

Chair's report: Waiheke Local Board

Month to 12 May 2018

The Waiheke Local Board has been involved considering public feedback, and responding to various long term planning documents, each of which has some impact on Waiheke, its environment and our communities over the next decade and beyond.

Along with the public the planning documents we have considered are:

- Auckland's Plan (30-year horizon)
- Auckland's Long Term Plan 2018 – 2028 (**LTP**) which in essence is Council's full budget and its priorities for the period (of note more than 30,000 people responded to the LTP consultation and Waiheke respondents represented 1 per cent of those),
- the Regional Transport Long Term Plan (**RLTP**, Auckland Transport's Plan)

In its initial response to the **RLTP** the local board has among other things:

- acknowledged its' support for the \$15 million capital within the RLTP towards Matiatia's redevelopment.

Among other things:

- we have sought to have:
 - Auckland Transport give transparency to the ferry tax of 51c per person per trip by designating it specifically for Auckland Transport's Waiheke infrastructure projects
 - our roads retain Waiheke character but to be built and sealed to the same standard as the rest of Auckland's roads
 - ferry policies pursued to enable resident fares to be lowered
- we are endorsing Auckland Transport's move to electric buses and support of e-bikes and e-car infrastructure.
- we are advocating for Auckland Transport to spend some of their budgeted footpath and cycling funds in support of Waiheke's infrastructure over the next 10 years.

Auckland Council and Council Controlled Organisations' final responses to Waiheke input into its planning documents won't be known at the time this agenda is finalised.

In the month we have also drafted our **annual board agreement** with Auckland Council.

The local board has also presented to the hearings panel on the proposed **Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018**. All of Waiheke's current waste management contracts come to an end on 30 June 2019. At the same time the council is moving progressively to a user pays philosophy across the region. The local board is working closely with Council officers on the plans and timeframes for this transition so we can be assured that the impacts are managed for ratepayers and residents, whilst ensuring we get cost effective and efficient services.

- We are advocating for a full Resource Recovery Park being developed so that we can minimize freight off-island and maximise re-use, recovery and recycling of our waste stream.
- The ultimate aim is zero waste and the development of resilience in our management of waste including that of visitors.

- Commercial waste management including construction and road-building waste is now recognised as a region-wide challenge and is also a focus for us on Waiheke Island.

Responding to the **LTP** the proposed **Regional Fuel Tax** has been strongly endorsed by respondents, including by the majority of Waiheke Islanders who completed the consultation survey. Some who completed the consultation also sought to have Waiheke Island exempt.

- Despite the LTP consultation still in its final phases the council's Governing Body voted to support the introduction of the fuel tax, citing Great Barrier as the only proposed exemption.
- The reason for the timing of their vote was to intersect with Government's legislative framework which is under urgency to get the new tax in place by 1 July this year.
- The local representative MP, Hon. Nicky Kaye, has advised she is lodging a legislative amendment to the government's proposed legislation to seek an exemption for Waiheke Island along with Aotea Great Barrier from the new fuel tax.

The board has received a report this month showing **significant pollution in streams** flowing into most of our recreational beaches. We are seeking more information (for instance how much is due to septic rather than bird fouling) and advice about potential council support to deal with the causes of this pollution including failing/overloaded septic systems. It may be that if the new targeted rate to speed up water quality improvements is approved then Waiheke waterways may be a beneficiary.

Beyond the board's contributions to the big planning documents we are still finalising our allocations for **asset renewals** for the local board catchment in the new final year from 1 July 2018. The extensive damage to our network of walking tracks in last year's storms will cost many \$100,000s to restore or re-route, and these works will have to be prioritised along with playground renewals, economic developments, arts and sporting priorities and so on. The council has worked hard to ensure Waiheke's allocations for renewals are significant so that a great deal can be achieved to restore the track network as well as achieve many of our other priorities.

The board was very pleased to receive the **Arts Needs Assessment** that the board funded from Principal Reviewer Janis McArdle, at the last board meeting and will participate initially in a board-only workshop led by a council arts advisor to work through the recommendations and to prioritise those. We will also seek to set the needs assessment against the backdrop of previous council-funded reviews and plans so we understand the relationship of those to one another. The board will then be working closely with the community as we develop a strategy.

Thank you

Cath Handley

Chair

