

DRAFT

Annual Budget 2019/2020 and Proposed Amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 regarding property transfers consultation feedback report

Annual Budget 2019/2020 consultation feedback report for Papakura Local Board

1. Purpose

This report summarises feedback relating to the Papakura Local Board received through the Annual Budget 2019/2020 consultation. This includes:

- Feedback on the Papakura Local Board priorities for 2019/2020
- Feedback on regional proposals in the Annual Budget 2019/2020 from people or organisations based in the Papakura local board area

The feedback received will inform the Papakura Local Board decisions on allocation of their local budgets in their local board agreement for 2019/2020. It will also inform the Papakura Local Board input and advocacy on regional budgets and proposals that will be agreed at their business meeting on 24 April and subsequently discussed with the Finance and Performance Committee on 8 May.

2. Executive Summary

This report summarises consultation feedback on the Annual Budget 2019/2020 (including on local board priorities for 2019/2020).

Council received feedback in person at community engagement events, through written forms (including online and hard copy forms, emails and letters) and through social media.

Feedback on Papakura Local Board priorities for 2019/2020

The local board consulted on the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Implement the recommendations in the Papakura Sports Needs Assessment
- Priority 2: Opening of the Takanini Community Hub and Library in 2020
- Priority 3: Implement the recommendations in the Smiths Ave concept plan
- Priority 4: Continue to advocate for the Papakura Train Station park-and-ride
- Priority 5: Advocate for funding of the entire Mill Road Project

Overall, 47 percent of respondents partially support the local board's priorities, 28 percent support, and 25 percent do no support.

Feedback on regional proposals in the Annual Budget 2019/2020 from the Papakura local board area

Out of the 2,953 submissions received on the regional proposals in the Annual Budget 2019/2020, 72 submissions were from people living in the Papakura local board area.

Changes to rates and fees

- **Annual waste management changes**

The majority of respondents (15) do not support the increase to the annual waste management charge, 4 supported and 2 partially support.

- **Food scraps targeted rate**

Most respondents (15) did not support extending the food scraps targeted rate, 6 supported and 2 partially support.

- **Waitākere rural sewerage targeted rate**

A total of 3 respondents support phasing out the Waitakere rural sewerage service and targeted rate over a two-year period.

- **Urban boundary rating**

Five respondents support adjusting the urban rating boundary while a further 2 did not support.

- **Religious properties rates**

The majority of respondents (14) did not support the exemption to rate some parts of the land owned by religious organisations, 6 supported and 1 partially support.

- **Regulatory fees**

Five respondents did not support an increase to some regulatory fees, 2 partially support and 1 support.

Draft Tūpuna Maunga o Tamaki Makaurau Authority – Operational Plan 2019/2020

No feedback was received from the Papakura Local Board area on the draft Tūpuna Maunga o Tamaki Makaurau Authority – Operational Plan 2019/2020.

Feedback on the proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 regarding property transfers

Out of the 2,422 submissions received on the proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 regarding property transfers, 54 submissions were from people living in the Papakura local board area.

3. Context

Auckland Council consulted on its Annual Budget 2019/2020 and a proposed Amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 regarding property transfers between 17 February and 17 March 2019.

The Annual Budget 2019/2020 must include a Local Board Agreement for the Papakura Local Board which sets out our priorities and how we're going to pay for them.

Auckland Council also consulted on the Our Water Future discussion document at the same time. The feedback received on this discussion document will be presented at a later date.

Types of feedback

Overall Auckland Council received feedback from 5,249 people in the consultation period. This feedback was received through:

- Written feedback – 1,113 hard copy forms 2,423 online forms and 1,713 non forms
- In person – feedback was received through 14 have your say events and 51 community events.
- Social media – 19 comments were received through Facebook and Twitter.

4. Feedback received on Papakura Local Board priorities for 2019/2020

The Papakura Local Board consulted on the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Implement the recommendations in the Papakura Sports Needs Assessment
- Priority 2: Opening of the Takanini Community Hub and Library in 2020
- Priority 3: Implement the recommendations in the Smiths Ave concept plan
- Priority 4: Continue to advocate for the Papakura Train Station park-and-ride
- Priority 5: Advocate for funding of the entire Mill Road Project

Key themes across all feedback received (through written, event and social media channels) were:

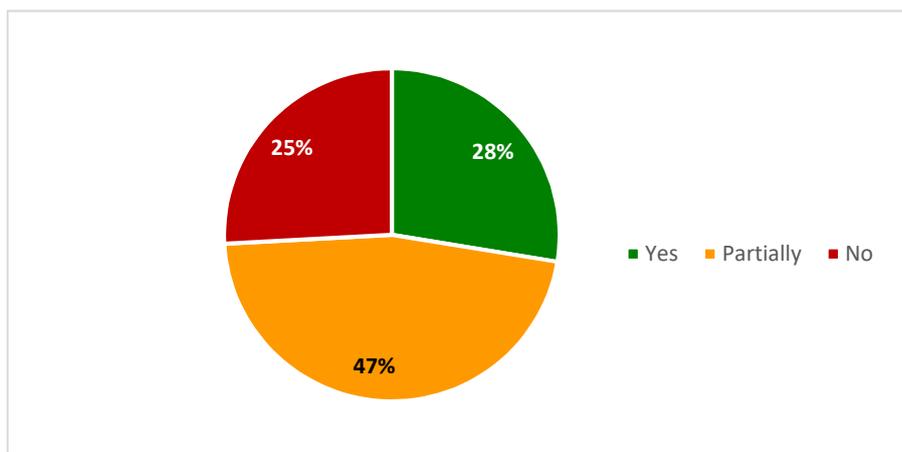
- Transport
- Waste management
- Safety

A summary of the feedback received through each channel is provided below.

Feedback received through written submissions

72 written submissions were received on Papakura Local Board priorities for 2019/2020, showing that the majority of people partially support (47%) the local board's priorities as presented in graph 1 below.

Graph 1: general response to local board priorities



- Results show that the majority (47%) of submitters partially supported the local boards priorities.
- 28% of respondents supported and a further 25% did not support the local board’s priorities.
- Most comments received from the 47% of submitters who partially supported the local board’s priorities referred to improving transport infrastructure, safety, waste management and a focus on cleaning rubbish around Papakura. Other responses highlighted the need for greater distribution of council funding to south Auckland, primarily Papakura.
- Transport and environment were the key themes raised from the 28% of respondents who supported the board’s key priorities.
- Responses from submitters (25%) who did not support the board’s priorities thought Papakura does not receive the same level of support as other suburbs and voiced concerns around traffic congestion.

Feedback received through events

The Papakura Local Board held one have your say event at Sir Edmund Hillary Library on Wednesday 13 March, 5.00 – 6.30pm. Feedback was received from 23 people.

Table 1 below illustrates the overall support for the local board’s priorities.

Table 1: Response to local board priorities

Response	Count
Yes	18
Partially	0
No	0

- From the Papakura have your say event the four topics that received the most feedback were ‘transport’, ‘parks, sport and recreation’, ‘safety’ and ‘community spaces’.
- Regarding the topic ‘transport’, respondents asked for improved coverage of public transport options including within Papakura and to the city.
- Upgrading parks, especially making them safer were the key comments raised under ‘parks, sport and recreation’.
- Under the topic ‘safety’, the key areas raised were safety around the community – “Safer streets, more cops on the beat” and at the train station.
- Submitters believed that the board should be providing support for community spaces, in particular the Takanini Hub.

Feedback received through social media channels

Feedback across the region was received from the following social media channels:

- 8 people from Facebook
- 11 people from Twitter

The top three topics from both social media channels were ‘waste management’, ‘transport’ and ‘parks, sport and recreation’.

Requests to reinstate the old inorganic system, establish rubbish refuge centres in various locations and provide ratepayers with tip passes were the key comments under waste management. The responses relating to transport raised concerns around traffic congestion, with particular reference to the Southern Corridor project. Other comments opposed the construction of a tunnel under the Harbour Bridge. Feedback under Park Sport and Recreation opposed the allocation of funding towards sporting arenas such as Eden Park, and further responses advocated for more investment in public parks and more dog parks in Papakura.

Information on submitters

The tables and graphs below indicate what demographic categories people identified with. This information only relates to those submitters who provided demographic information.

Of the 59 people who provided demographic information as displayed in table 2, 21 were female, 38 were male and 0 were gender diverse.

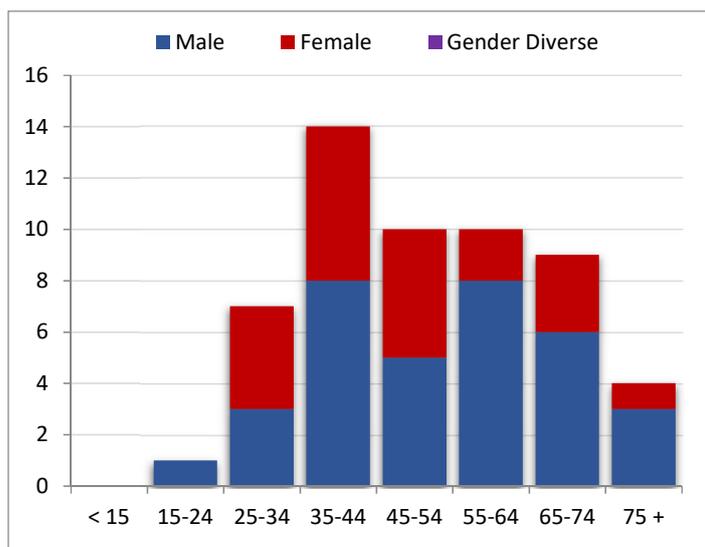
Graph 2 illustrates that the highest number of respondents were between the ages of 35 and 44 (14). The second largest age groups were 45-54 (10) and 55-64 (10).

Graph 3 shows that of those who provided ethnicity details, 44 identified as European, followed by Asian (10), Maori (3), Pacific (3), African/Middle Eastern/Latin (1).

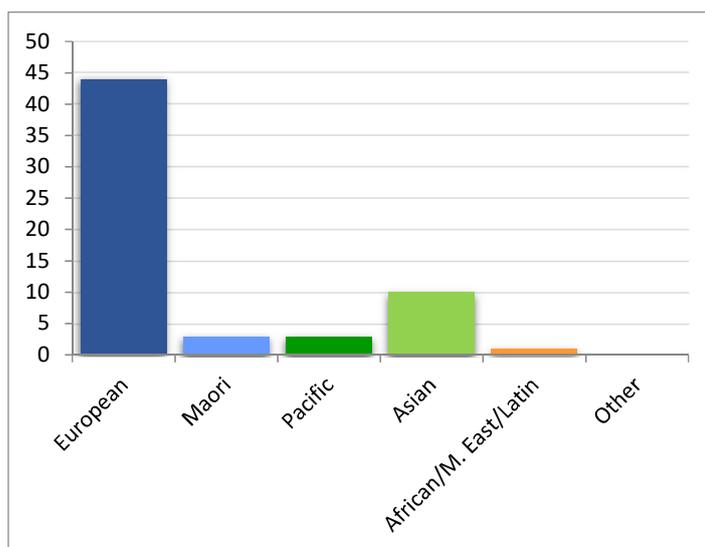
Table 2: Gender demographic of submitters

Gender	Count
Male	38
Female	21
Gender diverse	0

Graph 2: Age demographic of submitters



Graph 3: Ethnic breakdown of submitters



5. Overview of feedback received on the Annual Budget from Papakura Local Board area

The Annual Budget 2019/2020 sets out our priorities and how we're going to pay for them. The regional consultation on the proposed Annual Budget focused on changes to rates and fees:

- Changes to rates and fees
 - Annual waste management changes
 - Food scraps targeted rate
 - Waitākere rural sewerage targeted rate
 - Urban boundary rating

- Religious properties rates
- Regulatory fees

The submissions received from the Papakura Local Board area on these key issues is summarised below, along with an overview of any other areas of feedback on regional proposals with a local impact.

Changes to rates and fees

Aucklanders were asked about a proposed small number of rating and fee changes.

Question 1: We are proposing a small number of rating and fee changes for 2019/2020

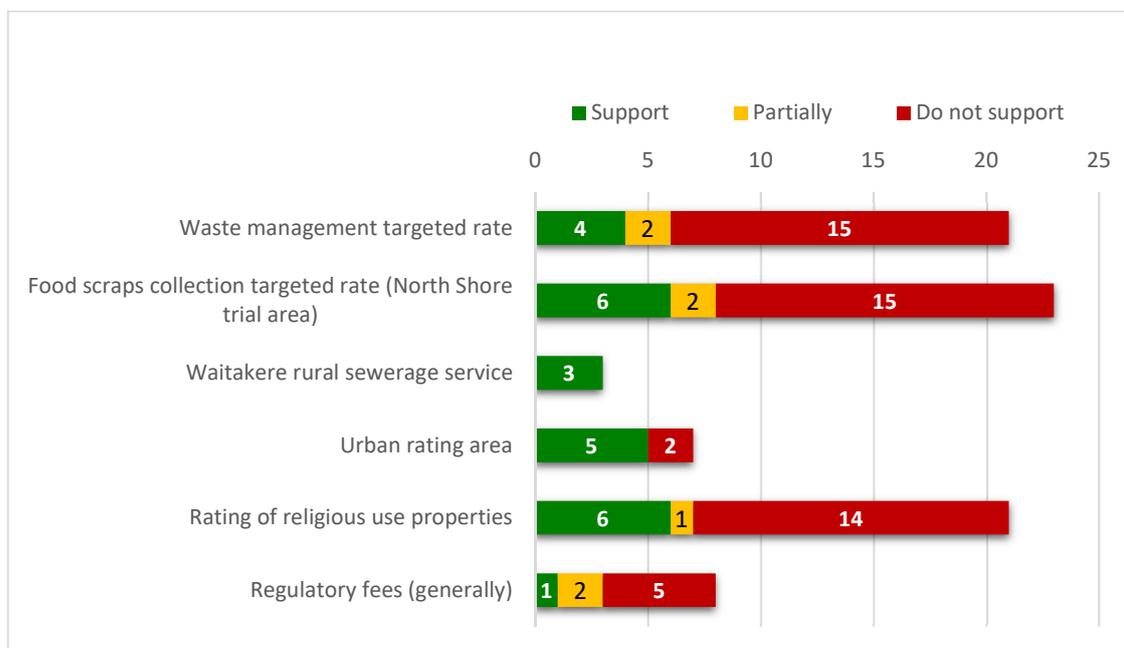
These changes include:

- a \$20.67 increase to the annual waste management charge to cover increased costs
- extending the food scraps targeted rate to 2000 properties in the North Shore former trial area to whom the service is available
- phasing out the Waitākere rural sewerage service and targeted rate over a two-year period (2019/2020-2020/2021)
- adjusting the urban rating boundary to apply urban rates to 400 properties in recently urbanised areas (that receive the same services as their adjacent urban neighbours)
- not charging rates on some parts of the land owned by religious organisations, and
- an increase to some regulatory fees (such as resource consent, building control and mooring fees) to cover increased costs.

Please tell us what you think about some or all of these changes

The graph below gives an overview of the responses from the Papakura Local Board area.

Graph 4: Changes to rates and fees



Waste management

The majority of comments opposing the increase to the annual waste management charge felt rates were already high and would be an additional burden for low income households. Concerns were also mentioned on how the increase would benefit Papakura while others thought waste management services should have been consistent across the region since amalgamation.

Comments in favour generally supported the increase but suggested rubbish collections be incorporated with general rates instead of forcing residents to purchase 'rubbish tags' and waste collection vouchers on top. Those who partially supported felt a standardised system was needed and questioned why rubbish collection is by way of a 'tag'. Support for a recycling facility was also mentioned.

Food scraps targeted rate

Many comments against the food scraps targeted felt it was futile and a waste of resources, suggesting money be spent elsewhere, as most residents were being unnecessarily charged for a service they were not using.

Submitters who commented in support thought it was a great initiative and would like to see the collection rolled out Auckland wide. Responses that partially support suggested an option for ratepayers who do not use the service to opt out and offer an exemption for those who use less waste.

Waitakere rural sewerage targeted rate

Respondents' generally agreed and felt home owners should monitor it themselves, while proposing a rates rebate for those who have their own onsite waste management system not already connected to water pipes.

Urban boundary rating

Comments against adjusting the urban rating boundary sighted concerns around undeveloped land facing rates increases when a community has not yet been established, with specific reference to Kauri Flats in Takanini.

Feedback from submitters in support of the proposal thought it was fair as many properties receive the same services but pay fewer rates. Further comments suggested 'life-style blocks' less than 10 acres should also be classified under urban rates.

Religious properties rates

Respondents who did not support this proposal thought religious organisations should be paying rates like anyone else, especially if other non-profit organisations are not exempt, which some thought was a perceived bias towards churches. Other comments signified churches already receive enough donations from their congregation, and as land owners, should contribute towards the cost of running the city.

Comments from those in support of the proposal emphasised the vital role churches have in the community such as providing a place to worship, facilities for community group use and supporting

the holistic needs of the wider community. Other feedback referred to the central government recognising the role churches have in the wider community, while some respondents feared there would be a restriction of services delivered by churches should rates be applied.

Regulatory fees

Many comments opposing the increase in regulatory fees felt the existing costs were excessive already, especially for small home renovations. Other feedback suggested reducing the salaries of staff “at the top” and more transparency on what the revenue will be spent on, similar views to those who partially submitted.

Submitters who commented in support of the increase did so providing the speed of resource consents are fast tracked as they thought the current process is slow.

Feedback on the draft Tūpuna Maunga o Tamaki Makaurau Authority – Operational Plan 2019/2020

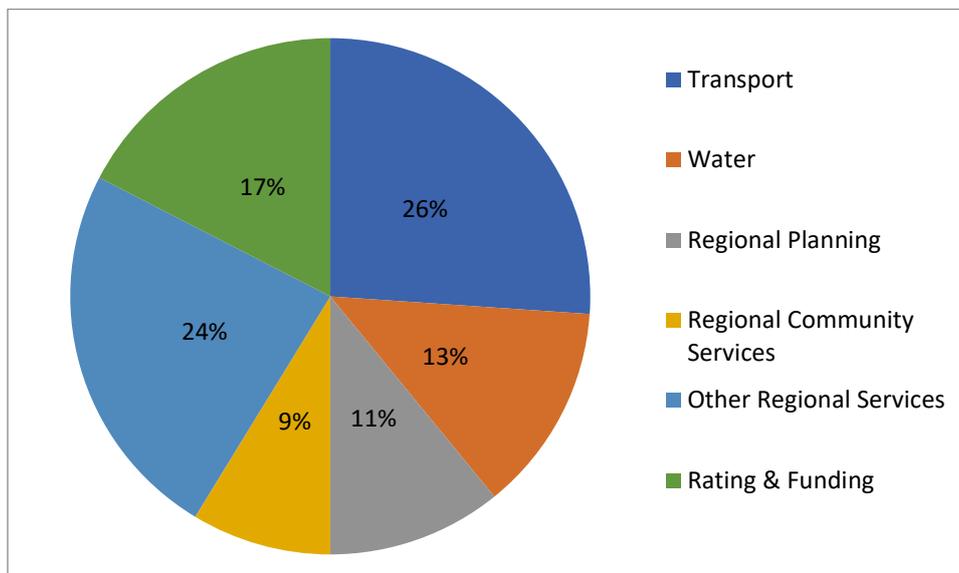
No feedback was received from the Papakura Local Board area on the draft Tūpuna Maunga o Tamaki Makaurau Authority – Operational Plan 2019/2020.

Feedback on other regional proposals with a local impact

Feedback was received from the Papakura Local Board area on other regional proposals.

The graph below shows the areas covered by this feedback.

Graph 5: Response to regional proposals from Papakura Local Board area



Transport

While some respondents maintain that public transport is improving, there are still many areas that they feel need to be further developed. The key areas identified were more park & rides, easier access to trains and buses for those who walk and cycle and more routes available.

Water

The primary submissions regarding regional water were focused on privatisation and the water targeting rate, as well as environmental concerns. These submissions generally supported prioritising water quality to maintain clean, and safe drinking water: *"It's not just an environmental issue, it's directly a health issue at this point."*

Regional planning

Under the topic of 'regional planning', the main submissions were on homelessness, housing and the cost of living.

Responses highlighted that in some areas there were too many houses being built before the roading infrastructure is in place whereas other submitters were primarily concerned with housing in general.

Regional community services

Safety and parks were the two primary topics under 'regional community services'. Respondents were concerned about levels of crime and wanted levels of security increased for the streets and community. There were also concerns about the standard and number of parks within the region.

Other regional services

The main submissions were on the environment and waste management. Respondents were interested in maintaining a clean, green image and ensuring safe water quality: *"100% clean and green is what we market NZ as, as NZ's biggest city we need to lead the way for the rest of the country."* Others supported increasing the frequency that recycling is currently being collected.

Rating and funding

The key submissions were on cutting costs and rates. Many felt that rates are too high and should be lowered for everyone in the region. Submitters also stated that the service they are receiving is inadequate for the amount they are paying in rates. Another concern was with council's priorities and felt that they were overspending on "vanity projects".

6. Overview of feedback received on the proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 regarding property transfers from Papakura Local Board area

The question and text below is directly from the feedback form. The feedback from the Papakura Local Board area is set out under the question.

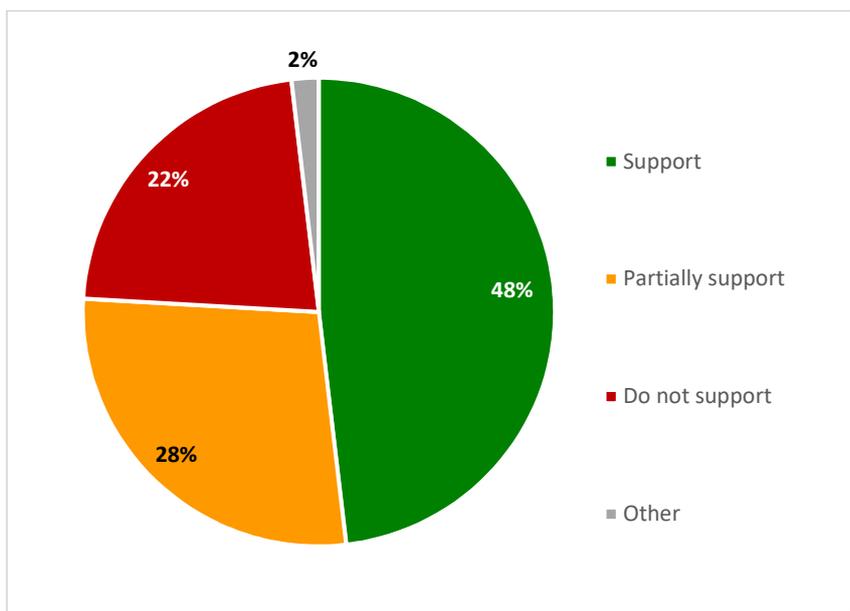
Question 1:

Panuku is Auckland Council’s urban development agency and currently owns and manages about \$790 million of city centre waterfront properties. We are proposing to transfer the legal ownership of those properties to Auckland Council. Panuku would continue to manage the properties. The resulting ownership structure would reduce governance duplication, increase consistency with other development areas and maximise future flexibility. The city centre waterfront properties are strategic assets so we want to know what you think of the proposal.

What is your opinion about this proposal?

The graph below gives an overview of the responses from the Papakura Local Board area.

Graph 6: Response to property transfers from Papakura Local Board area



Of the 54 submissions, 26 supported the amendment, 15 partially support, 12 do not support and 1 is other. Supporters of this proposal believed it would increase consistency and reduce duplication. Those who partially support the amendment note a desire for more transparency and to ensure mana whenua maintain kaitiaki. Respondents who do not support this change noted concern about the effect it would have on ratepayers.