
Albert-Eden Local Board

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Albert-Eden Local Board held in the Albert Eden Local Board Office, 114 Dominion Road, Mt Eden on Tuesday, 24 January 2023 at 1.04pm and adjourned at 2.13pm. The meeting was reconvened at 3.05pm, Thursday, 9 February 2023 held at the Albert-Eden Local Board Office, 114 Dominion Road, Mt Eden.

TE HUNGA KUA TAE MAI | PRESENT

Chairperson	Margi Watson
Deputy Chairperson	Kendyl Smith
Members	José Fowler
	Julia Maskill
	Christina Robertson
	Liv Roe
	Rex Smith
	Jack Tan

TE HUNGA ĀPITI KUA TAE MAI | ALSO PRESENT

Chairperson, Waitemātā Local Board Councillor	Genevieve Sage	In attendance during the 24 January 2023 meeting proceedings only.
	Julie Fairey	In attendance during the 24 January 2023 meeting proceedings only.

1 Nau mai | Welcome

The chairperson commenced the meeting with a Karakia Tīmatanga (Māori opening prayer) and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2 Ngā Tamōtanga | Apologies

There were no apologies.

3 Te Whakapuaki i te Whai Pānga | Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Te Whakaū i ngā Āmiki | Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution number AE/2023/1

MOVED by Chairperson M Watson, seconded by Deputy Chairperson K Smith:

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) **confirm the minutes of its ordinary meeting held on Wednesday, 7 December 2022, as true and correct.**

CARRIED

5 He Tamōtanga Motuhake | Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

6 Te Mihi | Acknowledgements

There were no acknowledgements.

7 Ngā Petihana | Petitions

There were no petitions.

8 Ngā Tono Whakaaturanga | Deputations

8.1 Deputation - Tim Marshall – Board Members, National Squash Centre Trust

Tim Marshall – Board Members, National Squash Centre Trust, Martin Dowson - Squash New Zealand Chief Executive, and John Fletcher - National Development and Operations Manager, were in attendance to deliver a presentation outlining highlights of the trust's work programme. For example; the National Squash Centre Trust (NSCT) operates public squash courts on Carrington Road, which attracts casual players from Mount Albert and nearby suburbs. Between April and November

2022, the National Squash Centre hosted more than 8,600 squash players (4,306 bookings).

A powerpoint presentation was tabled for this item. A copy of the presentation has been placed on the official minutes and is available on the Auckland Council website as part of the minutes attachment.

Resolution number AE/2023/2

MOVED by Member J Maskill, seconded by Member J Tan:

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) **thank Tim Marshall – Board Members, National Squash Centre Trust, Martin Dowson - Squash New Zealand Chief Executive, and John Fletcher - National Development and Operations Manager, for their attendance and Deputation presentation regarding the National Squash Centre.**

CARRIED

Attachments

- A 20230124 Albert-Eden Local Board, Item 8.1: Deputation - Tim Marshall – Board Members, National Squash Centre Trust - Powerpoint Presentation

Note: Councillor J Fairey entered the meeting at 1.13pm during Item 8.1.

9 Te Matapaki Tūmatanui | Public Forum

9.1 Public Forum - Barbara Sturmfels - Cycling in Mount Albert

Barbara Sturmfels and Bill Hansen - residents, were in attendance to deliver a Public Forum presentation regarding cycling projects in the Mount Albert area, the proposed Meola Road cycleway, as well as their personal cycling experiences.

Resolution number AE/2023/3

MOVED by Member J Maskill, seconded by Member J Fowler:

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) **thank Barbara Sturmfels and Bill Hansen - residents, for their attendance and Public Forum presentation regarding cycling projects in the Mount Albert area, the proposed Meola Road cycleway, as well as their personal cycling experiences.**

CARRIED

9.2 Public Forum - David Frank, Tennis Auckland Incorporated

David Frank - General Manager, Tennis Auckland Incorporated, was in attendance to deliver a Public Forum presentation outlining a request from the club to install the 'Book a Court – On-Line' Court Bookings system at Nicholson Park.

Information documents were tabled for this item. Copies of each information document have been placed on the official minutes and are available on the Auckland Council website as part of the minutes attachment.

Resolution number AE/2023/4

MOVED by Member J Tan, seconded by Deputy Chairperson K Smith:

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) **thank David Frank - General Manager, Tennis Auckland Incorporated, for his attendance and Public Forum presentation outlining a request from the club to install the 'Book a Court – On-Line' Court Bookings system at Nicholson Park.**

CARRIED

Attachments

- A 20230124 Albert-Eden Local Board - Item 9.2: Public Forum - David Frank, Tennis Auckland Incorporated - Tennis Auckland Nicholson Park Tennis Centre
- B 20230124 Albert-Eden Local Board - Item 9.2: Public Forum - David Frank, Tennis Auckland Incorporated - Case Study

10 Ngā Pakihi Autaia | Extraordinary Business

10.1 Consideration of Extraordinary Business

Pursuant to Standing Order 2.4.5, an item of extraordinary business was proposed for discussion during Item 14 of the meeting agenda.

The extraordinary business matter was in regards to the local board's feedback to the Auckland Council submission on parliamentary enquiry into the 2022 local government elections.

The matter was considered urgent noting that the deadline for the local board's feedback to be appended to the council's submission is 10 February 2023 and the local board's next scheduled business meeting is on 23 February 2023.

Resolution number AE/2023/5

MOVED by Chairperson M Watson, seconded by Member J Fowler:

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) **agree to consider an item of extraordinary business during item 14 of the meeting agenda.**

CARRIED

11 Local Board feedback on Auckland Unitary Plan changes 78-83

Resolution number AE/2023/6

MOVED by Chairperson M Watson, seconded by Deputy Chairperson K Smith:

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) **provide the following feedback on Plan Change 78:**
 - i) **generally support the proposed zoning within Albert-Eden given it provides a balance between an intensifying city, providing housing capacity and protecting heritage.**
 - ii) **note there are a range of views in the community on the level of special character that could be retained and on distance for walkable catchments across the Albert-Eden Local Board area and this also is reflected within the views of the local board members.**

- iii) support the importance of built and natural heritage and the contribution that heritage makes to the identity, history and story of Tāmaki Makaurau and its people.
- iv) support the intent and opportunity that the plan change delivers for housing enablement, economic development for town centres and communities and emissions reductions through the development of a more compact, low carbon city.
- v) support the proposed zoning areas covered by Special Character Business Overlay.
- vi) request a review for single properties that appear to have inconsistent zoning compared with neighbouring properties, for example the zoning of 5 Rockwood Place, Epsom and 68 Margot Street, Epsom.
- vii) emphasise the need to ensure that the Urban Design Manual is adhered to, to ensure development is appropriate, well planned and of high quality.
- viii) request that all developments greater than 9 dwellings are required to go through the Urban Design Panel to ensure good design.
- ix) note that infrastructure is currently lagging in the city and the pressure intensification will bring, so although outside this plan change process, there is a need for complementary provision of other supporting infrastructure for people, for example; schools, hospitals and transport options.
- x) note that although outside the Plan Change, traffic and private vehicle parking are issues in the city and that work must be undertaken by Auckland Council to resolve these as the city intensifies.
- xi) support all qualifying matters identified in Plan Change 78.
- xii) support the proposed special character areas as a qualifying matter noting the comments above in ii).
- xiii) support significant infrastructure constraints should be a qualifying matter with specific inclusion of sites with stormwater disposal issues in Mt Eden, Epsom and Balmoral.
- xiv) support the Regional Significant Viewshafts and Height Sensitive Areas Overlay being a qualifying matter, to provide continued protection of viewshafts to maunga given their importance to the city's natural landscape and Māori heritage.
- xv) support Medium Density Residential Standards to include standards on impervious area, daylight, minimum dwelling size, privacy, deep soil and canopy trees, pedestrian and vehicle access and waste management.
- xvi) support the Mixed Housing Urban zone updates to include standards on impervious area, daylight, minimum dwelling size, privacy, deep soil and canopy trees, pedestrian and vehicle access and waste management.
- xvii) support low density residential zone be applied to accommodate values of certain qualifying matters.
- xviii) in relation to specific submissions provide these comments:
 - A) Do not support the Kāinga Ora requests to upzone across the suburbs they have landholdings in, due to the significant development opportunities that already exist, noting that Kāinga Ora requests for site-specific upzoning would be better addressed by private plan changes.

- B) Do not support the requests by Land for Housing Programme within the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for upzoning within the Wairaka Precinct or the land on the other side of Carrington Road (being generally Segar Avenue to Fifth Avenue) noting much of this is likely due to be part of an upcoming private plan change.
 - C) Do not support the increased height of 35m sought by Dilworth Trust on Great South Road and Maranui Avenue given it is inconsistent with surrounding heights.
 - D) Raise concerns in relation to the request from Foodstuffs NZ Limited to change their PaknSave site at 1159-1173 New North Road, Mt Albert to 21m height.
 - E) Request note is taken of the submission by the Eden Epsom Residential Protection Society Incorporate considering the recent Environment Court ruling.
 - F) Support the Tree council submission noting the importance of trees within our urban landscape for urban cooling and shade.
 - G) Support the Elizabeth Knox Home and Hospital request to have a consistent THAB (Terrace House Apartment Building) zone be applied across their site at 2–10 Ranfurly Road, 10 Market Road, and 8-10 Griffin Avenue, Epsom.
 - H) Support the Kiwirail submission regarding set backs, noise and vibration for dwellings near the rail corridor to ensure home are liveable.
- b) support Plan Change 79: Amendments to transport provisions to manage the impacts of development on Auckland’s transport network, with a focus on pedestrian safety, accessible car parking, emergency vehicle access, loading and heavy vehicle management, and catering for Electric Vehicle (EV) - charging and cycle parking.
 - c) support Plan Change 80: Regional Policy Statement - Well-functioning Urban Environment, Resilience to the Effects of Climate Change and Qualifying Matters Plan Change.
 - d) support the addition of Hartsholme, 8 Allendale Road, Mount Albert to Schedule 14 Historic Heritage Schedule, Statements and Maps, as per Plan Change 81.
 - e) support Plan Change 83 and 84: Additions and amendments to Schedule 10 Notable Trees Schedule.
 - f) appoint the Chairperson or their delegate to speak to the local board views at a hearing in 2023.

CARRIED

Note: Member R Smith exited the meeting at 1.57pm and reentered the meeting at 2.04pm.

12 **Resource management reform: Natural and Built Environment Bill and Spatial Planning Bill**

Resolution number AE/2023/7

MOVED by Member J Maskill, seconded by Member R Smith:

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) support the principle that the Resource Management Act system requires reform.
 - b) support the purpose of the new resource management system:
 - i) to enable the use, development, and protection of the environment in a way that:
 - A) supports the well-being of present generations without compromising the well-being of future generations; and
 - B) promotes outcomes for the benefit of the environment; and
 - C) complies with environmental limits and their associated targets; and
 - D) manages adverse effects; and
 - E) and recognises and upholds Te Oranga o Te Taiao*.
- *(As per the Natural and Built Environment Bill, 'Te Oranga o Te Taiao' definition incorporates:
(a) the health of the natural environment; and
(b) the intrinsic relationship between iwi and hapū and te taiao; and
(c) the interconnectedness of all parts of the natural environment; and
(d) the essential relationship between the health of the natural environment and its capacity to sustain all life).*
- c) support the overall intention and purpose of the Natural and Built Environment Bill.
 - d) request consideration for:
 - i) a requirement for development to contribute to ecological capacity (for example; air, water, land capacity), proportionally to the scale of the development.
 - ii) a requirement for regulatory authorities to identify biophysical capacity and excesses.
 - iii) mandating mechanisms to resource identification and enforcement of ways to achieve required ecological improvements.
 - e) do not support the proposed structure and key elements of the Natural and Built Environment Bill and Spatial Planning Bill for the following reasons:
 - i) There is a reduction in input and decision-making by locally elected representatives over local matters.
 - ii) There is a reduction in local communities input into development in both the planning framework and on a case-by-case basis.
 - iii) There is no recognition of the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act and unique governance role of local boards.
 - iv) Local board plans do not have statutory weight.
 - v) Moving decision making away from territorial authorities means there is separation of decision-making between planning and funding decisions, which is a particular issues for future infrastructure.
 - vi) Territorial authorities are required to providing funding and implementation of a planning document they do not have decision-making over.
 - vii) There is not enough detail on the concept of Te Oranga o Te Taiao*, including how to interpret or implement it.

**(As per the Natural and Built Environment Bill, 'Te Oranga o Te Taiao' definition incorporates:*

(a) the health of the natural environment; and

(b) the intrinsic relationship between iwi and hapū and te taiao; and

(c) the interconnectedness of all parts of the natural environment; and

(d) the essential relationship between the health of the natural environment and its capacity to sustain all life).

- viii) There is not enough ability to provide for tree protection in urban environments.
- ix) It is uncertain if the proposed system would achieve a key driver of the reform, which is to make the process less onerous for the public.
- x) Request English translations for Te Reo Māori terms, to ensure it is easy and accessible for community to understand.
- xi) There is risk that local issues will not be able to be adequately reflected or addressed, such as heritage, special character, sites of cultural significance, protection of maunga (mountains), or coastal areas.
- f) oppose the inclusion of a fast-track consenting process that appears to be modelled from the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020, as captured in Sub part 8—Specified housing and infrastructure fast-track consenting process for the following reasons:
 - i) The COVID-19 Recovery Act provisions were for the specific purpose of providing economic stimulus in response to COVID impacts. Turning this provision into a 'business as usual' provision would undermine the usual resource consenting process, including local feedback.
 - ii) The list of eligible activities is wide ranging and many larger scale housing developments are proposed for the Albert-Eden area.
 - iii) The fast-track consenting process could create a bypass for significant and complex developments, as illustrated by the projects that have gone through the COVID-19 fast-track process, that local boards and communities will have an interest in and want to give feedback on.
 - iv) The fast turnaround for feedback on complex applications with a large amount of documentation means that effective and thorough feedback from local boards and community will be difficult to provide within timeframes.
 - v) That we reluctantly supported the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track consenting) Bill in June 2020 in principle, provided that it was used sparingly and for a limited time, and with appropriate safe-guards to ensure wise-decision making to approve structures that will be around for many decades, if not centuries and note that our views have not changed on these matters.
 - vi) That we have seen it regularly used over the last two year on our area and still request, as we did in 2020, that active consideration be given to a form of Limited Public Notification as this would allow immediately affected neighbours of the proposed project to make submissions.
 - vii) We would still advocate that parties with "a greater than average interest" be allowed to participate in the process – for example; relevant local groups (environmental, historical, cultural) who can demonstrate an actual interest in the project.
- g) strongly oppose the compensation required by Natural and Built Environment Bill s590 and s591 where compensation is required by the Territorial Authority

- to the allotment owner when an esplanade reserve is required to be taken on a subdivision. The esplanade reserves are an important part of the environmental rehabilitation and public enjoyment of our waterways, providing a public good for future generations and the environment and with subdivisions representing intensification adjacent to the waterways, the contribution of the esplanade reserve to the public realm should be a part of the amenity to mitigate development and intensification adverse effects and minimise coastal erosion noting that:
- i) this is a change in process, and it will be unaffordable to Territorial Authorities who then will likely not follow through with the requirement for esplanade reserves
 - ii) consequentially that contravenes the outcomes set out in the purposes of the Bill regarding the need to consider coastal erosion, environmental benefits and current and future generations wellbeing as many of these strips become coastal walkways.
- h) note the following Albert-Eden Local Board Plan 2020 outcomes and objectives that relate to natural and built environment:
- i) Outcome one: Resilient, connected and empowered communities who value diversity, People are resilient and can adapt to change, People are included, interconnected and celebrate our diversity, People are engaged and participate in local board processes.
 - ii) Outcome two: Neighbourhoods that reflect and value our heritage and unique identity now and into the future, Māori cultural heritage is valued and protected, Neighbourhoods have a strong sense of identity and create a connection to place, We respond to high density living, intensification and changing suburban form.
 - iii) Outcome three: High-quality natural environments and sustainable lifestyles, Our environment is protected and restored.
 - iv) Outcome four: A strong local economy with thriving town centres, Our local economy is growing and provides stable employment options, Town centres are attractive destinations.
 - v) Outcome six: Safe, easy and sustainable options for moving around, Our community has more transport options and we see a shift in transport modes used by the community, Our transport options increase safety and minimise harm.

CARRIED

Adjournment of Meeting

Resolution number AE/2023/8

MOVED by Chairperson M Watson, seconded by Deputy Chairperson K Smith:

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) agree to adjourn the 24 January 2023 meeting until Thursday, 9 February 2023 at 3.00pm, to be held at the Albert-Eden Local Board office, 114 Dominion Road, Mt Eden.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2.13pm, Tuesday, 24 January 2023 and reconvened at 3.05pm, Thursday, 9 February 2023. Chairperson M Watson, Deputy Chairperson K Smith and Members J Fowler, J Maskill, C Robertson, L Roe, R Smith and J Tan were present.

13 Annual Budget 2023/2024 local board consultation content

Resolution number AE/2023/9

MOVED by Chairperson M Watson, seconded by Member J Maskill:

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) note that the proposed reduction of \$16 million to local board operational funding can be sought from both the local boards Locally-driven Initiatives and the Asset-based Services budgets, both of which directly support our local services such as arts and culture, environment and climate response, library services and opening hours, community programmes, events and youth.
- b) note that anticipated cuts to Full Facilities Maintenance Contracts and Arboriculture Maintenance are proposed to be credited regionally and not locally, meaning that cuts to other areas will potentially be disproportionately large.
- c) note that in light of the recent and unprecedented January 2023 storm requiring a State of Emergency to be declared, deferring or reducing funding of climate action could be seen as imprudent.
- d) note the essential role in the State of Emergency response played by community organisations and questions who will fulfil that role in future emergencies if funding is cut.
- e) note resolution number AE/2022/219 passed at the 7 December 2022 Albert-Eden Local Board Business Meeting, particularly resolutions a) xi) to a) xiv) as follows:

Albert-Eden Local Board, 7 December 2022 meeting resolution AE/2022/219

- xi) note our concern with reductions in other departments operational budgets which may have an impact on the ability to deliver local board work programme activities - noting that, under Section 77 of the Local Government Act, local board decisions must be informed by technical advice from staff and that it is essential that local boards have adequate staff support to ensure compliance with this provision and that decisions impacting communities are robust and evidence based.
- xii) do not support reduction in governance support to local boards given the comprehensive work programme, the drive to subsidiarity and the increased decision-making being rolled out to local boards.
- xiii) do not support proposed 5 per cent reduction in local board funding noting that:
 - A) local board operational budgets are a very small proportion of the overall Auckland Council budget and that the Albert-Eden Local Board operational budget is <1 per cent of the total Council budget and the Albert-Eden Local Board's Local Discretionary Budget (LDI) is <0.1 per cent of the total Council's budget and funds critical programmes and projects that deliver to the four well-beings for communities.
 - B) request this reduction is discussed in the long-term plan consultation, to enable detailed advice and proposals to be provided on reduction on Asset-based Services (ABS) budget options are included to inform decision-making.
 - C) It is likely the reduction will results in a significant (example, 50 per cent) reduction to discretionary (Locally-driven Initiatives) budgets as the complexity of cutting operational (Asset-based

- Services) budgets related to facilities is unlikely to be feasible for the 2023/2024 financial year and will have a significant negative impact on our 2 most publicly valued services being parks and libraries.
- D) there is an agreement and commitment on increasing local board decision-making and reducing budgets significantly will impact the ability of local boards to fulfil their statutory functions.
- xiv) request that consultation information be specific and where proposed reductions to services would be, so the community understand the impacts and consequences.
- f) approve the local consultation document content (tabled document A) and local supporting information content (tabled document B) for inclusion in the Annual Budget 2023/2024 consultation material, however request that the following changes are made:
- i) the local consultation document content (tabled document A) be amended to replace the Introduction section (page 1) and the “Responding to our budget challenge” section (page 2) with the following wording:
- “This year, the council’s proposed response to mitigate the budget pressures for 2023/2024 includes a proposed reduction of \$16 million to local board operational funding, *which is made up of our Locally-driven Initiatives budget and Asset Based Services budgets. As only a small portion of Asset Based Services budget is available to be considered for savings due to existing contractual commitments and the inability to realise savings for FY24, this means that the proposed reduction will likely represent a cut of up to 60 per cent to the boards discretionary budgets. This will result in a significant reduction in spending on local services such as arts and culture, environment, climate response, library services and opening hours, community programmes, events and youth.* The Albert-Eden Local Board would need to reduce its planned operation spend by \$766,000”.**
- ii) request that the local supporting information content (tabled document B) be amended to replace the Introduction section (page 1) with the following wording:
- “This year, the council’s proposed response to mitigate the budget pressures for 2023/2024 includes a proposed reduction of \$16 million to local board operational funding, *which is made up of our Locally-driven Initiatives budget and Asset Based Services budgets. As only a small portion of Asset Based Services budget is available to be considered for savings due to existing contractual commitments and the inability to realise savings for FY24, this means that the proposed reduction will likely represent a cut of up to 60 per cen to the boards discretionary budgets. This will result in a significant reduction in spending on local services such as arts and culture, environment, climate response, library services and opening hours, community programmes, events and youth.* The Albert-Eden Local Board would need to reduce its planned operation spend by \$766,000”.**
- g) delegate authority to the local board Chair to approve any changes required to finalise the local consultation document and supporting information content for the Albert-Eden Local Board for the Annual Budget 2023/2024.
- h) approve the following Have Your Say event in the local board area during the Annual Budget 2023/2024 consultation period:

- i) Drop-in, Wednesday, 22 March 2023, 5.00pm to 6:30pm - Mount Eden War Memorial Hall (Upstairs Chamber Room), 489 Dominion Road, Mount Eden.
- i) delegate authority to the local board Chair to approve any changes required to the Have Your Say event.
- j) delegate to the following elected members and staff the power and responsibility to receive feedback and hear from the public through “spoken (or New Zealand sign language) interaction” at the council’s public engagement events during the consultation period for the Annual Budget 2023/2024:
 - i) local board members and Chair
 - ii) General Manager Local Board Services, Local Area Manager, Local Board Senior Advisor, Local Board Advisor, Local Board Engagement Advisor
 - iii) any additional staff approved by the General Manager Local Board Services or the Group Chief Financial Officer.

CARRIED

Attachments

- A 20230124 Albert-Eden Local Board - Item 13: Annual Budget 2023/2024 local board consultation content - Consultation Document
- B 20230124 Albert-Eden Local Board - Item 13: Annual Budget 2023/2024 local board consultation content - Supporting Information

14 Te Whakaaro ki ngā Take Pūtea e Autaia ana | Consideration of Extraordinary Items

14.1 Auckland Council’s submission on the Inquiry into the 2022 Local Elections

Information documents were tabled for this item. Copies of each information document have been placed on the official minutes and are available on the Auckland Council website as part of the minutes attachment.

Resolution number AE/2023/10

MOVED by Member C Robertson, seconded by Member J Maskill:

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) generally support the Auckland Council submission but raise the following additional points:
 - i) note with concern the low turnout in local body elections and recommends:
 - A) that Auckland Council continue to explore the most effective means of reminding voters throughout the election period to look out for their ballots and return them on time, by targeted as well as broad messages
 - B) that the election period be timed to avoid school and university holidays
 - C) that the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 be amended to allow voters overseas to receive and return their voting documents electronically, as is permitted by clause 45A in the Electoral Regulations 1996
 - D) that the Local Electoral Act 2001 be amended to allow enrolment until the close of voting

- E) **that voting close at 7pm on a Saturday, since this is what voters are used to from general elections and some may be caught out by a midday close of voting**
 - F) **implementation of recommendations for extensive civics education both for school age children and for the community generally so people have both the confidence and the competence to vote**
 - G) **the Electoral Commission and other agencies should fund impartial, measured coverage of local government decisions noting that the current funding of regional news reporters is already having a beneficial effect in that regard.**
- b) **note that some confusion remains (including among electoral workers) about eligibility for residents on some categories of visa, and recommends further training for electoral workers on eligibility and clear messaging in publicity materials so that all eligible residents are aware they are able to vote.**
- c) **note the success of placing voting boxes at Countdown supermarkets as well as libraries and recommends this initiative continue and be expanded if possible to other supermarket chains.**
- d) **note that there appeared to be more widespread difficulties with voting papers being delivered than in previous local elections, and recommend investigating whether this is indeed increasing, and if so, how it might be addressed.**
- e) **note that postal delays have increased since 2019 and that postal deliveries no longer take place daily, which can lead to delays both for voters receiving voting packs and in returning ballots to the electoral officer, effectively reducing the voting period and meaning that some ballots arrived too late to be counted; and to mitigate this, the board recommends that votes postmarked as having been sent before the close of voting should be accepted and counted if they arrive before the final count is finished.**
- f) **note that requesting a special voting pack by mail is also subject to postal delays, which makes it crucial for electors to be able to obtain a special vote in person until the close of voting, and that there were very few places electors could do this (only eight across Auckland, and only one on the isthmus, with most open only during business hours). The Board recommends:**
 - i) **Providing at least one ‘one-stop shop’ with weekend and evening hours in each local board area throughout the voting period, where electors can enrol, obtain a special ballot, or seek advice on difficulties such as damaged or missing voting packs**
 - ii) **Establishing and publicising a day on which more pop-up one-stop shops are available across the region**
 - iii) **That these locations be managed similarly to voting booths at general elections, with campaigning and branded party items not allowed within 50 metres**
 - iv) **That staff ensure that ample voting papers are available at one-stop shops, and develop procedures to ensure quick delivery of more papers if they are needed, noting that both in 2019 and in 2022 some voters missed out on casting a special vote because of a shortage of voting papers. The Board notes that the system**

- proposed in Auckland Council's submission (of providing electronic access to staff at special voting centres to print out ballots in case of running out or not having the correct papers for a voter from a different area) is a promising avenue for investigation
- v) Developing procedures for allowing electors to authorise another person to pick up a special voting pack for them if the elector is unable to (for instance, if they are isolating with Covid).
 - g) strongly recommend further investigation into giving responsibility for all local government elections to the Electoral Commission.
 - h) note that security issues around online voting are at present insurmountable.
 - i) recommend that local electoral advertising rules be aligned with general election advertising rules, including:
 - i) Aligning the definition of electoral advertising with the definition in the Electoral Act
 - ii) Regulating third party spending, registration and declarations similarly to the framework in the Electoral Act
 - iii) Aligning local election provisions on anonymous, overseas and corporate donations with general election provisions.
 - j) note the Supreme Court decision that preventing 16 and 17-year olds from voting is inconsistent with the Bill of Rights and recommends investigating the feasibility of lowering the voting age for local elections to 16-year olds.
 - k) recommend consideration be given to introducing compulsory voting in local government elections.

CARRIED

Attachments

- A 20230124 Albert-Eden Local Board, Item 14.1: Auckland Council's submission on the Inquiry into the 2022 Local Elections - Report re. Auckland Council's submission on the Inquiry into the 2022 Local Elections
- B 20230124 Albert-Eden Local Board, Item 14.1: Auckland Council's submission on the Inquiry into the 2022 Local Elections - Attachment A

The chairperson closed the meeting with a Karakia Whakamutunga (Māori closing prayer).

3.56pm (Thursday, 9 February 2023)

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance and attention to business and declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD
AT A MEETING OF THE ALBERT-EDEN LOCAL
BOARD HELD ON

DATE:.....

CHAIRPERSON:.....