

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Long-term and Annual Plan Hearings Committee will be held on:

Date: 8 April 2014, 10:00am, Traditional Hearing, Reception Lounge
9 April 2014, 9:00am, Hearing Forum, Council Chamber
9 April 2014, 11:00am, Traditional Hearing, Reception Lounge

Venue: Auckland Town Hall, 301 - 305 Queen Street, Auckland

Long-term and Annual Plan Hearings Committee

OPEN AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson
Deputy Chairperson
Members

Cr Penny Webster
Cr John Watson
Cr Anae Arthur Anae
Cr Cameron Brewer
Mayor Len Brown, JP
Cr Dr Cathy Casey
Cr Bill Cashmore
Cr Ross Clow
Cr Linda Cooper, JP
Cr Chris Darby
Cr Alf Filipaina
Cr Hon Chris Fletcher, QSO
Cr Penny Hulse
Cr Denise Krum

Cr Mike Lee
Cr Calum Penrose
Cr Dick Quax
Cr Sharon Stewart, QSM
Member David Taipari
Member John Tamihere
Cr Sir John Walker, KNZM, CBE
Cr Wayne Walker
Cr George Wood, CNZM

Mike Giddey
Democracy Advisor

2 April 2014

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ITEM	TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
1	Apologies	5
2	Declaration of Interest	5
3	Summary of public submissions on the draft Annual Plan 2014/2015 – Regional overview	7

1 Apologies

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

2 Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

Summary of public submissions on the draft Annual Plan 2014/2015 – Regional overview

File No.: CP2014/06174

Purpose

1. This report provides a high-level analysis of the regional submissions and key themes contained in all submissions on the draft Annual Plan 2014/2015.

Executive Summary

2. 1,967 submissions were received on the draft Annual Plan 2014/2015, 87 of which were received after the submission deadline. At the time of writing this report a further 23 late submissions had been received but not counted in analysis of submissions.
3. The consultation period for the draft Annual Plan 2014/2015 was from 23 January to 4pm, 24 February 2014.
4. Legislation requires that submitters to the draft Annual Plan be given reasonable opportunity to be heard.
5. Submissions that cover both regional and local content have been heard at local hearings, with at least the ward councillor(s) present to hear regional content. Local board hearings began on 17 March and finished on 28 March 2014.
6. Regional hearings are being held on 8 April and 9 April 2014. The Long-term and Annual Plan Hearings Committee, including ward councillors and members from the Independent Māori Statutory Board, are hearing submissions from key submitters and those which relate to significant regional issues.
7. The most significant regional issues arising from submissions related to the consultation questions, i.e. the stadium strategy and Arts Festival proposals.
8. A total of 1,069 submitters (54.4% of all submitters) provided an opinion on the proposed stadium strategy. Of these, 230 (21.5%) supported the proposal, while 501 (46.9%) did not support it and 338 (31.6%) were unsure. The most notable opposition related to moving the speedway, with 362 submitters expressing a desire to keep the speedway at Western Springs.
9. 985 submitters (50.1% of all submitters) provided an opinion on the Arts Festival proposal. Of these, 503 (51.1%) supported the proposal, while 226 (22.9%) did not support it, and 256 (26.0%) were unsure.
10. The most notable other topic was opposition to fluoridation of the water supply. 237 submitters raised this point, with 217 of them coming on a pro forma outlining a believed violation of human rights in that ratepayers have no choice as to whether their water is treated to include fluoride. The form also outlines a perceived health risk and states that fluoride should be obtained through toothpaste only.
11. Regional submissions are attached to this report.
12. The Long-term and Annual Plan Hearings Committee will consider all submissions on the draft Annual Plan 2014/2015 in agreeing the final budgets and policies at its meeting on 8 May 2014.

Recommendation/s

That the Long-term and Annual Plan Hearings Committee:

- a) receive submissions on the Auckland Council draft Annual Plan 2014/2015
- b) hear submissions on the Auckland Council draft Annual Plan 2014/2015
- c) note that late submissions will be tabled at the meeting if required
- d) thank submitters for their submissions to the Auckland Council draft Annual Plan 2014/2015.

Discussion

Context

13. The Local Government Act 2002 and Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009 require Council to use the special consultative procedure in adopting an Annual Plan. This includes ensuring any person submitting on the draft Annual Plan is given reasonable opportunity to be heard.
14. At its 19 December 2013 meeting, the governing body agreed that submissions containing both regional and local content would be heard at local hearings.
15. This report provides statistics on submissions received regionally and locally, and a brief high-level analysis of key themes and topics.
16. A more detailed analysis of submissions will be provided to the Budget Committee workshop on 6 May 2014.
17. The consultation period for the draft Annual Plan 2014/2015 was from 23 January to 4pm 24 February 2014.

Submissions

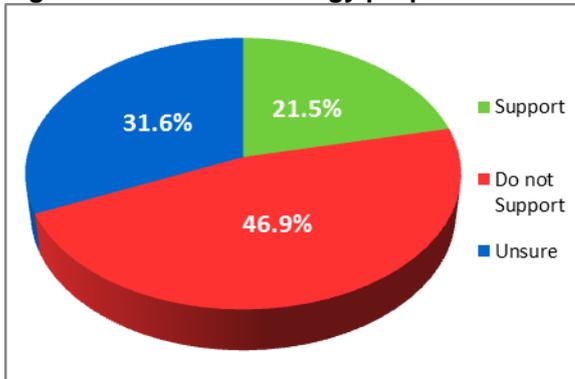
18. 1,967 submissions were received on the draft Annual Plan 2014/2015. All submissions received after the deadline were processed and formed part of the normal submission documents and included in the overall statistics. At the time of submitting this report, 23 submissions had been received too late for comments to be included in the overall statistics. 283 submitters (14.4%) wished to be heard, of which, 44 requested to be heard at a regional hearing.
19. There were around 10,230 total submission points extracted from the 1,967 submissions.
20. Copies of regional submissions are provided in Attachment A to this report.

Overview of feedback from consultation questions

21. **Consultation Question 1: Stadium Strategy** – under the current operating model, stadium owners cannot afford the future costs of operating, maintaining and developing the stadiums to the required standards. Regional Facilities Auckland has proposed a strategy that will re-allocate current funding to improve stadium facilities and their long-term financial security. The proposed changes consider the current and future use of each stadium to ensure each venue is more productive, cost efficient and creates a better experience for users. The strategy also proposes managing all four stadiums under a new structure, to help the stadium network operate more effectively and consistently.
22. Submitters were asked whether they supported the proposed strategy regarding Auckland's four major stadiums. In addition, submitters were also asked if they had any comments on the proposed uses for each of the four major stadiums.

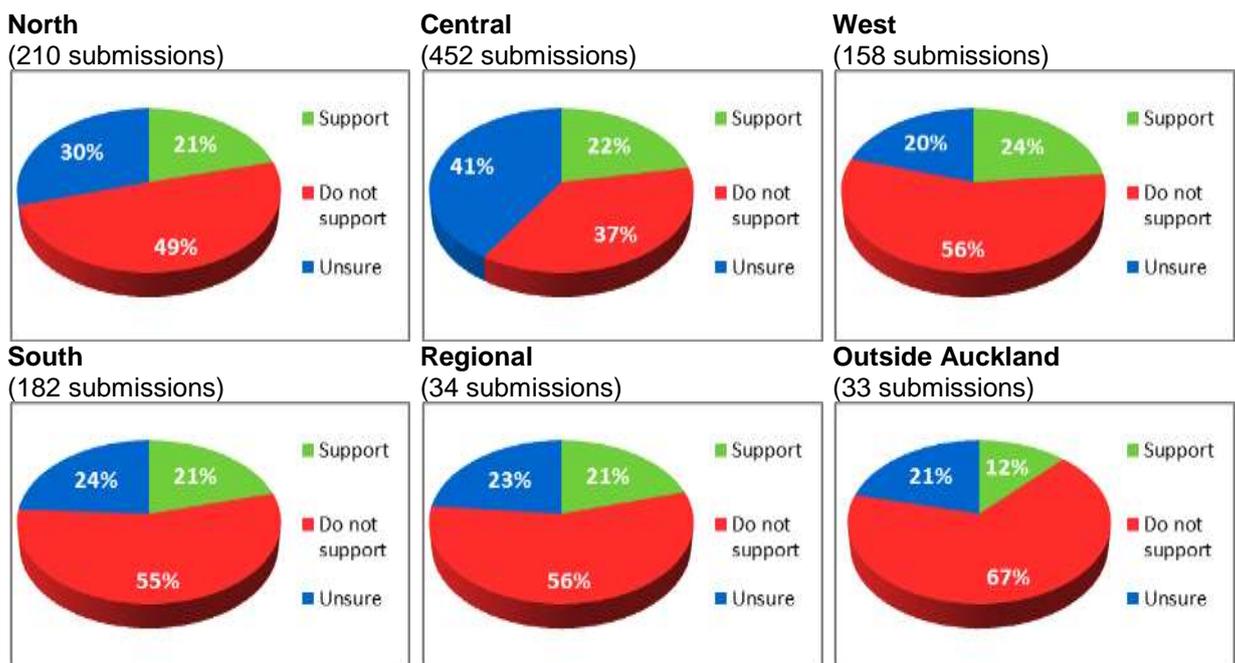
23. A total of 1,069 submitters (54.4% of all submitters) provided an opinion on the proposed stadium strategy. Of these, 230 (21.5%) supported the proposal, while 501 (46.9%) did not support it, and 338 (31.6%) were unsure. The most notable opposition was attributed to moving the speedway, with 362 submitters expressing a desire to keep the speedway at Western Springs. This is represented in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 – Stadium Strategy proposal



24. **Sub-regional analysis: Stadium Strategy** – The levels of support differed across the region. Figure 2 below provides an indication of how the sub-regional clusters viewed the stadium proposal. Submitters included in each of the groups are listed below.

Figure 2 – Stadium Strategy sub-regional analysis



North: includes submitters from Rodney, Hibiscus and Bays, Upper Harbour, Kaipātiki, and Devonport-Takapuna Local Boards.

Central: includes submitters from Waitemata, Albert-Eden, Puketāpapa, Ōrākei, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Waiheke, and Great Barrier Local Boards.

West: includes submitters from Waitākere Ranges, Henderson-Massey, and Whau Local Boards.

South: includes submitters from Howick, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Māngere-Otāhuhu, Manurewa, Papakura, and Franklin Local Boards.

Regional: includes submissions from organisations that are not local board specific, and individuals who have not provided an address.

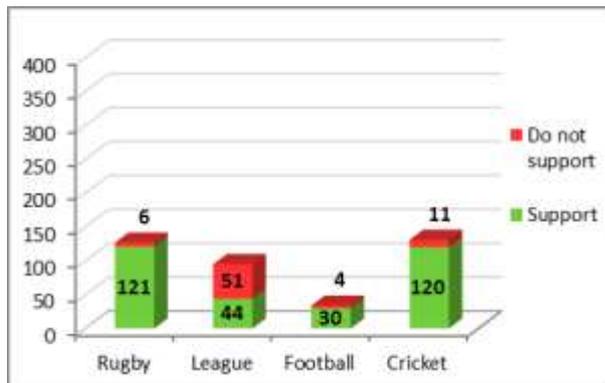
Outside Auckland: includes submitters from outside the Auckland area, received from all over New Zealand, Australia and one from the United States of America.

25. The local boards with the most supportive submitters of the stadium strategy were Waitematā (42% support from the 53 submitters) and Upper Harbour (38% support from the 24 submitters).
26. In contrast, the local boards with the least supportive submitters of the stadium strategy were Papakura (8% support from the 27 submitters), Rodney (12% support from the 61 submitters) and Waiheke (13% support from the 158 submitters). Similarly, the local boards with the submitters most opposed to the stadium strategy were Puketāpapa (73% opposition from the 15 submitters) and Manurewa (70% opposition from the 23 submitters).
27. It is worth noting that the results from the central local board cluster were skewed by the Waiheke Local Board figures. As a large number of submissions were received from Waiheke Local Board submitters, most of which focussed specifically on their local issues, 77% of their 158 submitters said they were unsure about the stadium strategy. As such, with the Waiheke figures removed, the central cluster would show 27% support, 51% do not support and 22% unsure of the strategy.
28. Were the Waiheke figures also removed from the overall analysis of the stadium strategy, it would show 23% support, 53% do not support and 24% unsure of the strategy.
29. **Stadium Strategy analysis by stadium and activity** – Submitters' comments about the proposed uses for each of the four major stadiums were captured in addition to their overall support for the stadium strategy. Figure 3 below illustrates the level support for each of the current or proposed activities at each stadium.

Figure 3 – Stadium/activity analysis

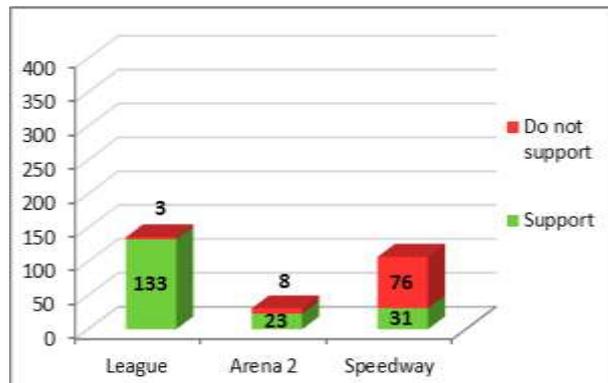
Eden Park

(353 total comments)



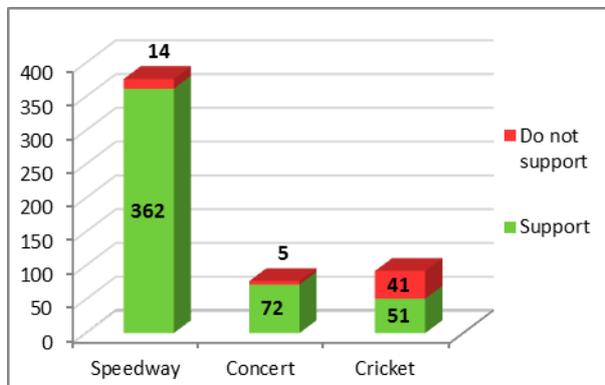
Mount Smart

(320 total comments)



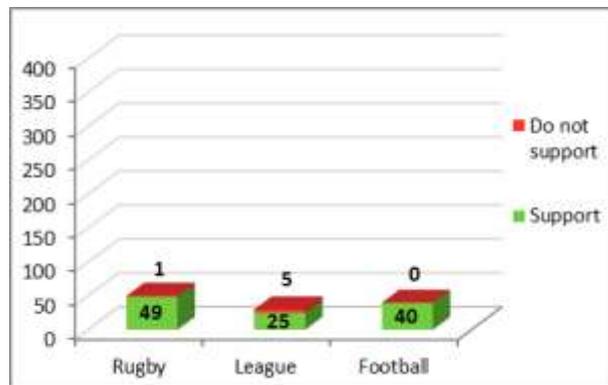
Western Springs

(490 total comments)



North Harbour

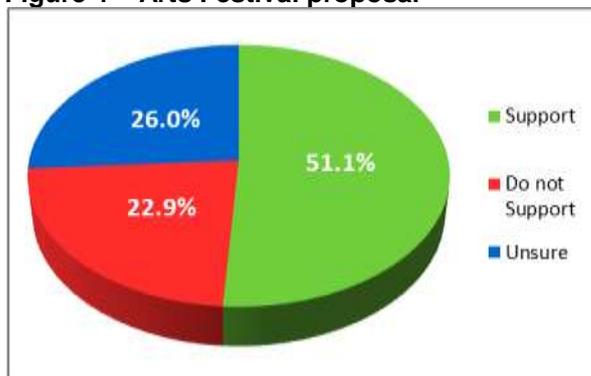
(232 total comments)



30. Key themes to emerge at this level of analysis are outlined below.

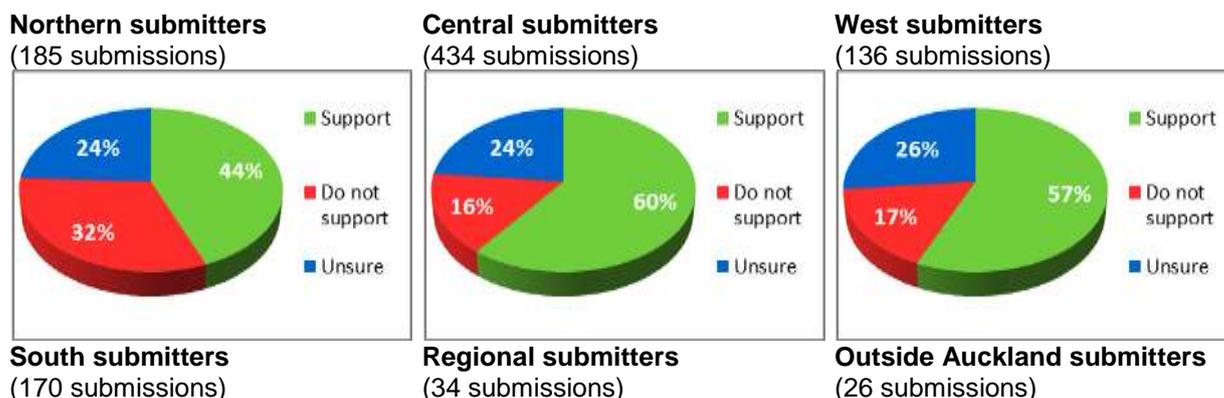
31. **Western Springs** - The most notable theme from these responses was a desire for speedway to remain at Western Springs. While 362 submitters supported the retention of speedway at Western Springs, a further 76 were also opposed to Mount Smart becoming a home for speedway. There was also notable support for keeping Western Springs as a concert venue, while mixed support for the venue to become a cricket venue.
32. **Eden Park** - Submitters expressed a desire for rugby and cricket to remain at Eden Park, with 121 supportive of rugby and 120 supportive of cricket remaining at the ground. However, there was mixed support for league to move to Eden Park.
33. **Mount Smart** - There was notable support for league at Mount Smart Stadium, with 133 submitters expressing their wish for league (in particular, the NZ Warriors) to remain at Mount Smart. In addition, as mentioned above, 76 submitters were opposed to the speedway moving to Mount Smart.
34. **North Harbour** - A low level of support for rugby, football, and league at North Harbour Stadium was received, with little to no opposition.
35. **Consultation Question 2: Arts Festival** – the Auckland Arts Festival is a biennial event operated by the Auckland Festival Trust (AFT). The AFT has approached the funding board and Auckland Council to seek financial support which would enable the festival to become an annual event from 2016.
36. Submitters were asked whether they supported making the Auckland Arts Festival an annual event.
37. 985 submitters (50.1% of all submitters) provided an opinion on the Arts Festival proposal. Of these, 503 (51.1%) supported the proposal, while 226 (22.9%) did not support it, and 256 (26.0%) were unsure. This is represented in Figure 4 below.

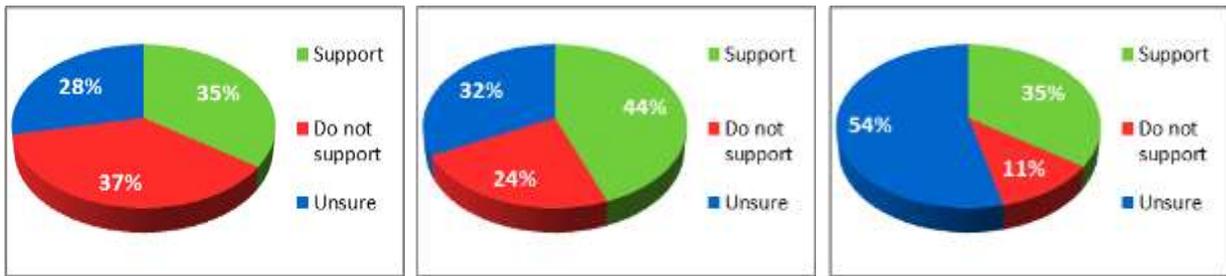
Figure 4 – Arts Festival proposal



38. **Sub-regional analysis: Arts Festival** – The levels of support differed across the region. Figure 5 below provides an indication of how the sub-regional clusters viewed the Arts Festival proposal. Submitters included in each of the groups are as listed above.

Figure 5 – Arts Festival sub-regional analysis





39. The local boards with the most supportive submitters of an annual Arts Festival were Ōrākei (67% support from the 42 submitters) and Waiheke (65% support from the 173 submitters) from the central cluster, while Waitākere Ranges (62% support from the 42 submitters) and Henderson-Massey (60% support from the 50 submitters) from the western cluster also showed strong support.
40. In contrast, the local boards with the submitters most opposed to an annual Arts Festival were Franklin (55% opposition from the 22 submitters), Howick (50% opposition from the 54 submitters) and Ōtara-Papatoetoe (48% opposition from the 21 submitters), all from the Southern cluster. Similarly, Puketāpapa (50% opposition from the 14 submitters) also showed strong opposition in an otherwise supportive central cluster.

Overview of other significant regional issues

41. There were 165 regional submissions, with 44 requesting to be heard. High-level information on the regional submissions is provided below. Of those requesting to be heard at a regional hearing, 8 were from individual submitters, 22 from special interest groups, 11 from businesses or business associations, and a further 3 from Māori organisations.
42. The most common regional topics are outlined below in table 1.

Table 1 - Regional topics

Topic Description	Number of submissions commenting on topic	% of total submissions
Watercare – Water Supply	247	12.6%
Regional arts & culture initiatives	54	2.7%
Social housing proposal – Do not support	51	2.6%
Expenditure – too high	38	1.9%
Transport strategy	35	1.8%
Request for funding	31	1.6%
Auckland Transport – Public transport	29	1.5%
General comments about the plan	29	1.5%
Auckland Transport – Roads	27	1.4%
Rates – too high	24	1.2%
Environmental strategy, policies & programmes	23	1.2%

43. **Watercare Services – Water supply** – 226 of the 247 submissions regarding water supply were opposing fluoridation of the water supply. Of those submissions, 217 came via a pro forma. The points raised outline a believed violation of human rights in that ratepayers have no choice as to whether their water is treated to include fluoride. The form also outlines a perceived health risk and states that fluoride should be obtained through toothpaste only.
44. **Regional arts & culture initiatives** – of the 54 submissions that commented on this topic, 48 were requests for Council to consider Massive Theatre Company for annual investment and assistance to find a home. While most of the submissions were from members/supporters, the Theatre itself also made an official submission requesting funding.

45. **Social Housing proposal** – 51 submitters outlined their reasons for not supporting the proposal to increase social housing rental charges by 5%. Just over half of these submitters thought that the increase was not affordable.

Overview of significant local issues

46. There were two significant issues raised in locally focussed submissions.
47. **Michaels Avenue Reserve (Ōrākei Local Board pro forma)** – 326 submissions were received on an Ōrākei Local Board headed pro forma supporting Local Board advocacy to the Governing Body “to assist financially with the building of new clubrooms at Michaels Avenue Reserve, and for the Local Board to assist the Ellerslie Sport Club Inc. in identifying/securing further sources of financial support to facilitate the establishment of both a new amenities block and clubrooms, as a further stage in the overall redevelopment of that Reserve”. A number of these pro forma submissions were received from submitters outside the Orakei Local Board area.
48. **Community swimming pool (Waiheke Local Board)** – 241 submitters expressed an opinion on the proposed Waiheke community swimming pool, with 74% of them supporting the project. There was, however, mixed support for reallocating funding from current projects to achieve this, yet with more support than opposition for reallocation of funding on all projects proposed.

Next steps

49. Decisions on the final Annual Plan 2014/2015 will be made at the decision-making meeting on 8 May 2014. Councillors may require additional information to support their decision-making. Officers’ responses to requests for information will be tabled at the Budget Committee workshop on 6 May 2014.

Consideration

Local Board Views

50. Local boards have access to all submissions and have the opportunity to formally advocate on any regional issues with the Governing Body between 24 and 30 April 2014. The Budget Committee will consider the views of local boards in agreeing the final budgets and policies at its meeting on 8 May 2014.

Māori Impact Statement

51. The implementation of the Annual Plan 2014/2015 has the potential for positive outcomes for Māori. Notwithstanding the projects already identified in the draft Annual Plan 2014/2015 that contribute to Māori the impact will be clearer when consideration and decisions are made by the Governing Body at their decision-making meetings on the draft Annual Plan.
52. Mana Whenua authorities were sent a letter about the consultation process. Maatawaka received information via standard communications processes that Auckland Council use to disseminate Annual Plan information.
53. Te Reo Māori regional summaries and submission forms were available, as well as translators for submissions received in and/or submitters wishing to address the hearing in Te Reo Māori.

Implementation Issues

54. Implementation issues on the various matters raised in submissions will be considered at the decision-making meeting on the draft Annual Plan 2014/2015 on 8 May 2014.

Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	Draft Annual Plan 2014-2015 - Regional Submissions Volume 1 (<i>Under Separate Cover</i>)	
B	Draft Annual Plan 2014-2015 - Regional Submissions Volume 2 (<i>Under Separate Cover</i>)	

Signatories

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