Consultation on the draft Local Board Plans 2026

Written Feedback

Howick Volume #1.pdf

Regional Organisations

23 June 2026 to 23 July 2026

Sub #	Organisation Name	Page Number
#210	Aktive	1
#346	Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative New Zealand)	13
#348	Civic Trust Auckland (CTA)	22
#300	Communities Against Alcohol Harm (CAAH)	64
#347	Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.	69
#112	Diabetes Foundation Aotearoa	76
#183	Disability Connect	81
#227	Gardens4Health	88
#299	Healthy Auckland Together (HAT)	94
#209	National Public Health Service – Northern Region	105
#301	Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc. (Forest & Bird)	126
#237	Sport Auckland	137
#253	Tamaki Estuary Protection Society	143
#345	Te Kotahi a Tāmaki	146
#226	Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi	151
#265	The Auckland Table Tennis Association (Inc)	154
#259	The Food Hub Collective	158
#236	The Tree Council	164

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#210

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: Aktive

Local Board: Upper Harbour

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	N/AN/A
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years? (Select up to 3 options)**

Tell us more

Aktive strongly supports the Objective 'Enable participation, learning, and growth through our community facilities, multi-use spaces including libraries/pools/leisure centres that support social wellbeing' and the key initiatives:

•Ensure our community spaces such as libraries/pools/leisure centres are thriving, that are fit-for-purpose and accessible, used and enjoyed by all.

•Support the development and wellbeing of our Tamariki and rangatahi through play by implementing our Play Plan.

•Implement our Playground Strategy to reflect local community diversity in play spaces.

We strongly support the Objective 'Public parks and open spaces are safe, well managed, and shared environments that support a wide range of recreational activities, enabling everyone to enjoy them with confidence' and the key initiatives:

•Work with Animal Management to address local issues, and clearly communicate rules and regulations to the community, especially the rules around having dogs in public spaces.

•Ensure our parks and open spaces are clean and safe, and offer a range of amenities including shade, various play opportunities like waterplay, and recreational activities to be enjoyed by all.

•Provide facilities and activities across our parks network to suit people of diverse demographics and abilities.

•Develop inclusive play spaces designed for neurodiverse children, supporting safe, engaging, and enjoyable experiences for all.

•Activate local spaces and places by encouraging community-led use of parks, facilities, and public spaces to bring people together and strengthen neighbourhood identity.

We support the Objective 'A strong, connected community where people of all ages and cultures come together, build relationships, and actively participate' and the key initiatives:

•Empower community groups and support them to build capability to become more sustainable.

•Work with community groups to identify and co-deliver projects that protect and maintain community assets - creating a sense of ownership and belonging.

We support the Objective 'Continue, develop and strengthen relationships with iwi and Māori community so they feel connected, included and thriving, helping to shape the future' and the key initiatives:

•Ensure Māori culture, language, art and stories are incorporated into the design of public spaces.

•Ensure Māori culture, language, art and stories are told by Māori.

Aktive particularly supports the initiative to 'Partner with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki to activate spaces like Ō Wairoa Marae for all our people to enjoy' and would welcome an opportunity to work with the Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, the Howick Local Board and Sport Auckland to help deliver this initiative.

Aktive strongly supports the following Objective 'Rangatahi/youth have a voice, are valued and contribute' and the key initiatives

•Continue to support a youth-run, youth-led space for our rangatahi.

•Continue to support the work of the Howick Youth Council.

•Explore opportunities to connect with other youth organisations to create pathways for rangatahi (youth) to grow, develop and thrive.

We strongly support the Objective 'Sports and recreational opportunities respond to the needs of our communities' and the key initiatives:

•Continue to support multi-club and code facilities, such as Lloyd Elsmore Park.

•Explore ways to assist local sports clubs to improve sharing and utilisation of existing facilities and resources, and/or new developments

We submit that supporting the priority projects identified in the recently refreshed Howick Local Board Sport and Active Recreation Facility Plan should be specifically included under this Objective.

Funding priorities

4. Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment? (Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for? (Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

We support the Objective Neighbourhoods are safe and people feel confident travelling around their local area and the priorities:

•Ensure bus routes connect easily with main hubs, facilities and town centres throughout the local board area

•Ensure barriers that prevent pedestrians, motorists and cyclists from moving around safely are identified and removed.

We support the Objective Active transport networks are safe, connected and support everyday local travel and the priority:

•Identify opportunities where shared paths can be developed, such as Eastern Busway Alliance project.

We support the Objective Public transport supports access to services, facilities and community life and the priorities:

•Ensure current transport options are meeting the needs of our community.

•Continue to represent community interests in the delivery of the Eastern Busway.

Akitve strongly supports the Objective 'Active transport infrastructure enables connection with schools, key community facilities and transport hubs' and the priorities:

•

Implement projects from the Howick Walking and Cycling Network Plan to help our community to move around easily, increasing connectivity to key local destinations.

Investigate options for more commuter focused cycleways in partnership with the Eastern Busway Alliance and other stakeholders.

We support the Objective 'Efficiencies of transport and roading network' and the priorities:

•Provide safe, reliable, and timely public transport, with improved bus services, accessible routes, and well-designed, sheltered bus stops for the community.

•Ensure safe and accessible connections within Ormiston Town Centre and between Ti Rākau Drive and Highbrook for all road users.

We strongly support the Objective ‘Strengthen transport connectivity by improving the reliability, convenience, and accessibility of public transport while providing a range of travel options beyond private cars, including walking, cycling, and other transport modes’ particularly the priority:

•Ensure school students are able to walk and cycle to school safely, and improved enforcement around schools enhancing safety of our tamariki.

Other feedback

6. Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?

Tell us more

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?

Please refer to attached PDF support document (7 pages)

AK Have your Say
Draft 2026 Howick Local Board Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the draft 2026 Howick Local Board Plan.

Introduction

Aktive is a charitable trust with a vision of making Auckland the world's most active city. Our purpose is to unite and inspire leaders and organisations in Tāmaki Makaurau to enhance the wellbeing of Aucklanders and create more connected communities through sport and physical activity.

Aktive has chosen to focus its efforts on tamariki and rangatahi who are underactive or where historic inequities exist. This sees us working with and for tamariki and rangatahi who are:

- Māori
- living in low socio-economic areas
- disabled
- young women and girls
- from Pacific, Indian and Asian communities
- from the Rainbow community.

We are a key strategic partner of Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa, Auckland Council and major grant-makers and funders. Aktive partners with, and invests in, a range of organisations and projects that get more people active in Auckland.

Response to the draft 2026 Howick Local Board Plan

We have read the consultation documents and draft 2026 Howick Local Board Plan to help inform this submission. We firstly want to acknowledge the significant investment into our sector by Local Boards. This is highly valued.

Community

Aktive strongly supports the Objective '*Enable participation, learning, and growth through our community facilities, multi-use spaces including libraries/pools/leisure centres that support social wellbeing*' and the key initiatives:

- *Ensure our community spaces such as libraries/pools/leisure centres are thriving, that are fit-for-purpose and accessible, used and enjoyed by all.*
- *Support the development and wellbeing of our Tamariki and rangatahi through play by implementing our Play Plan.*
- *Implement our Playground Strategy to reflect local community diversity in play spaces.*

We strongly support the Objective '*Public parks and open spaces are safe, well managed, and shared environments that support a wide range of recreational activities, enabling everyone to enjoy them with confidence*' and the key initiatives:

- *Work with Animal Management to address local issues, and clearly communicate rules and regulations to the community, especially the rules around having dogs in public spaces.*
- *Ensure our parks and open spaces are clean and safe, and offer a range of amenities including shade, various play opportunities like waterplay, and recreational activities to be enjoyed by all.*
- *Provide facilities and activities across our parks network to suit people of diverse demographics and abilities*.
- *Develop inclusive play spaces designed for neurodiverse children, supporting safe, engaging, and enjoyable experiences for all.*
- *Activate local spaces and places by encouraging community-led use of parks, facilities, and public spaces to bring people together and strengthen neighbourhood identity*.

We support the Objective *'A strong, connected community where people of all ages and cultures come together, build relationships, and actively participate'* and the key initiatives:

- *Empower community groups and support them to build capability to become more sustainable.*
- *Work with community groups to identify and co-deliver projects that protect and maintain community assets - creating a sense of ownership and belonging.*

We support the Objective '*Continue, develop and strengthen relationships with iwi and Māori community so they feel connected, included and thriving, helping to shape the future*' and the key initiatives:

- *Ensure Māori culture, language, art and stories are incorporated into the design of public spaces.*
- *Ensure Māori culture, language, art and stories are told by Māori.*

Aktive particularly supports the initiative to '*Partner with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki to activate spaces like Ō Wairoa Marae for all our people to enjoy*' and would welcome an opportunity to work with the Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, the Howick Local Board and Sport Auckland to help deliver this initiative.

Aktive strongly supports the following Objective '*Rangatahi/youth have a voice, are valued and contribute'* and the key initiatives

- *Continue to support a youth-run, youth-led space for our rangatahi.*
- *Continue to support the work of the Howick Youth Council.*
- *Explore opportunities to connect with other youth organisations to create pathways for rangatahi (youth) to grow, develop and thrive.*

We strongly support the Objective '*Sports and recreational opportunities respond to the needs of our communities'* and the key initiatives:

- *Continue to support multi-club and code facilities, such as Lloyd Elsmore Park.*
- *Explore ways to assist local sports clubs to improve sharing and utilisation of existing facilities and resources, and/or new developments*

We submit that supporting the priority projects identified in the recently refreshed Howick Local Board Sport and Active Recreation Facility Plan should be specifically included under this Objective.

Built Environment

We support the Objective '*Community infrastructure keeps pace with growth and responds to the changing needs of local communities'* and the key initiatives:

- *Plan for and deliver community infrastructure upgrades and new facilities in growth areas, using community insights and data to ensure spaces remain fit-for-purpose and responsive to changing local needs.*

- *Create supportive environment s for our diverse communities including family-oriented spaces where children of all ages can play*.

We strongly support the Objective '*Public facilities are inclusive by design and usable by everyone'* and the initiative:

- *Design, upgrade, and maintain public facilities to be accessible, safe, and welcoming for all people, including those with disabilities, diverse cultural backgrounds, and varying ages and abilities, while also reflecting and sharing Māori culture through storytelling, interpretation, and place-based narratives within parks and open spaces.*

We support the Objective '*Amenities are easily accessible'* and the initiative:

- *Develop and enhance urban trails to provide safe, convenient, and well signposted connections to key community amenities, parks, and transport hubs*.

We support the Objective '*Maintain climate resilience'* and the initiative:

- *Implement and maintain infrastructure, natural assets, and community programmes that enhance climate resilience in line with Te Tāruke-ā Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan, reducing risks from flooding, storms, and other climate-related impacts*.

Aktive strongly supports the Objective '*Public spaces are multi-use'* and the initiative:

- *Design, upgrade, and manage public spaces to be flexible and multi-use, supporting a variety of community activities, events, and recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities*.

We support the Objective '*Developing growth of youth space into hubs'* and the initiative:

- *Investigate the possibility of youth-led youth spaces in other subdivisions of the local board building on the success of the Te Taiwhanga Taiohi youth space in Botany Town Centre.*

We strongly support the Objective to '*Support the development of sports clubs: Ostrich Farm; Barry Curtis Park; Marist Rugby Club; Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub and Highbrook Watersports Club' and the initiative:*

- *Explore opportunities for public/private partnerships to help develop multi-use sports clubs throughout the local board area.*

Aktive acknowledges the Objective to '*Explore ways to make our assets work better and generate more income'* and see merit in this approach, but we urge caution about the key initiative:

- *Look into selling underperforming properties to help fund priority projects*.

We recognise that Local Boards are under financial pressure. We submit that asset disposals should only be considered where there is clear, robust evidence to support the decision. However, we do see merit in using income generated from asset sales to help fund priority projects.

We support the key initiative:

- *Explore public/private partnership opportunities to fund and deliver priority projects*.

Transport

We support the Objective *Neighbourhoods are safe and people feel confident travelling around their local area and the priorities:*

- *Ensure bus routes connect easily with main hubs, facilities and town centres throughout the local board area*
- *Ensure barriers that prevent pedestrians, motorists and cyclists from moving around safely are identified and removed.*

We support the Objective *Active transport networks are safe, connected and support everyday local travel* and the priority:

- *Identify opportunities where shared paths can be developed, such as Eastern Busway Alliance project*.

We support the Objective *Public transport supports access to services, facilities and community life* and the priorities:

- *Ensure current transport options are meeting the needs of our community.*
- *Continue to represent community interests in the delivery of the Eastern Busway*.

Akitve strongly supports the Objective *'Active transport infrastructure enables connection with schools, key community facilities and transport hubs'* and the priorities:

- *Implement projects from the Howick Walking and Cycling Network Plan to help our community to move around easily, increasing connectivity to key local destinations.*

- *Investigate options for more commuter focused cycleways in partnership with the Eastern Busway Alliance and other stakeholders.*

We support the Objective '*Efficiencies of transport and roading network'* and the priorities:

- *Provide safe, reliable, and timely public transport, with improved bus services, accessible routes, and well-designed, sheltered bus stops for the community.*
- *Ensure safe and accessible connections within Ormiston Town Centre and between Ti Rākau Drive and Highbrook for all road users*.

We strongly support the Objective '*Strengthen transport connectivity by improving the reliability, convenience, and accessibility of public transport while providing a range of travel options beyond private cars, including walking, cycling, and other transport modes'* particularly the priority:

- *Ensure school students are able to walk and cycle to school safely, and improved enforcement around schools enhancing safety of our tamariki*.

Advocacy

Aktive supports the following Local Board advocacy priorities:

- *Advocate for increased and more accessible external funding to support diverse communities, with a focus on equitable access and building community capability.*
- *Implementation of strategies in the Highbrook-to-Whitford Shoreline Adaptation Plan to ensure council assets are resilient, fit-for-purpose and can be adapted for future coastal hazard risk.*
- *(Develop) Schools and relevant infrastructure that meets the growing needs of our community.*
- *Sufficient funding for local boards to maintain and build the assets and services our community needs.*

Overall comments

Overall, Aktive supports the general direction of this draft Plan with its focus on inclusive community spaces and places that support a wide range of recreational activities, play, field upgrades and active transport improvements. We are pleased to note the initiatives to implement the Howick Play Plan and Playground Strategy which we support. We are pleased to see several projects specifically identified for development support being

Ostrich Farm; Barry Curtis Park; Marist Rugby Club; Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub and Highbrook Watersports Club, noting Aktive is providing support to all of these projects. We have seen significant progress made in many of these projects through this work and the funding and support of the Howick Local Board.

However, we suggest there is greater clarity needed regarding “Barry Curtis Park” in this context and suggest that this might be the same project as “Marist Rugby Club” which is more correctly known as the Marist Eastern Junior Rugby Club.

As noted above we would like to see a specific reference to the Howick Local Board Sport and Active Recreation Facility Plan to ensure it remains a key focus for the Local Board’s work programme for the next three years.

Noting school infrastructure is identified as a Local Board advocacy priority access to school facilities has been a particular focus for Aktive in recent years and is also the subject of work by Council staff. We would welcome an opportunity to work with the Local Board on this initiative, along with our partner Sport Auckland, to ensure an impactful and integrated approach

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2026 Local Board Plan consultation; this opportunity is greatly valued. Aktive is happy to expand on any of the points above in greater detail as required.

We look forward to the positive play, active recreation and sport outcomes Local Board investment in our communities will deliver.

[redacted]

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#346

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: Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative New Zealand)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	N/AN/A
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Funding priorities

4. **Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. **Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Other feedback

6. **Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?**

Tell us more

7. **Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?**

See attached

creativenz
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

0800 CREATIVE
info@creativenz.govt.nz
www.creativenz.govt.nz

L2 2-12 Allen Street
Te Aro, Wellington
6011

22 July 2026

Auckland Local Board Plans

By email to: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

E te Kaunihera, tēnā koutou katoa

Submission to:	Auckland Council Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau
Subject:	**Draft Auckland Local Board Plans 2026**
From:	Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative New Zealand)

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Local Boards' three-year plans for 2026.

2. Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori build stronger, more connected communities across Auckland, and create vibrant and prosperous communities where people want to live, work and visit.

3. Auckland Council has 21 local boards, each playing an essential role in supporting arts and culture across the Auckland region. The **Auckland Local Board Plans are an important opportunity for Local Boards to build on their investment in the arts**, and unlock the arts' economic, cultural and social benefits.

4. We thank Auckland Council and each of the 21 Local Boards for their ongoing support of arts, ngā toi, culture and creativity in Tāmaki Makaurau, and look forward to continuing to work with you to realise the enormous potential creativity can bring to all your communities.

Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori are foundational community services that shape how people live, connect and feel about where they belong

5. From festivals, concerts, public art and murals to galleries, libraries, arts hubs and marae, creativity shapes how the city looks, sounds and feels. It creates vibrant communities that people are proud to call home.

6. We know that Aucklanders value the arts and are engaging with the arts more than ever before. Two in three Aucklanders agree that arts and culture have a vital role to play in the future of where they live. Support for public funding of the arts in Auckland has increased since 2020, with over half of Aucklanders believing Auckland Council should help fund the arts.

7. Our *New Zealanders and the Arts—Ko Aotearoa me ōna Toi* research[1] shows that Aucklanders recognise the economic and social benefits of the arts, with:
    - 75 percent of Aucklanders agreeing that the arts create jobs, both in and around the creative industries, and the majority agreeing that the arts contribute positively to our economy
    - over half of Aucklanders valuing the arts for creating opportunities to socialise and connect
    - 69 percent of Aucklanders agreeing that the arts play a role in raising awareness of societal and environmental issues.

8. Young people, Māori, Pacific peoples and Asian New Zealanders are also more likely than other Auckland residents to agree that the arts are an important way of connecting with their culture, and that taking part in the arts supports their identity. Rainbow communities and people with lived experience of disability participate highly in the arts and need more accessible and inclusive environments to support their engagement.

Together we can create healthy, sustainable and thriving arts ecosystems in local communities

9. Through the Local Board Plans, we encourage each of the Local Boards to prioritise investment in the following.
    - **Cultural programmes and events** which encourage people to visit their local town centres, attracting visitors and shoppers. These programmes and events also bring diverse local communities together, build social connections and bring public spaces to life.
    - **Events and festivals that boost economic development and tourism** are also essential pathways for artists, producers, technicians and arts administrators to build the skills, knowledge and expertise that support bigger events, such as Pasifika and larger musicals and concerts. Smaller festivals and events are crucial to build the skills, knowledge and expertise that support bigger events such as Pasifika and larger musicals, concerts and exhibitions.
    - **Public art, murals and activated public spaces** provide a sense of place, telling the history and stories of mana whenua and your communities' unique identities, and making public spaces safer. We encourage working with your local arts and culture

[1] Auckland residents survey findings in *New Zealanders and the arts—Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2023): https://creativenz.govt.nz/-/media/project/creative-nz/creativenz/publicationsfiles/2024-nzers-and-the-arts/20240730nzartsaucklandfinal.pdf

organisations, artists and creatives to explore ways of working together to further community opportunities.

- **Community halls, venues and gathering spaces** are important facilities for people to gather, rehearse and participate in community choirs, dance, kapa haka, theatre groups, reading clubs, craft-making and more, to experience arts and culture.
- **Making council owned venues available to arts communities to use free of charge or at reduced rates**. Dedicated spaces for Māori and Pacific peoples in your local areas are also crucial cultural centres for whānau, hapū, iwi and the wider community.
- **Ensuring investment reaches across the wider arts ecosystem**, including creative infrastructure in the city that works closely with communities across all of Auckland, ensuring a network of cultural infrastructure and cultural facilities. This network needs resources to deliver in a complementary way, to support staff who have the skills, knowledge and experience to successfully deliver services and activities in ways that are fit-for-purpose, high-quality and responsive to the needs of residents and visitors.
- **Lean into *Toi Whītiki***, Auckland Council's Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan, which sets out a fantastic, community-led and region-wide roadmap.

Prioritise investment in arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori as important community services

10. Our research demonstrates that Aucklanders place considerable value on the arts at a community level.[2] Arts and culture programmes and services support local board priorities, including:
    - employment for rangatahi
    - safer communities
    - celebrating diverse communities
    - town centre vitality
    - stronger local economies.

[2] Auckland residents survey findings in *New Zealanders and the arts—Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2023): https://creativenz.govt.nz/-/media/project/creative-nz/creativenz/publicationsfiles/2024-nzers-and-the-arts/20240730nzartsaucklandfinal.pdf

11. To ensure these programmes continue to serve crucial community functions, local boards' prioritisation of arts and culture in three-year plans is essential.

Supporting arts and culture in Local Board Plans delivers social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits

12. We know councils around the country are facing significant pressures, with tight budgets and growing community expectations meaning plans are being carefully designed to deliver value and a pathway for the future. Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi are part of the solution.

13. Auckland Council's recently commissioned *The Arts Matter* research found that Council's investment in arts and ngā toi is advancing outcomes across Council's vision and priorities.[3] This includes significant social, cultural, environmental and economic contributions that:

    - support community connection at local festivals and events
    - grow local economies by creating jobs, supporting local businesses and driving tourism
    - boost environmental awareness through storytelling, education and building understanding of complex issues like climate change
    - build social resilience by revitalising city centres and transforming public spaces into safe, vibrant and socially cohesive hubs
    - spark innovation and learning with creative practice-building skills, including imagination, problem solving and learning.

14. The arts contribute $18.5 billion to New Zealand's economy, 4.2 percent of our total GDP[4] and more than our wine, seafood and international education sectors.

15. In 2024, Auckland's arts and creative sector contributed over $8.5 billion to New Zealand's GDP, creating jobs and supporting local businesses. It is the largest arts and creative employer in the country, employing more than 50,000 people. The *Auckland Economic Monitor* shows 'Arts and recreation services' are experiencing strong growth in Auckland, with 11.7 percent of growth in contributions to Auckland's GDP and 7.1 percent of employment growth in the year to March 2024.

---

3 Auckland Council, *The Arts Matter*, 2026.

4 Infometrics Sector Profiles 2025, Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture & Heritage, Arts and Creative Industry Profile Report.

16. However, this growth relies on a strong arts ecosystem and pathways for young people to experience creativity, in order to nurture and develop creativity.

17. Economic conditions are putting sustained pressure on the arts community – creators, presenters and supporters alike. Arts organisations operate on thin margins and are highly vulnerable to any changes in relationships with funders. Making a living from the arts is hard for artists and practitioners,[5] and the wider arts ecosystem is fragile. While public engagement with the arts is strong compared with other countries, arts are often on the margins of public investment and support.

Ngā toi Māori and mātauranga Māori are distinctive to Aotearoa New Zealand and central to our unique national identity

18. Te reo, mātauranga Māori and ngā toi Māori are central to Auckland's unique identity, as the largest Māori city in the world. Success in protecting, revitalising and promoting Māori artforms supports many artists, practitioners and tourism operators in the region, and positively enhances Auckland's national and international reputation.

Together we can create healthy, sustainable and thriving arts ecosystems in local communities

19. We highly value Auckland Council and the Auckland Local Boards as partners in the arts, alongside mana whenua, iwi and hapū, community trusts and private givers. Demand for Creative New Zealand's services is high, and we are supporting a much lower proportion of proposals than we have historically. Private investments, including corporate sponsorship and private donations, are also down in the current economic climate.

20. Over the coming year we will be implementing our tuku rauemi approach. This means empowering communities as decision-makers, entrusting them to support arts and ngā toi Māori development that best meets their communities' needs. To do this, we will partner with organisations across the regions to lead local arts development and capability building, set their own priorities and make funding decisions.

21. We believe a regional partnership approach will strengthen co-operation on longer-term planning and investment between regional stakeholders, including local government and trusts, and Creative New Zealand. This approach will also create opportunities to grow

---

[5] Creative New Zealand, *A Profile of Creative Professionals 2023*. New Zealanders employed in creative professions continue to experience low pay compared to New Zealanders earning a salary or wage. The median income for creative professionals is just $37,000, substantially less than the median income of $61,000 for New Zealanders earning a wage or salary.

investment regionally by leveraging Creative New Zealand funds, incentivising new investment, and helping arts organisations partner to secure philanthropic funding.

22. Auckland's communities are vital for the arts and ngā toi Māori to develop and grow. We want to see an arts ecosystem in the region where artists, creatives and ringatoi are supported to thrive, with viable creative careers and strong arts infrastructure. Together we can create a healthy and strong environment for the arts community, to help achieve its potential and share the benefits of the arts and ngā toi with all Aucklanders.

Creative New Zealand's interest in the arts in Auckland

23. Creative New Zealand receives funding through Vote: Arts, Culture and Heritage and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board Te Puna Tahua. In 2024/25, Creative New Zealand **invested nearly $61 million in the arts in New Zealand**, through investing in the arts, developing the arts, and providing leadership in the arts.

24. In 2024/25, we **invested $17.7 million of direct financial support in Auckland**, almost 30 percent of our total investment by region. In addition, our investment in activity that takes place nationwide (17.2 percent) and online (4.5 percent) sees benefits flow to Auckland by supporting arts and cultural experiences presented in the region; and our international programme (7.1 percent) adds additional investment to Auckland via artists based in the region.

25. Under the Creative Communities Scheme, we provide funding to territorial authorities to support local arts activities. The annual allocation to Auckland Council under the Scheme is **$1.33 million**. In 2024/25, this funding supported **246 projects** which engaged 26,539 participants and had 395,572 attendances. Allocations to territorial authorities under the Scheme are based on a population-based formula.

Final thoughts

26. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Local Board Plans.

27. To quote Deputy Mayor Desley Simpson at the launch of *The Arts Matter,* 'Arts matter because people matter. A culturally vibrant Tāmaki Makaurau is essential to our region's future and the stories we tell as a nation. So, let's champion creativity… as a foundation for belonging, for identity, for innovation and community resilience.' We wholeheartedly agree.

28. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this submission further. The key contact person is:

Name: Cara Paterson

Position: Senior Adviser, Advocacy (Local Government)
Kaiwhakamahere Matua Taunaki, Kāwanatanga ā Kainga

Contact: cara.paterson@creativenz.govt.nz

[redacted]

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#348

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 (CTA)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	N/AN/A
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Funding priorities

4. **Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. **Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Other feedback

6. **Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?**

Tell us more

7. **Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?**

See attached

Submission of Civic Trust Auckland
Draft Local Board Plans – all

[redacted]
www.civictrustauckland.org.nz

Introduction

1. Civic Trust Auckland (CTA) is a non-profit public interest group, incorporated in 1968, with activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region

2. 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.

3. CTA is on Auckland Council's list of regional stakeholders and we have previously provided submissions on Local Board plans, as well as on many other Auckland Council plans. We submitted on Council's Annual Plan 2026/2027, and that submission is on our website here. We understand that our submissions on the Annual Plan were made available for local board consideration. We refer in this submission to the draft local board plans to some of the points we made in our Annual Plan submission (in **bold**).

4. We would here like to thank the Local Board members for their work and advocacy. We have a couple of suggestions for your newsletters: that there could be more items about what has been happening in the local board area in addition to the standard Auckland Council notices, and that perhaps in each issue the chair could introduce one of the other board members, so that communities have more opportunity to get to know all of their Local Board members.

5. CTA generally supports the initiatives in the draft local board plans. Our focus is primarily on the Environment sections of the plans.

6. We would also like to commend the aspiration of various local boards to develop parks and spaces that are inclusive, can be easily used and accessed by everyone and meet the needs of the community, including (as per the Howick Local Board Plan) neurodiverse children. We emphasise the point we have made in previous submissions about universal design, and also playgrounds that are accessible for children with disabilities. We draw your attention in particular to Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton as an example of a playground that is intended to cater for children with disabilities.

7. In our February 2014 submission on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan, and in several of our other submissions, we supported the principle of universal design. Our 2014 submission said:

- 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, handrails. 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. The Auckland Plan states on page 70, *"One in five Aucklanders has a disability, and this figure will increase with an ageing population. There is unrealised potential for Aucklanders with disabilities to contribute socially and economically. Barriers that prevent this, such as attitudes and physical access, must be addressed".*
- On page 74, The Auckland Plan states, *"Other communities and groups, such as ethnic communities and those with disabilities, also face barriers. Removing structural or institutional barriers so that all Aucklanders are viewed and treated equally is fundamental to improving the well-being of all, and realising the full potential of our diverse populations."*

8. We would like Local Boards to include in their advocacy to Council some requirement in policy and rules for the provision of accessible housing, universal design principles.

9. We would also like to see more advocacy with regard to public transport, for example, with stories in Local Board newsletters about successful and enjoyable rides on public transport, or perhaps competitions between local boards to see which one has the greatest number of public transport rides logged by their community in a particular month, similar to the Bike Month (March) and Biketober (October) initiatives.

10. We appreciate the friendliness and good service given by bus drivers across the city, which supports these very necessary services.

11. Although we can appreciate that advertising on buses is a useful way for Auckland Transport to gain revenue, we suggest that AT exercises caution when it comes to obscuring the passengers' view through the bus windows, and the perpetual circulation of mobile ratepayer-funded advertising certainly has its detractors.

12. It is good to see Local Boards encouraging the use of low-carbon transport options. However, CTA does not give unlimited support to scooters, as per our Annual Plan submission (pg 6), where we stated that: **"where a cycle lane has been provided, e-scooters *must* be ridden in the cycle lane…. 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. 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."**

13. We'd also like to draw to other Local Boards' attention the Henderson-Massey key initiative of investigating "smart" traffic lights that use sensors or cameras to give longer green lights where traffic is heavy, respond to rush hours, incidents and weather and prioritise buses. CTA supports some sort of light sequencing and enablement of left-turning when not crossing the path of oncoming traffic, thereby saving time and emissions.

14. We'd like Local Boards to promote car pooling as a transport option, and facilitate this within their Local Board area, namely, commuting (by neighbours, co-workers, or classmates), school runs (by parents taking turns driving a group of neighbourhood children to school and back), and business (efficient coordination of tasks and workers to enable shared transportation as needed).

15. CTA supports Local Boards investing in expanding the pedestrian network, and, although the cycling network cannot go everywhere, CTA supports its extension particularly where it enables commuting. We also support Local Boards advocating for such public transport measures as bus shelters and seating at bus stops. We also support the proposal by several Local Boards of an extra discount for students and children on public transport fares on top of the weekly $50 fare cap.

16. We are pleased to see Local Boards including in their key initiatives to support their community to be better prepared for emergencies like floods and storms, including reviewing the provision of community-led emergency centres.

17. CTA is of the view that Local Boards can learn much from each other, and we would encourage members to read each others' Draft Local Board Plans and collaborate on matters of

mutual interest. Many aspects of plans relate to more than one board (especially to directly neighbouring boards) and some of them relate to Auckland as a whole, for example, as regards transport, climate change and community engagement, and shared management of the harbour edge of the Waitematā Harbour.

18. CTA notes that many Local Boards are intending to review the use of their Council buildings. Notwithstanding the temptation to sell assets deemed no longer to be of use, CTA supports rigorous investigation as to what alternative use those assets may be put to. We would particularly like to highlight this advocacy point from the Waiheke Local Board (pg 22 of their plan): "*Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing,"* as a much better alternative to selling underused Council buildings.

Area Plans

1. We include here a summary of Graeme Easte's presentation to the Policy and Planning Committee on 10 March 2026 (here is a link to it), which CTA supports, advocating for the application of Area Plans. (Graeme began by playing the song "Little Boxes" by Pete Seeger.)

2. It was originally intended that the Unitary Plan (operative in 2016) would be supplemented with 21 Area Plans - one for each Local Board area - to reflect its local issues, challenges and opportunities over a 30-year time frame. All Local Boards did extensive workshopping with planning staff and community representatives, in order to fine-tune the application of the Unitary Plan process as it applied to their particular area but also to begin work on their own Area Plan.

3. Initially only four Area Plans were to be fully developed as pilots. Development of the remaining Area Plans was cancelled in about 2015. Ten of the 17 Local Boards subsequently developed "mini" Area Plans, Precinct Plans or Centre Plans for parts of their area.

4. Graeme recommended that work on expanding the coverage of Area Plans should start with those Local Boards which have expressed strong interest in such a workstream, and that the older existing plans should have priority for a refresh, but not at the expense of those Boards without Area Plans or only partial coverage.

5. Four Local Boards have Area Plans that cover their entire area:

- Devonport-Takapuna (plus 3 Centre Plans)
- Hibiscus and Bays (plus 3 Centre Plans)
- Māngere-Ōtāhuhu
- Ōtara-Papatoetoe

Ten Local Boards have only partial Area Plans or Centre Plans:

- Albert-Eden (1 Precinct Plan, 2 shared plans)
- Franklin (1 Centre Plan)
- Henderson-Massey (2 Centre Plans)
- Howick (2 Centre Plans)
- Manurewa } shared partial

- Papakura } Area Plan
- Puketāpapa (1 shared plan)
- Rodney (1 Centre Plan)
- Waitākere Ranges (1 Centre Plan)
- Waitematā (3 Centre Plans + 1 shared plan)

Seven Local Boards have no Area or Centre Plans at all:

- Great Barrier
- Kaipātiki
- Ōrākei
- Maungakiekie-Tāmaki
- Upper Harbour
- Waiheke
- Whau

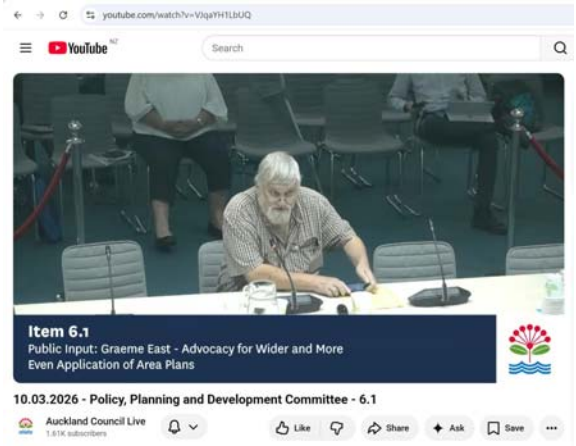
6. Local Board Chairs have told Graeme that having local plans has made a real difference to accommodating development in their ward, particularly as the urban environment intensifies.

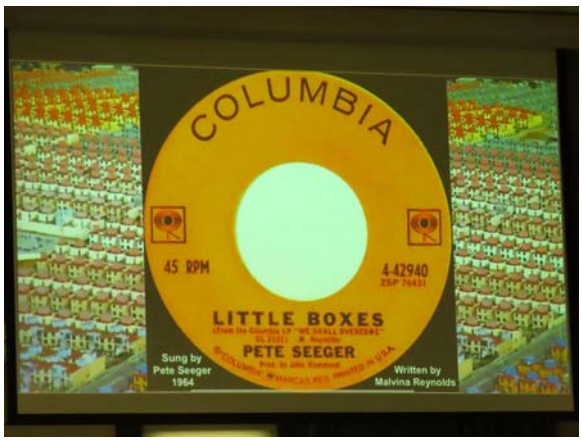
7. Graeme's request to the Policy and Planning Committee:

(1) That in revising the existing Auckland Plan (the Auckland Spatial Plan) in line with the new legislation, and any consequent changes to the Unitary Plan, consideration be given to potential measures to protect and enhance **local** features and character.

(2) That when the work on the Regional Spatial Plan and the Unitary Plan begins to tail off, then freed-up staff time and resources be reallocated to work on new and revised Local Area Plans.

(3) That priority should be given to those areas without an Area Plan at all.





NB When quoting from Local Board plans in our submission, we use *italics.* When quoting from our Annual Plan 2026/2027 submission, we use **bold.** Following Council's apparent oversight of some of our submissions in the Annual Plan 2026-2027 process, our advice from Council staff

has been to resubmit those points relevant to the 3-Year Local Board Plans so that they may be considered at the earliest convenience.

Albert-Eden

1. We were pleased to see a photo of the Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre on the Local Board Plan cover. We have expressed our support for the centre in previous submissions, and some CTA members are regular visitors to the centre. We still think recycling centres and/or libraries could be a drop-off place for used batteries, and would again encourage Council to consider the merits of this idea.

2. CTA supports Albert-Eden communities that consistently say that *"climate action and environment projects are a priority"* (pg 10), and we support the Local Board in setting out a low carbon pathway in its Climate Action Plan. We endorse environmental restoration in areas like Te Auauanga, Waititīko, Pt Chevalier Beach and Mōtū Manawa Marine Reserve, rare lava rock forests and around the tūpuna maunga.

3. We are pleased that the plan reflects *"reducing emissions, protecting biodiversity, building community resilience"* (pg 11) and that the Local Board refers to the relevant Shoreline Adaption Plan to guide actions.

4. CTA also supports the following:

- *Help households be ready for an emergency, refresh the Albert-Eden Local Board Emergency Readiness and Response Plan and support marae and groups to join our Community Emergency Hub network* (pg 14).

- *Improve Chamberlain Park by adding a new local park and walking and cycling paths, restoring Waitītiko / Meola Creek and shifting golf holes to keep an 18-hole golf course* (pg 15).

5. CTA submitted in June 2015 on keeping the 18-hole course, being only public golf course on the central isthmus and used by a diverse range of Aucklanders of all ages and ethnicities, at that time seeing in excess of 50,000 rounds per year, so we are very supportive of this outcome that accommodates broader community usage without surrendering the 18-hole nature of the golf course.

- *Make the most of land purchased in the flood buy-out by turning any suitable sites into new parks* (pg16).

- *Implement low carbon practices through capital projects when upgrading or developing our assets, for example minimising construction waste or adding renewal energy generation* (pg 16).

6. In our submission on the government's Emissions Reduction Plan in November 2021, we stated "that adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, as well as buildings in general should also be considered in the first instance. An example is the Civic Administration Building in Auckland's civic square, where a recent promotion for these apartments states: 'The most environmentally friendly new build is the one you don't actually build.… The CAB has reused its original steel frame…. Reusing such a large portion of the building (after passing considerable forms of strength testing) vastly reduces its carbon footprint…. Our team has painstakingly removed 19 floors/2,130 tonnes of concrete and diverted 98% of the demolition material from landfill.'"

7. We support the advocacy for *"Increased budget for buying open space, to ensure the shortfalls in service provision in urban areas can be addressed"* (pg 16).

8. CTA supports all the objectives listed on pages 18-19. In particular, we support the community changing their travel patterns *"to include more low carbon options."* However, please note our comments in the introduction to this submission about e-scooters.

9. We strongly support the following key initiatives in the plan: *"Work with Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the three Tāmaki Makaurau rōpū of Marutūāhu, Ngāti Whātua and Waiohua-Tāmaki who are creating Te Kukūnga Waka (Carrington residential development). Provide community services for new communities coming to large-scale developments in our area, like Te Kukūnga Waka (Carrington residential development) and University of Auckland Epsom Campus (pg 21); and the advocacy (pg 23): "Preservation and use of the heritage building at the northern end of Te Kukūnga Waka (Carrington residential development), working with Marutūāhu and their aspirations."*

10. As per our submission on the 2023 Local Board Plan, CTA recognises the regional nature of Building One's heritage significance, as denoted by its inclusion on Council's heritage schedule as a Category A building, and its Category 1 building status on Heritage NZ's List, and strongly supports a community wellbeing hub being incorporated into this building on the Carrington residential site. Currently, we are concerned that Building One is deteriorating, and that with tiles removed from the roof, rain is getting in, to add to the damage done by vandals over the years the building has been left empty. We strongly urge the Local Board to lobby Auckland Council and the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport to protect this Category I and Category A building so that it can be preserved. It is a matter of urgency to make the building watertight, for example, by the use of tarpaulins, or by having the tiles that were removed from the roof put back in place. CTA understands that the building was set aside for adaptive re-use and that within the Albert-Eden Local Board Area reside many of the 600 groups or individuals who have expressed interest in a tenancy in the building.

11. Our Annual Plan submission included the following: **"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)."**

12. That submission included a photo showing the roof of Building One. We include below a historic photo of the building and also an updated photo showing a close-up of the roof, the gap where the tiles should be continuing all the way around the building, then two photos showing damage inside the building.

13. We strongly support the Local Board retaining this objective in its plan: *"Protect and celebrate our historic heritage by being good stewards of the assets we own and supporting others to care for theirs"* (page 22) and we suggest that it follows that the Local Board should focus its efforts on Building One.









14. We support the Local Board's advocacy, especially: *"Planning rules to protect historic heritage, special character, viewshafts of the tūpuna maunga (ancestral mountains) and sites and places of significance to mana whenua."*

15. Our Annual Plan submission also included: **"the local board advocates to Council for the repurposing of the old Mt Eden Prison."**

16. We support the priorities to: *"Provide safe and accessible walking, cycling and micro-mobility options for people to use, including by adding missing links and connections"* (pg 28); *"Provide the missing walking and cycling connection running east to west across our local board area"* (pg 29); *"Set safe speed limits to provide a consistent and safe speed environment, working towards survivable speeds on our local roads;"* (pg 29) and *"Ensure footpaths are wide, accessible, and safe"* (pg 29).

17. We repeat our request from our 2023 feedback that a Liberty Swing be reinstated in Rocket Park, along with some of the other original equipment for this special park, to support children with disabilities, as per the objective in the 2026 plan (pg 14): *"We celebrate diversity, making sure everyone is empowered to participate and feel like they belong,"* the key initiatives (pg 14): *"Reduce barriers so everyone can be an active part of our community, especially children, young and older people, migrant communities, LGBTQ+ communities, people with physical or intellectual disabilities and transient populations;* and *Work with groups to ensure that our programmes work for everyone and that our spaces feel safe and accessible,"* the objective (pg 15): *"People and communities have access to spaces and services that improve their wellbeing, help them learn and meet their changing needs;"* and the objective: *"Our community is healthy and active and can include movement and fun in everyday life,"* with the associated initiative: *"Make our parks and public places fun so everyone has space and feels comfortable to play and recreate, especially children,"* and the obj*ective: "*Our parks and open space meet the needs of our changing population" (pg 15).

18. We understand that the original purpose of Rocket Park was to provide accessibility for children with disabilities. We draw the Local Board's attention to this blog about the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton https://www.magicalbridge.co.nz/

Aotea-Great-Barrier

1. CTA strongly supports the climate change and resilience initiatives that the Local Board has invested in (pg 10).

2. We support (in particular) the key initiatives to:

- *Partner with mana whenua to restore the mauri (life force) of whenua, moana, awa and taonga species and strengthen climate resilience on the island.*
- *Support the local Emergency Response Team to deliver emergency readiness, response and recovery initiatives to strengthen island resilience.*

- *Improve our council 'microgrid' to help us better capture, store and manage electricity locally.*
- *Ensure our village spaces, parks, reserves and beaches are safe, well-maintained and reflect our natural way of life.*
- *Partner with mana whenua, Department of Conservation and the community to investigate connecting track networks.*

3. We support all the Environment key initiatives and all the advocacy in this section. We are of the view that all the other Local Boards could support this advocacy as well, as much of it is relevant to the rest of Auckland.

4. In association with Tautaki Auckland, the Local Board developed the Aotea Great Barrier Island Destination Management Plan (focused on sustainable, regenerative tourism that balances economic growth with environmental protection) and CTA supports those identified efforts to those ends (pp 20-22).

5. We support the priorities under Transport, in particular (which we also supported in 2023): *"Support the introduction of a community passenger transport service"* (pg 25).

Devonport-Takapuna

1. In our last Local Board Plan submission, we encouraged the Local Board "to advocate for bike racks on buses that go across the Auckland Harbour Bridge," so we are very pleased to note that there are now 15 buses that carry bicycles over the harbour bridge.

2. We support the following objective: *"Our parks, facilities and recreational spaces are safe, accessible and meet the needs of our community"* and we particularly support the following key initiatives: *"Ensure accessibility is a key consideration in the development and maintenance of our parks, facilities and recreational spaces; Develop and maintain our parks, community facilities and recreational spaces with sustainable and locally sourced materials where possible;"* and *"Complete the Devonport-Takapuna Local Parks Management Plan."*

3. We support the objective to *"… explore opportunities to reflect Māori identity and support Māori wellbeing in our parks, public spaces and community facilities"* and the key initiatives associated with this objective.

4. We strongly support the Local Board's advocacy for the *"Establishment of a regional heritage facilities maintenance fund to support local boards to maintain, renew and preserve heritage buildings"* (pg 14).

5. We would have liked to have seen the retention of the objective that: "Natural and built heritage are conserved and both colonial and Māori history and significant places are valued, promoted, and celebrated" (page 19, 2023 Local Board Plan).

6. We support all of the Local Board's objectives under Environment (pp 16-17) and all the key initiatives, with comments as follows:

As regards *"Support appropriate planting and the principle of 'the right tree in the right place,"* we note that trees that grow large sometimes block views of both landscapes and attractive buildings, and that trees should not be encased in concrete, nor should they be put in a place where they will impact on infrastructure such as water pipes. In 2023 we stated, in response to the 'right tree in the right place' principle that "we would caution that the wrong tree in the wrong place (in any Local Board area) does not necessarily get removed but that it is allowed to live out its natural life, or there is consideration given to transplanting the tree. We understand that there is modern machinery that enables the transplanting of large trees. Perhaps Local Boards (including this one) could advocate to the Governing Body and/or central government for investment in one of these machines."

7. Regarding *"Support initiatives … such as education on: using bike hubs and electric scooters … different ways to travel for short journeys,"* please see our comments in the introduction to this submission about e-scooters on pages 2-3.

8. We support all the advocacy for the Natural Environment (pg 17).

9. We support all the Built Environment key initiatives (pg 19).

10. We would support the retention of the initiative from the previous plan: "Utilisation of regional funding to retrofit assets and upgrade them with solar energy saving measures" (pg 22, 2023 Local Board Plan).

11. We support the advocacy to the governing body as per page 20:

- *More funding to protect and renew our heritage assets.*
- *Invest in infrastructure and open spaces in areas where increased housing density is planned under Unitary Plan Change 120.*
- *Consult more with the Auckland Urban Design Panel for advice around large-scale developments.*

12. Regarding large-scale developments, we bring the Local Board's attention to the principles of universal design as outlined on pages 1-2 of this submission.

13. On page 24 under Transport, *"High dependency on motor vehicles"* is mentioned as a challenge, and we submit that the Local Board could encourage and advocate for the use of public transport, as per our suggestion on page 2.

14. We look forward to Local Boards having more control over local transport decisions as a result of the proposed legislation reform.

15. We support slowing traffic, in the interests of safety, as per the priority on page 24: *"Install speed advisory signs and other measures to help slow traffic across the area."*

16. From our Annual Plan submission:
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.**

17. We note that The Flagstaff, the Devonport Local Community Newspaper, revealed (on 2 July, 2026) the five 8-storey tower development plans proposed for Devonport by Peninsula Capital. These multi-level buildings rising behind heritage streetscape (pictured below) clearly block the maunga behind and would surely impact the proposed UNESCO World Heritage Site status that is being sought for all the Tūpuna Maunga of Auckland.



18. If intensification of such a scale is to be considered, perhaps master planning for that end of the peninsula might include consideration of the RNZN vacating its current site (and possibly relocating to Whangarei), in part, good for housing in Auckland and also potentially positive for Northland.

Franklin

1. CTA supports the objectives and key initiatives (pages 17-18) under "Natural Environment," and the advocacy on pages 18-19.

2. We suggest the retention of the following initiative from the 2023 plan (pg 26/33?): "Require all public space projects in urban/future urban areas to actively contribute to increases in tree canopy cover and more green infrastructure."

3. Under Transport, we support the Local Board working towards safe travel by foot, bike and mobility scooter, and note the inclusion of mobility scooters (page 27).

4. We support the ideas listed in the Opportunities section (page 28), particularly that of leveraging the Manukau Harbour and Hauraki Gulf as a Blue Highway. We see this as benefitting other parts of Auckland too, reducing reliance on the roading network and congestion across the city.

5. Under Transport priorities, we note: *"Investigate options to improve safety and environmental protection on Franklin's beaches, so that vehicle use does not create harm to people or place e.g. at Karioitahi Beach, Umupuia and Kawakawa Bay."* In general, we do not support vehicles driving on beaches. We strongly support the priority to *"Work with community providers to facilitate youth uptake of walking and cycling as a mechanism to address congestion and parking capacity,"* which we see as also facilitating youth health and environmental health. We support advocacy for better public transport routes, including more ferry services.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

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.

<u>Henderson-Massey</u>

1. We support the Local Board in continuing with the key initiative (pg 14) to *"Develop parks, community and play spaces that can be easily used and accessed by everyone and meet the needs of the community,"* and draw members' attention to Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton, mentioned in the introduction to our submission.

2. We support all the key initiatives in the Natural Environment section (pp 17-18) and the advocacy on page 18.

3. Under Built Environment, we strongly support the objective of *"Community places and spaces are more accessible, sustainable and improve our collective wellbeing"* (pg 20), and in particular, the key initiatives of *"Make sure we consider sustainability and accessibility when we build and maintain community facilities and buildings"* and *"Identify and progress neighbourhood transport initiatives that improve safety, such as walking and cycling paths and speed calming measures."*

4. Regarding sustainability and accessibility, please see our comments about universal design on page 2.

5. In the Transport section, we particularly support the following key initiatives: *"Look into and set up traffic flow solutions such as 'smart' traffic lights that use sensors or cameras to give longer green lights where traffic is heavy, respond to rush hours, incidents and weather and prioritise buses;" "Introduce a weekly public transport fare cap for children and young people in addition to the existing $50 fare cap"* and *"Prioritise safety and ways to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in local streets and around every local school."* While an enhanced pedestrian environment is desirable, so too is the free flow of traffic, sequenced where necessary.

Hibiscus and Bays

1. In our last Local Board Plan submission, we encouraged the Local Board to advocate to Auckland Transport for bike racks on buses that go across the Auckland Harbour Bridge, so we are delighted that there are now 15 buses that carry bicycles over the harbour bridge on the NX1 route.

2. Under Community on page 15, we support the key initiative of *"Support communities to share stories about local heritage in ways that help people understand their area, feel a sense of identity and belonging, and learn about local history. This includes using te reo Māori place names and a range of storytelling approaches."*

3. We support all the key initiatives and advocacy under Natural Environment (pp 19-20). We note that one key initiative is: *"Support the development and increased use of parks, reserves and sports fields that are accessible, equitable and meet current and future community needs."* A visit by a CTA Board member to the Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve in January this year

revealed that although there is supposedly a track alongside the Nukumea Stream that is suitable for wheelchairs, it was not possible to get the wheelchair past the kauri dieback cleaning station, it being misleading to describe the track as accessible for wheelchairs.

4. We support the key initiatives and advocacy under Built Environment (pp 22-23) and under Transport (pg 29).

5. From our Annual Plan submission:

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.

The remainder has been covered on page 2 of this submission.

Howick

1. We support the Local Board's long list of key initiatives on pages 14-16 under Community and will provide comments on the following. *"Work with Animal Management to address local issues, and clearly communicate rules and regulations to the community, especially the rules around having dogs in public spaces"* (pg 14). Some dog owners do not seem to know that their dogs should be on a leash at all times in public spaces, except in designated off-leash areas. Other owners clearly do know this, and are flouting this rule. We encourage this Local Board (and all others) to implement the $300 fine for a dog being off-leash in an on-leash area, as well as the other infringements relating to dogs. There are owners who regularly walk their dogs off-leash, and their disregard for Auckland Council's Dog Management Bylaw is unfair on other dog owners and to those members of the public who have a real fear of dogs, whatever they look like and whatever size they are.

2. *"Develop inclusive play spaces designed for neurodiverse children, supporting safe, engaging, and enjoyable experiences for all"* (pg 14). We strongly support this initiative. Like universal design, such play spaces are suitable for everyone. Please see our note on page 1

about the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton, established in December 2023, New Zealand's first fully inclusive and accessible playground designed for people of all ages, sizes, and physical or neurological abilities.

3. We support the objectives and key initiatives under Natural Environment on pages 18-21, and the advocacy on pages 21-222 noting, however, as in our 2023 feedback, as regards the following key initiative: *"Support the Tūpuna Maunga Authority to protect and enhance Ōhuiarangi / Pigeon Mountain"* that we do support protecting the maunga but we do not support the removal of trees from any of the maunga across Auckland. We maintain the position that particular trees that are not wanted on the maunga should live out their natural lives while replacement planting of other species is planned for.

4. We support the objectives and key initiatives under Built Environment on pages 24 - 26, though we caution with regard to *"Look into selling underperforming properties to help fund priority projects."* It may be better for these properties to remain in Council ownership rather than be lost to the private sector, and rather than use their sale to fund projects, make them perform better. This is a case where the community should be consulted about the use of buildings within their area, as regrettably, some Council buildings are not fully utilised due to lack of information about them, and also regrettably, some underused Council buildings are not maintained and become unusable.

5. Under Transport, the priority *"Identify high congestion areas and investigate options for improvement to reduce travel time and keep our emissions low"* seems to in part be answered by *"Provide safe, reliable, and timely public transport, with improved bus services, accessible routes, and well -designed, sheltered bus stops for the community."* We think there is an opportunity for all Local Boards to promote public transport more, for Local Board members to use it more themselves, and to investigate barriers to people using transport. We would like to see, for example, employers offer more incentives for their employees to use public transport and for the reintroduction of glide time, where practicable, to remove the barrier of being late for work.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

1. We note the following on page 4 (From the Chair): *"To ensure a sustainable network of community assets, the board will take a fiscally responsible, long-term approach to renewing them. This includes reviewing the condition and performance of existing assets and recognising that, under ongoing limited funding, some assets may need to be considered for decommissioning (for example removing or deconstructing them)."* We repeat what we have written above in this submission, that unfortunately, some Council buildings are not fully utilised due to lack of information about them, and also unfortunately, some underused Council buildings are not maintained and become unusable. In our view, the community should be consulted about the use of buildings in their area.

2. In the 2023 draft plan, CTA supported the initiative (pg 14) to: "Investigate installing solar on facilities with significant solar potential, including: Birkenhead Pool and Leisure Centre, Kaipātiki Local Board Office, Glenfield Pool and Leisure Centre." We are therefore pleased to know that the Birkenhead Pool and Leisure Centre now has solar panels installed on its roof, that roof work is underway at the Glenfield Centre to add solar panels, and that the Board Office is in line to receive solar panels as well.

3. CTA supported the Kaipātiki Local Board's advocacy to the Governing Body in the draft 2023 plan (pg 18) "to protect and celebrate our built and cultural heritage" and would like to see this retained in the 2026 plan.

4. Also in the 2023 plan, we supported "the ability for local boards to have direct decision-making authority to make temporary changes to dog access rules to mitigate environmental or social problems" (page 23) and we are pleased to note that the changes proposed by the Kaipātiki and Devonport-Takapuna Local Boards to rules for local beaches and reserves came into effect in January 2026.

5. Again, we support advocacy to *"reinstate legislation that provides general tree protection Central Government"* (page 20), and would also continue to support the following, if it were included in the plan: "for urban planning legislation to adequately protect special ecological areas" (2023 plan, pg 23).

6. We strongly support this new advocacy: *"Advocate to introduce waste recovery schemes that make those who create waste responsible for dealing with it"* (pg 20).

7. We are pleased that the following key initiative has been retained: *"Consider the effects of climate change when developing places and spaces by avoiding areas or activities that are vulnerable to climate risks like drought, extreme rainfall, coastal flooding and heat."*

8. We continue to support *"continued improvement of the bus and ferry network serving Kaipātiki with: cheaper ferry and bus fares, maintaining our existing three ferry services – with increased frequency, more buses going to more destinations more often,"* and also *"a continued*

move to electric buses and ferries serving Kaipātiki" (pg 31). In our view, the Waitematā Harbour could be used much more for transport - being a waterway that does not need maintenance the way roads and rail do.

9. Under Community, one of the key initiatives is: *"Invest in natural solutions that improve our parks and public spaces, including planting notable trees for shade, wildflower meadows for increased biodiversity and natural play items such as māra hūpara."* We support this initiative (alongside all the others), and appreciate that the wildflower meadows will attract more insects and other biodiversity than grass. We would like to see fruit trees included in the plantings in parks and public spaces, for the additional benefit of providing food for the community. We also like the use of māra hūpara, not only for the connection with both nature and local Māori history, but also due to its attractiveness and sustainability.

10. We support all the objectives, key initiatives, and advocacy under Natural Environment (pages 19 - 21). A number of our board members have enjoyed walking along the treetop boardwalk at Kauri Glen Reserve.

11. Under Transport, we strongly support the following priority: "*Consider introducing reduced speed limits (safer speeds) on a case-by-case basis on roads where vulnerable road users are often present, and where the impact on traffic flow will be minor"* (pg 31). It is our understanding that driving in a city, constantly stopping and starting at traffic lights, a lower speed limit tends to affect travel time only by seconds.

12. Under Economic Development, we support the following two key initiatives: *"Support local businesses to use more sustainable practices, such as reducing waste, cutting greenhouse gas emissions and using resources more efficiently,"* and *"Promote retail opportunities provided by the Wairau zero-waste hub and other second -hand providers like op-shops."*

13. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

1. In our 2023 submission on the Local Board Plans, CTA supported the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board to "Revive the Māngere Gateway Heritage plan to enhance Stonefields and promote and regain heritage values" (pg 17). We understand that the Local Board has been actively working to revive this plan, including funding programmes designed to enhance the Otuataua Stonefields, and we are pleased about this.

2. We support all the key initiatives under Natural Environment in the current draft plan (pp 17-18), in particular: *"Support the creation of a new Māngere Ōtāhuhu Community Recycling Centre, making it easier for people to recycle and reduce waste,"* and we endorse the opportunity under Economic Development that *"The proposed community recycling centre could help create new sustainable community enterprises and provide more jobs."* We also particularly support: *"Fund education and community programmes that work with people to reduce and manage household waste, prevent illegal dumping, and build shared care and pride in our local environment,"* and *"Work with the community to develop and deliver local climate action plans and support community-led projects that help people cut emissions, use energy wisely and choose low -carbon ways to get around."*

3. We would like to note that CTA is very supportive of Respect Mt Richmond / Ōtāhuhu in its efforts to save the exotic trees on that maunga. On page 10 in your plan it is noted that *"Māngere -Ōtāhuhu has low tree canopy cover"* and that a key initiative (pg 17) is *"Work with landowners and developers to plant more trees (ngāhere) across private land, new developments and green open spaces;"* and an advocacy point (pg 18) is *"Funding to help local boards achieve regional and local targets for urban ngahere (tree) cover in the areas where there is less than 15 per cent of tree canopy cover. This provides habitats for birds and insects, and shade from extreme heat."* It is our view that exotic trees contribute to the canopy just as much as natives, and they also provide habitat for fauna and shade for people. We have proposed in various submissions that unwanted trees be left to live out their natural lives, and that it should be only then that they are replaced with other trees.

4. We note the challenge stated in the Built Environment section (pg 19): *"Plan Change 120 proposes to avoid building homes in flood-prone parts of Māngere-Ōtāhuhu to improve safety, but pushes to build new housing into fewer areas. This could increase pressure on already stretched local infrastructure and services.*" In our submission on Plan Change 120, we

supported those communities which stated that infrastructure and services would be put under pressure by intensification, including in our points as follows: 7(c) “CTA submits that to reduce capacity in certain locations, such intensification could be reallocated elsewhere in order to meet the arbitrary 2 million total required by PC120. This might be done by, for example, allowing THAB in some locations or allowing a variation in the number of floors in an apartment block; 8(c) PC120 needs to include planning for infrastructure, in order to support safe, resilient, and sustainable intensification. This includes schools, hospitals, green space, and transport. Growth should be directed to places where the necessary infrastructure is planned, funded, and deliverable; 8(d) In our view, it is poor planning to rely on potential legislation and/or private investment for future infrastructure. We know that some parts of the city have been waiting years for appropriate infrastructure and we know that the availability of funding for such work is not increasing. CTA considers that development should not be enabled where infrastructure is not practicably able to be provided.” The ability to accommodate such changes is now more attainable given the reduction of the government’s target from 2 million homes down to 1.4 million homes.

5. CTA supports all the key initiatives on page 20, particularly: *“Make sure new community buildings are designed to work well in a changing climate, are healthy and contribute to a quality built environment,”* as well as all the advocacy on page 21.

6. We also support all the priorities under Transport (pg 26).

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

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.

Manurewa

1. In the 2023 plan, CTA was pleased to note: "increase awareness of the notable tree schedule to protect more of our trees" (page 26) and we supported the key initiative to "Replace every tree removed from the streetscape due to damage, storms and accidents within one year" (page 27). We understand that due to financial constraints, further storm damage, and high operational costs have meant that this goal was not met, but we encourage the Local Board to continue with tree replacement. We submit that awareness of the notable tree schedule could be included in the Local Board's advocacy to the Governing Body.

2. Regarding the key initiative *"Look at options to improve access and usability across our parks and facilities. This may include identifying and removing physical barriers, upgrading paths, amenities, and signage, and working closely with disability groups to meet their needs"* (pg 17) we draw the Local Board's attention to the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton as being a playground that caters for children with disabilities.

3. CTA supports all the climate change and sustainability initiatives on page 17, as well at the key initiatives under Natural Environment on pages 20-21 and the advocacy on page 22.

4. We support the Economic Development key initiatives of: *"Support industrial zones to move to a low-impact, low-carbon economy and adapt to the impacts of climate change;"* and *"Support initiatives that strengthen community economic resilience in response to climate change. This may include community-led renewable energy projects, such as solar generation and storage, that reduce energy costs, create local jobs, and increase energy security."*

5. We support the Transport priorities on page 29 and 30, particularly: *"Continue to support evidence-based ways to slow down traffic. This could be speed humps and raised pedestrian crossings around schools;"* and *"Look at options to improve safety and traffic management like*

slowing down traffic and improved parking around the Homai quadrant which includes Sturdee Road." We understand that when driving in a city and constantly stopping and starting at traffic lights, a lower speed limit tends to affect travel time only by seconds. We note that some suburbs have introduced 30 km or 40 km limits in some areas, which seem to work well.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

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.**

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

1. With regard to the advocacy to *"Work with relevant agencies to advocate for policies and initiatives that reduce dog attacks, support responsible ownership, and keep our community safe"* (pg15), CTA suggests that this advocacy could include asking Auckland Council to direct its Animal Management Officers to remind/warn dog owners that they need to keep their dogs on a leash at all times, except in off-leash areas, and if they do not, they are liable for a $300 fine.

2. We support the Natural Environment key initiatives (pp 17-18), particularly *"Support rangatahi as leaders in climate action and investigate opportunities for rangatahi led environmental initiatives."* We also support the advocacy in this section (pp18-19).

3. We support the Built Environment key initiatives (pp 21-22) and the advocacy on page 22. We recommend the example of the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton as a playground that caters for children with disabilities, as regards the initiative: *"Develop playground designs which are inclusive of all ages and abilities."*

4. We support the following Economic Development key initiatives page 24: *"Support initiatives which encourage businesses to do something about their impact on the environment"* (pg 24) and *"Support initiatives which encourage local procurement and the promotion of services within our community"* (pg 25).

5. CTA supports the Transport priorities (pp 27-28).

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

1. In the 2023 draft plans, CTA supported the seismic restoration of the Remuera Library and we are pleased to see this project completed.

2. We strongly support the first key initiative on page 21: *"Ensure that the heritage of our people, places and buildings is recognised, protected and valued by working with council organisations, supporting community groups and investing in eligible projects."*

3. We also support the Natural Environment key initiatives (pp 17-18) and the advocacy on page 19.

4. Alongside *"Encourage developers to prioritise sustainable design in their developments"* (pg 21), CTA would like to see "Encourage developers to prioritise universal design in their developments," and we refer the Local Board to page 2 of this submission, where we have written about universal design.

5. Regarding the initiative: "Look for opportunities to provide new venues for community use such as land reclamation (creating new land by filling in areas of water), buying property or working with community providers," firstly, we would urge the Local Board to undertake extensive consultation before considering land reclamation, due to the expense, the requirement for constant maintenance, and the vulnerability to flooding. Further, when we read on the next page the initiative: *"Decommission under-used assets like Leicester Hall, to invest in better value assets and services,"* we question why the Local Board would consider new venues for community use when there already are such venues, such as Leicester Hall, which has a kitchen, off-street parking, and is wheelchair accessible. We suggest that the Local Board considers that the community might like to be involved in the maintenance of such buildings, and potentially making it more fit for purpose, rather than looking to provide new buildings.

Furthermore, are such venues as Leicester Hall well-known to the community? Could they be advertised in the Local Board newsletters?

6. Potentially, *"Review[ing] the local board's lease portfolio to ensure that leased sites are providing the best value to community and identify what might be missing"* would bring to light what is needed, what is already available, and what could be done to make the best use of such assets.

7. We support the priorities under Transport and the associated advocacy. We support speed limits for e-bikes, e-scooters and low-powered vehicles, and we would like to see a ban on e-scooters using footpaths, in line with the Local Board aiming at more safety for pedestrians.

8. From our Annual Plan submission:

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.

<u>Otara-Papatoetoe</u>

1. CTA supports the initiatives on page 14 under Community: *"Support climate resilience and local sustainability education and engagement initiatives for young people;"* and *"Continue to develop a 'multi -park management plan' that manages the use, development and protection of all parks, reserves and open spaces in the area."*

2. We support the Natural Environment key initiatives on pages 17-18 and the advocacy on page 18.

3. We suggest that the criticism on page 26 of *"Unreliable, infrequent and limited public transport options encourage more residents to travel by car"* is less valid than it was 3 years ago, as public transport in Auckland is improving all the time. We are of the view that what is needed is more promotion of public transport to people who do not think outside of taking their car with them everywhere they go.

4. We support the priorities on pages 27 and 28 under Transport. As per our submission 3 years ago, we support free public transport, not only to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and congestion, but to improve the health of the population, as overall, we do not move enough. We have suggested in previous submissions a trial of free transport.

5. We agree that Puhinui Station is a crucial transport hub, and, as we stated in our 2023 submission, we are of the view that the AirportLink service needs more publicity.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

1. Under Community, we support the key initiative: *"Support the protection of sites of Māori and European significance including the enhancement of Pukekooiwiriki Paa."*

2. CTA also supports the Natural Environment key initiatives on pages 18-20 and the advocacy on page 20.

3. Thank you for including *"Support 'universal access' design so people of all ages and abilities can access our facilities, and 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' (CPTED) in upgrades where budgets allow"* in your key initiatives under Built Environment. CTA is a strong supporter of universal design, and your draft plan is the only one we have seen that mentions this design principle, which we see as catering not only for people with disabilities but others who can benefit from improved access, including the ageing population, thus increasing housing options for more people and improving the quality of life for people who currently face significant barriers in terms of physical access.

4. Under this same objective, *"Resilience, safety and universal access,"* we point out that in addition to native trees to *"provide shade, shelter and heat-resilient landscaping,"* that non-native trees provide the same benefits, and some provide fruit as well.

5. Also on page 24, under *"Objective 6: Regeneration and service property optimisation: Identify and sell assets that are underused and reinvest the money from the sales into upgrades for community spaces and facilities to benefit the community,"* we suggest (as we have to several other Local Boards) that some Council buildings are not fully utilised due to the community lacking awareness of them, that some underused Council buildings are not maintained properly

and so become unusable, and that the community should be consulted about the use of buildings in their area.

6. We support all the priorities and advocacy under Transport (pp 33-36).

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

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).

<u>Puketāpapa</u>

1. Regarding the key initiatives under Community, we make the following comments.

"Assess the possibility of additional space for off-leash dog exercising." We hope that this initiative will lead to more compliance in on-leash areas, which is a problem across the city, with people out walking feeling intimidated by dogs and also by some of their owners, who do not like being challenged about their off-leash dog(s).

"Review current community services and facilities and assess how well they meet the needs of a growing population to identify any unmet needs and plan for future investment." We recommend that such a review involve strong engagement with the community, as part of this review may reveal that there are some services and facilities about which the community is not aware.

"Fund a masterplan for Monte Cecilia Park to consider the future use of the park, including the Liston Village land and any other future community facilities." We are grateful for the Local Board opposition to the proposed demolition of dwellings at Liston Village, due to the ongoing and growing need for housing for elderly people.

2. We support the key initiatives under Natural Environment on pages 18-19, especially the updating of the Puketāpapa Local Climate Action Plan and the Puketāpapa Urban Ngahere Action Plan 2021, as we are aware that plans can be written and celebrated but then forgotten,

partly as a result of new people coming into various roles. We also support the advocacy on pages 19-20.

3. Under the Built Environment key initiatives (page 22) CTA is pleased to see *"Find ways to respond to the future growth expected in our area as a result of Proposed Plan Change 120, for example review the area plan for parts of Puketāpapa and Albert-Eden local boards."* We would encourage the Local Board to review the area plan, as per our notes about area and centre plans (on page 4-5).

4. We support the advocacy (pg 23): *"Advocate to build power lines underground, particularly where footpath space is limited"* and *"Advocate for 'beautification' at the White Swan Road Transpower substation in Mt Roskill."* Aside from the issue of limited space, we support beautifying streetscapes by removing visual contamination.

5. Under Economic Development, we support the key initiatives (pg 25): *"Sustainable business programmes that help reduce carbon emissions"* and "Fund programmes that help reduce pollution"

6. We support under Transport, the priority *"Seek transport solutions that better-manage traffic flow during peak times, like 'dynamic' lanes that can change direction or use, and responsive traffic lights to help reduce waiting times"* (pg 27). We have read that the Henderson-Massey Local Board is looking at "smart" traffic lights, so perhaps these two Local Boards could share their learnings such traffic lights, initially with each other, then with other Local Boards.

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

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.**

<u>Rodney</u>

1. A key initiative under Community on page 12 that we support is *"Include climate-resilient design features in all minor works and renewals so climate-resilience becomes a routine part of everyday delivery."*

2. Under Community on page 13, *"Transition facilities to multi-use, adaptable places and review our underused buildings and spaces to repurpose or sell and reinvest where growth and usage are highest,"* we suggest that such facilities are of high importance to the community and that if they are considered underused currently, then selling them is not the right response. Perhaps those community groups that currently take advantage of the community discount offered (up to 50% off) could be encouraged to pay the full amount, as they would presumably consider this preferable to losing the building. We like the key initiative of *"Make community facilities more multi-purpose by coordinating bookings, using movable equipment and offering a wider mix of activities across halls, libraries and recreation spaces."*

3. Under Advocacy on page 14, CTA strongly supports *"Advocate for more investment in regional parks in our local board area to meet the pressures of population growth and tourism."*

4. CTA supports all the key initiatives under Natural Environment (pp 16-17) and the advocacy (pp 17-18.

5. We support the advocacy under Built Environment, especially *"Advocate to make sure new development does not go ahead before essential infrastructure is in place."* Our comments about infrastructure and PC120 on page 14 are relevant to this.

6. Under Transport, we support the key initiative *"Improve public transport frequency, reliability and services hours on key routes"* (pg 28).

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

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.**

<u>Upper Harbour</u>

1. CTA supports the Natural Environment key initiatives on pages 15-16.

2. In the 2023 draft plan, the Local Board stated that "Reducing carbon emissions as individuals can be difficult" and that "Communities need support and opportunities to make changes and live more sustainably" (page 16). We are pleased to see that in the current draft plan, included is: *"Support community-led initiatives and projects that encourage sustainable lifestyles, waste minimisation climate resilience and adaptation,"* along with further support for people to take positive environmental action.

3. We support all the advocacy on page 16 and 17, particularly *"Advocate for more funding for compliance and education to ensure that minimising construction and demolition waste is a priority,"* as this has been a submission point for CTA, for example, in our submission on the government's Emissions Reduction Plan, as referred to on page 6 of this submission.

4. Under Built Environment, key initiative, page 19: *"Improve or dispose of assets that provide lower community benefits to provide more funds for priority spaces and facilities,"* as with our comments for other Local Boards, we caution about disposing of Council buildings because they are such a useful asset for the community, and suggest that instead, community groups may prefer to pay more for hire than lose the use of a building forever, and that buildings could be better advertised, for example, via Local Board newsletters. We therefore support the initiative on page 20: *"Support different uses of community spaces, including sharing spaces with community lease holders and creating hubs and community partnership opportunities."*

5. We support the transport priorities on page 26, particularly: *"Advocate to make public transport cheaper and easier for young people to use" and "Advocate for Hobsonville ferry to be included in the $50 a week Auckland public transport fare cap initiative."* Perhaps the Upper Harbour Local Board would like to join the other Local Board that are advocating for young people to be entitled to a further discount on the $50 fare cap.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

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

1. CTA supports all the Natural Environment key initiatives pages 16-17 and highlight *"Promote responsible pet ownership,"* as this is an initiative that we think all Local Boards could adopt. We also particularly like *"Continue to support and endorse organisations that enable Waiheke to move toward a fossil-fuel free future"* and *"Investigate the feasibility of using solar microgrids to power our community facilities."*

2. We are also very supportive of all the advocacy on page 18 and would like all Local Boards that have shores to adopt those same points, and all the Local Boards in Auckland to join you in advocating to *"Ban the sale and use of fireworks in Aotearoa."*

3. We support all of the key initiatives under Built Environment (pp 20-22) and recommend investigating the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton for the initiative: *"Make sure we prioritise accessibility and inclusivity when we renew our playgrounds and facilities in line with the 'Waiheke Be Accessible' plan."*

4. We support all the advocacy on page 22, in particular *"Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing,"* as a much better alternative to selling underused Council buildings.

5. As regard the priorities under Transport, CTA particularly supports *"Advocate for legislative change that would enable Waiheke ferries to be included in the Public Transport Operating Model;" "Advocate for the integration of AT HOP cards so monthly passes can be used on all ferry services;"* and *"Support work toward ensuring routes to all Waiheke schools are safe for walking and cycling."*

6. We also suggest encouraging seniors who travel for free on HOP Gold cards to Waiheke to make a donation at the ferry terminal at Matiatia or online, perhaps towards a Waiheke community or an ecological need.

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

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.

<u>Waitākere Ranges</u>

1. In the 2023 Local Board Draft Plan, CTA supported this key initiative, which in various forms has been adopted by other Local Boards: *"Ensure universal design for accessibility is embedded into all park development projects to enable everyone to access their local parks"* (page 25). We would encourage its reinstatement in this year's draft plan.

2. Under Community, we support *"Prepare a Waitākere Ranges Local Parks Management Plan for our 200 local parks"* (pg 14). We like the emphasis on supporting "well *sited tree planting in parks,"* and the intention to *"Investigate a solar panel pilot on a community facility."* The Aotea / Great Barrier Island Service Centre could perhaps assist with this pilot, being fully powered by solar energy.

3. We note on page 15 *"Support for continued recreational use of the Avondale Racecourse,"* and CTA supports this aspiration too, this multi-purpose large green space serving not just West Auckland but other residents across the city, such as with the longstanding Avondale Market
The land also has a vital role in absorbing excess rainfall and slowing floodwaters. We support this board and the Whau Local Board in their request to Auckland Council to purchase the property as a public asset.

4. We support the Local Board in continuing to work to *"formally recognise the area as a Dark Sky place"* (pg 16).

5. It is pleasing to see the 27 active environmental volunteer groups being recognised and appreciated by the Local Board (pg 16).

6. CTA supports all the Natural Environment key initiatives (pg 18) and the advocacy (pg 19).

7. In the Transport section, we endorse the statement that *"Freeing up road space for those without alternatives (e.g., tradespeople) is essential"* (pg 26). We support the Transport priorities (pg 28), particularly, *"A bus or shuttle services to places like Piha, and appropriately sized buses on narrow / vulnerable bush clad routes."*

8. From our Annual Plan submission:

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**

<u>Waitematā</u>

1. In CTA's submission on the 2023 draft plan, we strongly supported this advocacy: *"Auckland Council to advocate for changes to legislation and regulations to enable councils to introduce planning controls on how urban trees are assessed and protected. Auckland Council to simplify and better resource processes for identifying and protecting mature trees"* (page 25). We would like to see this point retained in the 2026 plan.

2. In CTA's submission on the 2023 draft plan, under "Our Places" there were a detailed points about the city's historic heritage which we would like to see included in the 2026 plan to provide more detailed form than the somewhat general objective (pg 23 in the 2026 plan) *"Our unique special character and our historic heritage is valued, protected and enhanced."* In last year's

draft plan, we read: “We want to increase understanding, protection and conservation of city centre heritage places, landscapes and stories” (page 33) and “Valued elements of heritage and special character in the local board area should be recognised formally and informally to assist with its protection and incorporation in the development of our urban landscapes” (page 34).

3. There was also this key initiative (pg 36): “Provide feedback on resource consents and planning processes to ensure heritage sites and Special Character Areas are protected” and the following advocacy (pg 37): “Advocate to the Governing Body to allocate adequate funds to restore and preserve its heritage buildings, including incorporating seismic strengthening where necessary, to ensure their ongoing usage; Advocate to the Governing Body to allocate adequate funds to continue identification and formal protection of heritage and character elements of the Waitematā environment; and Advocate to the Governing Body to retain the council’s Heritage Acquisition Fund to assist with the protection and adaptive re-use of significant heritage buildings in the local board area.”

4. We submit that some of this advocacy in points 2 and 3 above be included again.

5. We also supported the following initiatives (pg 44): “Support the preservation of significant heritage buildings such as Carlile House, the former Fitzroy Hotel and St James Theatre.” We are pleased to see that the St James Theatre is currently being restored and we wish the Local Board to support initiatives that make the facility viable. Carlile House and the Fitzroy Hotel are languishing and we submit that the Local Board include some advocacy position that would enable efforts to retain these buildings.

6. As last year, CTA submits that an important addition to the draft plan is the recognition that significant parts of the landscape need protecting, particularly the Waitematā Harbour and volcanic cones, and notwithstanding governmental aversion to amenity, the views of that harbour from certain identified vantage points and the view of and between the volcanic cones that it would we are all assured qualify as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

7. Under Community, as regards the key initiative on page 15: *“Review our portfolio of buildings and consider reducing our asset footprint to have fewer but better assets that are fit for purpose and well used,”* as part of any proposed community facility rationalisation, CTA opposes the sale of Grey Lynn Public Library, and consider that building (pictured below left) which faces the busy arterial route of Great North Road, usefully provides the basis of expansion on the site (pictured below right), which runs down to Arch Hill Reserve.





8. We support all the key initiatives under Natural Environment on pages 18-19 and the advocacy on page 20.

9. Under Built Environment, we particularly appreciate the opportunity expressed as *"We value our special character and historic heritage areas and want to enable appropriate development that does not compromise the values that make them special to our community*" (pg 22).

10. We support the long list of key initiatives on pages 22-24. Having strongly supported the key initiative in the 2023 plan to: *"Deliver seismic strengthening, restoration and modernisation of Leys Institute Library and Gymnasium to preserve as a heritage taonga for future generations"* and having submitted for this through a number of Council processes, CTA is pleased to see the key initiative in the 2026 draft plan: *"Complete the refurbishment of the Leys Institute and Gymnasium into a valuable library and community facility and celebrate its reopening alongside the Friends of Leys Institute and the wider community"* (pg 23).

11. We support the advocacy on page 24-25: *"Enabling appropriate development, such as infill housing behind a character property and raising the height of houses, in special character and historic heritage areas without compromising the features that make them valued by the community."* We note the risk of over-intensification and so our support is very much subject to avoidance of negative effects that may compromise the underlying heritage values.

12. We support the idea to *"Reduce barriers to outdoor dining, street trading and activations making it easier for bars, cafes and community groups to use footpaths and street space to create vibrant people friendly streets."*

13. We particularly support the priority of *"Review streets where slower speeds are appropriate and explore opportunities for low-traffic neighbourhoods and greater safety around schools."*

14. CTA has the view that this initiative is essential for pedestrian safety: *"Provide clear direction on the management of micromobility that balances safety, accessibility for different groups, particularly in high-density and pedestrian areas."* Having people on skateboards, bicycles and e-scooters ride down the footpaths on Queen Street is plainly dangerous for pedestrians. It

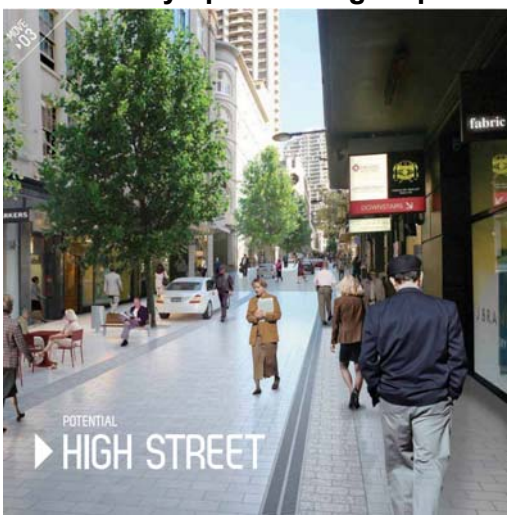
seems that no one is taking any responsibility for this, despite the increasing number of accidents and near accidents with e-scooters, the latter making walking in the city centre in particular an experience fraught with anxiety. Furthermore, adults don't seem to know or care that riding a bicycle on the footpath is illegal, and while bylaws state that skateboarders must not ride in a way that could be dangerous, intimidating, or a nuisance, simply riding a skateboard on the footpath on Queen St is dangerous and intimidating.

15. We also note, as mentioned in the Challenges section for Transport, "aging and uneven footpaths," with many trip hazards, but it is also to be seen with new paving (e.g., on Victoria Street East), where slippery materials were used and currently signs are up to warn pedestrians about slipping, as some people have already slipped and fallen. Pedestrians were also put in danger with the slippery-when-wet tiles that were installed some years ago on Karangahape Road. Such design mistakes should not be repeated.

16. From our Annual Plan submission:

3(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.

3(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).





3(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.



(In conjunction with fixing the Ernest David steps, it would be a worthwhile project at the same time to consider creating a pocket park at the bottom of the steps adjacent to the scheduled Station Hotel. This would involve Auckland Transport.)

3(g) CTA strongly supports Jan Gehl's 2010 proposal to make Hobson and Nelson Streets two-way: (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.

Whau

1. Under Community (pg 14), we support *"Develop a Whau Local Parks Management Plan to guide the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation of the 146 parks and reserves in the local board area."*

2. Under *"Community and environment are prepared for climate change and lower emissions"* (pg 14) we support the following key initiatives: *"Support community groups to help people of all backgrounds and abilities to get emergency ready for local hazards including severe weather events;" "Increase programmes and education around climate change risks and ways to take*

action, including in schools and for our diverse communities;" "Plant more trees to increase our tree canopy cover in our town centres, parks, and road reserves;" and "Support implementation of the Shoreline Adaptation Plans (Manukau Harbour North SAP and Waitemata Harbour West SAP) to manage coastal erosion and coastal flooding risks affecting council land and assets."

3. CTA supports all the key initiatives under Natural Environment (pg 17) and the advocacy on page 18.

4. We support the key initiative (pg 20) *"Plant trees in town centres and along road reserves to create green corridors that connect small and large open spaces,"* using the principle of the right tree in the right place.

5. We support *"Install physical markers to celebrate the historical Māori portage route between Waitematā and Manukau Harbours via the Whau River"* (pg 20), noting that for the Auckland Heritage Festival in October 2017, CTA held two events, in collaboration with Walk Auckland, where participants walked the portage routes in Otahuhu and New Lynn.

6. We strongly support *"Investment in greenspace, including funding to secure Avondale Racecourse to provide open space and recreation areas for the community."*

7. We note the document titled 'Avondale - Town Centre Regeneration High Level Project Plan, produced by Eke Panuku in November 2017. (AVONDALE) It notes *The Avondale Racecourse is adjacent to the town centre. It provides an attractive outlook and contributes to the character of the area through its racing activities and the popular Sunday markets. The racecourse also represents a potential future opportunity to significantly contribute to housing supply in Auckland.*





8. More recently, a submission by NZTR to Auckland Council's proposed Plan Change 120 to encourage intensive housing development rezoning for buildings up to 34.5m high. CTA considers the scale of development proposed is evident in the height limits anticipated under PC120 seems excessive. CTA supports the Whau Local Board's proposed 'Investment in greenspace, including funding to secure Avondale Racecourse to provide open space and recreation areas for the community.' Some of the community's wishes for retention of open space are outlined on this link below:

9. Under Economic Development, we endorse *"Support local businesses to reduce emissions and waste and lessen their impact on local waterways."*

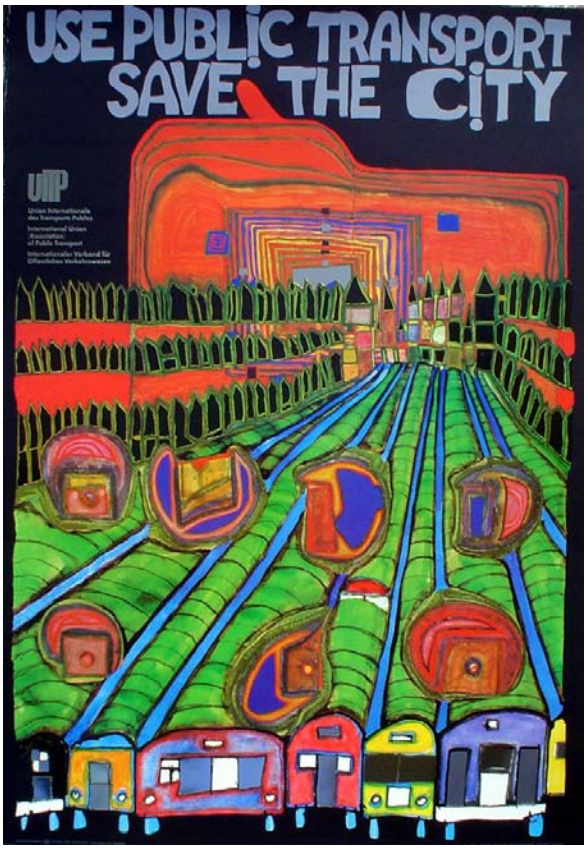
10. We support all of the Transport priorities on pages 24-25, particularly noting *"Encourage more public transport use and multi -modal travel through … provide bike infrastructure on trains and buses."* We note that 15 buses on the NX1 route now have space for bicycles, and that buses that travel to and from Whau could be similarly outfitted.

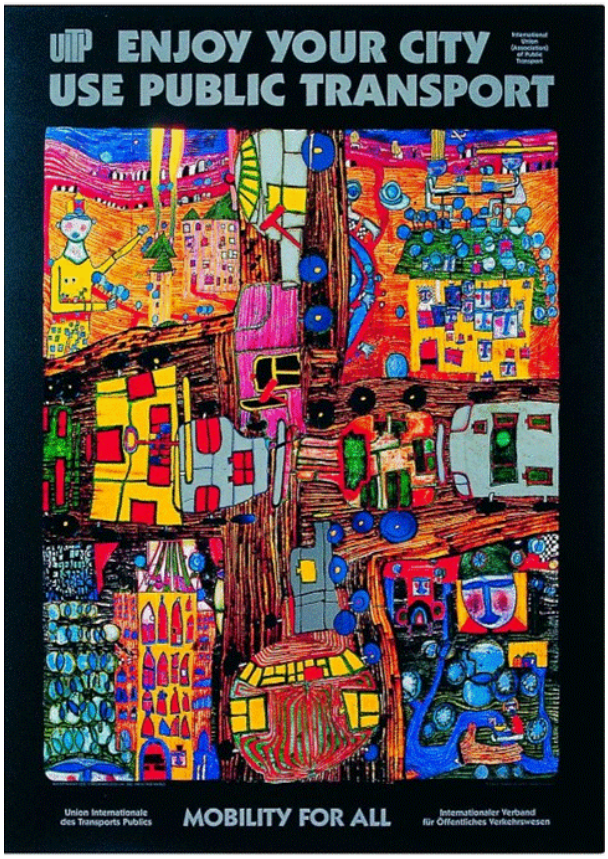
11. From our Annual Plan submission:

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.**

We conclude by sharing these two inspiring posters by Hundertwasser that promote public transport:





Date of submission: 23 July, 2026

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#300

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: Communities Against Alcohol Harm (CAAH)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	N/AN/A
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

Feedback

Overall we support the vision and priorities set out in the draft plan.

Our feedback is focused on the Community focus area. We support the board's advocacy for coordinated

initiatives to strengthen community safety, including crime prevention, safer public spaces, and improved

lighting and urban design, in partnership with relevant agencies.

We recommend the board's advocacy is reflected in the vision statement with the inclusion of the key

word "safety". For example: Our community is strong, safe, resilient, and connected.

We know that residents experience alcohol-related harm such as noise, nuisance and anti-social

behaviour. The proliferation of off-licences in the new Howick communities like Flatbush and Ormiston

can significantly impact community well-being and safety.

We would therefore like to recommend including "safety" in the relevant goal: Develop a holistic approach

to community resilience and safety by integrating social wellbeing, economic resilience, disaster readiness,

and sustainable food - growing initiatives.

In support of this goal we recommend including "harm reduction" in the relevant key initiative: Assist

community groups in putting safety and harm reduction strategies into action across the area and

facilitate connections with other agencies .

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community priorities

3. What should we focus on most over the next three years? (Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Funding priorities

4. Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment? (Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for? (Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Other feedback

6. Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?

Tell us more

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?

Please refer to support documents for detailed feedback

Please note Communities Against Alcohol Harm (CAAH) has offices in Tamaki Makaurau and Otautahi, but also work in Northland, Waikato, Taupo, Palmerston North and throughout Te Waipounamu (South Island).

23 July 2026

Local Board Plan
Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Howick Local Board Plan 2026

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 (the draft plan).

This feedback is provided on behalf of Communities Against Alcohol Harm (CAAH). We are a charity that supports communities in navigating alcohol licensing processes to reduce alcohol-related harm across Aotearoa.

Since 2014 CAAH has provided advice and support to local community organisations, members of the public, local government members and stakeholders relating to applications for alcohol licences within local community areas initially in South Auckland but now throughout Aotearoa.

We are active in the community supporting work to reduce alcohol-related harm. We offer pro bono support to objectors and other organisations concerned about alcohol harm. We also support local board members in their alcohol licensing role.

Feedback

Overall we support the vision and priorities set out in the draft plan.

Our feedback is focused on the Community focus area. We support the board's advocacy *for coordinated initiatives to strengthen community safety, including crime prevention, safer public spaces, and improved lighting and urban design, in partnership with relevant agencies.*

We recommend the board's advocacy is reflected in the vision statement with the inclusion of the key word "safety". For example: *Our community is strong, **safe,** resilient, and connected.*

We know that residents experience alcohol-related harm such as noise, nuisance and anti-social behaviour. The proliferation of off-licences in the new Howick communities like Flatbush and Ormiston can significantly impact community well-being and safety.

We would therefore like to recommend including "safety" in the relevant goal: *Develop a holistic approach to community resilience **and safety** by integrating social wellbeing, economic resilience, disaster readiness, and sustainable food - growing initiatives.*

In support of this goal we recommend including “harm reduction” in the relevant key initiative: *Assist community groups in putting safety and **harm reduction** strategies into action across the area and facilitate connections with other agencies .*

CAAH welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Howick Local Board to assist people navigating complex alcohol licensing processes, working to reduce alcohol-related harm and improving community safety.

We would like to present our feedback to the local board if this option is available.

Ngā mihi,

[redacted]

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#347

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: Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	N/AN/A
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Funding priorities

4. **Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. **Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Other feedback

6. **Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?**

Tell us more

7. **Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?**

See attached

Submission of Community Groups Feeding the Homeless

Draft Local Board Plans - all

[redacted]
Organisation: Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.
Date of submission: 23 July 2026

The focus of Community Groups Feeding the Homeless (CGFH), in existence for 8 years, is on feeding homeless people and supporting them in other ways. We act as an umbrella group that supports a number of groups, including Sunday Blessings (Waitematā) and Waka of Caring (Manurewa). We maintain a list of free community meals in the city centre.

We greatly appreciate the support that local boards in general give to people experiencing homelessness and at risk of experiencing homelessness, including the funding provided by the Manurewa Local Board to support the Waka of Caring drop-in centre, and by the Waitematā Local Board for Sunday Blessings, WeCare and CGFH itself.

We repeat our advocacy as per the 2023 Local Board Plans for pātaka kai (https://www.patakai.co.nz/) and community fridges to be established and supported in all Local Board areas.

In our 2023 feedback, we suggested that once the food scraps bins were in place, that the community be encouraged to place any edible food that they don't need in a pātaka kai or community fridge rather than in their food scraps bin.

We would also like to remind Local Boards that all the Sikh gurdwaras throughout Auckland are open 24/7, with food available for anyone in need.

We see the Local Board newsletters as a useful way to inform local communities about such things as pātaka kai and encourage the public and food outlets to donate their excess food to them, and to donate unneeded clothing or household goods to op shops or centres like the Waka of Caring drop-in centre.

CGFH would like to express our appreciation to the libraries and community centres that provide a safe and welcoming place for homeless people and support them in a number of ways.

We include extracts from our 2 July written submission and our 17 July oral submission to government on the Summary Offences (Move-on Orders) Amendment Bill that we consider are relevant to Local Boards:

"Housing First needs more funding and visibility. It has a dedicated website and is mentioned on the websites of members of its collective, but in our experience, the programme is not well known in New Zealand. More landlords need to know that they can place their houses into the Housing First pool and the tenancy and property will be managed, with the rental payments guaranteed … We think the government and councils could help to publicise the programme more, such as in local board newsletters, on billboards and on buses.

"Members of CGFH have advocated since 2016 for the re-establishment in Auckland of a night shelter (ideally, a number of small to medium-sized night shelters), which most other cities in New Zealand have, and which existed in our city until 2012. For

people experiencing homelessness, a night shelter would provide a place to sleep and potentially somewhere to store their belongings.

“In addition to night shelters, we have advocated for (more) funding from both central and local government to provide activities for homeless people during the day, such as the programmes carried out at the Auckland City Mission, so that these people can be occupied, feel valued, gain confidence, contribute, and learn a skill. We acknowledge Heart of the City’s successful Street Guardians[1] initiative, which we understand is still operating, as “a positive approach to addressing begging in the city centre. It gives people who would otherwise be begging the opportunity to spend a day undertaking activities with community organisations, such as restoring wetlands to planting trees and cleaning beaches.

“We have also advocated to Auckland Council that lockers for homeless people (and others, such as travellers) be provided, in Auckland, perhaps at the central railway stations. This should mean that fewer items are left on the street and thus would facilitate people to become more actively involved in the community, to travel on public transport, and to seek work. It should also mean that people are more able to retain their important documents, essentials medications and personal belongings … The new railway stations could be good places for lockers.

“We also think lockers for homeless people to store their gear would go some way to solving the problem of people leaving bedding and other items on the street. The new railway stations could be good places for lockers.”

Having read the Local Board draft plans, we would like to share the Waiheke Local Board’s advocacy (pg 22) with regard to underused Council buildings, that “Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing.” We would extend this to suggest that unused or underused Council buildings could be considered as night shelters for people experiencing homelessness.

We endorse the support and/or recognition of these local boards for those experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless, and/or advocating for kai sovereignty, as expressed in their draft plans, as follows.

Albert- Eden

Work with organisations, such as Auckland City Mission, Lifewise or Salvation Army, to provide support to people experiencing homelessness, including accommodation facilities, wrap-around services and kai (food) (pg 15).

More resources to address the growing need for mental health and emergency housing services in local areas (pg 16).

Aotea- Great Barrier

Support investigations and initiatives into local housing solutions for kaumātua, pensioners, papakāinga (settlement) and worker accommodation.

Devonport-Takapuna

Increased funding and resourcing for the council’s regional homelessness initiatives.

Howick

Develop a holistic approach to community resilience by integrating social wellbeing, economic resilience, disaster readiness, and sustainable food-growing initiatives.

Kaipātiki

Work with community organisations to support improved outcomes for our homeless.

Support community-led low carbon food initiatives that also promote kai (food) sovereignty (people and communities having control over their own food systems).

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

Support community gardens, māra kai and other initiatives to improve food security at a local level.

A regional approach to solutions that address homelessness , rough sleeping and poor housing standards for the most vulnerable in our communities.

More resources to help build the resilience of our most vulnerable communities and better prepare them for emergencies and disasters.

Manurewa

Support initiatives that improve the health and wellbeing of our people in partnership with community organisations, including initiatives addressing homelessness.

Work with community partners who are working to reduce harm related to smoking, vaping, gambling, alcohol, drug use, solvent and inhalant abuse, and unhealthy diets.

Continue to fund a community broker role to deliver the Ngā Hapori Momoho Thriving Communities Strategy, connect the community with council departments and elected members and use external funding services.

Continue to support Auckland Teaching Gardens and fund other community food initiatives such as local food markets and community gardens.

Continue to fund locally led food sovereignty and initiate ways to strengthen community-led food systems in Manurewa.

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Investigate opportunities for community -led initiatives such as projects that help residents to grow their own food.

Otara-Papatoetoe

We need to work with government agencies, community groups, and social services to address the underlying causes of homelessness. Together we can make sure our policies and programmes focus on long-term community resilience and compassion for our communities of greatest need, including people experiencing homelessness.

Work with experts and community leaders on how to best help people experiencing homelessness.

Advocate for a meaningful, collaborative approach between Auckland Council and central government to address the underlying causes of homelessness, noting that policies like ‘move-on orders’ do not solve the problem.

Support māra kai and community garden initiatives – including through the Ōtara Kai Village, to continue to provide our communities with education and healthy options.

Papakura

Support placemaking, community-led activations, māra kai and food security initiatives that build resilience and local identity.

Upper Harbour

Advocate for shared agency solutions for issues such as community safety, homelessness and protecting our natural corridors that keep our public spaces safe and easy to access for the whole community.

Waiheke

Partner with health organisations to ensure mental health and disability support for tangata whaiora (a person seeking wellness) is accessible for all members of our community.

Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing.

Advocate for and use national policy changes (like National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) to lower the permitted standards for minor dwellings, making sure these are prioritised for long-term residential housing.

Support the vision of the Waiheke Food Charter, to work toward a sustainable local food system.

Waitākere Ranges

Investigate opportunities to promote kai sovereignty.

Waitematā

Waitematā … works with communities and partners to support people experiencing homelessness.

As a local board, we recognise and respond to complex challenges such as homelessness, public safety perceptions, ageing infrastructure and pressure on limited open space.

Homelessness continues to be a complex and visible issue in parts of Waitematā and requires coordinated responses beyond the local board’s direct control.

Support local and regional initiatives and organisations that address homelessness, particularly youth homelessness.

Support and strengthen our network of community gardens and food resilience initiatives that enable communities to grow, share, and access healthy, culturally appropriate kai, while building local capability and connected, sustainable neighbourhoods.

The delivery of affordable, public, and community housing in the city centre and inner suburbs that helps addresses homelessness, supports quality urban living, enables people to live close to jobs and services, and sustains long-term community wellbeing.

Improved access for people experiencing mental health, addiction, and social challenges through coordinated, place-based service delivery that enhances safety, inclusion, and wellbeing in the city centre.

Whau

Develop a low carbon, resilient, local food system that provides Whau residents access to fresh and healthy food.

Support our vulnerable people and rough sleepers through cross -agency partnerships and community programmes.

Increased Housing First placements in Auckland, with priority for high-need areas such as the Whau.

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#112

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: Diabetes Foundation Aotearoa

Local Board: Howick

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	**Very well**
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	Quite well
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	Quite well
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	Quite well
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	Quite well

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

Food security needs to be a priority

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Quite well

   Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years? (Select up to 3 options)**

   Safe and clean neighbourhoods and public places,Better parks, libraries and community facilities,Support for seniors, families and community groups

   Tell us more

   Food security focus for the community

Funding priorities

4. **Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment? (Select up to 3 options)**

   Disposal of assets to fund new developments,Community events and activities that bring people together,Programmes and opportunities for young people

   Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. **Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for? (Select up to 3 options)**

   Safer roads and intersections,More parking in local neighbourhoods and to support transport hubs,Road repairs and maintenance

   Tell us more

Other feedback

6. **Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?**

   Yes

Tell us more

Support: inclusion of resilience by integrating social wellbeing, economic resilience, disaster readiness, and sustainable food-growing initiatives.
sustainable food-growing.
Strengthen: include advocacy for providing access to urban agriculture/community gardens.
Include: adopt a food security plan with implementation embedded in workplans.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?

Supporting nourishing kai at home and at school

Kai can be a powerful connector when schools intentionally use it to:

- **Build trust and whanaungatanga**
- **Create calm, predictable routines**
- **Encourage conversations and shared experiences**
- **Celebrate cultural identity**
- **Support hauora — physical, mental, social, and spiritual**

Small moments: a shared fruit break, a staff morning tea, a class cooking activity — can shift the tone of a whole day.

What Kai Culture Do You Want to Create?

Every school has a kai culture — the question is whether it is intentional or accidental.

Consider:

- **When does kai bring teachers and students together?**
- **What do you want staff, students, and visitors to *feel* when kai is shared?**
- **How do you want kai to support learning, relationships, and wellbeing?**
- **What values do you want reflected in your food spaces, routines, and choices?**
- **What moments already work well?**
- **Where are the gaps?**
- **How could kai strengthen relationships, learning, and hauora?**

2. Kai in Action: Work, Fun & Games. Choose two activities to trial next term:

For Students

Garden-to-table
Tasting stations
Whānau recipe wall
Healthy kai challenges
Cultural kai days
Student-led snack ideas

For Staff

Nourishing morning teas
Seasonal Produce swaps
“Kai Hacks” mini sessions
Team building food prep

3. Kai Policy: Making It Real

Tē tōia, tē haumatia — nothing can be achieved without a plan, a workforce, and a way of doing things.

Draft a policy statement that reflects your values and is sustainable & accountable:

Examples:

- "Our celebrations prioritise nourishing kai."
- "Students have a voice in shaping food environments."
- "We partner with local food outlets to support healthier choices."
- "Staff model positive kai habits."

4. Student Advocacy

How can students lead the change? Tick two student-led actions we can support:

- Surveys on menu suggestions, recipe development, promotional posters for the school tuckshop
- Cooking demonstrations/ MasterChef competitions.
- Peer education (health expo).
- Presentations to leadership advocating for improvements e.g. a community vegetable garden.
- Encourage family to cook nourishing kai together.

5. School Tuckshop / Food Environment

Examples of opportunities for improvement. Tick your top three you'd like to support with:

- More nourishing options.
- Nourishing options identified with a logo.
- Reduced pricing on healthier options.
- Putting healthy options at eye level.
- Student voice in menu design.
- Healthier specials.
- Packaging/waste reduction.
- Cultural representation on the menu.

6. Local Partnerships

What could collaboration look like? What benefits both the school and the business?

Examples:

- Map the food outlets within walking distance of the school.
- Discuss the stocking of nourishing food & drink options.
- Explore at how these can be priced and displayed to be attractive for students while still being profitable.
- How could this be promoted within the school.

8. Next Steps & Commitments

One action to plan for next term:

How can we, Diabetes Foundation Aotearoa support you to make things happen?

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#183

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: Disability Connect

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	**Quite well**
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	Quite well
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	Quite well
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	Quite well
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	Quite well

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

General feedback

Disability Connect welcomes the direction of the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 and supports the board's commitment to community resilience, equitable outcomes, and stronger partnerships with local organisations. The plan acknowledges rapid population growth and the pressure this has placed on community assets, noting that many have not kept pace, leaving some areas underserved. Our work with disabled people and their families in East Auckland reflects this reality.

We support the board's intention to take a more strategic, long-term approach to asset management, focusing on maximising existing resources and reducing inequities. Disabled residents continue to face barriers accessing community facilities, information, recreation, and local services. Addressing these inequities requires deliberate investment in accessibility, inclusion, and community-led support.

2. Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?

Quite well

Tell us why

The draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 reflects many of the needs and aspirations of the community by focusing on stronger neighbourhoods, better access to facilities, improved transport, a healthier natural environment, and a more resilient local economy. The plan is shaped by community feedback gathered over many years, and it acknowledges the pressure that rapid population growth has placed on local assets. It also recognises the need for long-term planning, better use of existing facilities, and more equitable outcomes across the area. The plan shows a commitment to working with iwi, supporting youth, strengthening community resilience, improving public spaces, and ensuring town centres remain vibrant and welcoming.

Across the five focus areas, the plan outlines practical goals that match what many residents have been asking for. These include safer parks, more connected communities, better preparation for extreme weather, accessible public facilities, stronger local businesses, and transport options that make everyday travel easier. The board also acknowledges financial constraints and commits to transparency, partnership, and innovative approaches to delivering value.

There are, however, some gaps. The plan does not fully address the needs of disabled people and their families, who often face barriers accessing community facilities, programmes, and information. While the plan mentions equitable outcomes, it does not set out specific actions to improve accessibility or inclusion across community spaces, events, or services. There is also limited detail on how the board will support disability-inclusive emergency planning,

youth transitions into employment, or accessible transport connections. Many community venues in the area remain unsuitable for disability-related programmes, and this challenge is not directly acknowledged. The plan also does not outline how the board will work with disability organisations to deliver services locally, despite the growing population and increasing demand.

In short, the plan reflects many community aspirations for the next three years, but it would benefit from clearer commitments to accessibility, disability inclusion, and partnerships with organisations, like Disability Connect that support disabled residents. Strengthening these areas would help ensure that all members of the Howick community can participate fully and benefit from the board's priorities.

Community priorities

3. What should we focus on most over the next three years? (Select up to 3 options)

Better parks, libraries and community facilities,Preparing communities for emergencies and extreme weather,Other (please specify):accessibility- transport, parks and venues

Tell us more

Disabled people and their families in Howick often face barriers accessing community spaces, information, recreation and support. Some venues are not accessible, and families frequently travel outside the local board area to attend workshops, support groups or transition programmes to find opportunities post school. This creates inequity and reduces community connection. Our parks as not as accessible as they could be, for example Mangemangeroa Reserve.

The board's plan talks about strong, resilient communities and facilities that help people come together, learn and support wellbeing. To achieve this, accessibility needs to be built into all planning and investment decisions. Disability Connect already supports many East Auckland families through CALD (Culturally Aware Linguistically Diverse) DIAS, our housing disability information service, pastoral care, transition support and community workshops, but we lack funding and partnerships to deliver these consistently in Howick.

We also encourage the board to strengthen transport accessibility. Disabled residents regularly report difficulty using public transport, navigating footpaths and safely moving between community facilities. Better pedestrian crossings, accessible bus stops and clear communication during major works would make a meaningful difference.

By focusing on accessibility, partnerships and inclusive transport, the board can help ensure disabled people and their families are fully part of the Howick community and able to stay connected, supported and resilient. We can be contacted via email admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Funding priorities

4. Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment? (Select up to 3 options)

Maintaining playgrounds, recreation spaces and sports facilities,Programmes and opportunities for young people,Other (please specify):

Tell us more

Disability Connect believes the local board should prioritise investment in the areas that make the biggest difference to community wellbeing, inclusion and resilience. Disabled people and their families in Howick often face barriers accessing facilities, information, recreation and support, so funding decisions need to reflect these realities. Disability Connect's Transition Expo is the biggest community disability event in the country serving greater Auckland. Disabled school leavers already attend this event, but we receive no funding from the Howick Local Board for this service.

Our three highest priorities for investment are:

1. Accessible and inclusive community facilities and programmes.

2. Community partnerships that allow organisations like Disability Connect to deliver support locally.

3. Safe, reliable and accessible transport connections.

Why?

Many community venues in the Howick area are not accessible, which limits participation and creates inequity. It makes more sense to invest in Auckland events like our Transition Expo which supports disabled school leavers from Howick with opportunities in Auckland that they can explore post school. Strong community partnerships are also essential. Disability Connect supports many East Auckland families, but we lack consistent support to deliver workshops, transition programmes, "Understanding Disability Supports" workshops and CALD DIAS services within the Howick area.

Transport is another major barrier. Disabled residents frequently report difficulty using public transport, navigating footpaths and safely moving between community facilities. Investment in accessible bus stops, safe pedestrian crossings and clear communication during major works would make everyday travel easier and help people stay connected. Cycle safety for disabled people through Ti Rakau Drive, Ra Hihi is poor outside the new cycle lanes and paths.

Focusing funding on accessibility, partnerships and transport will help build a connected, supported and resilient community where disabled people and their families can fully participate in local life.

Transport priorities

5. Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for? (Select up to 3 options)

Safer roads and intersections,Less traffic congestion and better traffic flow,Better cycling connections

Tell us more

Access to safe, reliable and accessible transport is critical for disabled people and their families because it determines whether they can participate in everyday life. Transport affects access to school, work, medical appointments, community facilities, social activities and essential services as well as recreational opportunities for mental wellbeing. When transport is not accessible, disabled people become isolated, dependent on others, and unable to take part in community life in the same way as everyone else.

In the Howick area, disabled residents regularly tell us they struggle with footpaths that are uneven or unsafe, cycle bollards that are poorly designed and create barriers, bus stops that are difficult to use, crossings and traffic lights that do not allow enough time, and public transport that is unreliable or hard to navigate. These barriers make simple trips stressful or impossible. Improving transport access would help disabled people stay connected, independent and resilient, which aligns strongly with the board's goals for the next three years.

Our three transport priorities to advocate for are:

1. Safer pedestrian crossings and footpaths that are accessible for mobility users, blind and low-vision residents, and people with sensory needs.

Accessible, reliable public transport with well-designed bus stops and clear information during disruptions or major works.

Safe, connected active travel routes that disabled people and their families can use confidently, especially around schools, community facilities and transport hubs. Better connected cycle paths through Ra Hihi and Ti Rakau connecting new cycle lanes and paths are urgently needed.

Focusing on these areas will make everyday travel easier and safer for disabled people and their families, and will help ensure they can fully participate in the Howick community

Other feedback

6. Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?

Yes

Tell us more

Yes. The draft plan is strong in many areas, but it is missing a clear commitment to disability inclusion and particularly accessibility. Disabled people and their families are a significant part of the Howick community, yet their needs are not directly addressed in any of the five focus

areas. The plan talks about equitable outcomes, but it does not outline specific actions to remove barriers or improve access to facilities, services, information or transport.
There is no mention of disability-inclusive design standards for community facilities, parks or public spaces. Many venues in the Howick area, including Mangemangeroa remain inaccessible, which limits participation and creates inequity. The plan also does not include actions to support disability organisations to deliver services, even though demand is growing and many families currently travel outside the area to receive support.
Emergency preparedness is another gap. Disabled people and their families are disproportionately affected during earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events, yet the plan does not include disability-specific resilience planning or partnerships to support vulnerable residents.
Transport accessibility is also missing. The plan focuses on safety, congestion and active travel, but does not address the everyday barriers disabled people face using buses, footpaths, cycle lanes, roads and crossings.
Including clear commitments to accessibility, disability inclusion and partnerships with disability organisations would strengthen the plan and help ensure all members of the Howick community can participate fully over the next three years.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?

Yes. Disability Connect appreciates the work that has gone into the draft plan and the commitment to community wellbeing, resilience and equitable outcomes. We encourage the board to strengthen the plan by making disability inclusion more visible and intentional across all focus areas. Disabled people and their families are a significant part of the Howick community, and their needs should be clearly reflected in the priorities, actions and investment decisions.

We also encourage the board to consider how community organisations can be better supported to deliver services. Families from Howick currently travel outside the area to access disability information, transition support and community programmes. Stronger partnerships and clearer pathways for collaboration would help ensure better access for disabled people and their families from Howick.

Finally, we encourage the board to more deeply embed accessibility into all planning, including transport, emergency preparedness, public spaces and community facilities. This will help ensure disabled people can participate fully in community life and benefit from the outcomes the plan aims to achieve.







transition expo

Explore what is available for disabled young people to have a great life!

WEDNESDAY 09 SEPTEMBER 2026

Interactive Activities:

- From School to Community Transition Seminar
- Opportunities and advice from Transition, Vocational, Employment, Education, Recreation and Information providers
- Social Enterprise Resources
- Chill Zone – quiet sensory space
- Conversations with Employers
- Café on Site

Additional Information:

- FreeParking
- Wheelchair accessible
- NZSL Sign Language Interpreters available
- All students with a disability,

  their whānau and those involved in the disability sector will enjoy this day.

TIME:
9am – 2pm

VENUE:
Auckland Netball Centre,
7 Allison Ferguson Drive,
St Johns

Contact Details:

w: disabilityconnect.org.nz
e: admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz
p: 09 6360351
fb: /DisabilityConnectNZ/

Supported by the Ministry of Social Development

For more information visit our website:
disabilityconnect.org.nz

disability connect.
helping families

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#227

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: Gardens4Health

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	**Quite well**
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	Quite well
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	Quite well
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	Quite well
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	Quite well

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Quite well

   Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   Better parks, libraries and community facilities,Protecting and enhancing the natural environment,Other (please specify):Mapping the existing Howick food system including inequities and opportunities

   Tell us more

Funding priorities

4. **Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   Maintaining playgrounds, recreation spaces and sports facilities,Community events and activities that bring people together,Programmes and opportunities for young people

   Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. **Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   More reliable and frequent public transport,Better cycling connections

   Tell us more

Other feedback

6. **Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?**

   Yes

   Tell us more

The Howick Local Board should understand the local food system and the vulnerabilities within it, so as to be better prepared for the increase of food inequality and the health impacts of this that are effecting Howick's most vulnerable people.

7. **Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?**

Submission on 3 year local board plan for Howick.

Tēna koe,

I am writing on behalf of Gardens4Health: a network that is connected to over 130 community food gardens across the Auckland isthmus. Our team works every day with communities dedicated to improving access to fresh, healthy kai in their neighborhoods, most of whom do so without receiving any payment. We have seen first hand the impact of negligent kai infrastructure in our communities and how this impacts everyone. We want our leaders to have a robust plan for food resilience that is grounded in the existing work of communities, and our Council to be active in addressing the rapid increase of food inequity that is impacting everyone. This work cannot be done by volunteers alone.

A strong local food system is about much more than food. It supports healthier people, strengthens community connections, builds resilience to economic and climate challenges, encourages local enterprise, and contributes to thriving neighbourhoods. Investing in local food initiatives can help deliver many of the outcomes the Local Board is already seeking to achieve, including improved health and wellbeing, stronger communities, environmental sustainability and greater local resilience.

Across Howick, community organisations, schools, mana whenua, growers, volunteers and local businesses are already making an important contribution to improving access to healthy food. However, increasing pressures on household budgets, climate uncertainty, population growth and rising demand for food support demonstrate the need for stronger local coordination and continued investment.

I believe the Howick Local Board has an important opportunity to strengthen its existing commitments by recognising food as a strategic priority and working alongside communities to build a healthier, more resilient and more equitable local food system.
The actions below are practical, evidence-informed steps that can be implemented over the next one to three years to improve access to healthy food, strengthen community resilience, and support the long-term wellbeing of everyone who lives, works and learns in Howick.

How these actions support your existing commitments

These recommendations align closely with the outcomes and aspirations of both the Local Board Plan and the Auckland Plan 2050. Together, they would contribute to healthier communities, stronger neighbourhoods, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, local economic participation and greater social connectedness.
By strengthening the local food system, the Local Board can help create lasting benefits that extend well beyond food itself, improving quality of life while supporting communities to become more resilient, self-reliant and better prepared for future challenges.

Recommended Actions

1. Understand the local food system

➜ Commit to a local food system wānanga involving Local Board members, mana whenua, community organisations and other key stakeholders.

➜ Map existing food-related services, programmes, community assets, growing spaces, food providers and local champions across the Local Board area. Identify existing strengths, gaps and opportunities, and explore how current resources and investment could be better aligned to maximise impact, collaboration and equity.

➜ Develop a shared understanding of the local food system will help inform future investment and strengthen collaboration across the community.

2. Strengthen community partnerships

➜ Actively engage with the organisations, volunteers and community leaders already working to improve local food access and wellbeing.

➜ Visit community gardens, food hubs, māra kai, food rescue organisations, cooking and nutrition programmes, schools and local initiatives. Listen to the experiences of those working on the ground and build ongoing relationships that support genuine collaboration and shared decision-making.

➜ Promote existing initiatives through Local Board communication channels to increase community awareness, participation and support.

3. Invest in local food initiatives

➜ Increase support for proven community-led food initiatives through funding, programming and longer-term partnerships. This could include supporting community gardens and māra kai, strengthening local food hubs, providing dedicated funding for key coordination roles, improving access to small grants, streamlining Council processes, and providing greater certainty through longer-term lease arrangements where appropriate.

➜ Build the capability and sustainability of successful community initiatives, which represents a practical investment in the long-term resilience of the Local Board area.

4. Create healthier food environments

➜ Support initiatives that enable access to nourishing food and drink for everyone. This may include expanding access to drinking water, supporting culturally appropriate food initiatives, encouraging healthier food options at community events and Council facilities, celebrating businesses that provide healthy choices, and supporting community organisations to offer nutritious food through their programmes.

➜ Although Local Boards have limited influence over commercial food marketing, they can play an important leadership role by creating environments that encourage healthier choices and promote community wellbeing.

5. Celebrate and grow local food leadership

➜ Champion the stories, people and initiatives that are already strengthening the local food system.

➜ Share local successes through community events, digital communications and neighbourhood networks. Increase public awareness of local food initiatives and encourage greater participation across the community.

➜ Work alongside community organisations, mana whenua, schools, growers, businesses and residents to develop a shared vision for a resilient local food system that is better prepared for future economic, environmental and social challenges.

I believe the Howick Local Board has an opportunity to become a leader in creating a healthier, more resilient and more connected community through practical investment in its local food system.

Supporting better access to good, nutritious and affordable food is not simply a response to current challenges. It is an investment in healthier people, stronger communities, greater resilience, local economic development and a more sustainable future.

By working alongside local communities and building on the strengths that already exist, the Local Board can help create lasting benefits for current and future generations while delivering on its vision for a thriving Howick.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of the Howick community.

[redacted]

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#299

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: Healthy Auckland Together (HAT)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	N/AN/A
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years? (Select up to 3 options)**

Tell us more

The Howick plan is to be commended for including actions on strengthening the opportunities for

communities to celebrate inclusion, cultural heritage, events, sports and recreation in parks and

town centres.

We support Objective 6 to "Develop a holistic approach to community resilience by integrating

social wellbeing, economic resilience, disaster readiness, and sustainable food-growing initiatives."

We also support the priorities to enable the Play Plan, the reflection of local community diversity in

play spaces and play spaces for neurodiverse children.

The draft Local Board plan could be strengthened to enable opportunities for play, improve

accessibility and increase access to nourishing food.

To improve outcomes for your communities, we recommend that:

Objective 6 adds a priority to “Adopt a healthy local food strategy plan with implementation

embedded in workplans.” More information about developing a local food strategy can be

found in Appendix 2.

More information about developing a local food strategy can be found in Appendix 2.

Funding priorities

4. Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment? (Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for? (Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

The overall implementation of Howick Local Board's new responsibilities in transport is a positive

approach to enabling good health through increased safety and active travel.

Improving equity in transport is crucial for a healthier community and requires addressing wider

systematic issues, including unsafe driving behaviour, congestion, personal safety issues and

prioritising environments that support children’s independent mobility. Understanding the social

stigma experienced by youth while cycling and using public transport is also relevant to improving

uptake of healthy behaviours. The involvement of Māori, Pacific and disabled communities when

developing actions is integral to good equity outcomes.

We support your objectives in this focus area which address the safety, accessibility and promotion

of active and public transport.

To improve outcomes for your communities, we recommend that:

A priority is added to “incorporate safe speeds in school catchments, town centres and

marae,

Add a priority to advocate for a time of use charging scheme that is equitable and raises

funds that are used to improve public and active transport,

Add an objective to embed Māori identity, partnership and kaitiakitanga.

Other feedback

6. Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?

Tell us more

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?

Please note Healthy Auckland Together is a coalition of 20+ organisations across Auckland.

Please also refer to detailed feedback in supporting documents (7 page pdf)

Healthy Auckland Together submission on the Howick Draft Local Board Plan 2026

Thank you for the opportunity for Healthy Auckland Together (HAT) to provide a submission on the Howick draft Local Board Plan 2026.

Ngā mihi,

[redacted]

About Healthy Auckland Together

Healthy Auckland Together is committed to improving Tāmaki Makaurau so that it is an environment where all people can live full and healthy lives. By working collaboratively, we want to make it easier for everyone to be active, eat better and live longer lives. Healthy Auckland Together is a coalition of more than 30 partners representing local government, mana whenua, health agencies, non-government organisations, academia and consumer interest groups.

Creating a healthy city

Aucklanders deserve to live in communities that support all ages and all abilities to have freedom and build connections within their neighbourhoods. How our cities and neighbourhoods are designed, built and managed has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the people who live, work and learn in these areas.

However, increasing cost pressures on households, petrol and diesel vehicles dominating our streets, inequitable access to quality green space, and urban intensification without community-friendly design have led to a city with high demand for food support, decreased rates of active travel amongst children and diminishing outdoor play. These changes demonstrate the need for stronger local coordination and continued investment to improve the wellbeing of our communities.

Howick has a key role in the community and street spaces that enable good lives for all people. Enabling access to nourishing food, providing more opportunities to play and creating safe and healthy street environments will contribute to outcomes identified in the Auckland Plan 2050.

Mana Whenua

Engagement with Mana whenua is critical for improving outcomes for Māori. When iwi and Māori are involved in decision making around the built and natural environments, tamariki and whānau are supported to connect with local whenua, waterways, histories, mātauranga and cultural practices. Involvement in transport design and decisions, required under the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009, supports Māori identity being reflected in the transport network.

Local Food Systems

A strong local food system is about more than food. It strengthens community connections, builds resilience to economic and climate challenges, encourages local enterprise, and contributes to thriving neighbourhoods. Working alongside communities and investing in healthy local food initiatives can help deliver many of the outcomes the Local Board is already seeking, including improved health and wellbeing, stronger communities, environmental sustainability and greater local resilience.

Outdoor Play

Engaging in outdoor play is a fundamental right of children in Aotearoa New Zealand and is an important contributor to physical, mental, social, emotional, and cultural wellbeing across the life course. When children engage in outdoor play, they experience better physical health through increased strength, bone health, cardiovascular and metabolic health; better mental health through stress reduction, emotional resilience and improved confidence, creativity, curiosity, and problem-solving; and greater social wellbeing through connections with others, belonging and intergenerational relationships.

Healthy Transport

The transport system has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of everyone, wherever they live. How we get about has positive impacts, adults and children who travel actively, whether

they scoot, cycle or walk are protected against cardiovascular diseases, breast cancer, colorectal cancer and diabetes; improve learning and social connectedness in children and supports overall mental wellbeing. In contrast, reliance on petrol and diesel vehicles has led to increasing air pollution from vehicle emissions, causing damage to our cardiovascular and immune systems, leading to asthma, hospitalisations and deaths in communities; and ever-increasing vehicle sizes pose greater safety risks to our most vulnerable road users.

Recommendations

Through cleaner air, safer streets, more opportunities for play and access to nourishing local food, Howick can be a place where communities live longer, healthier lives. To support these outcomes for your communities, Healthy Auckland Together suggests the following recommendations.

Community

The Howick plan is to be commended for including actions on strengthening the opportunities for communities to celebrate inclusion, cultural heritage, events, sports and recreation in parks and town centres.

We **support** Objective 6 to "Develop a holistic approach to community resilience by integrating social wellbeing, economic resilience, disaster readiness, and sustainable food-growing initiatives."

We also **support** the priorities to enable the Play Plan, the reflection of local community diversity in play spaces and play spaces for neurodiverse children.

The draft Local Board plan could be strengthened to enable opportunities for play, improve accessibility and increase access to nourishing food.

To improve outcomes for your communities, we **recommend** that:

- Objective 6 adds a priority to “Adopt a healthy local food strategy plan with implementation embedded in workplans.” More information about developing a local food strategy can be found in Appendix 2.

More information about developing a local food strategy can be found in Appendix 2.

Natural Environment

The Howick plan does well for including extensive actions to care for, protect and restore the natural environment in Howick. The natural environment is interconnected with the health and wellbeing of communities. A strong natural environment supports mental wellbeing and mitigates the impact of air pollution and high temperatures on our most vulnerable.

We **support** your objective “Our natural areas are enhanced and protected to maintain sustainable natural environments”, especially the approach to increasing urban ngāhere by 3%.

To improve outcomes for your communities, we **recommend** that:

- Wording is included for the urban ngāhere to specifically include roadways

Built Environment

Howick's built environment are key places for people to learn, work and play, and good access to supportive and welcoming public spaces contributes to the health and wellbeing of communities. Safe and well-designed town centres facilitate play and improve access for pedestrians.

We **support** your objective "Amenities are easily accessible" and its priority to connect urban trails to parks and transport hubs.

We also **support** the priority to "Create supportive environment s for our diverse communities including family-oriented spaces where children of all ages can play." We welcome the local board's focus on including play in the design of urban spaces.

Transport

The overall implementation of Howick Local Board's new responsibilities in transport is a positive approach to enabling good health through increased safety and active travel.

Improving equity in transport is crucial for a healthier community and requires addressing wider systematic issues, including unsafe driving behaviour, congestion, personal safety issues and prioritising environments that support children's independent mobility. Understanding the social stigma experienced by youth while cycling and using public transport is also relevant to improving uptake of healthy behaviours. The involvement of Māori, Pacific and disabled communities when developing actions is integral to good equity outcomes.

We **support** your objectives in this focus area which address the safety, accessibility and promotion of active and public transport.

To improve outcomes for your communities, we **recommend** that:

- A priority is added to "incorporate safe speeds in school catchments, town centres and marae,
- Add a priority to advocate for a time of use charging scheme that is equitable and raises funds that are used to improve public and active transport,
- Add an objective to embed Māori identity, partnership and kaitiakitanga.

Conclusion

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Howick Draft Local Board Plan 2026.

Appendix 1 Tabled Recommendations

Community			
Objective	**Priority**	**Stance**	**Recommendation**
6	-	Addition	Add a priority to "Adopt a healthy local food strategy plan with implementation embedded in workplans." More information about developing a local food strategy can be found in Appendix 2.
Natural Environment			
Objective	**Priority**	**Stance**	**Recommendation**
6	2	Strengthen	Change wording to "Continue to deliver the Howick Urban Ngahere Action Plan 2021 to increase tree canopy coverage on public land by 3 per cent, especially along roadways, ensuring a mix of native and exotic trees are used."
Transport			
Objective	**Priority**	**Stance**	**Recommendation**
1	-	Addition	A priority is added to "Ensure streets are safe through the implementation of safe speeds in school catchments, town centres, and around marae."
4	-	Addition	Add a priority to "advocate for a time of use charging scheme that is equitable and raises funds that are used to improve public and active transport"
-	-	Addition	Add an objective to "Engage with Mana whanua to embed Māori identity, partnership and kaitiakitanga into Howick's transport network"

Appendix 2 Developing a healthy local food strategy

1. Understand the local food system

Commit to a local food system wānanga involving Local Board members, mana whenua, community organisations and other key stakeholders.

Map existing food-related services, programmes, community assets, growing spaces, food providers and local champions across the Local Board area. Identify existing strengths, gaps and opportunities, and explore how current resources and investment could be better aligned to maximise impact, collaboration and equity.

Developing a shared understanding of the local food system will help inform future investment and strengthen collaboration across the community.

2. Strengthen community partnerships

Actively engage with the organisations, volunteers and community leaders already working to improve local food access and wellbeing.

Visit community gardens, food hubs, māra kai, food rescue organisations, cooking and nutrition programmes, schools and local initiatives. Listen to the experiences of those working on the ground and build ongoing relationships that support genuine collaboration and shared decision-making.

Promote existing initiatives through Local Board communication channels to increase community awareness, participation and support.

3. Invest in local food initiatives

Increase support for proven community-led food initiatives through funding, programming and longer-term partnerships.

This could include supporting community gardens and māra kai, strengthening local food hubs, providing dedicated funding for key coordination roles, improving access to small grants, streamlining Council processes, and providing greater certainty through longer-term lease arrangements where appropriate.

Building the capability and sustainability of successful community initiatives represents a practical investment in the long-term resilience of the Local Board area.

4. Create healthier food environments

Support initiatives that enable access to nourishing food and drink for everyone.

This may include expanding access to drinking water, supporting culturally appropriate food initiatives, encouraging healthier food options at community events and Council facilities, celebrating businesses that provide healthy choices, and supporting community organisations to offer nutritious food through their programmes.

Although Local Boards have limited influence over commercial food marketing, they can play an important leadership role by creating environments that encourage healthier choices and promote community wellbeing.

5. Celebrate and grow local food leadership

Champion the stories, people and initiatives that are already strengthening the local food system.

Share local successes through community events, digital communications and neighbourhood networks. Increase public awareness of local food initiatives and encourage greater participation across the community.

Work alongside community organisations, mana whenua, schools, growers, businesses and residents to develop a shared vision for a resilient local food system that is better prepared for future economic, environmental and social challenges.

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#209

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: National Public Health Service – Northern Region

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	N/AN/A
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

See attached file

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Safe and clean neighbourhoods and public places,Other (please specify):See attached

Tell us more

See attached file

Funding priorities

4. **Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. **Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Other feedback

6. **Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?**

Yes

Tell us more

See attached file

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?

23 July 2026

Auckland Council

akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Local Board Plans 2026

Thank you for the opportunity for the National Public Health Service – Northern Region, Health New Zealand I Te Whatu Ora, to provide technical advice on Auckland Council's Local Board Plans 2026.

The primary contact point for this submission is:



1. Introduction and overview

This technical advice is provided on behalf of the National Public Health Service - Northern Region (**NPHS-NR**), Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora. NPHS-NR has statutory responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people and communities under the Healthy Futures (Pae Ora) Act 2022,[1] and local authorities have duties to improve, promote and protect public health under the Health Act 1956. The Local Board Plans 2026 (**the Plans**) will influence the conditions in which people live, learn, work, travel and connect across Tāmaki Makaurau. For that reason, NPHS-NR welcomes the opportunity to provide advice that supports healthy, safe, resilient and equitable local communities.

Our overarching and plan-specific feedback relates to four of the five focus areas in the Plans and reflects NPHS-NR's priorities for community health:

- Safe, accessible and active transport.
- Reducing alcohol, tobacco and vaping harm.
- Food security and nutrition.
- Improving air quality and heat resilience.
- Equitable and inclusive communities.

Across all Focus Areas in the Plans, NPHS-NR recommends that Local Boards uphold initiatives and objectives that contribute to equitable health outcomes and focus on those with the greatest need. This includes prioritising actions that benefit Māori, Pacific peoples, disabled people, children and young people, older people, migrant communities and communities experiencing higher deprivation.

[1] s3a Health NZ is mandated to 'protect, promote and improve the health of all New Zealanders'
s13(c) Health NZ is to 'promote health and prevent… ill health, including by collaborating with other agencies and organisations'
s14(1)(k) Health NZ is to 'collaborate with other agencies and organisations… to address the wider determinants of health'

It also includes working in ways that uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, support meaningful engagement with mana whenua and mataawaka, and enable communities to shape local solutions. Areas where this is particularly relevant in a health context have been highlighted in the body of our advice.

Where NPHS-NR has not made a specific comment on a focus area, objective or priority within a Local Board Plan, this should be read as general support for the direction of that content. **Appendix 1** summarises the specific amendments NPHS-NR recommends for individual Local Board Plans. Recommendations about harmful commodities in Part Two: General Comments should also be taken as suggested amendments to all Plans.

2. General comments

NPHS-NR values the role Local Boards play in supporting community wellbeing and local action on the wider determinants of health.

In the Northern Region (Auckland and Northland), around 15% of adults reported hazardous drinking in 2024/25, a slight increase from 13% in the previous year.[2] An estimated 7% of adults in the region smoke tobacco daily, trending upwards slightly over the last three years.[3] Daily vaping is more common, with 10% of adults in the region reporting daily vape use - almost double the rate observed in 2020/2021 (6%).[4]

Physical activity and food security indicators also highlight areas where local action can support better health outcomes. Only 40% of adult Aucklanders are sufficiently physically active, and only 38% of children use active transport to and from school, an important proxy for physical activity.[5] For fruit and vegetable intake, only 4% and 6% of Auckland adults meet the guidelines, respectively, while 15% of children are missing breakfast more than 3 times during the week.[6]

NPHS-NR encourages the inclusion of clear objectives and initiatives in Local Board Plans to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products; improve active and public transport options; and increase access to nourishing food environments.

[2] 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics
[3] 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics
[4] 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics
[5] NZ Healthy Survey Data. https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/regional-data-release-new-zealand-health-survey
[6] See 6

The following suggested objectives and initiatives are intended to be practical options that sit within Local Board influence, partnership and advocacy roles. Suggested objectives and initiatives include:

Support community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. For example:

- Providing clear mechanisms for communities to raise concerns about alcohol harm, and ensuring those concerns can inform alcohol licensing processes and any future review of Auckland Council's Local Alcohol Policy.
- Supporting community members to navigate the process of applying for an alcohol ban area.
- Seeking feedback on community concerns about public areas that should be smokefree or vapefree.
- Collaborating with local community organisations and partners with shared goals to reduce harm.
- Engaging with public health organisations, including NPHS-NR, to share information, strengthen local evidence and support community-led harm reduction initiatives.

Support community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally. For example:

- Objecting to alcohol licence applications of concern and supporting community members or groups if they wish to object through this process. This process can also involve recommending stronger conditions on licences that can mitigate alcohol harm.
- Reflecting community preferences in any future review of Auckland Council's Local Alcohol Policy (LAP).

Promote safe, inclusive and healthy public spaces. For example:

- Prioritising provision of public events that are free from alcohol, tobacco and vapes.
- Ensuring signage is clear and visible in public smoke-free and vape-free designated areas.
- Reporting non-compliance of tobacco, vape or alcohol retailers through relevant channels.
- Raising community awareness of available mechanisms to make complaints about non-compliance. In the case of tobacco and vape retailers, this includes our smoking and vaping complaints toolkit.
- Support community provision of healthy food and drink, including urban agriculture, community gardens and well-located public drinking fountains.
- Support and invest in a comprehensive approach to play opportunities, including formal play infrastructure and initiatives that integrate play into public spaces and community settings, enabling participation by people of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.
- Improving road safety through evidence-informed measures such as lower speeds in high-pedestrian areas and on local roads, raised crossings, safer school travel environments, and other measures that support active transport and accessible local streets.
    - NPHS-NR strongly endorses the holistic framing used in Papakura's Plan under Focus Areas Three (Built Environment) and Five (Transport). This framing takes a determinants-of-health-based approach, and as a result NPHS-NR supports the use of this language across all other Plans.

3. Local Board Plans: Individual Technical Advice

Alongside this overarching advice, NPHS-NR provides targeted feedback for seven Local Boards: Henderson-Massey, Waitematā, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa, Papakura and Whau. These Local Boards were prioritised based on the higher numbers of alcohol, tobacco, and vape retailers in their areas, as well as the proportion of priority populations within Local Board Areas, including Māori and Pacific communities.

3.1 Henderson-Massey

NPHS-NR supports the plan from the Henderson-Massey Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR supports objectives associated with community aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vapes. Smoking data in the Henderson-Massey Local Board area reflects the efforts being made to decrease smoking-related harm, with 8% of adults smoking regularly in 2023, down from 15% in the Census five years prior.[7] We particularly endorse the initiative to support community safety approaches, specifically including alcohol harm reduction, and encourage the strengthening of this by collaborating with local community organisations and partners with shared goals to reduce harm.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

[7] Tobacco Control Data Repository. https://www.tcdata.org.nz/new-zealand-census/cigarette-smoking-behaviour-prevalence-maps-2013-2018-2023/?name=Territorial+Authority+and+Auckland+local+board&x=-369170&y=1749118&zoom=10.

Objectives one, two and three support accessibility to active and public transport, which can contribute to improved physical activity, mental wellbeing, social connection and access to local services.[8]

NPHS-NR supports, in part, objective three of Focus Area Five: Transport. We recommend that road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments be explicitly referenced, as these measures can reduce injury risk and improve safety for people walking, cycling, using mobility aids or accessing schools and community facilities.

3.2 Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports objective three of Focus Area Two: Natural Environment. NPHS-NR also supports initiative five, objective three from Focus Area One: Community as this contributes to local food security and equitable access to nutritious foods. These measures can directly support improved health outcomes for local communities.

NPHS-NR supports in part:

- Focus Area One: Community

In the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area, 14% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 20% in the Census five years prior.[9] We acknowledge the opportunity noted around having a culturally diverse range of active and established community groups that provide a strong platform for community-led transformation. NPHS-NR encourages the Local Board to support community participation in decisions about how alcohol, tobacco and vaping products are

[8] Sergio A. Useche, Francisco J. Llamazares, Cristina Marin (2024) Good for the planet… and for you too? Comparing five travel and health-related outcomes among active, motorized, and public transport commuters. Journal of Transport & Health, Volume 38, 101893.
[9] See 7.

sold, supplied and experienced in local neighbourhoods, including through local advocacy, community engagement and collaboration with public health partners.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports in part objective three and recommends that it explicitly include urban ngahere (forests) planting along road corridors and in high-heat areas. This would support efforts to improve air quality, reduce urban heat and strengthen wider health and wellbeing co-benefits.[10]

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports in part objectives one, two, and three. Road calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed limits are effective ways to improve safety and lower the risk of injury in local streets. As a result, NPHS-NR recommends that these measures be included as part of these objectives.

3.3 Manurewa

NPHS-NR supports the plan from the Manurewa Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR supports the initiative focused on upstream measures to reduce harm related to smoking, vaping, alcohol and other community harms. In the Manurewa Local Board area, 12% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 19% in the Census five years prior.[11] NPHS-NR strongly endorses the objectives and key initiatives to work with community partners to reduce harm and identify

[10] Iungman T, Caballe SV, Segura-Barrero R, Cirach M, et al,. Co-benefits of nature-based solutions: A health impact assessment of the Barcelon Green Corridor (*Eixos Verds)* plan. (2025). Environment International. 196: 109313
[11] See 7.

opportunities to increase community safety. NPHS-NR values the Manurewa Local Board's role in supporting community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally. NPHS-NR also supports the objective to ensure community facilities are welcoming, accessible and designed so that everyone can use them.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports objective three, initiative one, as this measure mitigates the negative health impact of poor air quality and helps to improve heat resilience in the local area. NPHS-NR also supports objective four, as this objective contributes to positive health impacts associated with food security and access to nutritious foods.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one to three as they contribute to increased opportunities for active travel, improved access to public transport, reduced transport barriers and broader health benefits associated with physical activity, social connection and access to essential services.

NPHS-NR supports in part initiative two, objective one of Focus Area Three: Built Environment. We recommend that people walking, cycling, using mobility aids and accessing public transport are explicitly reflected as part of encouraging people to stop, spend time and participate in community spaces.

3.4 Ōtara-Papatoetoe

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports objectives two and four (initiative one) in particular, as these priorities contribute to food security, education, and equitable access to nutritious foods locally. NPHS-NR also supports initiative two in objective four as it supports the ongoing efforts to mitigate negative health outcomes associated with poor air quality, as well as improving local heat resilience.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one, two, three and five.

NPHS-NR supports in part initiative one, objective two of Focus Area Five. We recommend that road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments are explicitly included to improve safety for people walking, cycling, using mobility aids and accessing schools, services and public spaces.

NPHS-NR opposes in part the current framing of objective four of Focus Area Five because it may privilege general private vehicle access rather than the specific accessibility needs of people who have limited or no practical transport alternatives, particularly disabled people and their whānau. NPHS-NR recommends reframing the objective to focus on transport accessibility for disabled people, older people, whānau with mobility or access needs, and others who may need to use private motor vehicles. Suggested wording: "Provide safe and accessible transport options for people who need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices."

We commend the initiative in Focus Area One: Community, and support the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board to continue engaging with alcohol licensing and local alcohol policy (LAP) processes and encourage supporting community participation in how alcohol is sold and supplied in the local area. NPHS-NR opposes, in part, the initiative, as there is not currently a process through which the Local Board can oppose new vape shops. However, we encourage the use and promotion of the smoking and vaping complaints toolkit to report retailers that are non-compliant with legislation.

3.5 Papakura

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Papakura Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR strongly endorses the initiative to support community safety approaches, including alcohol harm reduction, and encourages the Local Board to strengthen this by collaborating with local community organisations and partners with shared harm reduction goals. In the Papakura Local Board area, 9% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 18% in the Census five years prior.[12] NPHS-NR also encourages initiatives that support community aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products.

NPHS-NR also supports initiative two, objective two within Focus Area One, as it contributes to food security and local access to nutritious food.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports objective three within Focus Area Two. This objective will help improve local environmental conditions by mitigating the impacts of poor air

[12] See 7.

quality, supporting urban cooling and strengthening community resilience to increasing temperatures associated with climate change.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment and Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports the Built Environment objectives in the Papakura Local Board Plan. We particularly note the Plan's positive approach to transport, including pedestrian safety and shaded areas. These measures can support active transport, improve local amenity and contribute to better air quality and heat resilience. NPHS-NR recommends that similar wording be considered for the transport and built environment sections of other Local Board Plans where appropriate.

3.6 Waitematā

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Waitematā Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR supports initiative eight, objective two as it contributes to priorities related to food security and access to nutritious food. NPHS-NR also supports priorities related to minimising alcohol and tobacco related harm, including vaping. In the Waitematā Local Board area, 4% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 9% in the Census five years prior.[13] We encourage the Waitematā Local Board to continue supporting initiatives that are focused on further decreasing local smoking prevalence.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports initiatives two and three within objective one, as these initiatives mitigate the negative health outcomes associated with poor air quality

[13] See 7.

and improves local heat resilience. NPHS-NR also supports initiative five, objective three, as it contributes to food security and local access to nutritious foods. NPHS-NR particularly supports initiative three of objective three, as it helps build community connection around active transport and can strengthen the population health benefits associated with walking, cycling and other active modes.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

NPHS-NR supports objectives one (all initiatives) and two (initiatives three, four and six) as they support the improvement of active transport and mitigate the negative health impact of poor air quality, respectively.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one to five. These objectives support safer and more accessible transport options, encourage physical activity through active transport, improve access to employment, education and services, and contribute to reduced exposure to transport-related air pollution, which mitigates the negative health impacts associated with poor air quality.

There are no specific suggested amendments for Waitematā Local Board, other than the general comments in Part Two of this submission.

3.7 Whau

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Whau Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR strongly supports the objective to collaborate with local community organisations, businesses and partners such as New Zealand Police to build safe local spaces. This objective could be strengthened by adding an initiative to

engage with public health organisations, including NPHS-NR, to share information, strengthen local evidence and support harm reduction initiatives. NPHS-NR also supports initiative three, objective one, as it contributes to healthy food environments and equitable access to nutritious food. NPHS-NR further supports initiative three, objective six, as it contributes to efforts to reduce the health impacts of poor air quality and urban heat.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

NPHS-NR also supports initiative two, objective one of Focus Area Three: Built Environment, as it contributes to reducing exposure to poor air quality and urban heat.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one and three within the Whau Plan.

NPHS-NR supports in part objective two of Focus Area Five. We recommend including effective strategies such as lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures, particularly around schools and community facilities. These measures would support safer, more liveable streets and contribute to health and wellbeing objectives in Focus Area One: Community.

4. Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to provide technical advice on Auckland Council's Local Board Plans 2026. NPHS-NR values its ongoing relationship with Auckland Council and Local Boards, and welcomes continued engagement on actions that support healthy, safe, resilient and equitable communities across Tāmaki Makaurau

Appendix 1: Overview of Suggested Amendments to Local Board Plans

Table 1: Henderson-Massey

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Five	Support in part	Objective three should explicitly include road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments to improve local street safety, particularly for children, pedestrians, cyclists and people using mobility aids

Table 2: Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Objective two should include ways that the Local Board can support community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally. Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products.
Two	Support in part	Objective three should include urban ngahere (forests) planting along road corridors and high-heat areas to support improved air quality, heat resilience and wider health co-benefits.
Five	Support in part	Objectives one to three should include road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments to improve road safety locally.

Table 3: Manurewa

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Three	Support in part	Objective one should explicitly include people walking, cycling, using mobility aids and accessing public transport as part of encouraging people to stop, spend time and participate in community spaces.

Table 4: Ōtara-Papatoetoe

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Oppose in part	NPHS-NR opposes in part the initiative that seeks to oppose new vape shops, despite our support for harmful commodity reduction in communities. There is not currently a process through which the Local Board can oppose new vape shops. Instead, we encourage the use and promotion of the smoking and vaping complaints toolkit to report retailers that are non-compliant with legislation, and to include in the plan initiatives associated with community participation and engaging in future regulatory opportunities.
Five	Support in part	Objective two should include road calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed limits to effectively improve road safety locally.
	Oppose in part	Objective four should be reframed to focus on transport accessibility for disabled people, older people, whānau with mobility or access needs, and others who may need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices.

		Suggested wording: "Provide safe and accessible transport options for people who need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices."

Table 5: Papakura

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Three	Support in part	Objectives one and three should include lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures to improve local street safety, particularly around schools and community facilities.

Table 6: Whau

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Five	Support in part	Objective two should include lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures to improve local street safety, particularly around schools and community facilities.

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#301

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: Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc. (Forest & Bird)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	N/AN/A
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

Please refer to supporting document for all details (9 page pdf)

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Funding priorities

4. **Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. **Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Other feedback

6. **Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?**

Tell us more

7. **Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?**

Please refer to supporting document for all details (9 page pdf)

Please also note Forest & Bird has 43 branches across NZ and 7 branches across Auckland.

To: Auckland Council
Resource Consents
Private Bag 92300
Auckland 1142

Forest & Bird
GIVING NATURE A VOICE
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.

Submission on Howick Local Board Plan

23 July 2026

➢ Emailed to: howicklocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

1. **Submitter details**
   Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc. (Forest & Bird)
   South Auckland Branch
   [redacted]

2. **Trade competition declaration**
   Forest & Bird would not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

3. **Hearing options**
   We may wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Introduction

Forest & Bird is Aotearoa's largest and longest-serving independent conservation organisation, with over 100,000 members and supporters. Its mission is to be a voice for nature, on land, in fresh water, and at sea, on behalf of its members and supporters. Volunteers in 44 branches around Aotearoa carry out community conservation projects and advocate for nature. Forest & Bird has seven branches and two nationally coordinated projects in the Auckland region alone.

In support of the society's objectives, Forest & Bird has been involved in resource management processes at the national, regional and district level. It routinely submits on regional and district plan provisions and some resource consents, and advocates in the Environment Court in relation to biodiversity, landscape and natural character. It is particularly committed to ensuring that the environmental bottom lines established in national policy statements, which give substance to the "protective" element of Part 2 of the RMA, are given effect to in regional and district plans and achieved through decisions on resource consents.

The South Auckland branch carries out a range of activities, including weed control, pest animal control, native planting, removing illegal dumping, education events, content creation and environmental advocacy. The branch covers the area from the Waikato Region border, west to Karioitahi, east to the Hauraki Gulf and north to Mount Wellington, including significant areas such as the Hunua Ranges. Everyone involved in the branch is a volunteer, including the committee, trappers and supporters.

Forest & Bird South Auckland branch owns and manages two Forest & Bird reserves, the Olive Davis Reserve and Ngaheretuku Reserve, both vestiges of the broadleaf podocarp forest that once covered Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. With pest species controlled in these areas, and planting efforts in nearby sites such as Mangemangeroa Reserve, our members work toward a vision of supporting habitat connectivity stretching from the Hunua Ranges to the Waitākere Ranges with thriving biodiversity from coast to coast.

Our Approach

This submission responds to the Howick Draft Local Board Plan 2026. Forest & Bird's South Auckland Branch is also submitting separately on the draft plans of other local boards within our operating area - namely Papakura, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Franklin, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu and Manurewa and comparison across boards has been valuable to our process.
We are structuring our submission to include Objectives, Key Initiatives, and Advocacy items, just as they appear in the draft Local Board Plan, along with commentary on some items and localised specifics. We have underlined new wording for objectives and initiatives and used strike-through to signal removal of some wording in our proposed modifications.

Te hapori / Community: Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Community and would like to offer the below objectives and key initiatives to integrate into the plan:

Objectives	**Key Initiatives**
Public parks and open spaces are safe, well managed, and shared environments that support a wide range of recreational activities while providing climate resilience and space for nature, enabling everyone to enjoy them with confidence.	Invest in natural solutions that improve parks and public spaces, including native plantings, large shade trees, rain gardens, swales and daylighted streams, in local parks and open spaces, including wetlands or floodable areas in larger sites.
Develop a holistic approach to community resilience by integrating social wellbeing, economic resilience, disaster readiness, and sustainable food growing initiatives.	Support community-led kai security initiatives, including community gardens and produce sharing and education on food growing, preparation and reducing food waste. Provide grants to local groups for projects or actions which will have a positive impact on community resilience (such as those maintaining or creating carbon sinks, or nature-based solutions such as restoring wetlands, creating room for streams to flow naturally, protecting sand dunes and mangroves) Support initiatives that build community networks and connections which help communities respond to emergencies and the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss
We adopt best practices for all council maintenance and projects to maximise the net benefit to community and nature.	Consider and evaluate the environmental and climate impact of all local board projects and include climate impact statements in council reports covering net emissions, biodiversity loss, effects on impermeable surfaces and stormwater, and resource use and recovery.

Advocacy:

We support all the current advocacy points under Community. We would like to suggest the following additional advocacy points:

- Ongoing, multi-year, dedicated grant funding for community environmental and restoration groups, so they can plan and deliver programmes across multiple seasons rather than one funding cycle at a time - to Governing Body.
- Long-term (50 to 100 year) climate risk-scenario planning - to Governing Body.
- Use of non-potable water for irrigation of sports and recreation facilities - to Watercare.

- Greater public understanding of infrastructure maintenance and fault-reporting policies - to Governing Body, Auckland Transport and Watercare.

- Ensure an adequate level of renewals funding to keep existing community assets well maintained and adapted to be resilient to climate change - to Governing Body.

Commentary

We welcome the Board's focus on connected communities, community resilience and strengthening relationships with mana whenua. Our suggested additions build on this direction by recognising the role that healthy natural systems play in supporting resilient communities, including through community food growing and nature-based solutions.

Auckland Council's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy recognises that parks and open spaces can deliver multiple benefits for both people and nature. Well-designed, nature-rich spaces give people everyday opportunities to connect with nature, provide habitat for wildlife, strengthen community resilience to climate change, and contribute to healthier, more liveable neighbourhoods.

We encourage embedding environmental and climate considerations across community planning and investment, recognising that healthy natural systems are fundamental to resilient communities and should be considered across all areas of decision-making, not solely through environmental work programmes.

Te taiao māori / Natural environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local board Area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local community are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Natural Environment and would like to offer the below objectives and key initiatives to integrate into the plan:

Objectives	**Key Initiatives**
Care for, protect and maintain our natural environment.	Support responsible cat ownership through desexing and containment encouragement, working with neighbouring Local Boards on control of feral and stray cats in areas of high biodiversity value. Identify and prioritise restoration planting opportunities, for community and council projects, that create ecological connections by retiring hard-to-maintain areas within existing parks and reserves.
Protect and enhance our unique coastline.	Support implementation of the Highbrook to Whitford Shoreline Adaptation Plan throughout the board area with preference for nature-based solutions wherever practicable

	Support and partner with organisations to implement sustainable measures to manage coastal erosion and inundation, including supporting natural coastal processes through revegetation, ~~minimizing loss of sand from local beaches~~ retreat where necessary/possible and making room for streams on both public and private land ~~going through private properties.~~
Protect the mauri (lifeforce) of our awa (waterways).	Support and partner with organisations to minimise the effects of climate change by restoring freshwater ecosystems to provide ecological services such as: • flood mitigation • habitats for native biodiversity • carbon sequestration through riparian planting • ~~Armouring~~bank stabilisation Prioritise the restoration of wetlands where they exist or can be re-established. Prioritise ecological maintenance projects that protect and enhance identified potential inanga spawning sites through bank stabilisation, pest plant control, sediment control and pest animal control Work with Healthy Waters to provide education and support that ensures commercial and industrial sites upgrade their on-site stormwater management to prevent contamination at the source.

Advocacy:

We would like to suggest the below modification to one advocacy point and additional advocacy points to include:

- Continued advocacy for funding to support the Shore Adaptation plans for our area ~~which could include replacing sand that has been taken away in trucks or shifting sand back to where it is needed to reduce erosion of soil and protect council assets~~. with preference for nature-based solutions and guidance and funding support for the implications of managed retreat – to Governing Body
- Advocate for reserve acquisition and the retention of open space that supports ecological connectivity, particularly in growth areas - to Governing Body.
- Stronger monitoring of activities that cause sediment runoff, and stronger penalties for those who knowingly cause harmful sedimentation - to Governing Body
- Increased biodiversity, freshwater and coastal water quality monitoring - to Governing Body.

- Local Board and local volunteer groups to be more directly involved in setting and monitoring council-contracted ecological services - to Governing Body.
- Advocate for the reinstatement of general tree protection legislation - to Central Government.
- Advocate to make room for rivers and streams to flood safely, by restricting new development in flood-prone areas and supporting managed retreat where needed - to Governing Body
- Raise awareness of and advocate for dark sky areas and reduced light pollution around the Howick Local Board Area - to Governing Body.
- Protection of valuable local environmental amenity and ecosystems (water, forests, sites with rare and indigenous flora and fauna) i.e. when providing feedback on Unitary Plan changes, Private Plan Changes and Fast-Track Legislation applications. - to Governing Body, Central Government and Developers
- Increased protection and funding for monitoring of intertidal ecosystems – to Fisheries New Zealand
- Continued Natural Environment Targeted Rate funding to maintain and grow current investment in pest control, kauri dieback management and biodiversity restoration across Tāmaki Makaurau - to Governing Body

Commentary

The Board Plan recognises that Howick's natural environment is under growing pressure from urban development, climate change, sediment, waste and illegal dumping. Forest & Bird strongly supports this broad understanding that protecting nature is about more than restoring isolated sites – it also requires reducing the pressures that continue to degrade ecosystems.

Freshwater deserves particular attention. Healthy streams, wetlands and estuaries underpin biodiversity, reduce flood risk and improve the health of the wider catchment, yet they remain vulnerable to sediment, stormwater and other contaminants. Restoring waterways therefore needs to go hand in hand with preventing contamination at its source, through better site management, stronger monitoring and enforcement, and investment in blue-green infrastructure that slows, filters and absorbs water before it reaches streams and the coast.

The Highbrook to Whitford Shoreline Adaptation Plan provides an important opportunity to respond to coastal change by working with, rather than against, natural coastal processes. Where appropriate, restoring dunes, mangroves, wetlands and space for streams to move naturally can reduce long-term risk while improving habitat and ecological function. These approaches recognise that resilient coastlines depend on healthy natural systems, not simply engineered defences.

Protecting biodiversity also requires looking beyond individual reserves. As Howick continues to intensify, maintaining ecological connections between habitats, protecting mature trees, restoring freshwater ecosystems, supporting responsible pet ownership and securing opportunities for future reserve acquisition will all become increasingly important if native species are to persist across the wider landscape. We welcome the continued support for works at Mangemangeroa reserve as a key

area of restoration for our branch and a site that supports important habitat connectivity from the Hauraki islands to our inland areas.

Actions to address illegal dumping are welcomed alongside sediment control and other avoidable sources of pollution. Preventing environmental harm is every bit as important as repairing it, and sustained investment in education, monitoring and enforcement is essential if restoration work is to deliver lasting outcomes

Te taiao kua hangaia / Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable to all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Built environment.

Advocacy:

We support all the current advocacy points under Built environment and would like to suggest the following additional advocacy points:

- Funding for construction and demolition waste compliance and education - to Governing Body.
- Advocate that Auckland's planning rules require urban green space, particularly indigenous canopy trees and nature-based stormwater management such as swales and rain gardens, to be designed into all higher-density development - to Governing Body
- Increased funding to actively monitor and enforce compliance with green infrastructure and canopy requirements attached to resource consents, so that planting and green space required at the time of consent is not lost - to Governing Body
- Advocate that infrastructure capacity be confirmed before new housing and town centre development proceeds, and that intensification not be enabled within Significant Ecological Areas - to Governing Body and Central Government

Commentary

Howick's population continues to grow rapidly, making it increasingly important that new development enhances, rather than diminishes, the qualities that make the area a desirable place to live. Forest & Bird supports the Board's focus on climate resilience, accessible public spaces and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with growth. We have suggested additional advocacy to strengthen how development is delivered, recognising that decisions made during planning, design and construction have long-term consequences for both communities and nature.

Green infrastructure should be considered essential infrastructure, not an optional landscape feature. Indigenous canopy, rain gardens, swales and other nature-based stormwater measures help reduce flooding, improve water quality, support biodiversity and create healthier neighbourhoods. These benefits will only be realised if they are designed into development from the outset and councils have sufficient resources to monitor and enforce consent conditions. Similarly, ensuring infrastructure capacity is confirmed before significant intensification proceeds helps avoid placing additional pressure on communities, council services and the environment.

Te whanaketanga ā-ōhanga / Economic Development - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Economic Development and would like to offer the below objectives and key initiatives to integrate into the plan:

Objectives	**Key Initiatives**
Local businesses adopt circular economy practices.	Support projects that engage, advise, educate, and assist local businesses and residents on how to minimise waste and build a circular economy.

Advocacy:

We support all the current advocacy points under Economic Development and would like to suggest the following additional advocacy point:

- Funding for the expansion of community recycling and resource recovery facilities – to Governing Body
- Advocate for procurement policy changes that favour local and ecologically sustainable businesses - to Governing Body.

Commentary

A resilient local economy depends on healthy communities and healthy ecosystems. Forest & Bird supports the Board's commitment to local employment, Māori enterprise and vibrant town centres, while encouraging greater emphasis on the opportunities presented by a circular economy.

Moving from a "take, make and dispose" model towards repairing, reusing and recovering resources reduces waste, creates local employment and keeps valuable materials in circulation for longer. Supporting community recycling and resource recovery facilities, alongside procurement policies that favour environmentally sustainable businesses, helps ensure economic activity contributes to long-term environmental and community wellbeing rather than placing increasing pressure on finite natural resources

Tūnuku /Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.

We agree with all draft objectives and key initiatives under Transport and would like to offer the below objectives and priorities to integrate into the plan:

Objectives	Priorities
Active transport networks are safe, connected and support everyday local travel and native biodiversity	Prioritise native tree canopy along cycleway and shared path routes, and permeable surfacing on new or renewed parking areas.

Advocacy:

We support all the current advocacy points under Transport. We would like to suggest the following additional advocacy points:

- Advocate for the Local Board Transport Capital Fund to remain available across the Board's whole area, to support the delivery of local walkway and cycleway connections with native planting components - to Governing Body
- Improved weed management on motorways and road reserves - to Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and Governing Body
- Long-term planning to provide low-emission infrastructure for e-scooters, e-bikes and electric cars, such as electric vehicle charging stations, in larger development areas - to Governing Body

Commentary

We support the Board's commitment to walking, cycling and public transport, and encouraging transport projects that deliver wider environmental benefits alongside improved connectivity.

Street trees, permeable surfaces and integrated stormwater design can make transport corridors cooler, more attractive and more resilient while contributing to biodiversity and water quality. Retaining the Local Board Transport Capital Fund across the whole board area would also enable the Board to continue delivering local walking and cycling improvements that respond to community priorities and strengthen connections between neighbourhoods, parks and town centres

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026.
Forest & Bird appreciates the thought and care that has gone into preparing this draft plan. It reflects a strong commitment to the wellbeing of Howick's communities and acknowledges many of the environmental challenges the area faces. We hope our recommendations help build on that foundation by strengthening the role that healthy ecosystems play in supporting resilient communities, a thriving local economy and a high-quality built environment. We look forward to continuing to work with the Howick Local Board, mana whenua, community organisations and local residents to help achieve these shared aspirations.

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#237

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: Sport Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	**Very well**
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	Very well
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	Very well
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	Very well
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	Very well

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Very well

   Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   Tell us more

Funding priorities

4. **Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. **Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   Tell us more

Other feedback

6. **Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?**

   Tell us more

7. **Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?**

   Please find attached our submission to the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

Inspiring Our Communities To Live
Healthy And Active Lifestyles

Sport Auckland House
PO Box 26 599
Epsom
Auckland 1344

Tel (09) 623 7900
www.sportauckland.co.nz

Submission on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

Sport Auckland appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026.

Sport Auckland is a charitable trust that works closely with the Howick Local Board, Auckland Council, Aktive, sports organisations and community partners across Tāmaki Makaurau. Our vision is **Active Lives, Connected Communities, Healthier Brighter Futures**. Our purpose is to empower and connect communities to engage in sport and physical activity.

We see strong alignment between Sport Auckland's strategic direction and the Local Board's priorities and advocacy initiatives. We commend the Board's commitment to fostering strong, resilient and connected communities. We commend the Local Board's plan to have neighbourhoods which are great places to live, work, play and explore. We would welcome opportunities to work alongside the Board, local sports clubs, schools and community organisations to deliver projects and programmes that increase participation, wellbeing and social connection.

Sport Auckland's guiding principles focus on equity, strengthening the sport and physical activity sector, partnering with local communities, and embracing diverse ways of being active. These principles align strongly with the priorities outlined in the Draft Local Board Plan, and we support the Board's ongoing leadership in creating accessible, inclusive and active communities.

We offer the following comments on specific objectives.

Te hapori - Community

Sport Auckland strongly supports the objective - *Enable participation, learning, and growth through our community facilities, multi-use spaces including libraries/pools/leisure centres that support social wellbeing*". Under this objective we strongly support the initiatives:

- Ensure our community spaces such as libraries/pools/leisure centres are thriving, that are fit-for-purpose and accessible, used and enjoyed by all
- Support the development and wellbeing of our Tamariki and rangatahi through play by implementing our Play Plan.
- Implement our Playground Strategy to reflect local community diversity in play spaces.

We strongly support the objective - *Public parks and open spaces are safe, well managed, and shared environments that support a wide range of recreational activities, enabling everyone to enjoy them with confidence***.** Of note we support these initiatives under this objective being: -

SPORT AUCKLAND
Inspiring Our Communities To Live Healthy And Active Lifestyles

Sport Auckland House
PO Box 26 599
Epsom
Auckland 1344

Tel (09) 623 7900
www.sportauckland.co.nz

- Ensure our parks and open spaces are clean and safe, and offer a range of amenities including shade, various play opportunities like waterplay, and recreational activities to be enjoyed by all.
- Provide facilities and activities across our parks network to suit people of diverse demographics and abilities.
- Develop inclusive play spaces designed for neurodiverse children, supporting safe, engaging, and enjoyable experiences for all.
- Activate local spaces and places by encouraging community-led use of parks, facilities, and public spaces to bring people together and strengthen neighbourhood identity.

We strongly support the objective - *A strong, connected community where people of all ages and cultures come together, build relationships, and actively participate.* Under this objective we support the initiative to empower community groups and support them to build capability to become more sustainable.

We strongly support the objective and the initiatives under it, to *Continue, develop and strengthen relationships with iwi and Māori community so they feel connected, included and thriving, helping to shape the future.*

We strongly support the objective that *Rangatahi/youth have a voice, are valued and contribute*. Under that objective Sport Auckland supports the following initiatives:

- Continue to support a youth-run, youth-led space for our rangatahi.
- Continue to support the work of the Howick Youth Council.
- Explore opportunities to connect with other youth organisations to create pathways for rangatahi (youth) to grow, develop and thrive.

We strongly support the objective that *Sports and recreational opportunities respond to the needs of our communities.* And the initiatives under that objective we support are:

- Continue to support multi-club and code facilities, such as: Lloyd Elsmore Park.
- Explore ways to assist local sports clubs to improve sharing and utilisation of existing facilities and resources, and/or new developments.

SPORT AUCKLAND
Inspiring Our Communities To Live Healthy And Active Lifestyles

Sport Auckland House
PO Box 26 599
Epsom
Auckland 1344

Tel (09) 623 7900
www.sportauckland.co.nz

Te taiao kua hangaia - Built environment

Sport Auckland strongly supports the objective - *Community infrastructure keeps pace with growth and responds to the changing needs of local communities*. And under this objective we support the initiatives:

- Plan for and deliver community infrastructure upgrades and new facilities in growth areas, using community insights and data to ensure spaces remain fit-for-purpose and responsive to changing local needs.
- Create supportive environments for our diverse communities including family-oriented spaces where children of all ages can play.

Sport Auckland strongly supports the objective - *Public facilities are inclusive by design and usable by everyone.* And we support the initiative that:

- Design, upgrade, and maintain public facilities to be accessible, safe, and welcoming for all people, including those with disabilities, diverse cultural backgrounds, and varying ages and abilities, while also reflecting and sharing Māori culture through storytelling, interpretation, and place-based narratives within parks and open space. Maximise the use of parks for a wider range of activities and to respond to changing climate conditions.

Sport Auckland strongly supports the objective - *Public spaces are multi-use.* And we support the initiative that:

- Design, upgrade, and manage public spaces to be flexible and multi-use, supporting a variety of community activities, events, and recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Sport Auckland strongly supports the objective - *Developing growth of youth space into hubs*. And we support the initiative under that objective:

- Investigate the possibility of youth-led youth spaces in other subdivisions of the local board building on the success of the Te Taiwhanga Taiohi youth space in Botany Town Centre.

Sport Auckland strongly supports the objective - Development of sports clubs through public/private partnerships:

- Ostrich Farm
- Barry Curtis Park
- Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub
- Highbrook Watersports Club.

SPORT AUCKLAND
Inspiring Our Communities To Live Healthy And Active Lifestyles

Sport Auckland House
PO Box 26 599
Epsom
Auckland 1344

Tel (09) 623 7900
www.sportauckland.co.nz

We note that Marist Rugby club is called out in the plan under this section. The club is actually Eastern Marist Rugby Club and we believe it would be accommodated under the umbrella of the development at Barry Curtis Park, as opposed to a standalone development.

Tūnuku -Transport

Sport Auckland strongly supports all the objectives and initiatives under the Transport section. Sport Auckland identifies tamariki and rangatahi as key active transport users – and we advocate for having safe, playful routes to school.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026. We appreciate the Board's continued commitment to supporting active, connected and thriving communities, and we look forward to continuing our positive partnership with the Howick Local Board.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#253

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: Tamaki Estuary Protection Society

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	**Quite well**
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	Quite well
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	Quite well
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	Quite well
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	Quite well

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

Congratulations. This is one of the few plans that specifically identifies the Tamaki Estuary as an environmental asset: it says

"Continue to enhance our natural resources, such as the Tāmaki estuary, Ōhuiarangi/Pigeon Mountain and Mangemangeroa."

TEPS strongly supports this statement and asks that it be expanded.

2. Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?

Quite well

Tell us why

TEPS strongly supports the draft Howick Local Board Plan's commitment to enhancing the Tāmaki Estuary, protecting waterways and coastal environments, reducing sediment, supporting community-led monitoring, and improving climate resilience. We particularly welcome the recognition of the Tāmaki Estuary as an important natural resource and the commitment to restoration and monitoring initiatives.

We encourage the Board to strengthen the Plan by explicitly recognising the ecological significance of the Tāmaki Estuary and including specific references to shorebird habitat, estuarine biodiversity, shellfish and fish habitat, community science, and catchment-wide sediment reduction. These additions would build on the strong environmental framework already contained within the draft Plan and help secure long-term ecological outcomes for future generations.

Community priorities

3. What should we focus on most over the next three years? (Select up to 3 options)

Safe and clean neighbourhoods and public places,Better parks, libraries and community facilities,Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

Tell us more

Funding priorities

4. Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment? (Select up to 3 options)

Local projects that reduce waste and improve recycling,Protecting and enhancing our local beaches and coastline while reducing erosion,Helping communities prepare for storms and extreme weather events

Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for? (Select up to 3 options)

Safer roads and intersections,Safer footpaths, walkways and pedestrian crossings,More parking in local neighbourhoods and to support transport hubs

Tell us more

Other feedback

6. Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?

Yes

Tell us more

The plan contains many positive aspirations but very few measurable ecological indicators.
There are no indicators for:
water quality - within local streams
biodiversity
sediment reduction
habitat restoration
estuary health
TEPS suggests indicators be established, rather than hard targets.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#345

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: Te Kotahi a Tāmaki

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	N/AN/A
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Funding priorities

4. **Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. **Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for?**
(Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Other feedback

6. **Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?**

Tell us more

7. **Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?**

See attached

Te Kotahi a Tāmaki – Marae Collective

Submission from the TKAT - Marae Collective on the Draft Local Board Plans 2026–2029

Purpose

This submission reflects the aspirations and priorities shared by marae representatives across two regional hui facilitated by Auckland Council on 31 March 2026 and 6th July 2026 as part of the development of the Draft Local Board Plans 2026–2029 through community partnership agreement.

The first hui, held on 31 March 2026, focused on understanding the aspirations, challenges and support needs of marae across Tāmaki Makaurau. The second hui, held during the Draft Local Board Plans consultation on 6th July 2026, provided an opportunity for marae to review the draft plans, discuss local priorities and identify opportunities to strengthen partnerships between marae, local boards and Auckland Council.

Together, these discussions highlighted a shared vision for stronger partnerships, meaningful engagement, investment in marae capability, and greater recognition of marae as trusted community leaders and connectors.

Marae play a vital role in supporting whānau, preserving te ao Māori, strengthening communities and responding to local needs. They provide cultural leadership, social support, emergency response, and opportunities for whānau to connect, learn and thrive.

We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Draft Local Board Plans and encourage all 21 Local Boards to continue strengthening their partnerships with marae over the next three years.

Our Recommendations

1. Build enduring partnerships with marae

We encourage all Local Boards to move beyond one-off consultation and establish ongoing relationships with marae throughout the work programme. Early and meaningful engagement enables better decision-making and ensures Māori voices help shape local priorities from the outset.

We also encourage more opportunities for elected members to meet directly with marae through regular hui, site visits and community-led conversations.

2. Recognise marae as trusted community partners

Whānau who may experience barriers to participation, and communities who are less likely to engage through formal consultation.

Local Boards should continue working alongside marae to reach these communities and support more inclusive engagement across Tāmaki Makaurau.

3. Invest in strong, sustainable marae

Marae require ongoing investment to continue delivering for their communities.

We encourage Local Boards to advocate for initiatives that strengthen:

- governance capability
- operational sustainability
- legal and compliance knowledge
- tikanga leadership
- community engagement capability
- emergency preparedness and resilience.

Clearer information about Council funding opportunities, criteria and application timeframes would also help marae plan more effectively.

4. Support rangatahi and whānau wellbeing

Rangatahi should remain a key priority across all Local Board Plans.

We encourage Local Boards to support initiatives that:

- strengthen cultural identity and belonging
- improve access to sport, recreation and wellbeing programmes
- provide wraparound support for tamariki and rangatahi
- create more opportunities for rangatahi leadership and participation in local decision-making.

5. Strengthen Te Tiriti partnerships

We acknowledge the distinct roles of both mana whenua and mātāwaka and encourage Local Boards to continue honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi through meaningful partnership, early engagement and opportunities to contribute to decision-making where appropriate.

Planning processes should also recognise that whakapapa and iwi relationships extend beyond Local Board boundaries, allowing marae and iwi to contribute to multiple Local Board Plans where relevant.

6. Encourage collaboration across Tāmaki Makaurau

There is significant value in creating opportunities for marae to connect with one another, local boards and Council staff.

Regional hui, expos and networking opportunities would support collaboration, knowledge sharing and stronger relationships between Māori organisations and Auckland Council.

Summay

The Marae Collective welcomes the positive relationships that continue to develop with Auckland Council and Local Boards.

We look forward to working in partnership to ensure Local Board Plans deliver meaningful outcomes for Māori communities and reflect the aspirations of whānau across Tāmaki Makaurau.

By investing in long-term relationships, recognising marae as trusted community partners and engaging early in decision-making, Local Boards can strengthen outcomes not only for Māori, but for the wider communities they serve.

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#226

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: Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi

Local Board: Howick

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	**Very well**
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years? (Select up to 3 options)**

Community events and activities,Safe and clean neighbourhoods and public places,Support for seniors, families and community groups

Tell us more

Funding priorities

4. **Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment? (Select up to 3 options)**

Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. **Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for? (Select up to 3 options)**

Tell us more

Other feedback

6. **Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?**

Yes

Tell us more

As the regional arts trust for Tāmaki Makaurau, Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi would like to tautoko the Howick board’s goal; Support, and celebrate our local arts, culture, music and heritage.

While the priorities outlined in the feedback form do not explicitly address this goal, active support for arts, culture, music and heritage in the Howick area can help the board achieve priorities such as strong, resilient, and connected communities, great neighbourhoods, town centres that are
active and vibrant, and community spaces are that are safe, inclusive, and accessible. Arts, culture and creativity programmes and events bring communities together and increase community and individual wellbeing.
We look forward to seeing continued collaboration between the board and your local arts and culture organisations and practitioners to explore opportunities for further development.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#265

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 Auckland Table Tennis Association (Inc)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	**Very well**
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	Unsure
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	Unsure
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	Unsure
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	Unsure

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

Focus area: Community – Sports and recreational opportunities respond to the needs of our communities

Auckland Table Tennis Association strongly supports the draft plan's continued commitment to multi-club and multi-code facilities at Lloyd Elsmore Park, and to improving the sharing and utilisation of sports facilities.

The Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver modern, fit-for-purpose community sport infrastructure that responds to the needs of a rapidly growing and increasingly diverse East Auckland population. The project will improve access to sport and recreation, support greater participation across all ages and abilities, make more efficient use of council-owned land, and strengthen collaboration between community sports organisations.

We encourage the Howick Local Board to continue prioritising and advocating for the Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub as a key investment that will deliver lasting community, health and wellbeing benefits for local residents. This aligns with the Board's objective that sports and recreational opportunities respond to the needs of our communities.

2. Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?

Very well

Tell us why

Overall, the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community very well. It appropriately recognises the pressures created by rapid population growth, increasing cultural diversity, and the need for community infrastructure to keep pace with demand. The focus on stronger partnerships, multi-use community facilities, accessible sport and recreation opportunities, vibrant town centres, and improving the utilisation of existing assets provides a clear and practical direction for the next three years.

We particularly support the continued commitment to multi-club facilities at Lloyd Elsmore Park and encourage the Local Board to continue advocating for projects such as the Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub. These collaborative projects make better use of public resources, improve access to sport and recreation, strengthen community connections, and help ensure community facilities keep pace with the area's continuing growth.

Community priorities

3. What should we focus on most over the next three years? (Select up to 3 options)

Better parks, libraries and community facilities

Tell us more

The Auckland Table Tennis Association strongly supports continued investment in better parks, libraries and community facilities. In particular, we encourage the Howick Local Board to continue prioritising the Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub (LECH), which is specifically identified in the draft plan. The Hub will provide modern, multi-use community sport infrastructure, improve access to sport and recreation, make more efficient use of council-owned land, and help meet the needs of a growing and increasingly diverse East Auckland community. Continued investment in projects such as LECH will deliver lasting health, wellbeing and community benefits while ensuring local infrastructure keeps pace with population growth.

Funding priorities

4. Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment? (Select up to 3 options)

Maintaining playgrounds, recreation spaces and sports facilities,Community events and activities that bring people together,Programmes and opportunities for young people

Tell us more

The Auckland Table Tennis Association believes these three areas will have the greatest long-term benefit for the Howick community. Continued investment in recreation spaces and sports facilities is essential to ensure community infrastructure keeps pace with population growth and changing community needs. We also strongly support community events and activities that bring people together, as they foster social connection, inclusion and community pride. Finally, investing in programmes and opportunities for young people helps establish lifelong healthy, active lifestyles and creates positive pathways for participation, leadership and wellbeing. Projects such as the Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub bring these priorities together by providing a shared, multi-sport community facility that supports participation, collaboration and stronger community connections for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Transport priorities

5. Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for? (Select up to 3 options)

Tell us more

Other feedback

6. Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?

I don’t know

Tell us more

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?

Auckland Table Tennis Association congratulates the Howick Local Board on preparing a well-considered and forward-looking draft plan. We particularly support the emphasis on partnerships, shared community facilities, improving utilisation of existing assets, and ensuring community infrastructure keeps pace with population growth. We encourage the Local Board to continue prioritising and advocating for the Lloyd Elsmore Community Hub, which aligns strongly with the plan's objectives for community wellbeing, recreation, youth participation, inclusion, and efficient use of public resources. The Hub will deliver lasting benefits for current and future generations and represents an excellent example of organisations working together to achieve better outcomes for the wider community.

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#259

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 Food Hub Collective

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	**Quite well**
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	Quite well
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	Quite well
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	Quite well
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	Quite well

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Quite well

   Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   Safe and clean neighbourhoods and public places,Protecting and enhancing the natural environment,Advocating for a local community recycling and hazardous waste facility

   Tell us more

Funding priorities

4. **Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   Programmes and opportunities for young people,Local projects that reduce waste and improve recycling,Helping communities prepare for storms and extreme weather events

   Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. **Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   Safer roads and intersections,Less traffic congestion and better traffic flow,More parking in local neighbourhoods and to support transport hubs

   Tell us more

Other feedback

6. **Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?**

   Yes

   Tell us more

7. Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?

Yes, I have attached a feedback document.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Submission on 3-year local board plan for Howick

Tēna koe,

The Howick Local Board has set an ambitious vision for [Community, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economic Development, and Transport]. Achieving these aspirations depends on many interconnected factors, but one of the most

fundamental is ensuring that everyone has access to good, nutritious, affordable and culturally

appropriate food.

A strong local food system is about much more than food. It supports healthier people, strengthens

community connections, builds resilience to economic and climate challenges, encourages local

enterprise, and contributes to thriving neighbourhoods. Investing in local food initiatives can help deliver many of the outcomes the Local Board is already seeking to achieve, including improved health and wellbeing, stronger communities, environmental sustainability and greater local resilience.

Across Howick, community organisations, schools, mana whenua, growers,

volunteers and local businesses are already making an important contribution to improving access to

healthy food. However, increasing pressures on household budgets, climate uncertainty, population

growth and rising demand for food support demonstrate the need for stronger local coordination and continued investment.

I/We believe the Howick Local Board has an important opportunity to strengthen its

existing commitments by recognising food as a strategic priority and working alongside communities to build a healthier, more resilient and more equitable local food system.

The actions below are practical, evidence-informed steps that can be implemented over the next one to three years to improve access to healthy food, strengthen community resilience, and support the long-term wellbeing of everyone who lives, works and learns in Howick.

How these actions support your existing commitments

These recommendations align closely with the outcomes and aspirations of both the Local Board Plan and the Auckland Plan 2050. Together, they would contribute to healthier communities, stronger neighbourhoods, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, local economic participation and greater social connectedness.

By strengthening the local food system, the Local Board can help create lasting benefits that extend well beyond food itself, improving quality of life while supporting communities to become more resilient, self-reliant and better prepared for future challenges.

Recommended Actions

1. **Understand the local food system**

Commit to a local food system wānanga involving Local Board members, mana whenua, community organisations and other key stakeholders.

Map existing food-related services, programmes, community assets, growing spaces, food providers and local champions across the Local Board area. Identify existing strengths, gaps and opportunities, and explore how current resources and investment could be better aligned to maximise impact, collaboration and equity.

Developing a shared understanding of the local food system will help inform future investment and strengthen collaboration across the community.

2. **Strengthen community partnerships**

Actively engage with the organisations, volunteers and community leaders already working to improve local food access and wellbeing.

Visit community gardens, food hubs, māra kai, food rescue organisations, cooking and nutrition programmes, schools and local initiatives. Listen to the experiences of those working on the ground and build ongoing relationships that support genuine collaboration and shared decision-making.

Promote existing initiatives through Local Board communication channels to increase community awareness, participation and support.

3. **Invest in local food initiatives**

Increase support for proven community-led food initiatives through funding, programming and longer-term partnerships.

This could include supporting community gardens and māra kai, strengthening local food hubs, providing dedicated funding for key coordination roles, improving access to small grants, streamlining Council processes, and providing greater certainty through longer-term lease arrangements where appropriate.

Building the capability and sustainability of successful community initiatives represents a practical investment in the long-term resilience of the Local Board area.

4. **Create healthier food environments**

Support initiatives that enable access to nourishing food and drink for everyone.

This may include expanding access to drinking water, supporting culturally appropriate food initiatives,

encouraging healthier food options at community events and Council facilities, celebrating businesses that provide healthy choices, and supporting community organisations to offer nutritious food through their programmes.

Although Local Boards have limited influence over commercial food marketing, they can play an important leadership role by creating environments that encourage healthier choices and promote community wellbeing.

5. **Celebrate and grow local food leadership**

Champion the stories, people and initiatives that are already strengthening the local food system.

Share local successes through community events, digital communications and neighbourhood networks.

Increase public awareness of local food initiatives and encourage greater participation across the

community.

Work alongside community organisations, mana whenua, schools, growers, businesses and residents to develop a shared vision for a resilient local food system that is better prepared for future economic, environmental and social challenges.

I/We believe the Howick Local Board has an opportunity to become a leader in

creating a healthier, more resilient and more connected community through practical investment in its local food system.

Supporting better access to good, nutritious and affordable food is not simply a response to current

challenges. It is an investment in healthier people, stronger communities, greater resilience, local

economic development and a more sustainable future.

By working alongside local communities and building on the strengths that already exist, the Local Board can help create lasting benefits for current and future generations while delivering on its vision for a thriving Howick.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of the Howick community.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Have Your Say on the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026

#236

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 Tree Council

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do these proposed priorities reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

Community - Our community is strong, resilient, and connected. Our neighbourhoods are a great place to live, work, play, explore and be proud of.	N/AN/A
Natural Environment - Our natural environment, including our endemic and native flora, fauna, and waterways is protected and restored. This helps future generations inherit a safer, healthier, more resilient Howick Local Board area. Mana whenua as kaitiaki, together with local communities, are empowered to support this. Climate resilience is strengthened and space is made for water.	
Built Environment - Our town centres are active and vibrant, and our community spaces are safe, inclusive, accessible and affordable for all. Our public spaces foster a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride.	
Economy - Our local economy is strong and supported by thriving businesses and Business Improvement Districts. People of all ages can access local employment opportunities. Visitors are attracted to our local area.	
Transport - Our transport network is safe, reliable, and accessible, supporting walking, cycling, multi-modal and driving. It connects people to schools, community facilities, transport hubs, and local services. Our roading network is well planned and enables safe and efficient movement around the area.	

Tell us more (please note which focus area your comment refers to)?

2. **Overall, how well does the draft Howick Local Board Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community for the next three years?**

   Tell us why

Community priorities

3. **What should we focus on most over the next three years?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   Tell us more

Funding priorities

4. **Which three areas should be the highest priority for investment?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   Tell us more

Transport priorities

5. **Which three transport improvements should be the highest priority to advocate for?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   Tell us more

Other feedback

6. **Is anything important missing from the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026 that should be included?**

   Tell us more

7. **Do you have any other feedback you would like on the draft Howick Local Board Plan 2026?**

The Tree Council
Tiakina Rākau • est 1986

Submission - Howick Local Board Plan 2026

by The Tree Council
22 July 2026

From: The Tree Council
[redacted]

Thank you for the opportunity to present The Tree Council's submission on the proposed **Howick Local Board Plan 2026.**

This submission is made by The Tree Council, an independent, voluntary organisation, a non-profit incorporated charitable society which has been serving the Auckland community since 1986 in the protection of trees and as advocates for the significant benefits and services that our trees and green spaces provide.

The Community

The Tree Council comment:

- We support the exploration of options to develop a cultural garden that celebrates diverse traditions, supports community connection, and provides opportunities for learning and shared experiences.

- We see sports facilities as a great opportunity to plant trees and add to tree canopy cover in your area.

Natural Environment

The Tree Council comment:

- We agree that ongoing changes to Resource Management legislation and requirements impacts the local area's infrastructure, environment, and overall social wellbeing of your community.

- We support your intention to protect your coast and waterways and to use parks and reserves to store floodwater and support nature, and encourage the local board to support initiatives for restoration and tree planting in these areas.

- We support your goal to develop an Eco-neighbourhood programme as a way for your community to engage in environmental projects.

- We note that the local board aims to continue to deliver the Howick Urban Ngahere Action Plan 2021 to increase tree canopy coverage on public land by 3 per cent, ensuring a mix of native and exotic trees are used and would like the opportunity to engage with the board on how you will progress this goal?

- We support aims to have early local board involvement in the planning and design of Auckland - wide blue -green flood resilience projects, and are pleased to see planned collaboration with mana whenua.

- We are pleased that the board will advocate for better protection of urban trees by improving how they are assessed in planning and development decisions.

- We urge you to oppose all consents proposing to remove trees in Significant EcologicalAreas and Scheduled Notable Trees on both private and public land as these are so important to retain for future generations.

- If you have kauri in any of your local reserves you should consider getting them urgently tested for kauri dieback and if found to be positive then you should consider getting them treated with phosphite to keep them alive. Kauri dieback has an almost 100% mortality rate so all infected trees will die without treatment. We recommend you work with the Kauri Rescue Trust for the best way to approach this problem. There is an urgency as trees in which the disease has progressed too far will not survive even after treatment, so the earlier this happens the better. Kauri are carbon sinks, we need to keep these trees alive as long as possible.

In addition we would like to see specific support, including financial support, for the following initiatives to protect and enhance existing tree cover:

- Practical support and (for eg legal) advice for private landowners wishing to provide permanent protection for their trees eg via covenants &/or scheduling to enable protection of existing tree cover on private land to be optimised as most of the mature trees in Auckland are on private land with no legal protection.

- Grants for private landowners to maintain Scheduled Notable Trees on their property.

- Provide permanent and visible physical labels for all Scheduled Notable Trees in the local board area to enable the public to see that this tree is legally protected and tell the stories of our natural heritage.

- Look for opportunities to schedule additional mature trees and encourage Council to undertake Plan Changes to the Unitary Plan to regularly add new trees to Schedule 10 (Notable Trees).

- Look for opportunities to raise awareness of the value of Scheduled Notable Trees by organising events to celebrate them such as guided walks, community picnics, heritage talks.

- We support your goals to give support, including financial support, to mana whenua, local communities and groups undertaking the following types of initiatives within the local board area:
  - water quality testing
  - monitoring of beaches
  - treatment of diseased kauri trees on local parks and private land
  - monitoring for myrtle rust
  - weed control
  - pest control
  - protection of local fauna
  - restoration planting

- Public education on issues affecting biodiversity such as:
  - kauri dieback, myrtle rust
  - animal, plant and insect pests
  - other biosecurity threats○ control of dogs in sensitive areas
  - conflicting uses eg vehicles on beaches
  - rules for marine reserves