

Board Member Richard Northey's Report to 19 March 2019 Waitematā Local Board Meeting

Events Portfolio Activities

16 Feb Participated in Ponsonby Business Association Festival in Ponsonby Road.

17 Feb Spoke at the Myers Park Medley (speech and photograph attached).



21 Feb Bean Bags and Bossa Nova Festival in Western Park.

22 Feb I spoke at the Housing New Zealand Event to mark the closure of their apartments at 139 Grey's Ave for redevelopment (My speech attached).

6 March Met with Amber Liberte of The Human Agency, an Events Organiser, about contributing appropriate performers for Council and Board events.

Events Applied for or Occurring During This Period

12, 19, 26 Feb and 5, 12 and 19 March Newmarket Playbox public engagement on youth facilities and issues, held in Newmarket Station Square.

14 Feb Formal opening and Drag Queen entertainment to be at the first identified Rainbow Crossing at the corner of Ponsonby Road and Picton Street, with closure of Picton Street to Paget Street, but which Auckland Transport has not proceeded with.

16 Feb Ponsonby Business Association Festival with outdoor dining, music, drag queens and other entertainment along Ponsonby Road.

16 Feb Touchpoint Group Employees' Family Funday Event at Gladstone Park.

16 Feb Skateboarding Experts demonstration at the Victoria Park Skateboard Ramp.

17 Feb Filming a TV Commercial for Meadowfresh at Garnet Station and in Garnet Road.

17, 20 and 23 Feb Free Outdoor Fitness Classes by Les Mills Gyms in the passive area of Victoria Park.

18 Feb Filming a Commercial for Farmers Autumn Winter Collection in Western Park.

20 Feb Wotton and Kearney Company Cricket Day in Victoria Park.

20 Feb Filming for TV Programme Power Rangers in Dove Myer Robinson Park and Gladstone Road.

21 Feb Bean Bags and Bossa Nova live music event in Western Park.

21 Feb Photoshoot for Elle Homme SS Menswear in Karanga Plaza, Silo Park, Wellesley Street, Symonds Street and Grafton Road.

22 Feb- 9 March POP Ping Pong in Freyberg Place.

22 Feb-12 March POP Plinths set up at 120 Symonds Street, Pigeon Park.

22 Feb Filming of a promotional film for ACG School filmed by drone over the school, the Auckland Domain and Olympic Reserve in Newmarket.

23 Feb CRL company family picnic day in Outhwaite Park.

24 Feb QBE company staff family day near the Rotunda in the Auckland Domain.

24 Feb Filming Feature Film "Falling Inn Love", representing San Francisco Streets, in Fort Street and Emily Place and also in Tiramarama Way, Waikokota Lane and Halsey Street.

25 Feb Filming TV commercial at the Silo Park Half Court.

1 March Filming of a TV Commercial for Robinson's Refresh'd in Auckland Domain.

1 and 4 March Filming of a TV Commercial for Robinson's Refresh'd in Albert Park.

2 March BREAD Supercity Charity Car Rally located in Takutai Square and then up Queen Street. This has been cancelled.

2 March Cross Street Festival, with afternoon and evening closure of Cross Street.

3 March Round the Bays charity run beginning in Quay Street and Tamaki Drive.

3 March Bread Foundation Charity Supercar Rally in Takutai Square, Gore Street, Britomart and Queen Street.

3 March Woof- the Auckland Rainbow Dog Show event, emphasising the LGBTI community, in Western Park.

4 March Filming TV Commercial for Robinson's Refresh'd at Victoria Park.

4-8 March Auckland University Students' Association Orientation Presentation Events in Albert Park.

4-9 March POP Poetry Hui in Pigeon Park near Symonds Street Cemetery.

7 March Filming of low budget feature film "Take Home Pay" in Victoria Park by the sports fields, Myers Park and Westhaven Marina.

7-10 March European Wonder Festival of European Food and Drink, which was to be held in the passive area of Victoria Park. This was proposed as a major event so we would need to be sure it could be accommodated in that confined space. They were seeking resource consent for use of the culturally significant south-western corner of the park. This event was cancelled.

9 and 10 March Filming of the Feature Film "Falling Inn Love" in Fort Street and Emily Place

10 March Harvest Festival and fundraiser with music and local food at Kelmarna Gardens on Hukanui Reserve.

10 March ASB Staff and Family End of Summer Barbecue and drinks at the lower end of Western Park.

10 and 17 March Grafton Cricket Super 6 Tournaments, Juniors on the 10th and Seniors on the 17th, at Victoria Park cricket grounds and pavilion.

11-23 March Les Mills Outdoor Boot Camps classes in Albert Park.

14-16 March Filming of a Spark 5G TV Commercial for NZ Audiences in Madden, Daldy, Jellicoe and Beaumont Streets and Silo Park.

14-17 March Under 17 Football Tournament at Seddon Fields. This has been cancelled.

15 March Filming TV Commercial for BNZ in Barrington Road, Grey Lynn.

16 Music in Parks, Rock the Park Grey Lynn event in Grey Lynn Park

17 March Sri Chinmoy "Self-Transcendence Auckland" Series Runs in the Domain.

17 March St Patrick's Parade, Music and Dance Festival in Queen Street, Fort Street, Gore Street, Commerce Street, Customs Street East, Mayoral Drive, Airedale Street, and Wakefield Street.

17 March Sky City's St Patrick's Festival in Federal Street.

17 March Filming Spark 5G TV Commercial in and around Crumb Café, corner of Crummer Road and Ariki Street.

22 March La Longue Table Orange du Chef dinner and drinks for 100 people in Upper Vulcan Lane. This event has now been postponed indefinitely.

23 March Rose(e acute) wine tasting and lifestyle all day event in Albert Park.

23 March Garmin Active Kids Boot Camp activities in the passive area of Western Park.

23-24 March Pasifika Festival, Western Springs Lakeside Park, Western Springs Stadium Fields, Bullock Track and Stadium Road.

24 March Rainbow Youth musical celebration of their 30th Birthday in Western Springs Park.

28 March Same Same But Different Film Festival opening at the Civic Theatre and on the adjoining footpath in Queen Street.

28-31 March Under 17 Football Tournament in the Seddon Fields. This has been cancelled.

29 March Filming of a TV Commercial for Trelegy bicycles for the US Market in Western Springs Lakeside Park.

30 March Motor Scooter Picnic to train riders and promote motor scooter safety organised by Auckland Transport, held in Point Erin Reserve.

31 March-1 April Filming of feature film "Ablaze" in Mahuhu Crescent and Te Taou Crescent.

5 April Premiere of the New Zealand documentary, Soldiers Without Guns, for the red carpet and crowds on the footpath outside the Civic Theatre.

6 April Swim the Bridge based at Curran Street and Park.

6 April Ponsonby Market Day in Ponsonby Road and the eastern end of Jervois Road.

7 April Plunket Society Buggy Fun Run Fundraiser in Western Springs Reserve.

7 April Cure Kids PureGo sponsored fundraising walk on Tamaki Drive, Quay Street, Beach Road, Customs Street, Fanshawe Street and Victoria Park.

7 April Unite's Mercy Hospice Fundraising Walk in the Domain with associated road closures.

7 April Chapman Tripp Staff Office Picnic in Point Erin Park.

10 April UNITEC Autumn Graduation Procession from Albert Park, Princes Street to Aotea Square.

12 April Huawei Launch of their P30 phone product and Federal Street Music Festival with closure of the shared space block of Federal Street.

13 April Vertical Pursuit Pole Vaulting Exhibition Event in Federal Street.

16-22 April Water World Inflatable Waterpark on Judges Bay.

19 April Stations of the Cross Catholic Church Sponsored Walk from Albert Park to St Patrick's Cathedral.

25 April Grey Lynn RSC Service with the approval of \$4650 funding from the Local Board.

25 April ANZAC Day Commemoration Events, Dawn and Civic services, with road closures in Auckland Domain.

25 April Newmarket Anzac Day Parade from Teed Street, through Osborne Street and Broadway to Olympic Park.

29 April and 1 and 3 May Auckland University graduation processions from Princes Street, through Bowen, Victoria and Queen Streets to Aotea Square

4 May J Day in Albert Park.

5 May Dutch War Memorial Service, Dove-Myer Robinson Park.

10 May F-45 Track Boot Camp in Albert Park.

19 May, 9 June, 7 July, 11 August and 15 Sept Sri Chinmoy "Self-Transcendence" Auckland Series runs in the Domain.

29 May to 19 June Auckland Festival of Photography light box Installations on Te Wero Island and in Freyberg Place / Ellen Melville Centre.

5 Oct F45 Boot Camp in Albert Park.

20 Oct Festival Italiano in Osborne and Teed Streets.

17 Nov Parnell Festival of Roses in Dove Myer Robinson Reserve.

Arts and Culture Portfolio

14 Feb Attended APO Concert "Fantasy" at the Town Hall.

20 Feb Opening Night at Studio One of Exhibitions by Coco-Maria Martinengo, Sarah Smith, Ann Poulsen, John Dwyer, and Lucia Blaze.

22 Feb Curator and artists talks for the Pacific Sisters Exhibition and Art Gallery Members' Preview of their Exhibition.

26 Opening night of Fringe Festival Play "That's What Friends Are For" by the Hobson Street Theatre Company and the Street Choir courtesy of Auckland University at the Basement Theatre. My wife Robyn was pulled out of the audience to paint the St Matthew's part of the set.

28 Feb Auckland War Memorial Museum Award Medals ceremony with awards for Gil Hanly and others; and then Auckland Philharmonia Concert "The Beethoven Triple" at the Town Hall.

9 March Friends of the Auckland Art Gallery Tour of Karangahape Road area dealer galleries: Michael Lett- Pauline Rhodes and Steve Carr's exhibitions; Ivan Anthony-Kushana Bush and Grant Nimmo exhibitions; Bowerbank Ninow - Brendan Huntley pottery exhibition; and Anna Miles Gallery- Allan MacDonald and Warwick Freeman exhibitions. Went to the Auckland Arts Festival Cabaret show Blanc de Blanc in the Spiegel tent.

10 March I attended an intriguing Arts Festival performance of the opera "The Magic Flute".

11 March POP Plinth event at Pigeon Park; Film Society Opening Night showing of film "In a World...".

Community Portfolio Activities

13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 28 Feb and 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12 March fitness workouts at Pitt Street YMCA.

13 Feb Celebration of Lunar New Year with, and Board Meeting of, Asian Family Services and Meeting of the Pasifika Advisory Board for the Problem Gambling Foundation. Central City Residents Group Red Hat Dinner at Wok'N'Noodle in Shortland Street.

18 Feb Attended the Annual General Meeting of the Auckland District Council of the Automobile Association and also the AGMs of some Auckland Central Labour Party Branches.

20 Feb University of Auckland Society Executive Meeting; City Vision Meeting.

21 Feb Karangahape Road Business Association Executive Meeting.

22 Feb Auckland Community Housing Trust property transaction.

24 Feb HOPE Foundation Fundraising Event.

25 Feb Meeting of Housing Committee of Auckland District Council of Social Services; Organic Market Garden Celebration for the Community Garden at the top of Symonds Street.

28 Feb Participated in Central City Network Meeting at Ellen Melville Hall where Pippa Coom's presentation and engagement on the draft Annual Budget was the main item.

4 March Ponsonby Community Centre Board meeting.

7 March Bright Lights Event hearing from interviews with this year's Distinguished Alumni of the University of Auckland.

8 March I heard Adriana speak splendidly as main speaker at Zonta's celebration of International Women's Day, along with three very impressive women being given yellow roses. Enjoyed the University of Auckland's Distinguished Alumni Dinner. (Pictured with Robyn Northey and Leila Boyle).



10 March I went to the Kelmarna Gardens Harvest Festival and enjoyed a lunch of barbecued chicken and a rice salad. I spoke and answered questions at the City Vision members' selection meeting for candidate nominees for the Waitematā Local Board. Adriana and I were successful in gaining re-selection to stand.

Waitematā Local Board General Activities

15 Feb Drafted a Waitematā Local Board Submission on the Productivity Commission Issues Paper on Local Government Funding and Financing (Attached).

18 Feb Preparatory Meeting on the Waitematā Local Board Agenda.

19 Feb Waitematā Local Board Meeting.

20 Feb Engagement on the Council and Board Budget at the Parnell Library.

21 Feb Briefing by Housing New Zealand at Board office.

23 Feb Waitematā Board Stall for engagement on the Annual budget, held at the Parnell Market (photo with Adriana Christie and Pippa Coom).



25 Feb Stall for engagement on the Annual Budget, held at the Grey Lynn Library (photo right).



26 Feb Waitematā Local Board Workshop being briefed on: Progress on the Ports of Auckland Masterplan and proposed deepening of the shipping

channel; proposed homelessness initiatives and projects; Te Kete Rukuruku programme for identifying Māori names for reserves; Out and About Programme; Community Facilities report re cleaning and maintaining streetscapes; and Community Facilities monthly update.

5 March Waitematā Local Board Workshop covering: Downtown Programme update; Regional Facilities Auckland's Venue Development Strategy; the 105 bus route to Westmere; Safe School Street Tool Box and possible application to Newton Central School; Wellesley Street bus improvements; proposed intersection improvements to the Strand; Karangahape Road pre-construction update; CABAC report back and the western isthmus aquifer initiative.

6 March Briefing on the Special Character Overlay Plan Change.

10 March Meeting of members of Boards on advancing the recycling centre at Western Springs.

12 March Waitematā Local Board Workshop considering the Waitematā Local Board Work Programmes: Monitoring air quality impacts in Queen Street and the central city; proposed Stanmore Road to Fife Street stormwater project; monthly update on events and evaluation of Myers Park Medley; and Community Grant Programmes Review. Went to Newmarket Play Space activation engagement in Newmarket Station Square but there was nothing occurring there.

Auckland Council and National Activities

13 Feb Chaired the teleconference of Labour's Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee.

14 Feb Chaired a Meeting of the Board of the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand.

18 Feb Local Board Cluster Workshop on Funding and Structure of CABx across Auckland; the amendment to the unitary plan to respond to the Court Decision about recognition of character overlays; and feedback on experience with Council-supplied technology.

19 Feb Chair's Pre-meeting briefing for the Joint Governance Working Party.

21 Feb Auckland Conversation on Our Water Future at the Maritime Museum.

27 Feb Presentation on a local board rating system; Chaired the Joint Governance Working Party on the proposed Elected Member Code of Conduct; preparations for the Representation Review hearings; Governance Framework Review Implementation update, where we resolved to discuss Auckland transport's engagement further; and the Local Boards input into regional policy development. Reported very briefly to a Local Board chairs and governing body members' forum about Divestment-related processes. Attended the Auckland City Centre Advisory Board meeting with a lot of discussion about air pollution and about buses. Went to a Regional Facilities Auckland presentation at the Maritime Museum.

1 March Participated in the Local Government New Zealand Zone 1 Meeting at Orewa.

6 March I chaired the teleconference of the Labour Party's Infrastructure and Events Policy Committee.

7 March Chaired a briefing for the Local Government Commission hearing on the Representation Review.

8 March Participated in the meeting of the Task Force on Alcohol and Safety in the Central City.

12 March Participated in a teleconference of the Labour Party Policy Council.

Richard Northey Speech at Myers Park Medley – 17th February 2019 1.30pm

- **Thank you Damian**
- **Tena kotou, tena kotou, tena kotou katoa**
- Good afternoon everyone! My name is Richard Northey an elected member for the Waitematā Local Board. I hold the Events portfolio. Also here are Pippa Coom, our Board Chair, Denise Roche and Adriana Avendano Christie over there.
- I hope you are all enjoying the 2019 Myers Park Medley so far.
- This is our annual signature Waitematā local board event. It is focused on bringing together city centre residents and also visitors to join in enjoying what makes this much-loved park so unique and in celebrating the diversity of our community.
- This park is a fantastic link between the City Centre and Karangahape Road. This award-winning playground and splash pad was part of our Waitematā Board's redevelopment of Myers Park. As you can see we have also just recently completed the renewal of the access shared path and road. We look forward to also creating a more memorable and attractive access from Aotea Square.

Annual Budget 2018/2019

- Don't miss the opportunity to help us shape Auckland's future by having your say on the projects and services in Auckland Council's Annual Budget 2019/2020. You'll also be able to contribute to an additional parallel discussion around how we manage water in our region.
- The consultation just opened today and remains open for a month, closing on 17th March 2019.
- There are Waitematā Local Board staff and elected members around and about today- Pippa Coom, our Chair; Denise Roche, our Community Portfolio Holder; and Adriana Avendano Christie a Parks Portfolio Holder. They would love to hear from you or you can take a moment to head over to the Waitematā Local Board stall, located as the first of the stalls down the path on the left, to find out more information, have your say and help us shape and decide our projects and priorities, both regionally and locally, for the 2019/2020 year.

Back to today

- **There are some wonderful food stalls and those of community organisations we would like you to sample, visit and participate in today.**
- These include the Auckland Deaf Society with advice on signing, the interactive Our Auckland Map, Auckland Transport / Auckland Council presentation on the Karangahape Road redevelopment, including improved cycling and walking provision., and the Auckland City Residents Group with their water guns encouraging total warfare.
- In contrast to them, the Peace Foundation and United Nations Association of New Zealand have a peace promoting stall you should visit. Auckland Council have built on New Zealand's declaration of a Nuclear Free Zone in 1987 by declaring Auckland a City of Peace in 2011, and are working with the Peace Foundation to put it into practice. We are one 7000 Peace Cities around the world. We are committed to non-violence, social justice, promotion of

peaceful resolution of differences, rejoicing in diversity and the protection of human rights and of the natural environment and of giving practical voice and effect to this.

- Back to today, a special thanks to everyone involved in making today happen. We owe a debt of gratitude to our Waitemata Local Board staff Simon, Heather, Zigi and Shamila, events facilitators including Jyothi, sign language interpreters, parks staff and contractors and stall holders.
- Afterwards I encourage you to go and sample the shops, cafes and restaurants at the top of the park that are part of the Karangahape Road Business Association and at the bottom of the park in Queen and surrounding streets that make up the Heart of the City.
- The next act is to grace the stage is AKSamba, who were founded in 2002 right here in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand.
- AKSamba is an innovative world percussion band with musical styles that are a fusion of hot Brazilian rhythms (such as samba, samba-reggae, coco) with drum & bass, hip-hop and other dance influences. With rave reviews, they have performed and entertained thousands of people over the years across NZ and abroad, creating unforgettably entertaining musical experiences.
- Please welcome AKSamba!

Richard Northey's Speech at the Housing New Zealand Function to Mark the Closure of State Flats at 139 Grey's Avenue.

Tena kotou, tena kotou, tena kotou katoa

My name is Richard Northey and I am an elected member of the Waitematā Local Board, the local government unit for this area.

I would like to thank the Ngatiwhatua speakers and Minister Twyford for the kind comments they made about me.

The Waitematā Local Board welcomes and fully supports this project, which will treble the number of residents here and give them more holistic support.

The need in the central city for Housing New Zealand and community housing is overwhelming. When I was first elected to public office, to the Auckland City Council in 1979, there were just 237 residents living in the central city. Most people thought that apartment living in the central city was just not the New Zealand way.

Now there are over 50,000 residents here. But it is not just Dinkies and apartment owners who want to live in the central city. Thousands of those on low or no incomes want to live here and many do so without a roof over their head.

This is a great partnership between Housing New Zealand, Lifewise, Auckland Council, iwi and voluntary agencies to provide a home and much needed support for many of these people.

Waitematā Board Members met yesterday with Housing New Zealand representatives to hear about other projects in Surrey Crescent, Parawai Street, Upper Queen Street and Avon Street to expand Housing New Zealand Housing in our Board area. The Board is very pleased about these projects and urges Housing New Zealand to do more in and near the central city in spite of the high land costs this would involve. Rough sleepers and those seeking rental accommodation who are on low incomes come here for the sense of community they find here, to be close to their work which often has unsociable hours, and to be close to the social and health services they need.

Housing New Zealand and all the agencies represented here or are working in the central city need to redouble our efforts to provide better public facilities and services and a secure, affordable and healthy roof over their heads for the people who want to live in central Auckland.

Memorandum

15 February 2019

To: Chair, Finance and Performance Committee
Desley Simpson, Deputy Chair, Finance and Performance Committee

Cc: Sandra Gordon, Governance Advisor
All Waitematā Local Board members

Subject: Feedback on the Productivity Commission Issues Paper - Local Government Funding and Financing

From: Waitematā Local Board

Purpose

To provide Waitematā Local Board's feedback on the Productivity Commission Issues Paper – Local Government Funding and Financing for consideration by the Finance and Performance Committee

Summary

- The levels of homelessness across the Auckland region continues to increase. Auckland Council plays an important role in responding to homelessness, which needs to be recognised and funded by government through interest free loans and, where a good business case has been submitted, by capital grants towards council and council-supported housing projects. The policy of only providing assistance where council has given majority shareholding to a community housing or private provider should cease.
- An increasing population brings diversity and interest to Waitematā, but also places pressure and demand on resources, infrastructure, community facilities and the environment.
- Central government, local residents, businesses and residents continue to have rising standards and new interests that need to be responded to. This inevitably leads to higher local government spending
- Climate change also brings two sources of extra costs. One is moving and rebuilding infrastructure along our coast, particularly the expensive coastal infrastructure in the central city. The second is encouraging and enabling a low carbon economy and society through a range of advisory and implementation measures.
- Appropriate environmental taxes need to be available as potential sources of income for local authorities
- Wide implementation of rates remission and postponement is essential so the asset rich but income poor do not suffer and rates levels can be set at the appropriate levels to maintain the quality of life in all communities.
- There is considerable scope for Value Capture to be introduced in New Zealand to enable the whole of the community to gain benefit from significant investments in infrastructure that provide a financial benefit to private

landowners such as the development of Central Rail Link in Auckland City Centre.

- Through the creation of jobs, providing advice, co-ordination and working with businesses to get through regulations and access markets, councils contribute towards achieving sustainable local economic development. Local government should be recompensed and rewarded for this from relevant central government funds such as a share of taxation or grants.
- Central Auckland is one of many areas that provide infrastructure and events for tourists and visitors. Councils should be able to obtain a contribution from them through a bed tax, airport arrival levy and a share of GST.

Issues and Options Paper Key Topics

Local government in New Zealand

Homelessness is complex and results from multiple factors. However, a key driver and therefore consideration when reviewing the differing circumstances that are relevant for understanding local government funding and financing issues includes a substantial lack of social and affordable housing.

The levels of homelessness across the Auckland region increased by 26 percent between the 2006 and 2013 censuses. According to the 2013 census figures, 20,296 people were homeless in Auckland and 29 percent were aged between 15 and 24 years. Based on the average increase between censuses, and excluding all other factors, homelessness could stand at 23,409 in 2017, and 26,522 by 2021.

The findings of Ira Mata, Ira Tangata: Auckland's Homeless Count show that on 17 September, at least 336 people were living without shelter and 2,874 people were in temporary accommodation. It is estimated that we have 800 people living without shelter based on a validation exercise.

Auckland Council plays an important role in responding to homelessness, including leading and coordinating development of a regional, cross-sectoral homelessness plan and funding a range of initiatives that support people who are experiencing homelessness. Future investment is required to support an operational response to homelessness in Auckland.

Auckland Council has provided advice and financial guarantees for social service agencies, community housing providers and iwi to assist and enable them to provide affordable and social housing.

Local Government in New Zealand has historically been a major provider of social and affordable housing, partly to prevent and combat homelessness. This has been particularly the case with providing pensioner housing for older residents with low income and assets. Some councils have also provided rental housing for low income workers, particularly their own staff.

The advantages of council provision of pensioner and other rental housing includes local knowledge of the needs and wants of individual tenants and of local communities; speed of provision, flexibility and innovation. It is important that such housing is close to vital health, community and social services, which is the case for the Waitemātā Local Board area.

These vital roles should be funded by government by interest free loans and, where a good business case has been submitted, by capital grants towards council and council-supported housing projects. The policy of only providing assistance where council has given majority shareholding to a community housing or private provider should cease.

How funding and financing currently works

Exacerbator pays, polluter pays and appropriate environmental taxes need to be available as potential sources of income for local authorities.

Auckland's current fuel tax is a very good example of this. It is readily and equitably charged on those who use the transport network and enables valuable improvements to be paid for at the time of provision. It ought to be a tool available for any other region that wants to use it. Congestion charging and road pricing should also be an available option once technically feasible

Provision for financial contributions should be retained on the same basis as is also the use of weight-related and volumetric charges for waste and volumetric charges for water supply.

Borrowing is appropriate for building or restoring long-term assets as it enables time-appropriate provision and affordability and appropriately applies intergenerational equity for the users of the assets concerned.

Pressure points

Statistics New Zealand forecasts that the Waitematā Local Board 2017 population of 108,500 will hit 130,200 by 2033, a 21 per cent increase. The increasing population brings diversity and interest to Waitematā, but also places pressure and demand on resources, infrastructure, community facilities and the environment.

Growing ethnic diversity in the Waitematā Board area has, for example, generated a substantially increased demand for providing indoor sports and recreational facilities for people who prefer to take part in badminton, table tennis, squash and basketball more than for rugby and netball. The aging population has made it compelling that public facilities are fully accessible and safe for all age groups and abilities.

As the city's employment hub, Waitematā provides 186,000 jobs. The city centre alone accounts for one in seven jobs in Auckland. It is estimated that we have 100,000 commuters coming into the city centre, with approximately half of these using public transport, cycling or walking.

Auckland is both New Zealand's main international gateway (by air and sea), and an ever stronger standalone destination. For example, the city centre is expected to receive 127 cruise ship visits during the 2018/2019 season, an increase of 17 compared to the previous year.

These factors put substantial pressure on the transport network, infrastructure and local community facilities e.g. there is limited provision of public amenities in the city centre to cater for the large number of daily workers, visitors and rough sleepers.

Waitematā features many of Auckland's earliest buildings and suburbs. This historic legacy gives our suburbs their unique character; one that varies across the local board area and creates distinctive urban villages such as Parnell, Ponsonby and Grey Lynn.

We know the value our community places on our public and private heritage assets. Good stewardship of heritage buildings, including finding long-term uses, will provide a viable and sustainable future for many of these prized assets but investment is required to achieve this.

The new national system for managing earthquake-prone buildings is now operative. Waitemata Local Board area has 50% of all earthquake prone buildings with 795 buildings already assessed as 'earthquake prone'. Of these a number are valued public community facilities, which will require significant investment to meet the national standards over the next 10-30 years.

Central Auckland, like Queenstown, has a large and increasing number of tourists and visitors accessing accommodation, hospitality and Council services like community buildings, events, roads and public transport. These visitors do not make a contribution to the substantial costs that they incur. As the Shand Committee recommended issues of fairness generate a strong case for new funding systems derived from tourists and visitors. These include a levy on temporary accommodation providers (Bed Tax); a larger airport arrival tax; and a fair share of GST.

The Waitemata Local Board also has to respond to rising standards expected from central government, local residents, businesses and residents. The higher minimum standards required by Government and Parliament have been well documented and we agree they are a major source of demands for higher local government spending. However, as with consumers of private goods and services, our people and businesses request and sometimes demand higher standards and variety. They want all weather playing surfaces, more variety and better quality play equipment, more exciting and engaging events, better equipment in recreation centres, safer roads and footpaths, more public transport and more responsive and supportive regulatory services. They also make it clear they want council to support economic development and jobs, stadia and health services in rural areas and community development in urban areas. Some of these resource intensive requests are related to increased diversity but others are natural expectations from the community.

Councils are needing to pay more as they contribute to the implementation of Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

Climate change also brings two sources of extra costs. One is moving and rebuilding infrastructure along our coast, particularly the expensive coastal infrastructure in the central city. The second is encouraging and enabling a low carbon economy and society through a range of advisory and implementation measures.

For those who are asset rich but income poor rates remission and, more importantly, rates postponement must be implemented more closely to universality for those who qualify. This is so that councils can charge the fair property value rates, which should continue to be the main source of Council revenue. Property values are closely related to the provision of local government infrastructure and services to those properties.

New Zealand taxes income relatively heavily, while having relatively low taxes on wealth, assets and property. This imbalance is a major contributor to wealth and income inequality

and poverty in New Zealand. So wide implementation of rates remission and postponement is essential so the asset rich but income poor are not excessively disadvantaged and then rates levels can be set at the appropriate levels to maintain the quality of life in all communities. The Shand Report found these provisions at that time provided only 0.3 to 0.7% of total rates revenue. It should be at least 10 times higher.

Future Funding and Financing

As the Productivity Commission has already concluded in its 2015 and 2017 reports there is considerable scope for Value Capture to be introduced in New Zealand, as already applies in many United States cities. This would enable major increases in land values generated by public action, such as investments in infrastructure that directly benefit private landowners, to have part of the windfall gains returned to councils. This could be achieved by directly levying this uplift in land values. At the core of the Waitematā Local Board area the Central Rail Link is costing billions in public investment and all the businesses along the route will consequently gain billions in value uplift. The whole of the community should be enabled to gain benefit from that windfall.

A similar case can be made for allowing local authorities to utilize tax increment funding. This would enable a local authority to forecast the increase in revenue or in capital value that would result from its infrastructure investment and to be able to borrow against that future income without this resulting in a credit downgrade.

There ought to be public financing to encourage, enable and respond effectively to councils that seek to provide appropriate infrastructure and sustainable economic development. Development contributions need to be extended to cover all useful infrastructure. It also needs to be recognised that such contributions are only received well after the capital costs are incurred. Councils can do a lot to contribute effectively to sustainable local economic development and job creation through advice, co-ordination and working with businesses to get through regulations and access markets and they should be recompensed and rewarded for this from relevant central government funds such as a share of taxation or grants.