

12 October 2018

Racing Review  
Department of Internal Affairs  
45 Pipitea Street  
Wellington 6011  
PO Box 805  
**Wellington 6140**

**WHAU LOCAL BOARD SUBMISSION: 2018 Messara Report into the New Zealand Racing Industry**

On behalf of the Whau Local Board of Auckland Council I wish to provide the following comments on the 2018 Messara Report into the New Zealand Racing Industry, specifically with respect to the recommendation of reducing the number of thoroughbred race tracks from 48 to 28 tracks under a scheduled program.

The Avondale race track is located within the Whau local board area and has contributed to the development of the heritage and character of the area since its inaugural meeting took place on Saturday, 26 April 1890.

The local board notes the ongoing efforts of the Avondale Jockey Club and its members as they have sought to serve their industry and be a positive contributor to their local community and its identity.

Beyond the racing industry, a number of other positive community outcomes are also currently being contributed to by the race track and its associated facilities. The key contribution being the provision of local sports fields, with junior and senior field sports being played on the inner area of the race track. The facility is also a venue for an iconic market and a venue for hire.

The report notes that the Avondale race track area is extremely valuable land with an estimated value of more than \$200 million with rezoning and which is proposed should be sold for the benefit of the entire racing industry.

Should such a sale proceed the local board requests that with the Government playing a leading role that the consideration of public good be considered from the outset. The local board would request that active discussions be held with the Whau Local Board and Auckland Council to work through obvious opportunities around open space provision specifically large scale space to support sporting, recreational, housing, heritage, arts and community needs.

Secondly, should any sale progress the local board would seek the Government to positively influence the establishment of a quality development and design framework to guide future activity toward the outcome of maximising a future contribution to Avondale as a quality and inclusive place of residence and small scale local business. That this framework includes community and Whau Local board considerations as to future use.

Yours sincerely



Tracy Mulholland  
**Chair Whau Local Board**  
**Cc Whau Local Board Members**