

Chair's report: Waiheke Local Board

Month to 14 Aug 2018

Ngā mihi Waiheke

Accommodation Providers Targeted Rates (APTR)

As reported last month, the property revaluations on Waiheke, and a general rates increase, have come at a time that a new tiered APTR rate is also being applied to providers of online accommodation through Waiheke online-sites, plus Airbnb, Book-a-Bach and so on. The scale of these rates changes are causing significant anxiety and concern for many of those providers and there are many reports of people removing their listings to avoid the new rates on the grounds their accommodation is no longer viable. The Chair has attended a meeting of the local online provider sites and they are collectively gathering data across several hundred properties they list to support an application to Auckland Council seeking to move Waiheke from 2nd tier charges (zone B) to zone C where the charges do not apply. The local board is being kept up to date with analysis of the impacts to enable it to simultaneously seek relief on behalf of the primary providers should the board agree to do that. The information on negative impacts is fundamental to achieving a hearing from governing body members. Simultaneously and at Waiheke's request the Local Board Chairs' Forum representing the 21 local boards has sought a report on the implementation of the APTR at its next meeting.

Stormwater

The Chair is working with Healthy Waters to move towards a system of prioritising properties that are listed individually or collectively as requiring Healthy Waters/Auckland Transport (AT) interventions to alleviate identified stormwater risks. Those priorities sit below the level of 'whole of catchment' flooding issues that have preoccupied the Healthy Waters team in the last year since they took over the management of stormwater matters from AT on 1 July 2017, along with their development of master catchment plans.

Matiatia

Auckland Transport has prefigured a need to urgently reconfigure existing parking at Matiatia. This will take into account newly released commercial car parking space in front of the rental car business, a recent safety audit completed for AT at Matiatia that indicated major safety risks, a recognised need for more mobility parks at the terminal and a new less disruptive model for the management of summer tour operations at Matiatia. Last years' public consultation led to no changes being made at that time but AT advise that some, but not all, of the changes proposed at that time must now be implemented. The local board's support for AT's proposed changes will be sought by AT in September.

Oneroa Businesses

Auckland Transport is meeting with local Oneroa businesses to discuss issues affecting their trade. It is understood that parking space that should serve their business area, is being used for all-day parking and indeed for much longer multi-day parking.

Reserve Management Plans (RMP)

At the business meeting of 26 July, the Waiheke Board agreed to a proposal to create an Omnibus RMP for our large network of reserves. That process will roll out over the coming months and full

public consultation will be planned and promoted. Where there are RMPs for existing reserves these can be reviewed for any potential and timely changes at the same time.

The board also approved developing a separate RMP for Rangihoua Reserve and the Onetangi Sports Park utilising the full board as the panel to hear submissions and make decisions.

An apology to the board from Mr A Walden was received relating to his behaviour at the 27 July business meeting that deliberated the RMP decisions.

nāku noa

Cath Handley

Chair