

Auckland Council Te Rōpū Kaitohutohu Take Taiohi, Youth Advisory Panel
Feedback to Auckland Council Governing Body on
Draft Ten Year Budget
Draft Auckland Plan Refresh

Hutia te rito o te harakeke
Kei hea te kōmako?
Rere ki uta, rere ki tai
Ki mai koe ki ahau 'he aha te mea nui o te ao'?
Māku e ki atu
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

If you cut the heart from the (harakeke) plant
Where will the bellbird sing?
It will fly inland, it will fly seawards
If you ask me 'what is the most important thing in the world?'
My reply to you is - people, people, people!
(Metge & Jones, 1995)

This well-known whakataukī, above speaks of the need to achieve a healthy, sustainable balance between the environment, our values, and future development. It reminds us of the importance of making inclusive decisions centred around 'the heart' of the community.

It is relevant to reflect on this whakataukī when considering major decisions such as the draft ten-year budget for Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland and the refresh of the Auckland Plan as these long term plans will shape the region for decades to come.

As well as providing feedback on the relevant proposals within both documents, in this submission the Youth Advisory Panel encourages decisions makers to consider the impact of respective decisions on people – especially those who will be recipient of the decisions – and to keep them at the heart of their decision making.

Mandate

The demographic advisory panels are one of council's engagement mechanisms for hearing from diverse communities. They provide advice to the governing body and council staff on regional policies, plans and strategies and any matters which are of concern to those communities.

The Youth Advisory Panel is made up of 21 members representing the areas of each of the wards and boards of Auckland Council. Their priorities are shaped by the goals of I Am Auckland: Auckland's Strategic Plan for Children and Young People.

In July 2017, the Youth Advisory Panel agreed on four priorities area that they wanted their work programme to focus on:

- environment and sustainability
- transport and accessibility
- homelessness
- youth engagement and civic participation.

These priority areas have informed the panel's submission on these plans and this submission reflects the discussions of a workshop of the youth advisory panel held on Monday 12 March 2018.

Feedback on Ten-Year Budget

Overall the youth advisory panel were supportive of the intent of the increased investment proposals but were concerned about the cumulative impact the proposals may have on households and communities, some of whom are already struggling.

Another clear theme was for council to be transparent with the proposed rate increases and the amounts and percentages. e.g. the fuel tax is 10c plus GST meaning it will be 12.5c per litre not 10c. In addition, accountability that the outcomes sought from agencies in regards water, environment and transport is encouraged.

In summary the panel:

- provides conditional support for the transport fuel tax
- supports the water quality targeted rate
- supports option b) for the environmental targeted rate
- generally supports the proposed rates increases, accommodation and waste targeted rates with some concerns around the cumulative impacts

Feedback on the specific consultation proposals from the youth advisory panel is as follows:

Transport

- The panel provides conditional support for the proposal
- The panel is in favour overall with the proposed targeted rate but with the following conditions:
 - More transparency on how and where the tax revenue would be spent.
 - Clarification as to how the fuel tax fits into Auckland Transport's overall plan
 - Clarification as to the regulation of the amount? Will it remain 10c + GST in the future?
 - There appears to be a disconnect between local and central govt with regards to transport that needs to be worked through
 - There appears to be a lack of confidence in the Long-Term Plan for Auckland with many things appearing to be uncertain throughout the document which don't provide feasible information to what will be prioritized
 - There is a high degree of uncertainty about the central government policy concerning any additional capital investment both in terms of project priorities and funding.
- Concern raised that if the fuel tax applies to public transport that it would affect pricing.
- There may be a shift towards using public transport among youth if the tax was introduced, but there may not be a very significant impact in car usage.
- There is concern around how it would affect people who must both drive and use public transport as it is felt that the costs of public transport is already too high for youth. At the moment youth (non-students) pay the same as adults.
- The panel also expressed concern about the cost of parking and lack of parking spaces available and the impact this was having on the ability of youth to get where they need to be and or be included in society e.g. education, medical, participation etc may be impacted by cost.
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Water quality

- Support the targeted rate
- This doesn't affect youth negatively.
- Questions raised about implementation and how council needs to effectively engage the community around any implementation and they are concerned that even 10 years is a long time for implementation.
- Noted it is important to measure the effectiveness of the rate
- Concern noted around how the relevant agencies will be kept accountable for the outcome.

Environment targeted rate

- Universal support for option B. Panel recognises the seriousness of the issues particularly facing kauri trees and the need for action.
- The panel noted that the link between the protection of the environment and life is inextricable.

General rates, Accommodation and Waste rate proposals

- General support for these rates
- While youth are not commonly direct ratepayers the panel have concerns about the cumulative impact of rates increases after 10 years.
- In relation to accommodation rates the panel is supportive of this rate.
- It is felt that there should be an incentive for property owners to rent their homes out to long term renters rather than short term for business purposes.
- In relation to waste rates the panel would like to ensure a safer and more secure way for rubbish collection? (e.g. the tags in Waitakere local ward are currently open to theft).
- There is concern that a user-pays model may negatively impact on those living in poverty.

Feedback on Auckland Plan Refresh

The panel identified their four areas of focus of the Auckland Plan that aligns with their priorities:

- Shaping our growth
- Moving easily around Auckland
- Equipping people for future jobs
- Affordable Homes

Shaping our growth

The panel express concerns about repercussions in rural areas and would like to know what provisions will there be made to minimise sprawl?

Moving easily around Auckland

The panel express concerns around serious incidents and safety while commuting. They were also concerned that safety and environment are placed in same category.

Direction 3 Maximise safety and environmental protection.”

The concern here is that Environmental impact of transportation and the safety of public transport are two very large and significant topics that shouldn't be “lumped” together.

There is concern that this minimises the priority of these issues independently from each other.

Regarding the focus areas of transport the only area that addresses safety of public transport is: “Focus area 6 Move to a safe transport network, free from death and serious injury.” Although it is very important that no incidents such as collisions/railway accidents don't happen concern that death and serious injury this is the only issue of safety that is being addressed regarding Transport. Of particular concern to Youth as well as Women is sexual and non-sexual assaults that occur on our transport system (For example: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/95859847/Teens-attacked-onboard-Auckland-train-by-group-of-Mr-Four-Square-men>) No focus areas on commuter safety on/ around public transport.

Equipping people for future jobs

The panel felt that this was achievable and has less complexity than other areas.

Affordable homes

Maori Wellbeing: The panel are concerned that there is insufficient research available in relation to Maori wellbeing.

- Limited intensification in existing urban areas
- Limiting growth in rural areas but still maximising capitalization on greenfield investment
- Auckland has to provide for around 740,000 more people in the next 30 years, which would mean another 320,000 dwellings and up to 270,000 extra jobs.
- The proposed approach for enabling growth will not effectively provide for Aucklands future.
- Thats 10,666 dwelling every year. What are we currently building?
- Auckland, with consents issued for 10,379 new houses but only 90% are built! We will fall short. We need to be building around 13,000 to meet growth. This is purely based on research.
- Where is the further discussion on papakainga housing and how that can contribute to medium density housing and future solutions?

Maori identity and Wellbeing:

- Focus 3: Strengthen rangatahi participation in leadership, education and employment.
- Focus area 1: Meet the needs and support the aspirations of tamariki and their whanau
 - We understand that with the feedback provided from the IAmAuckland Goals, this particular focus was neglected. Therefore, we understand that council has identified and highlighted that this is an area in which needs attention and are in support of strengthening a better relationship with rangatahi.

There are concerns such as:

- How will you strengthen Rangatahi leadership?
- How are you going to increase participation and involvement with Rangatahi?
- How will you grow Maori intergenerational wealth? Young people aren't even involved in these decision-making processes.

General Comments:

- We have identified that there is a lack of Maori and youth outcomes within the Auckland Plan.
- There is also a lack of clarity to how these focuses will improve the current relationship with rangatahi that will allow participation and an improvement in engagement on a regional level
- There also appears to be a lack of understanding of how these focuses will be implemented and the what the focus is in terms of strengthening integration of both Maori and youth outcomes