

Annual Budget 2017/2018 Consultation Feedback Summary for Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Purpose

1. This is a summary overview of feedback received through the Annual Budget 2017/2018 consultation on Waitākere Ranges Local Board proposals. It includes feedback on the regional proposals from people or organisations based in the Waitākere Ranges local board area.
2. The summary will inform the local board of the views of their local community on the annual proposals. This will build on the board's understanding of community priorities and preferences as established in the development of the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2014.
3. The feedback received will inform local board decisions upon allocation of local budgets in their local board agreement for 2017/2018. It may also inform the Waitākere Ranges 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.

Executive Summary

4. Out of the 8058 submissions received on the Annual Budget 2017/2018, 222 were submissions from people living in Waitākere Ranges Local Board area or concerning Waitākere Ranges Local Board local proposals.
5. Submitters were able to comment on all or some of the questions and items asked within the consultation framework. This means that the total responses made to individual questions may not equal 222, and that any percentages expressed are in relation to the total number of responses received to an individual question.
6. A number of substantive submissions on a variety of subjects were made and have been circulated separately for information of the members.

Context

Waitākere Ranges Local Board local proposals consulted on for 2017/2018

7. Waitākere Ranges Local Board did not propose to make any major changes to what was signalled in the second year of the Long-term Plan 2015-2025. Instead, it indicated that it would like to do more towards:
 - Focusing on the health of the Waitākere Ranges
 - Support our villages to be more sustainable and resilient
 - Encouraging local communities to maintain parks as spray free
 - Improving our small urban parks

- Our marine environment and coasts being better understood, celebrated and protected
- Making sure that protecting our cultural and historic heritage is seen as a core value

Regional proposals consulted on for 2017/2018

8. The Consultation material also noted that ‘based on our 10-year budget, in 2017/2018 we plan to invest \$2.4 million to renew and develop assets in your local board area and \$9.8 million to maintain and operate these assets and provide other local initiatives. This includes:
 - Glen Eden town centre improvements (\$370,000)
 - Renewal of existing community assets
 - Huia seawall and domain improvements.

9. 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
 - Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage.

Overview of Feedback Received

Feedback Received on Local Proposals

10. Feedback was received in person at a formal ‘Have Your Say’ event on 9th March 2017, through written forms (including those submitted online), and/or through social media.

11. The written feedback received from the Waitākere Ranges 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.

12. The local proposals tested in consultation material, and the responses received, are set out in the table below.

Question	Total response	Yes	No	Other / Partial
In your option have we got our priorities right for this area in 2017 / 2018?	127	50	17	60

	Total response	Support	Do not support	Other
Focusing on the health of the Waitākere Ranges	5	5	-	-
Support our villages to be more sustainable and resilient	2	2	-	-
Encouraging local communities to maintain parks as spray free	-	-	-	-
Improving our small urban parks	1	1	-	-
Our marine environment and coasts being better understood, celebrated and protected	2	2	-	-
Making sure that protecting our cultural and historic heritage is seen as a core value	1	1	-	-

13. The Consultation material also noted that Based on our 10 year budget, in 2017/2018 we plan to invest \$2.4 million to renew and develop assets in your local board area and \$9.8 million to maintain and operate these assets and provide other local initiatives. The local proposals tested in consultation material, and the responses received, are set out in the table below.

	Total response	Support	Do not support	Not sure
Glen Eden town centre improvements (\$370k)	5	5	-	-
Renewal of existing community assets	-	-	-	-
Huia seawall and domain improvements	1	-	1	-

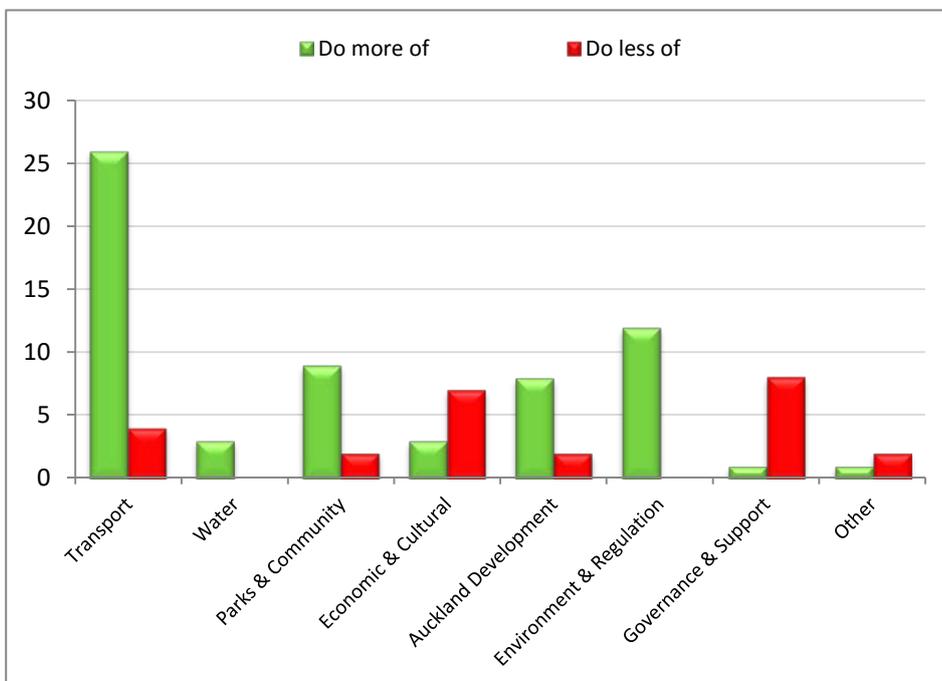
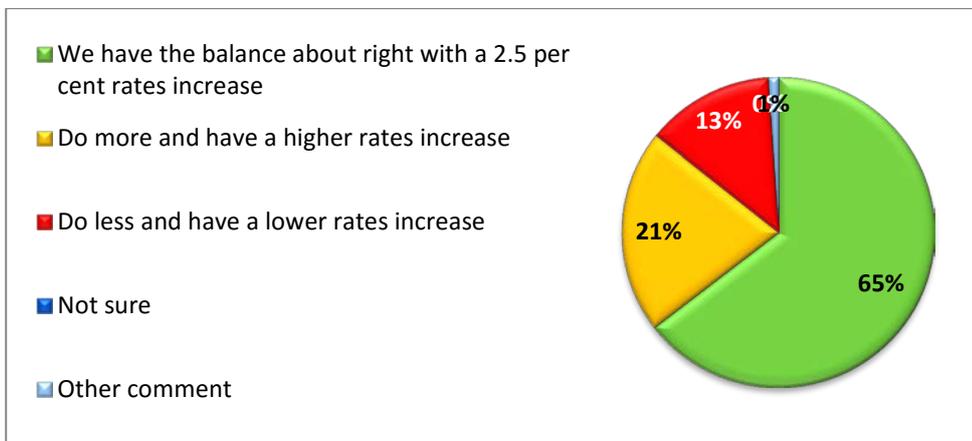
Local Feedback Received on Regional Proposals

Issue 1: Rates increases

14. 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 Waitākere Ranges Local Board area. Total response = 228.

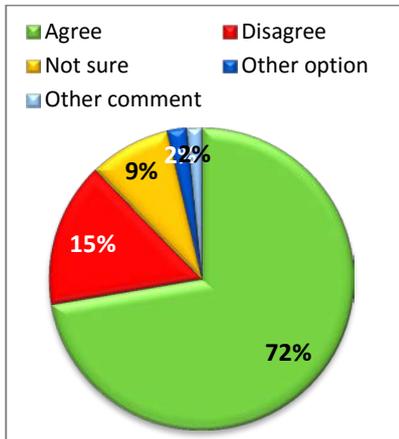


Issue 2: Rating stability

15. Aucklanders were asked if businesses should receive the same rates increase as residential ratepayers in 2017/2018. Total response = 50.

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 Waitākere Ranges Local Board area.

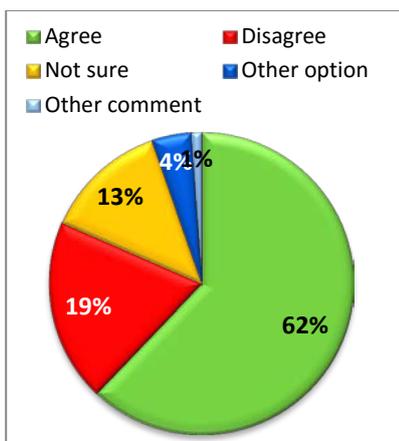


Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion

13. Aucklanders were asked if they agree or disagree with the proposed targeted rate on accommodation.

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 Waitākere Ranges Local Board area.



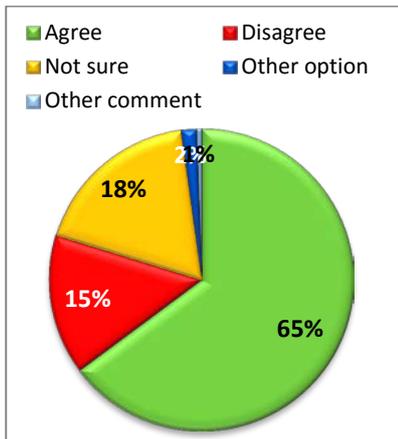
Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure

14. 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. Total response = 180.

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 Waitākere Ranges Local Board area.



Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage

15. 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. Total response = 202.

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 Waitākere Ranges Local Board area.

