

Whau Local Board OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Whau Local Board held in the Whau Local Board Office, 31 Totara Avenue, New Lynn on Wednesday, 30 April 2025 at 1:00 pm.

TE HUNGA KUA TAE MAI | PRESENT

Chairperson	Kay Thomas	
Deputy Chairperson	Fasitua Amosa	
Members	Ross Clow	
	Catherine Farmer	
	Valeria Gascoigne	(Online)
	Sarah Paterson-Hamlin	
	Warren Piper	

TE HUNGA KĀORE I TAE MAI | ABSENT

TE HUNGA ĀPITI KUA TAE MAI | ALSO PRESENT

1 Nau mai | Welcome

Chairperson Kay Thomas opened the meeting with a karakia.

1.1 Acknowledgement: Janet Clews

Resolution number WH/2025/55

MOVED by Member R Clow, seconded by Member C Farmer:

That the Whau Local Board:

- a) āhukahuka / recognise the passing of Janet Clews and honour the 21 years of service she gave to Waitākere City Council as a councillor, representing the New Lynn Ward.

CARRIED

2 Ngā Tamōtanga | Apologies

There were no apologies.

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.

Specifically, members are asked to identify any new interests that they have not previously disclosed and any interest that might be considered as a conflict of interest with a matter on the agenda.

The following are declared interests of elected members of the Whau Local Board:

Member	Organisation	Position
Kay Thomas	New Lynn Citizens Advice Bureau	Volunteer
	Citizens Advice Bureau Waitākere Board	Deputy Chair
	Literacy Waitākere	Board Member
	West Auckland Heritage Conference	Committee Member
	Whau Ethnic Collective	Patron
	Whau Wildlink Network	Member
Fasitua Amosa	Equity NZ	Vice President
	Massive Theatre Company	Board Member
	Avondale Business Association	Family Member is Chair
	Silo Theatre Trust	Board Member
Ross Clow	Portage Licensing Trust	Trustee
	Te Whau Coastal Walkway Environmental Trust	Patron

Member	Organisation	Position
	Bay Olympic Sports Club	Life Member
	Forest and Bird Society	Member
	Waitākere Ranges Protection Society	Member
	New Lynn Heritage Protection Society	Member
	Trust Community foundation Limited	Trustee
	Karekare Surf Lifesaving Club	Member
	Libraries	Family Member is Librarian
Catherine Farmer	Avondale-Waterview Historical Society	Member
	Blockhouse Bay Historical Society	Member
	Blockhouse Bay Bowls	Patron
	Forest and Bird organisation	Member
	Grey Power	Member
Sarah Paterson-Hamlin	New Zealand Down Syndrome Association	Employee
	Raukatauri Music Therapy Trust	Employee
Warren Piper	New Lynn RSA	Associate Member
	New Lynn Business Association	Member
Valeria Gascoigne	Kelston Community Hub	Employee

External Organisations	Lead	Alternate
The Avondale Business Association	Kay Thomas	Ross Clow
The Blockhouse Bay Business Association	Warren Piper	Sarah Paterson-Hamlin
The New Lynn Business Association	Warren Piper	Kay Thomas
The Rosebank Business Association	Warren Piper	Fasitua Aмосa
The Whau Coastal Walkway Environmental Trust	Ross Clow	Sarah Paterson-Hamlin

4 Annual Plan 2025/2026 local board consultation feedback and input

Resolution number WH/2025/56

MOVED by Chairperson K Thomas, seconded by Member R Clow:

That the Whau Local Board:

- a) receive Annual Plan 2025/2026 consultation feedback on the proposed Whau Local Board priorities and activities.
- b) receive consultation feedback on regional topics in the Annual Plan 2025/2026 from people and organisations based in the Whau local board area.
- c) provide the following input on regional topics in the proposed Annual Plan 2025/2026 to the Governing Body.

General

- i) support the following financial proposals:
 - A) retaining the agreed rates increase of 5.8 per cent, consistent with the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan.
 - B) targeted rates including increasing 3.5 per cent to the Natural Environment Targeted Rate and Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate, increasing the Water Quality Targeted Rate, and increasing 3.3 per cent to the Waste Management Targeted Rate.
 - C) aiming for a group debt to revenue limit of 250 per cent noting the qualification of adequate headroom.
 - D) delivering a further \$47 million in savings, so long as those savings do not include service cuts that will impact our community.
 - E) continuing to invest in services and activities with \$4 billion of capital investment.

Transport

- ii) support the development of the 30-year Auckland Integrated Transport Plan.
- iii) support removing level crossings on the rail network, however note that crossings on the mid and outer parts of the Western Line are prioritised later in the 20 year programme.
- iv) urge that this work on the Western line be prioritized sooner so that the Whau can fully capitalize on the benefits of the City Rail Link.
- v) support investment in a road safety programme.

Water

- vi) support increased investment in asset renewals to improve the resilience and efficiency of Auckland's water assets.
- vii) support stormwater separation works.
- viii) support continued investment in the Industrial Pollution Prevention programme to work with specific targeted industries.
- ix) support investment in the Making Space for Water Programme to strengthen Auckland's resilience to flooding to accelerate delivery of the programme within six years instead of across 10 years, noting known high-risk areas in the Whau local board area.
- x) acknowledge that blue-green networks provide additional benefits such as providing green space and amenity.

Built environment

- xi) support the timely completion of Eke Panuku's Unlock Avondale project.**
- xii) acknowledge the work that has already been done in the Unlock Avondale project by Eke Panuku.**

Natural environment

- xiii) continue to support closed landfill and coastal landfill remediation, and request action on the contaminated site at Tahurangi / Crum Park, and Archibald Park that has risk of leaching into the Whau River.**

Community

- xiv) support the implementation of fairer funding for local boards, noting that the Whau Local Board has been historically underfunded.**
- xv) thank the Mayor and CEO for agreeing to manage 2025/2026 cost pressures and budget oversights but note that staff have advised that from 2026/2027, the new Fairer Funding allocation will be used to cover cost pressures identified in 2025/2026 and any new yet to be discovered cost pressures.**
- xvi) note its concern that accurate, detailed information has not been available to local boards through much of the work programme process creating uncertainty and inefficiencies in time and effort.**
- xvii) note its disappointment that the 2025/2026 cost pressures have only been addressed for 2025/2026 and will need to be addressed in the new term.**
- xviii) consider that cost pressures should be funded through inflation and rates increases, noting that if not, from 2026/2027 many local boards will have to cut services to manage cost pressures and that will result in many local boards being worse off under Fairer Funding.**
- xix) request increased department resources to meet the increased advice and delivery needed to support the implementation of Fairer Funding.**
- xx) support investment in safety initiatives and wardens, particularly around main transport hubs such as New Lynn.**

Economic and cultural development

- xxi) request that relevant, informed, quality advice and support on local economic development is available to local boards.**

Well-managed local government

- xxii) support investment into Māori outcomes including the Marae Infrastructure Programme and capacity funding.**
- xxiii) advocate for a change to the criteria and financial parameters for the Marae Infrastructure Programme and Cultural Initiatives Fund to enable support for marae in the planning and design phase, for example Te Henga marae.**
- xxiv) support progressing Te Kawerau ā Maki's key projects, in particular:
 - A) Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Deed and a new forum and plan.**
 - B) Te Henga marae and papakāinga.****
- xxv) note and support the request for funding to create a Te Kawerau ā Maki Community Officer role in West Auckland to better connect with local boards and local communities.**
- xxvi) note the asset recycling target of \$300 million set in the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 include proposals of non-service properties and further note**

Whau Local Board’s previous advocacy requesting local boards be able to determine the status of non-service properties.

- xxvii) continue to support the retention of 13 Crown Lynn Place New Lynn for further investigation of open space needs and uses for the site to meet demands due to significant upzoning and brownfield development in the adjoining areas.

Major projects

- xxviii) support the progression of Te Whau Pathway and continue to advocate to progress the construction of Section 2: Rizal Reserve to Ken Maunder crossing the Whau River to connect the Avondale and New Lynn sections of Te Whau Pathway.
- xxix) support the delivery of Te Hono - Avondale Community Centre.
- xxx) advocate for the purchase of significant land at the Avondale Racecourse.

Funding major events, destination marketing and visitor attraction

- xxxi) support Council’s continued advocacy to Central Government to implement a bed night visitor levy.

Changes to other rates, fees and charges

- xxxii) generally support increases to animal management fees, but note the need to keep dog adoption fees reasonable in order not to discourage public uptake of dog adoption.
- xxxiii) support changes to cemetery fees, acknowledging that existing fees are well below those charged by other providers.
- xxxiv) note with concern the fact that Waikumete Cemetery is currently at capacity, so Whau residents are restricted in their options for funeral arrangements.

- d) whakarite / provide the following local board advocacy for the Annual Plan 2025/2026:

Initiative	Description
Acquisition of park land at Avondale Racecourse	Acquisition of significant park land in Avondale Racecourse as part of region wide reprioritisation of funding for open space acquisition.
Whau Aquatic and Recreation Centre	Acquisition of land to follow site identification to deliver the Whau Aquatic and Recreation Centre by 2032, which will benefit all the inner-west and Waitakere Ranges local board areas.
Te Whau Pathway	Construction of the bridge across the Whau River to connect the Avondale and New Lynn sections of Te Whau Pathway.
Cost pressures	Advocate for cost pressures to be funded through inflation and rates increases. Many local boards will be forced to significantly cut services to meet the identified and new cost pressures from 2026/2027 onwards, the impact on local services year on year would be catastrophic.
Deed of Acknowledgement	Request that the Governing Body allocate funding and resource to complete the WRHAA Deed of Acknowledgement and a WRHA Strategic Plan in 2025/2026.

CARRIED

1.06 pm

The chairperson thanked members for their attendance and attention to business and declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD
AT A MEETING OF THE WHAU LOCAL BOARD HELD
ON

DATE:.....

CHAIRPERSON:.....