

## **We want your feedback on the Annual Budget**

Last year we asked for your thoughts on our 10-year Budget from 2018-2028, the Long-term Plan. This year we are seeking your input to help us develop our Annual Budget for 2019/2020, the second year of the plan. Our consultation document includes the following proposed changes:

### **Rating matters**

#### **Changes to rating of religious use properties**

Land used for religious worship, religious education, or as a cemetery are exempt from all rates, except for waste management services where these are provided. To recognise the importance of religious organisations and the services they provide to our community we are proposing to not charge rates to some of the other rateable land owned by religious organisations. For example, halls and gymnasiums used for not-for profit purposes and for the benefit of the community.

Land used for commercial purposes such as car parks, gyms, cafes, and op shops that are operated as a commercial activity, will continue to be rated as business.

#### **An increase to the waste management targeted rate base service charge**

The costs of providing waste management services have increased. We propose an increase of \$20.67 in the base service waste management charge to \$121.06 per year (and additional 40cents per week) to recover the additional costs.

#### **Extending the food scraps collection targeted rate to North Shore former trial properties**

In 2014 we started a free trial of food scraps collection service to 2,000 properties in the North Shore area. Last year the food scraps collection service was introduced in the Papakura area paid for by a targeted rate. To ensure properties in both areas are being treated equally, we propose introducing a food scraps collection targeted rate of \$68.34 to the 2,000 properties in the North Shore former trial area. The food scraps service is due to be rolled out across the rest of the region from 2020/2021.

#### **Phasing out the Waitakere rural sewerage service and targeted rate**

We propose phasing out the septic tank pump-out service and associated Waitakere rural sewerage targeted rate for the properties currently receiving this service. This service has not delivered desired water quality improvements as there are often other maintenance requirements for septic tanks that the pump-out service does not address. In its place we will be introducing a region wide compliance scheme for on-site wastewater management systems.

### **Adjusting the urban rating area**

Auckland is growing and as a result urban development is now occurring in areas that were previously considered rural. We have identified 400 properties in six areas where urban development has occurred beside the current urban rating area. Rural properties pay 90 per cent of the rates charged to urban properties. We propose adjusting the urban rating area to include these 400 properties as they receive the same services as their adjacent urban neighbours so should pay the same level of rates.

## **Fees and Charges**

### **Increases to some fees to maintain cost recovery**

We propose an increase to some regulatory fees (resource consent, building control, mooring fees and animal management). The cost of providing these services has risen faster than inflation and fees charged need to rise to ensure these services continue to be funded by users rather than being subsidised by ratepayers.