

Annual Budget 2019/2020 consultation feedback report for Albert-Eden Local Board

1. Purpose

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

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

The feedback received will inform the Albert-Eden Local Board's decisions on allocation of its local budgets in its local board agreement for 2019/2020. It will also inform the Albert-Eden Local Board input and advocacy on regional budgets and proposals that will be agreed at its business meeting on 1 May 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 Albert-Eden Local Board priorities for 2019/2020

The local board consulted on the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Continued focus on protecting the environment through ecological restoration, improving water quality and creating urban forests.
- Priority 2: Developing several walking and cycling paths as part of the reviewed greenways (local paths) plan.
- Priority 3: Ensuring that parks improvements ensure ease of access and enjoyment for our growing and diverse communities.
- Priority 4: Continued upgrades of community buildings and promotion of shared space to cater to a range of needs.
- Priority 5: Promoting local economic development through town centre improvements, business sustainability action plans and migrant business workshops.

183 submissions were received on the Albert-Eden Local Board priorities for 2019/2020, showing that the majority of people either partially support (42 per cent) or support (40 per cent) the local board's priorities.

Feedback on regional proposals in the Annual Budget 2019/2020 from the Albert-Eden local board area

Auckland Council consulted on six proposed rating and fee changes in the Annual Budget 2019/2020. Out of the 2,928 submissions received on the regional proposals in the Annual Budget 2019/2020, 203 submissions were from people living in the Albert-Eden Local Board area.

The majority of responses from the Albert-Eden Local Board area supported or partially supported the following proposal:

- Regulatory fees (generally)

Submitters from the Albert-Eden Local Board area did not support the following proposals:

- Annual waste management changes
- Religious properties rates

The following proposals are unlikely to affect residents of the Albert-Eden Local Board area. Very little local feedback was received on these proposed rating and fee changes:

- Waitakere rural sewerage targeted rate
- Food scraps targeted rate
- Urban boundary rating.

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

Out of the 2,450 submissions received on the proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 regarding property transfers, 196 submissions were from people living in the Albert-Eden Local Board area.

Feedback shows that the majority of submitters from the Albert-Eden Local Board area either support (64 per cent) or partially support (20 per cent) 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 Albert-Eden Local Board which sets out the Board's priorities and how the Board will 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 6,521 pieces of feedback in the consultation period. This feedback was received through:

- Written feedback – 5,250 hard copy and online forms, emails and letters
- In person – feedback 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 Albert-Eden Local Board priorities for 2019/2020

The Albert-Eden Local Board consulted on the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Continued focus on protecting the environment through ecological restoration, improving water quality and creating urban forests.
- Priority 2: Developing several walking and cycling paths as part of the reviewed greenways (local paths) plan.
- Priority 3: Ensuring that parks improvements ensure ease of access and enjoyment for our growing and diverse communities.
- Priority 4: Continued upgrades of community buildings and promotion of shared space to cater to a range of needs.
- Priority 5: Promoting local economic development through town centre improvements, business sustainability action plans and migrant business workshops.

Key themes across all feedback received were:

- Submitters approve of the continued focus on the Local Board priorities.
- There is still a lot to get done.
- While the priorities are good, there also needs to be more focus on other areas.

A summary of the feedback received is provided below.

Feedback received through written submissions

183 submissions were received on the Albert-Eden Local Board priorities for 2019/2020, showing that the majority of people either partially support (42 per cent) or support (40 per cent) the local board's priorities.

The majority (90 per cent) of submissions on local priorities were from residents of the Albert-Eden Local Board area. 18 submitters were from another local board, with just over half of these submitters residents of one of the five neighbouring boards of Waitematā, Ōrākei, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Puketāpapa or Whau. Those living further away who submitted feedback tended to be commenting on Eden Park or Chamberlain Park.

Feedback indicated that those who supported the Albert-Eden Local Board priorities did so because:

- They like the continued focus of the Board's priorities (eight feedback points).
- They think Albert-Eden is going in the right direction (eight feedback points).
- They feel the Board has the community's best interests at heart (two feedback points).

General themes from those who partially supported the Albert-Eden Local Board priorities were as follows:

- More priority needs to be given to other topics (fourteen feedback points). These topics included local economic development (five feedback points), sustainability (four feedback points) and prioritising cycle lanes (four feedback points).
- There are still a lot of things to be done (three feedback points).

Feedback indicated that those who did not support the Albert-Eden Local Board priorities did not because:

- They do not think the board is focused on the right issues (seven feedback points).
- They feel the board does not represent the community (four feedback points).

Feedback on other local topics

Key themes across feedback received on other local topics include:

- Eden Park – submitters either indicated their support for Eden Park (11 feedback points) or said that they did not support Eden Park (one feedback point).
- Chamberlain Park – submitters either wanted it left in its current state as an 18-hole golf course (six feedback points) or wanted it to be changed to allow for other recreational purposes (two feedback points).
- The Board should invest more in the environment or otherwise further their environmental focus (four feedback points).
- Town centres – there is a small amount of concern that the Mount Albert upgrade represents poor value for money (three feedback points) and that consultation around town centre improvements could be better (one feedback point).

A very small amount of feedback on other local topics included:

- A desire to see a new swimming pool in the area (two feedback points).
- The Board should encourage better/higher maintenance of private properties (one feedback point).
- The Board should ensure there is enough green space (one feedback point).
- Questioning the location of rehabilitation facilities around Carrington Road (one feedback point).
- A desire for more parks or recreational space designed for pre-schoolers (one feedback point).

Information on submitters

The Albert-Eden Local Board received written feedback from 246 submitters. The majority of these (95 per cent) were individual submissions. 13 written submissions were received from organisations.

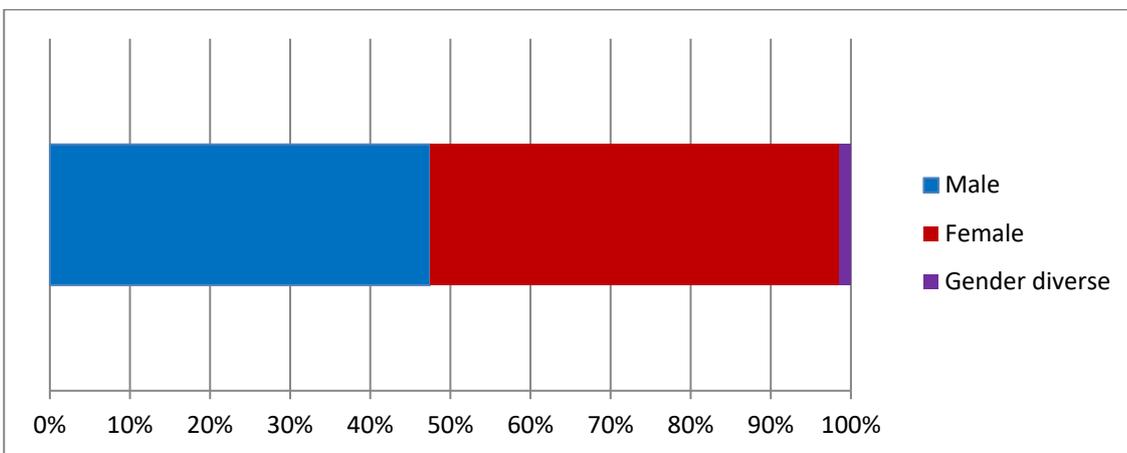
The organisations, businesses and groups who submitted to Albert-Eden Local Board on local priorities and/or regional feedback are:

Royal NZ Plunket Trust	St Johns Church Royal Oak
Waterview Methodist Church	St Francis Catholic Church
R C Bishop of Auckland, St Mary's Catholic Church, Mt Albert	The Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa

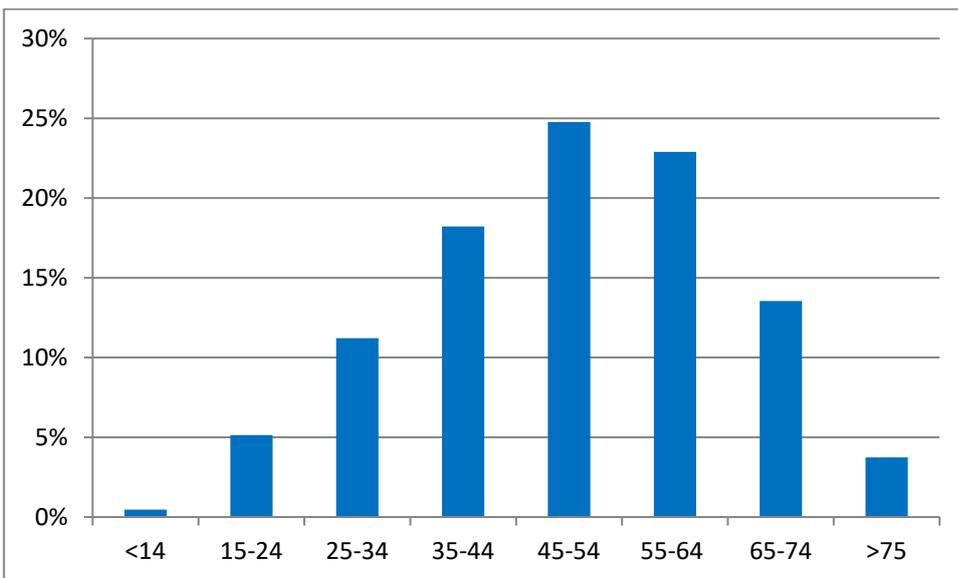
Fire and Emergency New Zealand	Wesley Roskill Methodist Church
Springleigh Residents Association	Glen Eden Samoan Assembly of God Church
Congregational Christian Church Samoa Sandringham	Samoan Methodist Church Mt Roskill
Transition Town	

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

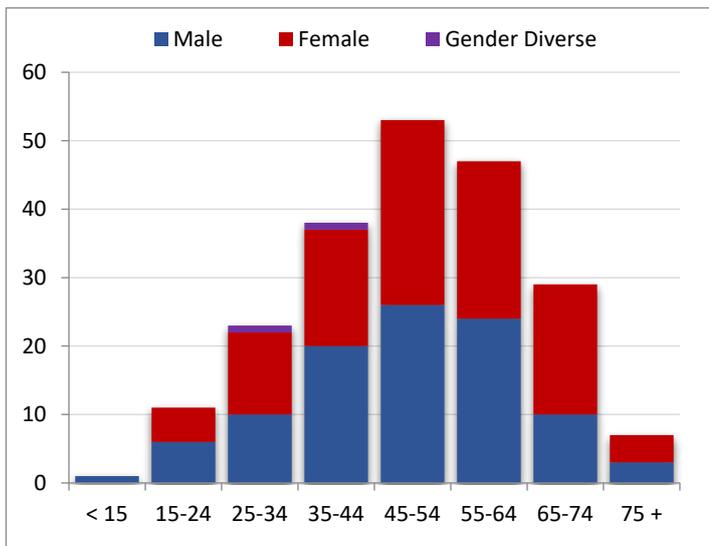
Gender of submitters



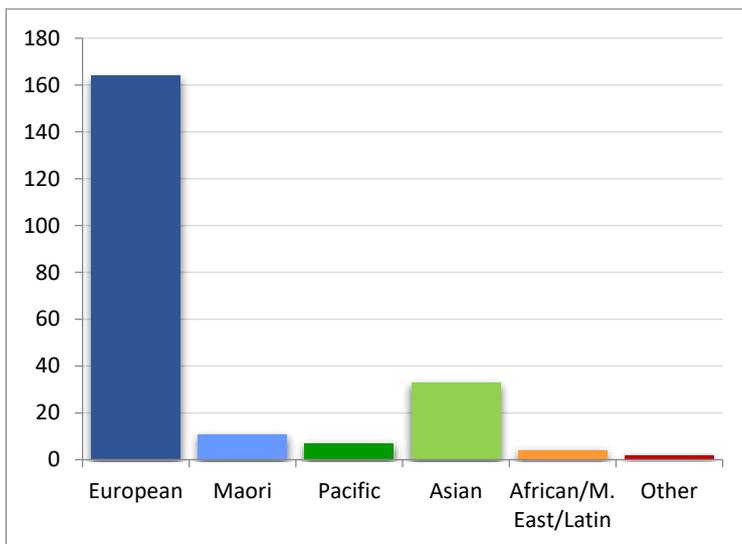
Age of submitters



Age/gender breakdown of submitters



Ethnicity of submitters



5. Overview of feedback received on the Annual Budget from Albert-Eden Local Board area

The Annual Budget 2019/2020 sets out Council's priorities and how they will be paid for. The regional consultation on the proposed Annual Budget focused on changes to the following 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 Albert-Eden 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

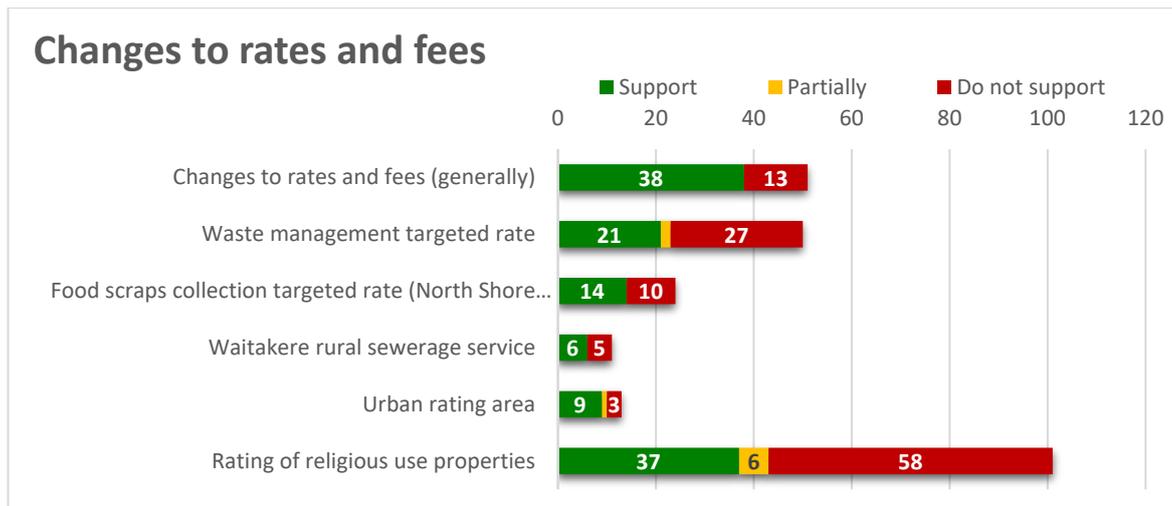
Aucklanders were asked about a proposed small number of rating and fee changes.

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.*

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Albert-Eden Local Board area. The question about regulatory fees has been further broken down and can be seen in the table on page nine.



Question 1 – general feedback on all proposals

Of those who responded generally to all proposals in Question 1, the majority supported the proposals, with most viewing them as fair or reasonable.

Of those who did not generally support the proposals, the main themes seemed to be:

- Opposition to any increases at all.
- Concerns about council efficiency.

Question 1.1 – waste management charges

A small majority of respondents did not support an increase in the waste management targeted rate. The reasons for this included:

- The increase is considered too high.
- It is seen as an unfair charge.
- It should be a core service of council.
- Council should provide a better service that supports more recycling and sends less to landfill.

Reasons for supporting the proposal included:

- Considering the increase fair and understanding why it is needed.
- A hope that it might support better service.

Question 1.2 – food scraps targeted rate

Question 1.3 – Waitakere rural sewerage service

Question 1.4 – urban rating boundary

The proposed rating and fee changes in the above questions did not affect residents of the Albert-Eden Local Board area. The volume and content of the local feedback on these proposals reflect this.

Question 1.5 – rating of land owned by religious organisations

The majority of respondents did not support the proposal to not charge rates on some parts of the land owned by religious organisations. Nine respondents in the Albert-Eden Local Board area were religious organisations, all of which supported the proposal.

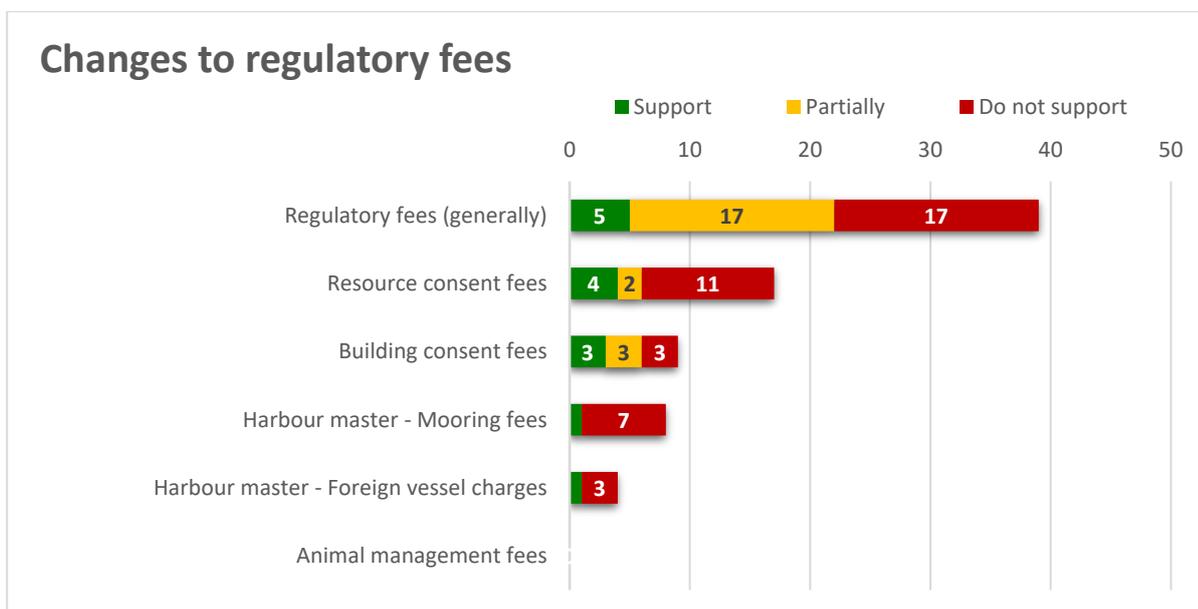
Those who did not support the proposal did not because:

- It is seen as unfair if religious organisations are charged less than other organisations.
- It is seen as giving licence to religious organisations to speculate on land.
- There is concern over how the rule would be applied.

Reasons for supporting the proposal included:

- The value of the community offerings of religious organisations.
- The cost of rates may be untenable for some religious organisations.
- Questioning the initial legal interpretation of council on this matter.

Question 1.6 – regulatory fees increase



The majority of respondents supported or partially supported an increase in regulatory fees (generally).

Where respondents supported or partially supported an increase in regulatory fees, it seemed to be tied to a hope or belief that an increase in fees would also lead to an increase in efficiency and processing times.

Where respondents did not support any increase in regulatory fees (generally), feedback indicated:

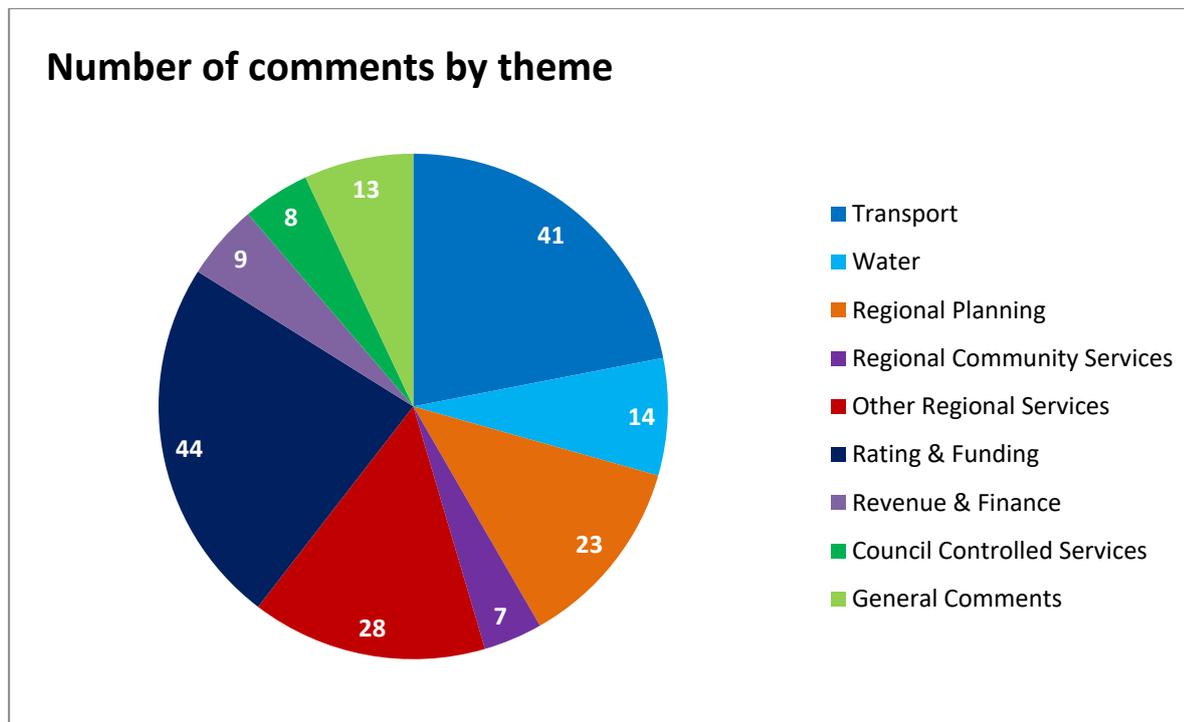
- Fees are already seen as being too high.

Feedback on specific regulatory fees indicated that submitters from the Albert-Eden Local Board partially support or support increases in building consent fees. Submitters from the Albert-Eden Local Board do not support increases in resource consent fees, Harbour master – mooring fees, or Harbour master – Foreign vessel charges.

Feedback on other regional proposals with a local impact

Feedback was received from the Albert-Eden Local Board area on other regional proposals. The graph below shows the areas covered by this feedback.

Feedback from the Albert-Eden Local Board area on regional themes



Transport

41 comments were received on transport, making it the most-commented on regional topic. While much of this feedback was disparate, a few identifiable themes were apparent:

- More focus and/or budget needs to be devoted to cycling and walking (10 feedback points).
- Public transport needs improvement/more focus (four feedback points).
- Congestion is an issue, particularly in Mount Albert (three feedback points).
- Safety is an issue – traffic needs to be slowed (two feedback points), especially through small shopping centres on busy roads (one feedback point). Walking and cycling needs to be safer (two feedback points).
- There are a number of issues with parking, with local streets being unofficially used as park and rides (one feedback point), footpaths being blocked (one feedback point), parking costs being seen as too high (one feedback point) and enforcement ineffective (one feedback point).

Rating and funding

There were 44 comments on rating and funding. These included:

- Increases to rates and fees are generally too high (seven feedback points).
- Council should spend less (six feedback points).
- Council should focus on core services (five feedback points).

Other regional services (including environment, governance and support, Māori outcomes, organisational support and solid waste services)

28 comments were received on other regional services. Feedback included:

- There should be more focus on recycling/recycling should be easier (seven feedback points) and council should collect food scraps and other green waste (three feedback points).
- Council should act now to reduce climate change (three feedback points).
- Council needs to be more efficient (three feedback points).

Regional planning

There were 23 comments on regional planning. These included:

- There is too much growth in Auckland/the costs of growth are not properly allocated (three feedback points).
- Auckland needs to plan for climate change by planning for low-carbon living and sustainability (two feedback points).
- Brownfields should be developed and intensified rather than new development on greenfields (two feedback points).
- Bylaw enforcement needs to be a focus (two feedback points).

Water

14 comments were made about water, with feedback including:

- Water quality in waterways and beaches needs to be a priority (seven feedback points) and should continue to be a focus (two feedback points).
- People should be encouraged and incentivised to use water responsibly (two feedback points).

Revenue and finance

All nine comments about revenue and finance related to rates on religious organisations' land.

Council controlled services

Eight comments were made on council controlled services. Most of these were related to Regional Facilities Auckland, with submitters supporting Eden Park. A couple of comments were received opposing waterfront development.

Regional community services

Seven comments were made about regional community services. While these were mostly disparate, several comments related to the importance of parks and recreational spaces (five feedback points).

General comments

There were 13 general comments, with no common themes apparent.

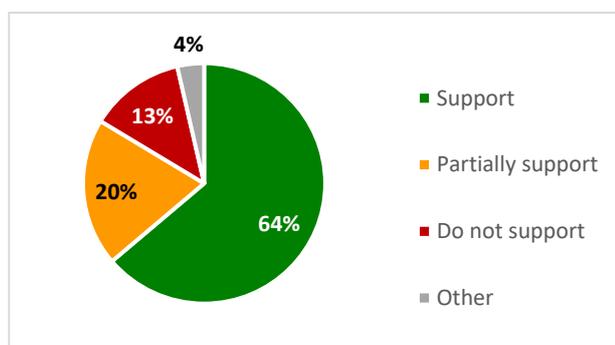
6. Overview of feedback received on the proposed amendment to the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 regarding property transfers from the Albert-Eden Local Board area

The question and text below is directly from the feedback form. The feedback from the Albert-Eden 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.

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Albert-Eden Local Board area.



Respondents who supported the proposal gave reasons including:

- These assets should be held by council/council should have oversight (25 feedback points).
- Less governance duplication and bureaucracy is a good thing and will increase efficiencies (15 feedback points).
- This move may lead to better governance and more strategic decision-making (11 feedback points).

Those who didn't support the proposal gave feedback that indicated that:

- This is not council business and is better with Panuku (nine feedback points).
- There is concern that the transfer would result in council selling or leveraging the assets (seven feedback points).