boards are responsible for services that strengthen communities in their area, in terms of parks, libraries, pools, arts, recreation centres, community halls, programmes and events.

DPA asks that local board services are accessible for everyone, including disabled people.

DPA acknowledges that local boards determine what activities and services to focus on in their area but given the increasing costs of running facilities that might require service reductions or the need for targeted rates, we emphasise that disabled people will be amongst the population groups that will be disproportionately impacted by any service changes or targeted rates measures.

The increase in mobility parking permit fines to $750 has reduced illegal parking in mobility parking spaces.

However, DPA is concerned about the number of mobility parking spaces under the control of local businesses, for example, supermarkets, not being adequately monitored or managed.

DPA asks that Council works with Business Improvement Districts and local business groups to improve accessibility for disabled people.

DPA supported the ‘fairer funding’ approach where Council provides local boards funding based on the main criteria of board area population, levels of deprivation and total land area. As disabled people are predominantly low-income earners and live in high population and high deprivation areas, we continue to support this approach.

DPA asks that local boards involve disabled people in decision making on the activities and services they provide, especially if service reductions are proposed.

Water

Infrastructure such as replacing ageing pipes and treatment plant infrastructure across Auckland are needed to reduce the incidence of flooding across the city. DPA supported the Making Space for Water programme which aims to reduce, avoid

and raise awareness of flood risks as the disabled community are one of the higher risk communities during flooding events.

DPA asks that flooding alert systems are accessible for D/deaf and disabled people.

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5137

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: Auckland Philharmonia

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why

Grow Auckland's economy by supporting events, tourism and creative industries - Maintain stability of funding that major arts institutions receive so that iconic and well-attended cultural events bring Aucklanders out of their homes recycling money throughout the cityInvest in infrastructure, amenities, and services that give people a reason to use the new CRL and supports Aucklanders' quality of lifeMakegood use of CRL investment by continuing to fund the activities and events Aucklanders are proud of and maintain Auckland as New Zealand's global citySee attachment for full submission.

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?

Grow Auckland's economy by supporting events, tourism and creative industries - Maintain stability of funding that major arts institutions receive so that iconic and well-attended cultural events bring Aucklanders out of their homes recycling money throughout the cityInvest in infrastructure, amenities, and services that give people a reason to use the new CRL and supports Aucklanders' quality of lifeMakegood use of CRL investment by continuing to fund the activities and events Aucklanders are proud of and maintain Auckland as New Zealand's global citySee attachment for full submission.

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?

Response to Auckland Council 2026/27 Annual Plan

Monday 23 March

Presented by [redacted] Chief Executive

Auckland Philharmonia.

An Auckland Institution

- With 50+ performances per year, largest performing arts institution driving tens of thousands of people into the CBD each year on a regular basis
- Serve 50+ Auckland schools and over 19,000 students through our Learn & Participate Programme
- Beacon of civic engagement and pride
- Driver of economic development activity
- Internationally recognised contributor to Auckland's global reputation

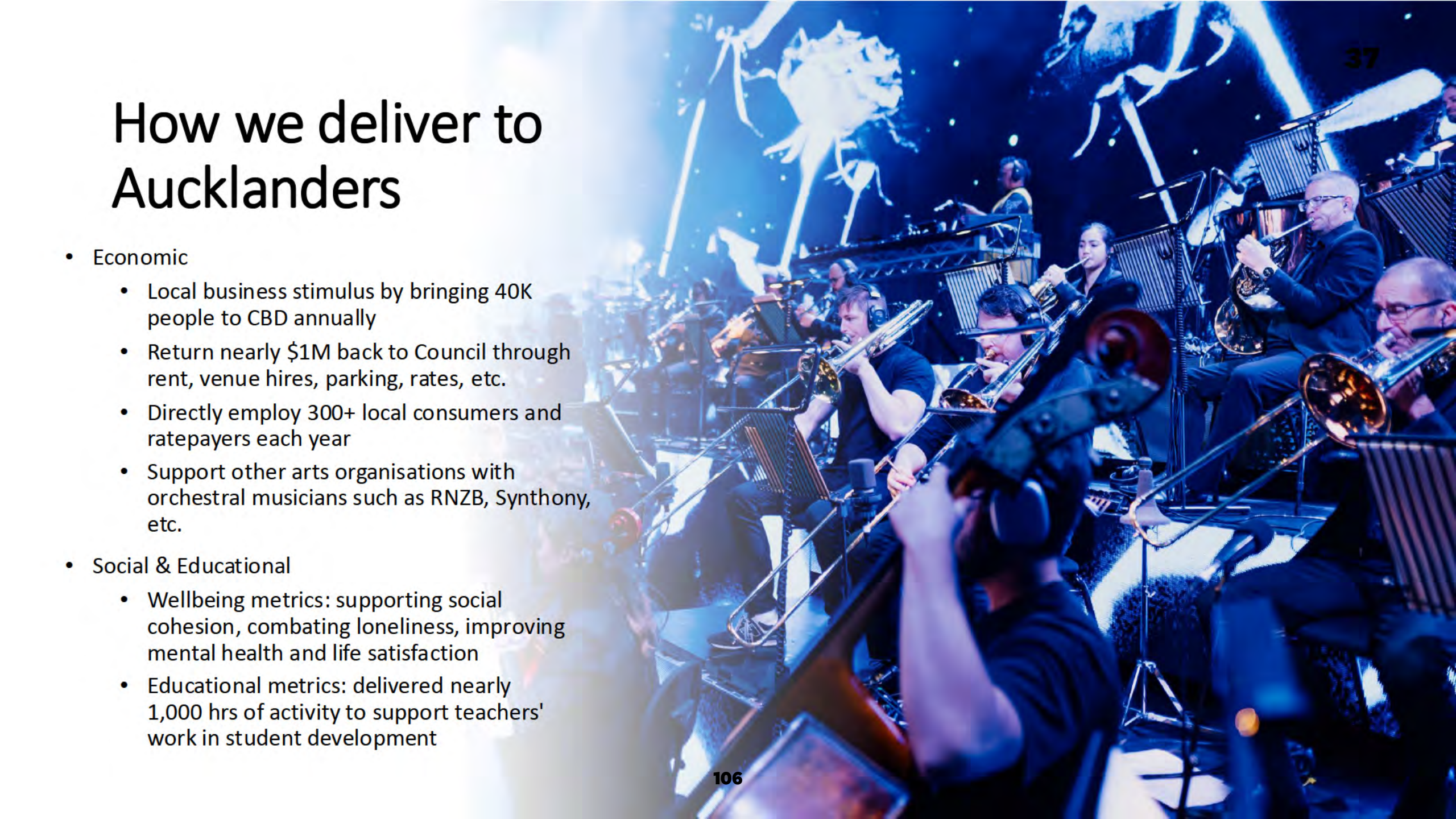


Return on Auckland's Investment

- Auckland Philharmonia delivers efficiently for the good of communities across Auckland
- Impact Lab Social Return on Investment
  - $12.30 return for every $1 spent on community programmes
  - $2.20 return for every $1 spent on performance programmes
- Our partnerships increase resilience and capacity in the sector and return benefit to Aucklanders
  - Industry: Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, Auckland Live, TAU Creative Industries, New Zealand Opera, Royal New Zealand Ballet, Auckland Arts Festival, Q Theatre, Stardome, New Zealand Film Festival, Lockwood Aria Competition, RNZ, Synthony, and more
  - Community: A broad community engagement programe partnering with organisations like MS Auckland and Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre to use music as a transformational tool to support wellbeing across the city.
  - Corporate: 40+ local businesses

How we deliver to Aucklanders

- Economic
  - Local business stimulus by bringing 40K people to CBD annually
  - Return nearly $1M back to Council through rent, venue hires, parking, rates, etc.
  - Directly employ 300+ local consumers and ratepayers each year
  - Support other arts organisations with orchestral musicians such as RNZB, Synthony, etc.
- Social & Educational
  - Wellbeing metrics: supporting social cohesion, combating loneliness, improving mental health and life satisfaction
  - Educational metrics: delivered nearly 1,000 hrs of activity to support teachers' work in student development



Activating our communities

- 50+ times per year, we perform for full houses at Auckland Town Hall, Bruce Mason Centre, Kiri Te Kanawa, and Due Drop Events Centre in Manukau

- Akl Phil events give people a reason to:
  - leave their homes
  - use transport
  - frequent local businesses
  - engage socially with others
  - experience the features that make our city great



Response to 2026/27 Long Term Plan

- "Grow Auckland's economy by supporting events, tourism and creative industries"
  - Maintain **stability of funding** that major arts institutions receive so that iconic and well-attended cultural events bring Aucklanders out of their homes recycling money throughout the city
- "Planning infrastructure to manage growth"
  - **Invest in infrastructure, amenities, and services** that give people a reason to use the new CRL and supports Aucklanders' quality of life
- "Transport: making easier, safer and more sustainable for people to move around"
  - Make **good use of CRL investment** by continuing to fund the activities and events Aucklanders are proud of and maintain Auckland as New Zealand's global city



The Auckland Philharmonia is a valuable part of the cultural infrastructure of the City that delivers community connection, economic activation, and sector partnership that is aligned with Council's focus on value, efficiency, and growth.

We look forward to supporting the goals of the 2026/27 annual plan through our continued successes.



Thank you for this opportunity

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5139

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: Stop Auckland Sewage Overflows Coalition

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

N/A

Tell us why

N/A

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)

Supports a costed plan for Eastern and Western sewerage/wastewater. SASOC notes Auckland's Western and Eastern Isthmus water quality improvements as outlined in the current Long-Term Plan (LTP) will continue in the current year.SASOC recommends that Auckland Council and Watercare use the current three-year period to develop a costed plan to comply with the requirements of the 2014 Resource Consent to be included in the next LTP due in 2028.See attachment for full submission.

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

#5146

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Submitter details:

Organisation: Greater Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why

We support council funding CRL but have some concerns. Based on the timetable tested in January, the design approach seems fundamentally flawed. From Day One, services will be less available at peak times, especially on the Western Line.See attachment for full submission.

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?

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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)

Aucklanders strongly support Access for EveryonePeople-friendly spacesCleaner airLess through-trafficNicer public placesGreener streets

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

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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

#5148

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: Campaign for Better Transport Inc

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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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- **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?

Other

Tell us why

The CBT is in favour of the plan and recognises the importance of continued investment in Auckland's transport infrastructure. We recognise most of the planned 8% rates increase is a byproduct of the completion of the City Rail Link and the need to pay interest on the borrowings, as well as to provide a fund for repairs and maintenance. This is something that is unavoidable.See attachment for full submission.

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?

The CBT is in favour of the plan and recognises the importance of continued investment in Auckland's transport infrastructure. We recognise most of the planned 8% rates increase is a byproduct of the completion of the City Rail Link and the need to pay interest on the borrowings, as well as to provide a fund for repairs and maintenance. This is something that is unavoidable.See attachment for full submission.

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)

The CBT is disappointed at the lack of progress on providing a train service to Huapai, but are optimistic that comments from KiwiRail suggest that some progress might be made once the City Rail Link is open. Whilst we appreciate the presence of long term plans for a busway or light rail from Huapai through to the Central Business District via Westgate, a train service to Huapai could be implemented in a year or two and provide the residents of Huapai with more reliable access to the rest of Auckland sooner rather than needing to wait a decade or two for the long term plans to be implemented.The CBT is looking forward to the removal of the level crossings at Spartan Road, Manuroa Road, Taka Street and Walters Road in Takanini, and continue to urge Auckland Council to do everything in its power to accelerate progress on this project.The CBT is incredibly disappointed that a third platform has yet to be built at Puhinui and this significantly hinders the operational efficiency of the rail network.See attachment for full submission.

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?

we would like to see significant progress made on a programme of grade separation of level crossings, with route protection in place for all level crossings even if funding were not immediately available. We would also like to see at least some of the Western level crossings grade separated.Within the next decade, there will be a need for an extra line from at least WestfieldYards through to Papakura as freight needs grow on the Golden Triangle, and in anticipation of improved services from Hamilton.The CBT has previously mentioned the merit of having some key bus routes operate on a 24/7 basis, enabling people to truly live without a car, and we consider that further progress should take place in the next decade to facilitate this.North Shore Rail, Northwestern Busway, Airport Rail. See attachment for full submission.

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?

Campaign For Better Transport

29 March 2026

AK Have Your Say
Auckland Council
AUCKLAND

Sent via e-mail: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

AUCKLAND COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN 2026/27

The Campaign for Better Transport Incorporated (**CBT**) wish to put forward our comments in relation to the Auckland Council Annual Plan 2026/27. The CBT is in favour of the plan and recognises the importance of continued investment in Auckland's transport infrastructure.

We recognise most of the planned 8% rates increase is a byproduct of the completion of the City Rail Link and the need to pay interest on the borrowings, as well as to provide a fund for repairs and maintenance. This is something that is unavoidable.

Our comments will focus on key areas such as the development of a train service to Huapai, the urgent need for further level crossing renewals and some comment on the longer-term vision for this city.

Trains to Huapai

The CBT is disappointed at the lack of progress on providing a train service to Huapai, but are optimistic that comments from KiwiRail suggest that some progress might be made once the City Rail Link is open. Whilst we appreciate the presence of long term plans for a busway or light rail from Huapai through to the Central Business District via Westgate, a train service to Huapai could be implemented in a year or two and provide the residents of Huapai with more reliable access to the rest of Auckland sooner rather than needing to wait a decade or two for the long term plans to be implemented.

As noted last year, the CBT is aware of a study undertaken by the Public Transport Users Association which indicates a full-time train service to Huapai could be provided for $9 million utilising some of the former SA/SD carriages. The CBT is also aware of interest from the private sector for funding the improvements and operation of the service. We continue to urge Auckland Council to advocate for a rail service to Huapai, noting that this proposal appears to have the broad support of Auckland Council, the broad support of the community, the broad support of both the present government and the opposition.

Level Crossings

The CBT is looking forward to the removal of the level crossings at Spartan Road, Manuroa Road, Taka Street and Walters Road in Takanini, and continue to urge Auckland Council to do everything in its power to accelerate progress on this project.

[redacted]

The CBT are aware further work has been undertaken on planning a programme for the removal of level crossings on the Western Line, with the level crossings falling into two broad categories. Notwithstanding this, we consider the situation with the Morningside Drive level crossing has become particularly acute and there is a need to ensure grade separation of this level crossing is prioritised, with route protection put in place in the next couple of years. There are several reasons for this:

1. Morningside Drive is a busy road and with increased train services, congestion will increase as barrier arms are down for longer. Added to this is the proximity of the level crossing to the intersection with New North Road.
2. Morningside Drive is on a frequent bus route (the 22N/22R pair). The 22N/22R pair is the only frequent bus route in Auckland that traverses a level crossing.
3. Central government are keen to see greater development in the Morningside area, and we are concerned that apartment construction could occur in a location that would make it practically impossible to grade separate Morningside Drive. This has already occurred in Glen Eden.
4. There is set to be an increase in the number of events at Eden Park such as concerts. The Morningside Drive level crossing acts as a constraint to the efficient operation of special events services transporting people from Eden Park.
5. Whilst the pedestrian part of the level crossing is better than it was, this is still hazardous to pedestrians, and we are concerned at the prospect of future fatalities.

Third Platform at Puhinui

The CBT is incredibly disappointed that a third platform has yet to be built at Puhinui and this significantly hinders the operational efficiency of the rail network. The current arrangement means that the third main cannot be used by trains, such as Te Huia, that want to be able to stop at Puhinui and means those services are limited to the speed of the entire suburban network. This will only get worse once the City Rail Link opens and pressure grows for the provision of express services to South Auckland.

The CBT therefore thinks the construction of a third platform at Puhinui is a matter of urgency and needs to be done in the next year or two.

Longer Term

The consultation document asks for feedback about the longer-term vision for Auckland. In this section we will comment on the next decade given the long-term plan is up for renewal, but we emphasise this is only a component of our vision.

Level Crossing Grade Separation

It goes without saying that in the next decade, we would like to see significant progress made on a programme of grade separation of level crossings, with route protection in place for all level crossings even if funding were not immediately available. We would also like to see at least some of the Western level crossings grade separated.

[redacted]

Track Amplification

Whilst the third main project has improved the efficiency of the rail network, the gains will not last long. Within the next decade, there will be a need for an extra line from at least Westfield Yards through to Papakura as freight needs grow on the Golden Triangle, and in anticipation of improved services from Hamilton. This will mean that there would be four lines from Otahuhu to Wiri Junction, and three lines from Wiri Junction to Papakura.

24 Hour Buses

The CBT has previously mentioned the merit of having some key bus routes operate on a 24/7 basis, enabling people to truly live without a car, and we consider that further progress should take place in the next decade to facilitate this. In the first instance, we would like to see 24/7 bus service on the NX1, 70, 18 (with extension to Henderson), 33 (with extension to the City Centre) and Airport Link routes, with gradual expansion to cover other key bus corridors.

North Shore Rail

It is clear central government are eager to develop a third Auckland Harbour Crossing, and it is vital this includes a heavy rail component, with preliminary development to Albany, followed by future development to Silverdale and points north.

Northwestern Busway

Whilst it is heartening that this project is making progress, we are concerned that progress is happening at too slow a pace and would certainly support efforts by Council to lobby government for an accelerated timeline.

Airport Rail

We continue to favour a heavy rail solution to Auckland Airport but acknowledge that some other large scale projects would take priority. In saying this, efforts must be made to ensure the Onehunga Line is kept in operation and that a suitable corridor is preserved before development makes this more difficult.

Corridor Protection

Above all else, there is a need to ensure that corridors for future public transport, whether heavy rail, light rail or busway, are preserved now to enable easy construction later. We saw with the Southwestern Motorway that a decision to preserve the corridor in the late 1950s meant that construction was able to easily take place at minimal cost in the period from the 1974 through to 2010. We need a similar approach with our public transport corridors, especially as urban intensification increases the risk that an apartment complex might be built right in an ideal spot for improved public transport infrastructure (Rhodes Station in Sydney is a prime example of how 30 story apartment blocks have been built hard up against a rail corridor, making future track amplification practically impossible).

Conclusion

With the City Rail Link set to open later this year, now is the opportunity to take a breather and engage in some of those relatively smaller projects that will help enhance our transport system. Trains to Huapai and grade separation of level crossings are projects that can achieve significant bang for buck.

The CBT is looking forward to submitting on the Long Term Plan in due course and would like the opportunity to discuss its ideas at the appropriate time.

If the Council has any further queries, please contact us at [redacted]
We will be pleased to comment further if requested.

Yours faithfully
The Campaign for Better Transport Incorporated

[redacted]

[redacted]
Convenor

[redacted]

Annual Plan 2026-2027

#5153

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: Civic Trust Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

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?

Other

Tell us why

CTA notes the Annual Plan's recognition of built heritage as a part of the city, andwe strongly support this being provided for as an integral part of Auckland Council's vision (CD, pg 4). We note that the operational expenditure for the built environment of $72 m (pg 8) is just 1.4% of total opex, and capital expenditure on the built environment of $150 m is just 3.8% of total capex. While this appears small, a factor that may complicate matters arises when, for example, an historic heritage library may be accounted for under Community rather than Built Environment.(b) We note that Council will be undertaking a Value for Money assessment of itsown heritage properties in Q4 of

2026, and CTA encourages Council to makeadequate financial provision for historic heritage it owns.(c) We look forward to the opening of the City Rail Link and the completion of thepublic spaces around CRL stations, and the positive changes that are anticipated as a result, particularly for the city centre. CTA suggests that near the new Mt Eden station, Council should investigate the repurposing of the old Mt Eden Prison. Some creative flair could be used to appropriately modify the heritage building for alternative useful purposes.(d) CTA does not support the currently proposed further expenditure on High Street in the city centre. As we said during our 23 March presentation, this expenditure is unnecessary, and, notwithstanding the supportive consultation results produced, the changes are, in fact, unwanted by many of the High Street businesses, which have had to bear several disruptions over the last couple of decades.CTA strongly approves of the fairer funding approach for local boards, havingsupported this in our submission on the Long-term Plan 2024-2034.See attachment for full submission.

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?

CTA notes the Annual Plan’s recognition of built heritage as a part of the city, andwe strongly support this being provided for as an integral part of Auckland Council’s vision (CD, pg 4). We note that the operational expenditure for the built environment of $72 m (pg 8) is just 1.4% of total opex, and capital expenditure on the built environment of $150 m is just 3.8% of total capex. While this appears small, a factor that may complicate matters arises when, for example, an historic heritage library may be accounted for under Community rather than Built Environment.(b) We note that Council will be undertaking a Value for Money assessment of itsown heritage properties in Q4 of 2026, and CTA encourages Council to makeadequate financial provision for historic heritage it owns.(c) We look forward to the opening of the City Rail Link and the completion of thepublic spaces around CRL stations, and the positive changes that are anticipated as a result, particularly for the city centre. CTA suggests that near the new Mt Eden station, Council should investigate the repurposing of the old Mt Eden Prison. Some creative flair could be used to appropriately modify the heritage building for alternative useful purposes.(d) CTA does not support the currently proposed further expenditure on High Street in the city centre. As we said during our 23 March presentation, this expenditure is unnecessary, and, notwithstanding the supportive consultation results produced, the changes are, in fact, unwanted by many of the High Street businesses, which have had to bear several disruptions over the last couple of decades.CTA strongly approves of the fairer funding approach for local boards, havingsupported this in our submission on the Long-term Plan 2024-2034.See attachment for full submission.

Question 3: Local board priorities

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

Albert-Eden,Aotea/Great Barrier,Devonport-Takapuna,Franklin,Hibiscus and Bays,Howick,Kaipātiki,Māngere-Ōtāhuhu,Manurewa,Maungakiekie-Tāmaki,Ōrākei,Ōtara-Papatoetoe,Papakura,Puketāpapa,Rodney,Upper Harbour,Waiheke,Waitākere Ranges,Waitematā,Whau

Albert-Eden Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Restoration planning for Waitītiko / Meola Creek· Investigating how to respond to future growth expected as a result of ProposedPlan Change 120: Housing Intensification and Resilience, the opening of the City RailLink and development areas like Te Kukūnga Waka (Carrington residentialdevelopment) and any future changes at the ex-University of Auckland, EpsomCampusAs part of this investigation, CTA suggests that the local board advocates to Councilfor the repurposing of the old Mt Eden Prison. We also suggest the local board takesany action available, including enforcement orders, to halt and remedy what appearto be intentional actions that will harm the main building of Oakley/CarringtonHospital at the Unitec campus. The building is Category A Scheduled Heritage withinthe Auckland Unitary Plan (Item 1618), excluding the additions made after 1905, andis a Category 1 Historic Place on the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) List / Rārangi Korero (Item 96). https://www.heritage.org.nz/listdetails/96/Carrington%20Hospital%20(Former)

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment and changes to services, fees and charges?

A. Restoration planning for Waititiko / Meola Creek, to leverage the improvements in water quality that will be achieved through the Central Interceptor.

B. Investigating how to respond to future growth expected in our area.

C. Trialling free off-peak access for Gold Card holders to swim at Mt Albert Aquatic Centre.

3. Kingsland Business Society Inc is proposing to expand the geographic boundary of its Business Improvement District programme to include areas around the north end of

Morningside Drive, and to increase the amount of targeted rate funds to be collected from $245,000 to $370,000 per year. If it is successful, ratepayers of business properties located within the BID expansion area will be required to pay the associated BID targeted rate. Do you support this proposal?

Tell us why

Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Partnering with mana whenua and community on moana ora (marine wellbeing)projects such as island fisheries management and local Ahu Moana marine projects

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment and changes to services?

A. Improvements to the library service including additional programmes.

B. Partnering with mana whenua and community on the coordination and engagement of island fisheries management and local Ahu Moana marine projects.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Working with Council to support people impacted by flooding events· Advocacy to the Governing Body or other entities for support, including the LakeRoad upgrade, the development of the Francis Esmonde link and a new ferryterminal at Bayswater· Completion and adoption of the Devonport -Takapuna Local Parks ManagementPlan to help guide decisions and investment in parks and open spaces

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering changes to service levels or fees. What do you think about the proposed changes?

A. Reduced maintenance of bollards and fencing, stop scheduled maintenance for bush area (except High Value/Ecological areas), reduced service level for amenity gardens and planted areas, and reclassifying re-vegetation areas to bush areas.

B. Reduced library hours over 7 days.

C. Reduced local board funding to local organisations that deliver local events.

D. Reduced budget available for contestable grants.

E. Reduced funding for organisations that deliver support and services for seniors, youth, ethnic communities, sport and recreation and community wellbeing.

F.Reduced funding support for The Depot, Devonport Museum, The Lake House, The Michael King Writers Centre, North Shore Brass, The Pumphouse and The Rose Centre.

G. Reduced funding for parks volunteers.

H. Reduced funding support for environmental restoration, planting, pest management, and waste minimisation.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Franklin Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Continue to invest in community-led pest management and environmentalrestoration programmes, with an emphasis on initiatives that engage Māori and youth· Local and community leadership in the delivery of initiatives and programmeswhere appropriate· Progress delivery of the Paparata Local Purpose Reserve (Bombay) conceptplan· Investigate and develop options that will address community safety andenvironment at Karioitahi Beach so that this special place can be enjoyed by localsand visitors and the unique environment is protected· Commence work to progress delivery of the Paparata Local Purpose Reserve(Bombay) concept plan , ensuring that the local community has the opportunity topartner in delivery where feasible. · Continue to seek options for the development of Clarks Beach Reserves in linewith future need so that the board is able to invest in improvements that align withboth future need and existing community aspiration.CTA commends the Franklin Local Board for its intention to engage with thecommunity in order to garner their ideas and input.

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Supporting further protection of our sea, soil and fresh water from contaminationand sedimentation, through increased monitoring and extending projects such aslocal stream restoration including the Weiti River· Continuing our commitment to protecting our natural environment - such asadvancing restoration efforts along the Weiti River and strengthening monitoring toreduce contamination and sedimentation in our waterways· Ensuring Hibiscus and Bays is welcoming and supportive for all throughcollaboration with a broader range of local residents and an increased focus oninclusive design, so it is accessible and usable for people of all ages, abilities andbackgroundsCTA strongly supports this Local Board's focus on inclusive design, and would like tosee other Local Boards focus on this as well, and for it to be included in AucklandCouncil's vision. CTA submitted on inclusive design in our submission on theProposed Auckland Unitary Plan on 28 February 2014 (using the descriptive termuniversal design), which included the following points: Universal Design principles need to be incorporated into new builds andmodifications of existing residential buildings in order to cater not only forpeople with disabilities but others who can benefit from improved access,including the ageing population, those using pushchairs, moving house oroffice, injured people and people carrying loads. This will ensure access tohousing, jobs, public transport,

businesses, community and recreationalfacilities throughout Auckland for all Aucklanders and increase the choice ofwhere people can live, work and play. Incorporation of Universal Design principles will improve the quality of life forpeople who currently face significant barriers in terms of physicalaccess. The economic benefit is that such people will be able to live inindependent accommodation and those of working age will have moreopportunity to work and thus support themselves and contribute more to theeconomy. These barriers include stairs and showers with lips. Solutions to these barriers include open plan houses with open planbathrooms with wet shower areas, limited stairs, hand rails. A percentage ofnew housing stock should cater for these needs. This would open up optionsin the private rental market, taking away the current reliance on Housing NewZealand houses and enable people with access barriers to buy or rent houseswithout the need for extensive and costly modifications. Council needs toensure this happens by including some requirement in policy and rules for thecreation of accessible housing.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment and changes to fees and charges?

A. Supporting further protection of our sea, soil and fresh water from contamination and sedimentation, through increased monitoring and extending projects such as local stream restoration including the Weiti River.

B. Supporting community access to a wide range of recreational opportunities through investigating new capex projects such as outdoor court provision and increasing support for indoor court provision through facilities grants.

C. Creating safer town centres and other public spaces through actions such as an increased support for community safety and placemaking.

D. Ensuring Hibiscus and Bays is welcoming and supportive for all through collaboration with a broader range of local residents and an increased focus on inclusive design, so it is accessible and usable for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

E. Introducing changes to a range of fees in pools and leisure centres, including casual recreation, dry and aquatic group fitness and pool lane hire to better align fees across our sites.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Howick Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Run regular seminars for community groups/organisations on the local grant'sapplication process· Continue advocacy of the Tāmaki Estuary on water quality and coastal erosion· Support our volunteer groups with resources needed for ecological volunteering,such as stream clean-ups and pest plant weeding· Tackling the challenges of environmental protection and restoration remains ahigh priority· Continue to support environmental groups and explore new initiatives

2. What do you think about the proposed local board specific key areas of spend?

A. Explore ways to get the best value from our play spaces so they continue to meet the needs of children and families.

B. Run regular seminars for community groups/organisations on the local grant's application process.

C. Identify what type of indoor/sheltered courts are necessary to support sports play in Flat Bush.

D. Continue advocacy of the Tāmaki estuary on water quality and coastal erosion.

E. Continue to advocate to crime prevention organisations on behalf of the community for ongoing safety initiatives.

F. Continue to support our volunteer groups with resources needed for ecological volunteering, such as stream clean-ups and pest plant weeding.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Kaipātiki Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Support environmental groups, community volunteers, and our diversecommunities to carry out environmental restoration projects, including stream cleanups,habitat improvement, native riparian planting, and pest control· Improvements to Little Shoal Bay / Wai Manawa Reserve· Healthy Waters Ngā Wairau project, working alongside that project to ensure theparks, sport, and recreational outcomes are being suitably included and considered· Invest in maintenance and renewal of our parks, playgrounds, communitybuildings, recreation facilities, and other public spaces so they continue to meet ourcommunities needs· Support a community-led approach for the delivery of relevant and diverseservices that develop and connect the community· Make substantial progress on the planning and delivery of major local projects,including the Beach Haven Coastal Connection (Stage 3), Birkenhead War Memorialmasterplan implementation, and improvements to Little Shoal Bay / Wai ManawaReserveCTA endorses the Kaipātiki Local Board's community-led approach, andcongratulates this local board on the huge response (about 5,000 people) to itsconsultation on the future use of recreation at A.F. Thomas Park. However thisconsultation was done, it clearly worked, and perhaps lessons can be learned byother local boards.

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Deliver coastal and storm -water resilience work in the Manukau Harbour -adjacent suburbs (such as improvements to seawalls or planting buffer zones) tosupport long -term climate adaptation· Continue the native tree planting and understory restoration programme acrosskey reserves and corridors (for example around waterways in Māngere East andFavona· Roll out community -led waste -minimisation and resource -recovery initiatives —supporting local groups to divert material from landfill· Work with Auckland Transport and Economic Development Office to support ourtransport and economic aspirationsCTA supports the efforts of Respect Mount Richmond Ōtāhuhu to save the trees ontheir local maunga from felling by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority. This group is havingto raise community money to defend itself in court against the TMA, which is fundedby Council (ratepayer) money. We do not think that removing trees from the maungaaligns with Auckland's Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy. This strategy states that itwill have been successful when (amongst other aims) it has: increased canopy cover to 30 per cent across Auckland's urban area, and atleast 15 per cent in every local board area increased the network of green infrastructure on public land improved links between green spaces by establishing ecological corridors instilled a sense of pride in Aucklanders

for their urban ngahere.The strategy also states that Protecting existing ngahere is crucial to safeguardingthe added values and benefits mature trees provide .... (pg 42). The benefitsprovided by trees become exponentially greater as they mature. It's also more costeffective to care for mature trees.... People often have strong emotional connectionsto landmark, mature trees in their neighbourhoods, and are more likely to mourn theloss of a large tree. Additionally, some native species, such as kākā, and bats, prefertaller trees and their presence can significantly improve the biodiversity value of anarea (pg 45).CTA submits that there needs to be better alignment between the Urban NgahereStrategy and the Tūpuna Maunga Authority's Operational Plan, and that the views ofall Aucklanders need to be taken into account.

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering a Local Services Targeted Rate, changes to service levels or fees, or a combination of both approaches. We could introduce a Local Services Targeted Rate of $47.11 (GST inclusive) per Separately Used or Inhabited Part per annum on all rateable properties except those categorised as zero-rated in the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area ($0.91 cent per week) to cover the increased cost of delivering existing services. What do you think about this proposal?

3. We could adjust some service levels, fees and charges. What do you think about the proposed changes?

A. Reduce library hours - reduce hours at our four libraries as needed, without going below the regional minimum service level of 44 hours over 6 days at each library.

B. Reduce maintenance - Stop scheduled bollard and post-and-rail maintenance, stop scheduled maintenance for bush areas (except High Value/Ecological), change garden edging to chemical application, cease infill planting and mulching in amenity gardens and reclassify re-vegetation areas to bush areas.

C. Reduce discretionary funding for Community Wellbeing programmes and services, Environment Management programmes and services and community grants.

D. Increase pools and leisure fees - Increase fees and charges by $1 for "Plus" services at Moana-Nui-ā-Kiwa Pool and Leisure Centre.

E. Charge adult visitors from outside the local board area at Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa Pool and Leisure Centre and Ōtāhuhu Pool and Leisure Centre (Toia).

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

4. Overall, how do you think the local board should address the cost increases?

Manurewa Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Continue to support ways to plant and retain more trees on public and privateland and suburban streets· Deliver a new neighbourhood park at Glenveagh Reserve.· Continue to invest in our two illegal dumping pilot programmes: a proactive illegaldumping collection initiative and an illegal dumping enforcement programme

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment?

A. Allocate up to $1.5 million of funding to support delivery of the Manurewa War Memorial Park multi-sports pavilion.

B. Deliver a new multi-cultural initiative that responds to demands for increased ethnic engagement.

C. Develop a civics education initiative that helps people understand the role of local boards and how they can get involved.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Partnering with mana whenua and community groups on restoration, foodresilience planting, and environmental education· Exploring increased compliance resourcing and enhancing communityemergency preparedness· Continuing work to improve our parks and open spaces, including progressingplans for Waikaraka Park, focused on making sure local facilities, parks and greenspaces keep pace· Advancing important environmental restoration projects like Ōmaru Creek,continuing to care for our natural environment guided by shared values.CTA congratulates the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board on the completion of theTe Kōpua o Hiku bridge at the Panmure Basin, which will mean safer, easier walkingand cycling.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment?

A. Environmental initiatives – working alongside mana whenua on restoration projects, expanding food resilience and edible planting programmes, and reinstating deferred environmental education activities.

B. Sport and recreation – providing one-off operational support to local sports clubs and facilities to strengthen participation and collaboration.

C. Libraries and culture – enhancing programming for seniors and increasing investment in creative and cultural activities.

D. Community safety and emergency readiness – exploring additional compliance officer resourcing in areas with limited coverage.

E. Local economy - supporting business associations to continue supporting local businesses and ongoing growth, development and liven-up our town centres.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

3. What do you think of Onehunga Business Association Inc's proposal to reduce the geographic boundary of the Onehunga Business Improvement District (BID) programme, and amount of targeted rate to be collected?

Tell us why

Ōrākei Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Increasing investment in restoration and pest-management programmes to growand protect your natural environment. Our reserves and open spaces are one of themost vital resources in Ōrākei· Continued investment in growing and protecting our parks and playgrounds.CTA endorses efforts by this board to work with the neighbouring Waitematā LocalBoard on matters regarding the health of the Waitematā Harbour that connectingthose board areas.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment and changes to services?

A. Increase community-use sports fields provision either through redevelopment or expansion of our asset portfolio to address the forecasted move of Auckland Cricket into Colin Maiden Park and other demands on our sports fields.

B. Increasing investment in restoration and pest-management programmes to grow and protect your natural environment. Our reserves and open spaces are one of the most vital resources in Ōrākei.

C. Changing the Meadowbank Community Centre project to a self-funded community centre to capitalise on existing investment and resources.

D. Construct a playground Remuera Library to optimise the under-used green space at the side of the building.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA does not support this local board changing garden edging to chemicalapplication, as this is an environmental risk, with chemicals running into waterways,killings beneficial insects and disrupting the natural soil balance. We note that weedscan build up resistance to the chemicals.We do support this local board's seismic strengthening of Papatoetoe Town Hall, a1917 heritage hall which is still in frequent use for community events.

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing and other pressures, we must address an increase in the cost of delivering existing services within its current funding. To balance the budget, we are considering a Local Services Targeted Rate, changes to service levels or fees, or a combination of both approaches. We could introduce a Local Services Targeted Rate of $1.1 million capital value based rate charged to all properties (this would be around $27 based on average value urban residential property in the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board area) to cover the increased cost of delivering existing services. What do you think about this option?

3. We could adjust some service levels, fees and charges. What do you think about the proposed changes?

A. Reduce maintenance - Stop scheduled bollard and post-and-rail maintenance, stop scheduled maintenance for bush areas (except High Value/Ecological), change garden edging to chemical application, cease infill planting and mulching in amenity gardens and reclassify re-vegetation areas to bush areas.

B. Reduce library hours: Ōtara Library, reduction of 4 hours per week; Papatoetoe Library, reduction of 2 hours per week; Tupu Youth Library, reduction of 5 hours per week; Manukau Library, reduction to a 6-day service, close on Sundays.

C. Reduce discretionary spending on community grants, community and/or environment projects.

D. Increase to fees for "Plus" (spa, sauna, and steam room entry) services by $1 at Ōtara Pool and Leisure Centre and Papatoetoe Centennial Pool (PCP).

E. Charge adult visitors from outside the local board area at Ōtara Pool and Leisure Centre and Papatoetoe Centennial Pool (PCP).

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

4. Overall, how do you think the local board should address the cost increases?

Papakura Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA does not support discontinuing funding for the following: ecological andenvironmental volunteers; Pest Free Urban South; Papakura Stream restoration; Waicare water quality education programming; Manukau Harbour Forum; and FindingPapakura Bats initiatives.We do support the reduction of the number of public rubbish bins in public spaces aslong as this leads to less rubbish, not more.We also support the following:· Progress a refresh of the greenways plan and other pathway opportunities (inparticular , the McLennan Memorial Park pathway , plus connecting Kauri FlatsSchool to Pulman Park , as well as connections around Hingaia to Drury)

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering changes to service levels or fees. What do you think about the proposed changes to service levels and fees and charges?

A. Reduce library hours on Mondays and Fridays at Sir Edmund Hillary Library.

B. Reduce library hours on Saturdays at Sir Edmund Hillary Library.

C. Reduce selected maintenance: Stop bollard and post-and–rail maintenance in parks, stop scheduled maintenance for bush areas (except high value/ecological).

D. Charge a higher fee for visitors outside the Auckland region who visit Massey Park Pool.

E. Reduce or discontinue grant funding.

F. Reduce the numbers of public rubbish bins in public spaces such as town centres, parks and reserves.

G. Reduce or discontinue some arts and culture activities.

H. Reduce or discontinue some services and programmes in arts facilities and community centres.

I. Reduce or discontinue some community development and support activities.

J. Reduce or discontinue some environmental and water quality activities.

K. Reduce or discontinue civic events.

L. Reduce or discontinue sports and park activation activities.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Tell us why

CTA supports the following project proposed by this local board:· Investigating how to respond to the future growth expected in our area as a resultof Proposed Plan Change 120: Housing Intensification and ResilienceWe also support the following projects, particularly the community informed vision:· Deliver new neighbourhood park at 3-7 Howell Crescent, Roskill· Wairaki Stream Ecological Enhancement and daylighting projects· Developing a Monte Cecilia Master Plan,

providing us with a community informedvision, and enable us to strategically invest in the park in the years ahead.· Focusing our environmental restoration work along the awa and coastline. Inparticular control of pest plants and animals, protection of native species and therestoration of walking tracks so they feel safe and accessible to the community again.

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Progress reserve and playgrounds projects, enhance greenways, increase ruralroadside weed control, and maintain heritage sitesWe particularly support this local board's aim to maintain heritage sites.· Support volunteers to restore biodiversity through planting, pest plant and animalcontrol, species protection, and local education· Provide waste education, school freshwater programmes, and community-ledstream restoration and catchment management plans to improve waterway health· Supporting volunteers and environmental groups with planting, pest control, andclean -ups to protect biodiversity and create safe habitats for wildlife.

Upper Harbour Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA does not support reducing discretionary funding across all programmes andprojects including environmental outcomes, events and activations, cycling initiativesand community outcomes.We do support reducing maintenance like bollard and post and rail repairs and somegarden maintenance, cost savings that most local boards are considering.We do not agree with the proposed Option 2: Increase spectator fee and supervisingadult fee at Albany Stadium Pool by $1 (Fees will become $2), and certainly notOption 3: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee by $ 4 (Fees will become$5).We suggest that an alternative to increasing those fees would be to better monitorand enforce other existing regulations, e.g., implement the already existing fines($300) for walking a dog off-leash in an on-leash area. Such infringements couldperhaps be attended to by compliance officers who are already looking at issues ofnon-compliance by members of the public.We do support the following:· Prioritise support for initiatives that deliver outcomes for our environmentincluding community -led ecological initiatives, construction waste education, and therestoration projects.

2. Due to rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing requirements as well as pressures on revenue, we are facing an increase in the cost of delivering existing services. To address this, we are considering changes to service levels or fees. What do you think about the proposed changes to service levels and fees and charges?

A. Reduce maintenance activities may include stopping scheduled work on bollards, post-and-rails, and low-value bush areas, ceasing amenity garden infill planting and mulching, and reclassifying re-vegetation areas as bush.

B. Reduce grants funding.

C. Reduce funding across all programmes and projects including environmental outcomes, events and activations, cycling initiatives and community outcomes.

D. Increase the fees and charges for Albany Stadium Pool: Option 1: Increase casual swim and swim plus fees by $1 (Fees will range from $5.00 - $11.40)

E. Increase the fees and charges for Albany Stadium Pool: Option 2: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee by $1 (Fees will become $2)

F. Increase the fees and charges for Albany Stadium Pool: Option 3: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee by $4 (Fees will become $5)

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Deliver investment in key areas, specifically:· programmes which protect, restore, and enhance the island's naturalenvironment· Deliver actions within the Waiheke Local Carbon Action Plan· Create connection to places and heritage through the installation of historical andcultural markers and dual naming of parks· Improve walking/cycling network connections as outlined within the WaihekePathways Plan· Ecological restoration and pest management programmes remain a high priorityand the increase in birdlife and improved eco -systems is a testament to the on-goinginvestment in this space· Delivering actions from our Climate Action Plan remains a priority . To supportresiliency on the motu, solar panels will be installed at Onetangi Sports Pavilion andOstend Hall, and we will investigate development of community microgrids.CTA notes that many local boards had planned the dual naming of parks and wehope that these plans have either already been carried out or will soon be underway.We suggest that learnings from investigating the development of communitymicrogrids could inform other local boards.

Waitākere Ranges Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Mobility scooter, walking and cycling connections, particularly through parks· Continue to invest in environmental restoration programmes with a focus on theWaitākere Ranges Heritage Area and our waterways· Deliver park development, including play and amenity improvements in Swanson,Te Henga and Titirangi· Provide tree planting and shelter to provide shade and amenity in parks, as wellas berm planting in streets with low tree cover· Continue to invest in local climate action to increase resilience and decreaseemissions· Working on fit-for-purpose transport improvements like investigating a trial busservice to Piha, advocating for smaller buses, and creating safer local connections· Improve Glen Eden town centre, and protect and enhance the nationallysignificant Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area· Support the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum work programme,particularly community engagement· Review maintenance of local parks and facilities to ensure they are wellmaintained while looking for savings

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment?

A. Community wellbeing - continue to grow and evolve our programmes to support community wellbeing with a focus on tamariki and rangatahi, as well as older people

B. Review level of community grants, including investigating a Facility Partnership Fund to support community organisations to plan, develop or upgrade community facilities

C. Improve engagement with communities of need, schools and youth

D. Progress an omnibus Waitākere Ranges Local Parks Management Plan

E. Walking and cycling connections, particularly through parks

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Waitematā Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

There were no key projects planned for 2026/2027 listed for this local board, or whatwe plan to deliver in 2026/27. The only information provided in the plan was aboutfunding.We strongly support the restoration of the Leys Institute buildings, on which we havesubmitted several times (as mentioned previously in this submission on pg 6).In the absence of any other planned projects, CTA suggest the following projects forthis local board's consideration: Support owners to encourage better maintenance and enhancement of theirbuildings Approach the owners of Carlile House in Grey Lynn to discuss frankly thestate of this building and take urgent steps to prevent this Category A,Category I https://www.heritage.org.nz/listdetails/9584/Costley%20Training%20Institute%20(Former) building from reachingan irreversible state of disrepair.Ensure that, as part of council's Value for Money Committee review to beundertaken in Q4, proper provision is made for the recognition of bothheritage and community values of the Grey Lynn Public Library, and thepotential of that building and site to provide the range of community servicesin any possible future rationalisation of community facilities in the locality.Develop a small pocket park at the foot of the Ernest Davis Steps, next to theStation Hotel and Beach Road (see pg 4 of this submission). Develop the small natural amphitheatre at the southern end of Myers Park (bythe steps adjacent to the Espano flats building) into a useable space.

2. What do you think about the proposed changes to service levels, fees and charges?

A. Reduce library hours at Central City, Little Leys, Grey Lynn and Parnell Libraries.

B. Reduce maintenance for bollard and post-and-rail.

C. Reduce community grant funding and accommodation grant funding.

D. Increase fees for adult swim fees at council pools by up to $3.

E. Reduce funding for environmental management activities.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

Whau Local Board Feedback:

1. What do you think of our proposals for your local board area in 2026/2027?

Tell us why

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:· Improve water quality and flood resilience of Whau streams and rivers throughcollaboration with volunteers, local schools, community hubs, organisations, andneighbouring local boards· Develop a Local Parks Management Plan to guide decisions on managing use,development, and protection of all 146 parks, reserves and open space within theWhau· Plan and design a local park in conjunction with the stormwater pondconstruction at the old Crown Lynn Pottery siteImprove coordination for community resilience and emergency preparednessacross Whau hubs, houses, and other community spaces· Progress Whau heritage initiatives including to renew and provide interpretationfor existing Pou and to install physical markers along the historic portage route thatlinks the Waitematā and Manukau harbours.· Aim to improve the water quality and flood resilience of our waterways and fund acoordinator to support emergency preparedness.· Advocate for the acquisition of a significant proportion of Avondale Racecourse toremain open space.· Construction of Te Hono library and community centre, design of a pool andrecreation centre in the Whau area and a park at Crown Lynn Place.· Aim to deliver initiatives that recognise the rich heritage in our area.

2. What do you think about the proposed key areas of additional investment?

A. Design and build a new destination playground at Avondale Central Reserve.

B. Promote community identity and diversity by funding a coordinator for Welcoming Communities, supporting the PAN African Hub, and refreshing the Whau Ethnic Peoples Plan.

C. Engage and respond to youth needs, and co-design initiatives to address opportunities and gaps.

D. Improve water quality and flood resilience of Whau streams and rivers through collaboration with volunteers, local schools, community hubs, organisations, and neighbouring local boards.

E. Prioritise projects identified through the Whau Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan and leverage partnerships to provide a local facility network for the community.

F. Develop a Local Parks Management Plan to guide decisions on managing use, development, and protection of all 146 parks, reserves and open space within the Whau.

Tell us why (please be clear which priority you are talking about)

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)

(a) We were unable to access the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) at the linkstated twice in the SD as www.maunga.nz , receiving the message Your file was notfound. It may have been moved or deleted. We discovered that the correct link ishttps://maunga.nz . However, we could not find the IMP on this site either. The linkhere also does not work: A copy of the Operational Plan can be found atwww.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz . We managed to eventually find it via the AucklandCouncil website.(b) We note that this Annual Plan is the operational implementation of the IMP, which provides for continuous review. The Reserves Act states the Maunga Authority shall keep its management plan under continuous review so the plan is adapted to changing circumstances and in accordance with increased knowledge. (c) We acknowledge and endorse the values in the IMP under TAKOTORANGA WHENUA / LANDSCAPE and the pathways, but not including removing inappropriate exotic trees and weeds. In CTA's view, such trees should be left to live out their natural lives, with pruning or felling only carried out for safety reasons. (d) In CTA's submission on 29 September 2022 to the Tūpuna Maunga Authority'sproposed amendments to its IMP, we noted that the IMP appears to not adequately recognise or reflect the diversity of connections and histories of Aucklanders other than mana whenua, and as a consequence, it fails to adequately provide for the relationship all peoples have with those maunga. (e) We submit that mass felling of trees would cause an inappropriate level of damage and destruction to habitats within the natural features of the maunga and across those landscapes, and we contend it would be contrary to the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991. We submit that the Maunga Authority should review and reverse its decision to remove what it refers to as inappropriate trees, firstly in light of the climate change emergency, and secondly because it has become apparent that their retention is desired by many of the people of Auckland other than mana whenua. The need to retain trees is understood widely today in view of the threat of climate change. All trees contribute to the environment. (f) Members of several communities have been distressed by the felling of large numbers of exotic trees on their local maunga and have engaged in court cases to protect their trees. While these groups have had to fundraise to enable them to be represented in court, the TMA is funded by Auckland Council to respond to these members of the public. We request that Council cease funding these court cases. See attachment for full submission.

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?

Submission of Civic Trust Auckland

Annual Plan 2026/2027

Contact name: [redacted] (Secretary)
Organisation: Civic Trust Auckland
Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]
Postal address: [redacted]

1. Introduction

(a) Civic Trust Auckland (CTA) is a non-profit public interest group, formed in 1968, with activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region. The aims of the Trust include:

- Protection of natural landforms
- Preservation of heritage, in all its aspects
- Encouragement of good planning for the city and region.

(b) We are on Auckland Council's list of regional stakeholders and were identified by Council for the annual budget consultation as a group with region-wide interests. We have twice in the past brought international speakers to participate in the Auckland Conversations programme run by Council.

(c) We have submitted on Auckland Council's previous annual budgets, as well as numerous council plans and central government bills. Our submissions are available on our website: https://civictrustauckland.org.nz/submissions .

(d) We gave an oral presentation to Council's Budget and Performance Committee on 23 March.

(e) We have read the Consultation Document ("CD") for the 2026/27 annual budget, and the Local Board sections in the Supporting Information ("SD") document, as well as some other parts of the SD. We comment on a number of topics, then the Local Board plans, then the Tūpuna Maunga Authority's Operational Plan.

2. Council's Vision

(a) We read in the message from the mayor (CD pg 4): "Auckland Transport will become a public transport service provider only, with the rest brought into the council so decisions are simpler, faster, making us more accountable."

(b) CTA looks forward to an improved public transport service. That said, we find that public transport in Auckland is already an excellent service. We note its recent improvements and additions, including providing for bus racks to take bicycles over

the Auckland Harbour Bridge, a service we have earlier proposed in several of our submissions.

(c) CTA supports Auckland Council's vision for an Auckland "that can be accessed and enjoyed by Aucklanders across the region." As mentioned in our comments on the Waitākere Ranges Board Plan, we support this local board's investigation of a trial bus service to Piha. This local board is also advocating for smaller buses, and we support this too, having suggested in earlier submissions that "AT investigate adding some smaller buses into routes when/where the demand is less." Smaller buses could be considered for all local board areas, and some solutions should be found to enable the public to get from the city centre to the city's botanical gardens.

(d) We note that "climate commitments" are mentioned on page 4 of the CD, and although there was a focus on them in the current three-year local board plans, there is not much mention of these in the local board sections of this year's annual plan. CTA considers that climate action should be a priority for all local boards, and we think it is important that Council meet its climate commitments.

(e) The Consultation Document distinguishes expenditure across several categories, including Transport, Water, Built Environment, Natural Environment, Community, Economic and Cultural Development, and Well-Managed Local Government, and it also identifies some particular major projects. CTA's submission addresses some of those below.

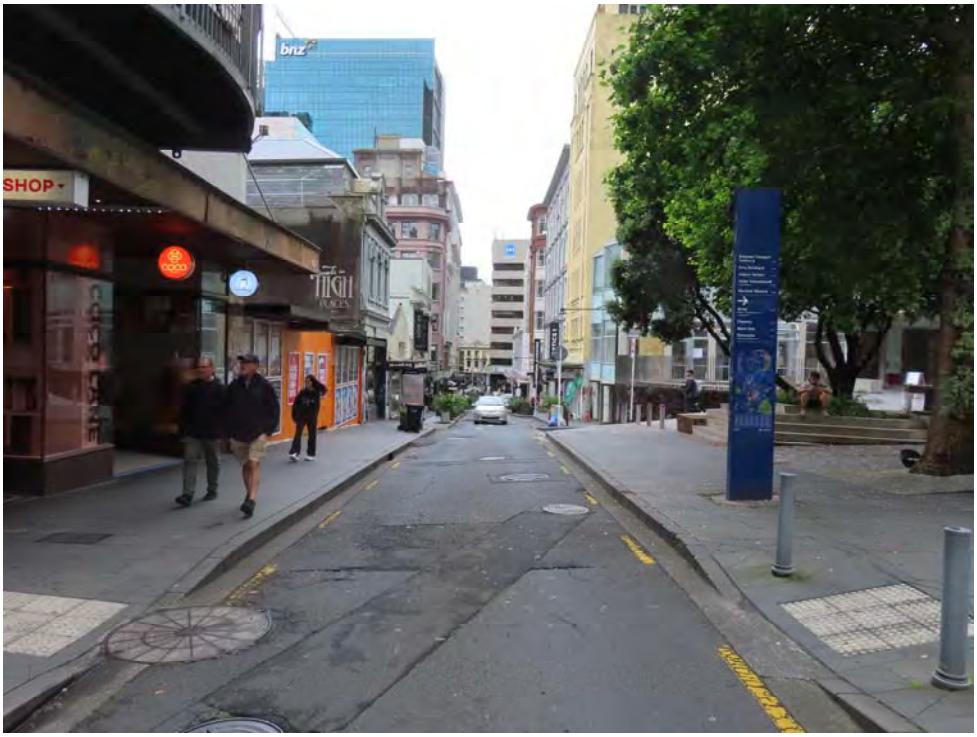
3. Built Environment

(a) CTA notes the Annual Plan's recognition of built heritage as a part of the city, and we strongly support this being provided for as an integral part of Auckland Council's vision (CD, pg 4). We note that the operational expenditure for the "built environment" of $72 m (pg 8) is just 1.4% of total opex, and capital expenditure on the built environment of $150 m is just 3.8% of total capex. While this appears small, a factor that may complicate matters arises when, for example, an historic heritage library may be accounted for under Community rather than Built Environment.

(b) We note that Council will be undertaking a Value for Money assessment of its own heritage properties in Q4 of 2026, and CTA encourages Council to make adequate financial provision for historic heritage it owns.

(c) We look forward to the opening of the City Rail Link and the completion of the public spaces around CRL stations, and the positive changes that are anticipated as a result, particularly for the city centre**.** CTA suggests that near the new Mt Eden station, Council should investigate the repurposing of the old Mt Eden Prison. Some creative flair could be used to appropriately modify the heritage building for alternative useful purposes.

(d) CTA does not support the currently proposed further expenditure on High Street in the city centre. As we said during our 23 March presentation, this expenditure is unnecessary, and, notwithstanding the supportive consultation results produced, the changes are, in fact, unwanted by many of the High Street businesses, which have had to bear several disruptions over the last couple of decades.



High Street currently

(e) Council does not have endless money and there is no demonstrable return for the level of investment envisaged for High Street. If a redesign does go ahead, however, it should be simplified. The existing road already provides good natural drainage, and so, rather than digging up the whole street, something like the CCMP vision (below left), perhaps just substitute different new kerbstones, like the ones Council has used successfully up in Karangahape Road (below right).





(f) Emily Place has $10.5 million in line to be spent; however, there are other projects around the city that we consider are more worthwhile, for example, fixing the Ernest Davis steps, and other projects that would enhance the neighbourhood.



Ernest Davis steps (arrowed)

(g) CTA strongly supports Jan Gehl's 2010 proposal to make Hobson and Nelson Streets two-way: https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/content/dam/ac/docs/plans/place/city-centre-masterplan-2012-print-version.pdf (see pp 104-107). This would transform these streets from high-speed, one-way "motorway-focused" roads, which would slow traffic and improve local connectivity. Consideration might also usefully be given to retention of the level and southern-most span of the soon to be demolished Hobson Street on-ramp. It's an existing and potentially useful piece of urban infrastructure.

(h) We are not so sure about all aspects of the City Centre Masterplan. It should be subject to a more adaptable process of review and reprioritisation. Some of the visions in the original 2012 CCMP are still in the process of being delivered, despite changing circumstances since the document was originally envisaged. Council needs to be able to prioritise and not be bound to ideas that might have evolved in long-term plans conceived over four electoral cycles ago.

(i) We support Council's vision of a more compact city and focusing growth around well-connected centres and transport corridors; however, we do support high-quality building design. Aside from a small number of train stations around which areas of special character are almost certain to be demolished as a result of government legislation, CTA opposes the removal of character buildings and character/heritage protections simply to enable development.

4. Natural Environment

(a) Of Council's proposed operational expenditure $752m and capital expenditure $76m, CTA supports the following of Council's planned activities:

- Meet the council's obligations in the Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-2030 and increased funding and extension of the pest plan, animal and pathogen control and restoration activities
- Coordinate and implement the Kauri Dieback Management Programme to protect our kauri forests

- Undertake marine biosecurity education and engagement programmes, increased surveillance and monitoring of existing and emerging marine pests, such as the exotic caulerpa seaweed
- Expand the network of resource recovery facilities around the region, including Community Recycling Centres that receive, collect, repair and refurbish unwanted items from the public.

(b) We suggest that Council reconsider the inorganic collections rotating by ward area on a short-term periodic basis of a fortnight each year.

5. Community

(Operational expenditure $967m, Capital expenditure $367m)

(a) CTA supports the following activities:

- Progress urgent community asset renewals to safeguard our facilities from asset failure and support high-priority growth projects.

In our last Annual Plan submission, exactly the same planned activity was presented, and CTA commented: "CTA notes with concern that some Council buildings have not been looked after, e.g., Tadmor House and Hall in Manurewa, to the point where demolition is considered as the only option, so we trust that this plan will make adequate budgetary provision for such matters." Tadmor House and the surrounding land was gifted to the Borough of Manurewa in 1960 for community use and Council demolished both the house and the hall a couple of years ago because they did not look after them properly. We suggest that Council doubles its effort so that asset renewals are done on time to avoid the risk of asset failure, and provides adequate budgetary provision for this.

(b)

- Focus on education for responsible dog ownership, improving compliance, expanding animal shelter capacity, and controlling the dog population through increased desexing.

CTA does not support dogs living in apartment buildings, except for assistance dogs, as this is not a good life for the dogs, and noise issues for other residents are created by barking dogs.

(c)

- Improve community safety and reduce public nuisance through the use of safety and compliance wardens and community partners.

CTA does not support the proposed move-on orders, and considers them to be the wrong solution for the problem. If this becomes legislation, people experiencing homelessness will only be forced elsewhere, with nowhere safe to go.

(d) Council should make the necessary provision in any equivalent of a statement for Council's property arm, enabling it to task itself to provide, from its vast property portfolio, a number of small night shelters throughout the city (quite distinct from the solutions provided at Homeground in Hobson Street).

(e) Housing First was launched at an Auckland Conversation in 2017 and Council is very supportive of this initiative. However, many Aucklanders don't know about this programme. In our view, Council should promote it more, perhaps through local board newsletters and on bus shelters and the outside of buses, so that landlords

with rental properties become informed about the programme and its guarantee for rental payments and cover for property damage: https://www.housingfirst.co.nz/for-landlords/

(f) More rental properties in the Housing First programme could mean that many of the “ghost houses” throughout the city become inhabited by families in need instead of lying empty, some of them year after year. In regard to empty houses that are currently tenantable but untenanted, perhaps a better definition of “used” or “unused” is needed so there is an appropriate tool to consider a levy against an unoccupied property, as is the case in other cities/countries, including Vancouver, Ireland, France, Melbourne, Sydney, Kyoto, Spain and several states in Austria. In the two Australian cities, investors leaving properties unused for six months can face an annual "ghost house" charge.

(g) CTA submitted on NZTA’s recent Consultation on Lane Use Improvements to support Proposal 3 to “Allow people to ride e-scooters in cycle lanes.” We went further to submit that where a cycle lane has been provided, e-scooters *must* be ridden in the cycle lane. Walking down Queen Street, High Street or any street in Auckland in the city centre, or in the suburbs where there is a high density of pedestrians, e-scooters pose a danger to people on foot, especially those with hearing, sight, or mobility issues. Being passed closely by a scooter is a distressing experience for a pedestrian, and already many people have been injured by e-scooters. Nationally, between 2021 and 2023, there were over 7,000 ACC claims for e-scooter related injuries, with a 37% increase in 2023. There have been several deaths from e-scooters in Auckland and many serious head injuries.



Scooters “parked” on Wellesley Street

(h) We therefore submit that e-scooters be banned from footpaths, at least in places where there is a high density of pedestrians. We also submit that the current speed limit for commercial e-scooters (we understand it is 25 kph) is too high for when scooters are sharing the same space as pedestrians.

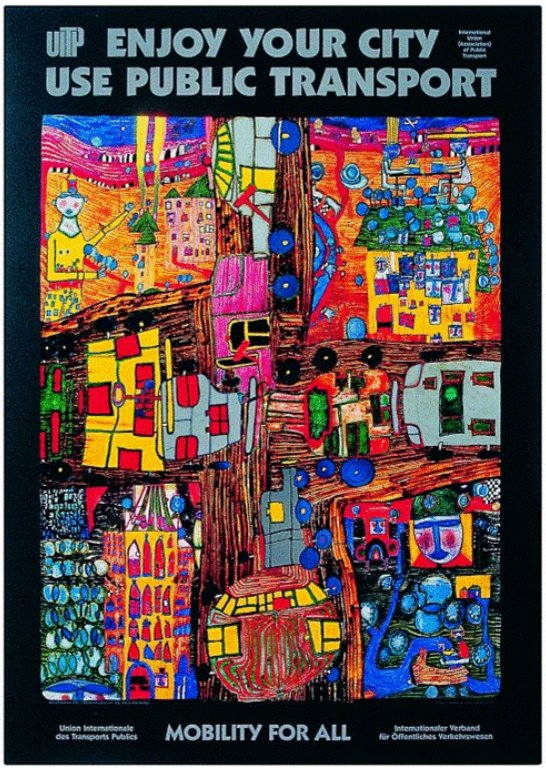
6. Major Projects

(a) CTA supports the major projects around the region listed on page 10 which align with the aims and objectives of CTA.

(b) We strongly support the Leys Institute comprehensive redevelopment, having submitted for this through a number of Council processes. As a Category I Building, the building is of regional significance, and Council should commit an appropriate level of funding to the retention of the built heritage across the city.

(c) We support acquiring land for parks and open spaces to contribute to Aucklanders' quality of life, as well as make better use of the parks we already have.

(d) We support developing safe, effective and low-emission travel solutions. We support improving public transport that is safe and reliable, and, as proposed during our presentation on 23 March, we suggest that a public transport champion could be appointed to spread information and stories about public transport that works. There could perhaps be a persona like the "Food Fairy" or simply a particular person who becomes recognisable (e.g., wearing a cap that says "I get around on public transport"). The current ads that read, "Turn travel time into me time" are effective in this regard. Hundertwasser's artwork celebrating public transport would surely appeal.



(e) PC120 that is now being mandated by Government is probably the greatest ever single increase in the level of intensification that will happen for generations. Council should consider the feasibility of "betterment charges" to take a small but fair share of the increase in land values that will occur. As evident from information provided during the Unitary Plan process to Auckland Council by the City of Vancouver shows, such a betterment charge could usefully fund such things as infrastructure, heritage protection and affordable housing:
https://council.vancouver.ca/20120612/documents/cfsc-1b.pdf

7. Targeted Rates

(a) CTA supports many of the targeted rates, including the following:
Water Quality Targeted Rate

Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate
Business Improvement District (BID) Targeted Rate
City Centre Targeted Rate (Some CCMP projects need expediting, like the two-way boulevarding of Nelson and Hobson Streets, and others should be subject to review and reprioritisation.)
Natural Environment Targeted Rate

(b) CTA also supports other targeted rates, for example, a Built Environment (Historic Heritage) Targeted Rate and the Retro-fit Your Home Targeted Rate.

(c) CTA greatly supports the food scraps collections, which seem to have been embraced by the majority of households across Auckland.

8. Local Boards

(a) CTA strongly approves of the fairer funding approach for local boards, having supported this in our submission on the Long-term Plan 2024-2034.

(b) CTA is of the view that most local boards know which activities and projects to prioritise for their area, and we generally support them in their choices. However, sometimes, community voices are absent, and outcomes have therefore not taken various needs and/or viewpoints into consideration. We note that the Kaipātiki Local Board had a huge response to its consultation on the future use of recreation at A.F. Thomas Park (5,000 responses). Perhaps lessons learned here can be conveyed to other local boards. We support robust consultation so that decisions are based on what the community wants.

(c) CTA appreciates the support that local boards provide for community groups and environmental initiatives.

Most of our comments that follow are supportive of stated priorities and projects, and we also provide some further suggestions and critique on activities/projects which align with our aims and objectives.

Albert-Eden:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Restoration planning for Waitītiko / Meola Creek

· Investigating how to respond to future growth expected as a result of Proposed Plan Change 120: Housing Intensification and Resilience, the opening of the City Rail Link and development areas like Te Kukūnga Waka (Carrington residential development) and any future changes at the ex-University of Auckland, Epsom Campus

As part of this investigation, CTA suggests that the local board advocates to Council for the repurposing of the old Mt Eden Prison. We also suggest the local board takes any action available, including enforcement orders, to halt and remedy what appear to be intentional actions that will harm the main building of Oakley/Carrington Hospital at the Unitec campus. The building is Category A Scheduled Heritage within the Auckland Unitary Plan (Item 1618), excluding the additions made after 1905, and is a Category 1 Historic Place on the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

(HNZPT) List / Rārangi Korero (Item 96). https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-details/96/Carrington%20Hospital%20(Former)
The photo below shows a row of missing tiles from the roof of this building.



Aotea/Great Barrier:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Partnering with mana whenua and community on moana ora (marine wellbeing) projects such as island fisheries management and local Ahu Moana marine projects

Devonport-Takapuna:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Working with Council to support people impacted by flooding events
· Advocacy to the Governing Body or other entities for support, including the Lake Road upgrade, the development of the Francis Esmonde link and a new ferry terminal at Bayswater
· Completion and adoption of the Devonport -Takapuna Local Parks Management Plan to help guide decisions and investment in parks and open spaces

Franklin:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Continue to invest in community-led pest management and environmental restoration programmes, with an emphasis on initiatives that engage Māori and youth
· Local and community leadership in the delivery of initiatives and programmes where appropriate
· Progress delivery of the Paparata Local Purpose Reserve (Bombay) concept plan
· Investigate and develop options that will address community safety and environment at Karioitahi Beach so that this special place can be enjoyed by locals and visitors and the unique environment is protected
· Commence work to progress delivery of the Paparata Local Purpose Reserve (Bombay) concept plan , ensuring that the local community has the opportunity to partner in delivery where feasible.

· Continue to seek options for the development of Clarks Beach Reserves in line with future need so that the board is able to invest in improvements that align with both future need and existing community aspiration.

CTA commends the Franklin Local Board for its intention to engage with the community in order to garner their ideas and input.

Henderson-Massey:

We cannot comment on this local board's plans, as there was no "What we plan to deliver" or "Key projects" section for this local board (CD pg 19 and SD pg 23).

Hibiscus and Bays:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Supporting further protection of our sea, soil and fresh water from contamination and sedimentation, through increased monitoring and extending projects such as local stream restoration including the Weiti River
· Continuing our commitment to protecting our natural environment - such as advancing restoration efforts along the Weiti River and strengthening monitoring to reduce contamination and sedimentation in our waterways
· Ensuring Hibiscus and Bays is welcoming and supportive for all through collaboration with a broader range of local residents and an increased focus on inclusive design, so it is accessible and usable for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds

CTA strongly supports this Local Board's focus on inclusive design, and would like to see other Local Boards focus on this as well, and for it to be included in Auckland Council's vision. CTA submitted on inclusive design in our submission on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan on 28 February 2014 (using the descriptive term "universal design"), which included the following points:

- "Universal Design principles need to be incorporated into new builds and modifications of existing residential buildings in order to cater not only for people with disabilities but others who can benefit from improved access, including the ageing population, those using pushchairs, moving house or office, injured people and people carrying loads. This will ensure access to housing, jobs, public transport, businesses, community and recreational facilities throughout Auckland for all Aucklanders and increase the choice of where people can live, work and play.
- Incorporation of Universal Design principles will improve the quality of life for people who currently face significant barriers in terms of physical access. The economic benefit is that such people will be able to live in independent accommodation and those of working age will have more opportunity to work and thus support themselves and contribute more to the economy. These barriers include stairs and showers with lips.
- Solutions to these barriers include open plan houses with open plan bathrooms with wet shower areas, limited stairs, hand rails. A percentage of new housing stock should cater for these needs. This would open up options in the private rental market, taking away the current reliance on Housing New Zealand houses and enable people with access barriers to buy or rent houses without the need for extensive and costly modifications. Council needs to

ensure this happens by including some requirement in policy and rules for the creation of accessible housing."

Howick:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Run regular seminars for community groups/organisations on the local grant's application process
· Continue advocacy of the Tāmaki Estuary on water quality and coastal erosion
· Support our volunteer groups with resources needed for ecological volunteering, such as stream clean-ups and pest plant weeding
· Tackling the challenges of environmental protection and restoration remains a high priority
· Continue to support environmental groups and explore new initiatives

Kaipātiki:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Support environmental groups, community volunteers, and our diverse communities to carry out environmental restoration projects, including stream clean-ups, habitat improvement, native riparian planting, and pest control
· Improvements to Little Shoal Bay / Wai Manawa Reserve
· Healthy Waters Ngā Wairau project, working alongside that project to ensure the parks, sport, and recreational outcomes are being suitably included and considered
· Invest in maintenance and renewal of our parks, playgrounds, community buildings, recreation facilities, and other public spaces so they continue to meet our communities needs
· Support a community-led approach for the delivery of relevant and diverse services that develop and connect the community
· Make substantial progress on the planning and delivery of major local projects, including the Beach Haven Coastal Connection (Stage 3), Birkenhead War Memorial masterplan implementation, and improvements to Little Shoal Bay / Wai Manawa Reserve

CTA endorses the Kaipātiki Local Board's community-led approach, and congratulates this local board on the huge response (about 5,000 people) to its consultation on the future use of recreation at A.F. Thomas Park. However this consultation was done, it clearly worked, and perhaps lessons can be learned by other local boards.

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Deliver coastal and storm -water resilience work in the Manukau Harbour - adjacent suburbs (such as improvements to seawalls or planting buffer zones) to support long -term climate adaptation
· Continue the native tree planting and understory restoration programme across key reserves and corridors (for example around waterways in Māngere East and Favona
· Roll out community -led waste -minimisation and resource -recovery initiatives — supporting local groups to divert material from landfill

· Work with Auckland Transport and Economic Development Office to support our transport and economic aspirations

CTA supports the efforts of Respect Mount Richmond Ōtāhuhu to save the trees on their local maunga from felling by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority. This group is having to raise community money to defend itself in court against the TMA, which is funded by Council (ratepayer) money. We do not think that removing trees from the maunga aligns with Auckland's Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy. This strategy states that it will have been successful when (amongst other aims) it has:

- increased canopy cover to 30 per cent across Auckland's urban area, and at least 15 per cent in every local board area
- increased the network of green infrastructure on public land
- improved links between green spaces by establishing ecological corridors
- instilled a sense of pride in Aucklanders for their urban ngahere.

The strategy also states that "Protecting existing ngahere is crucial to safeguarding the added values and benefits mature trees provide …. (pg 42). The benefits provided by trees become exponentially greater as they mature. It's also more cost effective to care for mature trees…. People often have strong emotional connections to landmark, mature trees in their neighbourhoods, and are more likely to mourn the loss of a large tree. Additionally, some native species, such as kākā, and bats, prefer taller trees and their presence can significantly improve the biodiversity value of an area (pg 45)."

CTA submits that there needs to be better alignment between the Urban Ngahere Strategy and the Tūpuna Maunga Authority's Operational Plan, and that the views of all Aucklanders need to be taken into account.

<u>Manurewa:</u>

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Continue to support ways to plant and retain more trees on public and private land and suburban streets
· Deliver a new neighbourhood park at Glenveagh Reserve.
· Continue to invest in our two illegal dumping pilot programmes: a proactive illegal dumping collection initiative and an illegal dumping enforcement programme

<u>Maungakiekie-Tāmaki:</u>

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Partnering with mana whenua and community groups on restoration, food resilience planting, and environmental education
· Exploring increased compliance resourcing and enhancing community emergency preparedness
· Continuing work to improve our parks and open spaces, including progressing plans for Waikaraka Park, focused on making sure local facilities, parks and green spaces keep pace
· Advancing important environmental restoration projects like Ōmaru Creek, continuing to care for our natural environment guided by shared values.

CTA congratulates the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board on the completion of the Te Kōpua o Hiku bridge at the Panmure Basin, which will mean safer, easier walking and cycling.

Ōrākei:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Increasing investment in restoration and pest-management programmes to grow and protect your natural environment. Our reserves and open spaces are one of the most vital resources in Ōrākei
· Continued investment in growing and protecting our parks and playgrounds.

CTA endorses efforts by this board to work with the neighbouring Waitematā Local Board on matters regarding the health of the Waitematā Harbour that connecting those board areas.

Ōtara-Papatoetoe:

CTA does not support this local board changing garden edging to chemical application, as this is an environmental risk, with chemicals running into waterways, killings beneficial insects and disrupting the natural soil balance. We note that weeds can build up resistance to the chemicals.

We do support this local board's seismic strengthening of Papatoetoe Town Hall, a 1917 heritage hall which is still in frequent use for community events.

Papakura:

CTA does not support discontinuing funding for the following: ecological and environmental volunteers; Pest Free Urban South; Papakura Stream restoration; Wai care water quality education programming; Manukau Harbour Forum; and Finding Papakura Bats initiatives.

We do support the reduction of the number of public rubbish bins in public spaces as long as this leads to less rubbish, not more.

We also support the following:
· Progress a refresh of the greenways plan and other pathway opportunities (in particular , the McLennan Memorial Park pathway , plus connecting Kauri Flats School to Pulman Park , as well as connections around Hingaia to Drury)

Puketāpapa:

CTA supports the following project proposed by this local board:

· Investigating how to respond to the future growth expected in our area as a result of Proposed Plan Change 120: Housing Intensification and Resilience
We also support the following projects, particularly the community informed vision:
· Deliver new neighbourhood park at 3-7 Howell Crescent, Roskill
· Wairaki Stream Ecological Enhancement and daylighting projects
· Developing a Monte Cecilia Master Plan, providing us with a community informed vision, and enable us to strategically invest in the park in the years ahead.

· Focusing our environmental restoration work along the awa and coastline. In particular control of pest plants and animals, protection of native species and the restoration of walking tracks so they feel safe and accessible to the community again.

Rodney:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Progress reserve and playgrounds projects, enhance greenways, increase rural roadside weed control, and maintain heritage sites

We particularly support this local board's aim to maintain heritage sites.

· Support volunteers to restore biodiversity through planting, pest plant and animal control, species protection, and local education
· Provide waste education, school freshwater programmes, and community-led stream restoration and catchment management plans to improve waterway health
· Supporting volunteers and environmental groups with planting, pest control, and clean -ups to protect biodiversity and create safe habitats for wildlife.

Upper Harbour:

CTA does not support reducing discretionary funding across all programmes and projects including environmental outcomes, events and activations, cycling initiatives and community outcomes.

We do support reducing maintenance like bollard and post and rail repairs and some garden maintenance, cost savings that most local boards are considering.

We do not agree with the proposed Option 2: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee at Albany Stadium Pool by $1 (Fees will become $2), and certainly not Option 3: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee by $ 4 (Fees will become $5).

We suggest that an alternative to increasing those fees would be to better monitor and enforce other existing regulations, e.g., implement the already existing fines ($300) for walking a dog off-leash in an on-leash area. Such infringements could perhaps be attended to by compliance officers who are already looking at issues of non-compliance by members of the public.

We do support the following:

· Prioritise support for initiatives that deliver outcomes for our environment including community -led ecological initiatives, construction waste education, and the restoration projects.

Waiheke:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Deliver investment in key areas, specifically:
· programmes which protect, restore, and enhance the island's natural environment
· Deliver actions within the Waiheke Local Carbon Action Plan

· Create connection to places and heritage through the installation of historical and cultural markers and dual naming of parks
· Improve walking/cycling network connections as outlined within the Waiheke Pathways Plan
· Ecological restoration and pest management programmes remain a high priority and the increase in birdlife and improved eco -systems is a testament to the on-going investment in this space
· Delivering actions from our Climate Action Plan remains a priority . To support resiliency on the motu, solar panels will be installed at Onetangi Sports Pavilion and Ostend Hall, and we will investigate development of community microgrids.

CTA notes that many local boards had planned the dual naming of parks and we hope that these plans have either already been carried out or will soon be underway.

We suggest that learnings from investigating the development of community microgrids could inform other local boards.

Waitākere Ranges:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Mobility scooter, walking and cycling connections, particularly through parks
· Continue to invest in environmental restoration programmes with a focus on the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and our waterways
· Deliver park development, including play and amenity improvements in Swanson, Te Henga and Titirangi
· Provide tree planting and shelter to provide shade and amenity in parks, as well as berm planting in streets with low tree cover
· Continue to invest in local climate action to increase resilience and decrease emissions
· Working on fit-for-purpose transport improvements like investigating a trial bus service to Piha, advocating for smaller buses, and creating safer local connections
· Improve Glen Eden town centre, and protect and enhance the nationally significant Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area
· Support the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum work programme, particularly community engagement
· Review maintenance of local parks and facilities to ensure they are well maintained while looking for savings

Waitematā:

There were no key projects planned for 2026/2027 listed for this local board, or “what we plan to deliver in 2026/27. The only information provided in the plan was about funding.

We strongly support the restoration of the Leys Institute buildings, on which we have submitted several times (as mentioned previously in this submission on pg 6).
In the absence of any other planned projects, CTA suggest the following projects for this local board’s consideration:

- Support owners to encourage better maintenance and enhancement of their buildings
- Approach the owners of Carlile House in Grey Lynn to discuss frankly the state of this building and take urgent steps to prevent this Category A, Category I https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-

details/9584/Costley%20Training%20Institute%20(Former) building from reaching an irreversible state of disrepair.



Carlile House, c 1886



Carlile House 2026

- Ensure that, as part of council's Value for Money Committee review to be undertaken in Q4, proper provision is made for the recognition of both heritage and community values of the Grey Lynn Public Library, and the potential of that building and site to provide the range of community services in any possible future rationalisation of community facilities in the locality.

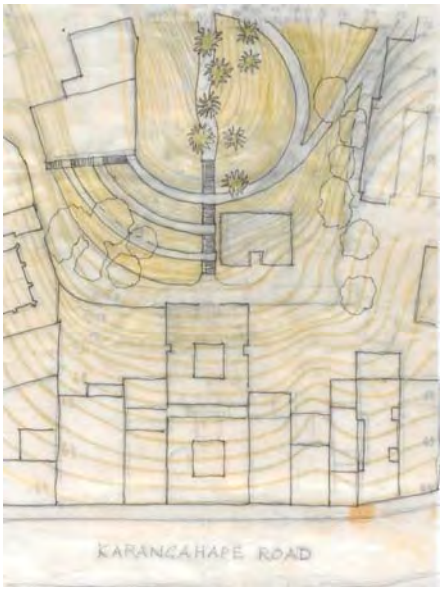


Grey Lynn Library

- Develop a small pocket park at the foot of the Ernest Davis Steps, next to the Station Hotel and Beach Road (see pg 4 of this submission).
- Develop the small natural amphitheatre at the southern end of Myers Park (by the steps adjacent to the Espano flats building) into a useable space.



Myers Park by Espano



Concept for amphitheatre

Whau:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

· Improve water quality and flood resilience of Whau streams and rivers through collaboration with volunteers, local schools, community hubs, organisations, and neighbouring local boards
· Develop a Local Parks Management Plan to guide decisions on managing use, development, and protection of all 146 parks, reserves and open space within the Whau
· Plan and design a local park in conjunction with the stormwater pond construction at the old Crown Lynn Pottery site

· Improve coordination for community resilience and emergency preparedness across Whau hubs, houses, and other community spaces
· Progress Whau heritage initiatives including to renew and provide interpretation for existing Pou and to install physical markers along the historic portage route that links the Waitematā and Manukau harbours.
· Aim to improve the water quality and flood resilience of our waterways and fund a coordinator to support emergency preparedness.
· Advocate for the acquisition of a significant proportion of Avondale Racecourse to remain open space.
· Construction of Te Hono library and community centre, design of a pool and recreation centre in the Whau area and a park at Crown Lynn Place.
· Aim to deliver initiatives that recognise the rich heritage in our area.

9. Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan

We would appreciate Council passing on this section about the TMA Operational Plan for the Authority's consideration.

(a) We were unable to access the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) at the link stated twice in the SD as www.maunga.nz , receiving the message "Your file was not found. It may have been moved or deleted." We discovered that the correct link is https://maunga.nz . However, we could not find the IMP on this site either. The link here also does not work: "A copy of the Operational Plan can be found at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz ." We managed to eventually find it via the Auckland Council website.

(b) We note that this Annual Plan is the operational implementation of the IMP, which provides for continuous review. The Reserves Act states the Maunga Authority shall keep its management plan under continuous review so the plan is adapted to changing circumstances and in accordance with increased knowledge.

(c) We acknowledge and endorse the values in the IMP under TAKOTORANGA WHENUA / LANDSCAPE and the pathways, but not including "removing inappropriate exotic trees and weeds." In CTA's view, such trees should be left to live out their natural lives, with pruning or felling only carried out for safety reasons.

(d) In CTA's submission on 29 September 2022 to the Tūpuna Maunga Authority's proposed amendments to its IMP, we noted that "the IMP appears to not adequately recognise or reflect the diversity of connections and histories of Aucklanders other than mana whenua, and as a consequence, it fails to adequately provide for the relationship all peoples have with those maunga."

(e) We submit that mass felling of trees would cause an inappropriate level of damage and destruction to habitats within the natural features of the maunga and across those landscapes, and we contend it would be contrary to the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991. We submit that the Maunga Authority should review and reverse its decision to remove what it refers to as inappropriate trees, firstly in light of the climate change emergency, and secondly because it has become apparent that their retention is desired by many of the people of Auckland other than mana whenua. The need to retain trees is understood widely today in view of the threat of climate change. All trees contribute to the environment.

(f) Members of several communities have been distressed by the felling of large numbers of exotic trees on their local maunga and have engaged in court cases to

protect their trees. While these groups have had to fundraise to enable them to be represented in court, the TMA is funded by Auckland Council to respond to these members of the public. We request that Council cease funding these court cases.



Tree on Mt Richmond/Ōtāhuhu

(g) We note the following values and pathways from the IMP:

- *Tread gently*

This does not align with cutting down non-native trees growing on a maunga such as on Mt Richmond/Ōtāhuhu (443 trees) and Ōwairaka / Mt Albert (345 trees), and across all the maunga, amounting to up to 3,000 trees.

- *Recognise European and other histories, and interaction with the maunga*

We submit that this recognition should include, on Ōwairaka, the olives grown from seeds sent by a soldier from Palestine, the Sadgrove Macrocarpa, about 150 years old; eucalyptus planted in the 1950s by schoolchildren to stabilise slopes; and Japanese cherry, with an avenue planted in remembrance of a local family member.

- *Protect and restore the biodiversity of the Tūpuna Maunga*

In protecting biodiversity, their habitat, which for some of them includes exotic trees, should not suddenly be removed.

- *Actively nurture positive relationships*

This should include discussions with the local community about their maunga and what aspects of it they value

- *Foster partnerships and collaboration*

As above.

- *Encourage informal inclusive recreational activities*
- *Promote health and wellbeing*

Both of the above include walking on the maunga, relying on the trees for shade.

(h) As stated above in our comments for the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board, CTA submits that there needs to be better alignment between the Urban Ngahere Strategy and the Tūpuna Maunga Authority's Operational Plan.

(i) CTA is supportive of the following in the IMP:

- Pest control on all Maunga in line with Auckland's plan to be pest free by 2050.
- Researching options to achieve efficient and effective animal and pest control methods, which includes a phased reduction in the use of herbicides and pesticides on the Tūpuna Maunga.
- A future UNESCO World Heritage bid for the Tūpuna Maunga.

CTA has previously submitted in support of the recognition of the maunga as significant heritage items.

(j) We are in principle supportive of the TMA's desire to "Preserve the visual and physical integrity of the Maunga as landmarks of Tāmaki," including the removal of redundant infrastructure and returning areas to open space.

(k) We support restoration of indigenous native ecosystems, reintroducing native plants, and attracting native animal species.

(l) We support "Native trees to be protected and retained where appropriately located in relationship to other features" (pg 21 of the Integrated Management Plan Strategies).

(m) CTA supports this principle: "Restore areas of the Tūpuna Maunga with indigenous ecosystems, reintroduce and attract indigenous species and culturally appropriate species, recognise that restoration objectives may be a range of outcomes including different periods of occupation as well as pre-European and pre-human states."

(n) We support this principle: "Restoration will incorporate traditional indigenous flora and fauna, with the intention of providing for increased biodiversity, cultivation and cultural harvesting of kai, medicinal, textile materials, and other cultural requirements. Propagation and captive management of flora and fauna may be a component of the strategy for some Maunga. Vegetation restoration should be tailored to achieve the specific outcomes and purposes proposed for each individual Maunga."

(o) We support the removal of exotic pest animal species, with campaigns to encourage people to keep their domestic cats off the maunga, and the use of efficient, effective, humane and ERMA approved animal and pest control methods, including live capture traps and a phased reduction in the use of herbicides and pesticides.

(p) CTA joined the campaign to make maunga car free, and we support banning motorised vehicles from maunga, while allowing some vehicles access to cater for those with mobility issues.

(q) The installation of boardwalks and the opening of the café on Maungawhau we see as very positive, and we support appropriate commercial uses on other maunga as well.

(r) CTA strongly supports the maunga being smoke-free and alcohol-free, smoke-free parks and public open spaces being something for which we have advocated for many years.

(s) CTA is not able to understand from the TMA's operational plan and budget what funding is allocated for planting and what is for felling trees, and submit that these budgets could be made clear for the public to understand. Of the funding allocated to

the TMA, CTA is of the view that Council should not provide that portion that would go to unnecessary tree removal.

10. Conclusion

(a) CTA appreciates the time and thought that councillors and local board members put into serving the Auckland community.

(b) We know that there is much expertise and experience acquired by local boards and encourage them to share this as much as possible with other local boards and the wider Council family. We would also suggest that local board newsletters are a good opportunity for disseminating information to the general public and could include more than the usual prescribed 10 or so items. We suggest that Council make adequate provision in its Annual Budget for this level of communication.

(c) We understand the cost pressures Council is currently under and that some projects as well as funding to community groups may need to be deferred or reduced. However, in our view, there are certain projects that could be scaled down or even discontinued, and the funding allocated to them diverted towards more urgent needs.

(d) CTA appreciates the opportunity to submit on Council's annual budget and also the opportunity to present in person as a regional stakeholder.

Date of submission: 29 March, 2026

Signature:

[redacted]

[redacted]
Secretary, Civic Trust Auckland