

Auckland Plan Refresh – Waitematā Local Board Feedback September 2017

The Waitematā Local Board supports a bold and ambitious 30-year plan, which responds to the challenges facing Auckland.

It is noted that the agreed approach for the refresh is to streamline the plan to focus on the three major challenges; scale of growth, greater environmental pressures and uneven distribution of growth benefits. It is important however that the plan also continues to fully contribute to Auckland's social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being.

Whilst the Long-Term Plan is principally a financial and resourcing document that sets the budget for 10-years, the Auckland Plan provides the only real opportunity to develop a more comprehensive strategy, which lasts a generation.

Do the strategic directions and focus areas address the issues that are important in achieving each outcome?

The role of social infrastructure is critical in helping to mitigate the growth challenges and enable Auckland to be a world class city where talent wants to live. It is vital that social infrastructure be given the same priority in resourcing and timeliness as physical infrastructure if we are to create communities and town centres that are liveable and successful for everyone. The Board supports the retention of the four wellbeing's in the plan; social, economic, environmental and cultural and endorses the inclusion of measures that reflect all four areas.

Community infrastructure and events play an important part in creating a sense of belonging for Aucklanders. We wish to see an additional point in the focus area that supports taking a proactive approach to planning for and developing social infrastructure in tandem with the physical infrastructure.

With regards to the strategic direction "Support an environment that retains and attracts skills, talent and investment", Richard Florida and others have demonstrated that an urban environment with an active arts and cultural scene, great leisure opportunities in a clean environment and a positive and tolerant atmosphere encourages innovation from diverse communities. This environment also retains and attracts people who are crucial to achieving the outcome of prosperity. Therefore, the Board supports adding a new focus area to achieve this strategic direction covering arts, culture, leisure and diversity.

It is important that the Auckland Plan is ambitious and steers the multiple stakeholders to realise the Homes and Places outcome and take action to increase affordable housing. An advocacy position of the board is to ensure council actively builds and enables others to provide affordable housing through appropriate mechanisms and tools. For instance, Panuku Development Auckland's remit is to utilise urban development at scale and capture value from assets to deal with the demands of our rapidly growing city. This land that is managed by Panuku presents great opportunity to start addressing the important issues of provision of affordable housing. We need to look to start tackling the housing crisis by leveraging from our knowledge and resources e.g. in Waitematā we will have significant brown field sites for development resulting from the removal of the Dominion Road flyover and the CRL project.

In recognition of the diversity of our city the previous Auckland Plan included a tailored approach e.g. Southern Initiative and City Centre. The plan's strategic directions and supporting focus areas needs to acknowledge that at times a tailored approach is required to achieve the outcomes for our communities across Auckland. For instance, Transport and Connected emphasises roading and public transport provision when in the City Centre active transport has already become a predominant mode.

The strategic directions and focus areas of the Auckland Plan rightly reflects the critical role of mana whenua under the outcome "Maori Identity and Wellbeing". However, it is also important that the plan considers how mataawaka are also enabled to thrive and develop their sense of identity and mana in Tamaki Makaurau.

Lastly it is unclear what the term "cultural heritage" means under the Outcome "Environment and Cultural Heritage" and it would be helpful to articulate it's meaning to assist future consultation and engagement.

Is this framework complementary to the outcomes of the Waitematā Local Board Plan?

An outcome of the Waitematā Local Board Plan is that our communities are inclusive, vibrant, healthy and connected. The refreshed Auckland Plan complements this outcome with its focus on inclusiveness and the importance of communities feeling connected. The plan however does not reflect the critical role of health and wellbeing. We would support greater emphasis in the plan on public health, including combating alcohol harm, obesity and gambling and the role that sports, art and leisure (informal and formal) play in people's health and wellbeing. For example, the proportion of children walking or cycling to school needs to be a measure. We see council's role as influencing and collaborating in these areas. Sports, arts and culture organisations and institutions are highly important and need to be strong and effective.

The board supports the inclusion of the focus area "to move towards a safe transport network free from death and serious injury" under the Access and Connectivity outcome. Waitematā Local Board continues to advocate for street designs, which deliver slower traffic speeds, better and safer intersections and footpaths and cycle lanes designed and built to worldwide best practice. A comprehensive approach to safety is required and this should include a target in the Auckland Plan of zero serious injuries or deaths on our roads (vision zero).

Nearly 80,000 commuters, students, shoppers and visitors travel to the city centre every weekday morning between 7am and 9am. This movement has a significant impact on the existing transport network, with a third of Auckland's congestion in the city centre. We would like to see the inclusion of a mode share target for increasing active transport in Auckland included in the plan and a target of reducing single occupancy vehicles coming into the city centre to support the outcome of Transport and Connectivity

We want to see the health of our environment enhanced, our waterways healthy and the urban forest cover increased. The plan identifies the loss of valuable green assets as a result of urban sprawl. The Board would like to see the focus area "protect the significant environments, cultural heritage and taonga tuku iho of Tāmaki Makaurau from further loss" strengthened to state that the focus is about increasing our significant environments, including the urban forest cover. In regards to climate change, the plan needs a bold target of net zero emissions by 2050.

Built heritage is currently absent in the plan's strategic framework. As Auckland grows, it is crucial to preserve the distinctive character of our neighbourhoods. We want to see the refreshed Auckland Plan embrace the past and value our public and private heritage assets.

Feedback Summary

The Board supports:

- the refresh being bold, comprehensive and ambitious and a plan that responds to the challenges facing Auckland and contributes to the four well beings.
- a plan which reflects the importance of planning for and developing social infrastructure at the beginning of a development to support belonging and participation in our communities
- adding a new focus area covering arts, culture, leisure and diversity to attract and retain skills, talent and investment.
- the refresh being ambitious with regards to housing to steer the multiple stakeholders to increase affordable housing by leveraging off existing knowledge and resources. For example, brownfield sites created as a result of the CRL development
- consideration on how the plan reflects the need to take a tailored approach at times to achieve the outcomes for our communities across Auckland e.g. the Southern Initiative and City Centre
- the addition of the Maori Identity and Wellbeing outcome and seeks for the plan to also consider how mataawaka are enabled to thrive and develop their sense of identity and mana in Tāmaki Makaurau
- the meaning of "Cultural Heritage" being clarified
- greater emphasis on public health, including combating alcohol harm, obesity and gambling and the role that sports, art and leisure (informal and formal) play in people's health and wellbeing
- the "move towards a safe transport network free from death and serious injury" focus area and seeks the inclusion of a zero serious injuries or deaths on our roads target
- the inclusion of a mode share target for increasing active transport and a target of reducing single occupancy vehicles entering the city centre
- the inclusion of a bold target of net zero emissions by 2050
- the inclusion of built heritage in the plan and recognition of the need to preserve our neighbourhoods distinctive character
- a bolder approach towards increasing our significant environments and urban forest cover