

Annual Budget 2017/2018 consultation feedback report for Franklin Local Board

1. Purpose

- A. This report summarises all feedback received through the Annual Budget 2017/2018 consultation on Franklin Local Board proposals. It also summarises feedback on the regional proposals from people or organisations based in the Franklin local board area.
- B. The purpose of this report is to inform the Franklin Local Board of the views of their local community on the annual proposals. This will build on the boards understanding of community priorities and preferences as established in the development of the Franklin Local Board Plan 2014.
- C. The feedback received will inform the Franklin Local Board decisions on allocation of their local budgets in their local board agreement for 2017/2018. It will also inform the Franklin Local Board discussions with the Finance and Performance Committee on 9 May on advocacy and local priorities in relation to the regional budgets and proposals.

2. Executive Summary

Out of the 8,508 submissions received on the Annual Budget 2017/2018, 198 were submissions from people living in Franklin Local Board area or concerning Franklin Local Board local proposals.

A. Franklin Local Board local proposals consulted on for 2017/2018

- 1. Coastal asset renewal – advocate for a regional approach to dealing with coastal erosion, urgently address erosion at Sandspit and Glenbrook beaches.
- 2. Local paths – continue a programme of recreational trail development across Franklin, including support for development of the Hunua Cycle Trail.
- 3. Transport – continue to work with Auckland Transport to implement public transport and road safety improvements.
- 4. Develop plans for growth areas to ensure growth is well-planned and infrastructure is provided at the right time to support new housing and businesses.
- 5. Development of Pukekohe Skate Park.

B. Regional proposals consulted on for 2017/2018

Issue 1: Rates increases

Feedback shows that the majority of local people (59%) support a rate increase of 2.5%. Twenty five per cent want a lower increase with less services provided, mainly governance and support. Fourteen per cent want a higher increase with more services, including transport and Auckland development

Issue 2: Rating stability

When asked if they agreed that business and residential ratepayers should receive the same rates increase, 119 people (67%) agreed, whilst 30 disagreed and 17 weren't sure.

Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion

Feedback on a proposed targeted rate on accommodation providers to fund tourism promotion showed that 58% of people agreed with the proposal and 30% did not agree.

Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure

Most people who gave feedback (63%) agreed with the proposal to change the funding policy to allow infrastructure for new housing developments to be funded by targeted rates alongside existing growth charges, rather than across all ratepayers. Only 17% of people disagreed, and 17% were not sure.

Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage

One hundred and one people (57%) agreed that the council should implement a living wage policy over this current term for all council staff. Fifty one people disagreed with the proposal, and 23 were not sure.

3. Context

This report is being provided to the Franklin 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.

Franklin Local Board did not hold any 'have your say' events, therefore responses on local proposals and on regional proposals from the local board area were all received through written feedback.

4. Feedback received on the local proposals

Of the 198 submissions received from residents of Franklin, there were 79 people making comments about local proposals. Key themes across all feedback received were:

- Protect versatile soils for food production
- Make new infrastructure a priority over other initiatives
- Implement improvements to the rail service – electrification from Papakura to Pukekohe, a new rail station at Paerata
- Improve the transport system – include more spaces than planned at the Pukekohe park n ride, improve motorway access by decreasing congestion at on-ramps, implement a direct bus service from Whitford to Howick and Botany, encourage more use of the Pukekohe bus service
- Attract businesses to the area so more people can work locally
- Implement more shared trails for walking, cycling a horse riding as a priority
- Deal more effectively with coastal erosion
- Focus on improving local water quality and preventing run-off
- More facilities are required at Beachlands, including reticulated water, an upgraded main road, a new library, a high school and a swimming pool
- Better CCTV coverage is required in Pukekohe
- Use development contributions locally
- More equitable rates for rural ratepayers

5. Overview of feedback received on regional proposals from Franklin Local Board area

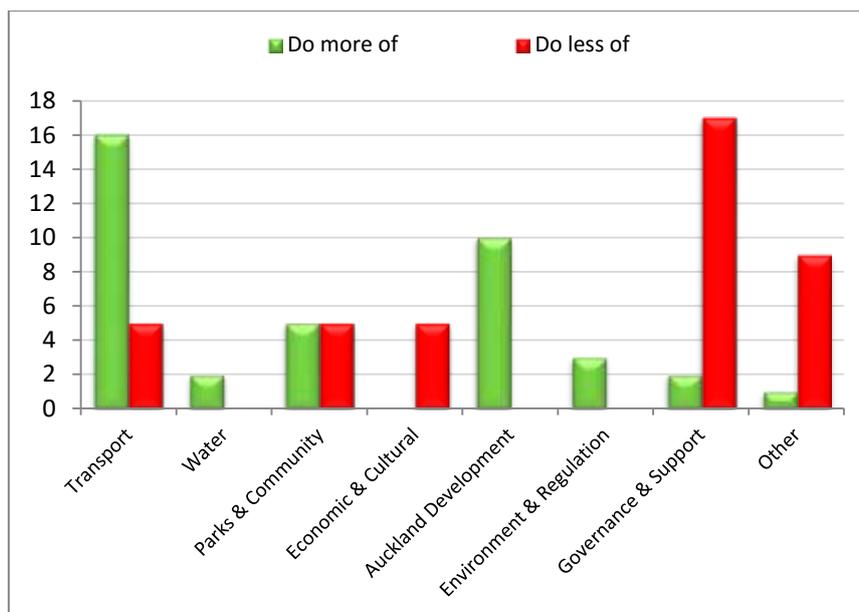
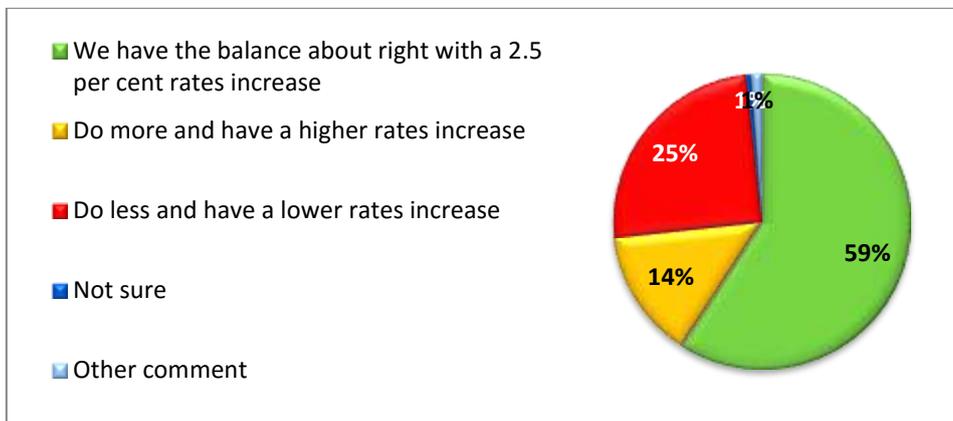
The consultation on the proposed annual budget focused on five key issues, Issue 1: Rates increases, Issue 2: Rating stability, Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion, Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure and Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage. The written feedback received from the Franklin 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.

Issue 1: Rates increases

Aucklanders were asked if we have the balance right with a 2.5 per cent average rates increase or should we have a higher rates increase (3.5 per cent) and do more or a lower rates increase (2 per cent) and do less.

Question 1: Delivering our planned investments and services will require an average rates increase of 2.5 per cent for 2017/2018. A higher rates increase would enable us to do more, while a lower rates increase would mean we can do less. What do you think?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Franklin Local Board area.

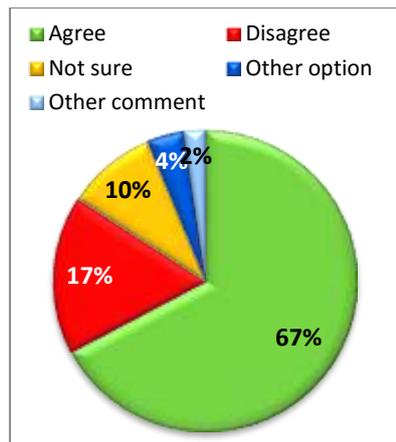


Issue 2: Rating stability

Aucklanders were asked if businesses should receive the same rates increase as residential ratepayers in 2017/2018.

Question 2: The council has been adjusting the share of general rates between businesses and residential ratepayers over time. This has resulted in businesses having a smaller increase than residential ratepayers. We are proposing that for 2017/2018 both should receive the same rates increase. What do you think?

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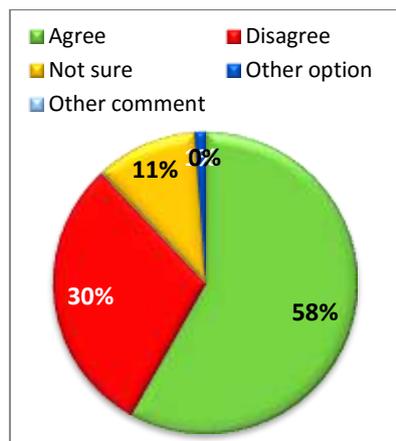


Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion

Aucklanders were asked if they agree or disagree with the proposed targeted rate on accommodation providers to fund tourism promotion rather than from general rates.

Question 3: The council spends \$20-30 million on tourism promotion and major events each year. We are proposing to fund this from a targeted rate on accommodation providers rather than general rates. What do you think?

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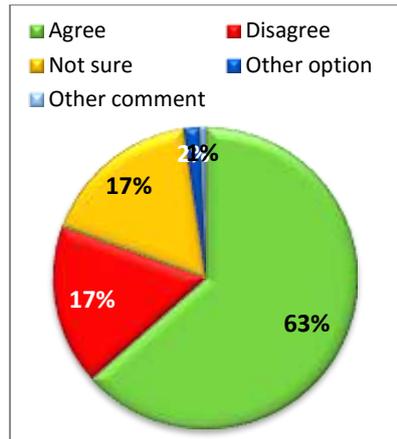


Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure

People were asked if they supported changing our funding policy to allow infrastructure for new housing developments to be funded by targeted rates alongside existing growth charges, rather than ratepayers across Auckland.

Question 4: The council is proposing to change our funding policy to allow infrastructure for new housing developments to be funded by targeted rates, rather than ratepayers across Auckland. What do you think?

The graph below gives an overview of the responses from the Franklin Local Board area.



Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage

People were asked if they support the council to implement a living wage policy over the council term ending October 2019 to ensure all council staff can afford typical living costs. This would be funded from savings within the existing budgets.

Question 5: The council is proposing to implement a living wage policy over the council term ending October 2019 to ensure all council staff can afford typical living costs. This would be funded from savings within the existing budgets. What do you think?

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