

22 February 2017

Public Submissions

Advisory Officer

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board

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**Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board Drafting Funding Plan 2017-2018  
– Submission**

To the Chair, Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board

Auckland Council acknowledges the contribution the Funding Board and the regional amenities make in helping to make Auckland a vibrant, attractive, and safe place to live and visit.

Most of the amenities have enjoyed substantial increases in funding since the Act came into force. Total ratepayer funding provided under the Act has increased from \$9m in 2009-2010 to \$16,142,500 in 2016-2017.

In light of that increase, Council is of the view that most of the amenities should now be reaching a level of funding that provides a degree of sustainability, especially in view of the principle in the Act that funding is only available if the amenity has made all reasonable endeavours to maximise its funding from other available funding sources. In other words, Council is meant to be the funder of last resort.

In that context, Auckland Council is pleased to see that the Funding Board has proposed an annual levy with a very modest increase (0.14%) to \$16,165,500.

However, we note that the projected indicative grant requests for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 represent 12% and 4% increases on this year's levy. An expectation of large year-on-year increases in funding from Council appears to have developed among some of the amenities. Such increases should only be contemplated in exceptional circumstances. In addition, Council has consistently expressed concern about external revenue generated by the amenities.

Council therefore again asks that the Funding Board encourages the amenities to focus on generating external revenue, and reminds them that Council should be seen as the funder of last resort.

Finally, Council acknowledges the work which the Board and the amenities have done towards establishing an understanding on what sustainable funding means for the various organisations under the Act. We look forward to seeing the sustainability approach embedded into the Board's work, and into future funding applications by the amenities under the Act.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Ross Clow

Chair

Finance and Performance Committee

Auckland Council