

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

1. Purpose

- A. This report summarises all feedback received through the Annual Budget 2017/2018 consultation on Howick Local Board proposals. It also summarises feedback on the regional proposals from people or organisations based in the Howick local board area.
- B. The purpose of this report is to inform the Howick 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 Howick Local Board Plan 2014.
- C. The feedback received will inform the Howick Local Board decisions on allocation of their local budgets in their local board agreement for 2017/2018. It will also inform the Howick 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 8058 submissions received on the Annual Budget 2017/2018, 258 were submissions from people living in Howick Local Board area or concerning Howick Local Board local proposals.

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

- 1. multi-use community facility at Flat Bush
- 2. development at Styak-Lushington Park (Greenmount)
- 3. greenway, walkway and general park development
- 4. master plan at Barry Curtis Park
- 5. sportsfield development at 187 Flat Bush School Road (Ostrich Farm)
- 6. walkway and cycleway paths at Flat Bush
- 7. water quality ponds at Flat Bush
- 8. renewal of existing assets
- 9. continue sand replenishment and management of coastal erosion at our beaches and advocate for a regional fund for coastal erosion
- 10. undertake a stock take of all community facilities (council-owned and external) in the area
- 11. continue to support local services and infrastructure in Flat Bush such as roads, footpaths, stormwater, parks and facilities, to align with growth in this area
- 12. develop a masterplan for the Greenmount Landfill area
- 13. develop a greenways plan to provide safe cycling and walking connections

14. continue to connect our walkways to open up the coastline for everyone to use such as Bucklands Beach walkway
15. develop a Centre Plan for the wider Howick Village area.
16. continuing to fund extended hours for our libraries
17. provide rental support to a number of community facilities.

B. Regional proposals consulted on for 2017/2018

Issue 1: Rates increases

Feedback indicates that 58% of those that submitted agree with the 2.5% increase in rates, whilst 15% would prefer a higher rates increase in order for the Council to do more. However, 25% of people who submitted would like us to do less and have a lower rates increase.

Issue 2: Rating stability

73% of respondents favour both residential and business receive the same rates increase. However, 21% disagreed with this position.

Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion

80% of respondents agreed with the proposal of funding tourism via a targeted rate on accommodation providers, whilst 10% disagreed with this position.

Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure

76% agree with the proposal to change the funding policy to allow infrastructure for new housing developments to be funded by targeted rates, whilst 8% disagree. However, 14% of respondents were unsure.

Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage

64% of respondents agreed with the proposal to implement a living wage for staff. 26% disagreed, with 10% of respondents unsure.

C. Other feedback (on any other proposals and/or other local issues)

[Summarise any other feedback received here.](#)

3. Context

- A. This report is being provided to the Howick 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.
- B. Feedback on Howick Local Board local proposals and on regional proposals from the Howick Local Board area was received through:

- Written feedback – 182 submissions were received via online forms, and 73 by hard copy
- Howick Local Board did not conduct any Have Your Say events this year.
- Social media – there was no feedback received via social media.

4. Feedback received on the local proposals

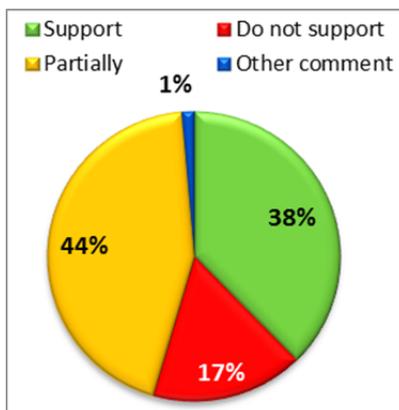
A. Key themes across all feedback received were:

- Transportation
- Parks, including the former Greenmount landfill site
- Coastal erosion

B. A summary of the feedback received through each channel is provided below.

Written feedback received

General response to all priorities:



Sample verbatim comments:

In support:

"Its great to see all the different and important priorities the board has from multi facilities to greenway and walkway improvements! also looking further into transport"

"I agree with the Howick wards proposed things to do. Especially the Review of Howick Local Village changes as I would like the village to stay the same and not be surrounded by high rise buildings as proposed. We would like to retain the village atmosphere."

"The development of cycle ways is a particularly valuable initiative and should be expanded and other local boards should do the same so they link up."

Do not support:

"Public transport in East Auckland in general is atrocious and nothing is happening. Complaints are always ignored. There is still no footpath towards my local bus stop and it is nearly autumn. No bus lanes. East Akl is getting left behind compared to other areas in Auckland"

“Coastal erosion plan and particularly Bucklands beach. Residents have asked for years for some comprehensive plan and action. Nothing forthcoming”

“Too much priorities on flat bush area”

Partial support:

“It's great that the local board wants to continue investing in recreational facilities, but unless something is done to address the increasing traffic congestion issues, people will leave the area in frustration and not stay to enjoy the lovely facilities. With 825 cars being added to Auckland's roads each week and with the Unitary Plan aiming for denser housing, it's becoming painfully clear each day that our roads are not coping. Add to that the absence of true mass transit options like rail or even light rail in the Howick Ward area, the local board should consider viable options for relieving the congestion.”

“I live in Pakuranga, this area is becoming the forgotten area excess rental properties, motor vehicles and a priority towards Botany/ Howick has the area becoming run down and decidedly scruffy.”

“Good focus on public spaces use”

“Too much concentration on Flat Bush & old Howick Centre. Time to also consider the needs of the new settlers (migrants & refugees)”

“I don't agree with sand replenishment. It costs money, is just going to get washed away again and wherever it is taken from is probably bad for marine life. Let nature take its course. I don't think the local beaches need that much sand. It gets regenerated from cockle shells and it comes and goes.”

Other comments:

“Prioritues [sic] Locally and for the city should be basic needs- rubbish, Roads, waste water. I pipes not spend on things like community groups and festivals. These should be self funded or money received from donations”

“Should not be funding Howick village plan. Should be spending more on replacing existing facilities in parks eg playgrounds etc than extending.”

“Enhance public security and public transport.”

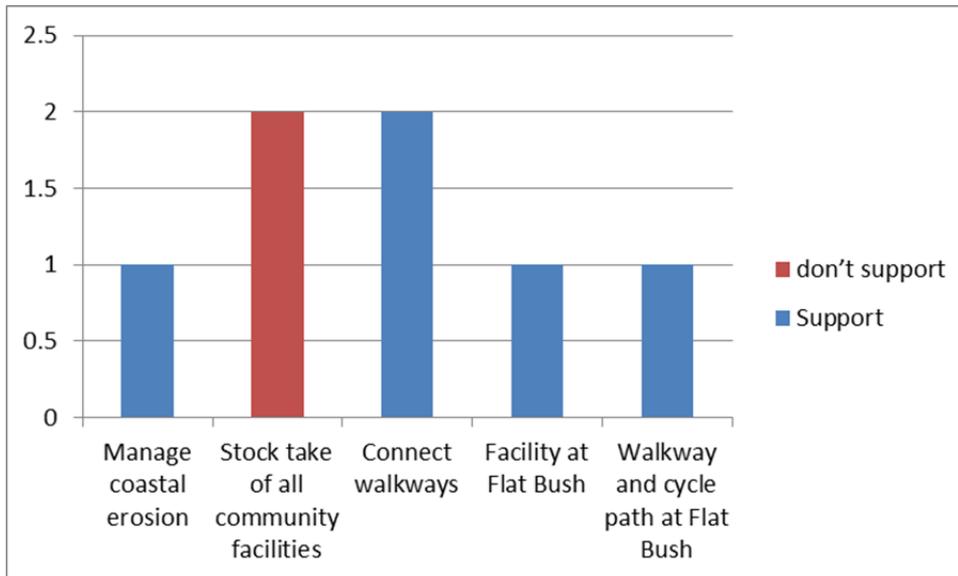
Other priorities to consider:

“Public transport is inadequate and probably will be for some time so better road links are needed especially Ti Rakau Drive”

“Pakuranga Plaza needs a proper pedestrian crossing (bridge or subway) to the rotary walkway, bus stop and new shops. The existing crossing at the lights is under-used and people resort to running across the 6 lane Pakuranga Highway”

“Character maintenance will bring in tourism. Young people need to have a place. Local churches are doing a great job and other NGO groups.”

Specific response to some priorities:



Sample verbatim comments:

Manage coastal erosion:

“re-sanding of Howick beach especially and Mellons Bay need to be resanded. These are not on our list.”

“Representing the Howick Coastal Protection Assn we object to inclusion for provision of a wharf, jetty, or additional reclamation of [sic] foreshore land or sea within the Howick Beach embayment. The matter has been before various committees Councils and Boards over more than [sic] 18years and been soundly degeated. [sic]”

“Sand replenishment - introduce a targeted rate for those who benefit most from sandy beaches at their door. Where is the sand going - are we creating a worse environmental issue in the harbor from all this washed out sand”

Stocktake of community facilities:

“Stocktake facilities - if its not used 24/7 16 hrs per day take it back and manage the facility so more community can use it. Too many empty bridge clubs, scout halls and other facilities council maintains/ rents for \$1 and not enough opening them for community use.”

Former Greenmount landfill:

“There is no communication from Local Boards to the residents regarding any priorities. We don't know what are priorities set by my local board for the development of my area.”

Connect walkways:

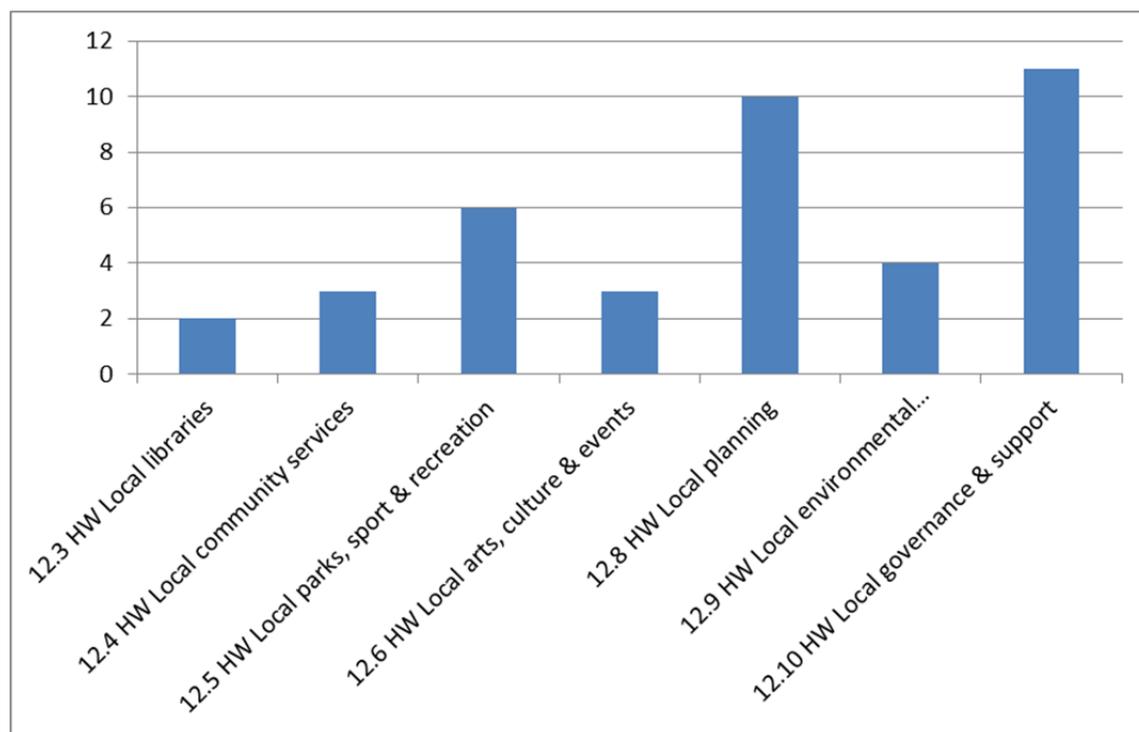
“Prioritise the Bucklands Beach walkway as at the moment it is unsafe to walk and run along the waterfront. Bucklands Beach is a major visitor draw and the public amenity should match that of other similar areas such as Kohimarama and even the recent improvements at Eastern Beach.”

“Invest in the footpaths, they are a disgrace following recent power under grounding, fibre installation and infill development.”

Centre plan for Howick Village:

“Howick village plan - put this aside until you install infrastructure for the new suburbs. now ten years overdue. Howick village is as built as it can be for the moment. Finish Ormiston first, plan for more infrastructure through to Redoubt road - that community needs community infrastructure now.”

Number of responses on other general topics:



Sample verbatim comments:

Local libraries:

“Due to technology the use of libraries has declined and will continue so I question the investment at Flatbush”

“I would like the local libraries to ensure that they stay open at current hours and are fully staffed. I disagree strongly with the proposed reduction in staffing hours and levels, they are core service”

Local community services:

“This area also has a significant problem with drugs and young people - where is the focus on investing in young people and their rehabilitation? There is also such a ethnically diverse population that this board is responsible for but none of the councillors are engaged with the ethnically diverse communities - why is this not being prioritised?”

“Expand the recreational area for Chinese community in Pakuranga as there are more than 500 members joining in and there is not enough space for them”

Local parks, sport and recreation:

“The area is seriously under-equipped with swimming pools. These are important recreation and fitness assets for older citizens who are discouraged by the overcrowding at the few existing pools. A high priority. Styak-Lushington Park This is a large area and a wonderful opportunity. Momentum is needed once it becomes a Council asset. A lot of the surrounding land is industrial so it needs special attention to ensure it receives community use. It is an opportunity for vehicle access to the summit to offset the proper restriction now developing on the real cones. The current fringe of trees is a great start that needs to be built on. Lack of planning may leave it as a site for mowing like too many other smaller parks. An imaginative development plan is needed and community engagement over that - an area on which AC parks has been performing poorly.”

“funding for parks maintenance must better reflect the funding given to bring parks up to the standard they were before the amalgamation particularly in the old South Auckland Council”

Local arts, culture and events:

“[Uxbridge] the obvious extravagance of the new art gallery was not necessary. The "art" is scant and not worth visiting. The café seems to have limited hours and is not often Sundays when many visitors take strolls around the village.”

“Re-establishing a weekend market at Ormiston College. This was stopped a few years ago due to high resource consent costs and objections from the Howick market. The population is expanding massively in Flat Bush and many residents do not go to Howick and Howick could not cope with the new numbers in the Flat Bush area. this was a marvellous market where locals could walk to the local stores and mingle. It would be great for our new community and various ethnicities.”

Local planning:

“The emphasis seems to be on producing "greeny" things for people to do in Flat Bush, and gives no consideration to the development of specific peoples needs throughout the whole board area.”

“I do not agree with the housing plan for the Stockade Hill/ Bleakhouse Rd area”

“Roading, footpaths and infrastructure for the Ormiston Flat bus area. Get the town center finished and the community facilities - that community has gone 10 years without a center to build community around. Get on with it. Do more about possum and pest control around your beautiful forest blocks, beaches and walkways. Take notice of the huge new and new migrant population out in Flatbush/ Ormiston and do more for them”

Local environmental management:

“Nowhere in this plan is Pakuranga mentioned. Pakuranga is being left to become an untidy, dirty slum and is being totally ignored.”

“I don't agree with sand replenishment. It costs money, is just going to get washed away again and wherever it is taken from is probably bad for marine life. Let nature take its course. I don't think the local beaches need that much sand. It gets regenerated from cockle shells and it comes and goes.”

Local governance and support:

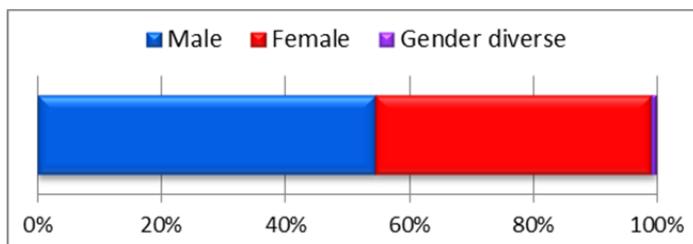
“The list of 'continuing' priorities are in Botany ward. Why is Howick ward paying for these? The only 'additional' priority which is required is sand replenishment.”

“There is no communication from Local Boards to the residents regarding any priorities. We don't know what are priorities set by my local board for the development of my area.”

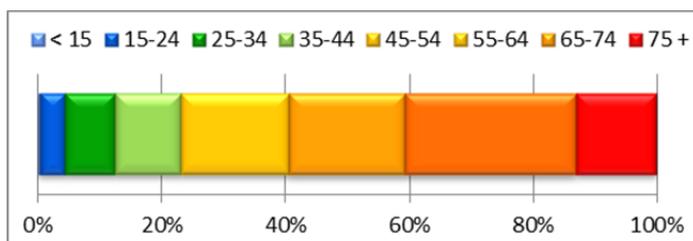
“When Council starts to charge for rubbish collection rubbish dumping will become a major disincentive to ratepayers. Clearly the annual squeeze on the budget for Howick Board has got out of control and the stipend awarded the Local Board is insufficient for its purpose. The amount returned the Local Board should be in proportion to the rates contributed to the City's coffers.”

Demographic Information

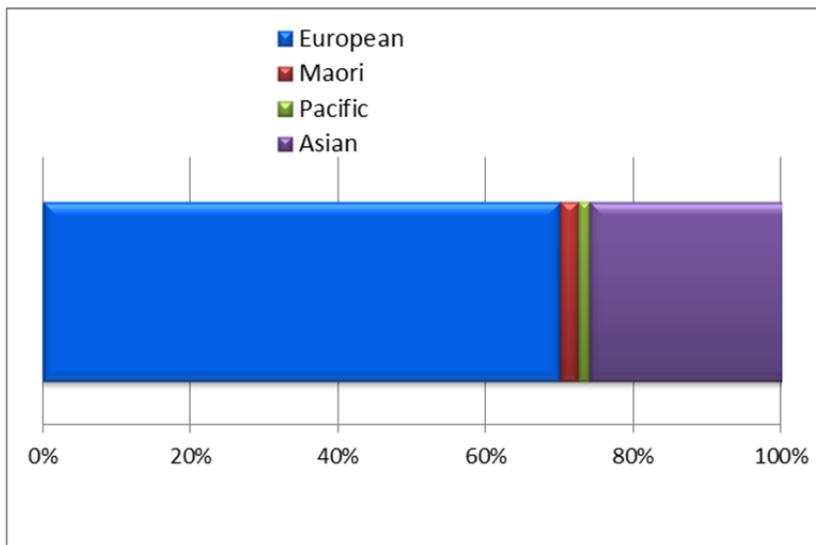
Gender:



Age:



Ethnicity:



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

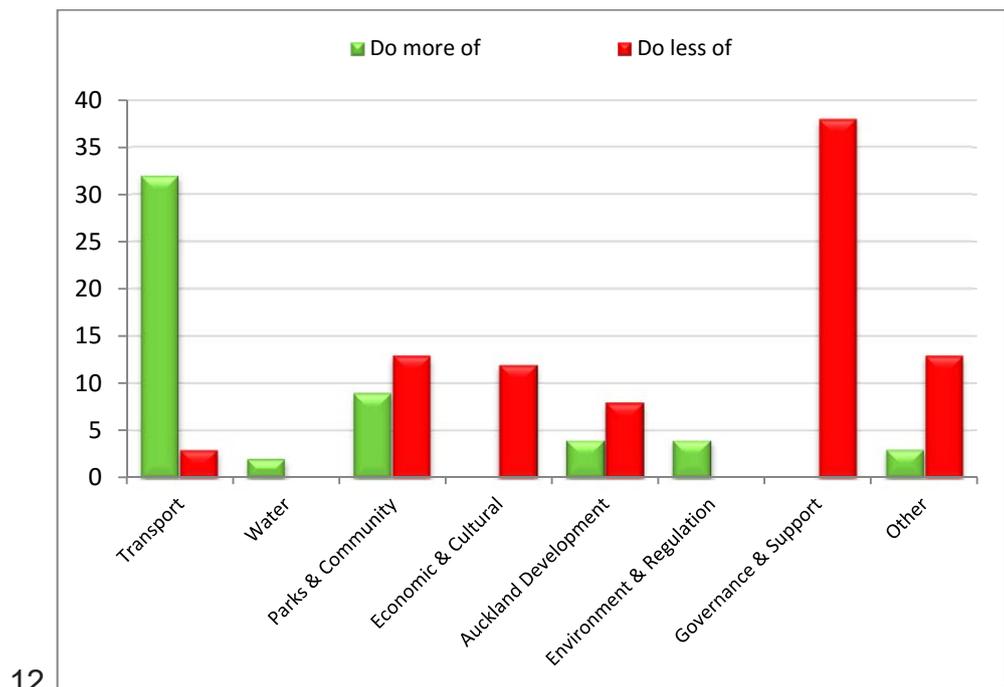
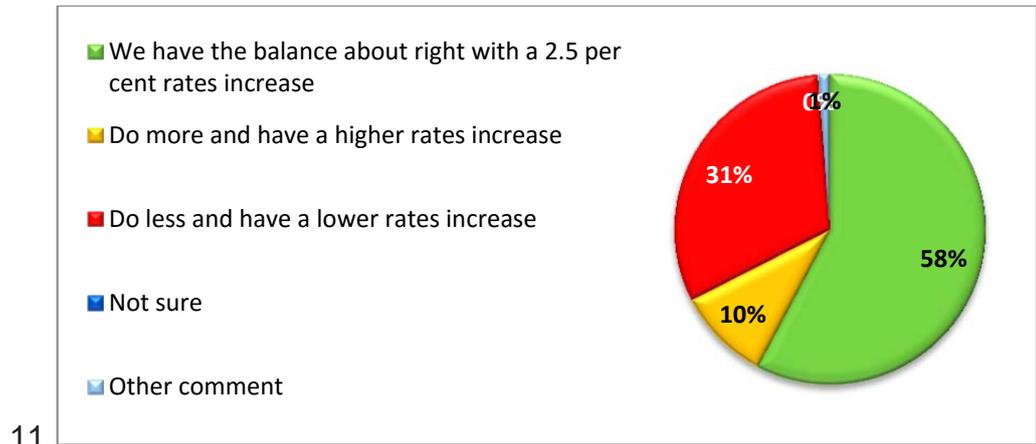
6. The consultation on the proposed annual budget focused on five key issues, Issue 1: Rates increases, Issue 2: Rating stability, Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion, Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure and Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage. The written feedback received from the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

7. Issue 1: Rates increases

8. 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.

9. 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?

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

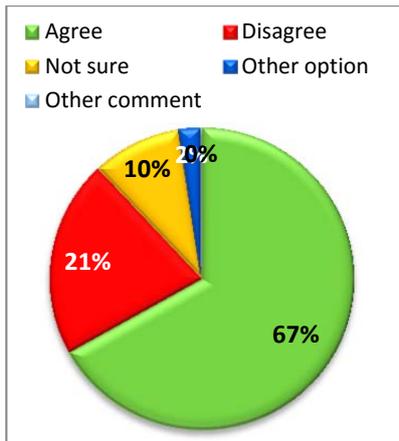


13. Issue 2: Rating stability

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

15. 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?

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



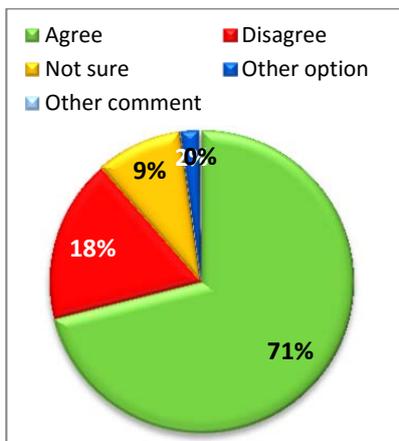
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18. Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion

19. 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.

20. 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?

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



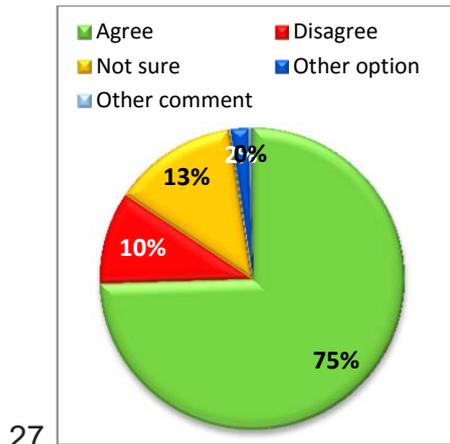
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23. Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure

24. 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.

25. 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?

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

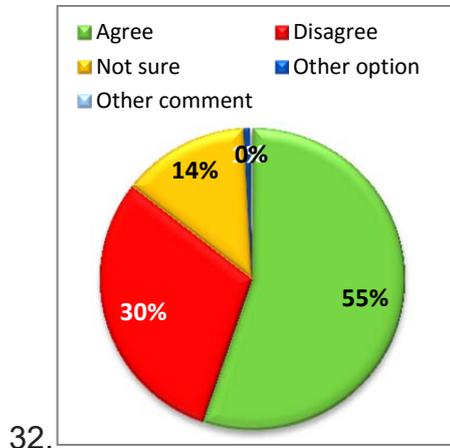


28. Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage

29. 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.

30. 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?

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



Feedback on other regional proposals with a local impact

Feedback was received from the Howick Local Board area on other regional proposals. The graph below shows the areas covered by this feedback.

