

# Annual Budget 2019/2020 consultation feedback report for Waiheke Local Board

## 1. Purpose

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

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

The feedback received will inform the Waiheke Local Board decisions on allocation of their local budgets in their local board agreement for 2019/2020. It will also inform the Waiheke Local Board input and advocacy on regional budgets and proposals that will be agreed at their business meeting on 18 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 Waiheke Local Board priorities for 2019/2020

The local board consulted on the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Progressing the Matiatia Masterplan
- Priority 2: Continuing ecological restoration, improving the quality of our waterways and predator management
- Priority 3: Staged implementation of the Waiheke Paths (Greenways) Plan including safe walking access, particularly to and from schools
- Priority 4: Completion of management plans for our local parks
- Priority 5: Improvements to Tawaipareira Reserve including skatepark renewal
- Priority 6: Progressing a community-managed swimming pool
- Priority 7: Continuing the investigation of a visitor levy to enable us to afford to protect and enhance the island's amenities and ecosystems
- Priority 8: Encouraging and supporting carbon reduction initiatives
- Priority 9: Redesigning our waste stream to ensure we reduce our costs and usage over time
- Priority 10: Continuing to implement actions identified in our new Housing Strategy

23 submissions were received on Waiheke local board priorities for 2019/2020, showing that most people either partially support (38 per cent) or support (29 per cent) the local board's priorities.

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

Out of the 5250 submissions received on the regional proposals in the Annual Budget 2019/2020, 36 submissions were from people living in the Waiheke local board area. Below is a summary of their feedback.

#### Changes to rates and fees

##### 1. **A \$20.67 increase to the annual waste management charge to cover increased costs**

Feedback was largely not supportive with comments noting that costs should be covered by those who create excess waste, and that any increase in rates should be used to improve the management of Auckland's waste, for example improved recycling programmes.

##### 2. **Extending the food scraps targeted rate to 2000 properties in the North Shore former trial area to whom the service is available**

Feedback was mixed with a few commenting that people living on Waiheke already compost their food scraps. However, there was general support that the council should support all initiatives which reduce waste.

**3. Phasing out the Waitākere rural sewerage service and targeted rate over a two-year period (2019/2020-2020/2021)**

Feedback was received from one person who didn't support the phasing out of the service as the current regime ensured compliance.

**4. 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)**

Feedback was supportive of urban rates for these properties.

**5. Not charging rates on some parts of the land owned by religious organisations**

Feedback was predominantly not supportive of this proposal.

**6. An increase to some regulatory fees (such as resource consent, building control and mooring fees) to cover increased costs**

*Resource consent and building fees:*

Feedback was not supportive of the increased charges due to the high cost already, and that it will make it harder for people to do minor improvements.

*Harbourmaster fees:*

Feedback was generally not supportive. Comments were made that current support received by the Harbourmaster was minimal and that responsible boat owners shouldn't have to pay for those that leave boats damaged or abandoned.

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

Out of the 2450 submissions received on the proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 regarding property transfers, 20 submissions were from people living in the Waiheke local board area.

Feedback was predominantly supportive of this proposal.

### **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 Waiheke 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 6496 people in the consultation period. This feedback was received through:

- Written feedback – 5250 hard copy and online forms, emails and letters
- In person – feedback from 1246 people was received through 14 have your say events and 51 community events.
- Social media – 25 comments were received through Facebook and Twitter.

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

The Waiheke Local Board consulted on the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Progressing the Matiatia Masterplan
- Priority 2: Continuing ecological restoration, improving the quality of our waterways and predator management
- Priority 3: Staged implementation of the Waiheke Paths (Greenways) Plan including safe walking access, particularly to and from schools
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- Priority 8: Encouraging and supporting carbon reduction initiatives
- Priority 9: Redesigning our waste stream to ensure we reduce our costs and usage over time
- Priority 10: Continuing to implement actions identified in our new Housing Strategy

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

- Rates – the council should address efficiency rather than increase rates.
- Waste / Recycling – concerns about waste management and recycling in general, and support for investigating innovative ways to reduce waste.
- Transport – concerns about public transport and parking costs.

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

### Feedback received through written submissions

23 submissions were received on Waiheke Local Board priorities for 2019/2020, showing that the majority of people either partially support (38 per cent) or support (29 per cent) the local board's priorities.

Of those submissions that either did not support or partially supported, 40 per cent related to issues outside the local board decision-making responsibility and are current local board advocacy areas to the Governing Body.

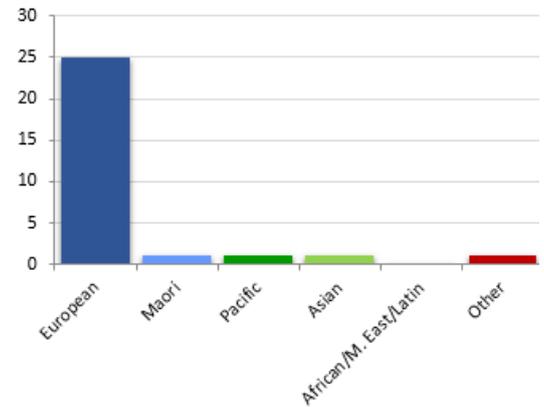
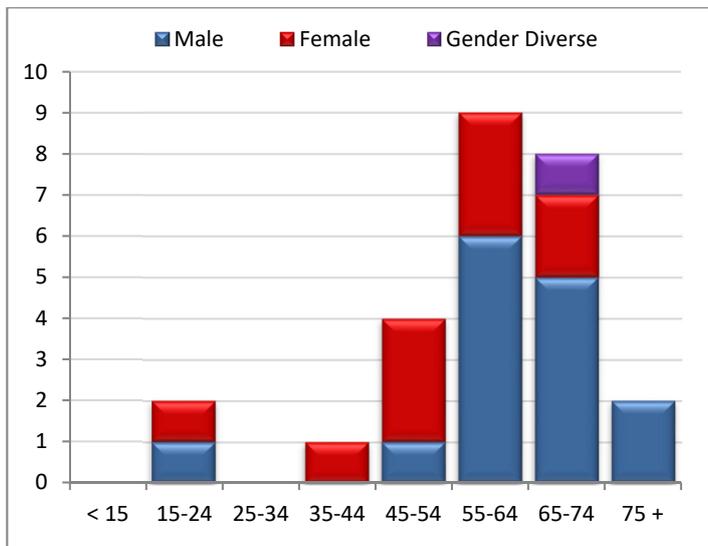
These included:

- Rates – the council should address efficiency rather than increase rates.
- Waste / Recycling – concerns about waste management and recycling in general, and support for investigating innovative ways to reduce waste.
- Transport – concerns about public transport and parking costs, and support for better footpaths and cycleways.
- Visitors – concerns about the impact on infrastructure and the environment.

Accommodation provider targeted rates (APTR): A submission was received from the Waiheke Accommodation Providers group, on behalf of the 400 home owners managed by their organisation, raising concerns about the APTR. They are requesting the council move Waiheke from zone B to zone C, therefore becoming exempt from the rate, alongside Franklin, Great Barrier, Papakura, Rodney and the Waitakere ranges. A petition has been presented to a Parliament Select Committee about this matter.

### 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.



## 5. Overview of feedback received on the Annual Budget from Waiheke 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 Waiheke 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*

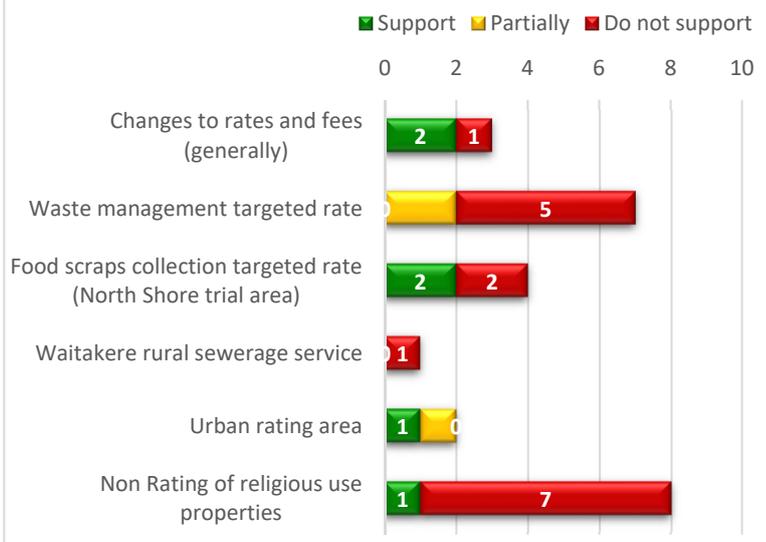
*These changes include:*

- *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.*

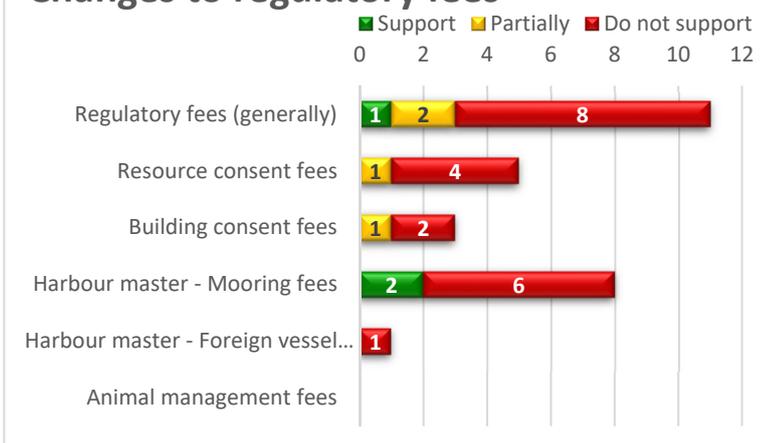
*Please tell us what you think about some or all of these changes*

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Waiheke Local Board area.

## Changes to rates and fees



## Changes to regulatory fees



WAIHEKE				
Changes to rates and fees	TOTAL	Support	Partially	Do not support
Changes to rates and fees (generally)	4	2	0	2
Waste management targeted rate	7	0	2	5
Food scraps collection targeted rate (North Shore trial area)	4	2	0	2
Waitakere rural sewerage service	1	0	0	1
Urban rating area	2	1	1	0
Rating of religious use properties	8	1	0	7
Regulatory fees (generally)	11	1	2	8
Resource consent fees	5	0	1	4
Building consent fees	3	0	1	2
Harbour master fees	9	2	0	6
<i>Harbour master - Mooring fees</i>		2		6
<i>Harbour master - Foreign vessel charges</i>		0		1
Animal management fees	0	0	0	0
Changes to regulatory fees (generally)	2	0	2	0

Common themes that arose from feedback are summarised below.

**1. A \$20.67 increase to the annual waste management charge to cover increased costs**

Feedback was largely not supportive with comments noting that costs should be covered by those who create excess waste, and that any increase in rates should be used to improve the management of Auckland's waste, for example improved recycling programmes.

**2. Extending the food scraps targeted rate to 2000 properties in the North Shore former trial area to whom the service is available**

Feedback was mixed with a few commenting that people living on Waiheke already compost their food scraps. However, there was general support that the council should support all initiatives which reduce waste.

**3. Phasing out the Waitākere rural sewerage service and targeted rate over a two-year period (2019/2020-2020/2021)**

Feedback was received from one person who didn't support the phasing out of the service as the current regime ensured compliance.

**4. 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)**

Feedback was supportive of urban rates for these properties.

**5. Not charging rates on some parts of the land owned by religious organisations**

Feedback was predominantly not supportive of this proposal.

**6. An increase to some regulatory fees (such as resource consent, building control and mooring fees) to cover increased costs**

*Resource consent and building fees:*

Feedback was not supportive of the increased charges due to the high cost already, and that it will make it harder for people to do minor improvements.

*Harbourmaster fees:*

Feedback was generally not supportive. Comments were made that current support received by the Harbourmaster was minimal and that responsible boat owners shouldn't have to pay for those that leave boats damaged or abandoned.

**7. Additional themes**

Further feedback was provided about the following themes.

- Rates – the council should address efficiency rather than increase rates.
- Waste / Recycling – concerns about waste management and recycling in general, and support for investigating innovative ways to reduce waste.
- Auckland City Mission – support for HomeGround proposal.
- Transport – concerns about public transport and parking costs.

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

The question and text below is directly from the feedback form. The feedback from the Waiheke 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?*

Out of the 2422 submissions received on the proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 regarding property transfers, 20 submissions were from people living in the Waiheke local board area.

Feedback was predominantly supportive of this proposal. The graph below gives an overview of the responses from the Waiheke Local Board area.

