

I hereby give notice that an extraordinary meeting of the Waitematā Local Board will be held on:

**Date:** Tuesday, 9 May 2023  
**Time:** 4:00pm  
**Meeting Room:** Waitematā Local Board Office  
**Venue:** Ground Floor  
33 Federal Street,  
Auckland

---

## Waitematā Local Board

# OPEN AGENDA

---

### MEMBERSHIP

<b>Chairperson</b>	Genevieve Sage
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b>	Greg Moyle, (JP, ED)
<b>Members</b>	Alexandra Bonham
	Allan Matson
	Richard Northey, (ONZM)
	Anahera Rawiri
	Sarah Trotman, (ONZM)

(Quorum 4 members)

**Katherine Kang**  
**Democracy Advisor**

**4 May 2023**

Contact Telephone: (09) 353 9654  
Email [Katherine.kang@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Katherine.kang@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)  
Website: [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



---

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
1	Nau mai   Welcome	5
2	Ngā Tamōtanga   Apologies	5
3	Te Whakapuaki i te Whai Pānga   Declaration of Interest	5
4	He Tamōtanga Motuhake   Leave of Absence	5
5	Te Mihi   Acknowledgements	5
6	Ngā Pakihi Autaia   Extraordinary Business	5
7	Local Board consultation feedback and input into the Annual Budget 2023/2024	7
8	Te Whakaaro ki ngā Take Pūtea e Autaia ana   Consideration of Extraordinary Items	



## 1 Nau mai | Welcome

Chair G Sage will welcome those present and begin the meeting with a karakia.

## 2 Ngā Tamōtanga | Apologies

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

## 3 Te Whakapuaki i te Whai Pānga | 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 a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

## 4 He Tamōtanga Motuhake | Leave of Absence

At the close of the agenda no requests for leave of absence had been received.

## 5 Te Mihi | Acknowledgements

At the close of the agenda no requests for acknowledgements had been received.

## 6 Ngā Pakihi Autaia | Extraordinary Business

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-
  - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
  - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
  - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
  - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting;

---

but

- (b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

## Local Board consultation feedback and input into the Annual Budget 2023/2024

File No.: CP2023/05213

Item 10

### Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To receive consultation feedback from the Waitematā Local Board area on:
  - proposed priorities and activities for the Waitematā Local Board Agreement 2023/2024.
  - proposed local activities to discontinue, reduce spending on, or increase fees to meet the Governing Body's proposed reduction in local board funding.
  - regional topics and related policies for the Annual Budget 2023/2024.
2. To recommend any local matters to the Governing Body that they will need to consider or make decisions on in the Annual Budget 2023/2024 process.
3. To provide input on the proposed regional topics in the Annual Budget 2023/2024 to the Governing Body.

### Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

4. Local board agreements set out annual funding priorities, activities, budgets, levels of service, performance measures and initiatives for each local board area. Local board agreements for 2023/2024 will be included in Auckland Council's Annual Budget 2023/2024.
5. Auckland Council publicly consulted from 28 February to 28 March 2023 to seek community views on the proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024. This included consultation on the Waitematā Local Board's proposed priorities for 2023/2024 to be included in their local board agreement and proposed local activities to discontinue, reduce spending on, or increase fees to meet the Governing Body's proposed reduction in local board funding.
6. Auckland Council received 41147 submissions in total across the region and 2972 submissions from the Waitematā local board area.
7. In the Annual Budget process there are financial matters where local boards provide recommendations to the Governing Body, for consideration or decision-making. This includes any local board advocacy initiatives. The Governing Body will consider these items as part of the Annual Budget decision-making process in June 2023.
8. Local boards have a statutory responsibility to provide input into regional strategies, policies, plans, and bylaws. This report provides an opportunity for the local board to provide input on council's proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024.

### Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Waitematā Local Board:

- a) receive consultation feedback on the proposed Waitematā Local Board priorities and activities for 2023/2024 including proposed local activities to discontinue, reduce spending on, or increase fees, to meet the reduction in local board funding proposed by the Governing Body.

- b) receive consultation feedback on regional topics in the Annual Budget 2023/2024 and related policies from people and organisations based in the Waitematā local board area.
- c) provide input on regional topics in the proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024 and related policies to the Governing Body.
- d) provide advocacy on any local initiatives for the Annual Budget 2023/2024 to the Governing Body.

## Horopaki Context

9. Each financial year Auckland Council must have a local board agreement (as agreed between the Governing Body and the local board) for each local board area. The Waitematā Local Board Agreement sets out how the Council will reflect the priorities in the Waitematā Local Board Plan 2020 in respect to the local activities to be provided in the local board area. It includes information relating to budgets, levels of service, and performance measures.
10. The local board agreements 2023/2024 will form part of Auckland Council's Annual Budget 2023/2024.
11. Auckland Council publicly consulted from 28 February to 28 March 2023 to seek community views on the proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024, as well as local board priorities and proposed activities to be included in the local board agreement 2023/2024.
12. Auckland Council has faced ongoing budget challenges and recent and rapid increases in inflation and interest rates has placed significant pressure on the council's financial position. A forecast budget deficit of \$295 million needs to be addressed in the council's proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024.

## Tātaritanga me ngā tohutohu Analysis and advice

13. This report includes analysis of consultation feedback, any local matters to be recommended to the Governing Body and seeks input on regional topics in the proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024.

### Consultation feedback overview

14. As part of the public consultation Auckland Council used a variety of methods and channels to reach and engage a broad cross section of Aucklanders to gain their feedback and input into regional and local topics.
15. In total, Auckland Council received feedback from 41,147 people in the consultation period. This feedback was received through:
  - written feedback – 35,720 hard copy and online forms, emails, and letters.
  - in person – 4,488 pieces of feedback through Have Your Say events (1 of which was held in the Waitematā local board area, along with three drop-in sessions).
16. All feedback will be made available on an Auckland Council webpage called "Submissions on the Annual Budget 2023/2024" and will be accessible from 26 April 2023 through the following link: <https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/submissions-annual-budget-2023-2024>

## Feedback received for the Waitematā Local Board for 2023/2024

### Key priorities in Waitematā Local Board Area in 2023/2024

17. The Waitematā Local Board consulted on the following priorities for 2023/2024:



- **Priority 1:** Continue our most effective water quality improvement and stream restoration projects
  - **Priority 2:** Adopt the final design for Leys Institute Library and progress towards physical restoration of the building and associated outdoor space
  - **Priority 3:** Continue our most effective ecological contracts, climate change mitigation, volunteer programming, and plantings
  - **Priority 4:** Maximise our capital renewals to enhance our public spaces, such as aquatic facilities, playgrounds, and open spaces
  - **Priority 5:** Prioritise programmes that support community connection, safety, wellbeing, and empowerment.
  - **Priority 6:** Investigate additional areas suitable for low-mow/ no-mow programming to reduce emissions and maintenance costs and improve soil quality and biodiversity for non-recreational open spaces.
18. 2,429 submissions were received (accounting for respondents that answered this question) on Waitematā Local Board’s priorities for 2023/2024, inclusive of both individual and organisation responses. 80 per cent of individuals either supported all, or most of the local priorities. 75 per cent of organisations supported all, or most of the local priorities. 14 per cent of individuals either did not support most or did not support any priorities. 13 per cent of organisations did not support most or did not support any priorities. 19 per cent of submitters, inclusive of both individuals and organisations selected ‘other’ in response.

### Response to Local Priorities

Q5A What do you think of our proposed priorities for services and activities in this local board in 2023/2024?

Count	I support all priorities	I support most priorities	I do not support most priorities	I do not support any priorities	Other	Don't know	Total
	Individuals	1159	733	202	125	137	10
Organisations	30	17	6	2	8	0	63
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pro formas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage	I support all priorities	I support most priorities	I do not support most priorities	I do not support any priorities	Other	Don't know	Total
Individuals	49%	31%	9%	5%	6%	0%	100%
Organisations	48%	27%	10%	3%	13%	0%	100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pro formas	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

19. Key Themes Included:

- **Priority 1:**
  - Water quality is critical for a healthy and resilient city, respondents equated this priority with improvements to storm water mitigation and infrastructure, or related direct improvements to water quality to overall improvements for climate, biodiversity, and environmental sustainability, was considered a non-negotiable by some submitters, Council has an obligation to pursue water quality initiatives above all else
- **Priority 2:**
  - Mixed views on whether Leys Institute is a priority during a time of financial uncertainty or reduction; respondents noted that perhaps seismic strengthening only could continue, as opposed to a full re-design, respondents also noted its heritage value and critical sense of place in the local community, though other respondents noted whether its value was of equal importance as other more widespread activities such as water quality improvements, some respondents noted they would be prepared to pay a targeted rate
- **Priority 3:**
  - Respondents wanted to see a continued effort in ecological contracts, climate change mitigation, and greater support for volunteers to provide even more value benefit than already exists such as through Urban Ark; respondents expressed concern that making reductions in these areas in a time of climate crisis, including the recent storm damage, would be irresponsible or foolish; some respondents did not know how to determine what is the 'most effective' contract and what the local board meant by this, respondents noted that water quality, climate change, and environmental restoration are linked together
- **Priority 4:**
  - mixed views on whether it is the right time to be delivering capital renewals for facilities and open spaces compared to storm damage remediation; respondents expressed concern that there was not enough information to understand this priority, respondents wondered whether this priority would include remedial works for footpaths, drainage, and roads, expressed the board focus on safety and remediating hazards as a primary aim, respondents also said how realistic it was to do this in light of financial constraints
- **Priority 5:**
  - strong messaging from respondents that community connection, safety, wellbeing, and empowerment is important to their views on whether Auckland is livable and vibrant; concern about how we look after our homeless community in the central city, and that reductions in arts and culture activities will negatively impact on this priority to deliver outcomes; some respondents raised a contradiction between this priority and proposed cuts to arts and culture, events, libraries, community grants, and regional reductions to services such as CAB;

- **Priority 6:**
    - respondents expressed varying levels of support for low-mow/no-mow inclusive of the possible economic savings, improved biodiversity, and investigating alternative maintenance of open spaces that produces cost-effective outcomes; respondents who did not support questioned the viability of no-mow/low-mow, how easy it is to implement, the concern over weeds and fire hazards.
20. Consultation feedback on local board priorities will be considered by the local board when approving their local board agreement between 20-22 June 2023.

### **Responding to the budget challenge**

21. The council's proposed response to mitigate the budget pressures for 2023/2024 included a proposed reduction of \$16 million to local board operational funding – this would require the Waitematā Local Board to reduce its planned operating spend by \$840,000.
22. To do this, local boards would need to make tough decisions, prioritising what they do and where they invest. Aucklanders were asked for their priorities given the proposed reduction would mean some local activities would have to be discontinued, have reduced spending, or increased fees.
23. Question 5B of the Consultation Document asked the following: If funding for local board activities is reduced, which three of our services do you not want to reduce funding for? (i.e. which are most important to you?)
24. Waitematā Local Board consulted on the following activities in response to the budget challenge question:
- Opening hours and services at libraries
  - Programmes in art facilities and community centres
  - Events e.g. Parnell Festival of Roses and Event Partnerships
  - Community delivery/ programmes e.g. community networks, youth, and arts
  - Grants e.g. Community Grants and Accommodation Grants
  - Water quality e.g. Te Wai Ōrea lake and wetland restoration
  - Environmental education e.g. Schools treasuring Waiōrea
  - Environmental restoration and pest control e.g. Waipapa Stream restoration
  - Community climate action and sustainability e.g. Low Carbon Lifestyles
  - Waste minimisation e.g. Waitematā waste away

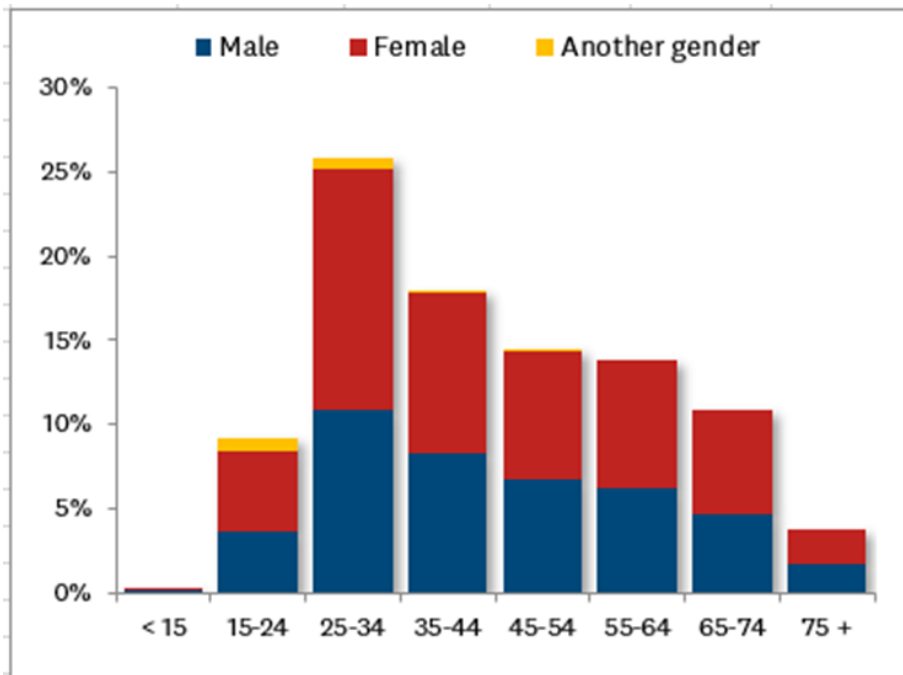
25. The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Waitematā Local Board area.

Themes	Individuals	Organisatio	Maori entit	Pro forma	Individual	Organisati	Maori ent	Pro forma
Library opening hours and services	1031	22	0	0	15%	13%	0%	0%
Arts and community centre programmes (at Ellen Melville Centre and Studio One Toi Tū)	926	28	0	0	14%	17%	0%	0%
Local community events e.g. Parnell Festival of Roses	365	13	0	0	5%	8%	0%	0%
Community programme delivery e.g. community networks, youth and arts	967	36	0	0	14%	22%	0%	0%
Local grants e.g. community and accommodation grants	459	28	0	0	7%	17%	0%	0%
Protection and restoration of local waterway e.g. Te Wai Ōrea lake and wetland	868	14	0	0	13%	8%	0%	0%
Environmental education e.g. Schools treasuring Waiōrea	173	3	0	0	3%	2%	0%	0%
Environmental restoration and pest control e.g. V	659	6	0	0	10%	4%	0%	0%
Community climate action and sustainability e.g. Low Carbon Lifestyles	644	9	0	0	10%	5%	0%	0%
Local waste minimisation activities e.g. Waitematā waste away	365	2	0	0	5%	1%	0%	0%
Identify additional no / low mow areas in parks and reserves	177	1	0	0	3%	1%	0%	0%
Other	41	3	0	0	1%	2%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6675</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>

### Information on submitters

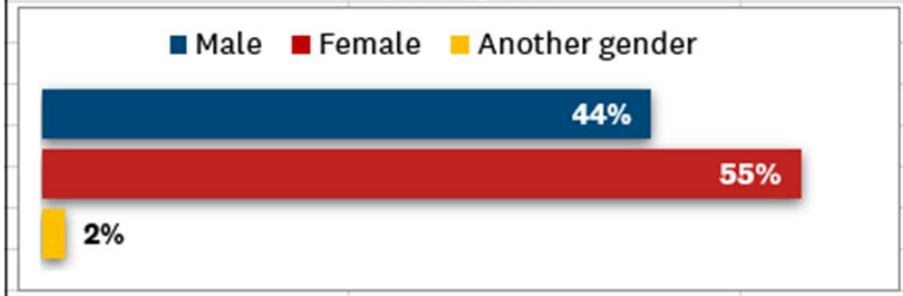
27. The tables and graphs below indicate the demographic categories people identified with. This information only relates to those submitters who provided demographic information.

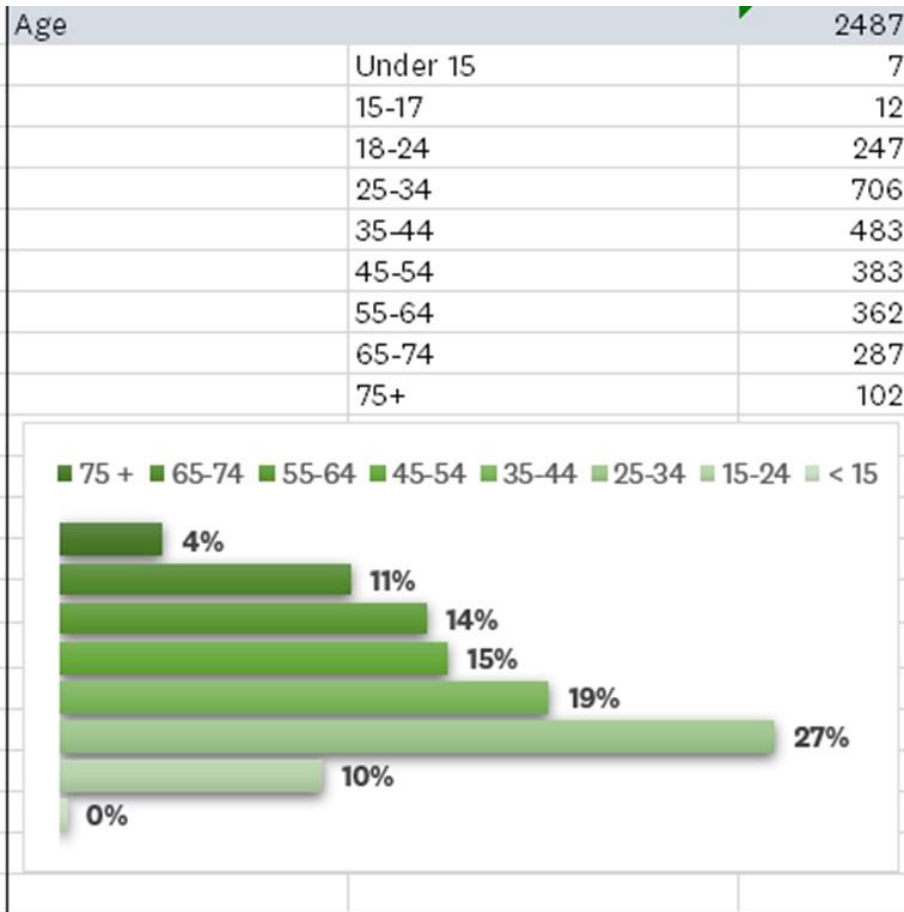
Ethnicity	#	%
<b>European</b>	<b>2236</b>	<b>87%</b>
Pākehā/NZ European	1943	76%
Other European	293	11%
<b>Māori</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Pasifika</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>4%</b>
Samoan	47	2%
Cook Islands Māori	20	1%
Tongan	10	0%
Other Pasifika	28	1%
<b>Asian</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>12%</b>
Chinese	133	5%
Southeast Asian	69	3%
Korean	22	1%
Indian	51	2%
Other Asian	27	1%
<b>African/Middle Eastern/Latin</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2561</b>	<b>115%</b>



Age	Male	Female	Another gender	Total	% of feedback
Under 15	5	1	0	7	0%
15-24	95	124	18	259	10%
25-34	282	368	18	706	27%
35-44	214	248	4	483	19%
45-54	173	197	2	383	15%
55-64	160	197	0	362	14%
65-74	121	160	0	287	11%
75+	45	54	0	102	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>1349</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2589</b>	<b>100%</b>

Demographics	Count
Gender	2512
Male	1099
Female	1371
Another gender	42





### Key themes

28. 1348 submitters commented on their choice of top three priorities. Key themes of note across the feedback received included:

- Libraries - Libraries are seen as a taonga and must be protected, this is core council service, provides a space all community can feel they belong and feel safe and builds community connectedness, reductions would have a visible impact on the community, as well as to the vulnerable communities, one comment about consider 'dark day' on Monday to align with galleries and cultural institutions, support for programmes offered at the library, many comments were against reductions to the central library rather than Grey Lynn.
- Community programme delivery - Support for programmes for vulnerable and youth, supporting the diverse cross section of the community, supporting arts to embrace identity and migrant inclusion, support community cohesion, support for Citizens Advice Bureaux services.
- Ellen Melville and Toi Tu - Arts and culture makes a thriving city, some confusion about what "arts" mean in this context, comments about Studio One Toi Tu being a professional stepping-stone for practitioners, concerns that reductions to arts funding will impact on the arts industry that is already vulnerable after COVID and these groups survival, Ellen Melville supports community cohesion particularly during storm events, arts and libraries are crucial for equity.

- Protection and restoration of local waterway - Focus on projects that have tangible outcomes, reductions would have a negative impact; respondents felt that water quality was something that Council could not compromise on, and linked improved water quality to an overall improved and resilient environment, biodiversity, and protection against future storm events; some respondents equated this directly to stormwater infrastructure improvements; many respondents felt that water quality was poor and that to not continue funding works in this area would be disastrous for the future of Auckland.
- Environmental restoration and pest control - Focus on projects that have tangible outcomes and benefits many rather than education programmes that only target few.
- Community climate action and sustainability -Comments that education only targets few that are already converted and should be provided in schools by Ministry of Education; respondents made a link between climate action and other environmental priorities and felt this encompassed both physical action such as volunteer groups but also an education component. Respondents suggested this work was a priority due to being in a climate crisis. Some respondents suggested elements of this are for central government, or too 'wishy washy' with not enough information on specific climate change actions.
- Respondents supported community-led events where possible but highlighted that Council funding is often required for events to proceed in some fashion; more events that promote community connection and wellbeing are needed, not less. Some respondents suggested areas such as Parnell could do without the Festival of Roses in favour of more activations in the City Centre; respondents demonstrated a perception that events and activations are connected to social wellbeing, sense of place and community, and vibrancy that the city centre needs after COVID and the subsequent storm event.
- Respondents were concerned that any reductions to community networks, youth delivery, or arts and culture programming would negatively impact on the city centre and arts practitioners that rely on Council funding to deliver services. Respondents supported funding for youth programming to reduce anti-social behaviour, promote education opportunities, and create future benefits for communities. Some respondents noted that these areas should instead be the responsibility of central government.
- Some respondents were confused and thought that the question was instead asking for priority areas to be reduced, as opposed to continuing.
- Some respondents felt that 'core' Council responsibilities include facilities such as libraries, roading, footpaths, waterways, and that arts/culture, and 'wellbeing' initiatives are not within scope.
- Respondents demonstrated support for environmental programming and restoration activity that has tangible, measurable benefits; some respondents questioned the education-focused activities with schools and climate-change action targeting behaviour as opposed to physical ecological works.
- Respondents expressed support for activities and services that provide for the homeless community, and youth.
- General support for waste minimization activities, including progress on e-waste reduction. Respondents linked waste minimization with better outcomes during storm events, flooding, and cleaner waterways. Some respondents were unhappy that there was no apparent link between this priority and the other environmentally focused outcomes.



- Respondents shared support for the idea that they would instead be prepared to pay more rates, as opposed to seeing services and activities reduced; felt it was unfair to be forced to pick three activities to 'save' and let the rest go; felt that the priority areas in Question 5 were misleading since then asked in 5B to 'sacrifice' services.

## Overview of feedback received on regional topics in the Annual Budget 2023/2024 from the Waitematā Local Board area

29. The proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024 sets out Auckland Council's priorities and how the Council plans to pay for them. Consultation on the proposed Annual Budget asked submitters to respond to key questions on:
1. operating spending reductions
  2. amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy
  3. managing rates and debt
  4. storm response
  5. local board priorities (covered in 'Feedback received on the Waitematā Local Board for 2023/2024' section above)
  6. changes to other rates, fees, and charges
30. Submitters were also encouraged to give feedback on any of the other matters included in the Annual Budget 2023/2024 consultation document.
31. The submissions received from the Waitematā Local Board area on these key issues are summarised below, along with an overview of any other areas of feedback on regional proposals with a local impact.

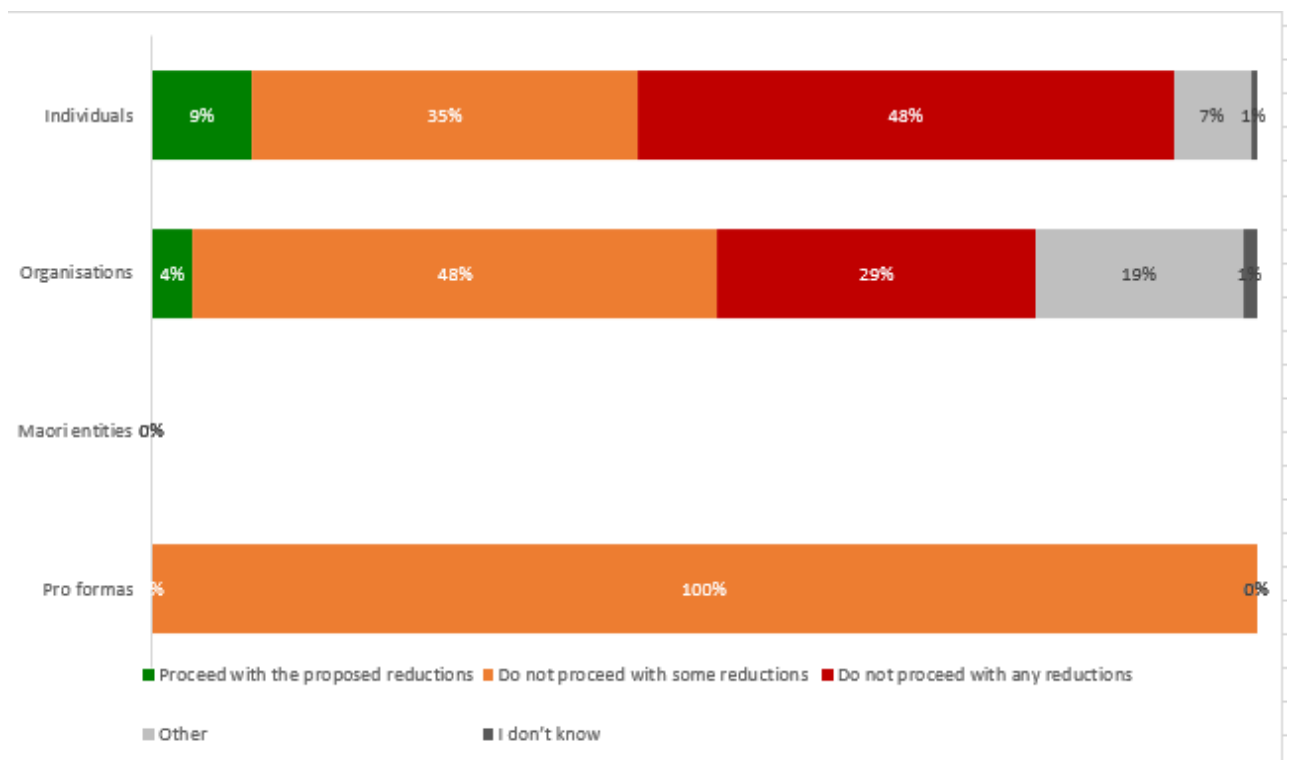
### Key Question 1: operating spending reductions

32. Aucklanders were asked for feedback on a proposal to save \$125 million through reductions including:
- maintaining the current reduced number of public transport services for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
  - reducing funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to save a further \$27.5 million with effects on service delivery (including economic development and tourism promotion) and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery, and stadiums
  - reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, arts and culture programmes, regional events, economic development, and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$20 million
  - reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million (feedback received on local impacts of the reduction is outlined in the 'Feedback received for the Waitematā Local Board for 2023/2024' section above)
  - reducing contestable grants to save \$3 million
  - no longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.



33. The graphs below give an overview of the responses to this question from the Waitematā Local Board area.

Q1 Operating spending reductions						
Category	Count					Total
	Proceed with	Do not proceed	Do not proceed	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	237	910	1262	182	14	2605
Organisations	3	38	23	15	1	80
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pro formas	0	48	0	0	0	48
Percentage						
Category	Percentage					Total
	Proceed with	Do not proceed	Do not proceed	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	9%	35%	48%	7%	1%	100%
Organisations	4%	48%	29%	19%	1%	100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pro formas	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%



34. Key themes of note across the feedback received included:

- 48% of individuals did not support any reductions - preferred to pay more rates and increase debt – comments were that reductions will affect community well-being/vibrancy (714), Increase rates (287), Address climate change (199).
- Key themes across all responses to this question:
  - 1499 comments that did not support cuts to regional services
  - 790 comments did not support cuts to Tataki Auckland Unlimited – received the most comments for supported cuts (41)
  - 790 comments did not support cuts to public transport
  - 580 comments do not support reductions to local budgets – provides local response to super city, important for community and social cohesion
  - 447 do not support cuts to regional grants, 317 do not support cuts to Early Childhood Education

## Key Question 2: Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

35. Aucklanders were asked about a planned change to the AIAL Shareholding Policy which will allow the sale of some or all of Auckland Council’s shares in AIAL. The proposal is to sell all the shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) which would reduce debt by around \$1.9 billion. This is projected to reduce interest costs by \$87 million per year.
36. Other options were considered, including keeping all the shares or a partial sale. These options would contribute less towards the budget reduction target and require other actions such as further increasing rates or debt.
37. The graphs below give an overview of the responses to this question from the Waitematā Local Board area.

Q2 AIAL Shareholding Policy							
Category	Count						Total
	Proceed with	Enable a partial	Don't change	Other	I don't know		
Individuals	483	639	1099	102	236	2559	
Organisations	15	4	27	11	10	67	
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pro formas	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Percentage							
Category	Percentage						Total
	Proceed with	Enable a partial	Don't change	Other	I don't know		
Individuals	19%	25%	43%	4%	9%	100%	
Organisations	22%	6%	40%	16%	15%	100%	
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Pro formas	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	



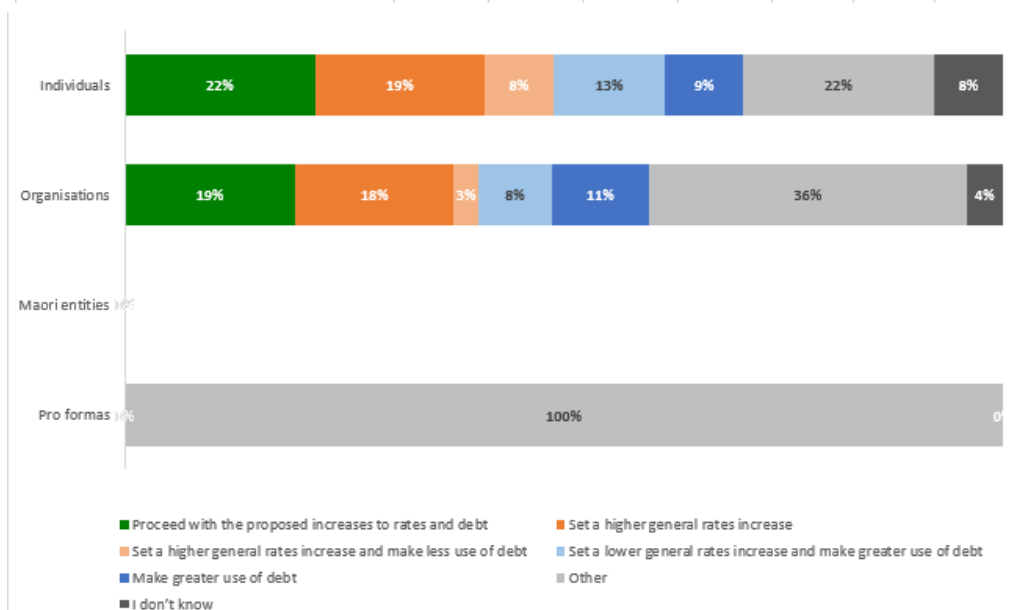
38. Key themes of note across the feedback received included:
  - 43 per cent of individuals, and 40 per cent of organisations do not support changing the policy – keep shares for future benefit and maintain control and influence, or not the right time to sell

- 25 per cent support partial sale – comments support maintaining control and influence but giving up some shares to generate revenue and meet fiscal challenge
- 19 per cent support proposal to sell - comments within this generally supported the proposal as it would mean no rates rise or help address immediate debt

### Key Question 3: Managing rates and debt

39. Aucklanders were asked to provide feedback on a proposal of a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around 4.66 per cent or \$154 per year. This would be achieved through:
- an average increase in general rates of 7 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
  - reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money already collected from these rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
  - pausing the long-term differential strategy (the split between business and residential rates) for one year. Under the current policy, annual increases to general rates for business properties are less than for non-business properties so that over time the share of general rates paid by business properties is fairer.
40. Aucklanders were also asked about the proposal to increase council’s use of debt by up to \$75 million in the 2023/2024 year. The proposal involves using the debt to fund some capital expenditure that is currently planned to be funded by operating revenue.
41. The graphs below give an overview of the responses to this question from the Waitematā Local Board area.

Q3 Managing rates and debt								
Category	Count							Total
	Proceed with	Set a higher	Make greater	Set a lower	Set a higher	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	553	490	225	325	199	553	200	2545
Organisations	14	13	8	6	2	26	3	72
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pro formas	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	48
Percentage								
Category	Proceed with	Set a higher	Make greater	Set a lower	Set a higher	Other	I don't know	Total
	Individuals	22%	19%	9%	13%	8%	22%	
Organisations	19%	18%	11%	8%	3%	36%	4%	100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pro formas	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%



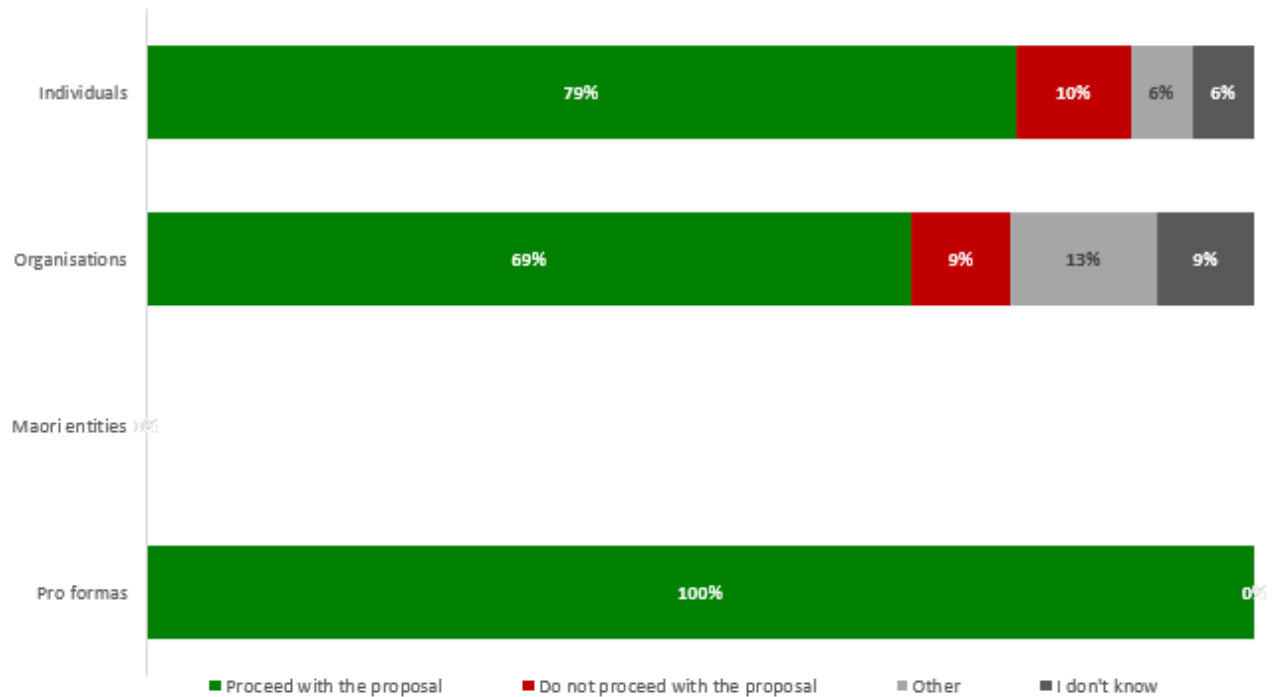
Key themes

42. Key themes of note across the feedback received included:
- 22% support proposed rates increase - most generally supported or increase rates .
  - 19% support higher rates – comments include rates increases are needed for storm response and needed upgrades, rates not as high as other cities and don't want to burden future generations, disproportionately disadvantage lower-income Aucklanders, Suggest that 7% increase should be minimum to match CPI and inflation, suggestions of 13% increase to match Wellington, or suggestions to significantly increase rates and create a fund for those who genuinely can't afford it.
  - 8% support higher rates and less debt – don't want to burden future generations, more debt is unsustainable
  - 13% support lower rates, higher debt – Makes sense to spread costs to future generations who will benefit, increased rates would burden Auckland during a difficult time
  - 9% support greater use of debt – long term crisis requires long term support, keep rates low
  - NETR (Natural Environment Targeted Rate) and- WQTR (Water Quality Targeted Rate) – most comments do not support pausing the NETR and WQTR revenue, this would be irresponsible, concerns this would impact delivery of essential projects, concerns about the storm and climate impact
  - LTDS (Long-Term Differential Strategy) – mixed levels of support, view that businesses should pay more vs concerns that businesses already facing hardship

**Key Question 4: Storm response**

43. Aucklanders were asked about a proposal to increase council's operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve the ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address the budget shortfall).
44. The graphs below give an overview of the responses to this question from the Waitematā Local Board area.

Q4 Storm response					
Category	Count				Total
	Proceed with	Do not proceed	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	1994	262	141	143	2540
Organisations	47	6	9	6	68
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0
Pro formas	48	0	0	0	48
Percentage					
	Proceed with	Do not proceed	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	79%	10%	6%	6%	100%
Organisations	69%	9%	13%	9%	100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pro formas	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%



45. Key themes of note across the feedback received included:

- 79 per cent of individual respondents indicated their support for this proposal to proceed. 69 per cent of organisations indicated their support for this proposal to proceed.
- Some respondents noted that central government should take a more active role in supporting flood recovery and infrastructure repair; respondents were concerned that this proposal equated to higher rates and were concerned about how this would affect them; comments highlighted that Auckland Council has deferred spending in this area resulting in the flood damage that occurred; respondents felt the time to do this work was now in order to prepare for the future; some respondents felt the proposal was not strong enough or lacked detail, and some noted that climate change will result in more of these events occurring on a regular basis and require more spending in this area to mitigated future damage.

**Key Question 5: local board priorities**

46. Aucklanders were asked for feedback on the local impacts of the Annual Budget, feedback received on this is outlined in the 'Feedback received for the Waitematā Local Board for 2023/2024' section above.

**Key Question 6: changes to other rates, fees, and charges**

47. Aucklanders were asked for feedback on proposals to increase some targeted rates and other regulatory fees and charges as set out below. If the changes are not made, then general rates may need to be higher than proposed.

**Waste management rates changes**

- A 10.6 per cent increase to the base rate and targeted rate charges for non-standard refuse bins (in the former Auckland (ACC) and Manukau (MCC) city council areas)
- introduction of a fee for swapping bin sizes

- extension of the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.

### Changes to other rates, fees, and charges

- re-prioritisation of additional bus service expenditure which was planned to be funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate (CATR) for the 2023/2024 year
- Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections
- amendment to Community Occupancy Guidelines
- changes to the Rodney Drainage District Targeted Rate
- establishment of a Business Improvement District (BID) and BID targeted rate for Silverdale
- animal management fees
- some building and resource consenting fees
- other regulatory fees such as food licensing registration, micro-mobility operator fees and swimming pool inspections
- cemetery fees
- review of fees for bookable spaces in council managed pool and leisure facilities.

48. The graphs below give an overview of the responses to this question from the Waitematā Local Board area.

INDIVIDUALS				
Waste Management Rates Change	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know
Cost changes in waste management	1509	419	51	429
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size	1713	362	53	276
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year	1668	284	50	391
Changes to other rates	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate	1739	381	36	269
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate	1176	693	57	483

ORGANISATIONS				
Waste Management Rates Change	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know
Cost changes in waste management	36	8	5	7
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size	40	8	5	3
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year	40	6	6	5
Changes to other rates	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate	32	13	6	5
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate	23	21	5	6

49. Key themes of note across the feedback received included:

- On waste management rates changes, some respondents indicated that larger bin sizes could lead to increased waste, not less.
- On the one-off fee for residents wishing to change bin-size, some respondents felt there should be no charge for opting to 'downgrade' to a smaller bin for those who already produce minimal waste
- On extending the food scraps targeted rate to new areas, respondents felt the food scraps collection should be implemented in as many areas as is feasible, associating food scraps collection with less waste going to landfill.
- On changes to the swimming pool/spa pool fencing compliance targeted rate, respondents felt that those who own swimming pools can afford to pay an increased targeted rate
- On changes to which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate, respondents expressed concern and confusion about what they perceived as services being reduced or cut from CATR in exchange for CATR funding being diverted or redirected to other priorities. Respondents acknowledged that CATR was established for a specific purpose to deliver on public transport services and outcomes at an increased and more reliable frequency, along with walking, cycling, and micro-mobility initiatives. Respondents felt they were unclear on the information provided.

### Other matters for feedback

50. Aucklanders were asked to feedback on the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2023/2024 which sets out a framework in which the council must carry out the routine management of 14 Tūpuna Maunga.
51. Aucklanders were also asked what else is important to them and if they had any feedback on any other issues.

### Key themes

- Few submitters commented on the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2023/2024, but some respondents were concerned about mature trees being removed from Maunga.
- Respondents suggested Auckland Council should review its golf courses and determine which assets to sell to offset debt and increase development opportunities and more accessible green spaces.
- Respondents overall expressed concern that reductions in local board budgets, regional contestable grants, regional arts programming, and an 'austerity' approach would have a negative impact on Auckland's long-term wellbeing.
- Respondents questioned whether Auckland Council was taking the right approach with the fiscal challenge and suggested that stronger rates rise, and more debt borrowing would be more responsible than cutting services and activities at both a regional and local level.

## Annual Budget 2023/2024 related policies

The following proposals were consulted on alongside the Annual Budget:

### Revenue and Financing Policy

52. The proposal to pause the Long-Term Differential Strategy (LTDS) for one year would require an amendment to the Revenue and Financing Policy.



53. Under the current rating policy, businesses pay a greater share of rates than non-business properties. Businesses make more use of council services like transport and stormwater. They also place more demand on these services. Council previously decided that the level of business rates is too high and should be reduced gradually over time. The LTDS currently lowers the total amount of general rates (UAGC and value-based general rate) for businesses in equal steps, from 31 per cent in 2022/2023 to 25.8 per cent by 2037/2038.

#### Feedback

54. 146 submissions were received on the proposal. Of these, 99 supported the proposal and 41 did not support the proposal.
55. Comments from those in support included businesses being able to afford the increase and the impact of rates on residential ratepayers.
56. Responses from those who did not support the proposal included the view that business rates are too high.
57. The Property Council did not support the proposal citing concern for increased costs on businesses and business rates being too high.

#### Māori Land Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

58. The Council is proposing to amend the Māori Land Rates Remission and Postponement Policy to provide a partial remission of rates to general title papakāinga, where that land is:
- protected from being sold out of Māori ownership
  - for the sole use of hapū/iwi (tribe).
59. This recognises the similarities between these properties and papakāinga on Māori freehold land. The proposed remission would apply a discount of up to 10 per cent of the rateable land value. This is similar to what is applied to Māori freehold land.

#### Feedback

60. There were 40 submissions from individuals. Of these 20 were in support of the proposal and 20 did not support the proposal. Responses in support included the positive benefits to Māori in retaining land. Responses from those who did not support included Māori not having special treatment, and concern about the costs to other Aucklanders.
61. Eight of the 40 responses were from individuals who identified as Māori, all of whom supported the proposal.

#### Local board advocacy

62. Local boards can also provide approved advocacy initiatives which considers the consultation feedback above. This allows the Governing Body to consider these advocacy items when making decisions on the Annual Budget 2023/2024 to the Governing Body in June.
63. The advocacy initiatives approved by the local board will be included as an appendix to the 2023/2024 Local Board Agreement

#### Local board input on regional topics in the Annual Budget 2023/2024

64. Local boards have a statutory responsibility for identifying and communicating the interests and preferences of the people in its local board area in relation to Auckland Council's strategies, policies, plans, and bylaws, and any proposed changes to be made to them. This report provides an opportunity for the local board to provide input on the council's proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024, proposed changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy and Māori Land Rates Remission and Postponement Policy.



## **Tauākī whakaaweawe āhuarangi** **Climate impact statement**

65. The decisions recommended in this report are part of the Annual Budget 2023/2024 and local board agreement process to approve funding and expenditure over the next year.
66. Projects allocated funding or proposed to have reduced funding through this Annual Budget process will all have varying levels of potential climate impact associated with them. The climate impacts of projects Auckland Council chooses to progress, are all assessed carefully as part of the council's rigorous reporting requirements.

## **Ngā whakaaweawe me ngā tirohanga a te rōpū Kaunihera** **Council group impacts and views**

67. The Annual Budget 2023/2024 is an Auckland Council Group document and will include budgets at a consolidated group level. Consultation items and updates to budgets to reflect decisions and new information may include items from across the group.

## **Ngā whakaaweawe ā-rohe me ngā tirohanga a te poari ā-rohe** **Local impacts and local board views**

68. The local board's decisions and feedback are being sought in this report. The local board has a statutory role in providing its feedback on regional plans and policies.
69. Local boards play an important role in the development of the council's Annual Budget. Local board agreements form part of the Annual Budget. Local board nominees have also attended Governing Body workshops on the Annual Budget.

## **Tauākī whakaaweawe Māori** **Māori impact statement**

70. Many local board decisions are of importance to and impact on Māori. Local board agreements and the Annual Budget are important tools that enable and can demonstrate the council's responsiveness to Māori.
71. Local board plans, developed in 2020 through engagement with the community including Māori, form the basis of local board area priorities. There is a need to continue to build relationships between local boards and iwi, and the wider Māori community.
72. Analysis provided of consultation feedback received on the proposed Annual Budget includes submissions made by mana whenua and the wider Māori community who have interests in the rohe / local board area.
73. Ongoing conversations between local boards and Māori will assist in understanding each other's priorities and issues. This in turn can influence and encourage Māori participation in the council's decision-making processes.
74. Some projects approved for funding could have discernible impacts on Māori. The potential impacts on Māori, as part of any project progressed by Auckland Council, will be assessed appropriately and accordingly as part of relevant reporting requirements.
75. The Annual Budget 2023/2024 and related policies includes a proposed amendment to the Māori Land Rates Remission and Postponement Policy covered in the 'Annual Budget related policies' section above.

## **Ngā ritenga ā-pūtea** **Financial implications**

76. This report is seeking the local board's decisions on financial matters in the local board agreement that must then be considered by the Governing Body.

77. The local board also provides input to regional plans and policies. There is information in the council's consultation material for each proposal with the financial implications of each option outlined for consideration.

## Ngā raru tūpono me ngā whakamaurutanga Risks and mitigations

78. The council must adopt its Annual Budget, which includes local board agreements, by 30 June 2023. To meet this timeframe, the local board is required to make recommendations on these local matters for the Annual Budget by mid-May 2023 and present to the Governing Body to make decisions on key items to be included in the Annual Budget on 8 June 2023.

## Ngā koringa ā-muri Next steps

79. The local board will approve its local board agreement in June 2023 and corresponding work programmes in July 2023.
80. Recommendations and feedback from the local board will be provided to the Governing Body for consideration in its decision-making.
81. The final Annual Budget 2023/2024 (including local board agreements) will be adopted by the Governing Body on 29 June 2023.

## Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

## Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authors	Nick Palmisano – Local Board Advisor
Authorisers	Glenn Boyd - Local Area Manager