

**Date:** Wednesday 30 April 2025  
**Time:** 10.00am  
**Meeting Room:** Room 1, Level 26  
**Venue:** Te Wharau o Tāmaki - Auckland House  
135 Albert Street  
Auckland

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## Komiti mō te Tahua Pūtea / Budget Committee Workshop

### OPEN NOTES ATTACHMENTS

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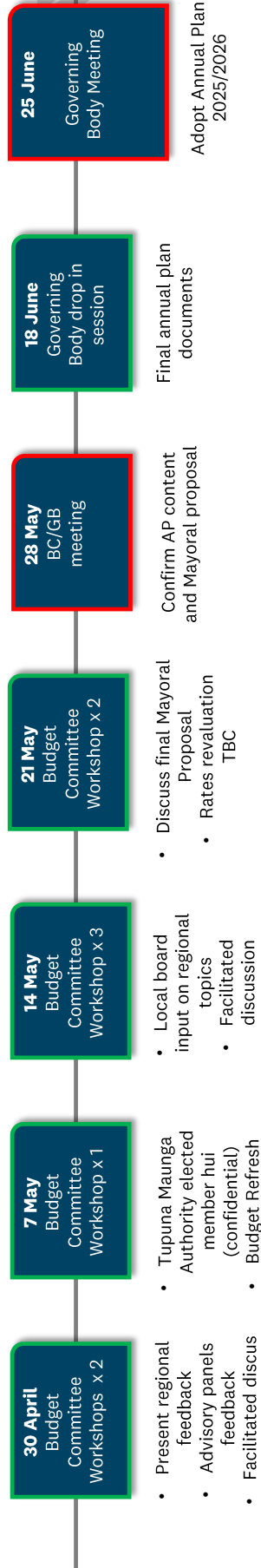
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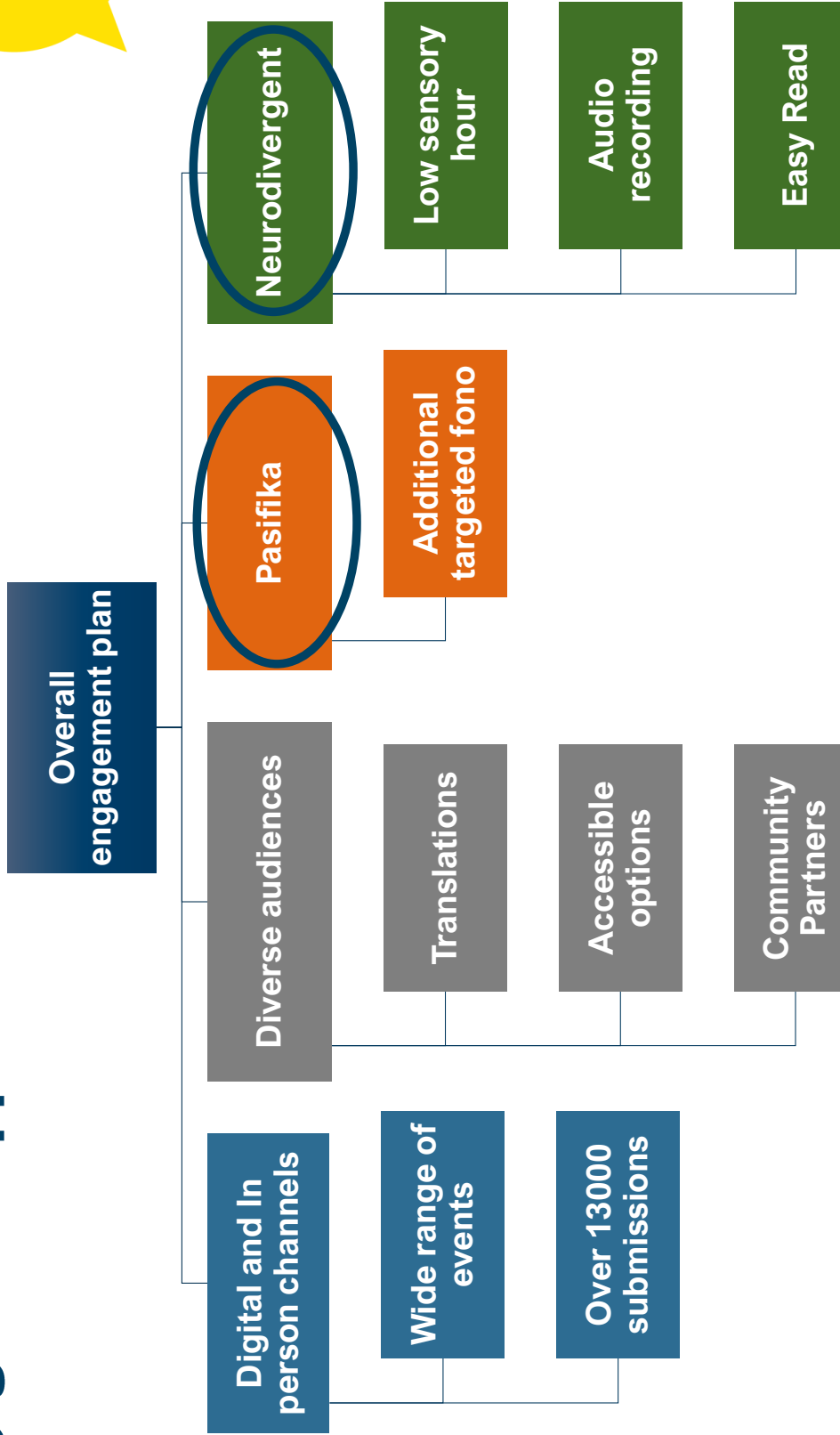


# Annual Plan 2025/2026 April – June 2025





# Engagement Approach



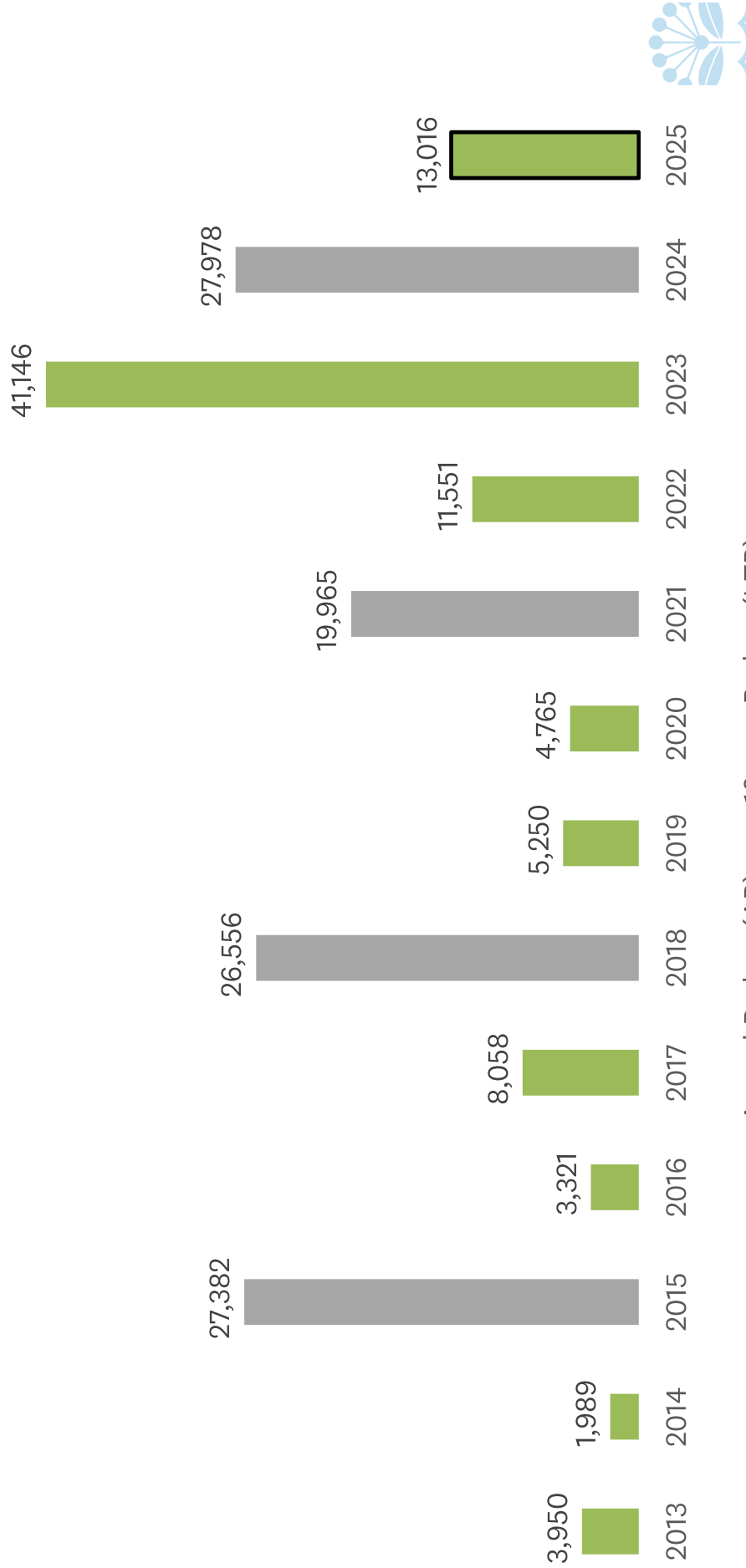


## Māori engagement on Annual Plan 2025-2026

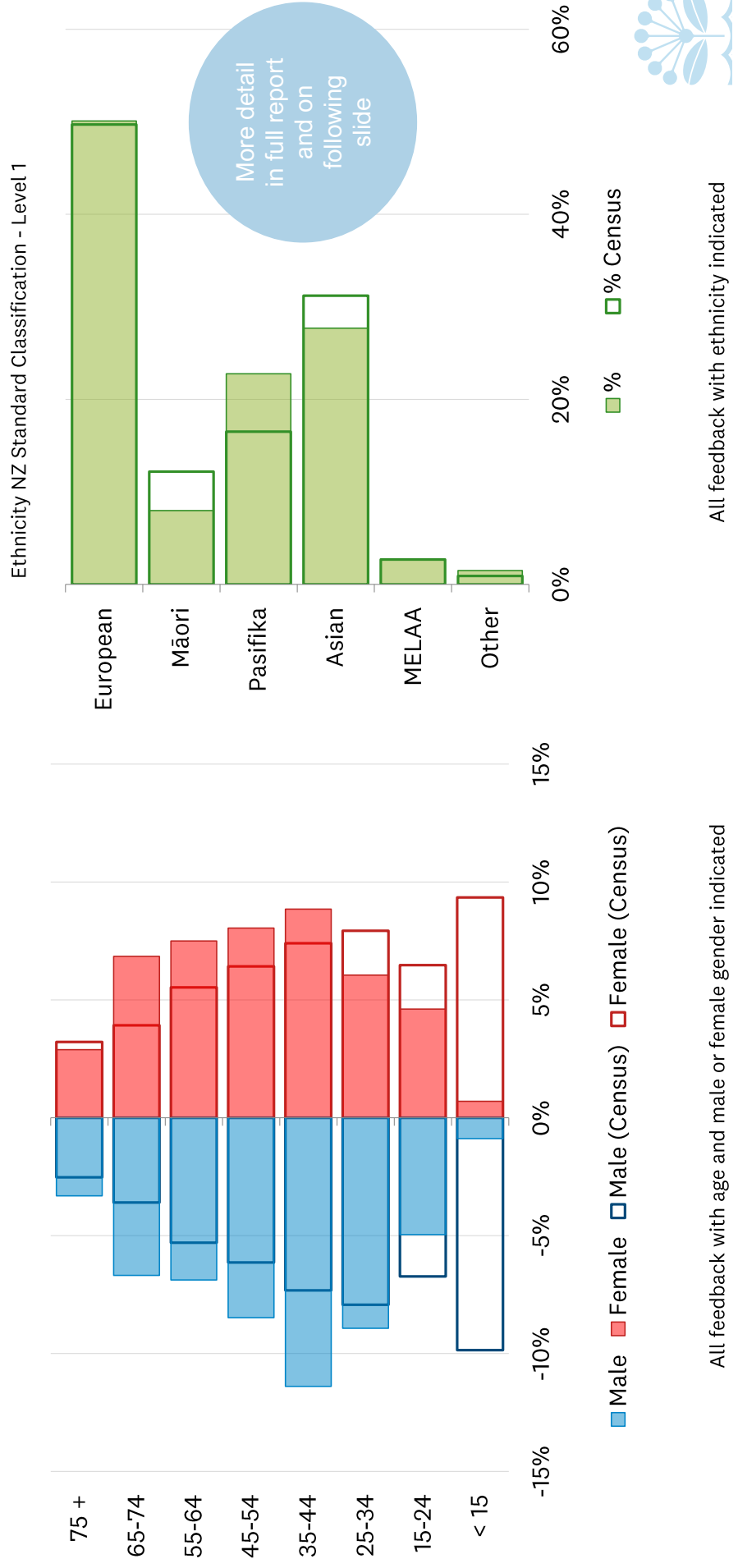
- A series of workshop sessions were held on-line before and during the consultation period with mana whenua and mātāwaka groups on the content of the Annual Plan 2025-2026. It was an opportunity to encourage submissions and to respond to questions relevant to the Annual Plan
- Council staff attended 3 Waitangi Day events to raise awareness of the Annual Plan and to promote the submission process
- Submissions were also encouraged with specific sector groups such as Whanau Hauā, Rainbow, Rangatahi, pakihi Māori and Te Kotahi a Tāmaki, the Marae collective
- A “Have your Say” event was also held at the Auckland Town Hall for mana whenua and mātāwaka on Monday 24 March 2025 with six mana whenua participants and six mātāwaka roopu presenting to the Governing Body.



# Second most pieces of feedback for an AC annual plan



# We heard from a wide age range and ethnic groups



All feedback with ethnicity indicated

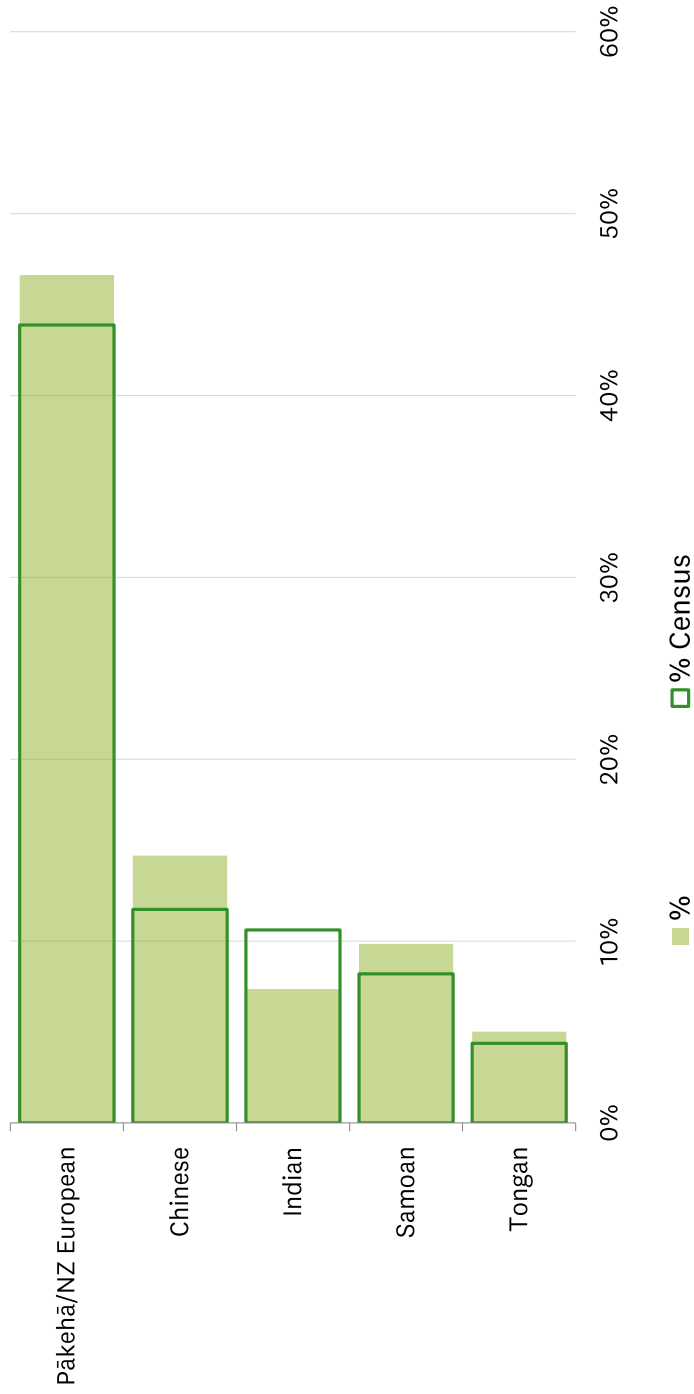
All feedback with age and male or female gender indicated





# Proportion of feedback by ethnicity, compared to Census

Common ethnicities (≥5% of feedback with ethnicity indicated, Ethnicity NZ Standard Classification – Level 2)



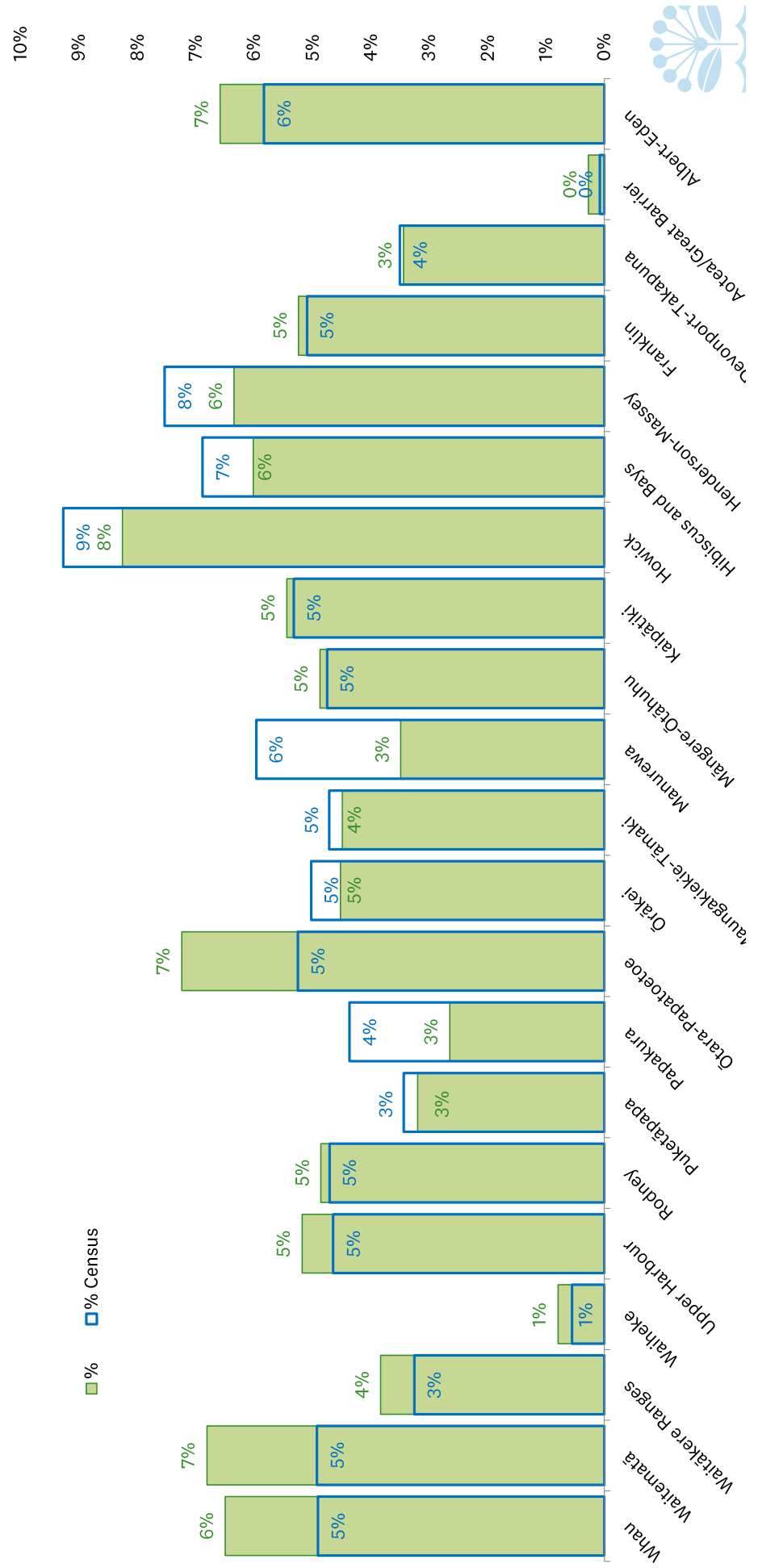
Data for percentages is all feedback with ethnicity indicated – 0 241



Item 3

Attachment A

Submitters to the Board of Property Targets Share of population, with some variation - most notably in Manurewa



## Question 1: Our Overall Plan

### What is your opinion on our proposed annual plan?

- Support all
- Support most
- Do not support most
- Do not support any
- I don't know

Tell us why:

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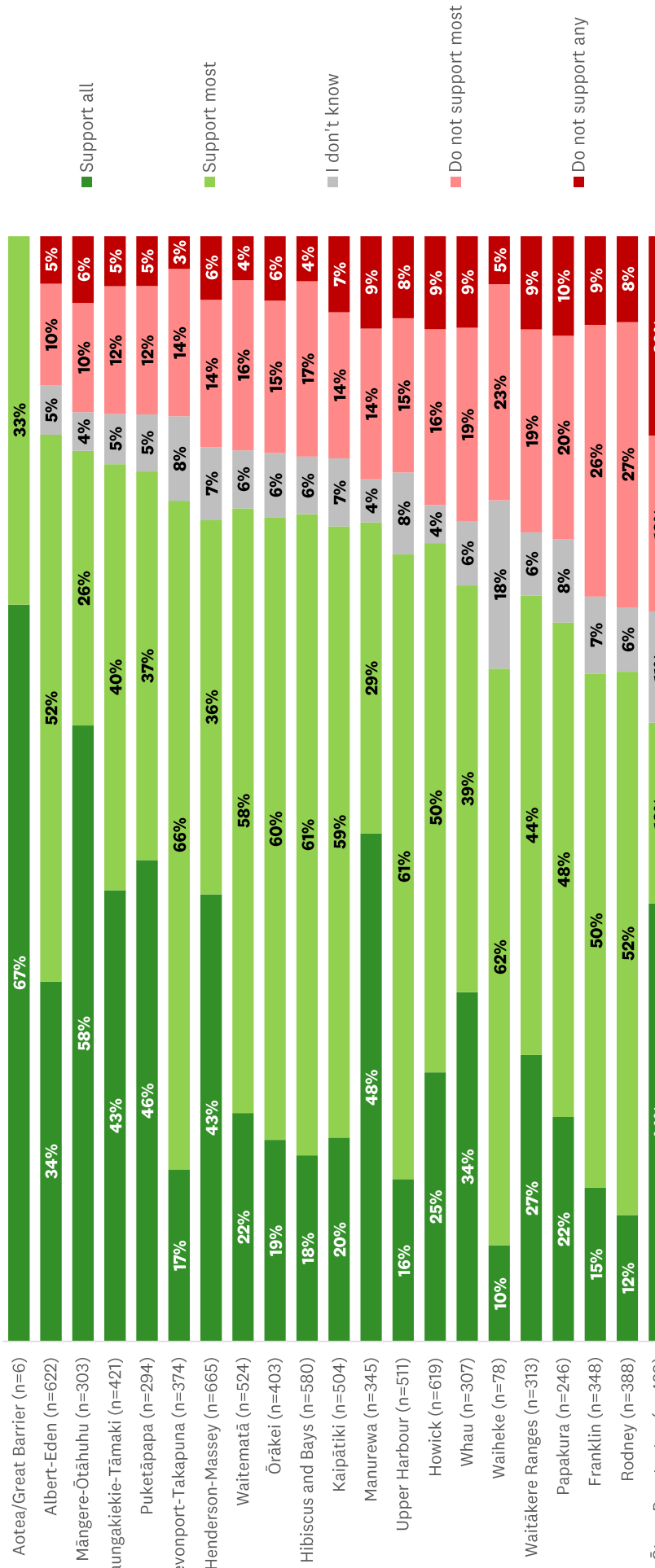
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**Of individual submitters, 72% supported all or most, 22% did not support most or any of the proposed annual plan**



# The majority of submitters from all Local Board areas supported all or most of the plan (just 6 from Aotea/Great Barrier)



## Common themes from individual submitters who supported all or most

Four most common themes by response to the overall plan...

### Support all

- |  | Comments |
|--|----------|
| 1. Generally supportive, no further detail | 366      |
| 2. Improve public transport                | 175      |
| 3. Infrastructure needed                   | 134      |
| 4. Water services (invest/improve)         | 107      |

### Support most

- |                             | Comments |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. Improve public transport | 575      |
| 2. Rates increase concerns  | 555      |
| 3. Infrastructure needed    | 463      |
| 4. Better planning needed   | 258      |

54% of individual submitters on this question commented



**Common themes from individual submitters who did not support any, did not support most or indicated I don't know**

The four most common themes were the same for those who indicated they did not support any or did not support most...

**Do not support any / do not support most / I don't know**

1. Rates increase concerns
2. Stop wasteful spending
3. General dissatisfaction with council
4. High cost of living

	(not) any	(not) most	Don't know
	269	565	24
	152	330	19
	116	211	23
	103	204	9



## Question 2: Bed night visitor levy

**Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events activities?**

- Support
- Do not support
- Other
- I don't know

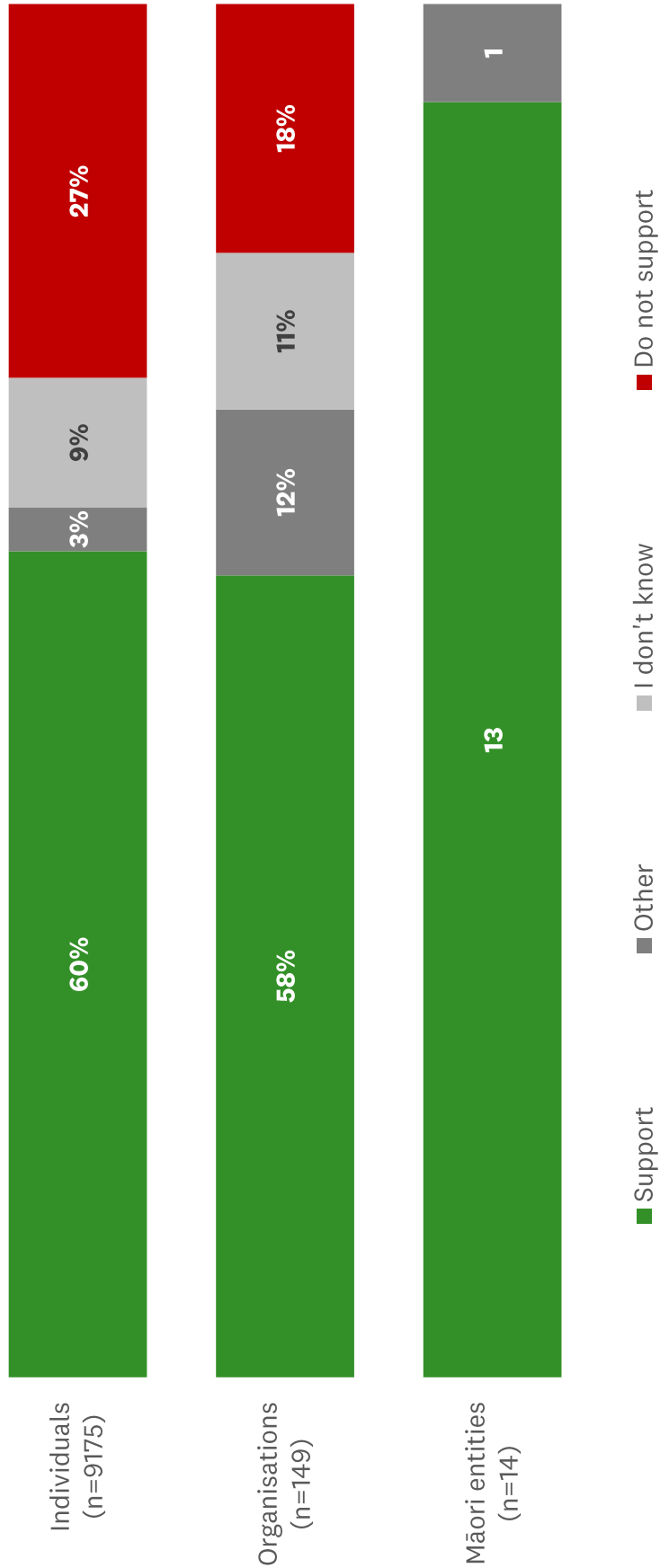
Tell us why:

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# The majority of submitters supported a bed night visitor levy



# The majority of submitters supported a permanent visitor levy in all Local Board areas except Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Waiheke and Aotea/Great Barrier (17 submissions for the latter)



## Bed night visitor levy comments “Tell us why” (individuals)

Four most common themes by support and do not support a bed night visitor levy ...

### Support

1. Needed for public event funding
2. Visitor contribution to infrastructure
3. Reducing local residents costs
4. Common overseas

Comments

628

412

349

343

### Do not support

1. Tourism deterrence concern
2. Stop wasteful spending / not a core service / find other savings
3. Ineffective proposal / won't work
4. Focus on core services

Comments

661

369

296

263

54% of individual submitters on this question commented (the same as Q1)



## Bed night visitor levy comments “Tell us why” (individuals)

Four most common themes by support and do not support a bed night visitor levy ...

Other	Comments	I don't know	Comments
1. Reduce local residents costs	58	1. Don't know	117
2. Target international tourists	53	2. Tourism deterrence concern	62
3. Tourism deterrence concern	52	3. Reduce local residents costs	34
4. Need for public event funding	36	4. Need for public event funding	27

54% of individual submitters on this question commented (same as for Q1)



## Question 3A: Changes to other rates, fees and charges

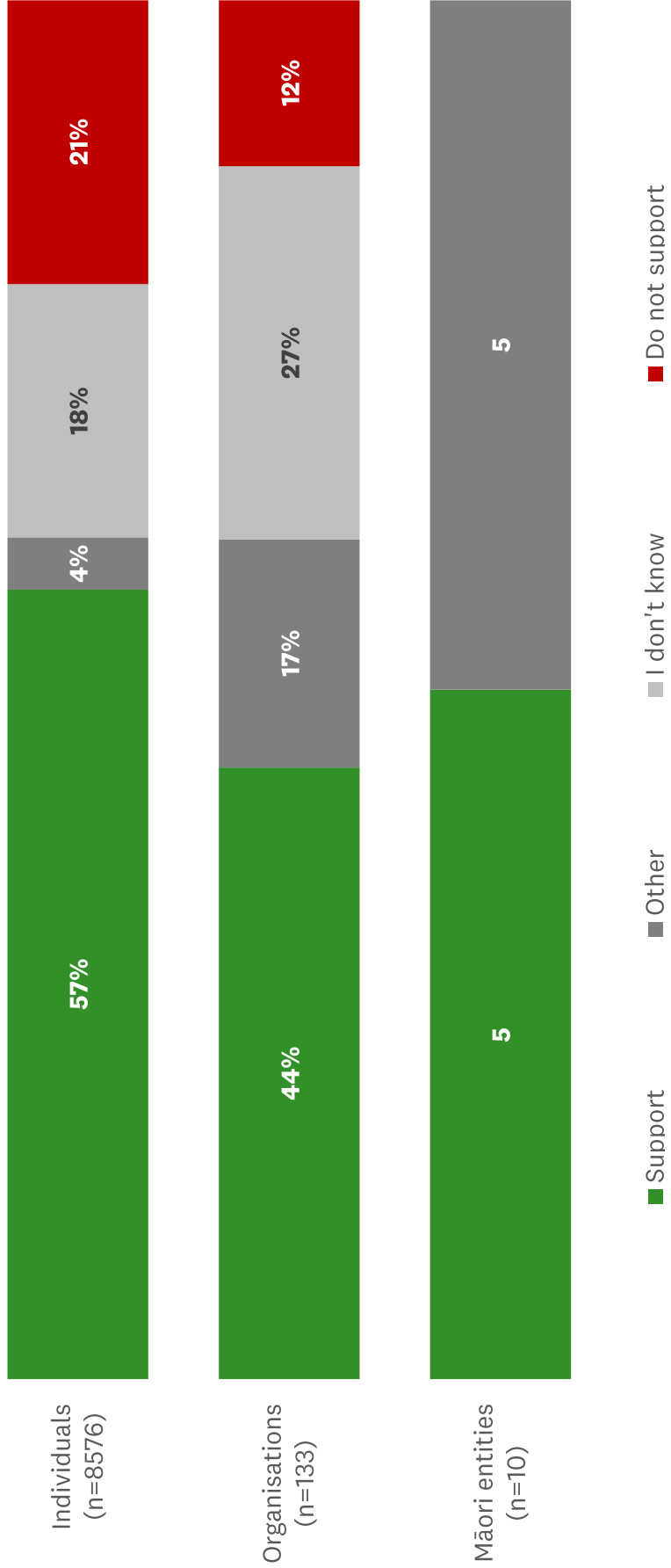
### What do you think of the waste management proposal?

Apply the Refuse Targeted Rate to residential and lifestyle properties in Franklin and Rodney to pay for the council's rubbish collection service, replacing the current system of purchasing rubbish bags.

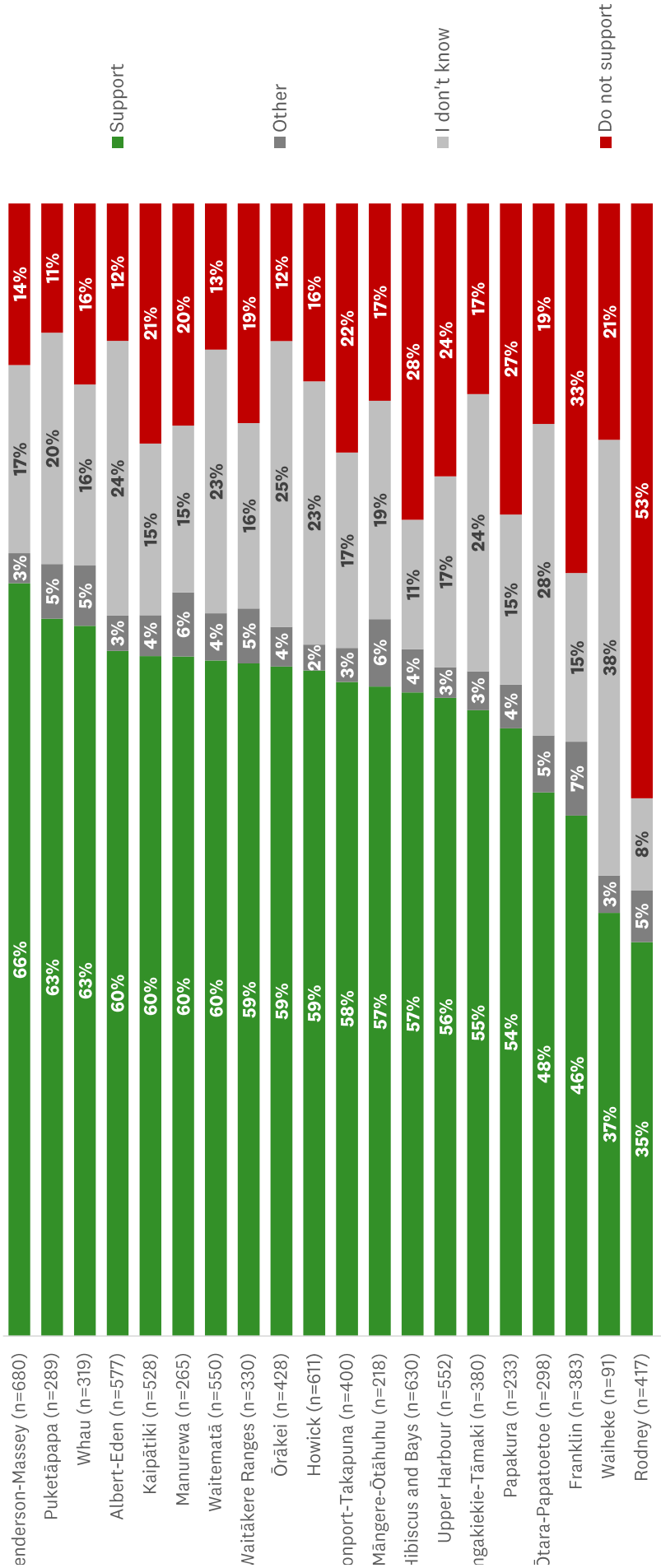
- Support
- Do not support
- Other
- I don't know



**More supported the waste management proposal than did not support, though a significant number weren't sure**



# More supported the proposal than opposed it in each Local Board area except Rodney and Aotea/Great Barrier (3 vs. 2 in the latter)





**Question 3B: Changes to other rates, fees and charges**

**Would you like to comment on this or the other rates, fees and charges proposals?**

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## Comments on waste management proposal and other rates, fees and charges (individuals)

Four most common themes by response to waste management proposal. Comments were sometimes specific to the waste proposal, sometimes more general or it was unclear

- Supported the waste management proposal**
1. Rates increase concerns
  2. Prefer use-aligned charges, sometimes in general, sometimes in relation to waste management proposal (e.g. alignment means charges better reflect provision or prefer pay-as-you-throw but support consistency)
  3. Reduce council costs
  4. High cost of living

Comments

356

195

158

146

Comments

425

372

297

242

**Did not support the proposal**

1. Prefer use-aligned charges
2. Rates increase concerns
3. Oppose paying for seldom used or unused services
4. General dissatisfaction with council



## Comments on waste management proposal and other rates, fees and charges (individuals)

Four most common themes for those who responded Other and those who responded I don't know, to the waste management proposal.

Comments were sometimes specific to the proposal and sometimes not.

Other	Comments	I don't know	Comments
1. Rates increase concerns	64	1. Rates increase concerns	154
2. Prefer use-aligned charges (sometimes in general, sometimes in relation to waste management proposal)	54	2. Reduce council costs	79
3. Oppose paying for a seldom or unused service	45	3. General dissatisfaction with council	79
4. General dissatisfaction with council	43	4. High cost of living	71



Only four most common themes by each group of submitters (i.e. other respondents) included. Data: 2025 (Other) and 2025 (I don't know) respondents' individual comments to question 2

**Sharing consultation feedback**

Report and presentation published online today

Individual submissions (organised by local board) available on AKHaveYourSay





Date: 30 April 2025

His Worship Mayor Brown and Councillors  
Auckland Council  
135 Albert Street  
AUCKLAND

Your Worship and Councillors

### **City Centre Advisory Panel – Feedback on Annual Plan 2025-2026**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2025–2026.

The City Centre Advisory Panel comprises members representing central Tāmaki Makaurau's business, retail, residential, local board, tertiary, design, climate, arts and culture, tourism, social sectors, and tangata whenua interests. We bring both lived experience and professional expertise, with deep connections across Auckland and Aotearoa.

As a collective, we are committed to Auckland's success. A thriving region relies on a strong and vibrant city centre — the heart of our city and the nation's hub for employment, education, transport, tourism, and cultural identity. Because of this, we believe the city centre must remain a key strategic priority for the Council group and urge stronger recognition of its importance in the direction-setting documents.

The City Centre Masterplan (CCMP) continues to provide a clear vision for the future. We reiterate our collective support for its outcomes and call on the Council to reflect these more strongly within the Annual Plan. The success of the city centre is essential to the prosperity and liveability of the wider region and must be treated as such.

### **Panel Priorities**

In November 2023, the Panel identified six key focus areas as part of our input into the Long-term Plan. These remain critical and should be prioritised in the 2025/26 Annual Plan:

1. **Community and Visitor Safety:** Build on the progress made to ensure people feel safe and supported, and that perceptions align with improvements.
2. **Enhance Vibrancy and Experience:** Support activations and initiatives that attract people and enhance the public realm.
3. **Grow a Thriving Residential Population:** Enable strong residential growth targets and support infrastructure to make city centre living desirable and inclusive.
4. **Premier Learning and Innovation Hub:** Realise the city centre's potential as a national hub for education, research, and innovation.
5. **Maximise the Value of Integrated Transport Networks:** Improve access through better integration, especially in the lead-up to CRL's opening.
6. **Increase Climate Resilience:** Advance adaptation and emissions reduction measures in line with Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri.

## **Feedback on Annual Plan 2025-2026**

The panel provided feedback on the Mayoral Proposal for the annual plan, and our feedback on the Annual Plan 2025-2026 consultation remains consistent with this:

### **1. Funding destination management and major events**

Events and destination management plays a critical role in attracting visitors and driving Auckland's economy. The Panel strongly supports funding and maintaining a strong and consistent pipeline of major events, cruise ship arrivals, and daily activations — including local events — is essential. These activities not only draw more people into the city centre but also contribute to a safer, more vibrant, and well-used public realm.

- The panel considers funding for major events non-negotiable due to their proven economic, cultural, and social benefits, which play a key role in Auckland's vibrancy and appeal.
- The impending lack of major events funding beyond June 2025 is a significant concern, both in short term delivery as well as longer-term confidence in procurement of attractions.
- Without adequate funding, Auckland will lose its competitive edge, especially as Australian cities continue to heavily invest in destination marketing and major events.
- The impacts of reduced investment in this area are being evidenced through a worrying drop in cruise visits to Auckland and an inability to compete against other large cities.
- Reductions in funding for these activities are not cost savings but economic losses.
- Any scenario where the \$7 million shortfall is not addressed is unacceptable, as this equates to an economic loss of additional GDP of between \$21m and \$35m annually, with rolling procurement impact building in subsequent years.
- The panel strongly urges the council and central government to fast-track the introduction of alternative funding solutions, such as a bed tax, to address the \$7 million budget shortfall and enable the resumption of major event funding from FY26 onwards.
- If a sustainable funding mechanism cannot be agreed upon, the panel strongly advocates for Council to provide bridging funding to ensure momentum is maintained and the events pipeline remains intact.
- The panel urges swift decision-making to provide certainty and allow sufficient time to plan and build the event pipeline.

### **2. Structural reform**

The panel has previously provided feedback on the structural reforms proposed in the Draft Mayoral Proposal, taking an outcome-focused approach to the feedback, rather than specifying where functions should be delivered:

- Urban regeneration, economic and cultural development, and integrated transport are essential to the success of the city centre and require strong alignment.
- Regardless of where urban regeneration and economic and cultural development are positioned within the Council group, these functions must receive dedicated funding and resources.

- These functions must not be overshadowed by broader Council operations so that their focus remains on delivering critical outcomes for the city centre and Auckland as a whole.
- It is important that a multi-year, long term strategic approach is taken to urban regeneration, economic and cultural development and the attraction of major events (including business events).
- Transition risks, particularly the potential loss of institutional knowledge within Council-Controlled Organisations (CCOs), should be actively addressed to maintain continuity and safeguard valuable expertise.

### Urban Regeneration

- Strong, place-centred leadership is essential for successful city centre regeneration. This requires a clear mandate, defined accountability, cross-agency support, and dedicated funding and resources to drive effective implementation.
- The Panel acknowledges the positive progress made over the past 18 months in advancing a more integrated approach through the lead agency model. This has improved coordination and transparency, and it is vital that this momentum is sustained through any transition.
- The Panel urges that the new operating model build on and strengthen this approach — reinforcing direct, accountable leadership through a single point of contact, backed by a clear mandate, secure funding, and targeted resourcing. This will support more streamlined and effective engagement with stakeholders and partners and ensure continued progress toward city centre outcomes.

### Economic and Cultural Development, Destination Marketing

- The panel believes that economic and cultural development, destination marketing and major events (including business events) require a dedicated budget and skilled and focused team to maintain a long-term, sustainable pipeline of activities and the marketing and promotion of Auckland as an attractive place to visit and live.

## 3. Integrated Transport Plan

- Integrated transport networks are fundamental to a thriving, accessible, and well-functioning city centre. The Panel recommends that transport planning and delivery be more closely aligned with place-based outcomes and made more accountable to local priorities to ensure that execution and implementation are in alignment with strategy. Council is urged to embed this approach within the structural reform process.
- The Panel remains firmly committed to the realisation of Access for Everyone (A4E) and calls for faster, more coordinated progress. Improved accessibility is essential to addressing immediate challenges and to maximising the benefits of the City Rail Link (CRL). Council should consider how funding and resourcing can be better aligned to support this work.
- Clear planning around traffic circulation is critical to improving access and informing future investment. As we approach the CRL's opening in 2026, the Panel emphasises the need for clarity around how transport systems will function and integrate. Immediate, practical interventions should be prioritised alongside longer-term proposals to address existing transport issues and ensure a smooth transition to a post-CRL network.
- **Time-of-Use Charging** - The panel supports the Time-of-Use Charging initiative in

principle and advocates for an evidence-driven approach to its implementation. It is noted that current timelines suggest this initiative will be introduced after the opening of the City Rail Link (CRL), which should inform its planning and rollout.

## 2. Growth – planning and paying for it

- The panel acknowledges the Council's successful role in facilitating urban growth in key areas such as Wynyard Quarter and encourages the continuation of such efforts to support sustainable city centre development with a strong focus on residential living.
- The panel emphasises the importance and relevance of the City Centre Masterplan to the future of Auckland's city centre and stresses the need for continued investment in its implementation to deliver long-term benefits.
- Aligned with the Future Development Strategy, the city centre is a strategic growth area for accommodating future population and economic expansion. Council investment must reflect this priority and support the vision of a high-quality, compact urban form.
- Recognising the city centre as a critical hub for accommodating future population and economic growth, the panel reinforces the importance of Council investments aligning with the vision of a quality, compact city.
- The Panel urges Council to work with central government to remove regulatory barriers that limit flexible and affordable development. This includes reviewing outdated policies — such as restrictions on converting office buildings — and urban planning constraints like viewshaft protections, which can hinder well-considered, sustainable growth.
- To encourage efficient development, the Panel recommends incentivising growth in areas with existing infrastructure. Tools such as variable development contributions could help direct investment where it can be most effectively supported, optimising current assets while promoting intensification.
- The Panel also recommends targeted strategies to revitalise underutilised areas or “activity deadzones” in the city centre to ensure all precincts contribute to vibrancy, amenity, and economic vitality.
- Attracting a more diverse residential population — including families — requires strengthened city centre infrastructure and services. The Panel supports initiatives such as establishing inner-city schools and community facilities to create a more liveable and inclusive environment.
- Finally, the Panel advocates for stronger community-building efforts, including the development of more empowered and representative resident groups. Strengthening the voice of city centre residents is essential to fostering a sense of belonging and supporting a thriving, long-term residential community.

## 3. Safety and security

- Community safety and wellbeing remain key priorities for the Panel. We encourage greater investment not only in traditional safety and security measures but also in broader initiatives that support the wellbeing of all community members — particularly those who are most vulnerable.
- The Panel acknowledges the positive impact of recent investments in improving safety outcomes across the city centre. In particular, the increased presence of police patrols has played a significant role in creating a safer and more welcoming



environment.

- While the City Centre Targeted Rate (CCTR) has been instrumental in supporting these improvements, the Panel notes that safety initiatives were not its original intended use. We strongly urge Council to identify and establish sustainable, long-term funding mechanisms through the Annual Plan to ensure continued support for these essential programmes without compromising the core intent of the CCTR.

#### 4. Additional considerations

##### Premier Learning and Innovation Hub:

- Establishing a premier learning and innovation hub is a key priority for the Panel. This is a significant opportunity to enhance the experience for students and position Tāmaki Makaurau — and the city centre in particular — as a leading destination for tertiary education and innovation. This objective should be given greater prominence in both the Annual Plan and the Long-term Plan.

##### Post-CRL: A chance for people to enjoy and celebrate

- The Panel emphasises the importance of creating opportunities for Aucklanders and visitors to enjoy and celebrate the transformative investment made in the city centre. We acknowledge the disruption caused by construction — particularly around the new CRL stations — and support providing these areas with a period of respite, enjoyment, and activation following completion.
- While a reduction in the intensity of disruption is welcomed, the Panel strongly cautions against slowing or withdrawing public investment in the city centre. Ongoing development remains vital to the long-term success and resilience of a growing city centre.
- Council is encouraged to strengthen collaboration with the private sector to align investment and integrate delivery across public and private projects. The Panel also supports a more strategic, programme-based approach to planning and implementation to improve coordination, efficiency, and outcomes.
- Investment must go beyond hard infrastructure. The Panel highlights the value of city centre activations and place-making initiatives that contribute to vibrancy, engagement, and a sense of place. The panel also encourages the exploration of low-cost, high-impact interventions that minimise disruption while improving the everyday experience for city centre users.

##### Downtown West urban realm and transport outcomes

- In a letter to the Governing Body dated 29 April 2024, the Panel expressed its strong support for the proposed transport and streetscape improvements in Downtown West. This includes the removal of the Hobson Street flyover, upgrades to the street network, and improvements to bus facilities along Lower Hobson Street, Customs Street West, and Sturdee Street.
- The Panel also confirmed its interest in being actively involved in key milestones of the design and delivery process to help ensure that the final outcomes align with the city centre's long-term vision and deliver best-for-city outcomes.

##### Future fund and city deals:

- The Panel recommends that Council explore opportunities to support city centre revitalisation through mechanisms such as the Future Fund and City Deals. These tools could help unlock further investment to sustain momentum and deliver transformational change.

Item 3

Yours sincerely



Scott Pritchard Independent Chair  
CITY CENTRE ADVISORY PANEL

Attachment B

*Presentation to Budget Committee, 11 am, Wed 30 April 2025*  
Demographic Advisory Panels

Introduction: Sanat Singh, Co-Chair, Youth Advisory Panel and Susanne Tapsell, Co-Chair, Seniors Advisory Panel  
Co-Chair Panel remarks  
Dr Claire Dale and Susanne Tapsell, Seniors Advisory Panel  
Barry de Geest, Disability Advisory Panel  
Martine Abel-Williamson, Disability Advisory Panel (online)  
Teresa Platt, Rainbow Communities Advisory Panel  
Seumanu Matafai, Pacific People's Advisory Panel  
Krish Naidu, Ethnic Communities Advisory Panel  
Sanat Singh, Youth Advisory Panel

*Introduction: Sanat and Susanne*  
*Kia ora koutou*

*It is my privilege to sit down with you, the Governing Body, Susanne and the rest of our amazing co-chairs to present advice on what will be the final budget for this term of demographic advisory panels. Throughout the last 2 and a bit years we have strived to give you feedback that is holistic, grounded in the real needs of our diverse and strong communities across Auckland and that encourages you to lean on the intersectionalities of our community, a strength even in its complexity.*

*In today's feedback session we come to you with those same principles,, we have some good things to say about this plan! But as always with the advisory panels that comes with nuance and caveat. One of the more central things that we implore you to consider is moving beyond the numbers. We are still looking for a plan that truly reflects the needs of our communities and centers not only their challenges but also the ways in which they can be stewards for positive change on the ground*

- *This means adopting a design approach to our Annual Budget that focuses not primarily on balancing the books but achieving quantifiable and measurable gains in the health and wellbeing of our communities, the services they interact with and the outcomes that are important to them. Just as economists are talking about moving past GDP as a measure of economic success, we encourage Auckland Council to tie its success to the needs of those communities and sectors that need it's leadership.*

- This also means continually optimising and enhancing Auckland Council's engagement strategy, we have seen steps taken to really leverage the partnerships we have across communities to dig deeper into how Aucklanders receive these plans + really great work around the material council is putting out to our communities ⇒ Still need a fundamental shift in the way we are engaging our communities ⇒ Institute deliberative methods!!!! (Elections context as well) + keep on looking at demographic advisory panels scope (expand expand)
- Continue to strive for a more universal understanding of what wellbeing means for our communities and how we empower Local boards to consistently achieve those wellbeing outcomes through that shared understanding. Localism, and the empowerment of individual community needs is great but there is a level of fragmentation that we see happening in different Local Board areas, especially when it comes to understanding how their decisions translate into outcomes for the communities that advisory panels represent. We want to see consistent frameworks of decision making applied throughout Local Boards, even if the outcomes or the strategic priorities for each Local Board look different as a result.

*All in all it has been a pleasure! To sit in front of you and talk about the collective vision we all have for this region, and how we can make it one of the best places to live, study, work and play in not just in Aotearoa but in the world. The advisory panels firmly believe that as long as we continue to center the needs of communities, lean on the strength of Auckland's diversity and continue to innovate in the way we engage with Aucklanders, we can all achieve a city that is worthy of our pride.*

*The panels represent communities of interest consistent with the strategic outcomes of the Annual Budget. It is clear the annual plan budget, both on the council and wider local board level, are organized to reflect those outcomes.*

*Today the panels will reflect on a wide ranging group of topics. As we have already said, we support the proposed budget but within that we have particular concerns where we would ask Council to ensure are considered in the actions that are taken.*

*Before the panels give their feedback we would like to make one general comment. While our primary focus is on the regional aspect of the budget this observation relates to Local Boards and their relationship with the panels. At least one of the panels has observed that they believe there are local board members who have no idea of either the panels' existence or function. Put simply we do not necessarily see ourselves reflected in the local board budgets. On reading the breakdowns of the LB budgets what comes to mind is that there is no one approach to the itemizing of the spend under the four headings. Given the necessary differing priorities in each area that is not the problem. It is in the representation of our communities in the budget that we feel can be improved. When a group such as 'older adults' is identified in the budget the question then becomes "but what about...?" in relation to the community groups absent from the lists. We note that in the*

*descriptions two of our groups were missing completely from any of the local board lists and even though giving effect to Maori outcomes is an LTP strategic goal only three local boards identify this in their budgets.*

*We have assumed that our community areas of interest are implicit in the wider descriptions of community groups, support for volunteers etc. and that assumption may be correct but it is a risk to believe so. Our concern is that there may be groups and the issues that matter to them who miss out on budget consideration because there is a lack of knowledge about their needs .*

*We believe this is essentially a communication matter that can be easily improved . We suggest that maintaining a meaningful dialogue with the panels throughout the year could easily address this . It represents a chance before the next budget round of 2025-26 to improve the opportunities to provide substantive input before that plan goes out for consultation as well as the panels assisting with advice throughout this on the needs within the communities of interest to us.*

Demographic Panel	Feedback
<p><b>Seniors</b> Susanne &amp; Claire</p>	<p>We wish to comment on four aspects related to issues that are important to seniors in our community.</p> <p><b>Rates Rise:</b> Whilst we may not like it, compared to other cities Auckland's rate rise is comparatively modest. A related issue is: "how to support those on NZ Superannuation who find this rise difficult given it is greater than the recent benefit rise." Council has mechanisms to give support but even where published they are not widely known. It would be helpful if Council made it clear on the Rates Demand what assistance is available to those who need it. For example, the maximum rates rebate for those eligible is currently \$790, which may make a vital difference to affordability. See: <a href="https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/property-rates-valuations/help-low-income-households-community-groups/apply-rates-rebate/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/property-rates-valuations/help-low-income-households-community-groups/apply-rates-rebate/Pages/default.aspx</a></p> <p>Similarly the following points relate to matters that are absent from the budget but the Panel considers them to be matters that Council needs to be considering.</p> <p><b>Public Transport for Seniors:</b> Public transport for seniors is still an issue. Although seniors are well served from 9 am to 3 pm (and weekends), we would argue for earlier and later times for use as many seniors work part-time to make ends meet and use</p>

early morning and early evening public transport. Also, public transport is a critical support for older adults to access community services, visit family and friends, and access essential services, including medical appointments. However, transportation options can be sparse, unfamiliar, and unaffordable when driving is unavailable. In rural, suburban and even urban communities, public transit may be either nonexistent or so limited that only certain destinations are served. An example of this is the lack of public transport to the Museum. Only one bus route takes passengers directly to the Museum, and from all other directions visitors must walk up the hill to reach this much-visited destination. The lack of accessible, reliable, and affordable transportation can lead to social isolation and negatively impact physical and mental health. We suggest that these two aspects of public transport be reviewed – expanding the times for which this service can be on the gold card, and an examination of services to and from remote, iconic or physically challenging destinations.

**Local Social Services Support for Dementia:** The population of seniors is increasing. And with it we can expect an increase in seniors who are diagnosed with dementia. We can also expect that many will be living in the community. Local social services support for dementia is a must. Local support is hugely important and is something we should promote and encourage. Any funding or joint community initiatives under the budget would be welcome. An example of this type of support is the Day Programme the Howick Baptist Healthcare offer for all seniors who live at home including those with high needs. We believe it is important for the Annual Plan to anticipate such needs – particularly ones which have been well signalled such as the aging population. This example we have cited shows that this need has already arrived.

**Housing** is another important consideration for seniors. We refer you to the paper by Dr Claire Dale [‘Urgent reforms needed to keep older people in affordable homes’](#).

Housing has to be a priority. There are so many seniors now and into the future who will or may be in need of social housing, Council has to continue to play its part. The question is how much (\$) does Council have to contribute versus Central Government? We suggest Central Government reviews both the asset limit for access to the Accommodation Supplement and the income-related rent subsidy to Local Government. Note the Senior Panel’s ongoing interest in Council investing in the long-term sustainability of Haumaru Housing, especially in light of the already reported (October 2024) central government cut of \$6 million which Haumaru said will “force it to leave houses empty that needed refurbishing”.



<p><b>Disability -</b> Barry</p>	<p><b>Disability demographics</b></p> <p>According to Statistics New Zealand's 2023 Disability Survey, Auckland had a disability population rate of 14 percent.<sup>[1]</sup> Which indicates that there are at least 280,000 disabled people currently residing within the city's boundaries.<sup>[2]</sup> This number is likely to increase further as the population ages as there is a strong correlation between ageing and disability.<sup>[3]</sup> In 2023, 219,750 people in Auckland were aged 65 or older, which is 13.3% of the total Auckland population.<sup>[3]</sup> By 2030, it's projected that around 1 in 5 people in Aotearoa New Zealand will be aged 65 or older, with the number of people in this age group expected to increase significantly, reaching 1.2 million by 2034.<sup>[4]</sup></p> <p>What we agree with and applaud within the budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council will continue its collaboration with Kāingā Ora and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to progress infrastructure investment in the Auckland Housing Programme areas of Māngere, Tāmaki, and Mt Roskill as there is a substantive need for accessible public housing in these areas.</li> </ul> <p>Disabled people should be given the option of rent to own as it can be distressing for people in our community to stay in a home for years, build a safe community around them, and then be told to move.<sup>[5]</sup> <sup>[6]</sup> Other considerations that also need to be factored in are proximity to essential services – libraries, medical care, supermarkets etc. Ultimately, members of the Auckland disability community who are ratepayers want the same access in their local communities, as they would like to see a plan and timeline around making community-based services more accessible for disabled Aucklanders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's implementation of the Auckland Future Fund to reduce rates increases</li> <li>• - Council's Fairer Funding model rollout to local boards to include funding based on population, level of deprivation and geographic area.</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Council contractors with all major builds and building upgrades are required to commit to Universal Design and accessibility needs to be included in all the investment impact assessments.</li> <li>• That accessible playgrounds are designed in consultation with local disability community.</li> <li>• That Council in collaboration with Kāingā Ora and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development include the disability community in providing a fuller accessibility perspective.</li> <li>• that local boards factor accessibility and disability inclusion into their planning consultations and projects.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Rainbow -</b> Teresa</p>	<p><b>Economic and Cultural Development</b></p> <p>The panel agrees that major events are vital to Auckland being a dynamic and exciting city. Parts of the rainbow community have been putting on events which celebrate the community in order to improve our social inclusiveness and cohesion. This is vital to the improvement of social and economic outcomes for queer people in Tāmaki Makaurau and extending out in to the Pacific.</p> <p>However, in order to run major events, the rainbow community needs partnerships and sponsorships from local government. In addition, the management of major and mega events, functions and services should be under the auspices of expert directors and management, who are experienced with the strategies and processes required to have them in the city. The economic, social, and cultural value of these events, functions and services cannot be underestimated. As significant events they require a wide range of expertise and experience to ensure Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland remains a world class city and internationally competitive.</p> <p>We support the bed night visitor levy for international visitors. We urge the city to continue advocating for this levy to central government and ask that it be implemented as soon as possible. We are concerned that current council funding for major events is at risk while the negotiations are going on and ask that funding levels remain at previous levels. Major and mega events require ongoing investment, long before the date of the events and sustained funding is required for build-up/staircasing events. Therefore, cutting funding to save rates budgets may be false economy. It also does not factor in the significant social and cultural benefits which such events bring to Aucklanders and other New Zealanders who attend.</p> <p><b>Community</b></p> <p>We support a boost in community safety with initiatives such as safety hubs in the city centre and compliance wardens to fill the gaps in safety across the city. We ask that council be more proactive to keep staff and public safe in council-controlled/owned facilities and spaces. This is especially relevant after the homophobic and violent actions launched by Destiny Church during the 2025 Auckland Pride events.</p> <p>The panel has met with the manager of the Security Wardens who patrol the city centre to provide a safety net for our citizens. The strategy is good in principle and we want to ensure that it is effective in practice. The panel has expressed a desire to have wardens recruited for their empathy, understanding and lived experience of diversity. They must be appropriately trained to deal with our queer communities who may suffer from intersections of marginalisation and isolation and work closely with Police to provide ongoing security and further support as necessary.</p> <p><b>Local Boards</b></p> <p>The Rainbow Community Advisory Panel supports the fairer funding model for local boards so that boards can respond in more localised ways to the needs of their communities. The panel is eager to make connections with local boards across the region to</p>
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<p>discuss the needs and safety of rainbow communities, especially our rangatahi. Social outcomes for rainbow rangatahi are poor and require attention from our whole community, not just pockets or the rainbow community itself.</p> <p>Most local board service proposals identify sporting, cultural, environmental and business services to support local communities. We also wholeheartedly support “local events and initiatives that promote safety and community identity and increase greater connectivity and participation among businesses and community members” (Puketāpapa LB). When available, it would be good to see what sort of events and activities are held which promote diversity, celebrate equity and openly support Tamāki Makaurau’s queer communities. We would appreciate closer collaboration with local boards to ensure that our community voices are heard at their decision-making table.</p> <p>In 2024, the first local board member and advisory panel collaborative hui was held. It was an exciting chance to learn about each other. It became clear however, that some local board members had no idea about the existence of the demographic advisory panels and that we could be approached for advice. Also, in one instance, we found there was a double-handling of an issue between a local board member and a representative of RCAP. Working together, knowing what is going on and providing the right and timely advice to local board members should be a strong focus for the future.</p> <p>Manaaki Tāmaki Makaurau</p> <p>Auckland Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy – Draft.</p> <p>Target programmes and resources to support Aucklanders who are less physically active and face barriers to access, with a stronger focus on community and intergenerational participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plan for a regional sport and recreation facilities network in collaboration with our partners, with clear investment priorities to support more equitable participation.</li> <li>- Support the delivery of a diverse range of play, sport and recreation opportunities across our open space network.</li> <li>- Partner with others to improve public access to non-council sport and recreation assets such as school fields and facilities.</li> <li>- Support and enable communities to deliver services, including Māori-led services where appropriate.</li> <li>- Accelerate the transition to multi-use and adaptable spaces and facilities to deliver multiple benefits for our communities and clubs.</li> <li>- Work with the community and mana whenua to design spaces and facilities that are welcoming, safe, and inclusive, meet needs, foster a sense of belonging, and respectfully hon</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>Pacific</b> - Simon</p>	<p>Below is a summary of the PPAPs general feedback on the Annual Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall, our panel appears to be relatively neutral about the proposed plan (which is unusual for us). We tend to have quite strong views but this budget feels more balanced and we gather this is the way it was intended to be.</li> <li>• We are happy with targeted investment in transportation and water infrastructure and that there are no proposals to cut funding or service levels - we'd be interested in what council can do to increase Pacific participation in council-led infrastructure and service contracts related to this.</li> <li>• We are pleased with the idea of fairer funding for local boards in a general sense as we understand it aims to address funding disparities and promote equity across communities. However, local boards in areas with high concentrations of Pacific peoples, notably Ōtara-Papatoetoe and Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, have expressed concerns about potential funding reductions under this model. Our communities, characterized by significant Pacific populations and high deprivation levels, fear that decreased funding could lead to cuts in essential services and community assets, such as libraries and community halls. As long as adjustments are addressing equity and not taking funding away from local boards and we retain access to core services like access to communities hubs etc. The overall impact is to be determined by how changes are managed and whether reallocation is effective.</li> <li>• We are in full support of the investment in the Marae Infrastructure Programme and grants to enhance Maori participation in council decision making.</li> <li>• We also had a very interesting fono about the use of AI within council and are supportive of these being introduced to enhance efficiency as long as adequate cultural considerations are made.</li> <li>• One point of contention for our panel has been the Bed Levy and how it might impact locals (i.e Aucklanders) using short-term accommodation services. Council staff have done their best to answer our questions/concerns but we have received conflicting answers. At this stage, we feel it doesn't include enough detail to form a view and provide meaningful feedback and therefore doesn't feel very transparent. The key for us is that it retains its policy intent and doesn't become a generic income gathering tool that isn't well thought through (including impacts), designed and implemented. We'd also be interested to understand how this relates to cultural venues such as maraes etc.</li> <li>• We're also interested in the profit from the sale of airport shares and transparency and accountability related to when, how and why it will be spent.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Ethnic - Krish</b></p>	<p>Request further data/ feasibility studies on why they have chosen to list the impacts to some festivals over others.</p> <p>1. The analysis on the impacts on the events can be found in Section 4 of the Supporting Information, from pages 165-181 <a href="https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/externalcontent/delivery/consultations/budgets/annual-plan-2025-2026/annual-plan-2025-2026-supporting-information.pdf">https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/externalcontent/delivery/consultations/budgets/annual-plan-2025-2026/annual-plan-2025-2026-supporting-information.pdf</a></p> <p>Community organisations – who have they reached out to?</p> <p>2. In terms of community organisations, there has been various local and targeted ethnic communities events throughout the consultation period. We have also worked with our community partners to organise different events on the Annual Plan. The full community events are up on <a href="https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/">https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/</a>. (Please note that we have removed the completed events off the website to avoid any confusion, however the full historic list will be made available after consultation)</p> <p>Below are some examples of communities we have worked with (not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· CNSST Foundation</li> <li>· Waitakere Indian Association</li> <li>· WeAreOne Trust (associated with WIA above)</li> <li>· Auckland Tamil Association</li> <li>· Sikh Women's Association</li> <li>· Fijian community</li> <li>· Pasifika</li> </ul> <p>If not in this current consultation, will they be able to have documents translated to Punjabi for the next Annual Plan consultations?</p> <p>3. Consideration will be given for the next Annual Plan. However, please note that we are unable to provide translations for every language due to various constraints. Currently, the selected languages for translation are based on the largest population groups across Auckland.</p>
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<p><b>Youth - Sanat &amp; Kritika</b></p>	<p><b>Ease of accessibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The budget is easy to digest, with videos, diagrams making complex information accessible for people</li> <li>• it's offered in multiple languages and accessible formats, ensuring that more people can engage with it</li> <li>• Need to work on the emphasis of quantitative information over qualitative information (buzzly platform is a great example and will be excited to understand the insights from using and deploying that platform in the community)</li> </ul> <p><b>Importance of Continuity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's good to see a clear link between the goals set out in the 2023–2024 annual plan, what's been achieved, and how the Council plans to build on that progress.</li> <li>• We need to see KPIs tied to wellbeing as it is defined by our communities, return on investment, economic growth, balancing the books are all fine measures, but to deal with the complexity of challenges and to leverage the actual opportunity in our city we need to dig far deeper.</li> </ul> <p><b>Environment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representatives on our panel from the North Shore suggest there's strong support for the shift to region-wide, rates-funded rubbish collections. It removes the inconsistency of private collection services, ensures more equitable access, and could lead to better waste management outcomes across Tāmaki Makaurau.</li> </ul> <p><b>CCO Reform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's great to see a focus on improving accountability/responsiveness and continuity through the proposed CCO reforms. Ensuring elected members have a stronger role in decision-making will help align CCO priorities with the needs of Aucklanders.</li> </ul> <p><b>Events Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events funding needs to be focussed on events young people want to attend that they would not be able to afford to attend otherwise. Suggest to look into alternatives beyond just the proposed writers festival funding which has an older demographic, prioritizing investment for events that are for youth by youth, Free events over subsidized tickets more effective at creating accessibility for youth</li> <li>• A key gap in the budget is funding for public transport and cycling/walking infrastructure, which is mentioned but not elaborated on how this is key for getting youth and other groups around our city, accessing opportunities, as well as meeting our sustainability commitments as a city.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Public Transport:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Young people are still looking for a city where public transport is not just efficient and reliable but genuinely integrated into daily life</li><li>• Comparing Auckland's current and proposed public transport infrastructure with high international standards set in places like Hong Kong and Singapore highlights critical progress and gaps.</li><li>• Support for continual efforts around the Eastern Busway and City Rail Link</li><li>• Further support for safety improvements for driver protection screens.</li><li>• Concern over potentially reduced capital investment in bus and ferry projects ⇒ Need strong, consistent and sustained capital and operational investment to ensure public transport gets the primacy it deserves in this city if we want to actually activate urban mobility and the untapped community and economic benefits of it.</li><li>• What we really need from elected members going forward and especially into this election is bold, long term vision and strategy from Auckland Transport, that is ambitious AND practicable. One that prioritizes efficiency, accessibility, sustainability and integration at its core.</li><li>• The CRL for example should be the beginning of a comprehensive metro-style network. We can't keep going through Light Rail like pitches and have it fall out of the pipeline of further future development.</li><li>• This is essential for young people who are readily migrating to other countries, who don't see Auckland as a liveable and connected city. If we want to retain them, settle here, work here, contribute to the vibrancy and fabric of our city we need an urgent rethink.</li></ul>	
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