

# Annual Budget 2017/2018 consultation feedback report for Upper Harbour Local Board

## 1. Purpose

- A. This report summarises all feedback received through the Annual Budget 2017/2018 consultation on Upper Harbour Local Board proposals. It also summarises feedback on the regional proposals from people or organisations based in the Upper Harbour Local Board area.
- B. The purpose of this report is to inform the Upper Harbour 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 Upper Harbour Local Board Plan 2014.
- C. The feedback received will inform the Upper Harbour Local Board decisions on allocation of their local budgets in their local board agreement for 2017/2018. It will also inform the Upper Harbour 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, 218 were submissions from people living in Upper Harbour Local Board area or concerning Upper Harbour Local Board local proposals.

### A. Upper Harbour Local Board local proposals consulted on for 2017/2018

- 1. expand the Community Hub in Albany into phase 2 of development
- 2. indoor sports facilities at Hobsonville Point
- 3. community sports village in Albany
- 4. new playgrounds in developing areas (e.g. Albany Heights)
- 5. toilet block in Unsworth Reserve
- 6. pest-free programme for Upper Harbour
- 7. mechanical edging in Upper Harbour parks
- 8. Albany Park 'n Ride improvements
- 9. Gills Road footpath and link completion
- 10. the Avenue/Dairy Flat Highway intersection upgrade
- 11. Upper Harbour Drive/Albany Highway Intersection upgrade
- 12. develop the Rosedale landfill site
- 13. secure a long-term library for Upper Harbour.

## **B. Regional proposals consulted on for 2017/2018**

### **Issue 1: Rates increases**

Feedback indicates that the majority (54%) of local residents support a 2.5% rates increase, where 28% are of the opinion that the rates charge should be decreased.

### **Issue 2: Rating stability**

The majority of submitters (58%) believe that both businesses and residential ratepayers should receive the same rates increase. Those that disagree with the proposal total 21% of the submissions received for Upper Harbour

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

According to the submissions received, 75% of submitters are of the opinion that a targeted rate should be collected from accommodation providers rather than paying to promote tourism and major events from general rates. Fifteen percent of submitters disagree.

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

Feedback indicates that 62% of submitters agree, and 14% disagree, that council should change its funding policy to allow for infrastructure for new housing developments to be funded through a targeted rate.

### **Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage**

The majority of submitters (56%) believe that council should implement a living wage policy over the council term ending October 2019, whereas 29% disagree.

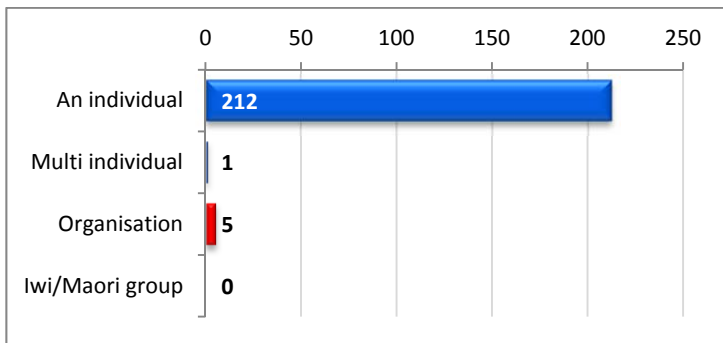
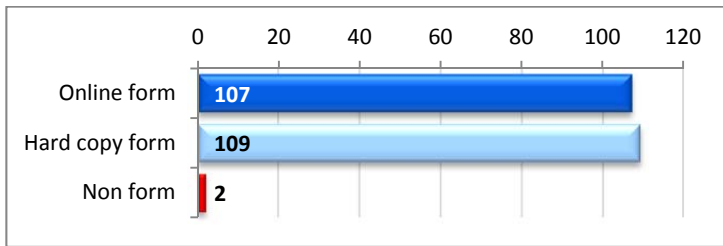
## **C. Other feedback (on any other proposals and/or other local issues)**

Other feedback received indicates that Transport, and in particular parking and public transport, is still a major concern and it is felt that council should be doing more to rectify the problem.

## **3. Context**

- A. This report is being provided to the Upper Harbour 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 Upper Harbour Local Board local proposals and on regional proposals from the Upper Harbour Local Board area was received through:
- Written feedback – 161 online, post, non-post and email feedback forms were received
  - People's Panel – 55 feedback forms were received
  - Social media – 2 feedback points were received through social media channels

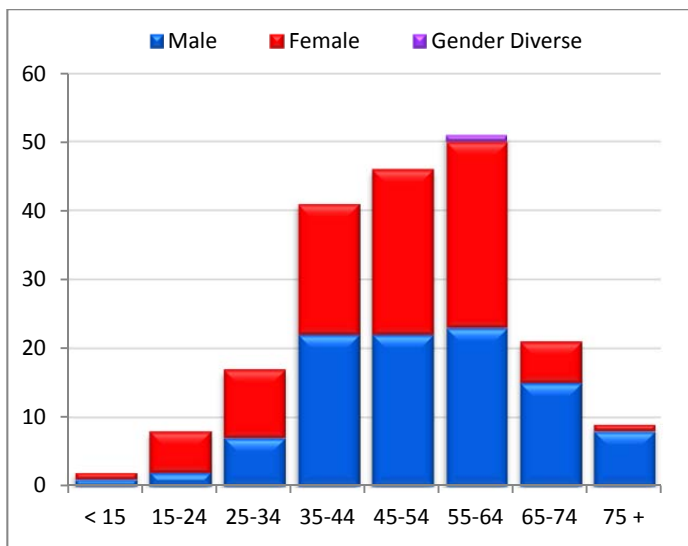
The graphs below depict the breakdown of the feedback received.



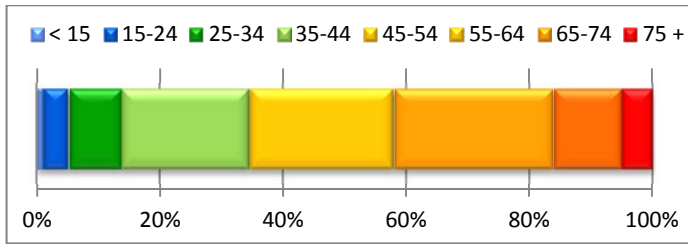
#### 4. Feedback received on the local proposals

The demographics of the Upper Harbour Local Board area submitters are reflected in the graphs below.

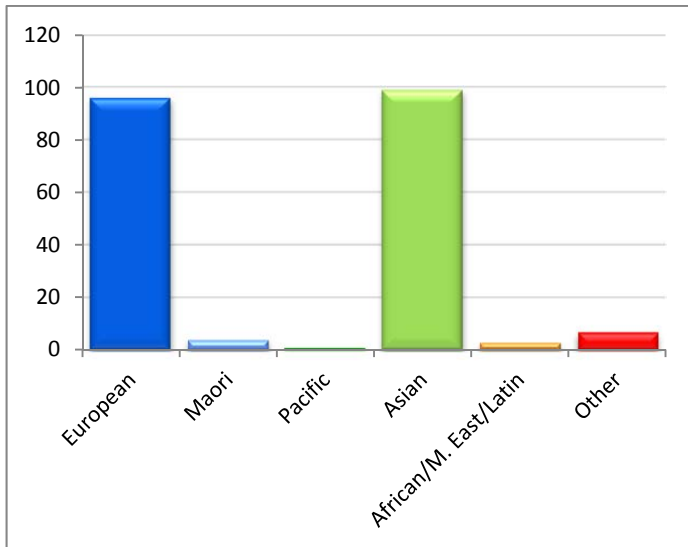
##### Gender



## Age



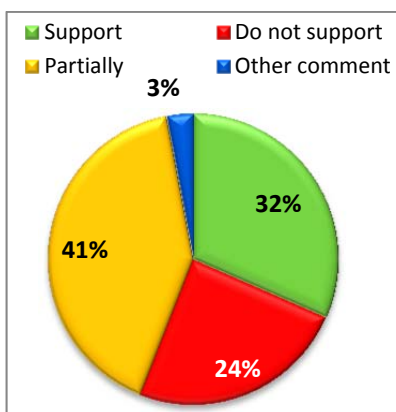
## Ethnicity



## Written feedback received

Of the 218 submitters, 123 provided comment on the initiatives proposed by the local board. Sixty nine submissions (41%) partially agreed with the local board's initiatives.

The graph below indicates the proportions of support, non-support, partial support and other comments.



The two key themes across all feedback received were:

- An agreement with a pest free Upper Harbour – 59 submitters
- The requirement for additional parking at Park 'n Rides, both Albany and Constellation – 49 submitters

Only eight submissions were received relating to the other 11 initiatives listed.

## 5. Overview of feedback received on regional proposals from Upper Harbour Local Board area

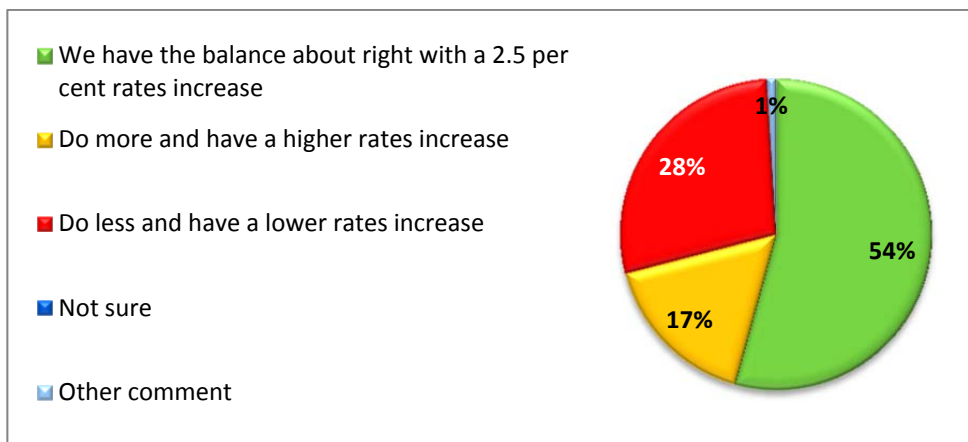
The consultation on the proposed annual budget focused on five key issues, Issue 1: Rates increases, Issue 2: Rating stability, Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion, Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure and Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage. The written feedback received from the Upper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

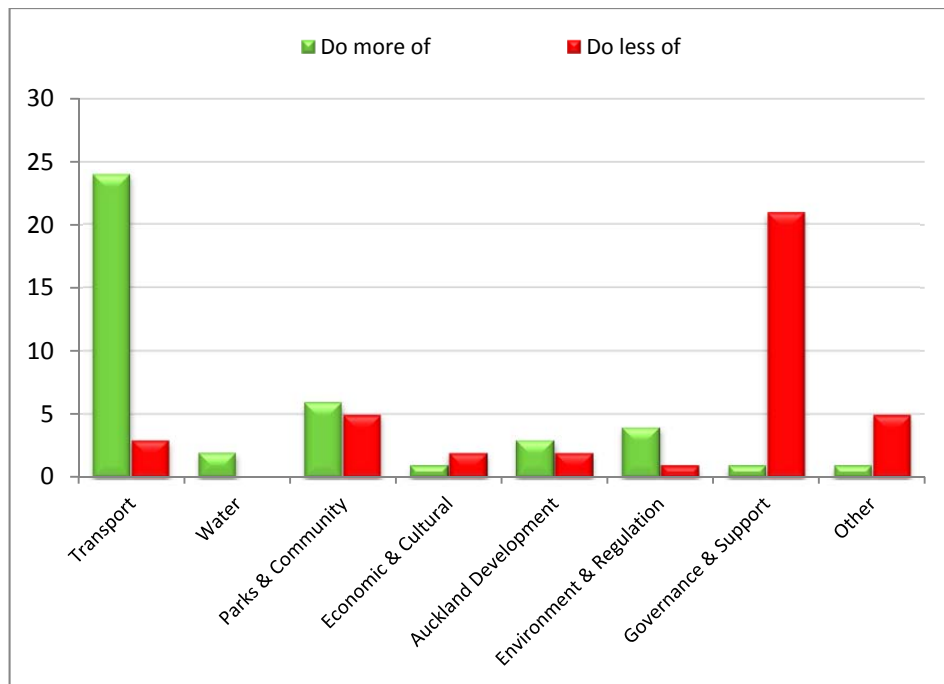
### Issue 1: Rates increases

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 Upper Harbour Local Board area.



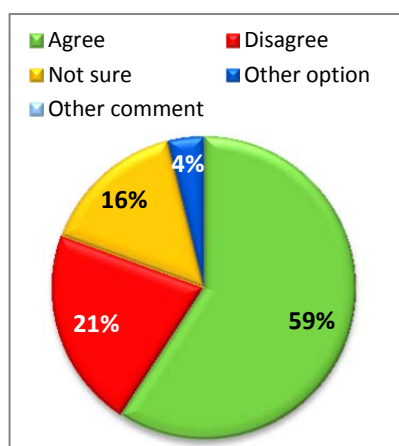


### Issue 2: Rating stability

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?**

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

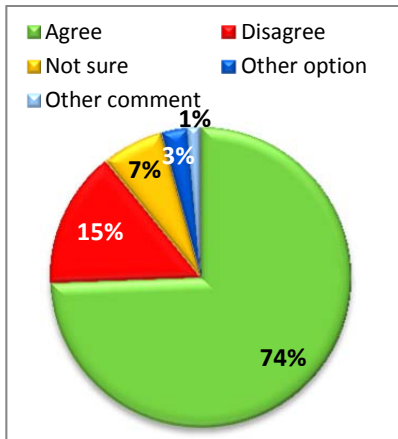


### Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion

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 Upper Harbour Local Board area.

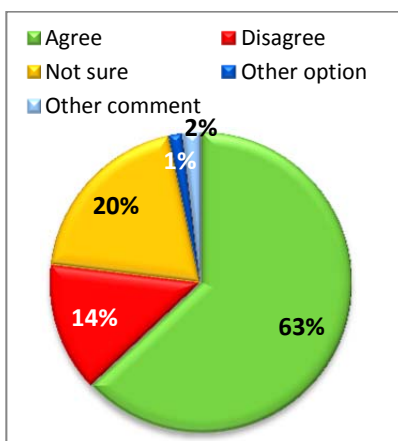


**Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure**

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 Upper Harbour Local Board area.

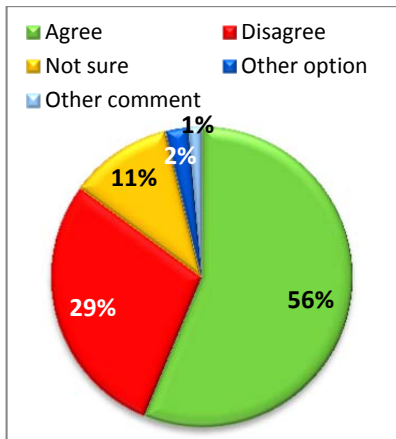


**Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage**

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 Upper Harbour Local Board area.



## 6. Feedback on other topics

Key themes across feedback received on other topics include:

- Homelessness
- Economic growth and visitor economy
- Financial Strategy