

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

## 1. Purpose

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

- Feedback on the Waitematā Local Board priorities for 2019/2020
- Feedback on regional proposals in the Annual Budget 2019/2020 from people and organisations based in the Waitematā local board area
- Feedback on the proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 from people and organisations in the Waitematā Local Board area

The feedback received will inform the Waitematā Local Board decisions on allocation of their local budgets in their Local Board Agreement for 2019/2020. It will also inform the Waitematā Local Board input and advocacy on regional budgets and proposals that will be agreed at their business meeting on 16 April 2019 and subsequently discussed with the Finance and Performance Committee on 8 May 2019.

## 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 submissions (including online and hard copy forms, emails and letters) and through social media.

### Feedback on Waitematā Local Board priorities for 2019/2020

The local board consulted on the following priorities:

- Developing 254 Ponsonby Road as a civic space
- Activating, improving and renewing local parks, guided by Park Development Plans
- Improving the playgrounds at Western Springs Lakeside Park and Home Street Reserve, providing pathways in Basque Park and building the Grey Lynn Park changing rooms
- Continuing waterway restoration projects and seeking opportunities to implement initiatives to enhance the Western Springs-Meola-Three Kings Aquifer
- Supporting community and arts groups and local events, including the local board's flagship events: Parnell Festival of Roses and Myers Park Medley
- Funding an arts partnership with TAPAC
- Funding increased opening hours at Grey Lynn Library and the Central City Library
- Investigating opportunities to reduce agrichemical use, including advocating to the Governing Body to take a regional approach to agrichemical-free park maintenance.

A total of 223 submissions were received for the Waitematā Local Board area; of these 148 submissions provided responses on the local board priorities for 2019/2020. The majority of these submissions either supported (45 per cent) or partially supported (43 per cent) the Waitematā Local Board's priorities.

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

Out of the 5,250 written submissions received on the regional proposals in the Annual Budget 2019/2020, 223 submissions were from people living in the Waitematā Local Board area.

#### Changes to rates and fees

- **Annual waste management changes**

Twenty-seven responses were received on this proposal. This proposal was generally supported with 16 responses supporting the increase and three responses partially in support.

- **North Shore food scraps targeted rate**

This proposal elicited 21 responses of which 15 were in support and one partially in support.

- **Waitākere rural sewerage targeted rate**

Five responses were received on this proposal. This proposal was not supported with four responses against the proposal.

- **Urban boundary rating**

Nine responses were received on this proposal. This proposal was supported by eight of these responses.

- **Religious properties rating**

Of the rating and fee questions, this question received the greatest response with 77 responses. Of the responses received 48 responses did not support the proposal and six responses partially supported the proposal.

- **Regulatory fees**

The majority of responses and feedback points in relation to changes to regulatory fees were not in support of increasing regulatory fees. Some of the responses were in relation to regulatory fees as a whole, while others were specific feedback points on one of the fees listed e.g. resource consents.

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

The Waitemātā Local Board did not receive any responses on this matter. The response rate was very low across Auckland.

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

Out of the 2,450 responses received on the proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 regarding property transfers, 154 responses were from people living in the Waitemātā Local Board area. Sixty-five per cent of respondents from Waitemātā supported the proposal with another 19 per cent partially supporting the transfer of legal ownership of Panuku Development Auckland held land to Auckland Council.

### 3. Context

Auckland Council consulted on its Annual Budget 2019/2020 and a proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 between 17 February and 17 March 2019. The Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009 requires that the Annual Budget 2019/2020 includes a Local Board Agreement for the Waitemata Local Board which sets out local board priorities and how those priorities will be funded.

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 6,521 pieces of feedback during the consultation period on the Annual Budget and the proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028. This feedback was received through:

- Written submissions – 5,250 hard copy and online forms, emails and letters
- 1,246 in person feedback points – feedback was received through 14 Have Your Say events and 51 community events.
- Social media – 25 comments were received through Facebook and Twitter.

For the purposes of this report a 'submission' refers to the number of written forms received including the online form, hard copy form, email or letter. Each form is one submission. A 'response' refers to the number of people who responded to a particular question (as not everyone submitting will answer all questions). A 'feedback point' refers to an individual comment on a particular topic. For example one submission might contain 10 feedback points on a topic.

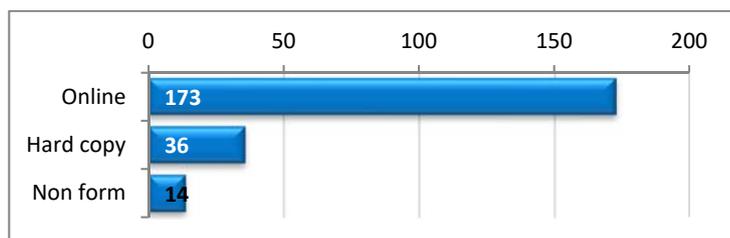
The submissions will be publicly available on the Auckland Council website.

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

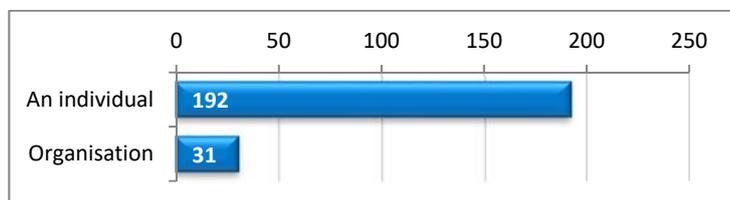
The Waitematā Local Board consulted on the following priorities:

- Developing 254 Ponsonby Road as a civic space.
- Activating, improving and renewing local parks, guided by Park Development Plans
- Improving the playgrounds at Western Springs Lakeside Park and Home Street Reserve, providing pathways in Basque Park and building the Grey Lynn Park changing rooms.
- Continuing waterway restoration projects and seeking opportunities to implement initiatives to enhance the Western Springs-Meola-Three Kings Aquifer.
- Supporting community and arts groups and local events, including the local board's flagship events: Parnell Festival of Roses and Myers Park Medley.
- Funding an arts partnership with TAPAC
- Funding increased opening hours at Grey Lynn Library and the Central City Library.
- Investigating opportunities to reduce agrichemical use, including advocating to the Governing Body to take a regional approach to agrichemical-free park maintenance

The type of written submissions received for Waitematā is set out in the graph below.



The submissions summarised in this graph does not include the Have Your Say hearing event feedback except where event attendees also made a written submission. Of the 223 submissions received 31 were received from organisations and 192 from individuals.



Submissions were received from the following organisations:

- Auckland City Centre Residents Group
- Westhaven Marine Users Association Incorporated
- Herne Bay Residents Association Incorporated
- St Matthew-in-the-City

- Heart of the City
- Orams Marine
- Auckland Methodist Central Parish
- Kelmarna Community Garden Trust
- Grey Lynn Residents Association
- General Marine Services
- Grafton Residents Association
- Grey Lynn Business Association
- St Marys Bay and Herne Bay Residents Association
- Parnell Business Association
- St Andrews First Presbyterian Church
- Friends of Gladstone Park
- Newmarket Business Association
- Property Council New Zealand
- Church of Scientology
- Congregation Christian Church Samoa Grey Lynn
- Methodist Church Samoa Grey Lynn
- Chimaera Group Events
- Alloy Yacht International Ltd
- Catholic Diocese of Auckland
- Parnell Community Trust
- 37 South Ltd on behalf of Captain Andrew Clarke
- Elim Christian Centre
- Integrated Marine Group
- Royal NZ Plunket Trust
- Reid Yacht Services
- Ports of Auckland Limited

In addition to the above list of organisations Bike Auckland and Cruise Lines International Association did not select Waitemātā Local Board as their home board but notwithstanding included feedback points related to the Waitemātā Local Board.

### Submissions from iwi and Māori groups

A regional Have Your Say Hui was held on 13 March 2019. Amongst other matters Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei acknowledged '*the recent development of their iwi management plan advised that they look forward to open dialogue with council regarding fresh water.*'

The Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Forum submitted to the Annual Budget consultation in relation to the proposed amendment to the 10-year budget and stated that it does not oppose the proposal subject to clarification around how development and consenting decisions will be made.

Many mana whenua groups committed resources to respond to the “Our Water Future’ concurrent consultation.

No responses were received from iwi groups in relation to the Waitematā Local Board priorities.

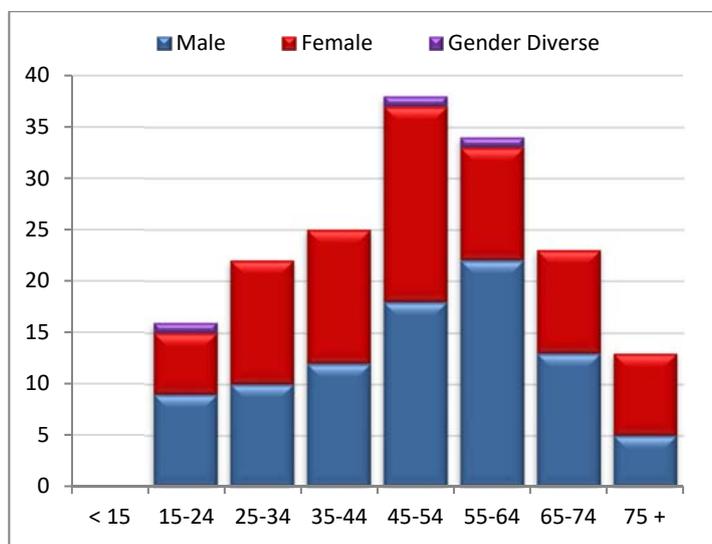
### Key consultation themes

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

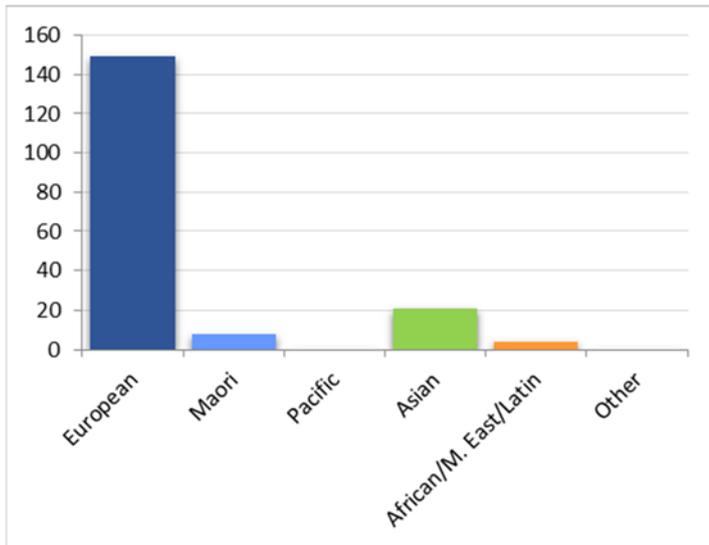
- Strong support for the Waitematā Local Board priorities
- Support for proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 regarding transfer of legal ownership of Panuku Development Auckland owned properties to Auckland Council
- Support for an increase in the waste management fee
- Opposition to increases in regulatory fees
- Opposition to not charging rates on some parts of land owned by religious organisations.

### Information on submitters

The tables and graphs below provide a demographic breakdown of respondents who provided demographic information (either in part or in full) and relate to written submissions (either online or hard copy). Of the 181 submissions that provided demographic information, 54 per cent were received from males, 45 per cent from females and two per cent from gender diverse people.



A large proportion of submitters were in the 45-54 and 55-64 age groups. No submissions that included demographic information were received from people under the age of 15.



Of the 172 respondents who provided ethnicity data 74 per cent identified as Pakeha/ NZ European, five per cent identified as being Māori and 12 per cent identified as Asian. No submissions with demographic information were received from Pacific peoples. When compared to the Auckland-wide demographics this result indicates a slightly higher proportion of respondents who identify as Pakeha/ NZ European (71 per cent regionally) and a much lower proportion of residents who identify as Asian (26 per cent regionally)

### Feedback received through written submissions

Respondents were provided with the local board's priorities as set out above and asked:

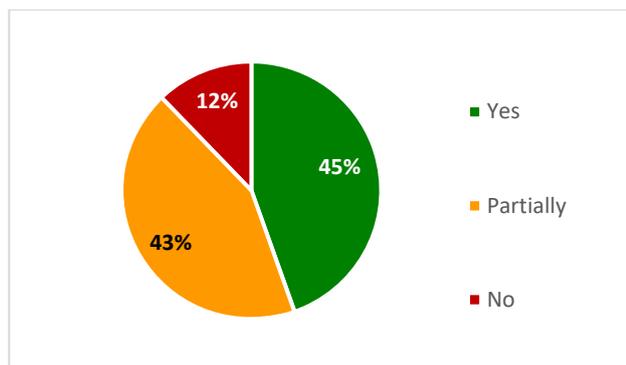
*'In your opinion are the priorities right for this local board area in 2019/2020'*

and given the option of answering:

- yes
- no
- partially

One hundred and forty-eight responses were received on the Waitemātā Local Board priorities for 2019/2020, showing that a significant proportion of respondents either supported (45 per cent) or partially supported (43 per cent) the local board's priorities.

All respondents were then asked to comment on why they had provided this response. Around one-third of the 82 respondents who answered "partially" or "no" did not expand on their reasons for providing this answer.



In general, there were no clear or significant themes that emerged from the responses. It is noted that the local board is not proposing major changes to their existing work programme for 2019/2020 and focussing on delivering the projects identified in the 2017 Waitematā Local Board Plan.

A number of submitters supported the local board's consistency of direction. A small number of feedback points expressly supported the agrichemical free parks, extended library hours and the development of 254 Ponsonby Road. The local board's waterway restoration projects were also supported. The local board's events elicited a few comments and were generally (but not exclusively) supported.

Where submitters agreed with the local board's priorities comments included:

- *It is all as expected and as previously communicated*
- *Good quality public projects can take considerable time in planning and execution so I'm pleased that the board is sticking with current plans and bringing projects through to completion*
- *There's continuity from the previous plan and that had a commendable focus on active transport*
- *I really like the projects supported by the Waitemata board, they enhance the local communities*
- *We are supportive of the WLB's commitment to funding increased hours at the Central Library. The library provides an important free service for the growing and diverse city centre community*
- *Love the WLB support and advocacy work for the whole site civic open space at 254 Ponsonby Road. We all want to see this built SOON. It has already been in Council ownership since 2006 and it's time for the local community, residents, businesses, and visitors to Ponsonby to have this much needed and wanted facility realised*
- *I think for the most part they have directed their efforts towards improving the lives of the ever increasing number of people who live and work in the central city. I would like to see more money spent on and advocacy for cleaner air in the city centre, especially the areas around lower Queen St and the Port. Money spent will pay off in better health people who live and work in the area but for visitors as well...(cont.)*
- *Good direction, but needs more focus on creating a habitable space for people. Larger footpaths, traffic blocked instead of cycleways, footpaths when construction is present. More greening.*

Similarly of the 64 responses where respondents partially agreed with the Local Board's priorities there are no clear themes, but some general themes that emerged included:

- Requesting improvements to refuse collection practices in the city centre
- Seeking improvements to pavements and the pedestrian environment
- Supporting initiatives that enhance active transport
- Seeking improved liveability for city centre residents, including improved street cleaning, green walls and green spaces
- Supporting improvements to water quality in stream, beaches and the Waitematā Harbour
- Requesting improvements to park maintenance
- Supporting more funding for homelessness initiatives

As noted not all respondents made any additional comments to explain their reasons for selecting "partial" in response to this question, however those that did included:

- *They seem to be aimed at maintaining and developing public spaces, however I would like to see more aimed at promoting more environmentally friendly travel and activities. Composting collectives for example would be great*
- *The focus does not proportionally represent the population distribution - there is a lack of attention paid to the city centre (1010 postcode) and it's ~57000 residents. Footpaths, parks etc are all not treated as well as they are in the surrounding (more affluent, older, whiter) suburbs*
- *There needs to be more money allocated to sort out our sewage issues. Also, more money allocated to clean up our waterways. More trash cans around Auckland and having them emptied more often, I live off of Queen Street and the trash cans are always full and overflowing, which means that trash is everywhere, and in our windy city, it is being blown around and into our harbour...(contd)*
- *I live in westmere I think I am this board??? storm water needs to be prioritised even more – it needs to be number one, its so sad that the swimming is crap now on our inner city beaches. Stop spending on playgrounds there are enough good ones, but if you are going to do them then build more pump tracks but please dont use the guys who did water view - that is a waste of money total waste of money they made it too hard for the kids and the average person - no one ever uses it - the privately funded grey lynn park is a much better example - it not too hard and boy does it get used*
- *Restore/increase the maintenance schedule for existing parks and reserves. The current park and reserve maintenance schedule for some of our local shared spaces has seen a reduction in the frequency of maintenance in recent years. In Herne Bay, this has affected at least some of our nine walkways down to beaches...(contd)*
- *I am not happy with all the transport plans, in particular restricting traffic on busy arterial routes like Quay St, Hobson St and Nelson St. You need a balance between people who live in the immediate area and other Aucklanders who need to travel by car so shouldn't make things too difficult for car users. Walking, bikes and scooters are fine for distances of a few km but cars are needed also*
- *Should be more efficient in dealing with homeless people in CBD. The streets are messy and smelly*
- *....Looking at your list of priorities prompted me to search your demographic report card and I noted your priorities do not actually reflect the interests and views of your constituents. Your*

*local board plan is a bit more balanced, but I find some of your priorities strange. For example, the flagship events you discuss are more family centered and European. Your demographics reports states that the electorate is "under-represented in older and younger age groups and over-represented in age groups between 20 and 34 years", I wonder why your focus has been on these two particular events? I speculate it's because there are a number of events and activities in the area that attract a demographic that I belong to, but I see a lot of that being food/drink related. I'm sure you also fund a number of the more youth-friendly events but this is not clear and your priorities seem to reflect the views of older people in the community. I personally think Myers Park Medley is the most boring event in the whole electorate but get that you want to activate that space. The date selected this year was awful - clashing with Ponsonby Festival and Lantern Festival...(cont'd)*

- *Waitematā is a diverse area but I would have liked an amenities plan, plan to move the cruise ships, and money for more public space in the city centre. We need some green spaces and improvements to the harsh environments the AT and Council keep leaving us with*
- *Storm water problems is a major issue. As also upgrade of footpaths. Very well done with walking and cycle paths*
- *Wriggle + R is amazing!! Highlight of our week. Would be wonderful for more play equipment on Gunson St Playground. Fences too please! On Playgrounds. 254 Ponsonby Road, great idea, need more local areas.*

There were no clear themes in the 18 responses that did not support the local board priorities. Where respondents expanded on this answer, there were few consistent comments. Feedback points received included the following:

- Not supporting cost or design of cycle lanes
- Request for better tree and heritage protection and maintenance
- Concern around helicopters landing in residential areas
- More funding should be provided for homelessness
- Against the proposed superyacht anchorage fee
- St Marys Bay/ Masefield Beach stormwater project (discussed further below)

Feedback points included the following:

- *Huge money poured into little used, badly designed cycle ways. Pedestrians and cyclists often share these, but there has been no cyclist courtesy awareness training to accompany this move. eg cyclists approaching from behind warning pedestrians by bell as they get near. This is basic practice in overseas countries. With some cyclists this situation is really frightening for pedestrians*
- *more tree and heritage protection and follow-up maintenance issues*
- *I am a resident of St Marys Bay and I want Auckland Council to abandon the \$44 million tunnel proposed in the St Mary's Bay/Masefield Beach water project, and instead fund the less expensive and much more effective scheme of separation of sewage and stormwater pipes...(contd)*
- *As stated more should go to homelessness & poverty. The Brisbane Common Ground project (of 126 apts) shows how accommodation (plus wrap around services) can achieve massive savings in Police, medical, health, emergency & other services.*

## Feedback received through events

The Waitematā Local Board held one formal Have Your Say hearing event and nine community events, including a Facebook live event. The nine community events were held in various venues around the Waitematā Local Board area and were used to raise awareness of the consultation, provide supporting collateral and an opportunity to meet or engage with elected members. People who engaged with the elected members at these events were encouraged and assisted to submit on the Annual Budget and their responses are included in the commentary above.

A formal Have Your Say hearing event was held on 14 March 2019 at the Waitematā Local Board office. Twelve organisations and one individual presented to the Waitematā Local Board as follows:

- Grafton Residents Associations\*
- St Matthews in the City\*
- For the Love of Bees
- NZ Box
- Victoria Quarter / Central Bike District
- St Marys Bay Residents Association\*
- Herne Bay Residents Association\*
- Newmarket Business Association\*
- Grey Lynn Business Association\*
- Gael Baldock (who also read a submission on behalf of Wendy Gray)
- Parnell Business Association\*
- Parnell Community Committee
- Auckland Central City Residents' Group\*

Feedback received at this hearing was varied. Some attendees provided comprehensive feedback on the annual budget questions and other matters important to that group and their local community. Other attendees chose to focus on single major issues affecting their communities. Matters presented to the local board included:

- a request to review the St Marys Bay/ Masefield Beach project from the Herne Bay and St Marys Bay Residents Associations
- St Matthews-in-the-City raised concerns over how the religious property rating consultation question had been presented and sought for no charge to the current rating for religious properties. They also confirmed their support for the council to grant the City Mission \$5m towards the HomeGround project
- The Parnell Community Committee sought improved maintenance and further planting at Point Resolution Taurarua.
- For the Love of Bees raised the importance of climate change responsiveness and urban regenerative agriculture learning practices including localised composting.
- The value and importance of localised composting solutions was also raised by NZ Box

*\* Denotes the eight organisations that attended the Have Your Say Event who also submitted in writing*

- One submission raised concerns around the effectiveness of the Super City local government model and another hearing participant raised their concerns around the current Western Springs Bush Restoration project
- Three business associations attended and identified issues of concern for Parnell, Newmarket and Grey Lynn. These included raising the need for a youth space in Newmarket and continuation of public realm improvements from the Newmarket Laneways Plan, a request for the local board to prioritise actions from the Parnell Plan for delivery in the FY20 work programme, including Heard Park and the importance of distinguishing Grey Lynn as a village versus town centre
- The challenges and advantages of living in the city centre were set out by the City Centre Residents Group and the Victoria Quarter/ Central Bike District, including issues around maintenance of the public realm, commercial rubbish collection, safety in the city centre and the need to urgently improve the Nelson Street slip lane.

A couple of presenters raised disquiet around the quality of the information provided to respondents answering the annual budget questions.

### Feedback received through social media channels

Regionally feedback was received from the following social media channels:

- 12 social media feedback points from Facebook
- 13 social media feedback points from Twitter

The feedback point topics were varied and ranged from requests for free tip passes, objection to, and support for, the light rail on Queen Street, focus on essential services and support for off leash dog areas. However, the social media feedback points are considered regional and cannot be attributed to a specific local board area.

The local board held a Facebook live event on 28 February 2019.

During the event 114 people interacted with the live feed. To date the Facebook post has reached 8,865 people and received 77 reactions, comments and shares.

### Feedback on other local topics

Key themes across feedback received on other local topics include:

- Approximately 20 feedback points were received which supported the proposed stormwater and wastewater separation in St Marys Bay and Herne Bay but did not support the tunnel proposed by the St Marys Bay/ Masefield Beach outflow project. These submissions were consistent with contents of the hearing submission made by the Herne Bay Residents Association and the St Marys Bay Association
- Around 10 feedback points supported the proposed \$5 million funding contribution to the City Mission HomeGround project
- Approximately 18 feedback points were received in support of a composting network and food scrap collection being available in Waitemata
- Around five feedback points did not support the Queen's Wharf mooring dolphin proposal or wharf extensions

### Requests for local funding

Requests for local funding included a submission from Parnell Trust requesting a grant to go towards covering losses from the inability to rent the Jubilee Hall, which is undergoing earthquake strengthening renovations, and the flow on impact to Parnell Community Centre

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

### Changes to rates and fees

The regional consultation on the proposed Annual Budget focused on changes to rates and fees. The submissions received from residents in the Waitematā Local Board area on these key issues are summarised below. 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:*

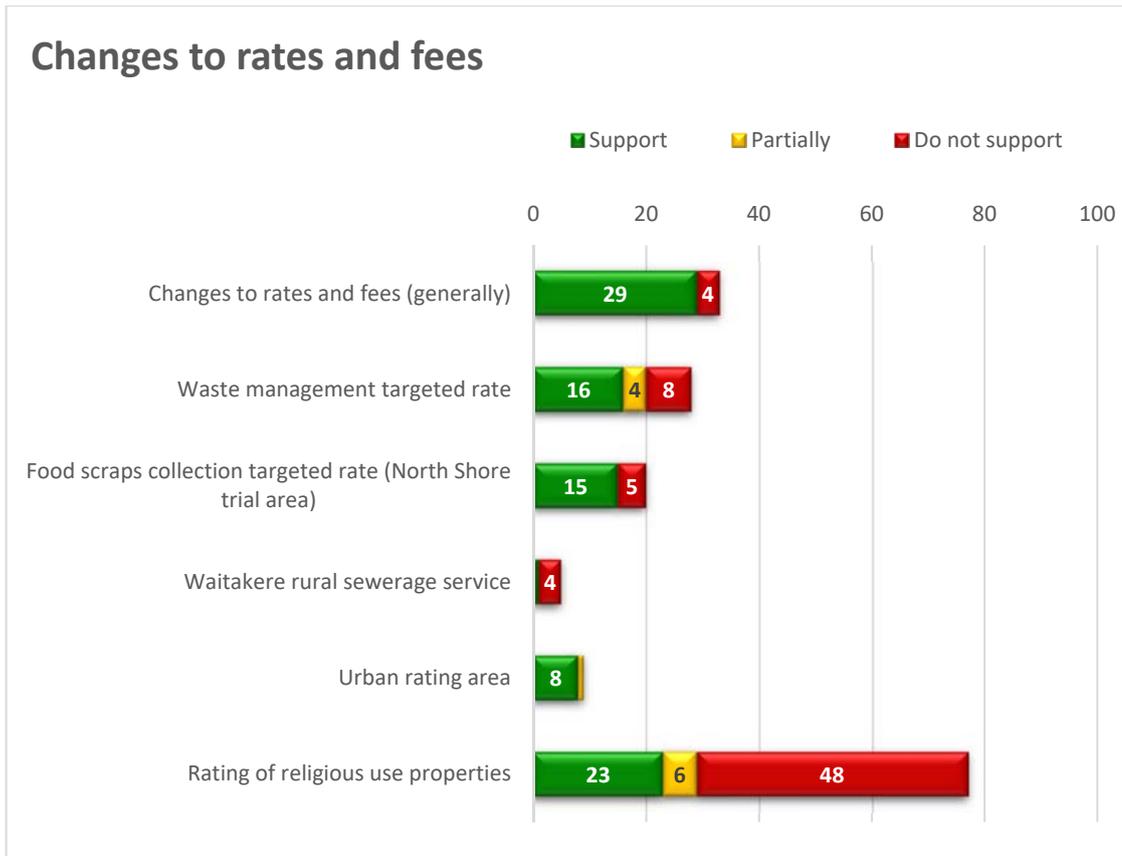
- a \$20.67 increase to the annual waste management charge to cover increased costs*
- extending the food scraps targeted rate to 2000 properties in the North Shore former trial area to whom the service is available*
- phasing out the Waitākere rural sewerage service and targeted rate over a two-year 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 following graph sets out the responses received. The low volume of feedback associated with the Waitākere rural sewerage scheme question and the urban rating boundary question may reflect the limited relevance these questions had for Waitematā residents.

Of more relevance was the increase to the annual waste management charge which had mixed support with 16 of the 28 responses in support of the proposal. Many responses in support of the proposal accepted the justification provided in the consultation document being:

- Increased recycling costs
- Inorganic service volumes exceeding demand
- A new bin service in Waitākere and North Shore



Although of limited direct relevance to Waitemata residents, there was support for extending the food scraps targeted rate in the North Shore trial area. Many of the respondents were supportive of introducing a food scrap collection within Auckland generally and some respondents asked for a trial to commence in the city centre. Comments included:

- *I'm keen to see the food scraps collection expanded... (cont'd)*
- *Would like to see a more rapid expansion of food scraps project, especially in the city centre where composting is more difficult in apartments.*
- *need food scrap collection all over Auckland*
- *Why trial on the North Shore when inner city Auckland can only put their food scraps in a bin as there is no room for composting*
- *Food scraps...we have a worm bin. Cost \$398, and now we pay extra for a service we will not use*

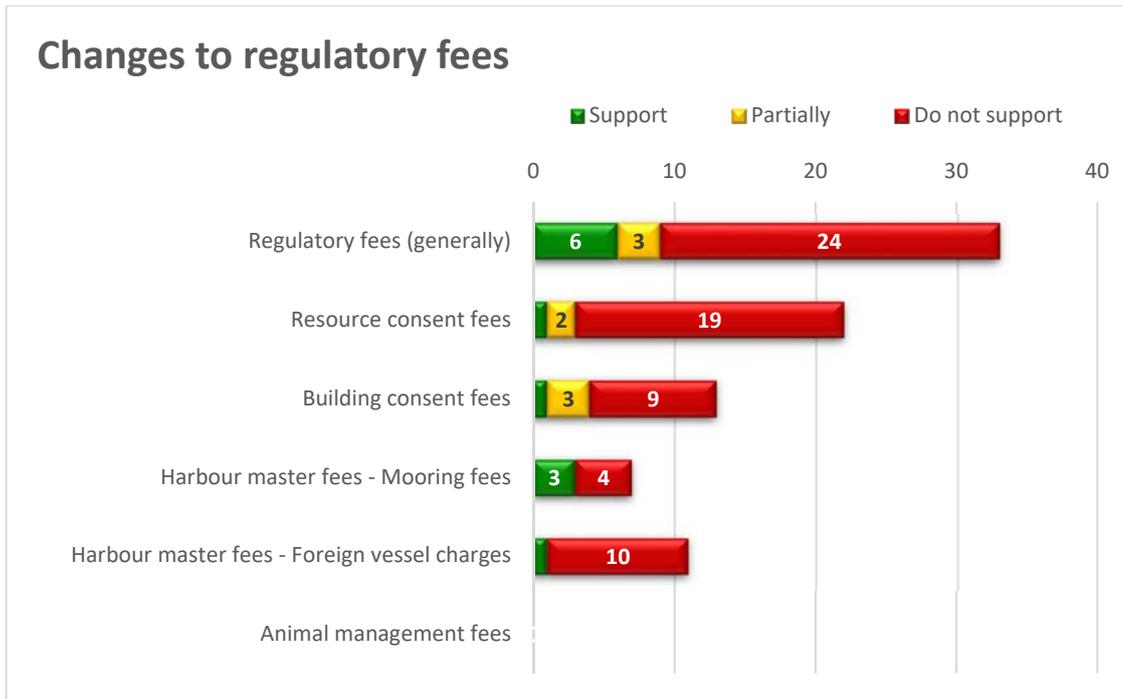
As evidenced by the graph, the question which received the highest response related to the proposal not charging rates on some parts of the land owned by religious organisations. Of the 77 responses the majority (48) did not support this proposal and six partially supported the proposal. Many submissions against this proposal stated that religious organisations should be required to pay rates. Numerous feedback points in support of this proposal were received by church groups and other religious organisations. Comments included:

- *Religious organisations should pay full rates on ALL their property*

- *I agree with all except: 1) i don't agree with zero rates for religious organisations. Many of these hold very substantial land parcels in high value areas and represent declining and minority numbers of the population. I strongly believe that they should pay their share of rates... (contd)*
- *Don't agree with not charging \$0 rates for religious organisations. Rates should be applied to all NFP/Registered charities, even if at a lower rate than commercial/domestic property.*
- *I agree with not charging rates on land used primarily for spiritual purposes by a charity, not for profit, ie churches.*
- *Rates should absolutely not be charged on all land owned by religious organisations. Auckland religious organisations need all the help they can get to carry on the valuable social and spiritual input to Auckland communities that the Council is unable to provide. The Council should be providing monetary and leadership assistance for these amazing organisations - put that in your budget.*
- *We are concerned that the "change" to the way religious use properties are rated is being presented in the consultation documents as a new discount on rates. Up till now churches have been exempt as provided by the Local Government Act 2002. In 2018 Auckland Council tried to impose rates on some parts of religious properties and the current new policy is a result of that rather flawed process.... When the document says (p17) "we are proposing not to charge rates to the following land" it sounds like the churches are gaining a new rebate. We would emphasise that we only wish to have the status quo remain and that the Council was overreaching in trying to charge these rates in the first place*

### **Increase to regulatory fees**

Feedback was sought on increasing regulatory fees to ensure that users, rather than ratepayers, cover the cost of these services. The online feedback form also included animal management fees which were not noted in the hard copy feedback form. Notwithstanding this, the consultation document and supporting information included a discussion on animal management fees. Due to the nature of this question, respondents could choose to respond generally about the proposed increase in regulatory fees or make specific feedback points about one or more of the listed regulatory fees i.e. resource consent fees.



There was a clear theme that most respondents did not generally support increasing regulatory fees. Increases to resource consent or building consent fees was similarly not supported. There was a clear theme that many respondents felt the consenting fees were already too high, prevented people from applying and that the resource consent process needed improvement. Respondents who partially supported the proposal did so on the basis of a corresponding improvement to the service provided by Auckland Council. Comments included:

- *I would be concerned if resource consent costs increased for individuals, and if this meant that only professional development companies could afford construction.*
- *It's hard enough to get a resource consent currently without adding to the cost.*
- *If the charges for resource consent etc are insufficient to cover costs, the process needs to be streamlined as it is ridiculously expensive already and it could be argued that the price excludes a lot of people from doing this and is therefore an example of disabling people from access to opportunities.*
- *Don't agree with increased resource consent fees or others likely to impact the building process - we have enough problems getting sufficient housing for low-income earners in Auckland without adding additional costs*
- *All is good except for Resource consent and building control. This would be good if you supplied a good service but all projects are taking a lot longer due to the fact you are unable to provide a prompt and consistent service.*
- *Building control costs are also way too expensive.*

The proposal to increase mooring fees and introducing anchorage fees for foreign vessels over 40 metres in length generally received a negative response, particularly from those with an interest in the marine sector and ship captains. Many feedback points against the anchorage fee proposal

suggested it constituted a charge for no service and one that would detrimentally impact on the number of super yachts visiting Auckland. Comments included:

- *Super yachts will not accept a considerable charge where no perceived service is received*
- *23 NZD a day per metre for an anchorage is a huge charge for an anchorage*
- *Whilst charges for anchoring are uncommon, where they are in place, they must be reasonable and proportionate. The proposed fees are not.*
- *Mooring fees I have no problem with as that's a leisure pursuit, not a necessity.*
- *Believe foreign vessel fees should be increased more as they have the money to pay and a privilege to moor in the middle of our harbour (why exactly do we let them do that?)*

A number of respondents submitted that Auckland Council should look at making savings and improve efficiencies instead of increasing regulatory fees.

- *Disagree with increases regulatory fees. Greater efforts should be put on cost containment rather than just increasing the amount paid by the public.*
- *Regulatory fees already too high. Look inside council to see how you can reduce costs.*
- *Sort out internal budgets before changing the rate payers.*
- *Regulatory fees need to be reduced through efficiency and streamline within council rather than simply allowing them to grow and be paid for by increasing costs.*
- *There is only one possible reason to increase regulatory fees and that is the complete inefficiency and incompetence of the regulators. Please explain what the increased COSTS ARE!!*

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

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

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

The annual budget consultation included the following question in relation to a proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028:

*Question 1:*

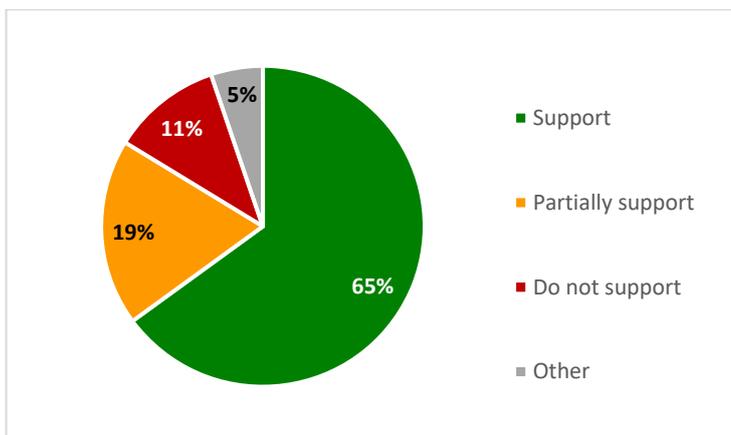
*Panuku is Auckland Council’s urban development agency and currently owns and manages about \$790 million of city centre waterfront properties. We are proposing to transfer the legal ownership of those properties to Auckland Council. Panuku would continue to manage the properties. The resulting ownership 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?*

One hundred and fifty-four responses were received from the Waitematā Local Board area on the proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 and showed clear support for this proposal with 65 percent of respondents in support and a further 19 percent partially in support. Where respondents partially supported the proposal and expanded on why the most common theme was a request for more detailed information or a better understanding of the tax implications mentioned. This was notwithstanding the consultation document and the supporting information did provide detail around this proposal.

A small number of respondents raised concerns around the accountability of Council Controlled Organisations in response to this question.

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



Comments in response to this proposal include:

- *So long as this transfer means that the public waterfront areas will remain and be further opened to the public and that this will happen at no extra costs.*

- *Council are doing a good job of trying to open up the water front for pedestrians— good job. Make Princes Wharf car park free!*
- *Makes sense to minimise tax issues.*
- *Smart to consolidate everything under one arm*
- *CCO's are not democratic organizations therefore the move of particularly strategic assets to direct Council control will enhance democratic control over those assets.*
- *Auckland Council not Panuku (to suggest there is a difference in ownership insults the intelligence of ratepayers) should not be in the business as a commercial landlord. Any properties held by the Council for revenue reasons should be divested to the private sector.*
- *Council is way too big already and can't manage what they already oversee.*
- *There is no evidence that the Council (or its officers) have been able to assert ownership control over the various authorities on behalf of we ratepayers and city consumers. This is especially the case with Ports of Auckland and I would guess that the properties concerned will border on POAL properties.*