

## Waiheke Local Board feedback on Auckland Council's submission on the Government's Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill

### **Context**

Given its isolated location and island nature the Waiheke Local Board area is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The 2017 Local Board Plan includes a number of initiatives that seek to enhance and protect our natural environment and minimise the effects of climate change. This includes restoring and protecting our wetlands, streams and waterways; and minimising negative impacts on the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Our community has a long history of developing innovative ways to upcycle and minimise waste, and the board partners with community organisations and businesses to explore and support low carbon initiatives. In 2016 Waiheke Countdown became the first New Zealand supermarket to charge for single use plastic-bags with the support of a local group who have been making reusable shopping bags for years. A community lease was provided to the Waiheke Resources Trust which set up a Sustainability Centre providing free workshops and an eco-store refilling station.

Resiliency is essential. A number of community food forests, gardens and compost facilities (including hot composting trials) have been developed on our open spaces and on vineyards. However, with over one million visitors a year, managing greenhouse gas emissions continues to be a challenge. Resilience and contingency plans are urgently required together with the necessary funding.

Auckland Transport's ten-year plan for the island includes a focus on active transport infrastructure projects, in addition to electric bike facilities and electric vehicle charging stations. The importance of water sensitive roading design and stormwater management principles are also highlighted.

The 2018 Waiheke Christmas parade was the first fossil-free parade in New Zealand and in 2019 the board endorsed the Electric Island Waiheke initiative which intends to facilitate the transition the island to electric energy for all vehicles and equipment by 2030.

A focus on renewable energy, innovation and protection of our natural resources are essential to the planet's survival.

### **Feedback**

The Waiheke Local Board supports Auckland Council's submission on the Government's Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill. The local board would like to note in particular:

The Waiheke Local Board:

- supports the establishment of a Climate Change Commission as an expert independent body to advise and monitor New Zealand's climate change commitments.
- supports the updated emission reduction targets.
- supports a single target approach of net zero emissions by 2030.

- supports the establishment of specific emission budgets, including the visibility of three emission budgets at one time.
- supports transparency and predictability around additional input and workload required by local government in the development of the emissions budgets and plans.
- supports the inclusion of a national adaption plan, which should:
  - include funding support from central government for local government to undertake local climate change risk assessments and mitigation plans.
  - be updated regularly.
  - align with local government long-term plans, to enable sufficient budget to be planned and allocated.
  - provide incentives to shift away from use of fossil fuel and promote use of electric technology that is accessible for all.
  - support and address product stewardship and responsible disposal of defunct technology.
  - support development of off-the-grid power, water and gas technology to support community resilience.
  - support public education and behaviour change to enable citizens to engage actively in the decrease of greenhouse gasses the the sequestering of carbon.
- supports stronger consequences for failure to meet the 2050 target.
- supports stronger inclusion of climate change considerations in other central government acts, such as the Building Act and Resource Management Act. There should also be an expectation on local bodies in respect of planning processes with examples such as building too close to beaches, requiring developments to install solar panels and other similar direct requirements. Tree protection, pest management and maintaining rural / urban boundaries are also key.
- supports stronger measures to address the significantly high contribution fossil fuel vehicles make to total emissions, and an increased focus on electric infrastructure for pubic transport.
- supports stronger inclusion of Te Ao Māori throughout the bill, and to ensure there is appropriate representation and partnership with tangata whenua, iwi and hapū.
- supports stronger enforcement mechanisms within the bill to ensure an accelerated transition to a net zero future.
- suggests that it's critical for the transition to a net zero future to be just and equitable. This involves strong collaboration with the community, and ensuring that jobs, safe transport options and access to healthy, affordable food and energy is maintained.

Chair Cath Handley  
 Waiheke Local Board  
 7 July 2019