

Feedback from the Ōrākei Local Board on the draft Auckland Plan Refresh Strategic Directions and Focus Areas

In general, the Ōrākei Local Board supports the work to date in developing the strategic directions and focus areas to achieve the six Auckland Plan outcomes:

- Belonging and Participation for All Aucklanders
- Opportunities and Prosperity for All
- Homes and Places for People
- Environment and Cultural Heritage Valued by All
- Access and Connectivity for Everyone
- Māori Identity and Well-being

These align well with the aspirations and themes of the 2017 Local Board Plan for Ōrākei. In the Local Board Plan there are five outcomes:

Outcome 1: Our local parks and open space areas are valued and enjoyed

Outcome 2: Our residents are proud of their community facilities and public places

Outcome 3: People can move around our area easily and safely

Outcome 4: The natural environment is valued, protected and enhanced by our communities

Outcome 5: A thriving economy which supports local businesses and town centres.

From the Auckland Plan refresh material presented at a workshop on 14 September the Ōrākei Local Board is mainly concerned with two outcomes: *Homes and Places for People & Environment and Cultural Heritage Valued by All*, and would like to provide the following feedback:

Homes and Places for People

Develop a quality compact city to accommodate Auckland's growth

The Board considers that the most important word in this strategic direction is “quality”, especially if the city is to become more compact. None of the focus areas seek to deliver this, apart from “quality” being applied to “existing and rental housing”. It should be an outcome for ALL types of development. Communities are more likely to embrace intensification if they have confidence that the built environment is attractive and enduring. There are significant negative economic, social and visual effects if low-quality buildings continue to be allowed to be built.

Environment and Cultural Heritage Valued by All

The *Environment and Cultural Heritage Valued by All* outcome is the outcome of most interest to the Ōrākei Local Board. The Board is concerned that “cultural heritage” seems to only be focussed on Māori cultural heritage, when there is a

wealth of European heritage that makes Auckland special. There is no other logical place in the Outcomes and Focus Areas to ensure it is also protected.

Presently there is conflict between the need to accommodate growth and the protection of these values. The accommodation of growth through the redevelopment of existing urban areas and the development of greenfield areas is occurring at the expense of our environment and our heritage. This needs to be better managed by more precise (as opposed to simply more) regulatory controls, including Unitary Plan provisions, and the concerted enforcement of consent conditions on new developments.

Excessive earth-working, poor silt control, reconfiguring waterways and overland flow paths, loss of habitat and the felling of significant trees to support more intensive residential developments seems to take priority. Current urban development practices are still in direct conflict with the quality and health of Auckland's natural environment, which continues to degrade.

While the strategic directions and focus areas are worthy and necessary, the Board is not convinced that Council has the tools to achieve the agreed strategic directions and focus areas. If the tools cannot be strengthened or new tools put in place, the outcome should be scrapped as it is unachievable.

Utilise growth and redevelopment to restore degraded environments and create new resources. How? Where are the examples of how this has been achieved? We suggest that in communicating this to the Public you give examples of where this has occurred in Auckland. What does "create new resources" mean? What kinds of "resources"?

Support and enable Aucklanders to be stewards of our natural and cultural heritage. Again, the Board asks how? Under past and current district plan provisions it is very difficult for the community to feel empowered to influence decisions and feel like stewards, particularly on the current development responses to growth. The RMA is becoming more restrictive in the need for consultation whereby residents can express concerns about and influence new development.

Ensure development accounts for key impacts and emerging threats, such as declining water quality and climate change. This needs to be more carefully worded. Are "water quality" and "climate change" both impacts and threats? Does this mean declining water quality? If so, say so. It would be good to know what actions/regulatory measures/programmes/policies the Council has at hand or can put in place to achieve this

Use green infrastructure and low impact design to deliver greater resilience, long-term cost savings and quality environmental outcomes. Once again, need examples of green infrastructure and low impact design to explain what these mean

and how commonly they are used. The Board has not witnessed any low-impact design examples in its Local Board area to date. As mentioned above, there are plenty of examples of sites with excessive earthworks to create driveways, building platforms, space for more units. If the aspiration was current practice water quality should already be improving. “Greater resilience” of what? “Long- term cost savings” for whom?