

Date: Wednesday 22 May 2024
Time: 1.00pm
Meeting Room: Waiheke Local Board office
Venue: 10 Belgium Street
Ostend
Waiheke

Waiheke Local Board

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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Chair's Report: to be tabled 22 May Business Meeting

18 April to 15 May 2024

from Cath Handley

Kia ora koutou,

In brief:

The chair congratulates member Kylee Matthews on her appointment to the role of Deputy Chair and thanks her for covering for the chair's role very capably in several instances in the first month, including when the chair was unwell.

1. Long-term Plan 2024-34 (LTP)

With respect to the publicly consulted Draft LTP the chair has been focused on representing Waiheke's feedback, presenting the board's formal response, attending some of the governing body workshops and their final decisions on the LTP on 16 May.

- a. Much of the feedback from Waiheke was aligned to the wider regional feedback, particularly the support for doing more in transport to progress public transport initiatives and to mitigate climate change.
- b. There was support for Fairer Funding for local boards, although the impacts on Waiheke's funding model doesn't vary when that is implemented. It will go up as more will be spent on local board funding, as Waiheke receives a fixed proportion of the funding pool i.e. 2%.
- c. The chair presented to the governing body on 8 May, in the context of all 21 local boards presenting in succession for 10 minutes each, inclusive of question time. The chair focused on the core issues of community feedback, and the ABS capital underfunding projected in the LTP for the next three years (reduced 70% to \$1.8m in total for three years). That was presented against the background of the \$91m of rates (GST excl) to be paid by ratepayers of the Waiheke Local Board area, projected under the LTP's central proposal.

2. Island Direct

- a. Since the boards presentation to the Auckland Transport Board led by member Robin Tucker on 28 Nov 2023, the chair has consistently followed up with AT on matters relating to providing a level playing field for competition on the Matiatia/Downtown passenger ferry route. At the same time the chair has maintained communication with Island Direct to understand the issues from their perspective.
- b. Significant advances have been made in the interim re signage and pier availability.
- c. It was apparent in April that opportunities for competing for subsidised fare business (e.g. Gold Card and AT HOP cards), had not moved significantly since ID set up their service six months earlier.
- d. The Chair initiated a meeting between herself, ID and Chlöe Swarbrick, MP on 27 April to raise issues about the slow pace of Waka Kotahi's recommendation to the Minister of Transport that ID become Gold Card qualified as soon as possible. There was a major risk that it would not meet a deadline to go live at all for the next financial year (1 July 2024). MP Swarbrick made an immediate and compelling written request to the Minister for that to be actioned.
- e. The chair also approached the Mayor for his support of that same imperative. His office also requested the Minister's decisive action.

- f. RNZ's Checkpoint did a retrospective on Island Direct's first six months that same week, and RNZ then followed up the Minister's office. The Minister confirmed he intended that ID be certified as Gold Card transport provider by 1 July 2024.
- g. Since then, the Minister has written to ID twice confirming the actions required to become Gold Card certified. Some of those actions require AT to initiate processes themselves.
- h. AT also appears to be enabling ID to participate as an AT HOP service provider, at least for AT HOP monthly passes at the same time, until such time as AT's IT systems enable ID to interface directly.
- i. One expects the demands on the chair, on behalf of the board, for advocating for a level playing field for competition on the route, might settle down once both the Gold Card and AT Hop monthly pass are implemented by Island Direct.

3. Joint Governance Working Party (JGWP)

The recommendations of the JGWP for Fairer Funding for local boards to be funded from new money, rather than reallocations between boards, has been supported by the governing body in their LTP decisions, albeit spreading the funding growth over a slightly longer period which will help smooth projected rates raises accordingly.

Ngā mihi
Cath

Chair's Diary 18 April – 15 May 2024

Briefings

- **30 April** – Three x Budget Committee Workshops - LTP 2024-2034:
- **6 May** - Budget Committee Workshop – LTP 2024-2034:

Meetings

- **18 April** – David Todd, Island Direct
- **23 April** – Margi Watson and staff regarding Citizenship Ceremonies
- **27 April** – MP Chlöe Swarbrick and Island Direct, David Todd
- **2 May** – Meeting with Fiona Knox, Eke Panuku regarding accessibility issues at Downtown ferry terminal.
- **2 May** – Joint Governance Working Party: Agenda Run-through
- **3 May** - Joint Governance Working Party Meeting
- **3 May** – Sgt Ray Matthews NZ Police
- **7 May** – Adam Durant – Eke Panuku – Stakeholder Research
- **7 May** – Toni Myers – Independent Waiheke Climate Change Response Research
- **8 May** – Presentation to Governing Body re Long Term Plan
- **9 May** – Climate activator meeting and liaison.
- **9 May** – LGNZ Discussion re: Hauraki Gulf Islands with CEO, Phil Wilson and Chair Izzy Fordham
- **13 May** – Attendance: Mayoral Proposal of LTP
- **14 May** – WCAG Director and Board with Deputy Chair Matthews
- **15 May** – *Local Board & Piritahi Marae Hui – Deputy Chair Matthews attended as lead due to illness.*
- **16 May** – Online Attendance Extraordinary Budget Committee Meeting
- **16 May** – *WCAG launch preview. Dep Chair Matthews attended on behalf of chair due to illness.*

Events

- **25 April** – ANZAC Civil Ceremony and Parade. Wreath laying with Dep Chair Matthews
- **30 April** – WRT: Algal Mats Research Project Meet & Greet
- **4 May** – Postage Stamp Winery: Waka Launch
- **5 May** – ORWS Rocky Bay Volunteers Afternoon tea
- **13 May** – Citizenship Ceremony MC Akld Town Hall

Interviews

- **1 May 2024** - Checkpoint RNZ re ferry competition issues vis-à-vis Island Direct
- **NB** The chair provides feedback to 1-3 Gulf News journalists every week as requested.