

Chair's report: Waiheke Local Board

21 Mar 2019 – 9 April 2019

Ngā mihi Waiheke

Transport

1. The Transport Forum met on 4 March. It was pleasing to seeing a growing agenda of issues being brought by both forum members and members of the community for the forum's consideration.
2. A memorandum of understanding between the board and Auckland Transport (AT) is under negotiation.
3. Man of War Bay Road and Cowes Bay Road are the source of continual complaints by landowners who have borne the brunt of the many unreported accidents experienced on the loop road by both visiting drivers and locals, and reports of many more near-misses. Some taxi companies are anecdotally refusing fares to the far end because of the risks to their drivers, passengers and vehicles. A transparent review of the maintenance schedule and safety of that road is required. There are other unsealed roads that are also featuring in repeated advocacy to the board chair and other members.

By-laws

Two by-laws are currently under review and are in various stages of consultation/sign-off by the governing body of council. Because of the failure of these processes to take account of local boards' accountabilities all 21 local board chairs have signed a letter addressed to the mayor and governing body councillors. The chairs seek urgency to address the increasing marginalisation of local boards' input on behalf of their constituents on new and reviewed by-laws.

The approach being taken by council's Community and Social Policy Department has not allowed for time or a mechanism for the public's feedback to be collated and considered by the local boards prior to the boards presenting to hearings on behalf of their communities.

1. Dog by-law Council's regulatory committee has been considering a one-size fits all approach to time and season rules for dogs on public reserves/beaches. The Waiheke Local Board has submitted against any changes affecting the current Waiheke situation which was community-consulted and ultimately determined by the local board. A council-led 'Have Your Say' public meeting is planned for Waiheke on Sunday 14 April 2.00-4.00pm at the Ostend Memorial Hall to hear residents' feedback on the council's proposals.
2. Freedom Camping After extensive consultation with the local board, council staff recommended no freedom camping sites be designated for Waiheke Island. This is consistent with the board's view that our infrastructure is not suitable for camper vans and they would not add value to our local economy because they are largely self-contained. Once councils have designated freedom camping areas they can also

designate all other areas as prohibited for freedom camping which is the boards' preference for Waiheke. To date it is not clear if the governing body will take that step. Cr Lee has been briefed on the boards' position which is now also apparently supported by the majority of residents from the public who submitted on the subject.

3. **Waste services** Tenders will be called for by council in the forthcoming week for reconfigured waste services for Waiheke Island. The board's input has been well received by council staff over the past months and is reflected in the services being tendered.

4. **5G network** In response to community-raised concerns of potential health risks from the proposed roll-out of a 5G network the board has written to the chair of the governing body's Environment and Community Committee seeking its involvement in enlisting expert opinion to inform a regional response and policy led by the committee.

nāku noa

Cath Handley

Chair