

## **HAVE YOUR SAY: Feedback to Auckland's Long Term Plan 2015-25**

15 March 2015

Auckland Council  
[longtermplan@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:longtermplan@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Reserves Board (Reserves Board) wishes to have the matters outlined in this letter considered in relation to the Draft Long Term Plan 2015-25 (LTP).

The Reserves Board is appointed as the administering body to control and manage the Whenua Rangatira and Pourewa Creek Recreation Reserve (hereinafter referred to as the Wheunua Rangatira) as detailed in the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Settlement Act 2012. The Reserves Board is made up of three nominated members (each) of Auckland Council and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. The Act states that:

*“All costs and expenses incurred in and incidental to the control and management of the whenua rangatira must be paid by the Auckland Council to the extent that any income arising from the whenua rangatira is insufficient to defray those costs and expenses”*

The Reserves Board fully supports the provision, in the draft LTP, of development funding for the Whenua Rangatira. The level of development funding for the Whenua Rangatira in the draft LTP (as shown in the attached budget summary from the November 2014 Budget Committee meeting) reflects the request made by the Reserves Board prior to the LTP being drafted. This level of development funding provides for the implementation of the master plan and management plans as mapped out and adopted in the Reserves Board financial plan and is warmly welcomed.

However the Reserves Board is concerned to note that the operational funding provided in the draft LTP for the Whenua Rangatira represents a significant drop in the level of funding previously provided. This will have a significant negative impact on the operation of the Whenua Rangatira. The operational funding provided by Auckland Council in the current financial year (FY15) is \$707,421. The LTP proposes to drop this to \$496,076 annually. This represents almost a 30% funding cut which is considered to be unsustainable and we understand this to be significantly higher than any cuts being talked about for parks across the region.

Having taken a careful and hard look at expenditure options the Reserves Board respectfully requests Auckland Council reinstate at least part of the operational funding that has previously been provided. As detailed below we are requesting \$811,000 over the 10-year life of the plan. This is considerably less than the \$1.2 million that would be required to maintain the equivalent of \$707,421 per year. The requested operational budget increase represents a very economical approach to the next ten years but none-the-less enables the core operation of the Whenua Rangatira to continue.

Operational Funding Request (over and above the \$496,076 provided annually in the draft LTP):

Year 1 (FY16)	\$ 77,987
Year 2 (FY17)	\$ 57,987
Year 3 (FY18)	\$109,987
Year 4 (FY19)	\$ 34,987
Year 5 (FY20)	\$ 34,987
Year 6 (FY21)	\$ 34,987
Year 7-10 (FY22-25)	\$114,987

The Whenua Rangatira and the Reserves Board represents the oldest co-management treaty settlement in New Zealand – a partnership that is now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year. It is a flagship partnership and a site of significance to Ngāti Whātua, Aucklanders and New Zealanders. The Whenua Rangatira is a cultural, environmental, community and tourist icon with its majestic views over the Waitemata harbour.

The Marae is not only a hub for Ngāti Whātua it's also an important community hub for Tamaki Makarau. Ngāti Whātua has a long history of welcoming all people to Auckland and the Marae and Whenua Rangatira continue that role today. As an example, during the recent Auckland Arts Festival opening 200 artists were welcomed onto the Marae.

The tikanga or protocol that underpins the maintenance and operation of the Whenua includes an extraordinarily successful working model of chemical free ecological restoration as well as being both a smoke free and rubbish free site (the recent Waitangi Day event achieved a 96% landfill diversion rate).

Acknowledging the importance of this tikanga the Reserves Board would also like to note its concern at Auckland Councils proposed operational cost savings which include the introduction of more chemical weed control on parks throughout Auckland. We would advocate that no cost saving is worth a retrograde step in environmental best practice and, at the very least, Auckland Council should maintain the status quo i.e. continue to maintain those parks that are maintained mechanically without adding chemical controls.

Naku noa, na



**Margaret Kawharu**

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Reserves Board Member  
(on behalf of the Reserves Board)