

Date: Tuesday 26 April 2022
Time: 1.02pm
Meeting Room: This meeting proceeded via Microsoft Teams and at
Venue: the Claris Conference Centre.
Either a recording or written summary will be
uploaded on the Auckland Council website.

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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20 April 2022

Memo

To: Chairperson Izzy Fordham, Deputy Chairperson Luke Coles
cc: Jacqui Fyers
From: Glenn Boyd – Local Area Manager, Local Board Services
Subject: Feedback under delegation request of the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board to be included in Auckland Council's feedback on the Ministry for the Environment's consultation document: *Te kapanoni i te hangarua*: Transforming recycling.

Purpose

1. To provide formal feedback from the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board to be included in Auckland Council's submission to the Ministry for the Environment's consultation document: *Te kapanoni i te hangarua*: Transforming recycling

Context

1. Central government has recently released a discussion document entitled *Te kapanoni i te hangarua*: Transforming recycling. through the Ministry for the Environment.
2. The discussion document containing these proposals is set out here: [Te kawe i te haepapa para: Te kapanoni i te hangarua: Transforming recycling.](#)
3. The document covers three proposals:
 - i. a container return scheme that encourages people to return their empty beverage containers for recycling
 - ii. improvements to household kerbside recycling, including nationwide standardised material collections and urban food scraps collection
 - iii. separation of food scraps from general waste for all businesses.
4. These are part of the wider Ministry for the Environment work programme including:
 - a new waste strategy and associated legislation
 - implementation of the 2021 National Plastics Action Plan
 - the increase and expansion of the waste levy
 - reducing greenhouse gas emissions from organic wastes via a proposed Emissions Reduction Plan.
5. The reasons for the changes include the need to:
 - substantially increase our recycling rates noting that Aotearoa/New Zealand only recycles and composts about one-third of materials we place on the kerbside, with the rest going to landfills (many countries recycle two-thirds)

- reduce carbon emissions noting that the waste sector contributed around four per cent of our total greenhouse gas emissions in 2019, and around nine per cent of biogenic methane emissions.
6. Local board input into that submission is being sought, with a deadline of **5pm on 21 April 2022** for feedback to be considered in the council's submission or **5pm 4 May 2022** for feedback to be appended.
 7. Recent Auckland Council submissions to the Ministry for the Environment on waste related topics have supported development of a new waste strategy and legislation, developed in partnership with Māori, to move to a circular economy. We have been a long-time advocate for a national container return scheme, and co-led work with Marlborough District Council in 2020 to co-design a scheme with a wide range of sector stakeholders. We have also supported work to standardise kerbside collections and highlighted the importance of reducing carbon emissions from organic waste in our recent submissions.
 8. Waste Planning staff will lead the development of the council's submission which is due to the Ministry by **8 May 2022**.
 9. At its meeting of 12 May 2020, the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board resolved (resolution number GBI/2020/1) to delegate authority to the Chair to approve and submit the local board's input into Auckland Council submissions on formal consultation from government departments, parliament, select committees and other councils.

Feedback from the Aotea /Great Barrier Local Board

10. The Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback for inclusion in Auckland Council's submission to the Ministry for the Environment's consultation document: *Te kapanoni i te hangarau: Transforming recycling*.

Context:

11. Aotea / Great Barrier Island in the Hauraki Gulf is 100km northeast of central Auckland. It is the sixth largest island in New Zealand, at 285 square km and nearly 45km long.
12. The permanent population of Aotea / Great Barrier is 936 (2018 census) plus part- time residents with second homes. There are approximately 192 persons who identify as being Māori living on the motu. The Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board area has no externally provided electricity supply, no public supply of potable water or public wastewater treatment, footpaths, streetlights or public transport. Residents live off the grid and are very resilient and innovative.
13. The *Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2020* has a single focused outcome of "Our island is resilient". The plan identifies that the island is on a committed pathway to Zero Waste.
14. The island's landfill will close this year with waste then having to be sent off island for disposal. Both community and council have identified the need to be innovative in their collective approach to reducing and recycling waste. These approaches could create job opportunities and strengthen our island economy. They also need to include dealing with septic sludge waste and organic waste. Auckland Council will need to make it as seamless as possible for locals and visitors by continuing to refine the current waste system.
15. On this Zero Waste journey solid progress has been made toward goals identified in the *Tikapa Moana Hauraki Gulf Islands Waste Plan 2018* including the establishment of a on island Community Recycling Centre which since opening two years ago has diverted tonnes of potential waste fill and supported island residents and visitors in progressing positive behaviour changes around recycling and reuse.

Feedback

16. The Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board support government's three high level proposals of:
- i. a container return scheme that encourages people to return their empty beverage containers for recycling
 - ii. improvements to household kerbside recycling, including nationwide standardised material collections and urban food scraps collection
 - iii. separation of food scraps from general waste for all businesses.
17. The local board support the general methodology of legislative prescription with associated national communication campaigns, along with targeted education and behaviour change investment.
18. The three proposals align with Aotea / Great Barrier section of the Waste Plan 2018 goals of:
- Moving towards zero recyclables in domestic refuse bags.
 - Reduce waste coming on to the island.
 - Support creative iwi and community action, education and behaviour change.
 - Reduce commercial and construction and demolition waste.
 - Reduce visitor and boatie waste.
19. In line with the Local Board Plan 2020 outcome of being a resilient sustainable island, and the Waste Plan 2018 goal of 'Everybody composting their food and green waste', there is opportunity to give consideration and add further detail to the proposal around rural / remote service considerations, and how support can be given to more localised food scrap collection and reuse services and education for residents and businesses.
20. With regards to container return and buy back, options need to exist so that there is opportunity for common receiving /deposit return places to exist outside of those facilities that sell the items given potential impacts on storage and pick up access requirements for businesses, however this does need to be balanced with a requirement that return locations are available and easily accessible at a local level.
21. Aotea / Great Barrier is a rural community with no access to a supermarket so would be limited in drop off locations as outlined, the local board would endorse that liquor stores be considered as a drop off collection location.
22. When finalising the discussion document specific consideration does need to be given to the contextual challenges of remote and island communities to minimise the risk of any potential of negative unintentional consequences. For example, both population size and density along with distance in supply chains become key factors within whole of product lifecycle considerations such as pricing and carbon emissions.

END



Izzy Fordham
Chairperson, Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board

Date: 21 April 2022



Luke Coles
Deputy Chairperson, Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board

Date: 21 April 2022