

Annual Budget 2017/2018 consultation feedback report for Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board

1. Purpose

- A. This report summarises all feedback received through the Annual Budget 2017/2018 consultation on Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board proposals. It also summarises feedback on the regional proposals from people or organisations based in the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu local board area.
- B. The purpose of this report is to inform the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu 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 Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board Plan 2014.
- C. The feedback received will inform the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board decisions on allocation of their local budgets in their local board agreement for 2017/2018. It will also inform the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu 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 8,058 submissions received on the Annual Budget 2017/2018, **211** were submissions from people living in Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area or concerning Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board local proposals (201 individuals and 10 organisations)

A. Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board local proposals consulted on for 2017/2018

1. sports field development
2. town centre revitalisation
3. renewing existing assets

B. Proposing the following priorities in addition to what is planned:

1. continue to fund additional library opening hours in the local board area
2. local Youth Connections project.

C. Regional proposals consulted on for 2017/2018

The bullet points below note the approval ratings for each of the regional proposals. Further information about responses can be found in section 5.

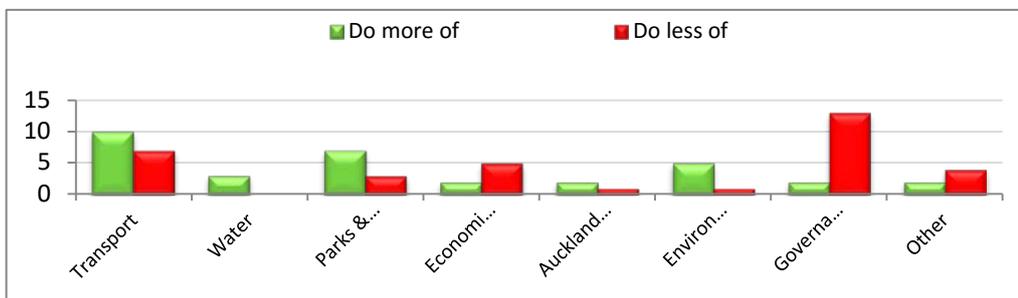
- **Issue 1: Rates increases**

Of the 199 people in Mangere-Otahuhu Local Board that gave feedback on this proposal: 45% (89 respondents) indicated that council have the balance about right with a 2.5% rates increase. Doing less with a lower rates increase received 41% support (82 respondents) and doing more with a higher rates increase received 14% support (27 respondents), one response made another comment "Businesses need a reasonable, transparent and stable approach to rates". 11 people had no response.

Verbatim comments:

- In support of 2.5% rates increase:
 - *"There are households who would not be able to afford much more than an increase of 2.5%"*
 - *"Robust review of effectiveness of expenditure against intended outcomes"*

- In support of a lower rates increase:
 - *“I don't agree there should be a rate increase as it is too high already. Our young and older demographics are struggling already.”*
 - *“Rates increase will put more pressure on people on lower salaries as it will drive up cost of living, without increasing wage”*
- In support of a higher rates increase:
 - *“Based on our current population we are already in a tight squeeze with housing and sandals.”*
- When asked what rates should be spent on, people indicated they would like council to do more towards transport (10 respondents), parks & community (7 respondents) and environment & regulation (5 respondents), and do less towards government & support (13 respondents) and transport (7 respondents).



Verbatim comments:

- In support of do more towards transport:
 - *“Infrastructure - public transport, CRL, train to the airport”*
 - *“Investment in infrastructure - City rail link, rail to the airport, second harbours crossing etc.”*
 - *“Public transport - we have years of underinvestment to catch up on, especially trains.”*
- In support of do more towards parks & community:
 - *“Maintenance on parks”*
 - *“Better community facilities, sports and recreation parks”*
 - *“More safe playgrounds for the community and safer areas for the kids”*
- In support of do more towards environment & regulation:
 - *“Protecting heritage places, streetscapes, landscapes and archaeological sites.”*
 - *“Clean-up of local water areas.”*
 - *“Better advertised volunteer clean up days”*
- In support of do less towards government & support:
 - *“staffing in Liaising positions duplication within areas staffing in community events that can be organised by locals with some funding but cut staff I have to run my organisation without increases so can council my staff in an NGO have not had pay rises for years & last year took less to get through as income reduced staff cannot get raises as they are servants & working for the community”.*

- *“Lower overheads and administration. Staff costs, staff BBQs. Non-core campaigns that has the majority of ratepayers cringing.”*
- In support of do less transport:
 - *“Make new roads narrower”*
 - *“Less road works or speed up the process for easier traffic”*
- **Issue 2: Rating stability**
Most respondents (63%) agreed that businesses and residential ratepayers should receive the same rates increase in 2017/2018.

- **Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion**

66% of respondents agreed that the Council budget for tourism promotion should be funded from a targeted rate on accommodation providers.

- **Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure**

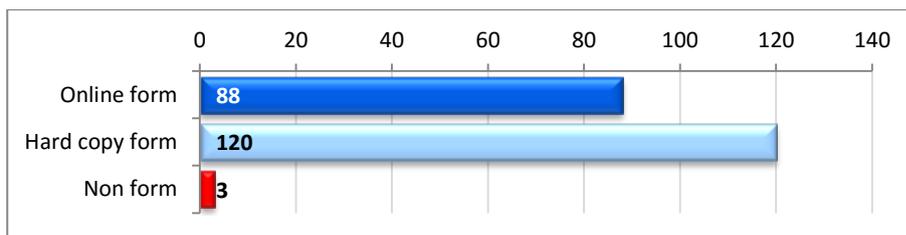
Most respondents (60%) agree with the proposed change the Council’s funding policy to allow for the use of targeted rates to fund new housing developments.

Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage

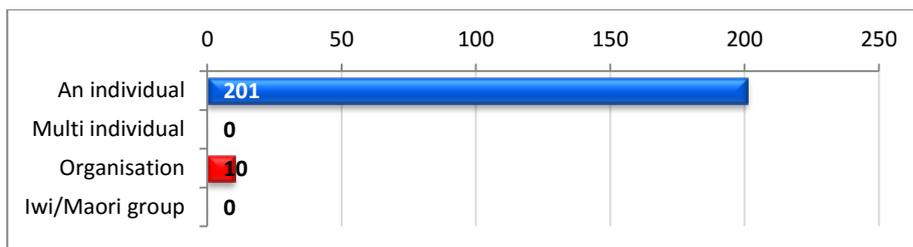
Most respondents (67%) agree with implementing a living wage policy over the council term ending October 2019 to ensure all council staff can afford their basic living costs. This would be funded from improved productivity and retention and from existing budgets.

3. Context

- A. This report is being provided to the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu 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. Most feedback on Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board local proposals and on regional proposals from the local area was received via the hard copy form:

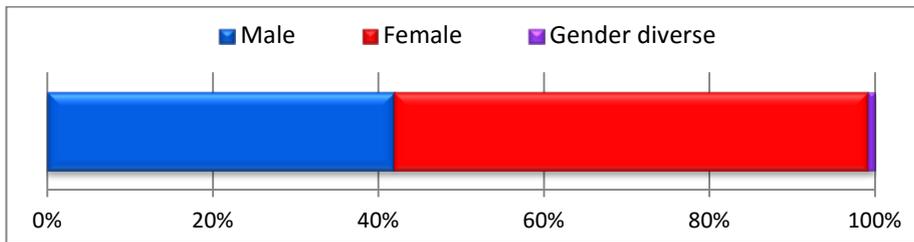


- C. Most feedback on the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board local proposals and on regional proposals in the local area were received via individuals as shown below:



D. Responses are demographically categorised in terms of gender, age and ethnicity below:

Gender: Out of a total of 199 respondents, there were 43% (85 males), 57% (114 females) and gender diverse) 0%.



Age: The table below shows age category, number of respondent and percentage.

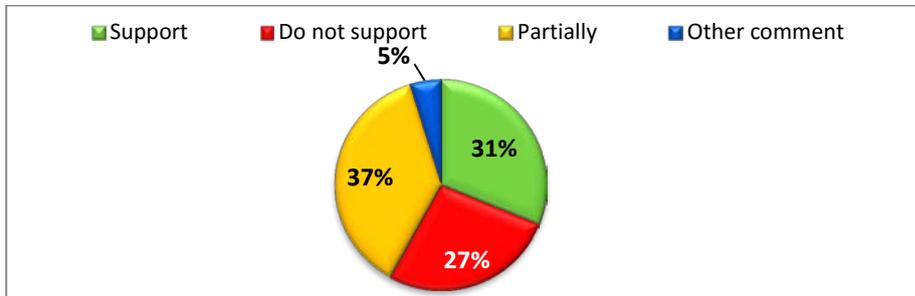
Age	Number	%
<15	3	2%
15-24	40	20%
25-34	29	15%
35-44	33	17%
45-54	38	19%
55-64	32	16%
65-74	18	9%
75 +	5	3%
Total	198	

Ethnicity: The table shows ethnic category, number of respondent and percentage

Ethnicity	Number	%
European	61	32%
Maori	38	20%
Pacific	96	50%
Asian	17	9%
African/Middle Eastern/Latin/NZder/Kiwi/Other	5	2%
Total providing ethnicity	192	113%

E. Feedback received on the local proposals

1. All local board priorities: Most submitters either support (31%) or partially support (37%) the board's key priorities



2. Local Board advocacy: The Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board online document sought feedback on whether it has the following priorities right: *“community education and awareness for waste reduction, removal of mangroves, developing safe cycle and walkways and supporting social enterprise initiatives”* as shown on the table below.

Advocacy points	Total number of comments	Support	Not support	Partially support	Other
• community education and awareness for waste reduction	94	72	13	4	5
• removal of mangroves	91	43	23	21	4
• developing safe cycle and walkways	8	0	6	2	0
• supporting social enterprise initiatives	94	51	16	24	3

Most comments were received on the following two key themes: *local community education and awareness for waste reduction and supporting social enterprise initiatives.*

Community education and awareness for waste reduction:

Verbatim comments:

- *“Rubbish bags are being replaced by bins, so some pointers would be great*
- *“Education around waste reduction is the best way to help it improve besides making it accessible”*
- *“I like the fact that there are going to be waste bins provided out here in the South Auckland areas but we are bigger users & have a number of whanau functions where we will have heaps of rubbish. This will lead to people “dumping” their rubbish in vacant lots etc. *Inorganic needs to be better advertised as people are “dumping” their rubbish all over the place.”*

Supporting social enterprise initiatives:

Verbatim comments:

- *“Social enterprise offer low income job only. Other high value enterprise is also needed.”*
- *“Essentially: some yes, some no. Each should be considered in light of whether or not the initiative is in line with council core activities.”*

- *“Empower locals to start their own businesses based on their talents. This needs to be supported by teaching locals about how to start a business, how to run a business, how to start a trust. What is the best option for them to apply for funding? This information is NOT common knowledge in our communities and there needs to be better support to get our communities to fly!”*

4. Overview of feedback received on regional proposals from Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area

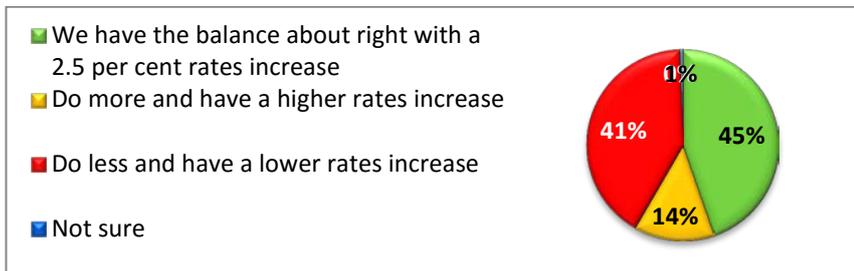
The consultation on the proposed annual budget focused on five key issues, Issue 1: Rates increases, Issue 2: Rating stability, Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion, Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure and Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage. The written feedback received from the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu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

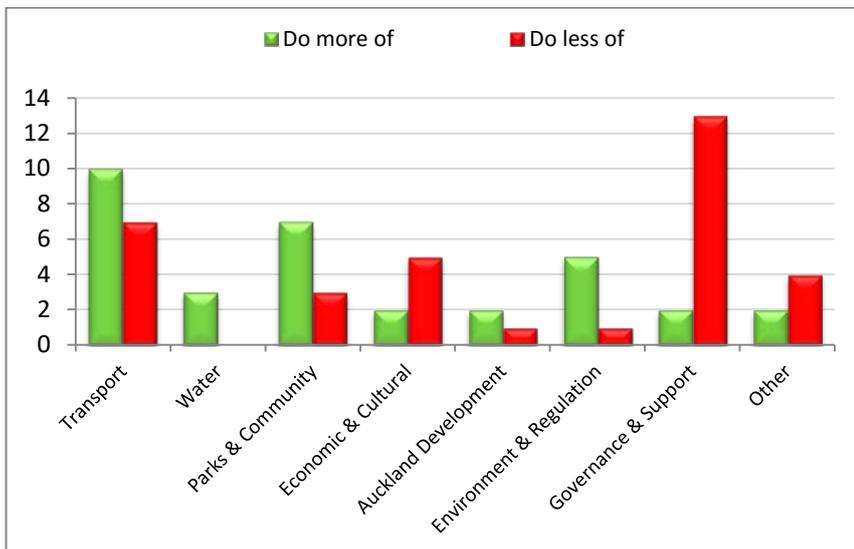
Aucklanders were asked if we have the balance right with a 2.5 per cent average rates increase or should we have a higher rates increase (3.5 per cent) and do more or a lower rates increase (2 per cent) and do less.

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 Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area.



The graph below identified submitters indicating their preferences for council to do more or less according to themes.

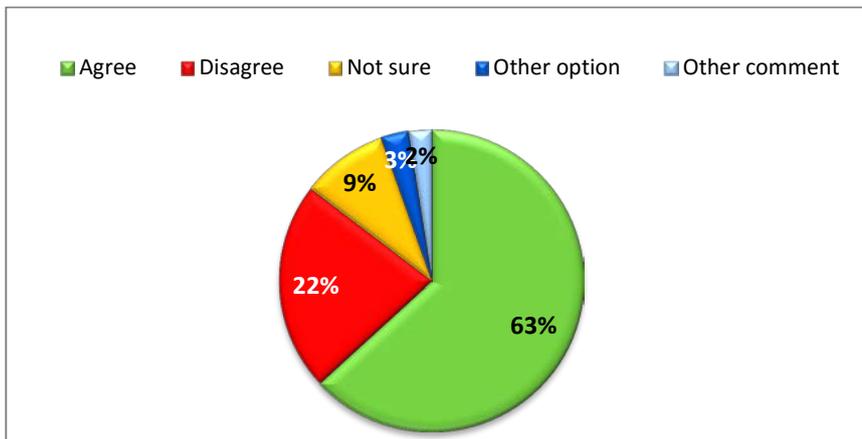


Issue 2: Rating stability

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?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area.

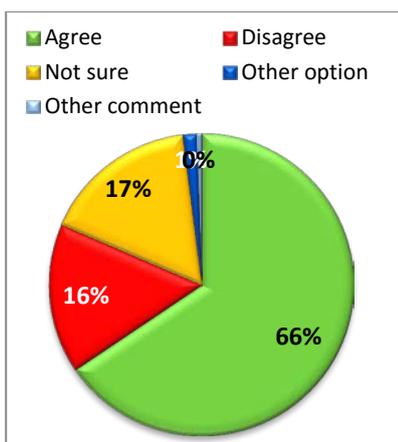


Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion

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?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area.

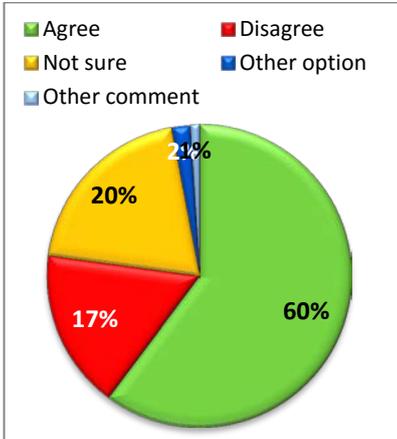


Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure

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 Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area.

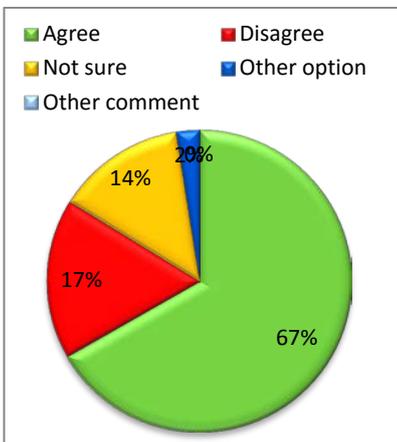


Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage

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?

The graph below gives an overview of the responses from the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area.



5. More feedback on local topics

There were numerous feedback points from people living in Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area related to the following key themes:

Community education and awareness for waste reduction

- *“I fear that the upcoming changes will result in more illegal dumping.”*
- *“Waste of money. Change behaviour through nudging.”*
- *“It is OUR Community - revert to Be A Tidy Kiwi. No rubbish in streams, on roads.”*
- *“Already well publicised. If rubbish removal was cheaper there would be less dumping”*

- *“Waste reduction is a feel good useless gesture when the entire neighbourhood is drowning in litter casually discarded wherever is convenient rather than into trash receptacles. Educating the community to reduce littering in communal areas would be a much more commendable goal”*

Removal of mangroves

- *“Encourage removal and remove all the bureaucratic restrictions (such as height) and help local organizations to really deal with the problem”*
- *“What are they being replaced with? Why not remove rubbish at the same time. In 2016 the Mangere Inlet had mangroves removed but the road comes etc. in amongst was left?!”*
- *“We need to develop our foreshore in particular in Otahuhu”*
- *“Waste of money. They grow back anyway and the areas they grow in are polluted anyway. They create an ecosystem that attracts birdlife.”*
- *“These are a menaces”*

Developing safe cycle and walkways

- *“Along with public transport this is important for alternate transport and is very attractive to residents and visitors.”*
- *Agreed with walkways where appropriate. Cycle ways are a sop to the noisy upper-middle class and MAMILS. They will never be cost-justifiable. Linkages with the national cycle ways to the north and south are about all I can justify in my own mind.”*
- *“Need more access to safe cycle ways and walkways”*
- *I support the "safety" of them but not to the detriment of parking for buses. There are not enough people using these cycle ways.”*
- *“We need safe cycle ways to encourage cycling. Keep kids safe.”*

Supporting social enterprise initiatives

- *“Essentially: some yes, some no. Each should be considered in light of whether or not the initiative is in line with council core activities.”*
- *“Fundraising brings groups together not handouts”*
- *“It’s essential to have a sense of community and connecting with others”*
- *“Rather than increasing rates to spend on a project, how about making it easier to do business in this city, and reduce the cost/compliance burden? If you think about the logical result of this, more social enterprise will start of its own accord, and once started, be more successful.”*
- *“Engage with our Taurahere but we are the second largest tribe in Tamaki”*

6. Feedback on other regional proposals with a local impact

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

