

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

## 1. Purpose

- A. This report summarises all feedback received through the Annual Budget 2017/2018 consultation on Whau Local Board proposals. It also summarises feedback on the regional proposals from people or organisations based in the Whau local board area.
- B. The purpose of this report is to inform the Whau 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 Whau Local Board Plan 2014.
- C. The feedback received will inform the Whau Local Board decisions on allocation of their local budgets in their local board agreement for 2017/2018. It will also inform the Whau 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, 160 were submissions from people living in Whau Local Board area or concerning Whau Local Board local proposals.

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

The board proposed that it would like to do more towards

1. Avondale's town centre development
2. encouraging innovative business and better jobs
3. promoting the value of our trees and increasing their protection
4. attracting and developing more local entrepreneurs and new migrant business
5. support more local community leadership and activities especially for Whau river access and its restoration
6. encourage awareness and protection of our local community heritage.

34% of responders supported the board's priorities and further 49% gave partial support. Nineteen submitters gave feedback on particular aspects including supporting Avondale's redevelopment, footpath and path improvements.

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

#### Issue 1: Rates increases

Feedback shows most local people who responded agree with a 2.5% increase (57%) followed by 23% supporting a higher rates increase. Many supported increased investment in transport infrastructure.

## **Issue 2: Rating stability**

104 residents of the Whau provided feedback with 73% of local people agreeing with Council's proposal pausing the reduction of the share of the rates that businesses pay, 15% disagreed and 11% were not sure.

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

84% of the feedback from local residents agreed with Council freeing up general rates through a targeted rate on commercial accommodation providers, with only 8% disagreeing.

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

68% of the 104 local responders agreed with Council changing its policy to allow for use of targeted rates to pay for infrastructure for new housing developments. 12% disagreed and 18% were not sure.

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

Two thirds of the 102 Whau residents who provided feedback supported the proposal for Council to implement a living wage policy funded from savings.

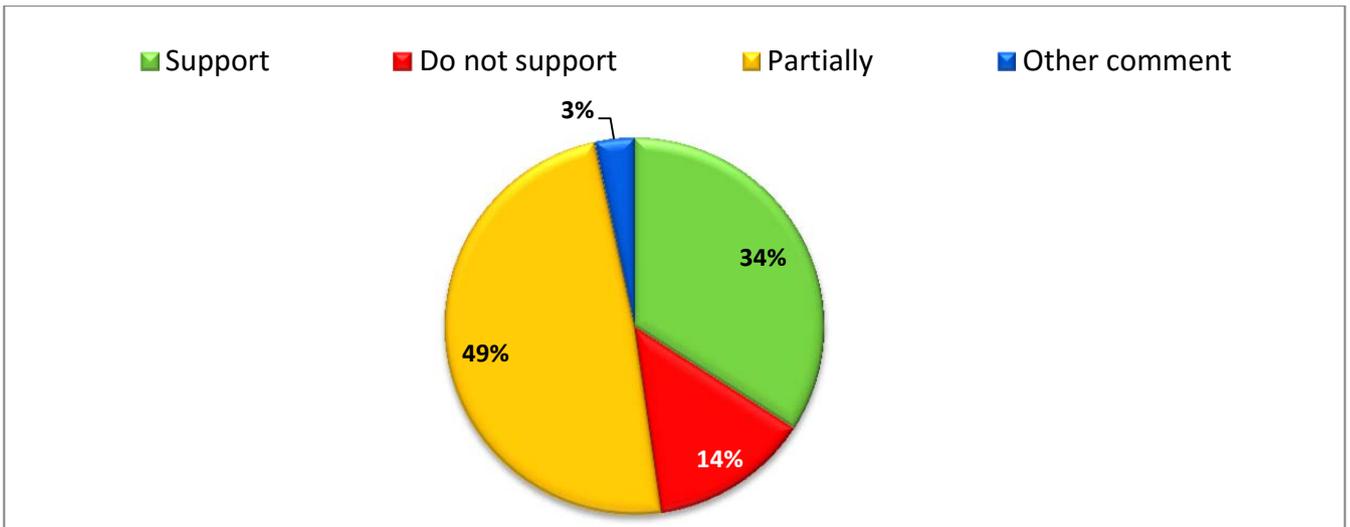
## **3. Context**

- A. This report is being provided to the Whau 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 Whau Local Board local proposals and on regional proposals from the Whau Local Board area was received through 159 feedback forms from individuals and one organisational submission.

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

- A. Seventy submitters provided feedback on the Board's priorities with a further nineteen providing comments.
- B. The comments ranged widely with the most comments received were nine supporting Avondale town centre's development
- C. Other comments were supporting footpath and path improvements.

The graph below give an overview of the responses from the Whau Local Board area.



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

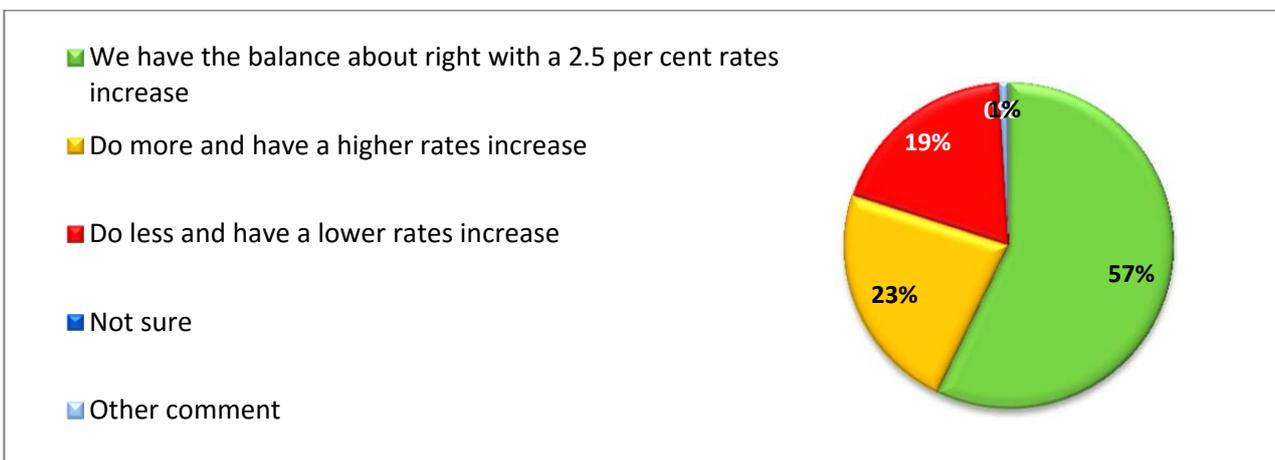
The consultation on the proposed annual budget focused on five key issues, Issue 1: Rates increases, Issue 2: Rating stability, Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion, Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure and Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage. The written feedback received from the Whau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

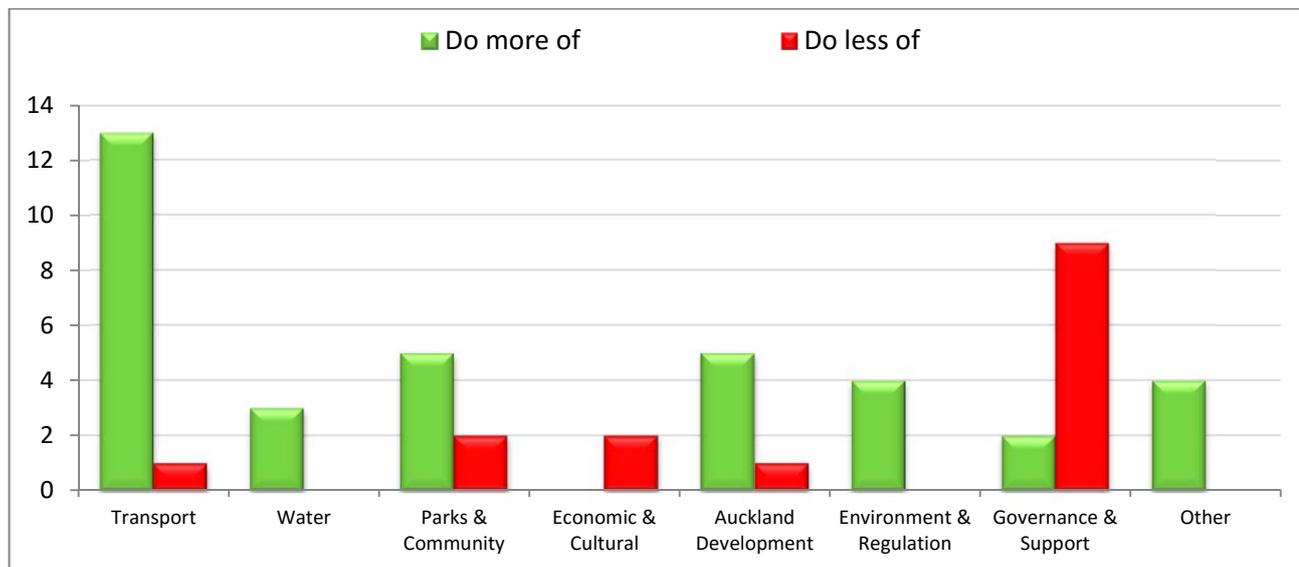
Aucklanders were asked if we have the balance right with a 2.5 per cent average rates increase or should we have a higher rates increase (3.5 per cent) and do more or a lower rates increase (2 per cent) and do less.

**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 graph below gives an overview of the responses from the Whau Local Board area.



Depending on the submitters response they were asked what Council should do more or less of. Whau residents responses are graphed below coded to Council’s activity areas.

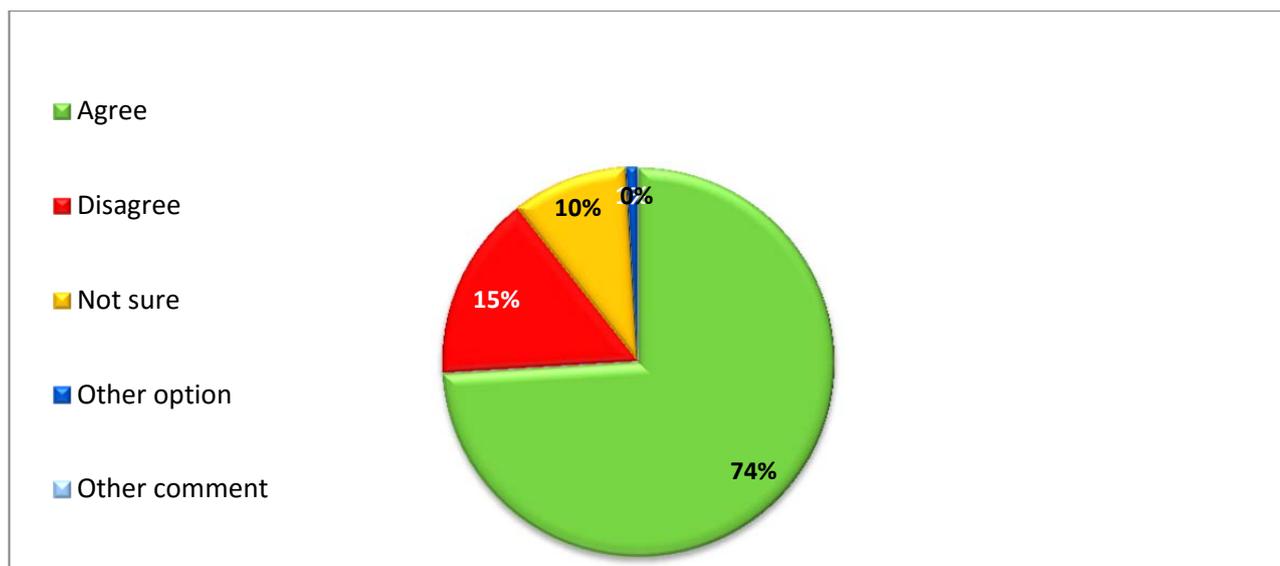


### Issue 2: Rating stability

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 Whau Local Board area.

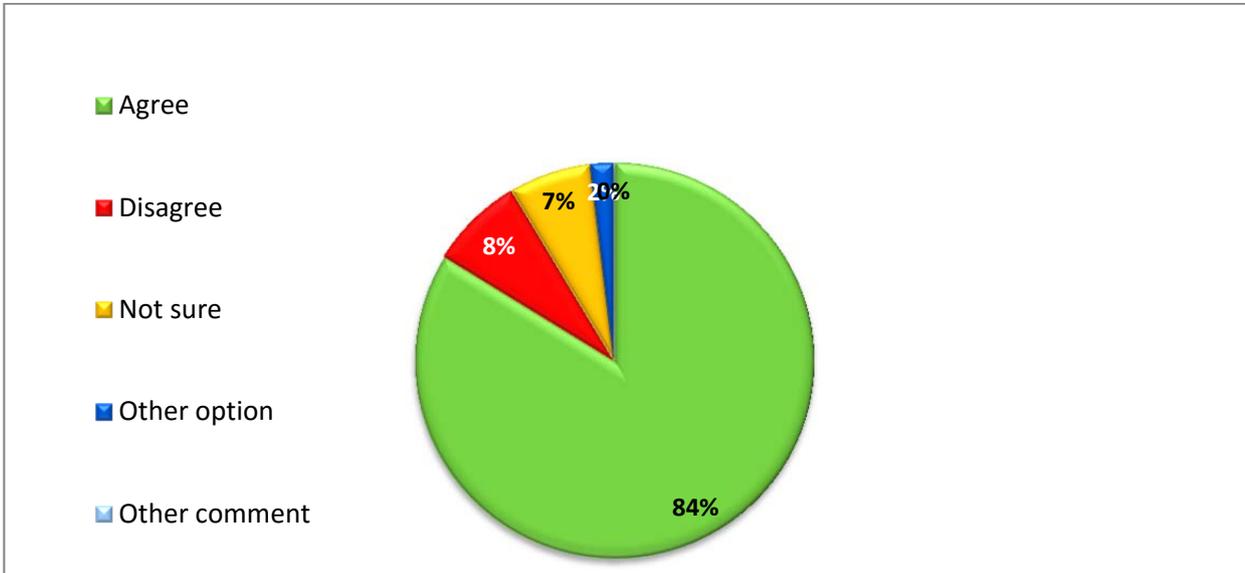


### Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion

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 graph below give an overview of the responses from the Whau Local Board area.

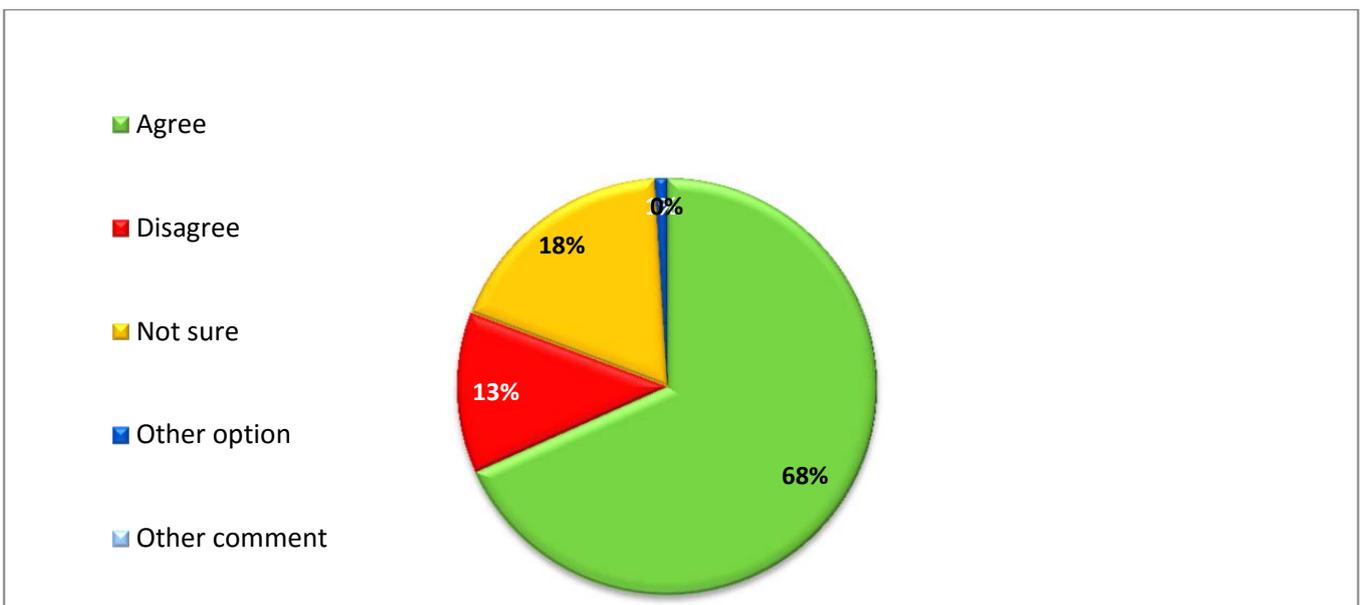


**Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure**

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 Whau Local Board area.

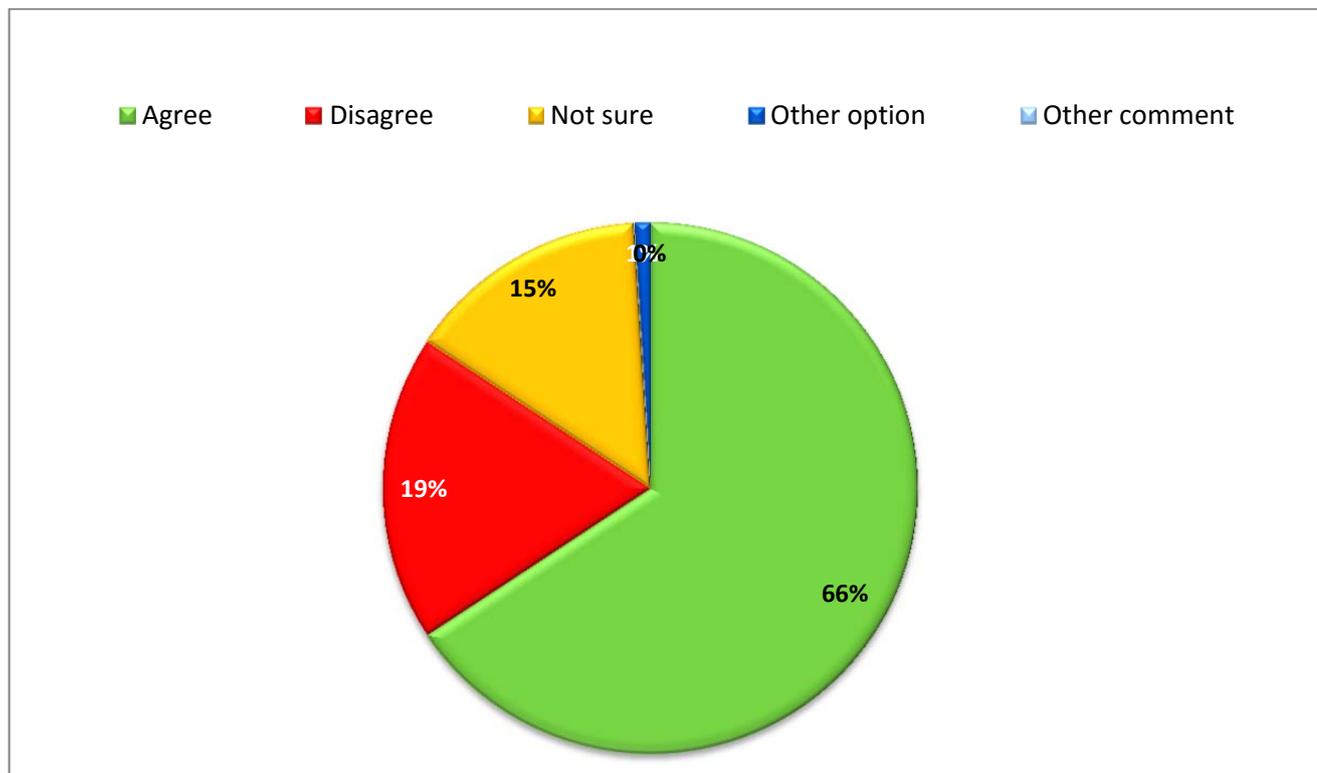


### Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage

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?**

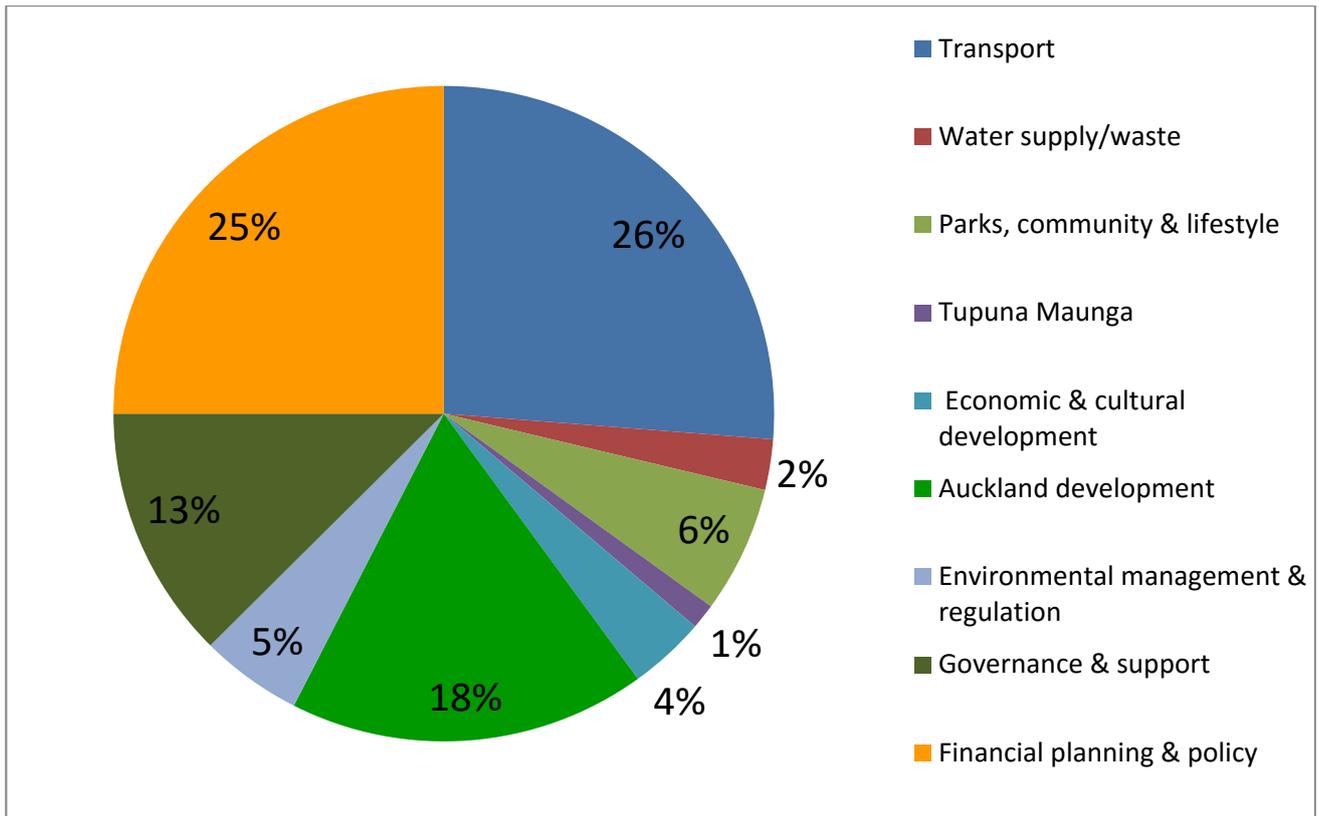
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### Other regional concerns

80 comments were made by Whau residents regarding regional themes and they ranged widely in topics.

The graph below displays the range.



Most of these were in four main areas, transport (26%) , Financial planning and policy (25%), Auckland's development (18%) and Governance and support (13%).

The key comments in transport were regarding footpath maintenance and quality, Bus service improvements and general comments on public transport.

With regard to Council's financial planning and policy the focus was on Council's overall financial strategy, the desire for council to focus on core services and the cost of staff.

The majority of the comments regarding Auckland's development were regarding homelessness. This was in line with the region's top theme of homelessness with 340 comments received.

The comments regarding Governance and support ranged widely including comments on the CCO review, the IMSB and the mayoral office.