

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board

P O Box 6969
Wellesley Street
Auckland 1141

27 March 2018

Councillor Desley Simpson
Deputy Chair, Finance and Performance Committee
Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Dear Cr Simpson

Submission to 2018-2019 Funding Plan

Thank you for your recent submission on behalf of Auckland Council to the Draft 2018-2019 Funding Plan, published by the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board on 15 January 2018.

The Funding Board met on 7 March to consider both the written and oral submissions made in respect of the draft plan.

Following careful deliberation of the matters raised in the submissions, the Funding Board has resolved that there would be no changes to the provisional allocation of grants to the specified amenities. The overall levy requirement for 2018-2019 has been reduced however to reflect the advice from New Zealand National Maritime Museum that it was withdrawing its funding application for 2018-2019.

In response to the specific matters raised in the Auckland Council submission, I can advise as follows:

- a) Regarding future year funding, the Funding Board continues to share a similar sentiment to Auckland Council that the specified amenities need to maximise revenue from alternative revenue streams to reduce reliance on the annual grants from the Funding Board. This has been, and will continue to be, communicated to the amenities at appropriate opportunities.
- b) The Funding Plan has been updated to incorporate information regards processes undertaken by the Funding Board to ensure the Specified Amenities have complied with the requirements of the relevant Funding Principles. These include – each application received being signed by both the CEO and Chair of each amenity certifying compliance, and Audit New Zealand undertaking its own random comprehensive check for compliance annually.
- c) Each annual funding application submitted by an amenity must include comprehensive details of what reasonable endeavours have been taken to align its activities (in the Auckland region, and for which it seeks funding) with the objectives of the Auckland Plan, including relevant performance measures.

As noted in (b) above, Audit New Zealand has shown specific interest in ensuring compliance with this section of the Act, not only respect of the information supplied in support of the funding application, but also in the annual reporting process that subsequently follows.

The Funding Board is satisfied that the Specified Amenities are taking this obligation seriously, evidenced by the amount of information provided by certain amenities in support of their applications.

The 2018-2019 Funding Plan and details of the proposed levy for 2018-2019 were forwarded to Auckland Council for its consideration at a meeting of the Finance and Performance Committee on 17 April 2018.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vern Walsh', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Vern Walsh
Chair
Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board

Cc: Alastair Cameron; Josie Meuli – Auckland Council