
Analysis of submissions received on the Draft Upper Harbour Local Board Plan

Executive Summary

The consultation period for the Upper Harbour Draft Local Board Plan ended on 30 June 2017.

In total 391 submissions on the Upper Harbour Draft Local Board Plan were received by the close of submissions from residents, associations and groups including those from outside the Upper Harbour Local Board area. As a matter of interest, the following sporting codes that sent in a submission are:

- Squash Auckland
- North Harbour Softball
- Northern Football Federation
- Auckland Cricket Association
- Albany United Football Club
- North Harbour Gymnastics
- East Coast Bays Association Football Club
- Auckland Curling
- Waitakere City Football Club
- Tennis Northern
- Tennis Auckland
- North Harbour Volleyball Association
- Greenhithe Football Club

This report summarises the analysis of the feedback received from the submissions.

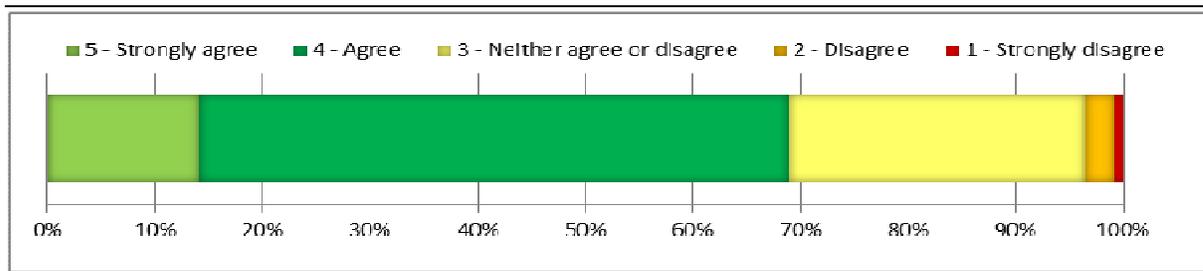
Submissions relating to the Draft Local Board Plan Priorities

Due to the mix in type of questions posed in the Local Board Plan feedback form, ranging from an open-ended question on overall direction, to prioritizing of various initiatives, the analysis of submissions was done according to the questions and then grouped by specific topics. Feedback on the overarching priorities was generally positive, submitters mostly opting to focus on specific projects or issues within the priorities. This was reflected in the significant numbers of non-responses for each question. For example, there were 120 non-responses for question 2, 193 for question 4, and 220 for question 5.

A summary of submissions for each question is given below.

Question 1: Do you think we are on the right track with our proposed local board plan?

There were 340 responses, discounting 23 non-responses, to this question. The overwhelming majority of submissions were supportive of the direction proposed in the draft plan, with 183 in agreement, and 47 in strong agreement. In comparison, there were only nine submitters who indicated disagreement, and three who strongly disagreed. While this question was on the overall direction of the draft local board plan, and thus no comment was necessary to answer it, 134 submitters provided comments as well. Please note that comments may contain more than one submission point, and are coded accordingly.



Sports and recreation facilities

Thirty three of the comments proffered for question 1 related to sports and recreation. 28 of these cited the emphasis given to sports and recreation facilities for their agreement or strong agreement with the draft local board plan.

“The foresight of the Upper Harbour Board in looking to provide quality sports facilities is essential to the future well-being of our community.”

One submitter neither agreed nor disagreed with the draft local board plan, but suggested the promotion of new recreation facilities, as well as the enhancement and relocation of existing ones to increase capacity, such as relocating Takapuna Cricket Club to allow Netball North Harbour to expand. Of the four comments that disagreed with the draft plan however, only one had actually disagreed due to the priority given to sports and recreation facilities.

“I agree that a healthy and active community is good, but this seems to focus too much on sports and sportsfields. There is not enough diversity in the current draft - especially for those of us who are not sports-nuts. We also need to recognise the older generation who are not into sports.”

The other three disagreed with the direction taken in the draft plan from a perceived lack of emphasis in providing sufficient sports infrastructure.

“More sports and recreational facility is required.”

Community

There were 18 comments voicing appreciation for the draft plan’s community focus and commitment to inclusiveness and community involvement. The importance of establishing connections between the various communities in the Upper Harbour area and building culture in the community was a common theme across many of the comments.

“I think that the ideas present in this proposal really target the needs and views of our community. The proposal really focuses on unity in the community and I think this is the basis of a great future.”

However, there were eight comments voicing concerns about the challenge of meeting the needs of a growing population with adequate infrastructure and service provision.

“The growth in housing and population requires a very strong focus on infrastructure and social amenities such as sporting infrastructure for a diverse society.”

There were also nine comments relating to ensuring sufficient facilities and services for all ages. Notably, many responses for subsequent questions reiterated the need for youth spaces and services.

“I think public transport should be improved and that there should be more **community facilities built for a range of ages.**”

Transport

There were 20 comments relating to transport submitted for question 1. Of the comments given for responses in disagreement with the direction of the draft plan, four of the 12 related to transport. However, all 20 comments were unanimous in the need for transport improvements, from improved public transport, more cycleways, the development of light rail, and increase in ferry services.

“I didn't pick "strongly agree" because I really wish Council or government would be seeking ways to develop city subway systems or put it on the agenda.”

Other topics

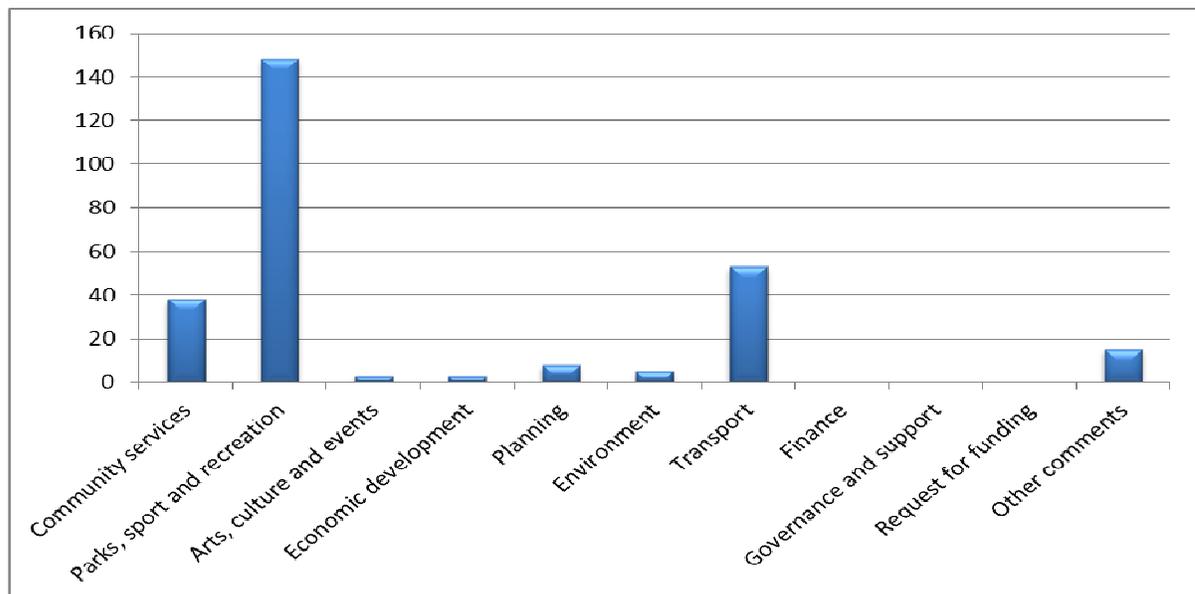
Other topics or issues of note were:

- approval of environmental initiatives, attracting 10 comments in support
- six comments that the draft local board plan was too vague or the submitter was unsure of the role and function of the local board
- a comment against a new library in Upper Harbour as the submitter felt that most people read online

“I think we should definitely improve sports indoor and outdoor but I disagree on having a new library because most people read online.”

Question 2: What is one thing you think is missing in the Upper Harbour area, which you feel is extremely important for the future?”

A total of 274 unique submission points were coded for this question, and there were 120 non-responses. Despite the open-ended nature of this question, consistent topics and issues could be gleaned from the comments to indicate the level of shortage affecting submitters.



The topic of parks, sports and recreation constituted the majority of submission points at 148, more than the rest of the topics put together. This was followed by transport with 53 submission points, and then community services at 38. Other topics received far fewer submission points, with planning at eight, environment at five, and economic development and arts, culture and events at three submission points each.

Parks, sport and recreation

The topic to receive the majority of submission points, the large majority of comments were for sporting facilities. Non-sports related comments included suggestions for more cycling tracks, skate parks, walking routes, and playgrounds, or for better maintenance of existing parks.

“We have amazing parks for sports. With the growing population, there is greater need to maintain our parks and provide opportunities for people to use these all the time.”

All comments relating to sport unanimously expressed the need for more facilities. Growth in either the general population or the popularity of the sport was often given as the reason for customer demand straining current capacity. There were 35 comments calling for an indoor sports facility, many citing the growing popularity of indoor sports, particularly basketball which alone accounted for 27 of the 35 comments on indoor facilities.

“More indoor sports facilities. I have been to several community facilities in the greater Auckland area and see that North Shore is definitely lacking especially for indoor basketball facilities. We need more indoor courts with good public viewing areas.”

A public, indoor pool for all ages attracted 15 comments.

“A public swimming pool. Please don't let it take another twenty years before we get one that's accessible for the rapidly growing Hobsonville community.”

The rest of the sports related comments were for multi-use facilities and all-weather artificial turf sportsfields and courts. Another common reason given for the need for such facilities was to provide youths a place to play

“A multi-faceted facility to keep youth engaged and involved in the community by offering a range of sport and other activities, both indoor and outdoor. A facility that can be used by a range of ages.”

Suggestions for facilities targeted at youths extended beyond just sportsfields and indoor courts however, numbering 22 comments in total. Other youth-focused suggestions included skate parks, arcades, youth drop-in centres and community services, such as programmes to teach emotional resilience. Some youth-related comments contained submission points for both parks, sport and recreation, as well as community services.

Community services

38 submissions points were ascribed to community services, though suggestions varied from the library to youth facilities and emergency care clinics. The library attracted 12 comments, most of which called for the library to play a bigger role in the community and occupy a larger space.

“A library in a more central location - much bigger to cover the growing Albany area/ Coatesville/ Greenhithe/ Hobsonville areas.”

The majority of comments however, were for more community services in general with some suggestions including free English classes, migrant support, woodworking classes and elderly care. There were 18 of such comments in total.

There were also five comments requesting more hospitals, medical centres and emergency care clinics, and five comments calling for a greater police presence or more police stations.

“More police. There is a lot of crime. The feeling of safety is being lost. Where is the hospital?”

Transport

Transport was the topic that next attracted the most comments after parks, sport and recreation, with 53 submission points. Of these, there were 12 comments for public transport improvement

including more bus stops and bus routes such as the northwest busway, and 11 for more parking at the Albany Park and Ride or in general. Train or light rail development for the North Shore was also mentioned, with five comments in total.

“Focus on roading and public transport - Light Rail NOT buses - and other physical infrastructure required to support the population growth.”

Specific transport related improvements suggested include:

- bike access between Clarks Lane and Squadron drive on the Western Side of Upper Harbour Motorway
- speed bumps to slow down cars along Tauhinu Road and some parts of Greenhithe Road
- More lanes to Rosedale Road to reduce traffic

Other topics

Other topics or issues of note were:

- One submitter suggested a community hub revolving around Māori tikanga that is also inclusive of all ethnicities and cultures
- One comment for greater support for freedom campers, more public dump stations and potable water fill stations
- Eight comments for environmental initiatives including environmentally friendly recycling and re-purposing programmes, protection of covenanted bush land, and nonchemical vegetation management of parks and streets.

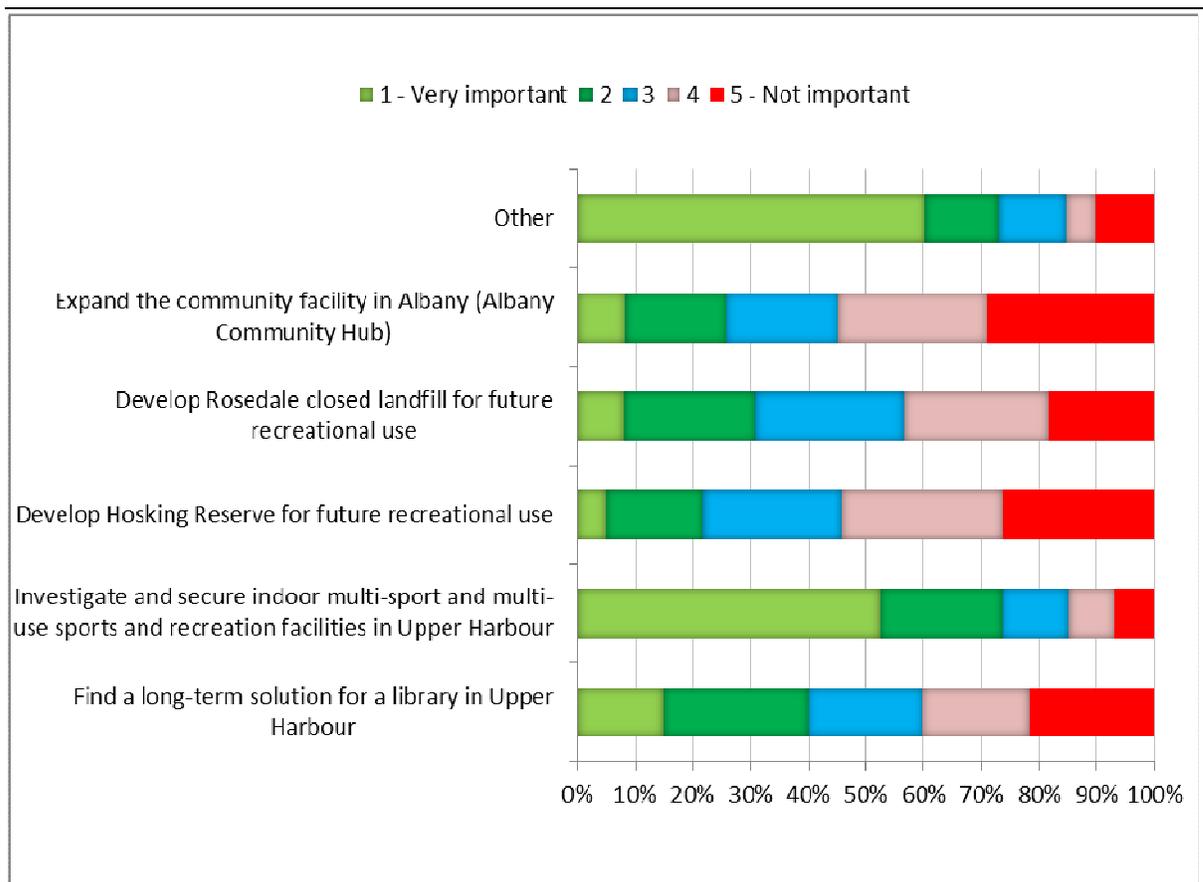
Question 3: Protecting our beautiful environment for all to enjoy

This question required the prioritisation or ranking of six initiatives, with the sixth one being an open-ended “Other”. The six initiatives were:

1. Find a long-term solution for a library in Upper Harbour
2. Investigate and secure indoor multi-sport and multi-use sports and recreation facilities in Upper Harbour
3. Develop Hosking Reserve for future recreational use
4. Develop Rosedale closed landfill for future recreational use
5. Expand the community facility in Albany (Albany Community Hub)
6. Other

39 submitters did not answer this question, and did not rank any of the initiatives. Some submissions had ranked or prioritised some initiatives, but left others blank. Non-responses by initiative are:

- Find a long-term solution for a library in Upper Harbour - 25
- Investigate and secure indoor multi-sport and multi-use sports and recreation facilities in Upper Harbour - 14
- Develop Hosking Reserve for future recreational use - 28
- Develop Rosedale closed landfill for future recreational use - 29
- Expand the community facility in Albany (Albany Community Hub) - 25
- Other - 31



Among the initiatives, the investigation and securing of indoor multi-sport and multi-use sports and recreation facilities in Upper Harbour was prioritised as the most important, reflecting the responses given to question 2. This initiative comprised close to half of all initiatives that had been ranked as the most important at 47%. The importance attributed to this initiative by the majority of submitters can be seen in the number of submissions that had ranked it lower in priority, progressively declining alongside the attributed relative importance. 60 submitters ranked this initiative as the second most important, 33 ranked it as the third most important, 22 ranked it as the fourth most important and 20 ranked it as the least important.

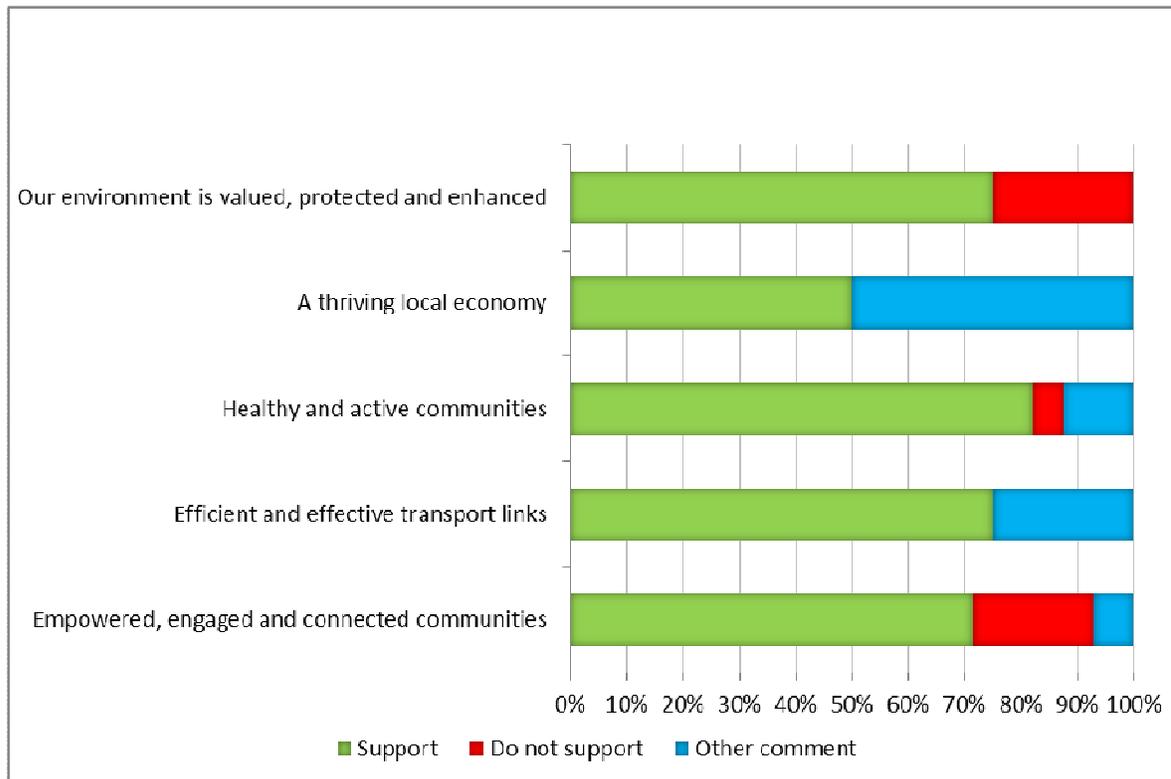
The next topic receiving the second largest number of votes as most important was the open ended “Other” option at 71 submitters. This topic comprised approximately a fifth of all initiatives that had been ranked as the most important at 23%. Comments given to support this choice by submitters were largely focused on sport, with 32 submitters calling for better sports facilities at Rosedale Park and Wainoni Park among others. 19 of the comments given were for transport improvements ranging from easing traffic congestion, better public transport and expanded parking at the Albany bus station Park and Ride.

Conversely the development of Hosking Reserve for future recreational use and the expansion of the Albany Community Hub were the two initiatives selected the most as “least important” among the five initiatives and the option to provide alternative suggestions, with 72 and 77 submitters out of a total 286 having ranked these two initiatives as such respectively. This comes out to a proportion of 25% and 27%, who had ranked the development of Hosking Reserve for future recreational use and the expansion of the Albany Community Hub respectively, among the responses selecting an initiative as least important.

Question 4: If you are proposing something new or extra, what should it replace (i.e. what project or key initiative should come out of the plan)?

Submitters were asked to suggest a project or initiative that should be taken out of the plan to accommodate their proposal, though many invariably simply reiterated their support for an initiative or project. The responses were categorised according to the five initiatives in the draft local board plan accounting for statements of support, suggestions for replacement or simply stand-alone statements. The majority of responses categorised under the five initiatives were statements of support as opposed to suggestions for replacements as the question had asked. The five initiatives were:

1. Empowered, engaged and connected communities
2. Efficient and effective transport links
3. Healthy and active communities
4. A thriving local economy
5. Our environment is valued, protected and enhanced



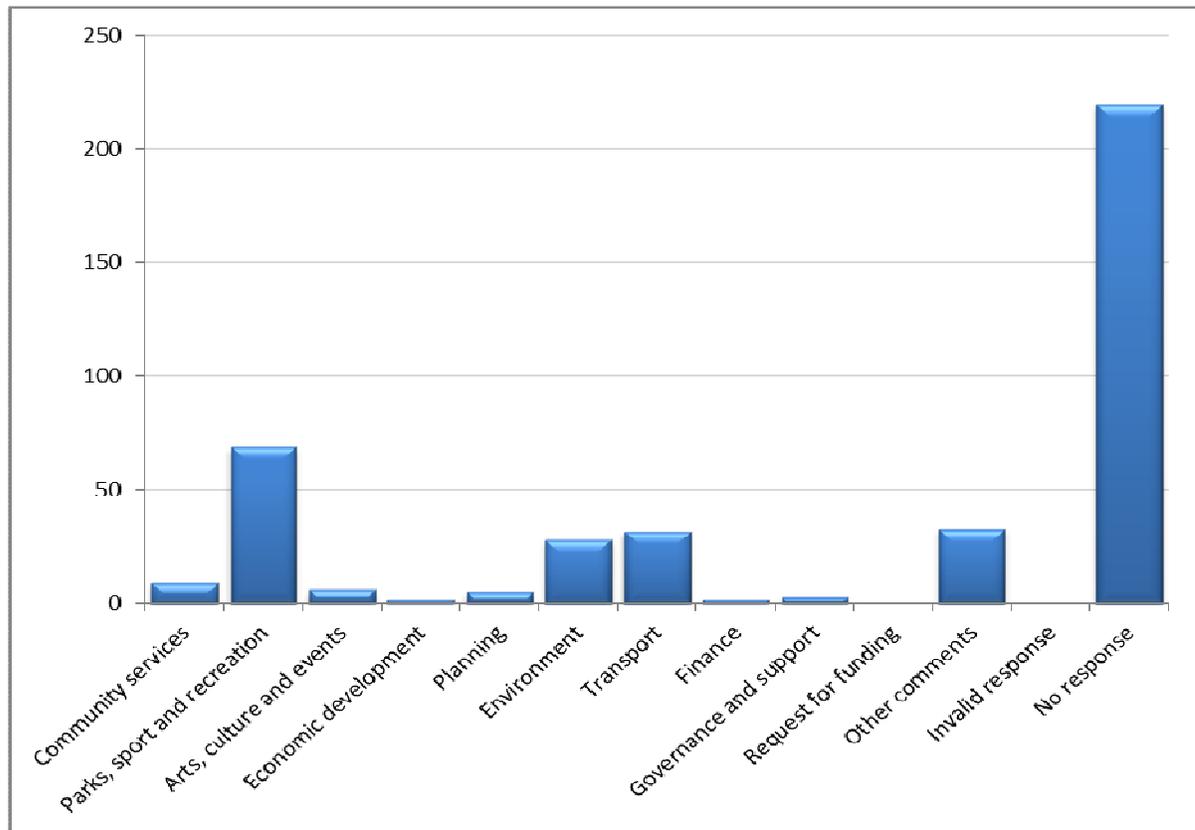
The majority of submitters left this question blank however. There were 193 non-responses to this question compared to 172 responses. Of the 172 responses, the majority were in support of the initiative of healthy and active communities with 60 responses.

Responses that fell outside of the five initiatives comprised the second largest group at 37, though around half of these were in support of all-weather courts at Rosedale Park North. Responses in support of empowered, engaged and connected communities made up the third largest group at 20, and responses on efficient and effective transport links were the fourth largest group at 12.

There was only one response relating to a thriving local economy which was a statement of support. Notably, among the five initiatives, efficient and effective transport links had no responses that were suggestions for replacement, only four responses that were simply stand-alone statements, indicating that all submitters that had answered question 4, under this initiative, were in favour of greater action.

Question 5: Do you have any further comments about our proposed local board plan?

Similar to question 2, this was another open-ended question. However, 220 submitters neglected to answer this question compared to 189 who did.



Sixty nine of the responses related to parks, sport and recreation, forming the majority with a proportion of 37%. The overwhelming majority were for more sports facilities, including indoor and multi-use, and the upgrading of existing parks such as Wainoni Park, Fred Taylor Park and Rosedale Park North. One exception was the response from Business North Harbour which requested access to research showing the wider community's priority for additional sporting fields and recreational facilities over commercial efficiency

The next largest group of responses were on transport, sharing the topics of better public transport, more parking and park and rides, and more cycleways. This is also reflected in the responses to question 2. 32 of the 189 responses were on transport. However, there was one request for street signs to also be in Te Reo Māori.

"Given Te Reo Māori is an official language in New Zealand, could all street signs be in English and Maori. Te Reo Māori is an official language of NZ, so therefore should be on official signage. / Tunnel under Harbour Bridge between North Shore and the City."

There were 28 responses related to the environment, with the majority of them, 17 responses, being an appeal to cease the spraying of chemical herbicides. The Tree Council also submitted a proposal to physically identify all scheduled trees in the local board area with a sign containing information about the tree, as well as the services it provides to the community such as stormwater and pollution treatment, increase of house values and improvement of mental health.

Conclusion

Submitters as a whole preferred to focus on specific projects or initiatives and this was reflected in the large proportion of non-responses to specific questions. The majority of submissions were supportive of the overall direction of the draft local board plan. Support for more sports facilities in

particular, was evident in the responses to the open-ended questions of 2, 4 and 5. Where dissatisfaction had been indicated with the draft plan's direction, this was largely with the extent, most submissions expressing that more should be done as opposed to something different.