

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

Date: Tuesday, 6 May 2025
Time: 10:00 am
Meeting Room: Groundfloor Boardroom,
Venue: Auckland Town Hall,
301-305 Queen Street, Auckland

Waitematā Local Board

OPEN AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

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

(Quorum 4 members)

Katherine Kang
Democracy Advisor

1 May 2025

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ITEM	TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
1	Nau mai Welcome	5
2	Ngā Tamōtanga Apologies	5
3	Te Whakapuaki i te Whai Pānga Declaration of Interest	5
4	Annual Plan 2025-2026: local board consultation feedback and input	7

1 Nau mai | Welcome

Chair G Sage welcomed those present and opened 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.

Annual Plan 2025-2026: local board consultation feedback and input

File No.: CP2025/08520

Item 4

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 2025/2026
 - regional topics for the Annual Plan 2025/2026.
2. To recommend any local matters or advocacy initiatives to the Governing Body for consideration or decision-making as part of the Annual Plan 2025/2026 process.
3. To provide input on the proposed regional topics in the Annual Plan 2025/2026 to the Governing Body.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

4. Local board agreements outline annual funding priorities, activities, budgets, levels of service, performance measures and initiatives for each local board area. The 2025/2026 local board agreements will be included in the Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2025/2026.
5. Auckland Council publicly consulted from 28 February to 28 March 2025 to gather community feedback on the proposed Annual Plan 2025/2026. This included consultation on the Waitematā Local Board's proposed priorities for 2025/2026 to be included in their local board agreement and key priorities for the Annual Plan 2025/2026.
6. Auckland Council received 13,016 submissions in total across the region and 864 submissions from the Waitematā Local Board area. Public submissions for the local board are included in Attachment A to this report. Key local consultation feedback included:
 - Improve pathways across the whole board area (specific mentions included Ponsonby and the city centre)
 - Homelessness is a central government issue, not a council issue
 - Retain Speedway at Western Springs
 - Concern about cuts to arts and culture
 - Safety in the city centre is a problem
7. As part of the Annual Plan process, 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 matters during the Annual Plan decision-making process in May and June 2025, including:
 - any new/amended business improvement district targeted rates
 - any new/amended local targeted rate proposals
 - the release of local board specific reserve funds
 - any other local board advocacy initiatives.
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 Annual Plan 2025/2026.

Item 4

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Waitematā Local Board:

- a) receive consultation feedback (Attachment A) on the proposed Waitematā Local Board priorities and activities for 2025/2026.
- b) receive consultation feedback on regional topics in the Annual Plan 2025/2026 from people and organisations based in the Waitematā Local Board area.
- c) recommend any new or amended Business Improvement District (BID) targeted rates to the Governing Body.
- d) provide input (Attachment B, tabled) on regional topics in the proposed Annual Plan 2025/2026 and key advocacy initiatives 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 relevant local board) for each local board area. The local board agreement outlines how the Council will reflect priorities of the Waitematā Local Board Plan 2023 in respect of the local activities to be provided in the local board area, and also includes information on budgets, levels of service, and performance measures.
10. The Local Board Agreements 2025/2026 will form part of the Auckland Council's Annual Plan 2025/2026.
11. Auckland Council publicly consulted from 28 February to 28 March 2025 to seek community feedback on the proposed Annual Plan 2025/2026. The consultation content included information on regional proposals to be decided by the Governing Body, and information on the Waitematā Local Board's proposed priorities for 2025/2026 to be included in their local board agreement for 2025/2026.
12. Local boards have a statutory responsibility to identify and communicate the interests and preferences of people in their local board area in relation to the Annual Plan 2025/2026.

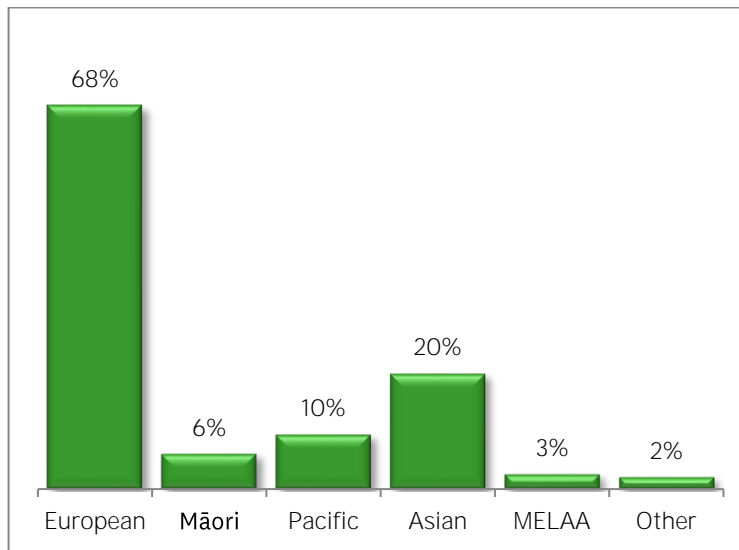
Tātaritanga me ngā tohutohu Analysis and advice

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 Plan 2025/2026.

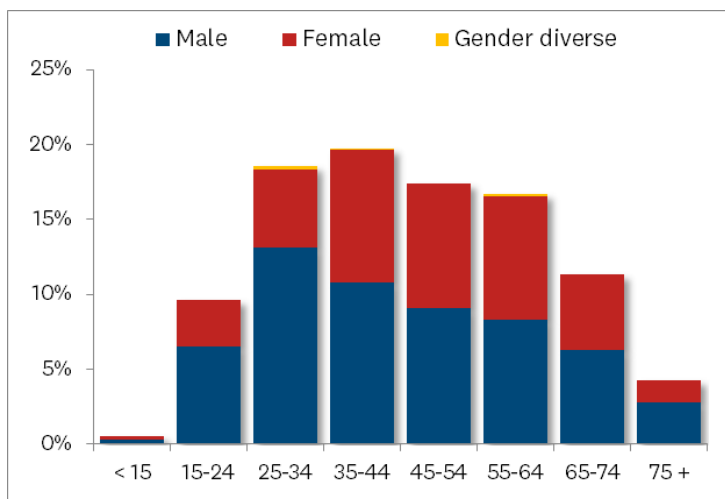
Consultation feedback overview

14. As part of the public consultation for the Annual Plan 2025/2026 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 13,016 people in the consultation period. This feedback was received through:
 - written feedback – 10,011 hard copy and online forms, emails and letters.
 - in person – 3,001 pieces of feedback in person and through 89 Have Your Say events (3 of which were held in the Waitematā Local Board area).

- The tables and graphs below indicate the demographic categories people who selected Waitematā as their place of residence identified with. This information only relates to those submitters who provided demographic information.
- Neurodiverse Online Audio – four feedback forms.



1.

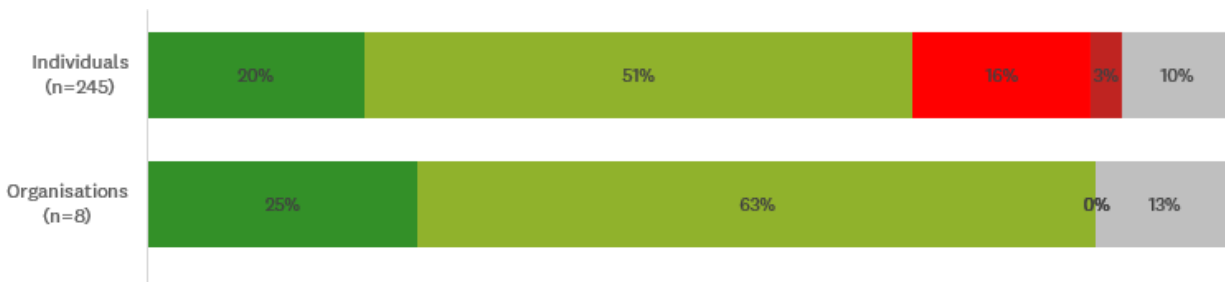


Ethnicity	#	%
European	532	68%
Pākehā/NZ European	493	63%
Other European	39	5%
Māori	49	6%
Pasifika	76	10%
Samoaan	25	3%
Cook Islands Māori	0	0%
Tongan	14	2%
Other Pasifika	37	5%
Asian	160	20%
Chinese	67	9%
Indian	37	5%
Southeast Asian	35	4%
Korean	14	2%
Other Asian	7	1%
African/Middle Eastern/Latin	21	3%
Other	17	2%
Total	783	109%

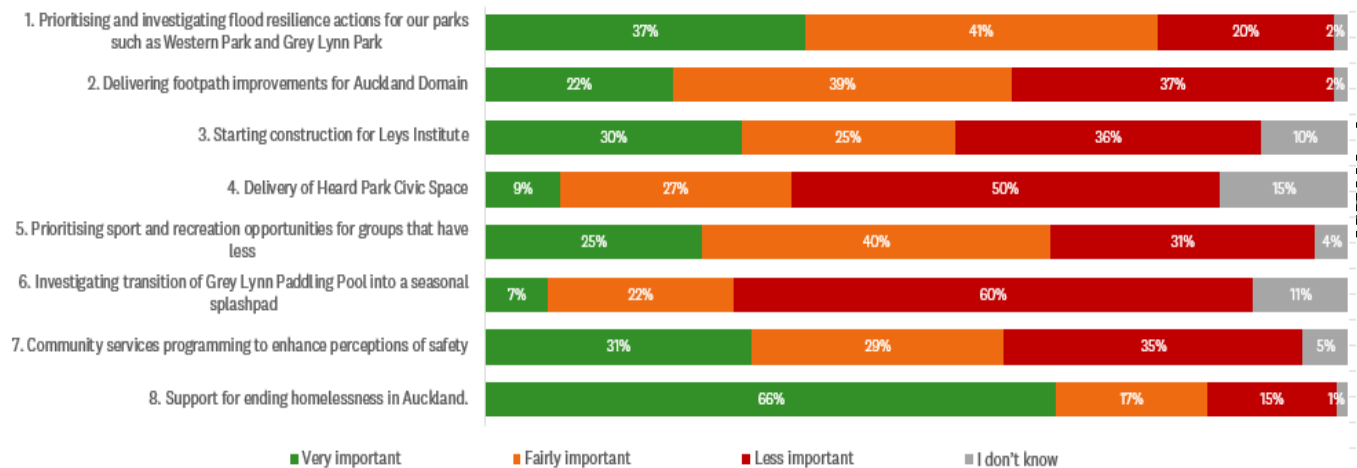
16. All feedback will be made available on an Auckland Council webpage called “Feedback on the Annual Plan 2025/2026” and will be accessible after 22 April 2025 through the following link: <https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/annual-plan-2025-2026/feedback-annual-plan-2025-2026>.
17. During the consultation period, the question “What do you think of our proposals for our local board area in 2025/2026?” was discovered to be missing from the online feedback form, affecting 173 submissions for Waitematā Local Board (around 1,700 submissions in total). The issue was later corrected, and affected submitters were contacted with a link to provide feedback on this question before the consultation closed on 28 March. Of the affected submissions, 53 submitters responded to the missing question. A review was conducted to identify the cause of the error and prevent similar issues in the future.

Feedback received on the Waitematā Local Board’s priorities for 2025/2026 and the Annual Plan 2025/2026

18. The Waitematā Local Board consulted on the following local priorities for 2025/2026:
 - Priority 1: Prioritising and investigating flood resilience actions for our parks such as Western Park and Grey Lynn Park
 - Priority 2: Delivering footpath improvements for Auckland Domain
 - Priority 3: Starting construction for Leys Institute
 - Priority 4: Delivery of Heard Park Civic Space
 - Priority 5: Prioritising sport and recreation opportunities for groups that have less
 - Priority 6: Investigating transition of Grey Lynn Paddling Pool into a seasonal splashpad
 - Priority 7: Community services programming to enhance perceptions of safety
 - Priority 8: Support for ending homelessness in Auckland
19. 253 submissions were received on Waitematā Local Board’s priorities. The majority of local respondents were in support of the priorities in general, as reflected in the below graph:



20. The most supported priority was ‘Support for ending homelessness in Auckland’ with 66% identifying it as very important. While this was the most supported priority, a strong theme was that homelessness is not a local government issue to solve.
21. Flood resilience action remains a high priority for most submitters closely followed by programming to enhance perceptions of safety.
22. ‘Delivery of the Heard Park Civic Space’ and ‘Investigating transition of Grey Lynn Paddling Pool into a seasonal splashpad’ were deemed the least important of the 8 priorities by submitters.



23. Consultation feedback on local board priorities will be considered by the local board when approving their local board agreement on 10 June 2025.

Information on submitters

Key themes

24. Key themes of note across the feedback received (through written and in-person channels) included:
- Improve footpaths across the wider board area (specific mentions of Ponsonby and the city centre)
 - Homelessness is a central Government issue rather than a council issue to address
 - Retain Speedway at Western Springs
 - Concern about cuts to funding for arts and culture
 - Safety in the city centre remains an issue for many and needs more attention

Overview of feedback received on regional topics in the Annual Plan from the Waitematā Local Board area

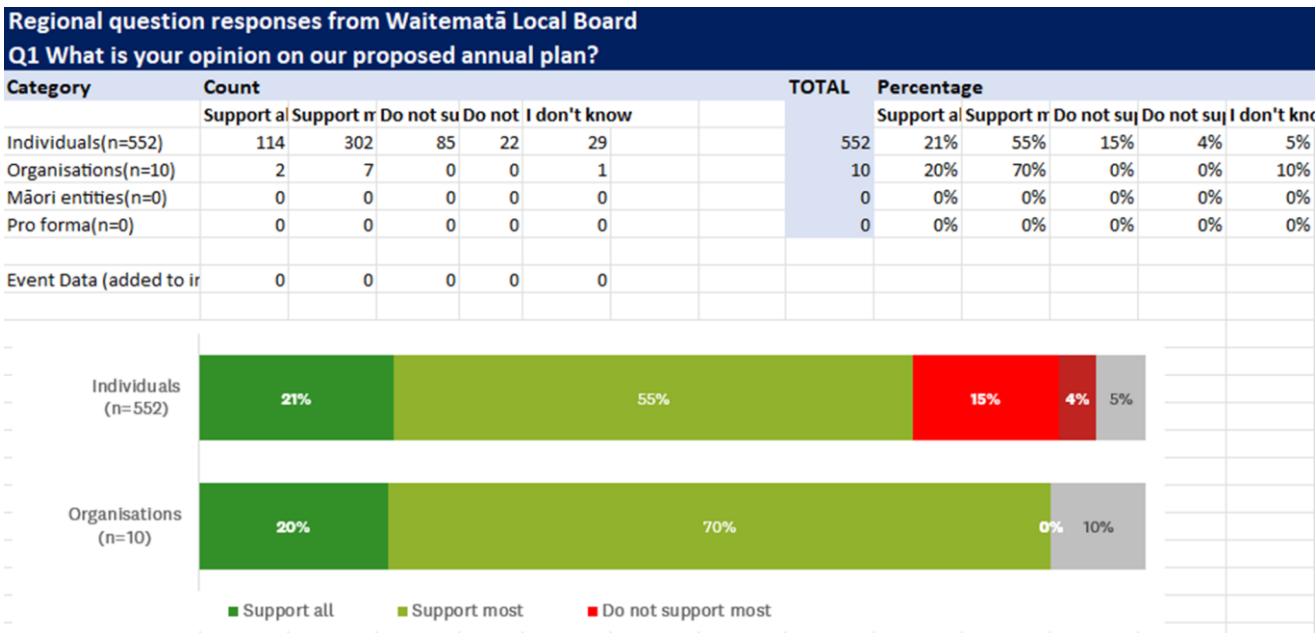
25. The proposed Annual Plan 2025/2026 builds on the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP), setting out Auckland Council's priorities and how services and investments are proposed to be funded. Consultation on the proposed Annual Plan 2025/2026 asked submitters to respond to key questions related to:
- The overall plan
 - Destination management and major events
 - Changes to other rates, fees and charges
 - Local board priorities.
26. Submitters were also encouraged to provide feedback on any of other matters included in the Annual Plan 2025/2026 consultation document.
27. 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: Overall Plan

28. Aucklanders were asked whether they support the overall plan including prioritising investment in:
- transport

Item 4

- water; and
 - fairer funding for local communities.
29. The consultation document for the Annual Plan 2025/2026 also outlined the proposed funding approach which includes a 5.8 per cent rates increase for the average value residential property, consistent with the LTP, and additional debt financing to fund \$4 billion in capital expenditure.
30. The proposed 5.8 per cent rates increase for the average value residential property for 2025/2026 includes the following proposed rates changes:
- an average general rates increase of 6.40 per cent for existing ratepayers
 - an average increase of 3.5 per cent to the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate (CATTR) for existing ratepayers, as set out in the LTP
 - an average increase of \$2.12 in the Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) to cover the operating and interest costs for the programme, as set out in the LTP
 - a 3.3 per cent increase to the overall Waste Management Targeted Rate (WMTR) for the typical household.
31. The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Waitematā Local Board area.



32. 562 submitters comprising individuals and organisations responded to the question on the proposed Annual Plan.
33. 76 per cent of individual submitters supported all, or most of the proposed priorities.
34. 90 per cent of organisation submitters supported all, or most of the proposed priorities.
35. Identified themes from 'supportive' submissions include those such as the proposed plan as being fair, balanced, or reasonable. Additionally, prioritisation and spending on transport infrastructure, and water management were heavily favoured or identified by submitters. Fairer funding for local boards was broadly supported by these submitters and interlinked with support for increased decision-making for local boards.
36. Identified themes from 'non-supportive' submissions, including submitters whose submissions were categorised as 'I don't know' or provided other responses, include concerns relating to overall rates rises, both for residents and businesses, a lack of perceived value of council services versus the cost to ratepayers, not enough priority on

transport and water infrastructure, and differences of opinion amongst submitters on 'core priorities'.

37. The following mana whenua and iwi organisations provided feedback on the proposed Annual Plan, and their submissions are included in the publicly available submissions data.

- Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust
- Ngāti Tamaterā Trust
- Ngāti Tamaoho Trust
- Te Uri o Hau Trust
- Ngāti Pāoa
- Te Ahiwaru Trust
- Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust
- Ngaati Whanaunga
- Ngāti Maru
- Te Ākitai Waiohua
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua
- Te Patukirikiri
- Te Kawerau ā Maki

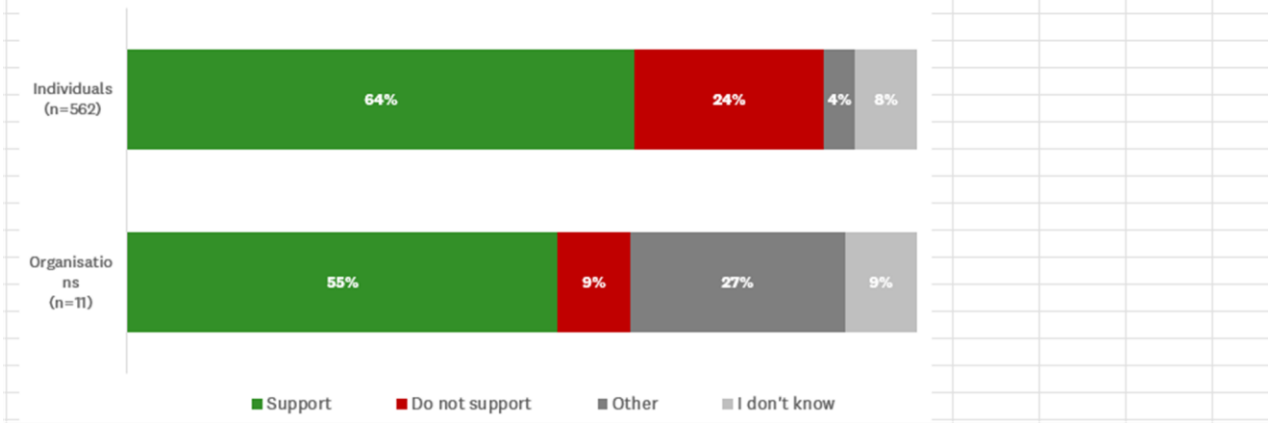
38. Within a Waitematā Local Board context relating to its direct relationships with mana whenua, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei broadly supports the overall direction of the proposed annual plan, with particular support for destination management, marketing, and major events. They maintain an interest in developing stronger partnership and collaboration efforts with Auckland Council to ensure destination management success. They broadly support increased decision-making for local boards and note continued efforts by local boards to engage appropriately with mana whenua and iwi entities.

Key Question 2: Destination management and major events

39. Aucklanders were asked for feedback on a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination management, marketing and major events. Without such a levy, a \$7 million budget shortfall for the 2025/2026 financial year could impact the funding for major events that are expected to attract visitor expenditure, such as the ASB Classic, Auckland Marathon, and Auckland Writers Festival.
40. A bed night visitor levy of 2.5 to 3 per cent paid by those in short-stay accommodation would raise around \$27 million annually to fund even more destination management, marketing and major events activities in Auckland. However, this requires central government legislative change. Auckland Council continues to work with central government on this, with public feedback helping to inform this work.
41. The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Waitematā Local Board area.

Q2 Do you support a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation, to fund destination

Category	Count				TOTAL	Percentage			
	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know		Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know
Individuals(n=562)	361	135	22	44	562	64%	24%	4%	8%
Organisations(n=11)	6	1	3	1	11	55%	9%	27%	9%
Māori entities(n=0)	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pro forma(n=0)	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Event Data (added to ir	0	0	0	0					



42. 573 submitters comprising individuals and organisations responded to the question on Destination Management and Major Events.
43. 64 per cent of individuals supported the introduction of a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation.
44. 55 per cent of organisations supported the introduction of a bed night visitor levy paid by those in short-stay commercial accommodation.
45. Identified themes from ‘supportive’ submissions include those such as a need for major events funding to be sustainable and continuing to support Auckland’s growth and position as a destination location for events It also includes themes relating to visitors contributing more towards infrastructure needed to support these events, stronger funding for tourism related activity, and that bed levies were identified by submitters as common internationally in places they had travelled to and were not considered a deterrent.
46. Identified themes from ‘non-supportive’ submitters included concerns relating to ‘pass-on’ costs to ratepayers and residents, and mixed support from tourism or hospitality organisations such as Hotel Council Aotearoa that suggest a central government model be considered nationwide ahead of any immediate local implementation for Auckland relating to a bed night visitor levy.

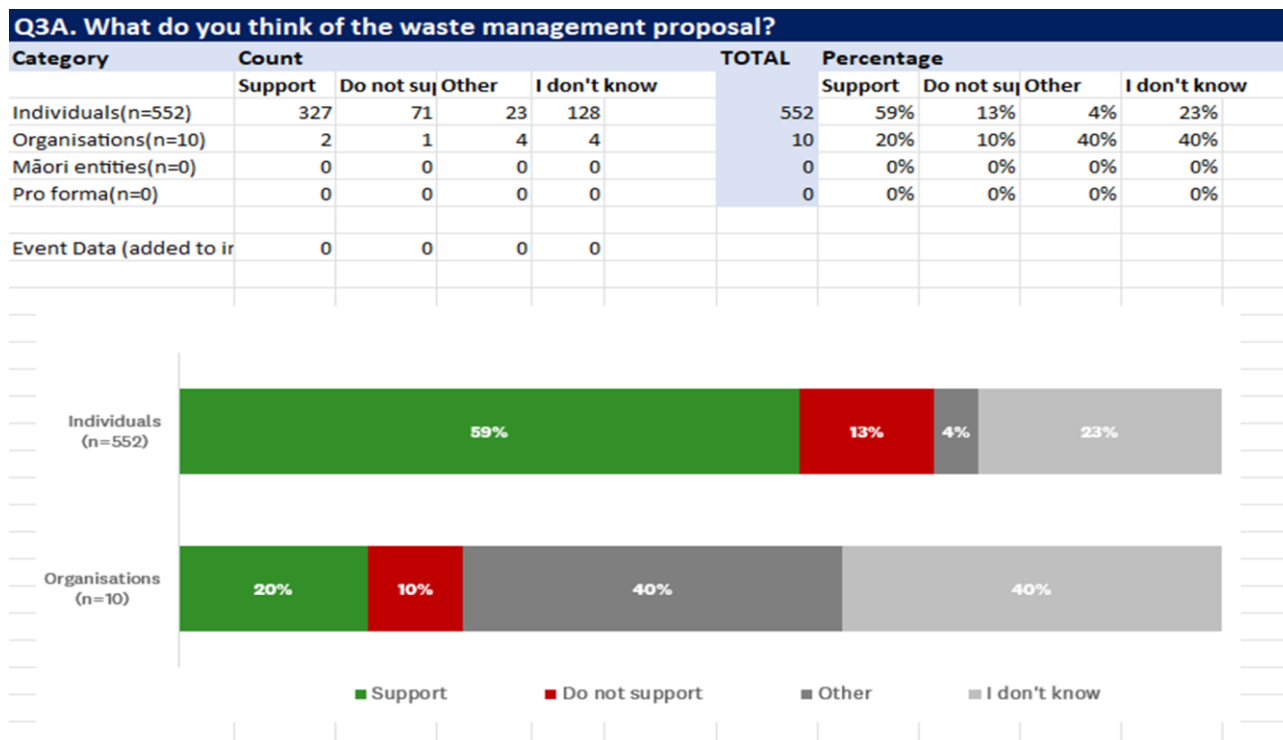
Key Question 3: changes to other rates, fees and charges

47. Aucklanders were asked to provide feedback on proposed changes to certain targeted rates and some fees and charges as outlined below.

Waste management rates changes

48. Aucklanders were asked whether they support applying the Refuse Targeted Rate to residential and lifestyle properties in Franklin and Rodney to fund the council’s rubbish collection service, replacing the current system of purchasing rubbish bags.
49. Starting in 2025/2026, residential and lifestyle properties in Franklin and Rodney will be charged a refuse targeted rate for the first time. Franklin's rate will cover a full year of service, while Rodney's will be about 83% of the full charge due to its scheduled September 2025 start date. Additionally, from July 2025, waste management services and targeted rates will be introduced in Manukau's commercial areas where the service isn’t presently available.

2.



3. Changes to fees and charges

50. Other proposed changes to fees and charges included in the consultation document for the Annual Plan 2025/2026 include:

- changes to some animal management fees including an increase in the dog adoption fee from \$350 to \$450 and an increase vet fee from \$75 to \$150
- fees for some cemetery and cremation services
- realigning bach fees into pricing tiers based on occupancy levels, capacity, and location
- aligning staff charge-out rates with staff pay bands for services in regional parks

51. 562 submitters comprising individuals and organisations responded to the question on the waste management proposal, and changes to fees and charges.

52. 59 per cent of individuals supported the overall proposal.

53. 20 per cent of organisations supported the overall proposal.

54. Of note, 40 per cent of organisations provided submissions which were classified as 'other'. Predominantly, organisation submissions highlighted general concern about the level of rates increase for businesses in particular alongside increases in the percentages paid towards targeted rates funding.

Other matters for feedback

55. The following matters were also included in the consultation in the Long-term Plan:

Draft Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2025/2026

56. Aucklanders were asked for feedback on the draft Tūpuna Maunga Authority (TMA) Operational Plan 2025/2026 which sets out a framework in which the council must carry out the routine management of 14 Tūpuna Maunga, under the direction of the Tūpuna Maunga Authority.

57. There were less than 25 identified submissions from the Waitematā Local Board area which referenced the TMA plan.
58. Identified themes included concerns about removal of exotic species of trees which irrespective of classification still contribute to ngahere functionality. Further themes were concern at the general approach to TMA management, its cost to Council and ratepayers more broadly, and the wider benefits to all of Auckland of the operational plan.
59. Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust noted its concern about lack of management of exotic grasses on Tūpuna Maunga contributing to fire hazard risks and recommend a targeted grazing programme with appropriate animal species be introduced to control and minimise risk to people and property.

Any other feedback

60. Aucklanders were asked if they had any other comments. Key themes of note across other areas of feedback received included:
 - Western Springs Speedway was an item of interest for submitters, indicating Speedway should be retained (approximate 100 comments)

Recommendations on local matters

61. This report provides for the local board to recommend local matters to the Governing Body for consideration as part of the Annual Plan process, in May 2025. This includes:
 - any new/amended local targeted rate proposals
 - any new/amended business improvement district targeted rates
 - release of local board specific reserve funds
 - local advocacy initiatives.

Local targeted rate and business improvement district (BID) targeted rate proposals

62. Local boards are required to endorse any new or amended local targeted rate proposals or business improvement district (BID) targeted rate proposals in their local board area. These proposals must have been consulted on before they can be implemented. The local boards then recommend these proposals to the Governing Body for approval of the targeted rate.
63. The BID proposal in the Waitematā Local Board area for 2025/2026 is:
 - establishing Business Improvement Districts (BID) and associated targeted rates in Grey Lynn

Local board specific reserve funds

64. Local boards are allocated funding for the delivery of local services, projects and programmes that are important to their communities. Local boards have decision making over the allocation of these funds but need approval from the Governing Body where the release of local board specific reserve funds is requested, which are being held by the council for a specific purpose.
65. This does not apply to the Waitematā Local Board for the 2025/2026 Financial Year.

Local board advocacy

66. Local boards can also agree advocacy initiatives which considers the consultation feedback above. This allows the Governing Body to consider these advocacy items when making decisions on the Annual Plan 2025/2026 in May.

67. The advocacy initiatives approved by the local board will then be included as an appendix to the 2025/2026 Local Board Agreement

Local board input on regional topics in the Annual Plan 2025/2026

68. 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 council's proposed Annual Plan 2025/2026.
69. Local board plans reflect community priorities and preferences and are key documents that guide the development of local board agreements, local board annual work programmes, and local board input into regional plans such as the long-term plan and annual plan.

Tauākī whakaaweawe āhuarangi Climate impact statement

70. The decisions recommended in this report are part of the Annual Plan 2025/2026 and local board agreement process to approve funding and expenditure over the next year.
71. Projects allocated funding through this Annual Plan 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 council's rigorous reporting requirements.

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

72. The Annual Plan 2025/2026 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

73. 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.
74. Local boards play an important role in the development of the council's Annual Plan 2025/2026. Local board agreements form part of the Annual Plan. Local board chairs have been invited to attend Budget Committee workshops. Local board members were provided recordings or briefings of the Budget Committee workshops for the Annual Plan 2025/2026.

Tauākī whakaaweawe Māori Māori impact statement

75. Many local board decisions are of importance to and impact Māori. Local board agreements and the Annual Plan are important tools that enable and can demonstrate the council's responsiveness to Māori Outcomes.
76. Local board plans, developed in 2023 through engagement with the community including Māori, form the basis of local board area priorities.
77. Some projects approved for funding could have discernible impacts on Māori. For any project or programme progressed by Auckland Council, the potential impacts on Māori, will be assessed as part of relevant reporting requirements.

78. Analysis of consultation feedback received on the proposed Annual Plan includes submissions made by mana whenua, matawaaka organisations and the wider Māori community who have interests in the rohe / local board area.
79. The Governance team led the council-wide approach with support from Ngā Mātārae on engagement with Māori entities. This included:
 - three information sessions for mana whenua on submissions and the process for submissions
 - five information sessions for mātaawaka on submissions and the process for submissions
 - one hearing style event for mana whenua and mātaawaka groups
80. Nineteen mana whenua entities have interests in the Auckland Council rohe. Thirteen of the nineteen (68.42%) provided verbal or written submissions on the Auckland Council's proposals for the Annual Plan 2025/2026.
81. There were six oral submissions from mana whenua and six oral submissions from mātaawaka at the Have your Say Event.
82. Māori comprise 8.4% of the population in the Waitematā Local Board area. 49 submissions from people who identify as Māori were received from people residing in the Waitematā Local Board area. This represents 6% of total submissions.

Ngā ritenga ā-pūtea Financial implications

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

Ngā raru tūpono me ngā whakamaurutanga Risks and mitigations

84. The council must adopt its Annual Plan, which includes local board agreements, by 30 June 2025. The local board is required to make recommendations on these local matters for the Annual Plan by mid-May 2025, to enable and support the Governing Body to make decisions on key items to be included in the Annual Plan on 28 May 2025.

Ngā koringa ā-muri Next steps

85. Recommendations and feedback from the local board will be provided to the Budget Committee for consideration as part of decision-making for the Annual Plan 2025/2026.
86. The local board will approve its local content for inclusion in the final Annual Plan 2025/2026 (including its local board agreement) and corresponding work programmes in June 2025.
87. The final Annual Plan 2025/2026 (including local board agreements) will be adopted by the Governing Body on 25 June 2025.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	Annual Plan 2025/2026 - Written Feedback Waitematā Local Board	

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authors	Ali Keiller - Local Board Advisor
Authorisers	Tristan Coulson - Local Area Manager