

Annual Budget 2016/2017 consultation feedback report for Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board

Purpose

- 1) This report summarises all feedback received through the Annual Budget 2016/2017 consultation on Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board proposals. It also summarises feedback on the regional proposals from people or organisations based in the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area.
- 2) The purpose of this report is to inform the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board of the views of its local community on the annual proposals. This will build on the board's understanding of community priorities and preferences as established in the development of the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board Plan 2014.
- 3) The feedback received will inform the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board decisions on allocation of its local budgets in its local board agreement for 2016/2017. It will also inform the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board discussions with the Finance and Performance Committee on 6 and 9 May on advocacy and local priorities in relation to the regional budgets and proposals.

Executive Summary

- 4) Out of the 127 submissions received on the Annual Budget 2016/2017, 117 were individual submissions from people living in Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area or concerning Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board local proposals.
- 5) The demographic breakdown of submitters for Maungakiekie-Tamaki was consistent with the regional response: around 60% of submitters were male, over 80% were European and the majority were middle-aged or older, although Maungakiekie-Tamaki had a slightly larger number of younger submitters than the regional average.

Regional proposals consulted on for 2016/2017

- 6) The consultation on the proposed annual budget focused on four key issues, Uniform Annual General Charge, Interim Transport Levy, Rural rates and Maori Freehold Land rates. The written feedback received from the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area on these key consultation topics is summarised below, along with an overview of any other areas of feedback on regional proposals with a local impact.

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board local proposals consulted on for 2016/2017

- 7) The Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board consulted on the following five priorities (three initiatives proposed for funding from the 2016/2017 Local Discretionary Initiatives budget, and two advocacy areas):
- Partnership funding to enable community groups to achieve community outcomes
 - An initiative to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags
 - A public art support and promotion initiative
 - Advocate for a review of levels of service of community centres and halls
 - Advocate to ensure that Tamaki Redevelopment Company offers a range of quality housing options and improvements to parks, open spaces and community facilities in the area

Context

- 8) This report is being provided to the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board summarising the local consultation feedback received on the annual budget. Council received feedback in person at community engagement events, through written forms (including those submitted online) and through social media.
- 9) Feedback on Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board local proposals and on regional proposals from the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area was received both through written submissions and the Have your Say event held on 8 March 2016 at the Panmure Hall.

Overview of feedback received on regional proposals from Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area

Fixed charge (Uniform Annual general Charge or UAGC)

- 10) Auckland's residents and ratepayers were asked if the UAGC should be kept at \$397 so that rates are spread differently between high and low value properties, and should it be changed to \$350, \$450, \$550 or \$650.
- 11) Feedback indicates that residents of the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area support a UAGC at the current level or lower (figure 1.1), with the majority of those wanting a change in the level of the UAGC indicating a preference for it being set at \$350 (figure 1.2).

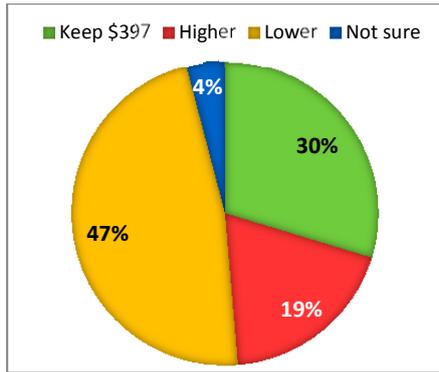


Figure 1.1

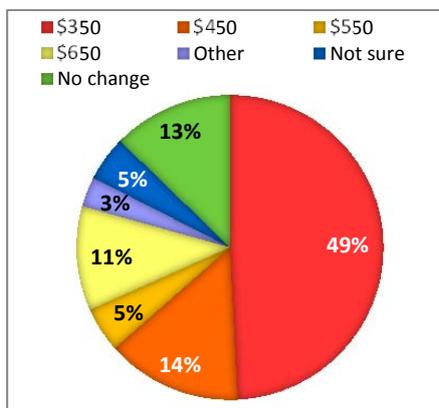


Figure 1.2

Interim Transport Levy (ITL)

- 12) People were asked if businesses should pay more than they currently do toward the ITL (meaning other ratepayers pay less) and should the levy continue to be a fixed charge for businesses or be based on the size of the business (meaning small businesses pay less than large ones).

- 13) Feedback indicates that residents of the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area support the proposal for businesses to pay a higher ITL (figure 2.1), with the majority indicating that the amount paid by businesses should be calculated according to property value (figure 2.2).

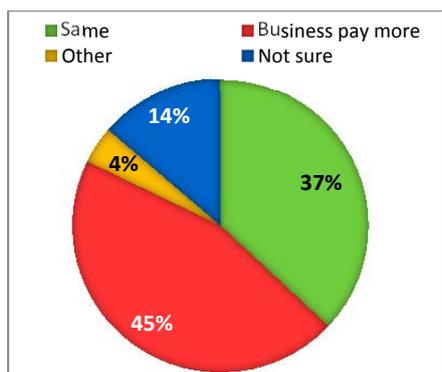


Figure 2.1

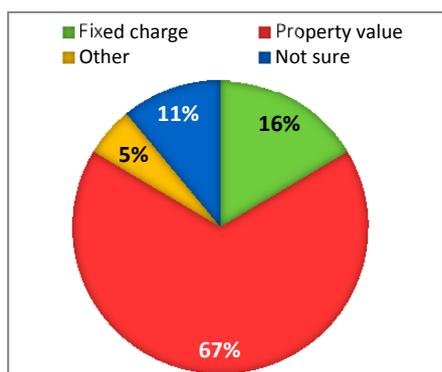


Figure 2.2

Farm and lifestyle rates

- 14) Auckland’s residents and ratepayers were asked to provide their thoughts on the rates paid by farm/lifestyle properties (over 50 hectares) reducing to 60 per cent from 80 per cent of the urban residential rate (meaning all other ratepayers pay less).

- 15) Feedback indicates that residents of the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area would prefer to keep the rates on farm and lifestyle properties at 80% of the normal level of residential rates rather than reducing them to 60% as has been proposed (figure 3.1). However it should be noted that a large proportion of respondents indicated uncertainty in respect of this proposal.

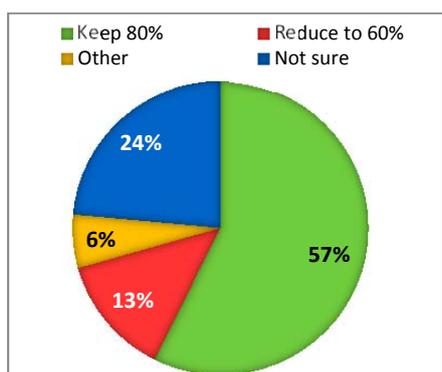


Figure 3.1

Māori land rates

- 16) People were asked if they supported reducing rates for some Māori land to reflect restrictions on its use.
- 17) Feedback indicates that residents of the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board area do not support the proposal to reduce Māori land rates (figure 4.1).

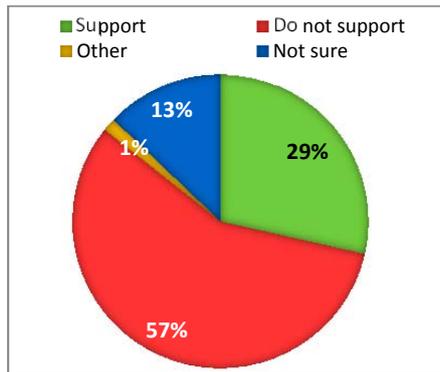


Figure 4.1

Feedback received on the local proposals

Written feedback received

- 18) The majority of submissions were written submissions from individuals and the online form was the most common method of submitting feedback. Around 60% of submitters were male and almost 90% of submitters identified as European. In terms of age, the largest number of submissions were received from those aged 45-54.
- 19) Question 5 asked submitters about local board priorities generally. In response, around 60% of responders either fully or partially support the priorities, 23% opposed them and 16% were unsure (Figure 5.1).

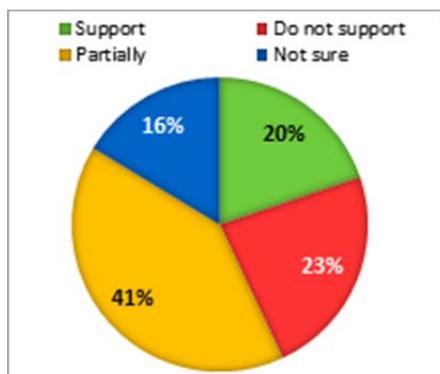


Figure 5.1

- 20) The particular local priorities consulted on by the Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board for the 2016/2017 Annual Plan were:
- Partnership funding to enable community groups to achieve community outcomes
 - An initiative to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags
 - A public art support and promotion initiative
 - Advocate for a review of levels of service of community centres and halls
 - Advocate to ensure that Tamaki Redevelopment Company offers a range of quality housing options and improvements to parks, open spaces and community facilities in the area
- 21) On average only around 30 people responded regarding the individual local issues so it is difficult to say whether feedback is representative of community views due to the small sample sizes, however:
- Around 50% indicated support for the proposed community partnerships (25% opposed and 25% were unsure)
 - Around 52% indicated support for the proposed single-use plastic bags initiative (36% opposed and 12% were unsure)
 - Around 45% indicated support for the proposed public art initiative (36% opposed and 19% were unsure)
 - Over 75% of submitters indicated support for the two proposed advocacy areas (4 and 5 above)
- 22) 24 comments were received regarding transport, the majority of which urged improvements to the public transport network and more investment in public transport and cycling infrastructure, with other comments supporting the proposed rail connection from Onehunga to Auckland International Airport, the replacement of Jubilee Bridge in Panmure, and expressing concerns about the future of Panmure town centre as a result of the proposed reduction in bus services through the main street.
- 23) A significant number of comments (many from pro forma submissions) were received urging investment by Auckland Council in the restoration and re-development of Wai-o-taiki Reserve, addressing pollution in Omaru Creek and mitigating against erosion along the Tāmaki Estuary.
- 24) A significant number of comments (again many from pro forma submissions) were also received regarding the future of Waikaraka Park and in particular Waikaraka Speedway, and urging significant investment by Auckland Council in these assets.

Feedback received through the Have Your Say event

- 25) The Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board hosted a Have Your Say event at the Panmure Hall on 8 March. This is the second year that Auckland Council has held Have Your Say events in preference to traditional hearings, since legislative changes have enabled local authorities to take a more flexible approach to public consultation. This year, 24 members of the public attended and 91 individual comments were collected.

- 26) Themes and particular views recorded were generally consistent with the written feedback, including similar comments in favour of greater investment in Wai-o-Taiki Reserve, Omaru Creek and coastal erosion on the Tamaki Estuary, and the future of Waikaraka Speedway.
- 27) In addition, a number of comments were received expressing concerns about intensive housing development in the Tamaki area and the activities of the Tamaki Redevelopment Company generally (though it should be noted that these comments were not made specifically in response to the TRC-related proposed advocacy platform), and also about the impact of AMETI, the loss of bus routes through Panmure town centre and the impact of this on the town centre's economic prosperity.
- 28) With regard to the local board priorities, no comments were received specifically in response to the two advocacy proposals and one comment was received in favour of the community partnerships initiative. Comments regarding single-use plastic bags indicated support in principle but noted that this was a region-wide issue and perhaps not best handled at the local level, and a number of comments indicated that public art, while not necessarily opposed in and of itself, should not be a particular priority particularly for the Tamaki area as responders felt that there were more pressing priorities.