

## Whau Local Board Annual Budget 2019/2020 consultation feedback

### 1. Purpose

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

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

The feedback received will inform the Whau Local Board decisions on allocation of its local budgets in its local board agreement for 2019/2020. It will also inform the Whau Local Board input and advocacy on regional budgets and proposals that will be agreed at its 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 through written submissions, social media comments and in person.

Key proposals in the regional consultation were:

- changes to rates (including ending the Waitakere septic tank pump-out scheme which has not achieved the desired water quality improvements, introducing a targeted rate to continue the food scraps recycling that has been trialled in parts of the North Shore ahead of a regionwide roll-out next year, and not charging rates on land used by religious organised for a range of non-commercial purposes)
- changes to regulatory fees (increasing fees for some aspects of resource consents, building consents, harbour master fees, and animal management).

There was also consultation around a proposal to amend Auckland Council's ten-year budget (2018-2028) in respect of legal ownership of properties within the council group. This proposal would see the transfer of the legal ownership of about \$790 million of city centre waterfront properties currently held by Panuku Development Auckland to Auckland Council in the interests of reducing governance duplication, increasing consistency and maximising flexibility.

The local board consulted on the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Whau Pool and Recreation centre
- Priority 2: Avondale town centre redevelopment as part of the Panuku Unlock programme
- Priority 3: Shared Community Facilities/Libraries (Avondale)
- Priority 4: Te Whau Pathway – boardwalk connections.

121 submissions were received on Whau local board priorities for 2019/2020, showing that the majority of people either partially support (46%) or support (37%) the local board's priorities.

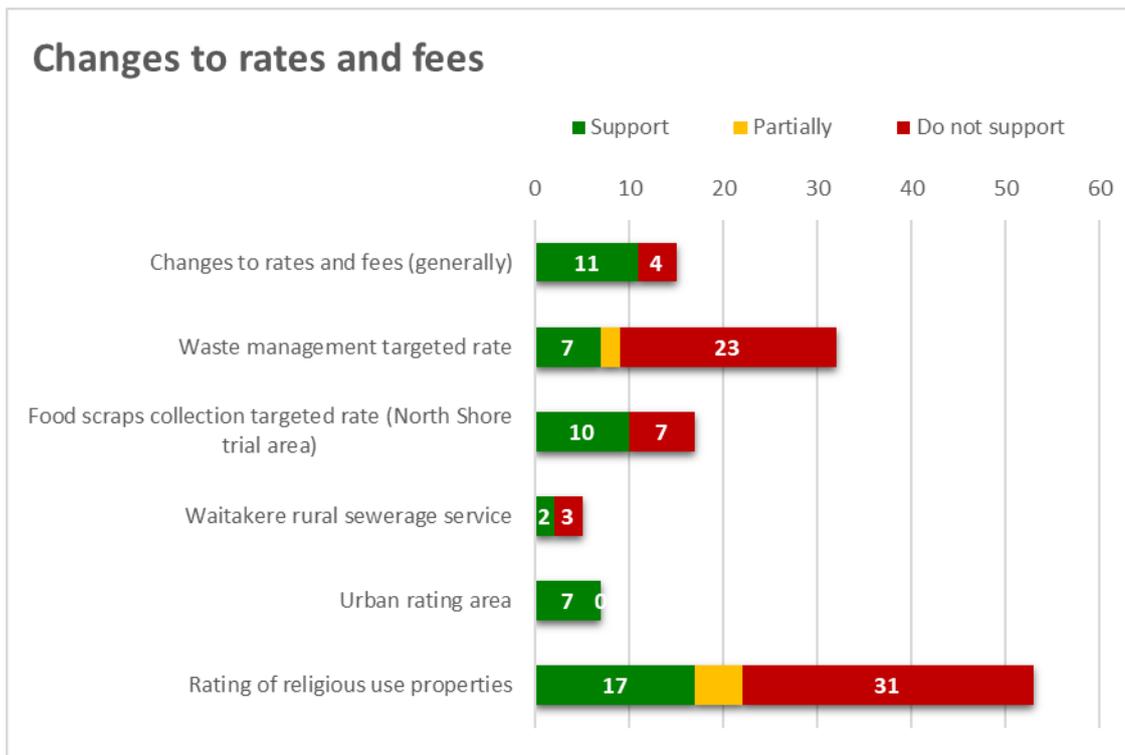
### 3. Feedback on regional proposals

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 Whau Local Board which sets out Council’s priorities and how these will be funded.

Overall Auckland Council received feedback from over 5,200 people in the consultation period. This feedback was received in person at community engagement events, through written forms (including online and hard copy forms, emails and letters) and through social media. 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.

Submissions from people living in the Whau local board area represented approximately 2.3% of regional submissions. Most of these 121 submissions addressed at least some of the regional proposals. Of those who responded to the regional questions, 23% partially support, and 68% support, the proposals.

The proposal around changes to rates attracted very few general comments from people living in the Whau local board area. However, the specific proposals around waste management targeted rates and rating of religious use properties attracted significant responses (mainly opposed to the proposals), as shown in Figure 1 below. It should be noted that the waste management targeted rate would not affect Whau residents in 2019/2020.



The proposal to increase some regulatory fees relating to resource consents, building consents, harbour master fees and animal management attracted a very low number of responses from people in the Whau local board area. Most opposed the increases in fees.

Over 40 of the 121 submitters from the Whau local board area responded to the proposal to amend Auckland Council’s Annual Budget (2018-2028) in respect of legal ownership of properties within the council group and transfer of approximately \$790 million of property from Panuku to Auckland Council. Of those, around three quarters supported or partially supported the proposal.

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

The Whau Local Board consulted on the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Whau Pool and Recreation centre
- Priority 2: Avondale town centre redevelopment as part of the Panuku Unlock programme
- Priority 3: Shared Community Facilities/Libraries (Avondale)
- Priority 4: Te Whau Pathway – boardwalk connections

121 submissions were received on Whau Local Board priorities for 2019/2020, showing that the majority of people either partially support (46%) or support (37%) the local board's priorities. The number of comments on specific issues were very low. The following themes have been identified, but it is important to note that each refers to only a handful (generally fewer than ten) individual comments and need to be interpreted in that context.

- Support for a pool and recreation centre in the Whau Local Board area – most of those submitters who addressed this indicated support for the initiative, but it is noted that some opposed it or questioned why it should be the top priority. Several submitters appear to assume that the facility will be located in Avondale.
- Support for improvements in Avondale – this attracted the highest number of supportive comments and no one indicated general opposition to it, although a few submitters noted their opposition to specific aspects of the wider programme of improvements.
- The need for improved transport services and infrastructure – a significant number of comments were made around transport in the Whau Local Board area, most of which emphasised the need for good walking and cycling connections and improved public transport. A smaller number of submitters addressed issues around road safety and the need for infrastructure improvements, including footpath renewals.
- A few submitters indicated support for new or expanded environmental initiatives including water quality and restoration of native vegetation, but without giving specific details.
- A few submitters expressed concerns around community safety, crime, disorderly and antisocial behaviour and dumping of rubbish.
- Few submitters addressed the proposed Avondale integrated library and community facility, noting that the Local Board's decision on the site for the facility was announced early in the consultation period.
- Few submitters addressed the Te Whau Pathway – those that did were in favour of the initiative.

The Whau Local Board held a “have your say” event as part of its 27 February business meeting. Only one piece of verbal feedback was provided at that meeting and attendees were encouraged to complete written submissions. At the Whau Local Board's Seniors' High Tea event held on 14 March, 22 pieces of feedback were received. Attendees were asked, in particular, to give a view as older residents about what makes the Whau great and what would improve it. It was difficult to identify any themes from this feedback, but a few submitters noted support for the pool and recreation centre, a few noted concerns around safety (including pedestrian safety) and there were several requests for better community facilities, events and social opportunities.

Staff took the opportunity to undertake informal engagement and awareness-raising around the consultation at several public events held in the Whau Local Board area during the consultation event, encouraging the public to submit.

### Information on submitters

Of the 121 submissions received from residents of the Whau Local Board area, 111 were from individuals and ten were from organisations. 116 submissions were completed online and five were hard copy. Figures 2 and 3 below provides demographic information on those submitters who provided it.

Submitters from the Whau Local Board area were relatively young compared to the regionwide average (the largest single group of submitters in the Whau was those aged 35-44, whereas regionwide the largest group was those aged 55-64). Submissions did not reflect the local board area’s ethnic diversity, with over 80% coming from people who identify as European. This was consistent with regional trends.

Figure 2: ethnicity of submitters from the Whau Local Board area

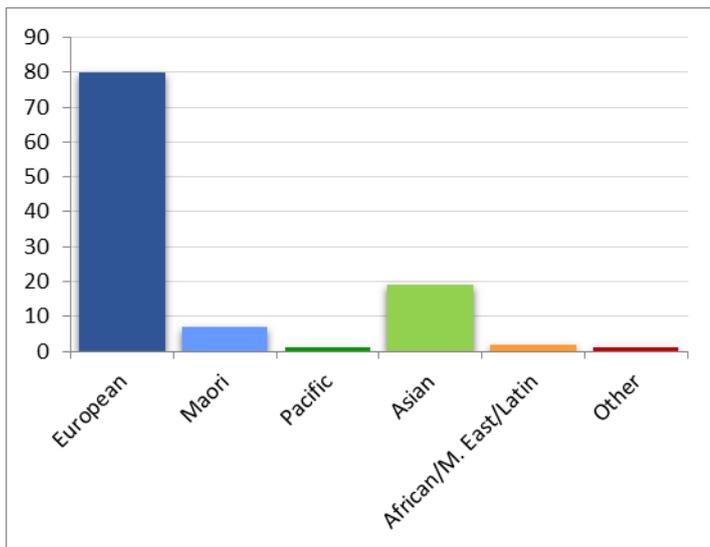


Figure 3: age and gender of submitters from the Whau Local Board area

